

**Southwest
Interdisciplinary
Research Center**

**Annual Report
2022-2023**

Letter From Director



Dear colleagues and friends,

As I reflect on the past three years, I'm reminded of the remarkable journey we've undertaken together. When I assumed the role of director at the beginning of 2020, little did we know the challenges that lay ahead.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to adapt swiftly, embracing remote work, virtual collaboration, and innovative solutions. Looking back, I am immensely proud of how SIRC navigated the complexities of the pandemic. When the world slowed down, we did not. Amidst the uncertainties, our dedication to advancing health equity and addressing critical health disparities in Arizona never wavered.

Our achievements over the past three years, guided by our strategic plan, exemplify our collective determination. Our research, evaluation, training, and technical assistance efforts have advanced critical issues including health literacy, COVID-19 testing and vaccination access, youth substance use, diabetes prevention, homelessness, refugee health, opioid overdose prevention and treatment, HIV and hepatitis C surveillance, child abuse and neglect. Our continued success in acquiring funding for this work has been instrumental in driving our projects and impact forward.

In this annual report, you'll find details on our strategic plan, achievements in research and evaluation, key partnerships, and community engagement. These accomplishments not only reflect our commitment to scientific excellence in health disparities research but also our dedication to making a meaningful impact beyond academia.

Community engagement remains at the heart of our mission, and we've leveraged our trusted Community Advisory Board members and other partners to support our local community. Our collective determination propelled us to forge new partnerships and strengthen existing ones, extending our reach and impact.

As we look forward, I'm filled with optimism and enthusiasm. Our strategic plan continues to light our way as we push towards the elimination of health disparities and greater health equity in the Southwest and beyond. I have every confidence that, together, we will not only overcome future challenges but also continue to thrive, making a lasting impact on our field, our university, and the broader community.

Thank you for your partnership and for your dedication, resilience, and commitment to our mission and strategic goals. Together, we will create a future filled with excellence and achievement in community-engaged research, evaluation, and capacity building.

With gratitude and optimism,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabina Jeske".

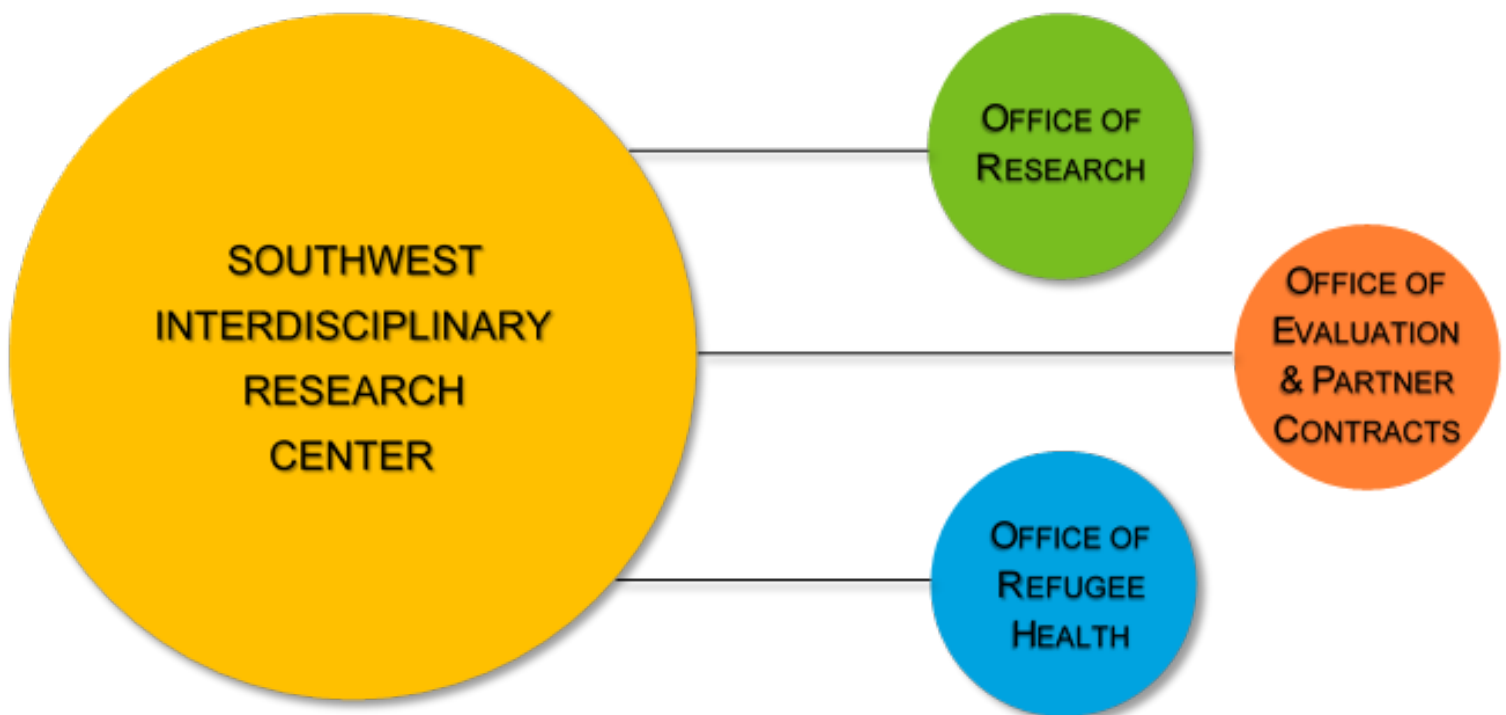
Director, Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center

The Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) is located in the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University (ASU) and closely affiliated with the School of Social Work.

