

UCLA Undergraduate  
**RESEARCH WEEK**

# Exploring Sexual Assault Experiences & Access to Resources Among UCLA Students with Disabilities

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# CONTENT WARNING

This presentation will discuss sensitive topics such as sexual assault (SA), sexual harassment (SH), rape, and trauma

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**Sexual violence is a  
pervasive public health  
issues on college campuses  
across the United States**

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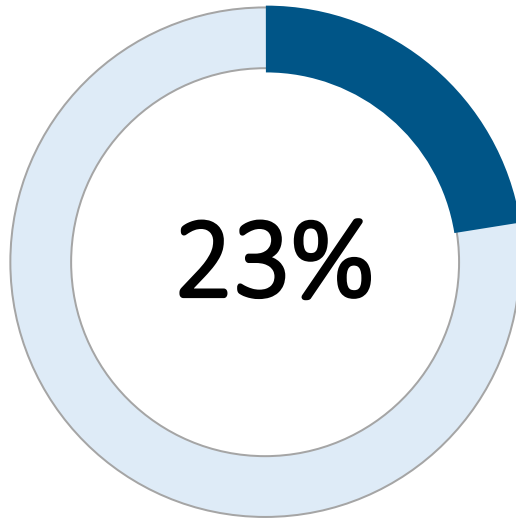
# Background & Literature

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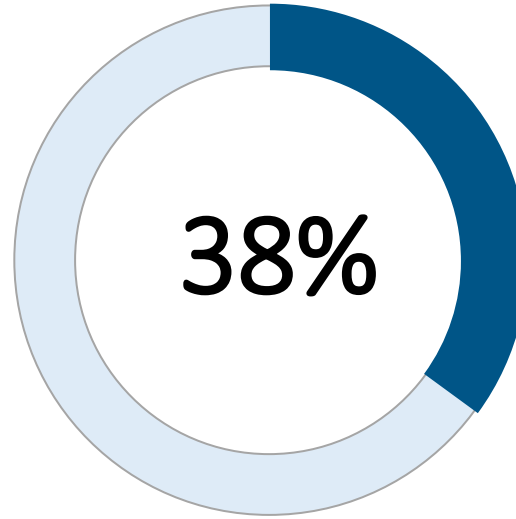
- **26.4% & 6.8%**
    - % of female and male undergraduates, respectively, who experience SV
  - **13.9 miles**
    - Average distance that UC students must travel to the nearest rape crisis center or hospital
  - **67%**
    - % of students that do not know about post-assault resources and policies at their university
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# Knowledge of SV Resources at UC Campuses

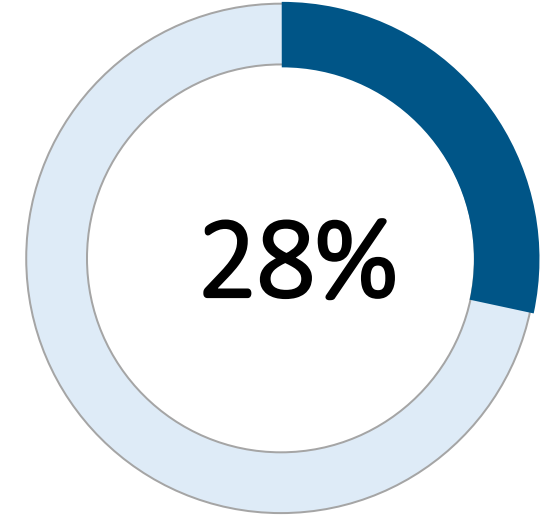
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% of students who do not know what the Title IX office does



% of students who have never heard of the CARE office



% of students who have never heard of the CAPS office

# Gap: Students with Disabilities

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Students with disabilities experience SA/SV at **excessively high rates**, but their experiences are ***under-researched***

- **51%** of students with disabilities report sexual victimization while at their university
- **71%** of people with disabilities who experience one or more type of lifetime SA

# Research Question

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**To what extent are UCLA student survivors with disabilities able to access relevant resources in the aftermath of sexual assault/violence?**

- Perceptions and experiences of SA/SV
  - Barriers and challenges in accessing support
    - Role of institutional policies & practices
  - Recommended improvements in accessibility & usability
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# Resources of Focus

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- **UCLA C.A.R.E**
    - Campus Assault Resources & Education Office
  - **UCLA C.A.P.S**
    - Counseling and Psychological Services Office
  - **UCLA Title IX Office**
    - Receives reports of center discrimination, including instances of SH/SA/SV
  - **Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center**
    - Free service that offers medical care, forensic services, advocacy, and counseling for survivors
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# Parent Study

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## Survivors' Experiences with and Recommendations for Improving Responses to Sexual Violence at UCLA

- Parent study population: *all UCLA students* who have experience sexual assault/violence while at UCLA

# Methods & Data

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## Methods: 20 in-depth interviews

- 60-90 minutes each
- 1 on 1
- Ask participants about
  - SA/SV experiences
  - Resources utilized
  - Recommendations

## Eligibility Criteria

- 18+
- Has a disability
- Experienced SA/SV while a UCLA student

*\* Recruitment based on diverse demographic and educational characteristics (ex: sexual orientation, gender identity, transfer status, etc.)*

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# Data Analysis

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**Thematic Analysis:** analytical method used to identify, analyze, and interpret patterns of meaning from interview data

1. Data Transcription: audio -> written text
2. Data Coding: themes, patterns, outliers
3. Analysis of Patterns & Insights: analyzing relationships

# Preliminary Results

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Consistent trends of accessibility issues regarding...

1. **Awareness & Education** particularly regarding confidentiality
2. **Cost & Finances** especially for those with private insurance
3. **Reporting & Police Involvement**

*Note: this study is still ongoing*

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# Project Implications

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- 1) Contribute to existing literature, focusing on a highly affected but **under-researched population**
- 2) Reduce disparities and provide avenues for **targeted improvements** in post-assault resources across the UC System
- 3) **Inform future policy** change to ensure accessibility and usability of post-assault services at all college campuses

# Acknowledgements

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- UCLA Undergraduate Research Center
- Friends & Family

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**Thank you!**

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IGNITE at UCLA Policy Team

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