



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Southwest Institute for Research on Women

The SIROW Voice

Community-based collaborative research, working toward a society in which the wellbeing of women and families is paramount, resulting in their equity, empowerment, and prosperity since 1979.

LETTER FROM SIROW STEERING COMMITTEE

Dear Community:

We hope you are doing as well as possible during this challenging time.

In light of the recent, numerous, and highly publicized instances of police violence toward the Black community and within the current context of a pandemic that has intensified the impact of systemic racial discrimination, we, at SIROW, stand in solidarity with Black people everywhere and believe that all Black Lives Matter. We remain steadfast in our dedication to our mission to strive to achieve a more just and equitable society through collaborative outreach, education, intervention, and research projects of importance to diverse groups including Black people who have faced centuries of systemic oppression. Though not enough, we are hopeful that our continued commitment will help to create long overdue change that helps Black people feel safe and to live happy, healthier lives in a more equitable society. We acknowledge the emotional labor required to attack injustice, particularly for those most severely impacted. We vow to use our frustration, anger, sadness, desperation, and hope for positive change to fuel daily activities to address social inequalities and group-based disparities. We encourage others who have the capacity to do the same. Finally, to those of you who are also fighting for change, to those hurting, and especially to the Black community: We stand with you.

Sincerely,

SIROW Steering Committee



THE UNIVERSITY

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends & Colleagues:

We hope you are doing as well as possible during this challenging time.

The 2019-2020 year was a busy year for SIROW. The necessity of our and our partners' efforts in addressing social and public health issues and inequities has increased within the context of the current pandemic and increasing intergroup conflict. SIROW continues to work diligently to develop, conduct, and disseminate collaborative outreach, education, intervention, and research projects to diverse groups. This annual newsletter highlights just some of the important efforts of SIROW researchers and collaborators. Here is a summary of the articles contained in this newsletter. You can skip down to each article by clicking on the article title.

Some of SIROW's existing projects aim to address challenges experienced by youth. For example, SIROW's Bridges to Wellness, or B-Well, Project has continued its impactful work preventing and reducing the onset of substance use, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual risk behaviors of youth in Pima County. In the article entitled **If You Can't Fight 'Em, Join 'Em: Taking Prevention Messages Out of the Four Walls and Onto a Screen**, Monica Davis discusses how the B-Well Project reaches youth with prevention messaging via Instagram.

Shannon Fowler presents another example of SIROW's youth-focused projects in her article **SIROW Participates in Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) Community Planning**. In this article, Shannon discusses the YHDP community plan consisting of a vision and goals for systemic change to prevent and end youth homelessness.

In her article **A Data-Driven Chain Reaction for Project CHANGE**, Tyler Le Peau discusses another ongoing SIROW effort to impact youth. Project CHANGE (Career, Harassment, and Nontraditional Gender Education) addresses roots of underlying gender inequities in the United States by encouraging youth enrollment in gender non-traditional career and technical education (CTE) programs and promoting safe and healthy schools throughout Arizona. Jill Williams discusses one example of a local CTE program and its impact on youth in her article **Earth Camp: Conservation Stewards for a New Generation**.

Young adults are the main focus of the project Courtney Waters discusses in her article **SIROW to Test an Innovative Approach to Sexual Violence Prevention Through the Sex University Pilot Study**. The Sex U project examines the efficacy of a sexuality education institute aimed at first-year undergraduate students that provides information about healthy relationships, negotiating consent, as well as sexual ethics.

SIROW's work addressing substance misuse in our community continues through numerous projects such as the one discussed in Beth Meyerson's article **Medical Mistreatment, Discrimination and Abuse: Healthcare Experiences of People who use Drugs in Maricopa County**. This article discusses barriers to seeking healthcare commonly experienced by people who misuse drugs.

Across all of our projects, we have had to adjust our activities in response to the coronavirus pandemic to protect the health and safety of all people involved while maintaining progress toward our goal of addressing social inequities. Our work continues and we appreciate that our partners and program participants have adjusted with us. We discuss some of the ways in which we have adjusted in Shannon Fowler's article **Lighthouse Pivots Services Amidst Coronavirus Pandemic** and Amy Lucero's article **Spectrum Leaps into a Virtual World**.



Relatedly, SIROW researchers have responded quickly to the pandemic to conduct studies to examine how it has impacted different populations. Read Jill Williams' and Stephanie Murphy's article **Understanding COVID-Related Impacts on STEM Students** to learn more about the COVID-related challenges experienced by STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) students. Check out Beth Meyerson's article **Checking in: The Arizona LGBTQ Elders COVID Survey** to learn about the impact of the COVID stay-home order on Arizona LGBTQ elders (55yrs and older) and their concerns about and plans for the May re-opening.

During the 2019-2020 year, SIROW continued to focus on disseminating project findings and lessons learned through local, national and international presentations and publications. Please check out the list of **New SIROW Publications** and **New SIROW Presentations**. These lists showcase the most recent findings of SIROW projects.

Please also be sure to check out our **New SIROW Projects**. If you are interested in learning more about these and other existing and past SIROW projects and opportunities to get involved, please visit our webpage at www.sirow.arizona.edu.

