



# **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

# ABOUT US

Sonoran Prevention Works (SPW) is an Arizona nonprofit working to end health disparities for people who use drugs. SPW was founded in 2011 by people with lived experience of chaotic drug use in order to be the advocates they never had, with a mission to *center harm reduction in Arizona through participant-driven advocacy, education, and outreach*. Harm reduction is a social justice movement built on the recognition that PWUD are the experts of their own lives; that recovery and substance use is not linear; and that the preventable health inequities faced by PWUD are driven by oppressive systems and are felt more greatly by PWUD with intersecting marginalized identities.



We are Arizona's largest overdose education and naloxone distribution program. We provide HIV/HCV testing and linkage to care, respectful safer substance use counseling and materials, and deliver training and technical assistance on a wide range of innovative topics.



# WHAT DOES HARM REDUCTION DO?



Centers people who use drugs as **more than their drug use** and as **experts on their own care**.



Recognizes that drug use and recovery are complex and **exist along a continuum**. For some, **drugs meet important needs** so drug-related harm cannot be assumed and abstinence can be just **one of many** possible goals.



Aims to meet people “where they’re at” by supporting **ANY positive change**.

## HOW WE DO IT

- Statewide Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Program
- Comprehensive Harm Reduction Outreach Program
- Kingman Harm Reduction Program
- In-depth Trainings on HIV/HCV, Stimulants, Needlestick Prevention, Stigma, and more
- Local and Legislative Advocacy Community Health Advisory Committee

## GET INVOLVED

Join us in reducing vulnerabilities faced by people in our community who use drugs. Help out by donating goods, money, or time.

[Get Involved](#)

## WHERE WE ARE LOCATED

Phoenix Office  
340 E Dunlap Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85020  
**480-442-7086**

Tucson Office  
2579 N 1st Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85719  
**520-442-7688**

Kingman Harm Reduction Program  
3505 Western Ave, Ste B  
Kingman, AZ 86409  
**609-755-5477**

Prescott Office  
154 E. Merritt St.  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
**928-514-0523**

# OUR SERVICES

"This work is justified every day as we receive overdose reversal reports from across the state. Every single report signifies another chance for someone's son, daughter, friend or coworker to continue to live their life."

-Christopher Thomas, Southern AZ Overdose Prevention Coordinator

## OVERDOSE EDUCATION AND NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION

Sonoran Prevention Works has distributed the opioid antagonist, naloxone, and provided overdose prevention education since 2017. SPW staff and volunteers distribute naloxone and fentanyl test strips to people at risk of overdose and others who may be in a position to assist. Our Overdose

Prevention Coordinators provide in-depth trainings throughout the state to teach overdose prevention, proper response, and use of naloxone. We also provide technical assistance to varied programs looking to implement overdose prevention policies and procedures.

**SPW is the largest naloxone distribution program in the state. Since 2017, we have provided a total of 1,418 overdose prevention education trainings and have distributed 324,449 doses of naloxone in Arizona - resulting in 9,186 overdose reversals (lives saved).**

## HARM REDUCTION PEER SUPPORT

Our Harm Reduction Outreach staff are peer certified and assist participants with a range of concerns such as drug use, anxiety, depression, grief, trauma, or difficulties adjusting to life. Our approach is to create opportunities for meaningful change through participant-driven goal setting. We also provide assistance with practical issues like transportation, getting health insurance, obtaining vital documents, or finding stable housing.

## SYRINGE SERVICES (KHRP)

Since 2018, the Kingman Harm Reduction Program has been operating as the only syringe service program in Northwestern Arizona, which by voter registration is the most conservative part of the state. Originally funded by the Kingman Police Department, KHRP provides syringes and works, naloxone, condoms, on-site rapid HIV and HCV testing, linkage to care, and benefits sign-up. By continuing to discuss syringe access as a tool to prevent overdose death in Mohave County, we've gained community support for the program and its benefits, and have also begun drawing more attention toward HIV and hepatitis C prevention, testing, and linkage to care.

