Poster Presentation
Substance Use and Emotional Abuse
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Literature has shown that individuals who have experienced trauma any time during their lives are likely to become addicted to alcohol (Volpicelli et al., 1999). Does experiencing emotional trauma lead to an elevated risk of substance abuse in college students? This current study reviews the relationship between emotional abuse and three frequently used substances, including cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana, within a nationally representative sample of 111,153 college students. We hypothesized that those who have been exposed to emotionally abusive relationships would have a higher likelihood of abusing these aforementioned substances. The sample consisted of approx. 64% women, 34% men, and 0.2% transgender students from the American College Health Association - National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) dataset. Data were analyzed using analysis of variance (ANOVA) to indicate whether there is a significant difference in substance use between those reporting emotional abuse and those reporting no emotional abuse. Substance abuse was associated with reported emotional abuse.