Laying the Groundwork for Innovative Sexual Assault and Dating Violence Prevention on College Campuses

A New Research Project at the University of California (UC)

Research Sites & Partners

UC San Diego
Enrollment: 35,816 students
- 28,127 undergraduate
- 7,689 graduate

UCSB
Enrollment: 24,346 students
- 21,574 undergraduate
- 2,773 graduate

UCLA
Enrollment: 44,947 students
- 30,873 undergraduate
- 14,074 graduate

A Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention at the UC

No public health problem can be addressed, let alone reduced or prevented, unless we first define it, measure its scope, identify its causes and correlates and understand the context in which it occurs.

Sexual assault and harassment, stalking and dating violence on college campuses are among our nation’s most pressing, yet under-addressed, public health problems.1 Students exposed to partner-level violence are less likely to achieve full health and well-being, during college and beyond. Sexual assault and dating violence are associated with increased risk for anxiety and depression, migraines and headaches, unprotected sex, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancy.2

In 2019, three dynamic student research teams from three UC campuses (UC Los Angeles, UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara) will conduct in-depth qualitative research to generate ideas for building their campus’ capacity for primary violence prevention. Researchers will engage UC students to explore barriers to healthy attitudes about relationships and sex and identify approaches for preventing sexual and dating violence. We will also interview faculty and staff to examine how UC policies, programs and local climate influence students’ lives and experiences.

Findings will be used to build campus capacity for violence prevention.