"After my partner overdosed on opioids and survived, no one wanted to admit that he may use drugs again in the future. SPW filled a gap in his treatment and healing that otherwise only validated abstinence-only methods. Learning about Harm Reduction values and having access to HR supplies like Naloxone and sterile syringes has increased his agency and control over drug use and eased our constant anxiety about the threat of death. I can't imagine our lives without the information and services that SPW has provided."

# OUR SERVICES CONTINUED



## HIV/HCV TESTING AND LINKAGE TO CARE

Our staff conduct rapid HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) tests, brief risk screening, and provide initial results and follow care for confirmatory testing. We also develop care, treatment, and prevention plans based on individual needs and results. Referrals and linkage with medical care, as well as social and behavioral services, are provided following testing at one of our in-office sites or at mobile care unit events (see page 12 for more information about mobile care unit events).

## ADVOCACY

From the very beginning, advocacy has been deeply interwoven with the capacity-building and direct services that SPW provides. In 2019, we focused our efforts on advocating for syringe service programs. We worked with a wide array of community agencies, families impacted by drug use, politicians, and people who use drugs in order to strengthen support for the passage of an SSP bill. Stay up to date with harm reduction advocacy in Arizona, receive Advocacy Alerts, and hear about upcoming events by visiting our [Advocacy Action Center](#).

## TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

In addition to our overdose prevention trainings, we create custom trainings on an array of topics related to harm reduction and drug use for varied organizations. From hepatitis C to cultural humility, our workshops help local organizations build capacity to implement stronger harm reduction approaches with evidence-based strategies. Learn more about our curriculum and trainings [here](#).

## OUR OUTREACH THEORY OF CHANGE



# SPW STAFF

Bianca joined SPW in late August of this year in the newly created role of Deputy Director, which oversees finance, human resources, and operations. They are excited to continue investing in the organizational infrastructure to support SPW's recent and planned growth. With this new internal capacity, the Executive Director will have more time to focus on policy, advocacy, communications, and donor engagement.



**HALEY COLES**  
Executive Director



**BIANCA "BROGAN" SHELL**  
Deputy Director



**STACEY COPE**  
Overdose Prevention Program Director



**CHRISTOPHER THOMAS**  
Overdose Prevention Coordinator,  
Southern Arizona



**MARIA JAGLES**  
Overdose Prevention Coordinator,  
Maricopa County



**KAREN BROMAN**  
Overdose Prevention Coordinator,  
Northern Arizona



**SASIA REYES**  
Development Coordinator



**ANGELICA GARCIA-LIZARRAGA**  
Harm Reduction Outreach Worker,  
Maricopa County



**STEVEN LEVIN**  
Harm Reduction Outreach Worker,  
Maricopa County



**ROBERTO CARLOS GARCIA**  
Harm Reduction Outreach Worker,  
Lead, Yuma County



**RACHAEL SWEET**  
Harm Reduction Outreach Worker,  
Mohave County



**JOBY DE LA ROSA**  
Harm Reduction Outreach Worker,  
Pima County



**STEPHANIE KARPAS**  
Harm Reduction Outreach Worker,  
Yavapai County



**MICHAELA KICHLER**  
Community Health Coordinator



**DUSTI YAMAGUCHI**  
Kingman Harm Reduction  
Program Coordinator

# SPW STAFF CONTINUED



**DEEDRA URSIN-ZACHARY**  
Overdose Prevention Coordinator,  
Gila & Graham Counties



**KRIS HAYNES**  
Overdose Prevention Coordinator,  
Mohave County



**DANA BECK**  
Office Administrator



**ALEXA MELELA**  
Northern Arizona Americorps VISTA

# SPW BOARD

With the end of 2019, we said goodbye to former Board Chairs and all-around inspiring women, Zeenat Hasan & Calicia White; thank you for your leadership, insight, and support in building this Board. As we bid adieu to them, we welcome our new members and the results of the Board election; we are happy to announce Chair Monica Snyder, Co-Chair Danielle Russel, Treasurer Kendric Speagle, & Secretary Tayler Tucker. Much of last year was spent building the walls of this home upon the foundation laid down before; we are looking forward to and ready for the continual growth of SPW as we support our AZ community.