Thank you to all of our community partners and program participants who have supported and worked with SIROW! Your contributions are invaluable.

Jo Korchmaros, Ph.D. & Claudia Powell, M.Ed.



IF YOU CAN'T FIGHT 'EM, JOIN 'EM: MOVING PREVENTION MESSAGES OUT OF FOUR WALLS AND INTO A SCREEN

By Monica Davis

If you ask any teacher or parent, they will likely tell you that their youth spend more time on their phones than engaging with their teachers or parents. And, while reducing screen time for youth is a priority for many, why not take advantage of the opportunity to use that platform to bring youth important messaging around prevention.

SIROW's Bridges to Wellness, or B-Well, Project has taken to Instagram to post messages targeted at youth. B-Well is a youth empowerment project that focuses on preventing and reducing the onset of substance use, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual risk behaviors in system-involved youth in Pima County. B-Well, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, implements a sexual health and substance use prevention curriculum for youth within a behavioral health organization in Tucson, AZ. The B-Well team provided the 9-session curriculum during weekly sessions in an in-person group setting.

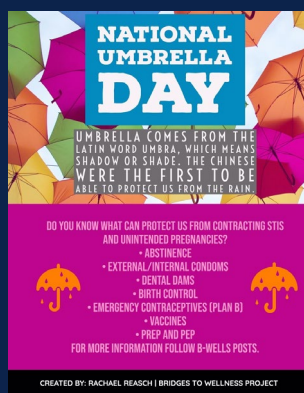
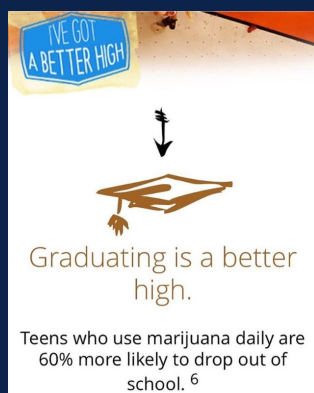
Since stay-at-home orders to mitigate COVID transmission, the B-Well team has increased their activity on Instagram in order to share prevention messaging to youth. Posts include a variety of topics including mental health, healthy relationships, safer sex protection methods, consent, and substance use. Sometimes posts are a promotion of other messages (e.g., from national organizations) or they are promoting local resources (e.g., youth serving organizations).

The messaging, which has included posts in both English and Spanish, is youth led; interns or volunteers create the content and the captions that are posted on Instagram. Some of the posts are very creative, linking messages to nationally recognized days, for example linking National Umbrella Day to safer sex protection methods. In recent months, B-Well has taken a break from posting their regular content to post messages in support of Black Lives Matter and messages that amplify Black voices calling for racial justice and equality and an end to systemic racism and oppression.

The account has received some national attention receiving "likes" from organizations such as the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US (SEICUS), Advocates for Youth, and ETR.

Even though the Coronavirus pandemic has put a damper on B-Well's regular programming, the project is still reaching youth, delivering morsels of prevention messages right to their screens, be it phones, tablets, or other devices.

For more information, contact Monica Davis at midavis@arizona.edu.



SIROW PARTICIPATES IN YOUTH HOMELESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM COMMUNITY PLANNING

By Shannon Fowler



The YHDP Core Planning Team Met on October 18, 2019 to discuss systemic improvements in areas such as education, the justice system, and healthcare.

In August 2019, the Tucson/Pima County Continuum of Care was awarded the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP). This funding brought \$4.56 million dollars to the Tucson community over two years to prevent and end youth homelessness. SIROW's Claudia Powell and Shannon Fowler were invited to serve on the YHDP Operations Team. As part of this funding, community agencies received technical assistance and worked together, alongside youth with lived experience of homelessness, in coordinating a community plan. The community plan consists of a vision and goals for systemic change to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Per the finalized community plan (2020), "The YHDP planning initiative has involved more than 150 individuals representing dozens of community agencies, stakeholder groups, and youth communities. A small but core operations team guides the initiative, provides planning support to the YHDP Lead Agencies and Youth Action Committee, and coordinates the efforts of community partners." These agencies and individuals came together between November 2019 and March 2020 to design the plan with maximum input. Several national organizations, such as the Corporation for Supportive Housing, provided technical assistance for the best way to complete and have the plan approved.

Once the plan was approved by HUD, the City of Tucson released a request for proposals to determine which agencies would receive funding in the types of programs the planning team chose to prioritize. In collaboration with Our Family Services, SIROW was awarded funding as a sub-recipient on a project related to navigation and diversion. These projects are slated to begin in October 2020. SIROW's participation in YHDP complements our work on a number of other projects addressing homelessness, including Health Home Hope (H3), the Lighthouse Project, and Dragonfly. We are very excited to continue the work of helping to prevent and end youth homelessness.

For more information, contact Claudia Powell at claudiap@arizona.edu.

