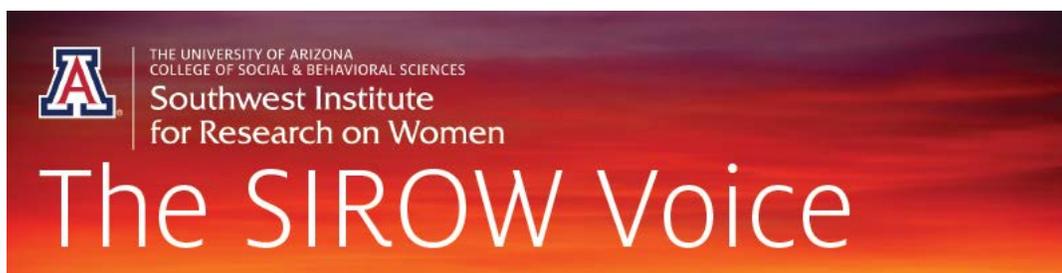


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Community-based collaborative research, working toward a society in which the wellbeing of women and families is paramount, resulting in their equity, empowerment, and prosperity since 1979.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11

Save the date for SIROW's 40th Anniversary Banquet & Celebration

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Sexual Violence Education Project Serves Diverse Youth in Tucson and Surrounding Communities

By Courtney Waters

Sexual violence is a pervasive problem that affects nearly one in three women and one in six men nationwide. For survivors, its physical, psychological, and social consequences can be lifelong (Smith, 2017). Sexual violence prevention is essential for maintaining the safety, health, and wellbeing of our communities. In August 2018, SIROW was granted the opportunity to combat this critical issue through short-term funding from the Arizona Department of Health Services. The goals of the Sexual Violence Education Project were to increase knowledge, reduce victim blaming attitudes, and enhance personal empowerment related to sexual violence prevention and response among 13-17 year-old Native and Latinx youth.

During the fall months, SIROW's Courtney Waters adapted a previously existing sexual violence prevention curriculum into five new sessions and delivered them to six different groups of youth at six locations in Tucson and surrounding areas. These locations included a high school program for pregnant and parenting girls, a boys' group home, two charter high schools, a bicultural public high school for Tohono O'odham and Native students, and a drop-in space for opportunity youth (traditionally referred to as 'at-risk' youth). In total, 89 youth received the curriculum. Of those, 45 completed 80% or more of the sessions.

The average age of participants was 16. Fifty-nine percent identified as male, 39% as female, and 1% reported that they were unsure of their gender identity. Thirty-five percent of the youth reported Hispanic ethnicity (including Guatemalan and Mexican), and 10% identified as Native/Native American. An additional 28% reported more than one race or ethnicity. Other racial and ethnic identities included black/African American (9%), Arab (1%), African (1%), and white (12%).

Results of a pre-posttest study indicate that the curriculum positively impacted knowledge, attitudes, and empowerment.

- Results showed an increase in knowledge among 57% of the participants. Knowledge was assessed by 11 true/false and short answer questions (e.g., True or false?: The legal age of consent in Arizona is 16.; What is bystander intervention?).
- Additionally, 55% of the youth exhibited a shift away from attitudes that blame victims. Attitudes were evaluated by five statements on a 7-point response scale ranging from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree (e.g., Going home with someone at the end of a date is a person's way of communicating that they want to have sex.).
- Finally, 45% of participants reported an increase in empowerment from before receiving the curriculum to after receiving it. Empowerment was measured by four statements on a 7-point response scale ranging from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree (e.g., I feel I could make informed decisions about what to do if I or a friend experienced sexual violence.).
- Key takeaways that participants reported learning from the curriculum were knowing how to get help with sexual violence and strategies for supporting survivors.

The Sexual Violence Education Project is one small piece of the growing efforts nationwide to end sexual violence. We are grateful to the Arizona Department of Health Services for granting SIROW the opportunity to support our communities with this important work. In addition to its impact on the youth who received the curriculum, the Sexual Violence Education Project has laid a foundation from which SIROW can expand and continue sexual violence programming and research. Please contact Courtney Waters at cwaters2@email.arizona.edu for more information.