SIRC was established in 2002 as a Research Consortium funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and was awarded ASU Center status in 2004 by the Arizona Board of Regents. SIRC continues to be funded by NIH and other federal agencies as well as grants and contracts from local governmental and non-profit organizations.

SIRC was founded by Dr. Flavio Marsiglia and now is directed by Dr. Sabrina Oesterle, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work. SIRC consists of an interdisciplinary team of over 50 researchers, evaluators, administrative staff, students, interns and affiliated faculty from across ASU. A long-standing Community Advisory Board advises all of SIRC's work.

We have been advancing our mission through community-engaged research, evaluation, training, and technical assistance led by three integrated offices: The Office of Research, the Office of Evaluation and Partner Contracts, and the Office of Refugee Health.



MISSION

We partner with communities to conduct research and develop evidence-based solutions to eliminate health disparities in the Southwest and beyond.

VISION

Health equity in the Southwest and beyond

OUR VALUES



In 2020, SIRC embarked on a year-long strategic planning initiative in collaboration with Phoenix-based Beyond Strategy Consulting Group (<https://beyondstrategy.org/>). The outcome of this strategic planning effort was the development of a refreshed vision, mission, and value statements, the identification of five key dimensions of success, and the selection of four scientific priority areas.

Scientific Priorities



Understand how **social, structural, and cultural mechanisms** can **reduce health disparities and promote health equity**.



Overcome the **science-practice gap** by examining how scientific evidence and evidence-based interventions can be successfully **disseminated, implemented, and sustained** in clinical and community settings.



Use a **community-based research framework** to work with **historically marginalized groups of the Southwest** to achieve health equity.



Develop, test, adapt, and evaluate interventions aimed at **preventing** behavioral, mental, and physical health problems.

Research and Evaluation

We uphold the highest standards of scientific rigor as we conduct our research and evaluation, using community-based approaches that directly engage people as experts in their communities. Our diverse interdisciplinary teams meaningfully contribute to high impact scholarship and practice by developing, testing, and disseminating innovative solutions to achieve health equity.

- ❖ 51 current research and evaluation projects
- ❖ 73% of current projects use a community-engaged research framework
- ❖ 34 Faculty Research Affiliates from 10 colleges/schools across ASU and 15 different academic disciplines
- ❖ 68% of recent publications were in the top 20% of scientific journals
- ❖ Over 90% of current projects adapt or evaluate programs, practices, or policies aimed at preventing behavioral, mental, or physical health problems

Partnerships

We strive to develop, maintain, and expand community, research, and evaluation partnerships that reflect the demographic and cultural diversity of our communities. These partnerships leverage the diversity in knowledge and expertise needed to generate solutions for the complex health-related challenges our communities face.

- ❖ 66 active partners across all SIRC offices
- ❖ Key partner focus areas are substance use, education, mental health, health care, child welfare, chronic disease, and public safety
- ❖ SIRC partners engage with diverse racial and ethnic populations across the life span, including children, youth, young adults, adults, the elderly, and families
- ❖ Community Advisory Board with 18 members from 16 organizations, majority of which have been members for 6+ years

Communication

We put communication at the center of what we do. We listen to and share with our community to build knowledge, translate research into practice, and influence policy.

- ❖ 383 peer-review publications and over 300 presentations over the last 5 years in collaboration with researchers from across ASU
- ❖ 800 followers across SIRC social media
- ❖ 15 Health Equity Lectures delivered with over 300 attendees in the last 2 years

Sustainability

We ensure the sustainability and lasting impact of our work by tending to our organizational capacity and partnerships. This is achieved through sustaining a healthy work environment and culture, engaging in continuous learning, & sharing knowledge and solutions.

- ❖ Sustained funding of \$3+ million per year in grants and contracts over the past 3 years
- ❖ Close to 40 submitted proposals each year with a consistent success rate of >50%
- ❖ 48% of community partners have partnered with SIRC for more than 5 years
- ❖ 90% of recently surveyed partners want to continue their partnership with SIRC
- ❖ 100% of SIRC staff feel that a hybrid work model has positively affected their work life
- ❖ 97% of attendees of SIRC's Health Equity Lectures agree that it fosters learning about health disparities

Services

We provide high-quality services in research, evaluation, technical assistance, and training to build individual and organizational capacity. Our services contribute to measurable and lasting impact.

