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A special report from the Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH) in the Department of Medicine at the University of California San Diego's School of Medicine.



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



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



Enrollment: 35,816 students
 ○ 28,127 undergraduate
 ○ 7,689 graduate



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



Credit: George Foulsham/UCLA



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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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 Sexual assault during college can also negatively impact a survivor's grades and lifelong education and career goals.^{3,4} College campuses should be environments that foster well-being and fully prevent partner violence.

To create safe campus communities, effective prevention programs are needed. To date, however, research has not established what "effective" programs are.

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

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.

REFERENCES: (1) Basile KC, et al. (2011) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report. CDC; (2) Campbell R, et al. (2009). An ecological model.... Trauma, Viol, & Abuse, 10. (3) Potter S, et al., Long-term impacts of college sexual assaults.... J Am Coll Health. 2018 Feb 15.; (4) Mengo C, Black BM. (2015). Violence Victimization on a College Campus. Jnl Coll Stud Ret RschTheory & Practice; 2015