Tucson/Pima County's Coordinated Community Plan can be found at <https://tpch.net/wp-content/uploads/Tucson-Pima-County-Coordinated-Community-Plan-to-Prevent-and-End-Youth-Homelessness.pdf>



A DATA-DRIVEN CHAIN REACTION FOR PROJECT CHANGE

By Tyler Le Peau

Project CHANGE addresses some of the roots of underlying gender inequities in the United States. Women working full time in the U.S. are paid 82 cents to every dollar earned by men, and men continue to dominate a majority of the top positions and highest-paying professions (American Association of University Women, 2019). For over 10 years, SIROW's Project CHANGE (Career, Harassment, and Nontraditional Gender Education) has aimed to increase gender non-traditional enrollment in career and technical education (CTE) programs and to promote safe and healthy schools throughout Arizona. In 2019, Project CHANGE was able to reach over 12,000 participants. Project goals include educating students about nontraditional career options and providing students with the tools necessary to thrive as they reach for their career goals.



Ms. Vigo's Class at Cholla High School participated in Non-Traditional Gender Education, and Stopping Cyberbullying and Sexual Harassment workshops from Project CHANGE.

Senior Instructional Specialist, Tyler Le Peau, and Gender Equity Specialist, Tim Wernette, led by Corrie Brinley and Claudia Powell, present workshops on gender equity related to nontraditional career success. It is important to encourage all students to explore career options regardless of gender stereotypes. Tyler and Tim also present workshops on preventing and addressing sexual harassment and cyber bullying. After offering these presentations, SIROW staff collect student evaluations to help analyze and improve the program. A recent suggestion from a student's presentation evaluation data helped expand the reach of Project CHANGE within our Tucson community.

After having received the Nontraditional Career Success presentation in her Global Citizens Spanish class at Cholla High School, one student commented in her evaluation: "I am very thankful that this message is being given to students. I am a strong believer that gender roles should not affect a person's career choice and that more people should be aware of the opportunities that come with a variety of careers. I am currently a JTED ambassador for our CTE Computer Science course and I would like to know of any way to offer this information to my fellow peers in Computer Science. It would be a great pleasure to help with this cause." By connecting SIROW staff to the Computer Science teacher, this motivated student was able to help bring the Nontraditional Career Success presentations to Cholla High School's Computer Science students as well as several other CTE courses. Project CHANGE was able to reach approximately 100 students in Cholla High School's Computer Science courses as well as 28 students in an Early Childhood Education class. Currently the vast majority of students in the Computer Sciences are male, while the majority of students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education course are female. The urgency of addressing nontraditional CTE education opportunities with the students in these programs at Cholla High School was timely and clear.

The Project CHANGE team was inspired to see a student motivated to share empowering knowledge about gender equity with her school community. There continue to be many challenges facing individuals who may seek non-traditional employment



opportunities, but there are also great rewards. Jobs in which men are traditionally employed typically pay 20-30% more than jobs traditionally held by women (Wider Opportunities for Women, 2019). Women have made tremendous gains in education over the past three decades. However, men continue to dominate enrollment in the traditionally male CTE courses that tend to result in higher-paying jobs. When it comes to career education, it is vital for ALL students to be able to think outside the box in order to seek career satisfaction and financial stability in their futures. And so, with the support of brave Arizona students who are ready for change, the commitment of Project CHANGE to help educate and equip a diverse, equitable and successful workforce continues.

For more information, contact Corrie Brinley at cbrinley@arizona.edu.

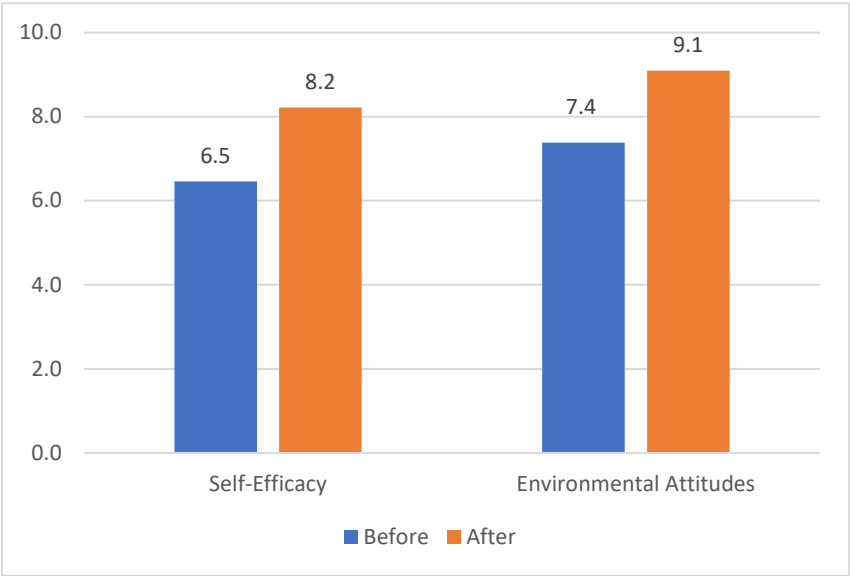
EARTH CAMP: CONSERVATION STEWARDS FOR A NEW GENERATION

By Jill Williams

Researchers with SIROW’s Women in Science and Engineering Program recently completed a program evaluation of the Earth Camp Program. Earth Camp is an experiential environment education program that is a collaboration between Coronado National Forest, National Forest Foundation, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and Arizona Conservation Corps. During the 2019-20 academic year, 35 high school students from the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program in the Tucson Unified School District had the opportunity to participate in 3-day long Earth Camp programs.