**ZEENAT HASAN**  
2019 Board Chair  
Founder, Indigo Arizona



**KENDRIC SPEAGLE**  
Board Treasurer  
CEO, VivaMed



**TAYLER TUCKER**  
Board Secretary  
Communications Associate,  
If/When/How Lawyering for  
Reproductive Justice



**CALICIA WHITE**  
2019 Board Member  
Programs Director,  
Ebony House, Phoenix



**MONICA ANDERSON SNYDER**  
Board Member  
2020 Incoming Board Chair  
Chief Administrative Officer,  
Crisis Response Network



**AMANDA MELCHER**  
Board Member  
Bartender  
Phoenix Symphony



**DANIELLE RUSSEL**  
Board Member  
2020 Incoming Co-Chair  
PhD candidate,  
Justice & Social Inquiry



**SHERRI RHODES**  
Board Member  
RN, Maricopa County Hospital  
Founder,  
Harm Reduction Nurses Coalition

# IN MEMORIAM

## PAUL PATMORE

On August 3rd, we lost a foundational member of our family, Paul Patmore. Paul believed in harm reduction and in being good to people no matter what. He saved countless lives by advocating for people, distributing naloxone and clean works, and showing people dignity and respect. He fought hard for people in general and specifically for people who use drugs. He showed us how to love and how to be loved unconditionally. Paul was out of this world, and the mark he made in the short time he was with us will outlive us all.



We will forever miss Paul's hoarse voice, his loud laugh, his eyebrow-raised blue side-eye, and hearing him shout "I'm a big fan of your work" to all of us. Paul's legacy lives on in the work we do and the many lives he impacted.

## REMEMBERING THE MANY WE HAVE LOVED AND LOST TO THE WAR ON DRUGS



Andy Beeler, Marco Holt, Adam Furlong, Richie Gimbel, Dan Bigg, Nick Bolner, Laura McGinty, Nate Garza and Michelle Williams, Jason Waugh, John Ryback, Ben Kirtchner, Mark Tessiedre, David Flasch, Matt "Urbie" Urbanski, Mikel Surget, Jasmine Rosen, and many more...

# HIGHLIGHTS

## MEDICAID BILLING

Historically, Medicaid payment for peer support services was primarily limited to beneficiaries with mental health conditions, and it was less common for states to pay for these services for beneficiaries with substance use issues. **In 2019, Sonoran Prevention Works secured Medicaid reimbursement for harm reduction peer support services — a first in Arizona.**

Our certified peer support outreach workers build on shared experiences with participants and provide support to peers in working towards whole health goals and self-determination. We are uniquely qualified to assist our peers in improving their health and social conditions, connecting with their communities, building supportive relationships, and accessing formal and informal resources. We work with cultural humility to help our peers make any positive change.

## AZ'S FIRST EVER HARM REDUCTION CONFERENCE: ANY POSITIVE CHANGE

On March 29th, we held the first multidisciplinary harm reduction conference in the state focused on improving the health of people who use drugs and other people deemed “criminal.” The conference brought together local and national experts, community members, health and treatment professionals, and those directly impacted by substance use to hold conversations about harm reduction at every level. The theme of the conference was “Any Positive Change.” This sentiment emphasizes the need to be relentless in improving the everyday lives of our community members while demanding systemic change to national, state, and local policies.



## TRIBAL OVERDOSE PREVENTION

Through a grant from the Northern Arizona Healthcare Foundation, Sonoran Prevention Works expanded our Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution Program to build capacity among tribal communities in Coconino County, Mohave County, Apache County, and Navajo County.

## HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED



### SUPPORT NOT STIGMA PHOTO PROJECT

This project was conceived with the purpose of elevating the perspectives, experiences, and artistic expression of PWUD. For this project, we distributed disposable cameras to people who use drugs and asked them to take a series of pictures to capture their everyday life and experiences. Mason, the project facilitator, acted as a conduit for resources and inspiration as he guided participants through a critique of their first set of photographs. Working from a narrative therapy framework, participants engaged in what Madigan (1991) describes as *externalizing internalized problem discourse*. Each participant was given a second camera and asked to take another set of photographs after they had reflected on the role that stigma and social constructs played in their life and identity. The photographers selected work that was most meaningful to their experience over the project period to display at local Phoenix art gallery, MEGAPHONE PHX, for two weeks. To celebrate their work, SPW held a gallery party on the final night of the exhibit that allowed guests to learn more about the work directly from the photographers.

### HARM REDUCTION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



SPW's first-ever [Harm Reduction Leadership Academy](#) (HRLA) was hosted in 2019 in partnership with the South Mountain WORKS Coalition to build solidarity and skills among people impacted differently by the war on drugs. Over a four week period, 10 HRLA members learned about different ways to apply leadership, harm reduction, overdose prevention, and facilitation skills in order to increase the intersectionality of our movement and share information between under-resourced communities. In November, members went to their communities to present and lead important

discussions on harm reduction theories and practices. HRLA members continue to provide harm reduction leadership in their communities long after the sessions ended.

# HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

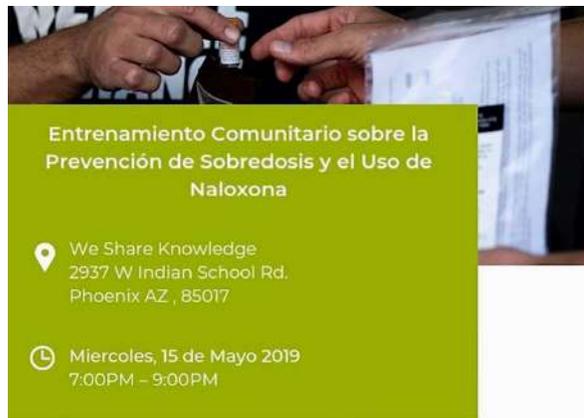
## SPANISH LANGUAGE CAPACITY

We continued providing Overdose Prevention trainings in Spanish and increased community capacity by translating our [Train-the-Trainer](#) OD Prevention presentation. SPW staff and volunteers participated in Univision's Spanish language call-a-thon at Live Town Hall this summer. Additionally, 50% of our Harm Reduction Outreach Workers are bilingual in English and Spanish to better serve the communities they reach.

We continue to work towards our goal of providing all of our outreach material in **both English and Spanish**.

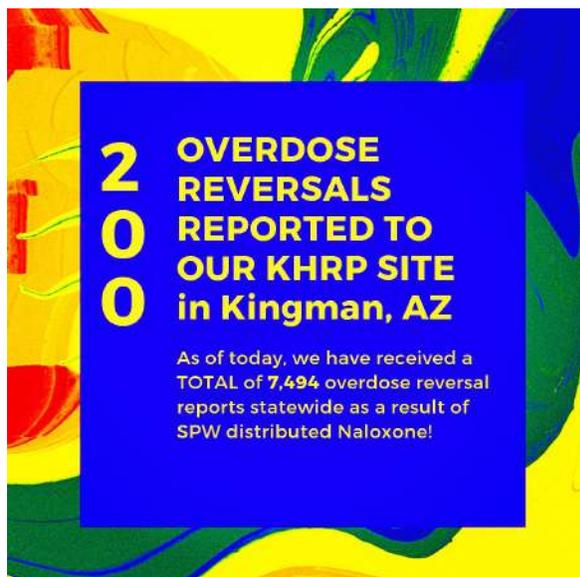
## COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CHAC was created by people in Phoenix who have been directly impacted by the war on drugs to fight back against the health and social inequities that have been imposed on them. The group is made up of approximately 50 members, with a 10-person Getting Shit Done leadership committee. The CHAC's purpose is to build community, fight back, motivate, share skills, and take action to change. The CHAC hosted a Know Your Rights training to help members reduce negative police interaction. Members utilized **community-based participatory research** in partnership with the University of Arizona's Dr. Beth Meyerson to measure the experiences of PWUD in Phoenix with different social services and health systems. This data will be used in 2020 to argue for better treatment and inclusion. The CHAC will also continue to build power and grow in capacity in 2020.



