



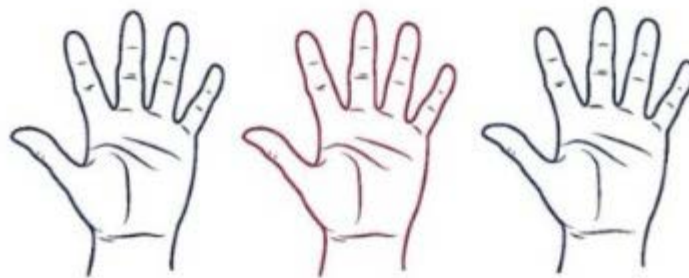
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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.

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**EVERYONE COUNTS**  
2018 Pima County Street Count

## **SIROW Collaborates to Map Pima County Homeless Population**

by Corrie Brinley

In partnership with the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness, SIROW successfully organized and completed the 2018 Everyone Counts Street Count. The Street Count is part of an annual national snapshot (Point-In-Time count) of people experiencing homelessness and living in housing dedicated for people without shelter. Each year, volunteers are divided into teams throughout Tucson and Pima County. Volunteers visit camps in washes and in the desert, bus stops, libraries, meal sites, abandoned buildings, and other areas where people without housing may find shelter. These volunteers interview people experiencing homelessness to get an accurate count of the number of families, youth, and adults experiencing homelessness, and to better understand their needs. The Street Count not only helps to understand the scope of need in our community, but also is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Street Count results help determine the amount of money that HUD provides for housing services in Tucson and Pima County.

On January 24, 2018, over 230 volunteers kindly dedicated their time to canvas the city and county, including outlying areas, like Marana, Catalina, Three Points, and Vail, to conduct these interviews. Volunteers also participated in a shelter count the night prior to survey people staying in local emergency shelters. SIROW works in collaboration with the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness to analyze data to be submitted to HUD in late spring, and will schedule a community report of the approved Point-In-Time Count results in June 2018.

For the last three consecutive years, SIROW's Claudia Powell has headed the Street Count Planning Workgroup with the support of Corrie Brinley. The Street Count Planning Workgroup puts in numerous hours to make this a seamless, well-organized experience for volunteers, while ensuring that community members experiencing homelessness are heard and respected during the Street Count process. In addition to amassing essential Street Count donations and supplies, coordinating logistics and mapping, and communicating with media and government officials, the Street Count Planning Workgroup organizes volunteer recruitment, enrollment, and training. This year, the workgroup trained more people currently experiencing homelessness to conduct these Street Count interviews in their communities than in any other previous year.

Claudia Powell serves as the Vice Chair of Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness Executive Board, a coalition of nearly 60 local entities that works to end homelessness, advocates regarding homelessness and associated issues, and provides expertise and leadership on those issues. Members include: non-profits; government entities; faith-based groups; representatives of business, health care and law enforcement; and concerned individuals. The Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness is also the HUD Homeless Continuum of Care for Tucson and Pima County, the entity that submits the annual application for homeless-dedicated assistance to HUD. Because of community efforts in 2016, HUD awarded \$8.4 million for homeless rental assistance, support services, a Homeless Management Information System, and related activities for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

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## **Staff Spotlight: Candace Black, PhD**

by Nikole Justvig and Allison Dumka



Since joining SIROW, Dr. Candace Black has served as Quantitative Analyst for four state- and federally-funded evaluation projects on human trafficking, substance abuse, science motivation in undergraduates, and gender disparities in transportation occupations. She contributed to Training and Technical Assistance webinars for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, coordinated data collection for a national cross-site evaluation team with six sites including tribal grantees, co-authored several professional reports, and provided process evaluation feedback for a regional anti-trafficking taskforce. Additionally, she currently co-chairs the Training and Outreach Subcommittee for the Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network (SAATURN). As part of this role, she works with a diverse set of professionals from law enforcement, juvenile court, and social services agencies to conduct public awareness education on human trafficking.

**You have worked extensively in statistics and quantitative methods. Can you explain how that background helps your work at SIROW?**

For nearly two years, I have been applying the quantitative analysis skills I learned as a doctoral student at the University of Arizona to inform grant-funded projects on human trafficking, substance abuse, gender disparities in transportation, and poverty in Tucson. Each of these projects collects data in a different way, and part of my role is to identify how to use those data to inform project processes and outcomes. Both skill sets (research methodology and statistics) also enable me to develop ideas for grant proposals. At this stage, I am looking to identify funding sources that would support anti-trafficking efforts in Southern Arizona.

**What is your favorite thing to do when you're not at work?**

I read a lot about current events, and I love to play video games. Right now, I'm playing Horizon Zero Dawn (it's an action-adventure role playing game – think human history meets futuristic sci-fi) and it is epic!

**What do you love about working at SIROW?**

I love that I am able to apply my training in a way that has immediate, meaningful outcomes for members of our community.

**What is your biggest achievement to date – personal or professional?**

I have several things I'm pretty proud of: earning my PhD, learning Italian on the fly while teaching abroad, and I co-authored a ~\$500,000 grant while undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer last year. I'm happy to report that I'm cancer free today, and I have a great deal to be thankful for as far as my friendships at SIROW and the support my colleagues showed me during that extremely difficult experience.

**What does a typical day look like for you and what are you currently working on?**

There is no such thing as a typical day for me, and my schedule varies depending on the needs of my projects. Recently, I've participated in a meeting with the Arizona Governor's Council on Human Trafficking, held meetings with AmeriCorps and PeaceCorps interns to strategize about conducting public awareness outreach on human trafficking in schools, provided professional development advice on a STEM mentorship panel for young women, wrapped up data analysis on a project examining gender disparities in transportation, and identified a potential new grant. Also, email. Lots of email!



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MISSION

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

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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**SIROW Main Office, UA Campus**

University of Arizona  
925 N Tyndall Ave  
PO Box 210438  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0438  
520-621-3839

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