The program evaluation conducted by WISE aimed to understand how program participation impacted students’ knowledge and interest in the local environment; environmental attitudes and self-efficacy; and commitment to environmental stewardship. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of survey data indicated that the program is successful at increasing environmental knowledge and interest, fostering self-efficacy and positive environmental attitudes, and compelling students to want to engage in conservation and outdoor recreation after the program. No significant difference was found in how different demographic groups were impacted.



A webinar held at the end of July provided an opportunity for WISE staff to present data from the evaluation to people from around the country engaged in environmental education and conservation efforts. We hope that this evaluation will help Earth Camp staff sustain and grow the program to impact even more youth in the future.

For more information, contact Jill Williams at jillmwilliams@arizona.edu.

SIROW TO TEST AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION THROUGH THE SEX UNIVERSITY PILOT STUDY

By Courtney Waters

“Sex education is sexual violence prevention,” Tarana Burke, founder of the “Me Too” movement, proclaimed during her fireside chat at University of Arizona’s Centennial Hall in October 2019. Burke went on to explain that sexuality education and sexual violence are often treated independently, and that these two social justice issues need to be bridged. Burke’s claim provided the inspiration for the Sex University (Sex U) Pilot Study, a SIROW project recently funded by the UA Consortium on Gender-based Violence Innovation Fund.

The purpose of Sex U is to offer an innovative approach to sexual violence prevention through the implementation of a six-hour sexuality education institute aimed at first-year undergraduate students, which will be tested using an experimental design. Efficacious results offer potential to scale up implementation to University-wide adoption.

The University of Arizona offers several workshops and programs addressing sexual violence. However, no existing program bridges comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and sexual violence in the way that Sex U will. Like other comprehensive sexuality education programs, Sex U will incorporate information about healthy relationships and negotiating consent. Being able to identify the red flags of an unhealthy relationship and understanding consent have important implications for sexual violence prevention. Rights-based CSE goes a step further with a focus on sexual ethics. This approach emphasizes another person’s humanity and “doing the right thing” as the “why” behind consent, as opposed to focusing solely on legal consequences. This rich medley of CSE, sexual ethics, human rights, and social justice will offer a holistic perspective that many young people have not had the opportunity to explore.



College is a time when many individuals experience their first adult relationships, and for some, their first sexual experiences. The patterns that are established in early romantic relationships can lay a foundation for subsequent relationships in one’s adult life. The Sex U Pilot Study will be directed at first-year undergraduate students who are involved in Greek organizations, as rates of sexual violence tend to be higher among these groups as compared to the general undergraduate population. This early stage in students’ university experience is a window of opportunity for intervention, in which healthy patterns can be developed and unhealthy cycles can be interrupted or prevented.



The Sex U Pilot Study will incorporate an experimental design to test the efficacy of the sexuality education program. Participants will be assigned to an intervention or control group and the outcomes of the two groups will be compared from baseline to three-month follow-up. Given positive outcomes, Sex U has the potential for scaling up on multiple levels. For example, among the Greek community, as a first-year orientation requirement, or as a required general education class. Broad endorsement of such a program can promote a set of shared values and will convey that sexual violence prevention is a priority for the University of Arizona.

For more information, contact Courtney Waters at cwaters2@arizona.edu.

MEDICAL MISTREATMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND ABUSE: HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN MARICOPA COUNTY

By Beth Meyerson

In late fall, 2019, Dr. Beth Meyerson of SIROW, and ASU doctoral student Danielle Russell partnered with the Sonoran Prevention Works (SPW) and the Maricopa County Drug Users' Union (DUU) to field a survey among people who use drugs (PWUD) to learn about their experiences with Maricopa County services accessed in the past year.

Trained members of the DUU fielded a survey among 185 people in the Maricopa County drug using community. The entire DUU met with Meyerson, Russell and SPW to interpret survey results.

Almost half of the sample reported not seeking healthcare in the past year. Of this group, 34% said that they did not access healthcare because they were afraid of being mistreated by medical providers. The 60% who accessed healthcare in the past year had very negative experiences with healthcare providers (HCPs). Three major themes included:

- Medical mistreatment – HCPs ignored primary medical complaints, provided wrong or inadequate medical treatment, and refused medication.
- Social discrimination – Expressed directly and indirectly by healthcare staff. Examples included statements like: treating junkies is a waste of time; actions to embarrass or shame patients for their drug use; or 'talking down' to patients after learning of their drug use.
- Physical or verbal abuse - Participants reported examples of physical abuse and verbal abuse by HCPs. They felt that HCPs abused them to "make a point" or "to teach a lesson" about patient drug use.

People who use drugs face serious health issues at the confluence of infectious disease and the opioid epidemic. Stigma and structural barriers prevent healthcare access; and stigma is always an issue, said SIROW's Dr. Beth Meyerson.

