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Assessing the Climate for Sexual Violence Prevention at the University of California, Los Angeles

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INTRODUCTION

Campus Sexual Violence is a pervasive public health issue...

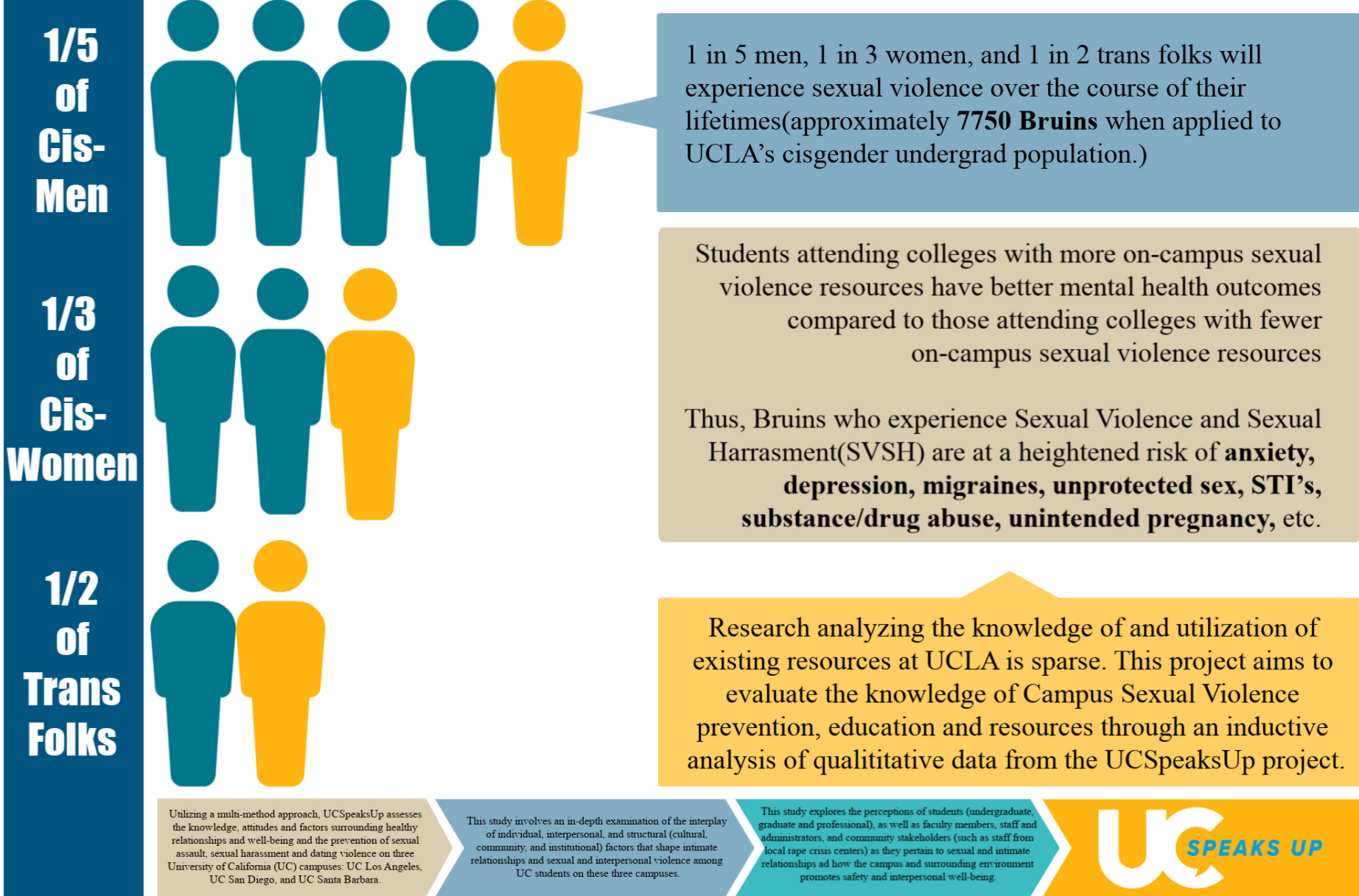


Figure 1: Introduction

METHODS

December 2018
Launched three-campus, student-led sexual and dating violence public health study at UCLA, UCSB, and UCSD, funded by the CA Dept. of Public Health and the CDC as a supplement to a larger initiative. Student Research Interns trained in Trauma- Informed Qualitative Research, Research Ethics and Compliance, tasked with responsibility of creating resource database for their campus to share with participant.

January - May 2019
Student researchers conducted in- depth interviews (IDI) and focus group discussions (FGDs) with fellow UC students to explore barriers to healthy attitudes about relationships and sex and identify approaches for preventing violence. Cultural consensus models were used to identify how students define and contextualize positive, consensual sex at each campus. Graduate student and faculty PI researchers conducted IDIs with faculty, administrative leaders and staff to examine how UC policies, programs and local climate influence students' lives and experiences.

June 2019 - February 2020
Samples of IDIs and FGD's from each school are compiled into shared project. Researchers performed an inductive analysis of qualitative data, identifying themes ranging from "Resources", "Recommmendations" to "Risk Factors" and "Identity."

February 2020
UCLA data analysed for knowledge and awareness of resources, education and prevention through the perspectives of students. Three dimensions of analysis include "Awareness", "Accessibility" and "Utilization."

