



**Supporting Survivors with
Disabilities on Campus**

END ABUSE
of PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The movement starts here

End Abuse of People with Disabilities

Mission

- To end abuse of people with disabilities and to promote:
 - prevention efforts that address the root causes of violence including the devaluation of people with disabilities in our society, racism and other forms of oppression,
 - practices that are accessible and support survivors with disabilities and their communities to heal from violence, and
 - accountability strategies for the people responsible for this violence that are effective, equitable, and restorative.

Students with Disabilities

20% of college students identify as having a disability, including:

- Learning disabilities
- ADHD
- Physical disabilities
- Autism
- Intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Blind/low vision
- Autoimmune disorders
- Food allergies
- Mental health conditions
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Students with disabilities & survivorship (1)

31.6% of women with disabilities report experiencing sexual victimization on campus, compared to 18.4% of women without disabilities.

David Cantor et al., Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct (University of Pennsylvania, 2015) at 35,102.

Students with disabilities & survivorship (2)

According to the **2020 Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct**, students with disabilities experienced sexual assault at higher rates than students without a disability.

- Without a disability: 9.4%
- Of those with disabilities, the highest rate was among **students with chronic mental health conditions (depression, PTSD, anxiety disorder, etc.): 26.3%**. Those reporting two or more disabilities had a rate of **25%**.

Campus responses & students with disabilities

Report by the National Council on Disability (2018)

1. Colleges lack policies and procedures to ensure disability-related supports readily available to communicate with sexual assault first responders.
2. Prevention & education programs not inclusive of survivors with disabilities.
3. Title IX websites lack mention of accommodations.
4. Absence of collaboration.

[Not on the Radar: Sexual Assault of College Students with Disabilities – 2018 report by the National Council on Disability](#)

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Students of color & survivorship

According 2020 Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct, students of different races and ethnicities experienced sexual assault at the following rates:

- Latino or Hispanic: 14.9% (vs 12.8% for Non-Hispanic students)
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 18.7%
- White: 14.7%
- Black or African American: 12.7%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 11.9%
- Asian: 6.9%

Underreporting

- Sexual assault among college students is severely underreported.
- People who are the most harmed are the least likely to report.
- In 2010, the [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)[2] reported that for every one rape reported by an African American woman, fifteen go unreported.
- About a third of students felt they were “very” or “extremely” knowledgeable about the definition of sexual assault (37.1%), where to get help (37.1%), and how to report it (31.5%).
- **It stands to reason that Black, Latinx, Indigenous students with disabilities are at greater risk of sexual assault than white students with disabilities and face additional barriers to getting help.**

Today, we will explore...

- What options for safety & healing do students survivors of sexual assault have on campuses? What are different ways campuses respond?
- What barriers do Black student survivors, student survivors with disabilities, and student survivors of color with disabilities experience when attempting to access those options?
- What are the implications of those barriers for student survivors of color with disabilities?
- What needs to change about the current campus response for student survivors of color with disabilities to have access to safety and healing, as they define it?

Our panelists

- Maria Cristina Pacheco, the National Organization for Victim Assistance
- Kaitlin Shetler, Vera Institute of Justice
- LaWanda Swan, the Swan Center for Advocacy & Research, Inc.