"They seemed to think that yelling in my face and being cruel to me would make me somehow not addicted to drugs anymore." (Participant 7)

Full findings will be reported shortly. They will be shared to inform healthcare policy and practice, patient advocacy efforts, and interventions to improve healthcare quality and reduce healthcare discrimination for PWUD.

For more information, contact Beth Meyerson at bmeyerson@arizona.edu.



LIGHTHOUSE PIVOTS SERVICES AMIDST CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

By Shannon Fowler

The Lighthouse Project is a collaboration between SIROW, Our Family Services, and the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). Lighthouse provides affirming services to LGBTQ+ young adults experiencing homelessness and housing instability. At the beginning of March 2020, the Lighthouse Project was providing bi-weekly in person support groups using evidence-based practices Seeking Safety and WRAP. Lighthouse also provided many other services including prosocial activities, case management, and linkages to housing.

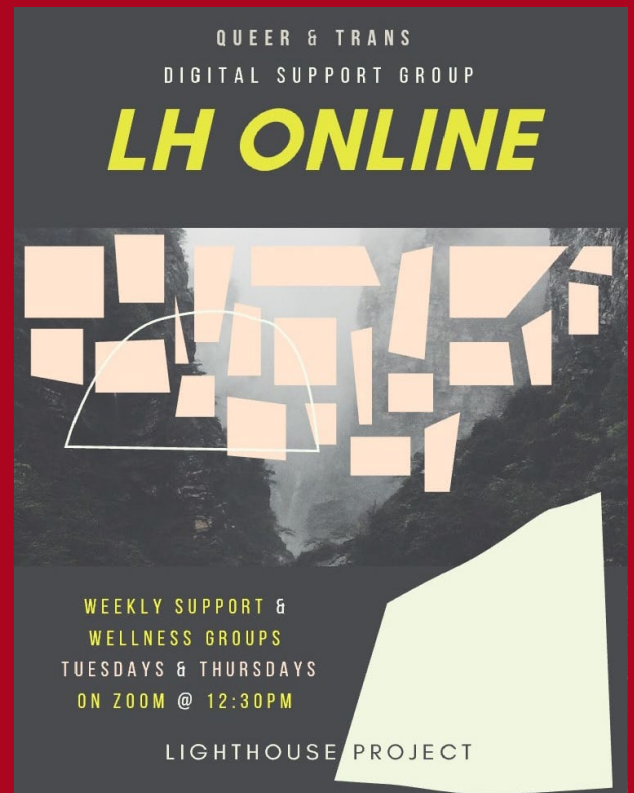
With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lighthouse made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend all in person services in the middle of March 2020. The Lighthouse team came together to determine how we could pivot our services to support our participants during this time and stay true to our original intention. We felt it important to continue to provide support groups, as many other sources of community support ceased operation. Within two weeks, the support groups transitioned online to Zoom and have been a valuable asset to our participants through COVID-19. Case management has also continued on a one-on-one basis using Facebook, calls, and text messages.

After providing support groups and case management online, it became apparent that Lighthouse needed to find a way to offer prosocial activities and community engagement. At that time, Lighthouse began a weekly prosocial hour where participants could connect via Zoom to spend time together and connect outside of a support group. This digital hangout allows our participants to stay in contact with one another and connected with our team.

Lighthouse continues to provide linkages to supportive services throughout the community, many of which have also adjusted their offerings during COVID to provide extra support. Our Family Services also continues to provide linkages to housing and supportive services and SAAF is conducting LGBTQ+ inclusivity training for providers online.

As the Lighthouse Project moves forward, we are looking into further shifting our services to help support participants as new needs arise during this time. We are ever-evaluating and evolving our services to align with our participants and offer the most meaningful assistance possible.

For more information, contact Claudia Powell at claudiap@arizona.edu.



SPECTRUM LEAPS INTO A VIRTUAL WORLD

By Amy Lucero

When the coronavirus pandemic arrived in March 2020, SIROW – along with nearly every other University operation – made the pivot to working remotely. The world became virtual almost overnight. Our living rooms became conference rooms. Our children became guest stars at meetings. We had a glimpse into our co-workers lives and learned more about them from the plants they cared for, to the art on their walls, to their cute pets!

SIROW's Spectrum program, a collaboration with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health which provides HIV prevention education and services to LGBTQ+ youth ages 13-24 in Southern Arizona, was no exception to this transition. Spectrum's team quickly adapted to a virtual classroom setting and successfully completed its spring cohort right on schedule. Data collection interviews seamlessly transitioned from in-person to phone, as participants were suddenly more available and willing to connect to Spectrum staff as the state-wide stay-at-home order was in full effect.

As each week passed and school re-opening became more uncertain, Spectrum began devoting full time energy to developing a strong and sustainable virtual program. New promotional materials were developed, an online registration form was created, data collection interviews were offered via Zoom, the curriculum was further modified, at-home HIV testing was made readily available, and mental and behavioral health services transitioned to remote delivery. Through the cooperation of each of the participating agencies and staff, we are proud to offer all of Spectrum's original services in ways that keep everyone safe and healthy. A once very social, in-person teaching platform has turned into a still very social, fun, and impactful online presence... all from behind a computer screen!