Originally coined by social activist Tarana Burke, the #MeToo movement went viral on social media in 2017, and is an attempt to demonstrate the pervasiveness of sexual assault and harassment.

Reference:

Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>.

New SIROW Projects!!

SIROW has a number of new exciting projects that we are working on with our community partners. SIROW is honored to be involved with these coordinated efforts to address community needs and improve community well-being.

Through these and other collaborative community-focused projects, SIROW expresses its commitment to the community, as well as our passion for projects with the potential to positively impact thousands of lives.

Please contact the Principal Investigators (PIs) or SIROW's Director, Josephine Korchmaros (jkorch@email.arizona.edu), if you would like more information about these projects.

Dragonfly Community Center Supportive Services for Homeless Individuals and Families (SIROW PI=Rosi Andrade). The goal of Dragonfly is to provide integrated services and supports to reduce homelessness among individuals and families in Pima County. Dragonfly is supported by a ~\$2.0 million grant from SAMHSA. Amity Foundation is leading this project with SIROW as the project evaluator.

Health Home Hope (H³) project (SIROW PI=Claudia Powell). H³ Aims to provide trauma-informed intensive case management, physical and mental healthcare, access to service and entitlements to homeless adults. H³ is supported by a ~\$2.5 million grant from SAMHSA. El Rio is leading this project with SIROW as the project evaluator.

The Lighthouse Project (Project and SIROW PI=Claudia Powell). The Lighthouse Project is designed to link homeless, transitional age youth and young adults who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning and their Straight Allies (LGBTQ+) to a trauma-informed system of care that includes linkages to permanent supportive housing and primary health care, case management services, substance abuse and mental health treatment and a wide array of recovery support services. The Lighthouse Project is supported by a ~\$2.0 million grant from SAMHSA. SIROW is leading this collaborative project.

Project Lifeline (SIROW PI=Josephine Korchmaros). Project Lifeline is a comprehensive suicide prevention strategy to reduce the incidence of suicide, suicide attempts, and their related risk factors such as alcohol and other drug misuse/abuse among students at the UA. Project Lifeline is supported by a \$306,000 grant from SAMHSA. UA Campus Health Services is leading this project with SIROW helping to co-direct as well as evaluate the project.

U-MATTER—Unified Medication Assisted Treatment Targeted Engagement Response project (SIROW PI=Josephine Korchmaros). U-MATTER's goal is to enhance and expand access to medication assisted treatment services for adults in Pima County, AZ with an opioid use disorder. U-MATTER is focused on identifying, engaging, and retaining individuals with opioid use disorder in comprehensive medication assisted treatment and recovery support services. U-MATTER is supported by a ~\$1.5 million grant from SAMHSA. Pima County is leading this project with SIROW as the project evaluator.

University of Arizona Consortium on Gender Based Violence Evaluation (SIROW PI= Claudia Powell). The UA Consortium on Gender Based Violence aims to model and inspire a radical shift in the way we think about and address gender-based violence. The mission of the consortium is to bring together interdisciplinary, cutting-edge interventions on gender-based violence in order to foster synergy between research, pedagogy, outreach, service, and student engagement both on and off campus. SIROW will conduct related research and evaluation in order to refine and improve programming and to ensure project goals and objectives are being met.

Women in STEM Student Council (WiSSC) (Project and SIROW PI=Jill Williams). WiSSC is a University-wide initiative to provide communication and coherence among existing student groups, STEM departments, and campus administrators committed to fostering more diverse and inclusive STEM environments on campus. WiSSC will work with university administration at several levels to create programming geared at retaining graduate and undergraduate women in STEM fields, set university-wide priorities, inform policy, and identify areas of need. WiSSC is supported by funds from the University



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Southwest Institute for Research on Women

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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