Aprenda más sobre cómo prevenir, reconocer y responder a una sobredosis de opioides, y como utilizar el medicamento que salva vidas Naloxona/Narcan. ¡Proveeremos equipos de Naloxona Gratis!

Este entrenamiento este abierto al público en general. Especialmente a los usuarios de opioides y/o sus seres queridos.



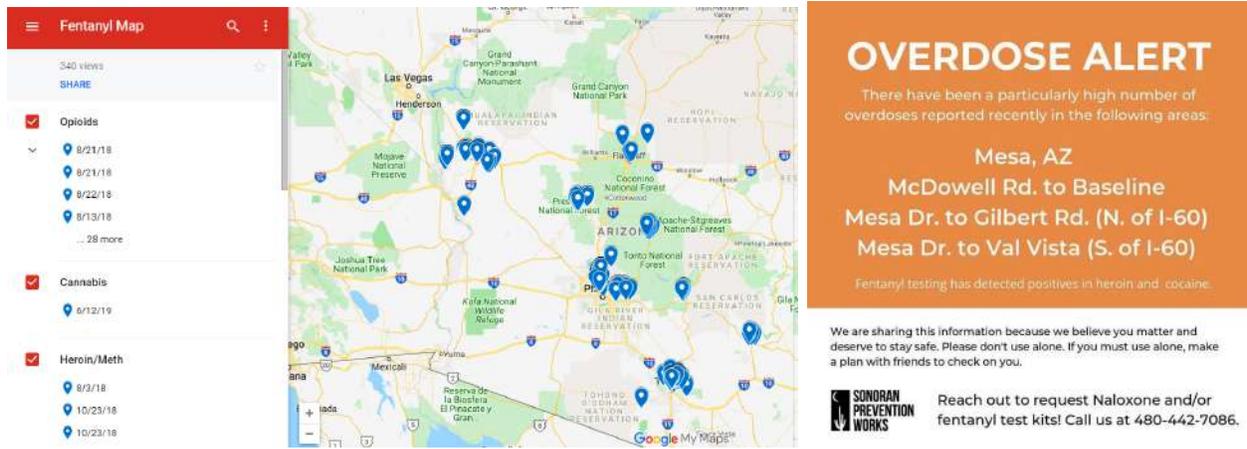
## KINGMAN HARM REDUCTION (KHRP) REACHES 200

### OVERDOSE REVERSAL REPORTS IN 2019

The Kingman Harm Reduction Program has been in operation since late March of 2018. **In September, KHRP hit a milestone with 200 overdose reversals.** Additionally, KHRP provided syringe services in Kingman for residents of Mohave County during 3,095 visits in 2019. Through this program alone, 3,685 doses of naloxone were distributed to community members resulting in 194 overdose reversals in 2019.

# NEW INITIATIVES

## FENTANYL MAP & DATA SHARING



**OVERDOSE ALERT**

There have been a particularly high number of overdoses reported recently in the following areas:

**Mesa, AZ**  
McDowell Rd. to Baseline  
Mesa Dr. to Gilbert Rd. (N. of I-60)  
Mesa Dr. to Val Vista (S. of I-60)

Fentanyl testing has detected positives in heroin and cocaine.

We are sharing this information because we believe you matter and deserve to stay safe. Please don't use alone. If you must use alone, make a plan with friends to check on you.

**SONORAN PREVENTION WORKS** Reach out to request Naloxone and/or fentanyl test kits! Call us at 480-442-7086.

Since we began distributing fentanyl test strips, we have received reports of fentanyl showing up in cocaine, crack, meth, pills, and heroin. We have worked to increase awareness of fentanyl contamination among people who use drugs through printed materials, word of mouth, fentanyl test strip distribution, and the online publication of a [GIS map](#). The online GIS map is regularly updated and allows anyone visiting the site to view positive fentanyl test results statewide.