- ❖ 30+ trainings in motivational interviewing, community-engaged research, trauma-informed care, and opioid use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery
- ❖ 5 staff trained as Communities That Care coaches
- ❖ 356 motivational interviewing samples reviewed and checked for fidelity through the Motivational Interviewing Coding Lab

Funding

SIRC's work is funded by grants and contracts primarily from federal agencies (71%), but also state (17%), and county, city, and tribal organizations (7%), including:

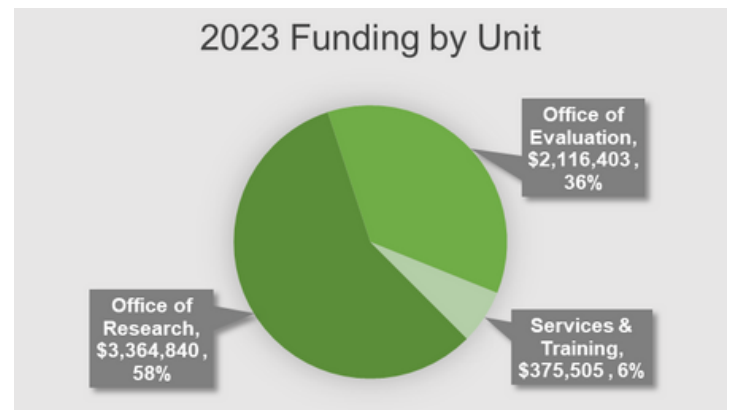
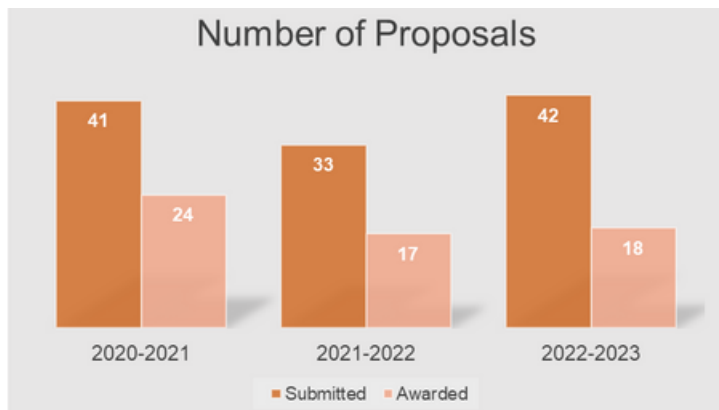
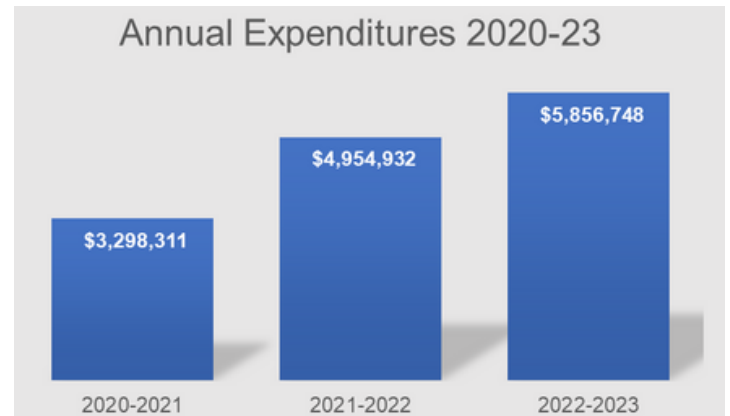
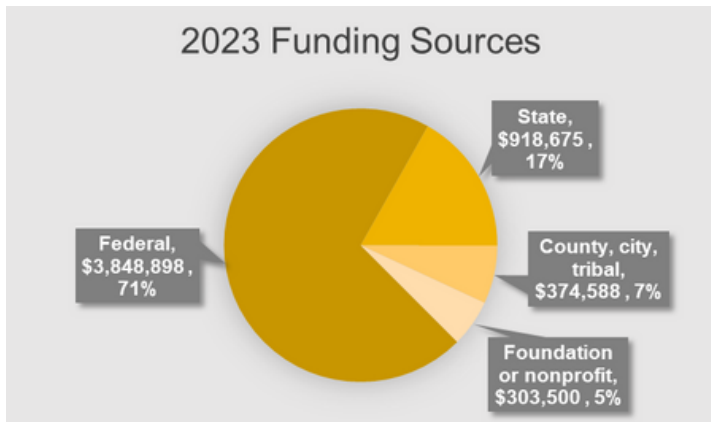
- National Institutes of Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Arizona Department of Education
- Arizona Department of Child Safety
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- Pima County
- Gila River Indian Community

Funding has also come from local and national foundations and nonprofit organizations (5%),

such as Phoenix Indian Center, Old Pueblo Community Services, Native American Connections, Childhelp, HonorHealth Foundation, Flinn Foundation, and the Guttmacher Institute.

SIRC submits close to 40 funding proposal annually with a consistent success rate of 50% or higher. We receive about 30 grants and contracts each year and currently administer 51 active evaluation and research projects.

SIRC's annual expenditures have grown from just over \$3 million in 2020-21 to close to \$6 million in 2022-23. In 2023, over half (58%) of the expenditures were generated by SIRC's Office of Research and the rest by the Office of Evaluation and Partner Contracts (36%) and services and training activities (6%).





Office of Research

The Office of Research coordinates SIRC's portfolio of investigator-initiated and health equity research and focuses on four scientific priorities:

- Examine how social, structural, and cultural mechanisms can reduce health disparities and promote health equity.
- Develop, test, adapt, and evaluate interventions aimed at health promotion and the prevention of behavioral, mental and physical health problems.
- Use a community-engaged research framework to work with marginalized groups of the Southwest to achieve health equity.
- Examine how scientific evidence and evidence-based interventions can be successfully disseminated, implemented, and sustained in community and clinical settings.

