



Working with Students with Disabilities during the Sexual Misconduct Process

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Learning Outcomes

Examine the general statistics as it relates to sexual misconduct on campus.

Identify the most common disabilities that exist on a college campus.

Understand how different disabilities present different issues, including those who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, visually impaired, experience mobility issues, and those on the autism spectrum, and how to address these specific issues.

Identify the barriers people with disabilities face regarding reporting and adjudication, and how to address those barriers.

Reflect on suggested recommendations to improve outcomes for this population.

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Statistics

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Students with Disabilities

In 2013-14, 13% of all public school students (6.5 million) receive special educational services.¹

In 2011-12, 11% of students (around 16,000) in postsecondary institutions report having a disability.²

From 1999-2009, there was a 69% increase in the number of undergraduates with disabilities enrolled at degree granting institutions.³

¹ Children and Youth with Disabilities. (2016). Retrieved January/February, 2019, from https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipeds_indicators/CYD/2016_05.pdf
² Students with Disabilities. (2015). Retrieved January 31, 2019, from <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=60>
³ LaVerne McCuller Williams, *Sexual Victimization of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing College Students: Intersections of Identity and Sexual Violence on Campus*, Centering Minoritized Students' Experiences. Eds. Jessica C. Harris and Chris Linder. Virginia: Stylus, 2017, 140. Print

College Students with Disabilities

11% of college students overall have a disability

- 21% of veteran students
- 16% of students 30 and over
- 9% of dependent undergraduates
- 13% of married undergraduates
- 5% of post baccalaureate⁴

⁴Students with Disabilities. (2015). Retrieved January 31, 2019, from <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=60>

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College Students with Disabilities

- 31% Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs)
- 18% ADD or ADHD
- 15% Mental illness

Sexual Violence and Disability



1.3 million violent crimes occur each year against people with disabilities.

3x more likely to experience rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault and robbery.

3x more likely to be sexually abused as children.⁶

⁶ Vera Institute of Justice (2019). Violence Against People with Disabilities Occurs at Alarming Rates. Retrieved December 4, 18, from _____

Barriers to Reporting - Invisible



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Barriers to Reporting - Accessibility



Accessibility of educational programs and info¹²:

- On-line training programs
- In-person programs
- Sexual assault information, policies, reporting options
- Printed materials
- Universal design

¹²Not on the Radar: Sexual Assault of College Students with Disabilities, p. 32-36.

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Barriers to Reporting - Access



Hearing Impairment



50% in the Deaf community (not just college students) have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime¹⁵

¼ students* report having been forced to have sex against their wishes (unsure of age of occurrence)¹⁶

¹⁵ p. 142
¹⁶ p. 146.

Hearing Impairment



Students who were deaf were at twice the risk of sexual abuse and 2 ½ times the risk of physical and psychological abuse than hearing students¹⁷

Deaf LGBTQ students were 6 times as likely for sexual abuse, 4 times as likely for physical abuse, and 3 times for psychological abuse than heterosexual students¹⁸

Recommendations



- More awareness and research
 - How do rates vary by disability type?
 - Who are respondents?
- Work with disability services
 - Inclusion and trainings (Power and Control Wheel)
- Increase visibility of those with disabilities
 - Hiring practices, conversations, committees,
- Inclusive trainings and programs
 - Universal design for learning²⁰⁻²¹

²⁰Not on the Radar: Sexual Assault of College Students with Disabilities", 47-47, 65-69
²¹National Council on Disability, (2018, January 30). Policy Briefing: January 30 release of NCD College Sexual Assault Report. Video posted to <https://nccd.gov/events/2018/january-30-release-sexual-assault-report>

Recommendations



- Accessibility
- Provide accommodations
 - Accommodation language in policies and letters, accessible materials, interpreters
- Crisis policies and agreements with local agencies
 - MOUs to include protocols
- Safe-space