## CRN MOBILE UNIT

In partnership with the Crisis Response Network, our Harm Reduction Outreach Workers provide support to the Mobilize MAT Clinic across Arizona. This support includes distributing naloxone and fentanyl test strips for overdose prevention, dispensing health and hygiene supplies, providing rapid HIV and hepatitis C testing as well as emergency housing

vouchers, and providing both individualized and group educational sessions in the community on substance use disorder, overdose prevention, and treatment.

## DATA STRENGTHENING

In August 2019, Sonoran Prevention Works began work with two organizations to strengthen data collection, reporting, and evaluation. SPW will continue to strengthen its data use and practices in partnership with HelpfulTech and the Behavioral Science Research Institute in order to both increase programmatic evaluation and streamline data collection and reporting. This work allows us to save precious time and better target our resources.

# VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

It is through the hard work, compassion, and generosity of volunteers across the state helping us to make and distribute naloxone kits within their own communities, **that we are able to do this work on such a large scale across Arizona.**

**We are incredibly thankful to each and every volunteer who has worked with us to improve the health of our community and protect the human rights of those who use drugs.**



Pictured left, a community training in Gilbert courtesy of Lorenzo and Nubia, our Spanish overdose prevention trainers.

Lorenzo was able to speak on the Rx360 program for high school students and answer questions about efforts with youth.

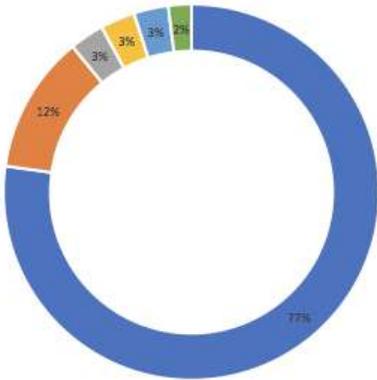
“I did a youth training and kit-making event, where 40 youth put together 700 kits for us in an hour! As a result, the youth asked me to be their first guest on their new HOPE (Helping O’Odham & Piipaash Excel) Podcast, which focuses on reducing youth substance abuse in their community. Once the episode is recorded and edited, it will be presented to their leadership council for approval to continue the podcast. The collaboration with Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community has been fantastic and shows their dedication to reducing overdose in their community.”

-Maria Jagles, Maricopa County Overdose Prevention Coordinator

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

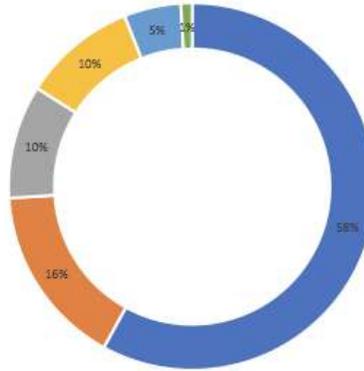
Michelle Hamby, an SPW volunteer and community advocate, made a lot of noise when she discovered that the Phoenix Police Department did not carry naloxone to use on civilians. She contacted the news stations resulting in Channel 3 news reporting on how Phoenix PD don’t carry Narcan but if they did, it would only be used if another officer overdosed. As a result of Michelle’s advocacy, Phoenix PD will now carry Narcan for use on EVERYONE!

# 2019 FINANCIALS & IMPACT



## 2019 REVENUE

Contracts 78%  
Grants 12%  
Medicaid Billing 3%  
Contributions 3%  
Conference 3%  
Other 2%



## 2019 EXPENDITURE

Labor 58%  
Overdose Prevention 16%  
Outreach and Testing 10%  
Supplies 10%  
Admin 10%  
Travel 5%  
Conference 1%

## OUR HARM REDUCTION OUTREACH PROGRAM

### IMPACT IN 2019

**14.5K**

Participants reached through street- outreach and community training events

### PEOPLE REACHED



**500 HIV & 500 HCV RAPID TESTS**



**1,000**

Tests administered during community events and mobile unit events in collaboration with the Crisis Response Network

**17.5K**

Provided during outreach, in office or over the phone. Outreach Workers also provided navigation to health services and health insurance

### REFERRALS



### PEER SUPPORT



**1,202**

Individuals who received ongoing peer support services from certified peer support outreach workers with lived experience

Our staff work to empower individuals to make positive health changes and advocate for themselves and their community.

