



# Community Research News

VOLUME V SUMMER 2006

AUGUST 2006

**SOUTHWEST  
INSTITUTE FOR  
RESEARCH ON  
WOMEN**



## A Note from SIROW'S Executive Director

This issue of the of SIROW's "Community Research News" focuses on several of our community based service, evaluation, and research projects. As always, our collaborations with our University and communities partners are of utmost importance to SIROW and I wish to take a moment to thank-you for your partner-

ships. I have been a member the Tucson community since 1978 and have worked along side many agencies and organizations for almost that long – in Tucson, and to a lesser degree the southwest in general. Each of us brings our respective strengths to the table creating synergy and enhancing the overall outcomes of our collec-

tive work. I look forward to many years of continued collaborations, productivity, and enjoyment. Thank you not only for your partnership with SIROW, but your enthusiasm, commitment, dedication, and hard work. Best to you and yours,

Sally Stevens

## SIROW Community Collaborations

The Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW) was established in 1979 with a grant from the Ford Foundation as a regional research and resource center within the Women's Studies Program at the University of Arizona. Its mission is to conduct interdisciplinary, inter-institutional research, professional development, and outreach programs. Since 1985, the University has provided SIROW's core funding which supports project development, the SIROW newsletter, and some service functions. All other SIROW projects are funded by external grants.

SIROW is now connected to 30 campuses in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and west Texas, and with El Colegio de Sonora in Mexico. Volunteer campus coordinators in each location assist in disseminating information to and about SIROW.

The projects that SIROW undertakes either focus on women and gender in the Southwest and the Mexico-U.S. border region from a multicultural perspective, or are developed because they interest scholars in the region. SIROW has conducted work on women's education, employment, health, history, literature, and culture. Another strong interest is the recruitment and advancement of girls and women in science and engineering through the WISE program. See our programs and projects link for more detail information on the scope of SIROW research and action projects.

Because SIROW has a strong track record in obtaining grants from government agencies and private foundations, collaboration with SIROW can enhance funding prospects. SIROW has a policy document that describes the ways in which such collaborations are conducted. SIROW also initiates team research, faculty development, and outreach projects for which it seeks participants. SIROW welcomes visiting scholars. It can provide library and internet access, some support for telephone and copying charges, and office space on an availability basis.

If you are interested in developing further connections with SIROW, please contact Sally Stevens.

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# Infant Adoption Training Initiative



Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) has collaborated with public and private non-profit health care providers, the National

Curriculum Training Institute and stakeholders, including women who have experienced unplanned pregnancies, to develop a curriculum and implement a national training plan to help achieve the legislative goals of Title XII: Adoption Awareness of the Children's Health Act of 2000. Evaluation for both Arizona and Nevada is conducted by the University of Arizona-Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW).

Trainers are knowledgeable in all elements of the adoption process and experienced in providing adoption information and referrals in both Arizona and Nevada.

The mission of the project is to enhance the awareness, knowledge, and skills of designated staff of eligible health centers in order to facilitate the delivery of adoption information and referrals on an equal basis with all other courses of action included in non-directive counseling, and to ensure the ability of women/teens with unplanned pregnancies to make informed decisions regarding their pregnancies and receive appropriate referrals from their health care provider to

assist in making those decisions.

Now at the end of its second year, the project is meeting goals set prior to the inception of the initiative. 1) health center staff have increased self awareness regarding adoption, factual information about adoption from the perspective of all members of the adoption triad, and knowledge of appropriate referral resources, 2)90% of staff are scoring 90% or above on their training post test, and average 85% satisfaction with the training, and 3) the curriculum is replicated and training is available in all of the 50 states. For more information about this project please contact Claudia Powell.

