

University of California, Los Angeles

RESEARCH INFORMATION SHEET

Impact on LGBTQ+ People of the Los Angeles Fires – Altadena Listening Session

Please take time to read this form before joining the listening session. At the beginning of the listening session, you will be asked by a facilitator if you have read this form and consent to participate in the study described in this form.

INTRODUCTION

A research team from the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles – including Brad Sears, J.D., Laurel Sprague, PhD, Nathan Cisneros, PhD and Neko Castleberry, PhD, -- are conducting a research study. The community listening session at the Altadena Library is part of this research study. You were invited to participate in this community listening session because you are an LGBTQ+ adult resident of Los Angeles County who resided in an area impacted by the Eaton and/or Palisades fires at the time of the fires, in January 2025. Your participation in this research study is voluntary.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT A RESEARCH STUDY?

- Someone will explain this research study to you.
- Whether or not you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- You can ask all the questions you want before you decide.

WHY IS THIS RESEARCH BEING DONE?

This listening session will help better understand how LGBTQ+ adults were impacted by the Los Angeles fires and how effectively they are being served by recovery efforts. A goal of the survey is to generate information that will be used to improve how Los Angeles County is including LGBTQ+ adults in recovery efforts and to make sure that in the future recovery efforts in response to disasters, such as the LA fires, are inclusive of LGBTQ+ adults.

HOW LONG WILL THE RESEARCH LAST AND WHAT WILL I NEED TO DO?

Participation will take a total of about ninety minutes of your time in addition to your time to travel to and from the Altadena Library. If you volunteer to participate in this study, the researchers will ask you to do the following:

- Participate in a ninety-minute listening session, facilitated by the Williams Institute and in a room with up to 30 participants. However, discussion will be in smaller groups at tables with about 5 to 9 other individuals to share experiences on how you and other LGBTQ+ people were impacted by the Los Angeles fires and your experiences with recovery efforts.
- Participation will be in person at the Altadena Library, 600 E. Mariposa Street Altadena, California 91001. While dinner and check-in will start at 5:30 pm on (date), the listening session will not begin until 6 pm. At that point, the library will be closed to the public.

If you choose to participate, you will be served a box dinner, water and/or soft drinks, and you will receive a free air purifier.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS IF I PARTICIPATE?

Participating in this study poses no risks that are not ordinarily encountered in daily life.

Any information you provide during the listening session will be confidential, and the research team will never publicly reveal your name or the names of anyone discussed during the listening session.

Some of the questions asked of you as part of this study may make you feel uncomfortable and will be posed in a small group setting (5 to 9 other attendees). You may refuse to answer any of the questions posed to you and you may take a break at any time. You may stop your participation in this study at any time.

Everyone who participates in the listening session will receive a resource list, which we hope is a good general resource list related to the fires and other needs. The resource list also includes mental health hotlines. We include those numbers in case you feel upset about something raised during the listening session and wish to seek help.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS IF I PARTICIPATE?

You will not directly benefit from your participation in the research. The results of the research will be used to improve LA County's recovery services for the January 2025 fires and will help inform future recovery efforts in response to disasters so that they are more inclusive of LGBTQ+ adults.

WHAT OTHER CHOICES DO I HAVE IF I CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE?

Your alternative to participating in this research study is to not participate.

HOW WILL INFORMATION ABOUT ME AND MY PARTICIPATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

The researchers will do their best to make sure that your private information is kept confidential. Information about you will be handled as confidentially as possible, but participating in research may involve a loss of privacy and the potential for a breach in confidentiality. Study data will be physically and electronically secured. As with any use of electronic means to store data, there is a risk of breach of data security.

The research team will maintain your confidentiality by taking precautions to minimize any risk to your privacy from participating in this listening session. All listening session participants will be instructed that all information shared during the session is confidential and should not be shared outside of the group. However, the research team cannot guarantee that participants will maintain confidentiality outside the session. You may use a pseudonym during the listening session if you prefer.

Use of personal information that can identify you: During the listening session, no information that can identify you will be recorded in the notes taken by the research team. The listening session will not be recorded. All written notes will also be reviewed by the UCLA research team to ensure that they contain no personally identifying information..

How information about you will be stored: The research team will keep notes from the listening in a secure online system that only they can access. These notes will be stripped of any information that could be used to personally identify you or any other participant.

People and agencies that will have access to your information: Only the UCLA research team will have access to the written notes from the community listening session. Information (your name and email address) that you provided to RSVP for the listening session will only be used to send out a reminder notice and further information about the session. It will be deleted as soon as the listening session is over.

Publications and/or presentations that result from this study will not identify you by name. While some quotes may be used in the publication, they will only be attributed to “a participant at the listening session” and any content of quotes that could be used to identify a participant will be removed.

The research team, authorized UCLA personnel, may have access to study data and records to monitor the study. University employees are bound by strict rules of confidentiality. Research records provided to authorized, non-UCLA personnel will not contain identifiable information about you.

USE OF DATA FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Your data, including de-identified data, may be kept for use in future research.

WILL I BE PAID FOR MY PARTICIPATION?

You will not be paid for participation. However, you will receive a free box of dinner, water and soft/drinks, and a free air purifier for your participation.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS STUDY?

The research team:

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the research, you can talk to a member of the research team. If you wish to talk to the research team, please contact Brad Sears (he/him) at (310) 794-5479 or sears@law.ucla.edu.

UCLA Office of the Human Research Protection Program (OHRPP):

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, or you have concerns or suggestions and you want to talk to someone other than the researchers, you may contact the UCLA OHRPP by phone: (310) 206-2040; by email: participants@research.ucla.edu or by mail: Box 951406, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1406.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF I TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

- You can choose whether or not you want to be in this study, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time.
- Whatever decision you make, there will be no penalty to you, and no loss of benefits to which you were otherwise entitled.
- You may refuse to answer any questions that you do not want to answer and still remain in the study.

You will be given a copy of this information to keep for your records.