The Office of Research is directed by Dr. Stephanie Ayers, Research Associate Professor in the School of Social Work.

Featured Project

Arizona Community Engagement Alliance (AZCEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Sabrina Oesterle, Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy, Dr. Samantha Sabo, Dr. Jon Tilburt

Project Period: March 2020 - Present

Funder: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

This project is a collaboration between Arizona State University (Dr. Oesterle), University of Arizona (Dr. Parthasarathy), Northern Arizona University (Dr. Sabo), and Mayo Clinic-Arizona (Dr. Tilburt) and funded through the national Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) initiative by the National Institutes of Health. The goal of CEAL is to conduct community-engaged research and outreach to increase COVID-19 awareness and education among communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and to reduce misinformation and mistrust.

The ASU team completed 46 focus groups between 2021 and 2023 with over 200 African American/Black, American Indian, and Latino community members to understand factors that contribute to the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 and long COVID in these communities and related COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. This research identified many similarities across the three racial/ethnic groups in their COVID-related experiences and concerns during the pandemic, including medical mistrust and associated vaccine hesitancy due to past experiences of research abuses, racism, and discrimination.

Related Publication:

Ignacio, M., Oesterle, S., Mercado, M., Carver, A. T., López, G., Wolfersteig, W., Ayers, S. L., Ki, S., Hamm, K., Parthasarathy, S., Berryhill, A., Evans, L., Sabo, S., & Doubeni, C. A. (2022). Narratives from African American/Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic/Latinx community members in Arizona to enhance COVID-19 vaccine and vaccination uptake. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 46(1–2), 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10865-022-00300-x>

Other factors were more culturally-specific, for example, the importance of religion in Latino communities in guiding COVID- and other health-related decisions. All groups strongly recommended the use of testimonials from local officials, community members, and faith leaders to increase trust in science and vaccine confidence and to promote uptake of preventive measures and vaccinations.

Focus group conversations in 2023 revealed that participants from all racial/ethnic groups had limited to no awareness of long COVID, yet many participants reported long COVID symptoms. Participants expressed frustration with access to treatment due to changes in healthcare delivery during and after the pandemic, long wait times to schedule medical appointments, challenges with transportation, and increased living expenses.

As a result of this research, SIRC is disseminating culturally responsive informational materials to increase long COVID awareness and knowledge, inform the public about the continued importance of COVID-19 vaccination and increase medical trust. You can learn more about the Arizona CEAL program by visiting azceal.org.



IMMUNITY starts with
COMMUNITY
THE ARIZONA CEAL CONSORTIUM

Families Preparing the New Generation Plus (FPNG+)

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Sonia Vega-López

Project Period: 2017 - 2022

Funder: National Institutes of Minority Health and Health Disparities

Families Preparing the New Generation Plus (FPNG+) is a parenting program that was designed to help Hispanic parents better understand and communicate with their middle school adolescent in order to prevent the use of substances and promote healthy eating. The program was developed in partnership with Hispanic parents and adolescents to weave culturally acceptable nutrition improvement strategies into the original FPNG substance use prevention intervention. Although parenting has been used as a successful strategy for substance use prevention among Hispanic youth, few studies have used a family approach to address healthy eating. Results indicated that after participation in FPNG+ adolescents consumed more fruit and fiber, and parents ate more whole grains and less sugars. Substance use prevention outcomes were similar to the original, substance use only program.

Related Publication:

Masek, E., Gonzalez, A., Rankin, L., De Luna, B. V., Valdez, H. J., Hartmann, L., Lorenzo, E., Bruening, M., Marsiglia, F. F., Harthun, M. L., & Vega-López, S. (2023). Qualitative research on the perceptions of factors influencing diet and eating behaviors among primarily Latinx Seventh-Grade students. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 123(7), 1011–1021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2023.02.009>

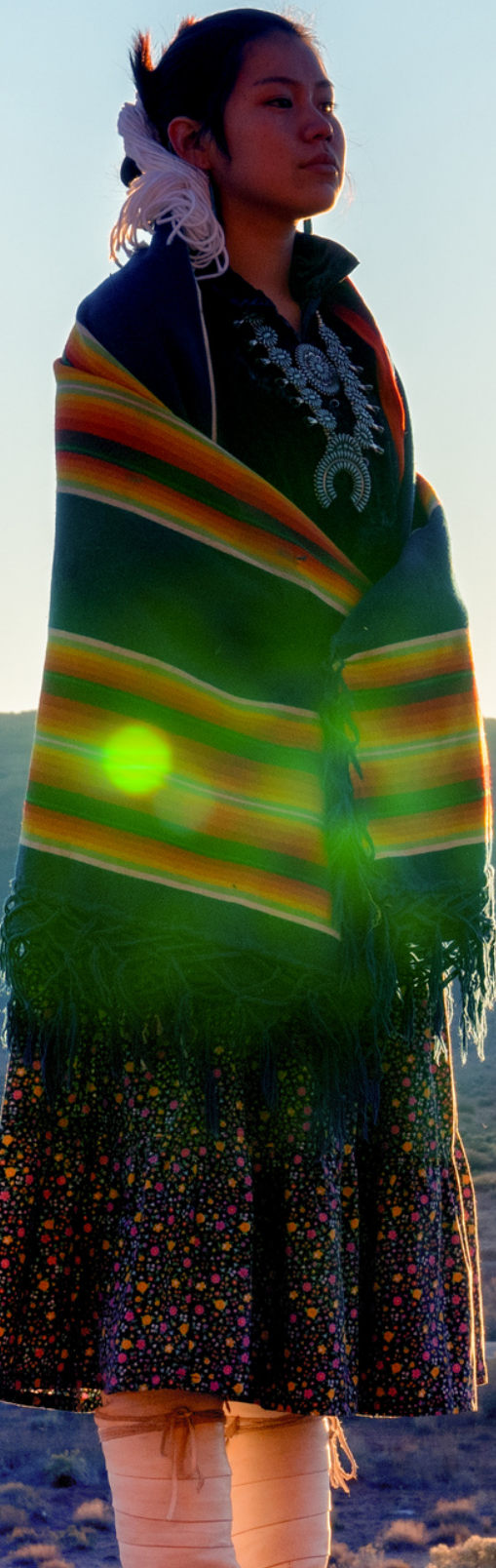
Mercado, M., Vega-López, S., Gonzalez, A., Vega-Luna, B., Hoyt, S., Martínez, G., Ayers, S. L., & Marsiglia, F. F. (2023). Adaptation process of a culturally congruent parenting intervention for parents of Hispanic adolescents to an online synchronous format. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, 13(3), 160–167. <https://doi.org/10.1093/tbm/ibac097>