*If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.*

*-Margaret Mead*

## Websites of Interest

- Southwest Institute for Research on Women, <http://sirow.web.arizona.edu/>
- University of Arizona Women's Studies Department, <http://ws.web.arizona.edu/>
- University of Arizona Psychology Department, <http://psychology.arizona.edu>
- Southwest Institute for Research on Women, <http://sirow.web.arizona.edu/>
- CODAC Behavioral Services, <http://www.codac.org>
- Arizona's Children Association (AzCA), <http://arizonaschildren.org>
- Providence Service Corporation, <http://www.provcorp.com>
- Tucson Urban League, <http://www.tucsonurbanleague.com/education.htm>
- Pima County Juvenile Court Center, <http://www.pjcc.co.pima.az.us>
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/site.html>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), <http://www.nida.nih.gov/>
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Organization (SAMHSA), <http://www.samhsa.gov>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol & Drug Information, <Http://www.health.org>
- Chestnut Health Systems, <http://www.chestnut.org>



# SIROW Visionary



**Dr. Sally Stevens honored with 2005 Vision Award!** In 1989 the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) created a statewide Commission on the Status of Women to assess conditions of employment for women at Arizona's three universities. The Commission found several areas in which the universities could improve working conditions to make them more equitable and productive places to work, for both women and men.

These findings were distilled into a Vision statement and recommendations focusing on improvements in the areas of compensation and equity, campus

climate, and career and professional development.

They serve as guidelines for the Commissions that now function at each of the three universities, where Commissioners act as advocates for positive change. The UA Commission on the Status of Women created the CSW Vision Awards in 1999 to honor those individuals who lead and manage their units in ways that embody the vision set out by the original ABOR Commission. These leaders are found in every personnel category.

*"Leadership can be thought of as a capacity to define oneself to others in a way that clarifies and expands a vision of the future.."*

*~Edwin Friedman*

## SIROW Sites in Tucson

The Southwest Institute for Research on Women has 5 sites in southern Arizona. Each site maintains research and community interests. We are located in various spaces in Tucson and Tempe and include:

- SIROW— UA Campus  
1443 E. 1st St., 85721
- SIROW — Tucson South  
3912 S. 6th Ave., 85714
- SIROW — Tucson North  
1615 E. Fort Lowell, 85719
- SIROW — Tucson Central/Mujer Sana 811 S. 6th Ave., 85701
- SIROW — Tempe  
1801 S. Jen Tilly Lane, B-2, 85281

All of these sites are engaged in numerous research projects and each contributes to furthering the mission of SIROW.

## WISE Project Renews Itself

The Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) program is undergoing some exciting changes this summer. Corey Knox and Kathy Powell are developing a course that will explore issues of gender, racial and class equity in the science and engineering fields, and provide structure for peer mentoring. The course will be open to all students who have registered for the WISEm' UP university program and will be offered this fall.

A new component is being added to the successful Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Conference for middle and high school girls held every March for the past 24 years. Girls will be given the opportunity to develop leadership skills by becoming an EYH Ambassador. Am-

bassadors will receive training each summer on core leadership skills, presentation expertise, and participate in more in-depth science activities. This summer, they may visit the Tucson Crime Lab to learn more about the real science of forensics behind hit TV shows like "CSI."

The High School Mentoring Program offered every fall to local high school students interested in learning more about science and engineering careers is being expanded. In the past, participants spent a day job-shadowing a professional woman in either industry or academia. We will now also have the

high school students spend time with college students on campus. This component is being added because of feedback from past participants who indicated that they would also like to find out about "a day in the life" of a science or engineering major.

WISE is currently searching for professional women who work in the science, engineering, or technology fields to be mentors for the High School Mentoring

Program. The program will be held in October. If you are interested, or know of other women in the community who might be, please contact Kathy Powell.



## Quality of Life for Women with Ovarian Cancer: Study Focuses Early Detection

**“As a result of this study...the physicians have altered the way they interact with their patients.”**

SIROW researchers are working in conjunction with Gynecological Oncologists at University Medical Center to study the quality of life of women with ovarian cancer. As a result of this study, which included one on one interviews and focus groups with women with ovarian abnormalities including cancer, the physicians have altered the way they interact with patients. Also as a result, the University of Arizona Biomedical Engineers involved with the study are now taking into consideration women's perception of acceptability of new and potential technologies for early detection of ovarian cancer.