Spectrum's first fully online cohort kicked off in July 2020, enrolling 14 new youth and young adults from across the state. Virtual Spectrum incorporated new and appealing elements like a "Welcome Box" delivered to participants' homes and fully stocked with curriculum materials, Spectrum swag, snacks, and safer sex items. The Welcome Box brought the flavor of Spectrum beyond the screen and into participants' hands, allowing them to engage with the program in a tangible way.

To date, Spectrum has enrolled 179 youth and young adults. The program has tested 25 individuals for HIV through our partner SAAF, provided 51 mental health referrals to Devereux, and engaged 9 participants in mental health treatment. We have also committed to staying in touch with participants over time, and have high rates of success in following up with them.

As our environment quickly changes, the Spectrum program is ready and excited to continue providing LGBTQ+ inclusive sexuality education and wellness services to many new faces!

For more information, contact Claudia Powell at claudiap@arizona.edu.

This graphic was posted on Spectrum's social media to check in with youth participants during these challenging times.

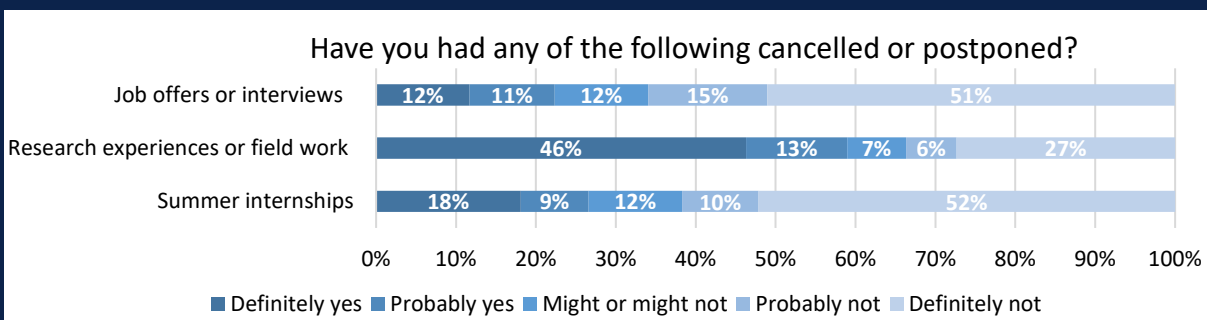


UNDERSTANDING COVID-RELATED IMPACTS ON STEM STUDENTS

By Jill Williams and Stephanie Murphy

As the COVID-19 pandemic began to unfold in spring 2020, researchers with the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program quickly realized that students pursuing degrees in science and engineering were facing particular challenges. STEM degree programs require students to complete lab-based courses and participate in research or internships—all of which were quickly and dramatically disrupted with the shift to online learning formats and social distancing policies.

In response, Drs. Stephanie Murphy and Jill Williams designed a study to assess COVID-related impacts on STEM students. The distributed a survey to currently enrolled STEM students at the University of Arizona and received just over 500 responses. Analysis of the data indicated that students were facing significant challenges transitioning to remote learning and that 35% of undergraduates were concerned that they were not learning enough to proceed with their academic pathways as planned. Graduate student respondents demonstrated significant concern regarding delays to research projects necessary for their degrees, as well as how the pandemic might impact job prospects after graduation.



In addition to grappling with the challenges related to courses and research, a significant percentage of students were also faced with juggling additional caregiving responsibilities brought on by COVID. 28% of undergraduate respondents and 13% of graduate student respondents reported taking on additional caregiving responsibilities due to COVID. These responsibilities included taking care of young siblings or children, overseeing homeschooling, and completing daily tasks such as grocery shopping for immunocompromised or elderly family members. Data further indicated that particular groups of students including caregivers, under-represented minority students, and lower-income students appear to be experiencing greater negative impacts on their STEM academic experiences and pathways than other groups.

Drs. Murphy and Williams drew on survey findings to develop policy recommendations for University of Arizona administrators, faculty, and staff. Findings and recommendations were shared with members of the University of Arizona community at a webinar held on July 21st. Full reports on undergraduate and graduate student data can be found at www.wise.arizona.edu/research.

For more information, contact Jill Williams at jillmwilliams@arizona.edu.

CHECKING IN: THE ARIZONA LGBTQ ELDERS COVID SURVEY

By Beth Meyerson



In April, the Aging Successfully Project (ASP) launched a survey among Arizona LGBTQ elders (55 years of age and older) to understand the impact of the COVID stay-home order, and concerns about and plans for the May re-opening.

ASP is a translational research project to improve the lives of LGBT elders in Pima County. It is convened by SIROW and UA's Institute for LGBT Studies (iLGBTs). Partners include AZ End of Life Care Partnership, KXCI Community Radio, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Pima Council on Aging, Pima County Health Department, the Sex Workers Outreach Project, and Southern Arizona Senior Pride. "When COVID hit, we reached out to LGBTQ communities across the state to quickly check in. An online survey was the safest way to do this," says Dr. Beth Meyerson of SIROW and iLGBTs. Health outcomes among older sexual and gender minority populations are often worse than heterosexual populations; particularly at the intersection of economics, race, age, and sex/gender identity. The goal of ASP is to help Arizona LGBTQ communities thrive.