### SONORAN PREVENTION WORKS' IMPACT IN ARIZONA

**536 25,986**

Overdose prevention Trainings held  
fentanyl test strips distributed

**149,945 2,839**

Naloxone doses distributed by Sonoran Prevention Works  
Overdose Reversals reported (lives saved) from SPW distributed Naloxone

January 2019 - December 2019

### PARTNERS

AIDS United  
MERCY CARE  
COMER family foundation  
OPEN SOCIETY foundation  
NEW HOPE Behavioral Health Center  
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD of Arizona  
BROADWAY CARES EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
NORTHERN ARIZONA HEALTHCARE foundation  
ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON foundation  
GESNER JOHNSON family foundation  
HEALTH CHOICE INTEGRATED CARE  
ARIZONA COMPLETE HEALTH  
GOLDEN RULE BOTANICALS  
VITALYST health foundation  
ENTERPRISE foundation  
UNS Energy Corp  
MOHAVE PRIDE  
VALLEY BAR

# A LOOK AHEAD TO 2020

## SYRINGE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The 2020 Arizona legislative session is right around the corner! We will be co-hosting our annual Advocacy Day on March 18 with Arizona Recovers (formerly Addiction Haven) at the Capitol. Join us to educate lawmakers on public health-focused substance use policy, recovery, and criminal justice reform.



2020 will be the third year Sonoran Prevention Works introduces a syringe services program bill in the Arizona legislature. Leveraging the knowledge we've gained over the past two years, the drug user organizing we've helped to facilitate, and the national shift among conservatives toward embracing SSPs, we will work at the legislature, with community partners, and on the streets to pass HB 2608 to legally sanction SSPs.



## EXPANSION OF SERVICES

In collaboration with the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers, SPW received funding for the next three years from the Health Resources and Services Administration to expand our services to rural counties most impacted by drug use through a project named AzRORI. Project AzRORI (Arizona Rural Opioid Response Implementation) is comprised of four Consortium members with a range of resources, expertise and experiences throughout Arizona, committed to strengthening education, awareness, services, and support for people who use drugs.

Additionally, we will be creating and providing more custom harm reduction trainings throughout the state, as well as expanding our HIV testing and HIV prevention services.

## RACIAL EQUITY

In 2019, SPW embarked on a journey led by Indigo Arizona to challenge and dismantle internal and external racial injustice. Through organizational and individual assessments, we began auditing our policies, creating a timeline, and forming an internal racial equity committee. We understand this to be an iterative process, and look forward to working more closely with external stakeholders in 2020 toward solidarity and adequate resourcing of people of color impacted by drug policies.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



## MISSION

Centering harm reduction in Arizona through participant-driven advocacy, education, and outreach.

## VISION

Removing barriers to facilitate empowerment, health equity, and dignity for Arizonans impacted by drug use.

## VALUES

**TRANSFORMATION** We grow and shift to meet the changing needs of our participants, the cultural and political landscapes we operate in, and as leaders of harm reduction.

**EQUITY** Ensuring that we meet people where they're at so that they have the same opportunities for health, success, and wellbeing. Understands the impacts of systemic oppression in contributing to inequities.

**COLLABORATION** Takes humility, compromise, direct & honest communication, leadership, and action.

**PWUD-CENTERED** We include people who use drugs in our decision-making and prioritize their unique perspectives and needs in program development, execution, and revision.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Since 2017, we have provided nearly 1,500 overdose prevention education trainings and have distributed 324,449 doses of naloxone in Arizona - resulting in 9,186 overdose reversals (lives saved).

**...BUT WE ARE STILL LOSING 4 PEOPLE TO OVERDOSE EVERYDAY IN ARIZONA**



**Join us in ending overdose death with a monthly gift.**

Your ongoing gift will support the direct services and education SPW provides across the state for those in our community impacted by drug use and ineffective drug policies.



**DONATE NOW**