FPNG+ demonstrates that it is possible to intervene on both adolescent substances use prevention and nutrition, while involving parents. In addition to the initial FPNG+ program which was designed for in-person attendance, the team developed an online version when the COVID-19 pandemic prevented in-person interactions. In order to develop a meaningful online learning program that maintained the elements of the in-person program and remained attractive for potential participants, the team turned to parents, program facilitators (who are themselves part of the community), and school principals for guidance on how to adapt the existing intervention. A small pilot study testing the online program had promising results indicating that participating parents liked the online format and found it engaging. The team has presented their findings at recent scientific conferences, and shared their findings at a meeting where all the program facilitators were present. You can learn more about the FPNG+ program by visiting this [website](#).



Office of Evaluation & Partners Contracts

The SIRC Office of Evaluation and Partner Contracts works in partnership with local, city, county, state, and national non-profit and governmental agencies to design and perform evaluations, provide training and technical assistance, and disseminate findings that support effective research-based interventions aimed at preventing, reducing and eliminating health disparities. The Office provides proven experience in evaluation research with a unique health disparities perspective and external credibility. The Office of Evaluation is directed by Dr. Maria Aguilar-Amaya and Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig.



Featured Project

Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Maria Aguilar-Amaya, Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig

Project Period: 2021- 2023

Funder: Maricopa County Department of Public Health

In 2022, SIRC's Office of Evaluation & Partner Contracts was contracted as an external evaluator for the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Advancing Health Literacy Program (AHLP). The AHLP aimed to improve adherence to COVID-19 public health practices among high-risk and underserved non-English-speaking communities in Maricopa County. SIRC assisted with the launching and analysis of an innovative outreach campaign to connect Community Health Workers (CHWs) with patients through the distribution of culturally and linguistically tailored health literacy text messages. In order to evaluate the campaign SIRC developed a CLAS (culturally and linguistically appropriate services) standard rubric to score and analyze 61 outbound text messages. The messaging campaign allowed for CHWs to engage patients in their health care needs and connect them with health care providers. The AHLP partnered with three Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and four CHW organizations. The findings from the evaluation showed a total of 96,708 COVID-19 unvaccinated patients were outreached via text messaging with a total of 5,824 who were engaged in their health care needs. Patients were mostly middle-aged and identified as Hispanic/Latinos. SIRC developed two online trainings for CHWs, one focused on survey administration and the other on motivational interviewing (MI). Additionally, SIRC developed a one-page CHW MI handout focused on a person-centered communication framework in order to communicate with potentially marginalized populations; the handout was developed in English and translated into nine languages for ongoing use with the (CHWs).



Featured Project

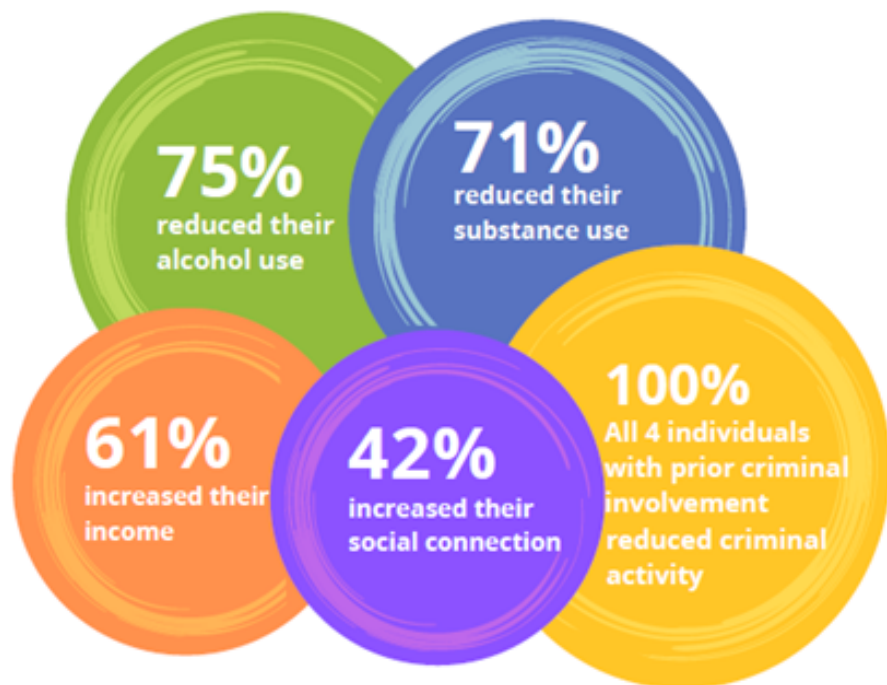
Street to Home Program

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig, Dr. Adrienne Lindsey, Dr. Nicole Janich