The LGBTQ COVID survey participants included 456 people ages 55-91 years from across Arizona counties. Preliminary findings include:

- The sample was generally healthy: 88% said that their health was good to excellent, and 59% reported none of the health risk factors for severe COVID illness.
- COVID's employment impact: 33 people (7.2%) were unemployed or underemployed due to COVID.
- Protective Behaviors: Most people (>80%) stayed home, wore masks and maintained social distancing when having to leave home; and washed hands more frequently than prior to COVID.
- Reopening Society: The majority (89%) expressed concern that the U.S. would move too quickly in loosening restrictions, and that COVID would spread faster as a result. Most (82%) also felt that a COVID-like virus would emerge in the future, and that lives will be disrupted again.

Meyerson and Dr. Sally Dodds (iLGBTs), Co-PIs of the ASP, will share all results with community and research partners by late summer. The survey findings will likely have value to other communities too. "We think this may be the first, if not the only, survey about COVID-19 concerns of older LGBTQ adults in the country," said Dodds. Findings will inform programs serving LGBTQ communities, and will inform the upcoming Pima County LGBTQ Aging Successfully survey.

For more information, contact Beth Meyerson at bmeyerson@arizona.edu.

NEW SIROW PUBLICATIONS!!

Bentele, K. (in print). How did Inequality as a Political Issue Gain and Retain Such Prominence on the Democratic Party Agenda? *Research in Political Sociology*.

Bentele, K., & Powell, C. (2020). *Forecasting Homelessness in Arizona during the COVID-19 Crisis*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona, Southwest Institute for Research on Women.

Brinley, C., & Korchmaros, J. D. (2020). *Project Lifeline: QPR Training Evaluation Findings*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona, Southwest Institute for Research on Women.

Eldridge, L. A., Agley, J. D., & **Meyerson, B. E.** (2020). Naloxone availability and dispensing in Indiana pharmacies two years after the implementation of a statewide standing order. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*, 60, 470-474. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1544319119305321>

Korchmaros, J. D., Greene, A., & **Murphy, S.** (2020). Implementing trauma-informed research-supported treatment: Fidelity, feasibility, and acceptability. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-020-00671-7>

Murphy, S., & Williams, J. (2019). *Women in STEM: A Preliminary Report*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona, Southwest Institute for Research on Women.

Murphy, S., & Williams, J. (2020). *Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on University of Arizona's Undergraduate STEM Students*. Tucson, AZ: Southwest Institute for Research on Women and Women in Science and Engineering Program.

Murphy, S., & Williams, J. (2020). *Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on University of Arizona's STEM Graduate Students*. Tucson, AZ: Southwest Institute for Research on Women and Women in Science and Engineering Program.

Powell, C. (2020, July) *Pivotal interactions feed many Blacks' mistrust of police*. The Albuquerque Journal. <https://www.abqjournal.com/1479747/pivotal-interactions-feed-many-blacks-mistrust-of-police.html>

Reno, H., Fox, B., Highfill, C., McKee, A., Trolard, A., Liang, S. Y., Stoner, B.P., & **Meyerson, B. E.** (2020). The emerging intersection between injection drug use and early syphilis in rural areas of Missouri, 2012-2018. *Journal of Infectious Disease*, 222, Issue Supplement_5, S465–S470. https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/222/Supplement_5/S465/5900581

Salerno Valdez, E., Valdez, L., **Korchmaros, J.D.**, Garcia, D.O., **Stevens, S.**, Sabo, S., & Carvajal, S. (2020). Socioenvironmental risk factors for adolescent marijuana use in a United States - Mexico border community. *American Journal of Health Promotion*. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0890117120927527>

Stevens, S., Andrade, R., **Bentele, K. G.**, & **Lopez, G.** (May 2020) *Amity at Dragonfly Project Data Summary. Report for Amity Foundation's Dragonfly Village*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona, Southwest Institute for Research on Women.

Stevens, S., Haverly, K. & **Powell, C.** (2020). Improvements in self-acceptance for LGBTQ+ and straight allied youth and young adults enrolled in an affirming system of care program. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 118. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105382>

Stevens, S., Davis, M., Sargus, T., Black, C., **Andrade, R.**, & **Murphy, S.** (2019). *Women in the ADOT Workforce*. Arizona Department of Transportation: Phoenix AZ., 1-21.

Stevens, S. & Sargus, T. (2020). *Well-being of justice-involved youth in Arizona*. Making Action Possible in Southern Arizona, White paper #15, Eller College of Management, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. www.mapazdashboard.arizona.edu



Williams, J., & Gruza, S. (2020). *The Bio/Diversity Project: Fostering Diverse and Inclusive Environmental Science Fields and Organizations*. Tucson, AZ: Southwest Institute for Research on Women and Women in Science and Engineering Program.

Williams, J. (2020). *Earth Camp: Conservation Stewards for a new Generation: 2019-20 Program Evaluation*. Tucson, AZ: Southwest Institute for Research on Women and Women in Science and Engineering Program.



