

*** 1 in 3 women on campus have experienced some form of sexual assault.**

About our project

The California Young Women's Collaborative (CYWC) is a project of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) and is a student-led research and social activism project that focuses on women's sexual health concerns.

We conducted community-based participatory research with over 800 women on campus, representing multiple ethnic groups.

Our survey studied disclosure rates of sexual assault* in hopes of promoting a more socially supportive and responsive campus environment.

*A project of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
www.napawf.org*



36% of women on this campus have experienced some form of sexual assault.

Given the high prevalence rate of sexual assault, it is crucial to take action and create a safer, more responsive campus environment coupled with positive peer support.

1 in 2 women experienced their most recent sexual assault in college.

Of the women who have experienced sexual assault, 54% said that their most recent assault happened during their time at Cal.

- 47% of the Latinas who experienced sexual assault said their most recent assault happened in college
- 67% of Whites
- 57% of Blacks
- 63% of Asians
 - 60% of Chinese
 - 86% of Filipinas
 - 50% of South Asians

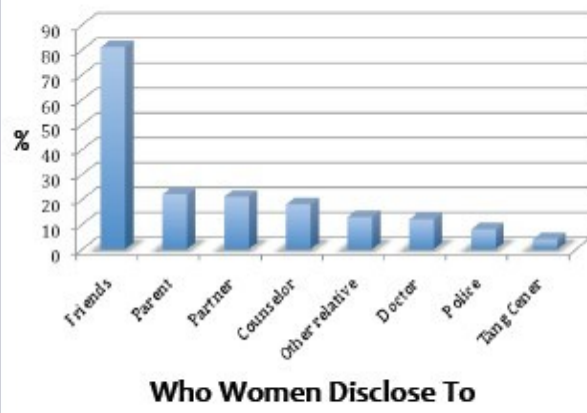
Sexual assault is often traumatic and may lead to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Disclosure of sexual assault, especially to a friend, relative, or rape crisis center, is important for the health of the survivor and may decrease PTSD¹.

Disclosure can even result in greater social support, which can help mitigate the effects of stress and reduce anxiety and depression².

Disclosure

Our study found that most women who do disclose after experiencing some type of sexual assault disclose to informal sources, such as friends and partners. Women are less likely to report formally to professional counselors, doctors and police.



A socially responsive campus with strong peer support is important to increase the number of people who disclose informally.

Most women on this campus become sexually active in college, thus, taking action during this time is vital.



Reasons for disclosure

Top reasons why women disclose:

- Needed support
- Personal well-being
- Didn't want it to happen to others
- Didn't want the perpetrator to get away

Knowing the reasons why people choose to disclose or not can allow us to be more receptive and supportive.

Top reasons why women don't disclose:

- Didn't feel comfortable telling
- Thought it was a personal matter
- Afraid someone would tell
- Didn't know it was a crime

Underutilized resources/ services on campus

76% of women who experienced some form of sexual assault never attended a campus event that was organized for their support.

Some of the events and services that are underutilized include:

- Take Back The Night
- Vagina Monologues
- Counseling and Social Services at Tang Center
- SHEP
- SHAPE/GenEq

Although not all events and resources may be fitting to every woman on campus, it is still important to address issues of underutilization.

Some of the barriers to utilization may stem from cultural stigma as well as sensitivity within different ethnic groups. These factors need to be explored further for program creation and evaluation.

Take ACTION!!

Combat apathy by learning more about sexual health issues and initiating dialogue.

Attend events related to sexual health.

Respond supportively to those who disclose sexual assault.

Empower those on campus to promote a safer and responsive environment.



Footnotes:

+Sexual assault encompasses any form of non-consensual penetration and also includes unwanted sexual advances (UCLA Rape Treatment Center). For our survey, sexual assault was defined according to the respondent's perception.

- 1 – Ullman, Sarah E., 1996. Social Reactions, Coping Strategies, and Self-Blame Attributions in Adjustment to Sexual Assault. *Psychology of Women*, 20 (4), 505-526.
- 2 – Hays, R., Turner, H., & Coates, T. (1992). Social support, AIDS-related symptoms, and depression among gay men. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 60, 463-469.

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