Project Period: 2018 – 2023

Funder: Old Pueblo Community Services

This project evaluates the Street to Home Program (SHP) delivered by Old Pueblo Community Services (OPCS) to end the cycle of homelessness for those experiencing chronic unsheltered homelessness in Tucson and Pima County. The program is an innovative approach to street outreach and street medicine, operated in collaboration with El Rio Health Center. A peer supporter, a nurse practitioner, and a health navigator comprise the SHP team that goes to encampments around the Tucson area and provides rapid onsite physical and behavioral health, and housing screenings. The goal of the program was to rapidly and permanently house 150 individuals over five years. SIRC's evaluation showed that in the project's final year, the SHP team permanently housed 250 individuals and who were successful in stabilizing their overall wellbeing.



Street to Home Program Participant Outcomes as of September 2023

The innovative collaborative approach involving the SHP team consisting of a peer supporter, nurse practitioner, and health navigator and other outreach staff was key to the success of the Street to Home program.

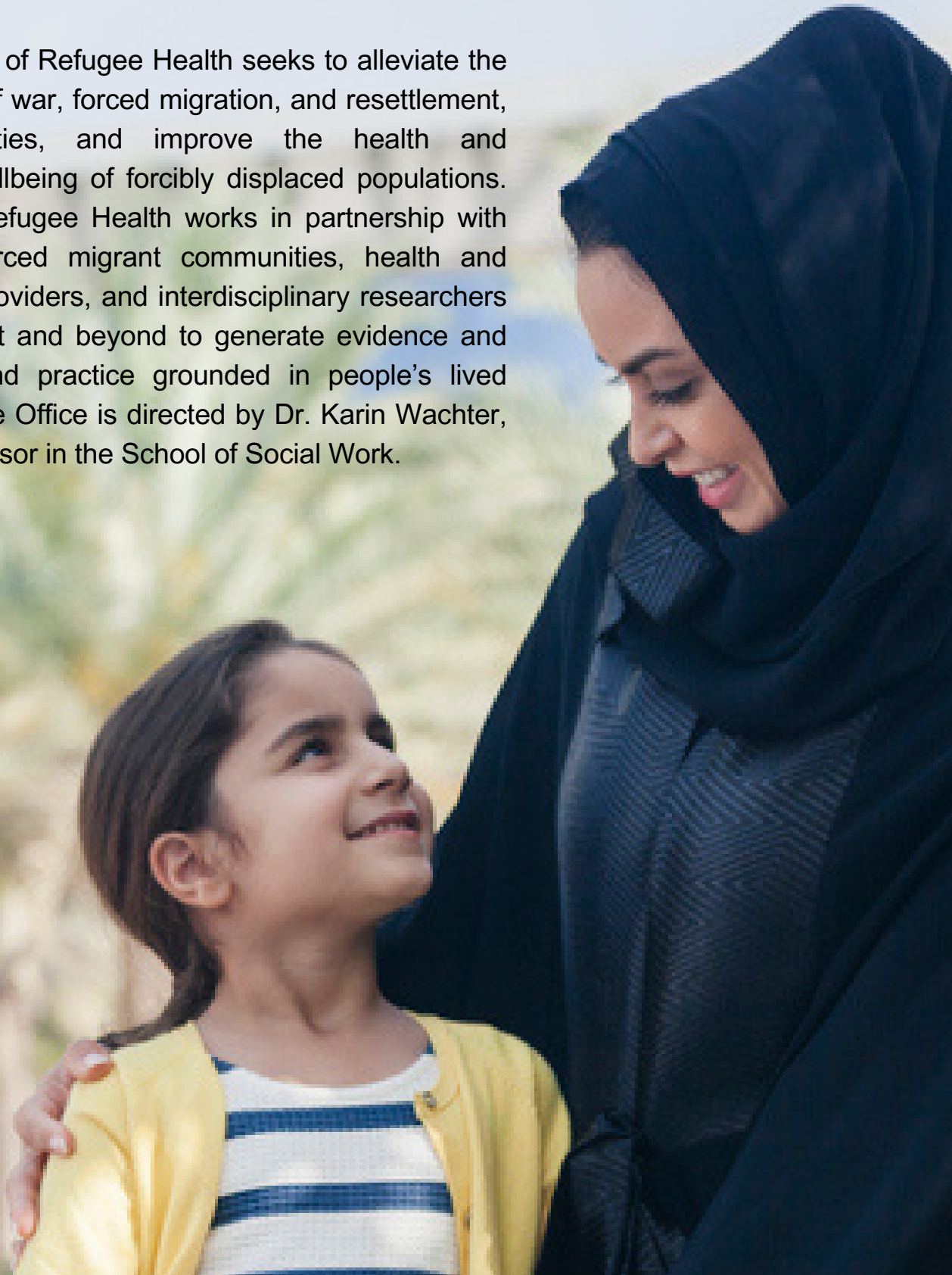
Over the past five years:

2,272 individuals received outreach services

250 individuals successfully housed by the SHP street outreach and navigation team

Office of Refugee Health

The SIRC Office of Refugee Health seeks to alleviate the consequences of war, forced migration, and resettlement, address inequities, and improve the health and psychosocial wellbeing of forcibly displaced populations. The Office of Refugee Health works in partnership with refugee and forced migrant communities, health and social service providers, and interdisciplinary researchers in the Southwest and beyond to generate evidence and shape policy and practice grounded in people's lived experiences. The Office is directed by Dr. Karin Wachter, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work.



Office of Refugee Health

In May 2023, we welcomed Dr. Karin Wachter as the new director of the SIRC Office of Refugee Health, succeeding the founding Director, Dr. Crista Johnson-Agbakwu, who directed the office for the last 15 years (2008-2023). Dr. Johnson-Agbakwu moved into a new role as Executive Director of the inaugural Collaborative in Health Equity at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts. We are thrilled for this exciting new opportunity for her. Dr. Johnson-Agbakwu will remain an affiliate of SIRC and the Office of Refugee Health. We look forward to ongoing and future collaborations.

One of Dr. Johnson-Agbakwu's continuing projects with ASU is funded by the Flinn Foundation to develop and pilot a sustainable, scalable, and replicable data science and management model to improve clinical decision making and shrink health disparities in Arizona and beyond. The project builds on the long-standing partnership between ASU and the Refugee Women's Health Clinic at Valleywise Health. Dr. Wachter is currently conducting a study on gender dynamics and intimate partner violence among Afghans in the U.S. with funding

from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. She is also collaborating with researchers at the International Rescue Committee and Brigham Young University on a study of compassion and occupational outcomes among the refugee resettlement workforce. Building on her U54 NIMHD pilot through SIRC, Dr. Wachter is seeking funding from the National Institutes of Health with collaborators Dr. Roseanne Schuster (ASU) and Dr. Godfred Boateng (York University) to validate a cross-cultural measure of social support and examine how social support buffers adverse health outcomes in the U.S. resettlement context. Community partners include Valleywise Health and two resettlement agencies. A Watts College Public Service and Community Solutions Seed Grant supported the development of this project.

In August 2023, the Office of Refugee Health joined forces with Switchboard and ASU's Education for Humanity and Thunderbird School of Global Management to co-host a national-level research symposium, Reimagining Refugee Services, funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.



Dr. Karin Wachter, Director, Office of Refugee Health



From Left to Right: Dr. Roseanne Schuster, Dr. Karin Wachter, Dr. Crista Johnson-Agbakwu, Dr. Olga Davis

SIRC Opioid Initiatives

SIRC's Opioid Initiatives are committed to developing new ways to support healthier communities in the face of Arizona's opioid crisis. These efforts are led by Dr. Natasha Mendoza, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work.

SIRC's Opioid Initiatives are largely funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response (SOR). The overarching goal of SOR is to increase access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), coordinated and integrated care, opioid use disorder (OUD) recovery support services, and opioid prevention activities to reduce the prevalence of OUDs and opioid-related overdose deaths.



Featured Project

Project MATTRRs

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Natasha Mendoza

Project Period: 2021 - 2024

Funders: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) State Opioid Response

Project MATTRRs, or Medication and Treatment Technical Assistance for Recovery Residences, began with a statewide needs assessment of recovery home personnel and has transitioned to technical assistance for managers and staff of recovery homes. Programming includes the Recovery Home Academy of Arizona (RHAAZ), a means to educate recovery home stakeholders. The project has grown to include a statewide provider survey and the creation and distribution of educational materials related to medication for opioid use disorder (OUD) and overdose prevention. These educational materials are available on the SIRC and RHAAZ websites, and have already garnered 1,930 page views from 704 unique users in 2023.

An initial survey of 72 behavioral health providers across Arizona indicated that the majority (89%) refer their clients or patients to transitional housing services, underscoring the significance of transitional housing in OUD recovery. We will continue to collect data using surveys and focus groups to further understand how providers assess client's housing needs and refer them to housing-related services. Findings will be utilized in future technical assistance.

The Opioid Initiatives team in collaboration with its Medical Advisory Board has created and updated informational guides on medication for OUD for both providers and consumers. They are available in digital and printed formats; consumer guides are available in English and Spanish. Over 2023, we distributed 4,236 guides (3,213 in English and 1,023 in Spanish) across Arizona. In addition, the digital versions were downloaded 106 times and we also received 50 requests for the printed version in 2023. We will release an Overdose Prevention Pamphlet in the coming year.



Featured Project

Project ECHO for MOUD

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Natasha Mendoza

Project Period: 2020 - Present

Funder: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Blue Cross Blue Shield

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) trains primary and behavioral healthcare providers across Arizona in specialty care services using Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), with a focus on enhancing access in rural and underserved areas. This program is specifically designed to provide knowledge, support, and resources to increase providers' capacity and confidence to effectively practice using MOUD. The program is offered at no cost to clinicians and all participants receive continuing education credit. The **MOUD ECHO** sessions occur biweekly during the lunchtime hour.