Based on initial findings the project is moving in two different

directions. One of the directions is further examining the quality of life of women who have undergone an oophorectomy (removal of ovaries.) Because ovaries aid the body in hormone development, when women have had their ovaries removed, they are often plagued with unanticipated side effects that may affect their quality of life. Additionally, because ovarian cancer is often initially misdiagnosed, many women have more complications than they would have had it been properly diagnosed initially. With these complications can come somewhat of a diminished quality of life for women who have undergone an oophorectomy.

The second direction of the

study is looking at how receptive women are to potential technologies that are being developed by University of Arizona biomedical engineers for early ovarian cancer detection. Typically, engineers work in collaboration with physicians on instrument and technology development, but it is rare that behavioral science researchers are included to help to determine the level of patient acceptability of these technologies. This project is a collaboration of all three groups of researchers and intends to develop technology that is able to detect early ovarian cancer, is practical for physicians and is acceptable to women. For more information please contact Claudia



The University Campus Health Center- Health Promotion and Prevention Services (HPPS) office has united with SIROW to create Project SAFE (Student Alcohol Feedback and Evaluation). Project SAFE is a two-year U.S. Department of Education grant awarded in 2005. The purpose of Project SAFE is to develop solutions for preventing and reducing high-risk drinking and underage drinking among first-year students by enhancing, implementing, and rigorously evaluating individual and group interven-

tions and environmental strategies. Project SAFE serves as the evaluation component to SHADE, the diversion program/risk reduction curriculum for students who are in violation of alcohol policies at the university. Students referred to the program and required to complete diversion are registered for SHADE through Campus Health. During the registration process, the student is randomly assigned to complete their diversion online or in a class setting (three in-class sessions). Project SAFE will assess the efficacy of an online vs. in-class di-

version program. The student is then given a date for either an orientation to the online class, or for the 1<sup>st</sup> SHADE class (taught by one of the health educators at HPPS).

All of the students in the diversion program are informed of the evaluation process, and what it means to be enrolled as a participant in Project SAFE (consent form, confidentiality, locator, assessment study ID, baseline, satisfaction survey, 3-month follow-up assessment, and incentive. After completion of the (continued on page 5)

## Project SAFE

(continued from page 4) diversion program, the students are given satisfaction surveys to complete regarding the program and its content (online group completes over email after finishing the online curriculum, while in-class group completes after finishing their 3<sup>rd</sup> and final SHADE class).

At 3-months, the evaluator sends each participant an email containing the link to the follow-up assessment. If there is no response from the participant, reminder email messages are sent weekly. Participants are given a 3 month

window period in which they are eligible to complete their 3-month follow-up assessment. Both the satisfaction survey and the follow-up assessment are administered through SurveyMonkey™, an online tool used to create and publish surveys. The evaluator periodically checks the SurveyMonkey™ website to see which participants have completed the assessments. Using a tracking database, the evaluator matches the participant ID's with the remainder of the participant's information, and tracks them throughout their participation in the project. Upon completion of the follow-

up assessment, the participants are eligible to collect their \$20 gift card incentive.

To date, there are a total of 224 in-class and 229 online students who agreed to participate in the evaluation, meeting our goal of 450 participants. The total number of completed 3-month follow-ups is 255. The follow-up rate is 91% as of 6/29/06. Project SAFE staff look forward to an even more successful second and final year of this project. For more information on this project, please contact Carlos Moll.