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

FINDINGS

- With the exception of survivor-advocates, there existed little awareness of the resource (Campus Assault Education and Resources [CARE].)
- Awareness of how to utilize resource was also low, with participants reporting that the website did not show clear information of what would happen if they were to use the resource.
- Graduate students especially were unaware of the resource at UCLA.
- Exceptions include graduate students who are Teaching assistants and learned from Online Training modules
- CARE's programming efforts with other entities on campus + free promotional items helps spread awareness.
- General sentiment that more advertising needs to occur.

PARTICIPANT VOICES

"AWARENESS"



"I think that at UCLA specifically...I just my own impression is that the programs meant to address and prevent are just so underfunded and so not as present as I would like them to be."

"CONTEMPLATION"

- Misinformation and conflicting sentiments over location(s) of CARE, Title IX and CAPS.
- Uncertainty about process.
- Changes within the office made it difficult for students to receive prevention trainings
- Lack of institutional support makes it difficult for students to get an appointment quickly.

At the beginning of summer, (I) reached out to be like hey can we start scheduling our CARE training for fall and then we scheduled it for fall and then fall came and CARE had so many things were doing and they had to reschedule it three times. They were dealing with so many changes and issues and things and it did it seem like they obviously really cared and wanted to do their training with us. But like there were just so many more prevalent issues that they were dealing with that they were overwhelmed with so many things, which is like totally understandable. You know, they were able to fit us in eventually, which we were super grateful for. But like, like we said, I think it's just like, you know, there's so many things, how can three people only be handling it?

"UTILIZATION"

- Students largely are very positive about experiences with CARE.
- Need for more diversity in staff.
- Strong and pervasive belief the office needs to be better supported.

I have tried to contact them on a professional level and it's really hard to get in contact with their office and that is not their fault because they're severely understaffed and like you just can't. I can imagine it can be difficult for survivors to you know make appointments to check in with their CARE advocate...I have no idea if that's an issue I could see it being an issue and if it's not ever an issue I commend them because I don't know how I would run that program.

DISCUSSION

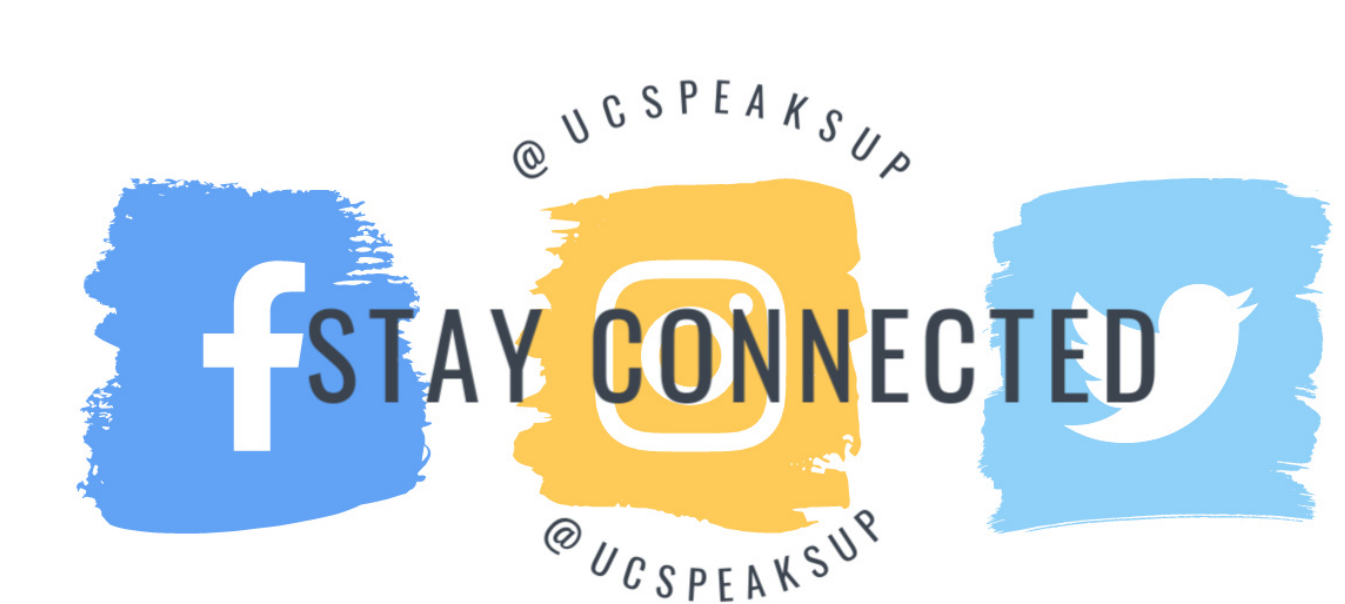


- Limited sample size, no representation of the diversity present on UCLA's campus. Future data collection will work to address this.
- These preliminary findings push for UC wide evaluation of a campus resources through a campus climate survey like Berkeley's "MyVoice." To date, no widespread quantitative evaluation of the efficacy of CARE, Title IX and CAPS exists.
- Participant recommendations largely call for an increase funding for support/reporting systems, like CARE and Title IX, on campus.
- Given positive feedback from participants of existing advertisement strategies, there is a warranted need to market on-campus resources and increase awareness through creative strategies- only Graduate Student TA's reported that they had learned about TA from their trainings while undergraduates held level of uncertainty about what resources it offers.

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