



# Contraceptive Access & Knowledge Among UCSD Students

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## Background

- The lack of knowledge regarding contraceptive availability and proper use of contraceptives is a prominent public health issue pervasive on college campuses
- College students experience various barriers (e.g. knowledge of where and how to obtain contraceptives, shame/embarrassment, lack of time, discrimination) that distance them from safe-sex practices including proper and consistent use of contraceptives
- Young adults aged 20-24 years have the highest risk of contracting an STI

## Study Objective

To compare the levels of contraceptive access and contraceptive knowledge between UCSD students who identify as “students of color” (SOC) and those who do not.

## Methods

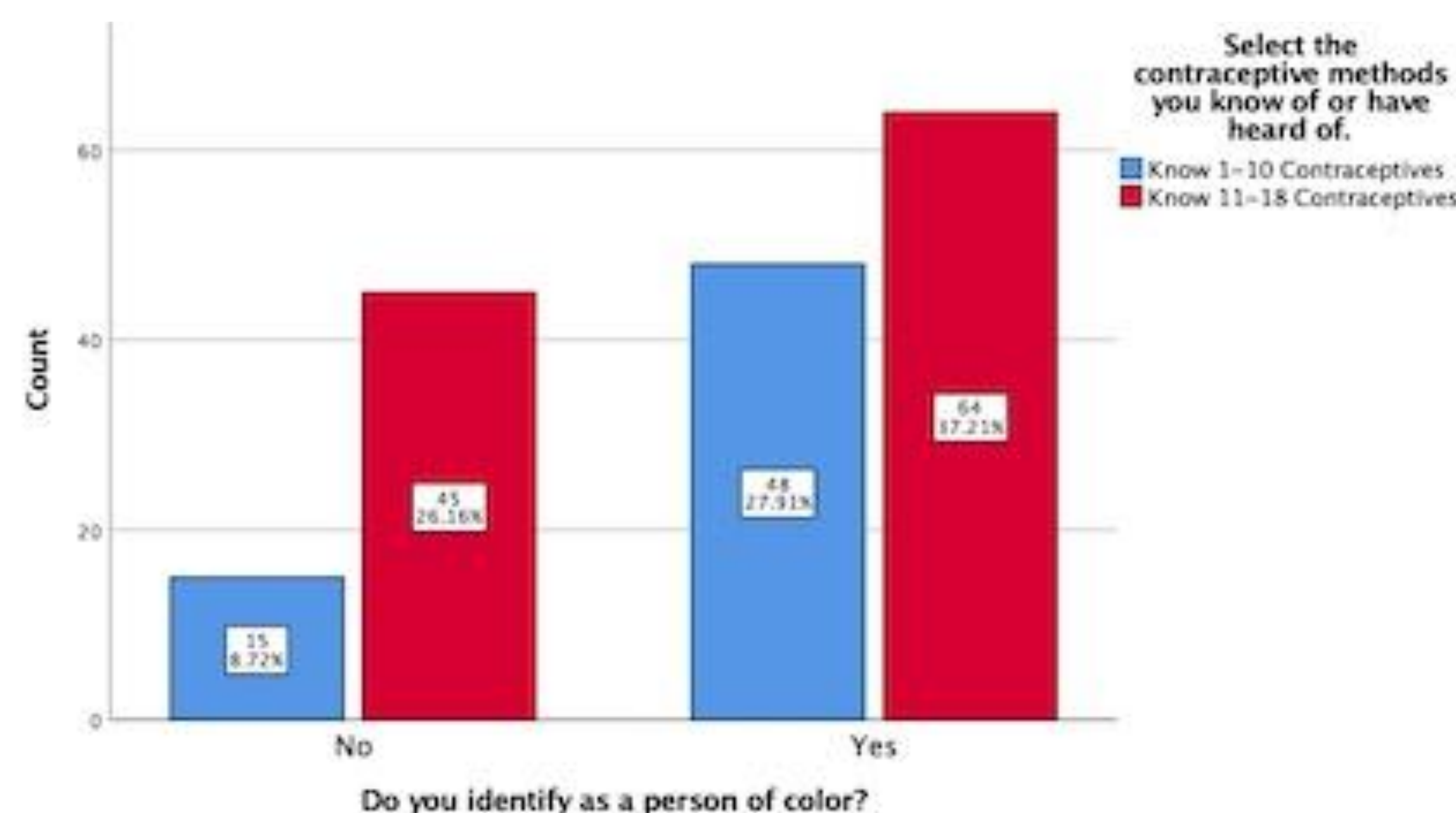
### Design:

- An anonymous online survey completed by UCSD students
  - Distributed via email/Facebook
- In our cross-sectional study we examined correlations between:
  - Exposure: race/ethnicity
  - Outcome: levels of access to/knowledge about contraceptives

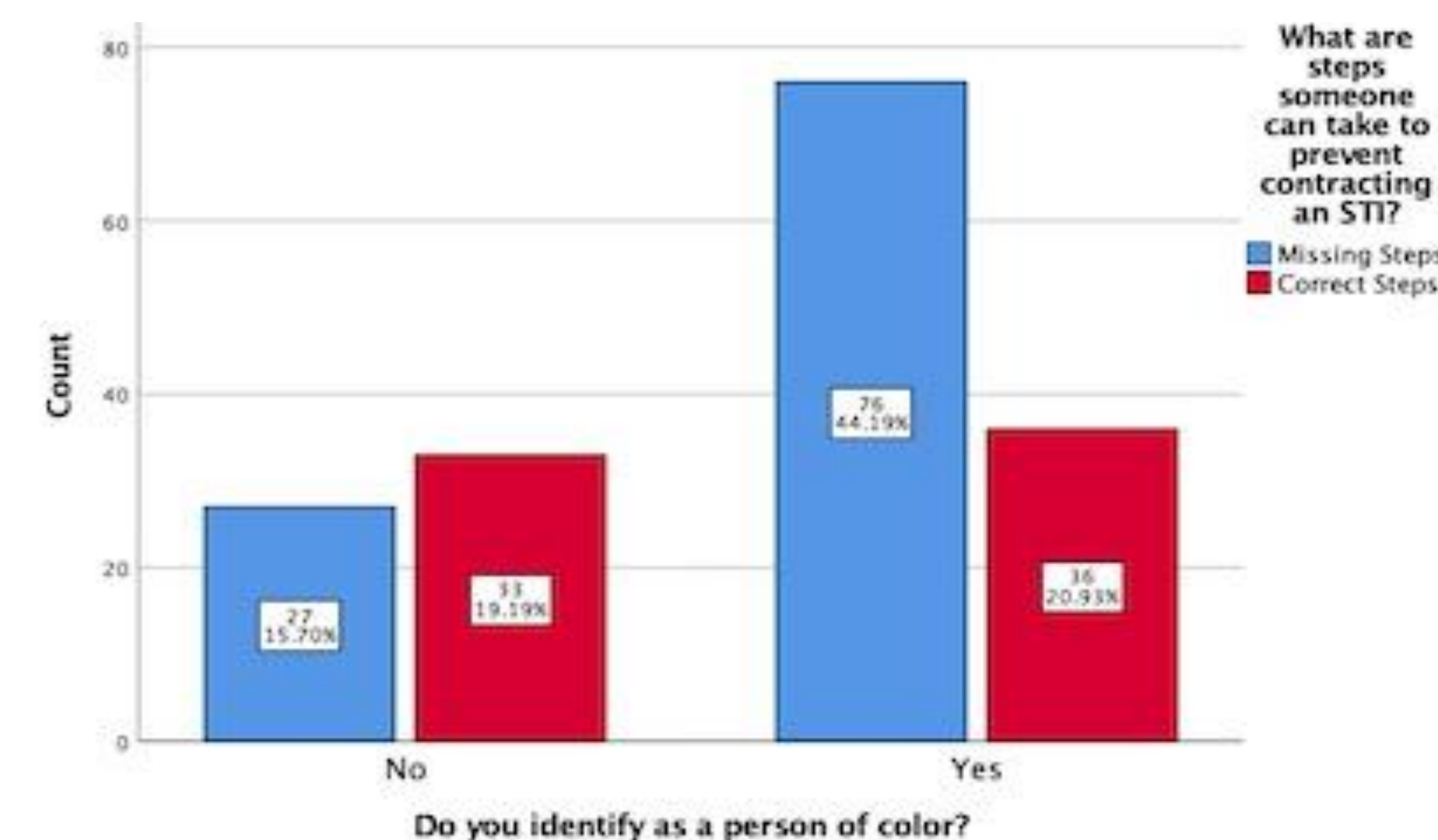
### Sample:

- 172 UCSD students filled out the survey between April - May 2020

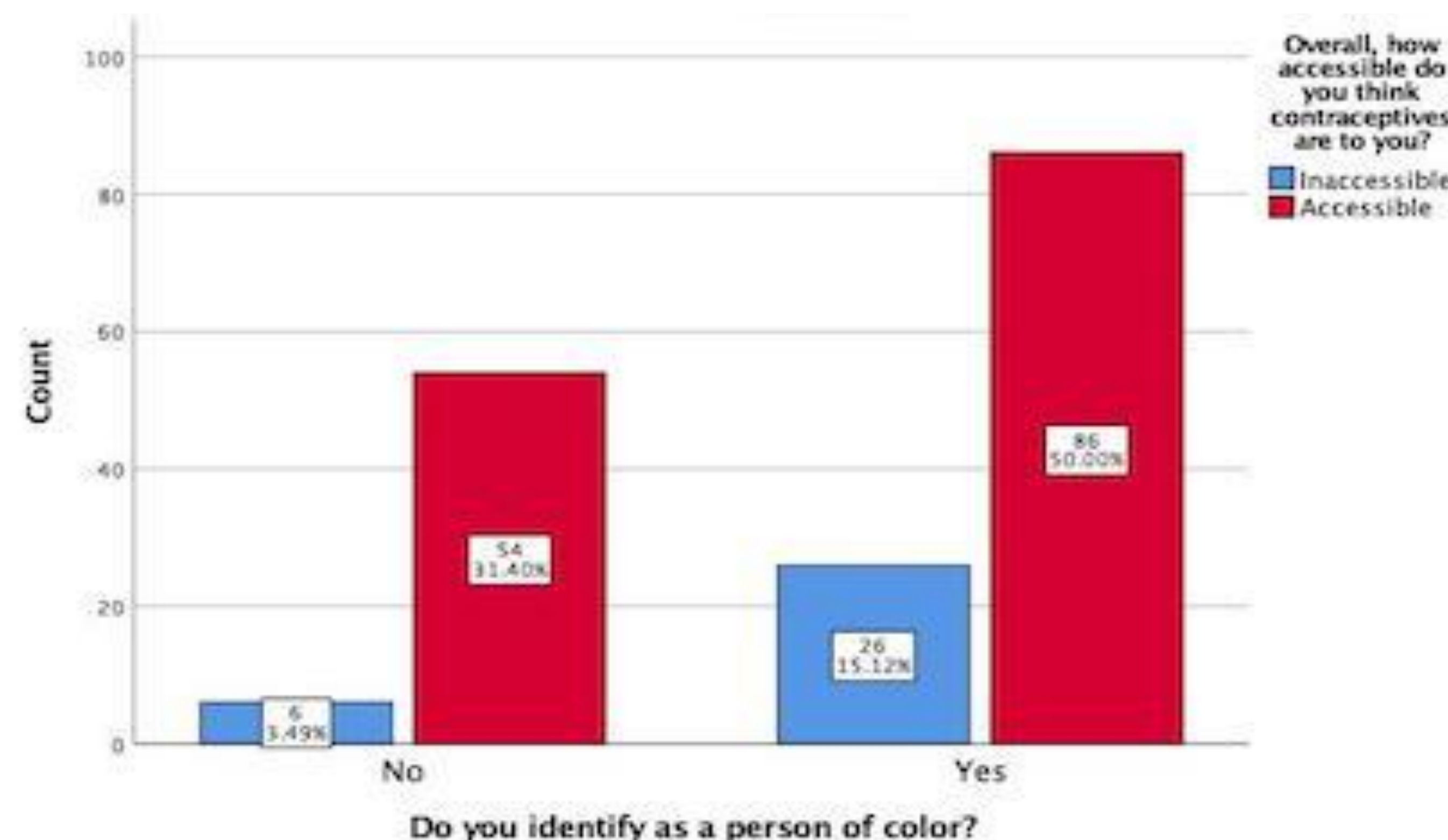
## Results



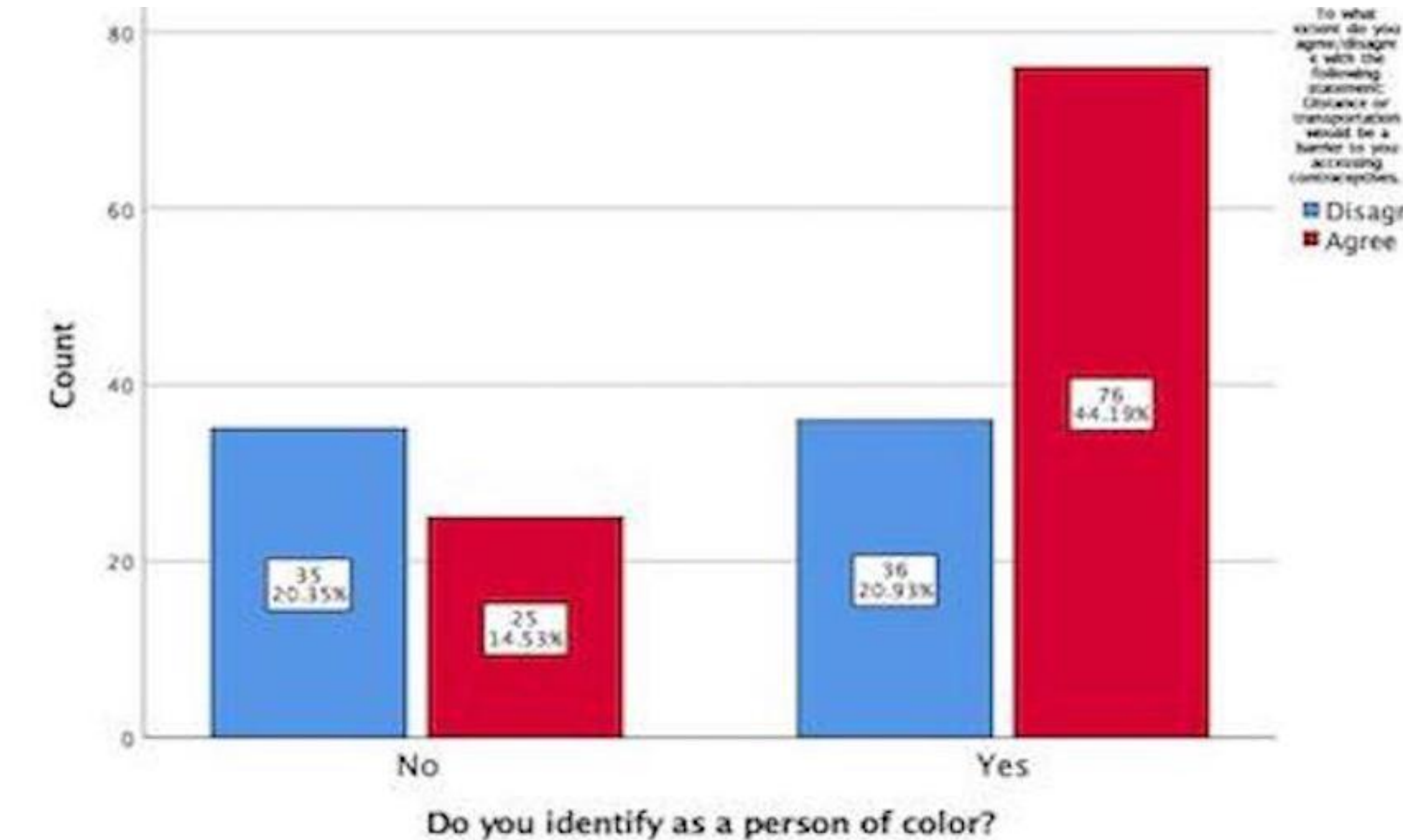
When comparing UCSD SOC to whites on knowledge of a contraceptive list, there was a relationship found, with a p-value of 0.027 ( $\chi^2= 4.877, df = 1$ ), expressing how more white UCSD students were knowledgeable on more contraceptives than most SOC.



The most significant relationship discovered when comparing UCSD SOC to whites on access to barriers, such as transportation, with the p-value of 0.00089 ( $\chi^2= 11.056, df = 1$ ), indicating transportation is seen as a barrier in contraceptive use more so to SOC than whites.



Looking for a relationship between student’s perceptions on accessibility of contraceptives also discovered a significant relationship, with the p-value of 0.0164 ( $\chi^2= 5.760, df= 1$ ), showing UCSD SOC find access to be a barrier against utilizing contraceptives.



Cross-comparing UCSD SOC to whites on knowledge of steps/contraceptive methods on correctly preventing STIs, a significant p-value of 0.004 ( $\chi^2= 8.498, df=1$ ) showed white UCSD students knew the correct contraceptive methods for preventing STIs better than SOC

## Conclusion

- UCSD students of color reported overall lower of access to contraceptives. The reported lower levels of access are attributed to more reported barriers.
- Overall SOC reported lower levels of knowledge of contraceptive methods (familiarity with each method, which is useful in preventing STIs etc).

## Policy Implications

- Knowledge of and access to contraceptives among UCSD students has room for improvement, with needs to close the gap for SOC.
- Future campus health policies should require the development of resources to implement equitable educational and access opportunities.