## Conexiones Sanas-Healthy Connections: Health Education for Youth in Substance Abuse Treatment

The Conexiones Sanas (CS) project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Funding was provided to enhance adolescent substance abuse treatment services by providing HIV, Hepatitis and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) education and testing. SIROW in collaboration with EMPACT-SPC, Spectrum, Arizona's Children Association, Maricopa and Pima County Health Department has been providing services for four years to a total of 428 youth. The current follow up rate is 91% at 3-months and 80% at 6-months post baseline. Of the youth enrolled, 75% are male and 43% are Hispanic/Latino(a). At baseline, 48% reported using marijuana and 47% reported using

alcohol during the 30-days prior to treatment. Additionally, 27% reported using methamphetamine (a higher percentage as compared to our previous projects). Project staff have disseminated preliminary data findings to collaborating treatment agencies as well as during the Joint Meeting for Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness (March, 2006). Outcomes with regard to improving safe sexual behaviors (e.g., condom usage, reduction in the number of partners; abstinence) look promising. For example, from baseline to 6-months post baseline youth reduced their number of sex partners (male and female) and increased their condom usage (baseline = 45%; 6-month=52%) of the sexual encounters (condoms were used) during the previous 90-days.

In addition, project staff have begun looking at sexual behaviors based on gender. While further analysis is required, female participants are displaying positive outcomes in terms of reducing the number their number of partners, times they are having sex, and times having sex under the influence.

The project offers participants voluntary disease testing for STD's and Hepatitis B & C immunity. All participants who were STD positive were provided treatment through either Maricopa or Pima County Health Departments. Additionally, all participant youth who were shown to be Hepatitis B "non-immune" were contacted and offered vaccinations. Please contact Bridget Ruiz for further information.

## The Cornerstone Project

The Arizona Children's Association (AZCA) was awarded funding through the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona to provide outpatient substance abuse treatment to adolescents between the ages of 12-17 years old. SIROW

personnel are collaborating with AZCA to provide a gender-specific component for treatment. Each week SIROW personnel facilitate groups in which participants gather to learn about gender issues as they pertain to drugs, crime, sexuality,

and relationships. Gender issues are discussed from social, cultural, and historical perspectives. Each session includes interactive, didactic, and reflective education strategies. Please contact Bridget Ruiz for additional information.

# Mujer Sana—Healthy Woman

## Mujer Sana ~ Healthy Woman, funded by SAMHSA, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

Mujer Sana is a comprehensive, culturally competent HIV, STD, TB, and Hepatitis B and C prevention enhancement project for women recruited through outreach efforts at U of A – Mujer Sana and for women enrolled in one of three collaborating residential drug treatment programs all located in Pima County (Tucson) Arizona. Now nearing the completion of its fourth year the project has enrolled 709 women. The enrollment goal for this five year project is to serve a total of 1060 women. The majority of the women are from minority backgrounds with the largest minority group being Mexican-origin Hispanics. Most of the women have children, come from economically disenfranchised backgrounds, and have extensive histories of drug use and risky drug and sex behaviors. The

primary goals of the project are to increase knowledge of anatomy, HIV, STDs, TB, and Hepatitis B and C; increase understanding of the link between drug use, sexual risk behavior, and HIV and other infectious diseases; increase understanding of how a woman's life context impacts HIV and other health related risk behaviors; increase ability to negotiate safe sex; and increase the number of women who receive HIV, STD, TB, and hepatitis B and C testing/treatment/ immunization. The Mujer Sana enhancement project added 5 group sessions, 5 individual sessions, and an on-site HIV, STD, TB and Hepatitis B and C testing treatment/referral provided by our collaborator the Pima County Health Department, along with evaluation activities. A participatory process is incorporated into the project so that clients, as well as clinical and evaluation staff have input into the interpretation of results.

### UNIQUE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ✦ Development of an informational pamphlet based on clients' questions, the pamphlet, *Mujer Sana I would like to know...*, is incorporated into the curriculum and shared across client cohorts; it has become a powerful educational tool linking women to resources and answers to their questions.
- ✦ Adaptation and translation of the Mujer Sana curriculum and assessments to Spanish. The PI has secured funding from two sources (The Stocker Foundation and the University of Arizona, Women's Studies/Southwest Institute for Research on Women's Fellowship Award) to pilot Mujer Sana, Mujer Saludable to Spanish-speaking Latinas. The collaboration between drug treatment programs, county health department, and educational institution has proven a good fit and model for replication. Please contact Rosi Andrade for further information.

## PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS:

### Risky Behavior Outcome Report, Summary of all years

<b>GPRA Measures</b>	<b>Number of Valid Cases</b>	<b>Percent at Intake</b>	<b>Percent at 6-Month Follow-up</b>	<b>Percentage Points of Change</b>
Increase % of individuals receiving services who:				
<a href="#">Injection drug use: injected illegal drugs</a>	489	7.6%	3.3%	-56.8%
<a href="#">Had unprotected sexual contact</a>	143	88.8%	85.3%	-3.9%
<a href="#">Had unprotected sexual contact with an individual who is or was HIV positive or has AIDS</a>	111	7.2%	4.5%	-37.5%
<a href="#">Had unprotected sexual contact with injected drug user</a>	111	18.0%	16.2%	-10.0%
<a href="#">Had unprotected sexual contact with an individual high on some substance</a>	111	52.3%	27.9%	-46.6%

Accessed from the GPRA website on July 28, 2006

# Project CHAT

The purpose Project CHAT (College Health Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment) is to initiate and expand screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment within the Campus Health Service (CHS) for University of Arizona students. The project aims to determine the effectiveness of programming specifically designed for preventing/reducing high risk drinking and related negative consequences among college students. Project CHAT is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, and is a collaboration between Campus Health Service and SIROW.

A student's involvement in Project CHAT typically begins during a medical appointment at CHS. There are four substance use questions embedded in the medical history form that students complete (prior to Project CHAT there was one question on the form). When providers meet with a student they re-

view the medical history form and the student screens positive for Project CHAT if they have indicated that they do one of the following: 1) usually drink 7 days a week; 2) usually have 14 drinks for men or 7 drinks for women when they drink; 3) usually have 5 or more drinks per occasion for men or 4 or more drinks per occasion for women at least once per month, or 4) use marijuana or other illegal drugs in the past 30 days. The medical provider uses brief motivational interviewing techniques, which they have been learning and practicing in project trainings, to help the student recognize and address their alcohol and other substance use. If appropriate, the providers make referrals to the project for further screening and more intensive intervention/treatment, which is a two-session intervention (45-minutes each) utilizing the



Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) protocol.

Students who choose to enroll in the project first meet with a SIROW Research Technician to provide voluntary consent in the health study and have a structured evaluation interview (baseline). The student then has their first BASICS session and returns in two weeks to complete BASICS followed by their discharge evaluation session. The Research Technician conducts an evaluation interview again at 3-months and 6-months and the student receives a \$20 incentive for follow-up interviews.

Project staff are beginning year two of this three-year grant-funded project and have 90 student participants enrolled in Project CHAT to date and great follow-up rates. For further information please contact Alison Greene.

## SIROW Contact Information

SIROW wishes to thank the individuals who worked to create this newsletter, particularly Sally Stevens, Corey Knox and Dylan Simosko for their editing and composition work. Each of our articles were authored by individuals working with the projects they have written about. If you are interested in contacting any of them for further information please see contact information to the right:

- Sally Stevens—520.626.9558  
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- Corey Knox—520.626.8968  
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- To examine women's contribution to literature, the arts and southwest heritage.
  - To support graduate, undergraduate and K-12 education for and about women and girls.
  - To provide gender-specific research and services on health related issues.
  - To support equality for women in the workforce and conduct research on women in the work environment..
  - To advocate for women and girls by linking researchers with community organizations and policy makers.
  - To identify, coordinate, and disseminate research on women and girls in the region.
  - To develop collaborative feminist research focusing on southwestern problems or populations of interest to scholars in the Southwest.
- SROW Goals:**

To develop, conduct and disseminate inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaborative research and education/outreach projects of importance to the diverse groups of women and girls in the southwestern U.S. and in northwestern Mexico.

**SROW Mission:**

The **Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SROW)** is a regional research and resource center within the Women's Studies Department at the University of Arizona. SROW's region includes Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, west Texas, Utah, Wyoming, and the Northwestern Mexico border.



**Southwest Institute for Research On Women**

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