NEW SIROW PRESENTATIONS!!



Fowler, S., & Waters, C. (2019, October). Reducing housing inequities for LGBTQ+ communities: Building your allyship toolbox. Presented at 26th Annual Arizona Housing Coalition Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Galindo, E., & Waters, C. (2020, April). Talking to youth about coming out. Workshop presented at Redefining Safe Virtual Conference, Tucson, AZ.

Korchmaros, J. (2019, December). Evaluation of the impact of a collaborative approach to address the opioid epidemic in Pima County. Paper presented at the Motivational Interviewing: An Approach for Public Safety & Criminal Justice Training, Tucson, AZ.

Powell, C., Waters, C., Brinley, C., & Davis, M. (2020, March). Disrupting demographics: Challenging and re-thinking restrictive and binary demographic categories in youth research. Panel to be presented at Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) Biennial Meeting, San Diego, CA. (Conference canceled).

Powell, C., & Brinley, C. (2020, August). Everyone Counts: 2020 Pima County Street Count. Tucson-Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness General Council Meeting.

Powell, C. (2020, October). Examining the local and national landscape of racial and ethnic disparities in homelessness. Racial Equity in Housing Community Forum.

Powell, C., Moody, J., & Peery, D. (2019, October). Leveraging our resources: Introducing the National Healthcare for Homeless Council African-American Affinity Group. National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, Leadership Summit, Nashville, TN.

Shaw, S. J., Lee, J. K., Huebner Torres, C., Totman, M., & Korchmaros, J. (December, 2019). "We just live and raise our kids and take pills": Chronic disease medications in everyday life. Paper presented at UMass Amherst, Amherst, MA.

Waters, C. (2019, October). Love & Intimacy. Presented in HPS 330 Human Sexuality undergraduate class, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Waters, C. (2019, October). Re-invent your slides: How to build presentations that support learning and enhance engagement. Presented at the University of Arizona SIROW/GWS Professional Development Series, Tucson, AZ.

Waters, C. (2019, November). If you build it, will they come? Challenges with engaging LGBTQ youth in sexual risk reduction services. Presented at APHA 2019 Annual Meeting & Expo, Philadelphia, PA.

Waters, C., Powell, C., & Bentele, K. (2020, March). Challenges and opportunities: Implications of gender and sexual identity research with unstably housed LGBTQ+ late adolescents. Poster to be presented at Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) Biennial Meeting, San Diego, CA. (Conference canceled).



Waters, C., Powell, C., & Bentele, K. (2020, April). Challenges and opportunities: Implications of gender and sexual identity research with unstably housed LGBTQ+ young adults. Poster presented at Women in Data Science-Tucson 2020 Virtual Meeting, Tucson, AZ. Awarded first place in poster contest.

Yamaguchi, D., DeVries, R., Stropka, E., Oñate, L. Barden, D., Corona, D., **Korchmaros, J.**, & Thomas, C. (October, 2019). Law enforcement collaborations & cultural shifts. Workshop presented at the 3rd Annual Southern Arizona Opioid Misuse Prevention Symposium, Tucson, AZ.

NEW SIROW PROJECTS!!

SIROW has a number of new exciting projects that we are working on with our partners.

Adoption of COVID-related Policy Changes to expand access to medication assisted treatment (MAT)

Contact: Beth Meyerson; bmeyerson@arizona.edu

Arizona Science, Engineering, and Math Scholars Program: Program Evaluation and Expansion

Contact: Jill Williams; jillwilliams@arizona.edu

Community Readiness Assessment for the Intergenerational Healthy Masculinity Initiative

Contact: Stephanie Murphy; sumurphy@arizona.edu

Health and healthcare access by people who use drugs, Maricopa County

Contact: Beth Meyerson; bmeyerson@arizona.edu

Imagine Your STEM Future

Contact: Jill Williams; jillwilliams@arizona.edu

Launching Your Career Symposium and Mentorship Program

Contact: Jill Williams; jillwilliams@arizona.edu

Sex University Pilot Study

Contact: Courtney Waters; cwaters2@arizona.edu

Turning the Tide

Contact: Claudia Powell; claudiap@arizona.edu

Tucson Bee Collaborative

Contact: Jill Williams; jillwilliams@arizona.edu

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Planning Project

Contact: Claudia Powell; claudiap@arizona.edu

Youth Care

Contact: Claudia Powell; claudiap@arizona.edu





THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Southwest Institute for Research on Women

Our Mission

Develop, conduct, and disseminate collaborative outreach, education, intervention, and research projects of importance to diverse groups.

Our Goals

- Engage in collaborative feminist research on topics pertinent to the lives of girls, women, and families;
- Develop and conduct outreach, education, service, research, and trainings with regard to mental and physical health, sexuality, legal matters, education, workforce, equity, diversity, and other issues;
- Address social inequalities and group-based disparities;
- Examine and support women's contribution to literature, the arts, and Southwest heritage;
- Advocate for women and families by linking researchers with community organizations and policy makers;
- Identify, illuminate, and disseminate research on girls, women, families, and gender differences.

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