Between October 2022 and August 2023, twenty-four MOUD ECHO sessions were held. A total of 367 unique participants attended one or more ECHO sessions during the last 12-months, resulting in 1,166 learning hours and continuing medical education/continuing education units given to learners. Attendees were from 18 cities and nine counties in Arizona as well as from 28 other U.S. states and Canadian provinces. Future ECHO curriculum topics include: adolescents and opioid use disorder, myths about methadone use, role of fitness in recovery, reaching rural patients, and elderly individuals and substance use disorder.



Community Advisory Board

SIRC's Community Advisory Board (CAB) is comprised of representatives from local community-based social service organizations, health care systems, schools, and state, county, and city agencies. The CAB facilitates SIRC's community engagement approach by promoting communication and collaboration between ASU researchers and community partners engaged in health equity work; supporting the implementation of innovative research so that interventions and services can be sustained in real world settings; and assisting with the translation and dissemination of research findings to practitioners, policy makers and the general public.

CAB Member List

CAB Members as of 12/13/2023

Shayna Diamond, MA, PMP (Chair)

Medical Anthropologist



Shomari Jackson, MPA

Program Coordinator,
Sonoran Prevention Works



Jocelyn Beard, MA (Vice Chair)

Tribal Relations Manager,
Arizona Department of Economic Security



Tom Litwicki

Chief Executive Officer,
Opening Doors to Housing & Recovery



Joylana Begay-Kroupa

Chief Executive Officer,
Phoenix Indian Center



Jeanne Nizigiyimana, MSW, MA

Co-founder and Program Manager,
Refugee Women's Health Clinic Valleywise Health



Michelle Cabanillas, LMSW

School Social Worker,
Corona Del Sol High School



Farhia Omar, MPH

Program Manager,
Mayo Clinic



Kathleen Davis-Loftus

Peer Representative,
Arizona Women's Recovery Center



Zona Pacheco, LCSW

Housing Supportive Services Coordinator,
City of Phoenix



Rob Duggan

Asst. Fire Chief,
Gilbert Fire & Rescue



Lena Spotleson, MA

Director, Corporate Relations,
American Cancer Society



Merilee Fowler

Executive Director,
MATFORCE & Community Counts



Lisa St. George

Consultant



Zepporah Fuller, MHA/ED., CPHQ

Sr. Director of Business Operations Growth,
Native American Connections



Nicole Witt, MPH

Public Health Advisor,
City of Phoenix



Barbara S. Garden, BS

Director of Community Relations,
Terros Health



Our collaborations included partners in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Along with other departments and centers at the university, we worked with community members, government agencies, schools, advocates, and organizations at the national, state, and local level.

Throughout the 2022-2023 fiscal year, SIRC had the privilege of forging partnerships with over 66 community organizations. Each of these collaborations brought unique perspectives, resources, and expertise to the table.

We are filled with immense gratitude for the vital role our community partners have played in our mission to reduce health disparities in the Southwest and beyond and their continued trust in SIRC.

Partners

Academy of Excellence Charter School	Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Adelante Healthcare	Maryvale YMCA
American Dream Academy	Mayo Clinic
Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health	McDowell Clinic, Valleywise Health
Arizona Community Health Workers Association	Mountain Park Health Center
Arizona Department of Health Services	My Sister's Place
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment Systems	National Coalition for Drug Prevention
Arizona Partnership for Immunization	Native American Connections
Arizona Public Service	New Life Center
Asian Pacific Community in Action	Onward Hope, Inc.
Barcelona Elementary	Osborn Middle School
Bicentennial North	Phoenix Indian Center
C.W. Harris	Puente Movement
Carson Junior High	Pueblo del Sol
Center for Health Equity Research NAU	Refugee Women's Health Clinic, Valleywise Health
Childhelp	Refugees and Immigrants Community for Empowerment
City of Phoenix	Rhodes Junior High
Common Ground	Sai's Group UA
Community Bridges	Street Medicine Phoenix
Desert Sands	Sunset Vista Elementary
Desert Spirit Elementary	Tempe Community Action Agency
Don Mensendick	Terros Health
El Rio Community Health Center	The Arizona Development Disabilities Planning Council
Equality Health Foundation	Tonto Creek Camp
Estrella Middle School	Tohono O'Odham Nation
Foster Care Alumni of America	University of Arizona, Banner Health
Gila River Indian Community	University of Arizona, College of Medicine
HEAAL Coalition	University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension, Pima County
International Rescue Committee	Valle del Sol Community Health
Kino Junior High	Valleywise Health
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest	Western Valley

Publications and Reports

Akapnitis, I. M., Jenkins, G., & Mendoza, N. S. (2023). Between the noise and silence: An autoethnography challenging schools of social work to evolve for trans students. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 50(1). <https://doi.org/10.15453/0191-5096.4688>

Bartlett, T., Law, L., Schugurensky, D., Díaz, M. J., & Wolfersteig, W. (2023). 17 Programs and Practices to Promote a Safe Campus: Alternatives to school policing and Punitive Practices. *The Urban Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11256-023-00669-2>

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