People who know one another and involved in mounting disagreements are behind most gun violence, Jesenia Pizarro, an associate professor at the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ), told the Arizona Republic. Pizarro said more violence is likely to take place in residences, as more people are at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, including gun-involved wounds that occur unintentionally.


ASU’s School of Social Work (SSW) Tucson, whose offices are pictured at right, has increased its service to inner city Tucson residents in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, reports KVOA-TV of Tucson. SSW is partnering with colleagues from the University of Arizona and other volunteer groups to augment the “Thrive in the ‘05” program, serving residents living in an area with the 85705 ZIP Code.


Nearly half of nonprofits in Arizona will be unable to serve the public within the next month due to revenue and volunteer staffing losses related to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a survey conducted by ASU’s Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation, headed by director Robert Ashcraft of the School of Community Resources and Development (SCRD).

Government orders that sent nearly 4 billion people to shelter at home and maintain physical distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic “have also put open and democratic societies in a bind,” writes Associate Professor Adam Fine of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ), co-author of an article published in Behavioral Scientist.


The ASU journey of School of Public Affairs (SPA) graduate Marisa van Holten “took some unexpected twists, turns and setbacks,” writes ASU Now, but the holder of a new bachelor’s degree in public affairs and public policy has a “can do’ attitude, spirit of service and perseverance” that “enabled her to not only finish her college degree but also transition to a new public service career.”

- May 11, 2020: “Watts Graduate Exemplifies Public Service,” by Jerry Gonzalez, ASU Now

A data tool that connects nonprofit organizations and agencies, called the Arizona Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters Situational Awareness Dashboard, is one accomplishment of the ASU Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security, part of the Watts College. Center Co-Director Melanie Gall told ASU Now that the center’s cooperative efforts with nonprofit agencies extend much earlier than the current COVID-19 pandemic.

- May 11, 2020: “ASU Creates Tool to Link Nonprofits During COVID Response,” by Mary Beth Faller, ASU Now

Gov. Doug Ducey’s stay-at-home executive order expired May 15, although the governor encouraged continued social distancing. News media have reported recent examples of people not following those guidelines in public places such as bars and public recreation areas. Watts College Associate Dean William Terrill, a professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, talked on KJZZ’s The Show about situations officers often find themselves in regarding these behaviors.

Arizonans are more likely this year to travel by car to their vacation destinations, and do more outdoor activities, Christine Vogt, director of the Center for Sustainable Tourism and professor in the School of Community Resources and Development (SCRD), told KJZZ-FM’s The Show.

- May 20, 2020: “ASU Professor: Long-Distance Summer Travel Not Possible Right Now,” by Steve Goldstein, The Show, KJZZ-FM

Who is in charge of America’s battle with the COVID-19 pandemic? School of Public Affairs (SPA) Associate Professor David Swindell, director of the Center for Urban Innovation, in an article in The Conversation, writes, “I am a scholar of how different levels of government interact and work together to deliver public services, and my answer is: It depends…. Who actually has the power to make binding decisions mostly depends on two factors. First, there’s what’s being decided: Is it about public health, police, hospitals, schools, barbershops or other businesses? Second: It depends on the state.”

- Also published in Yahoo! News, MSN.com, snopes.com, Albany Times Union, Alton (Ill.) Telegraph, San Antonio Express-News, Houston Chronicle, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Stamford Advocate, TheStreet.com, BestLife.com, YourValley.net (Phoenix’s Independent Newsmedia), and at least 10 more news outlets nationwide

A new poll by the ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy (Andrea Whitsett, left, director) and the Arizona Republic reported that “about 1 in 5 Arizonans are ready to dine out, while even fewer are immediately ready to go back to the gym or watch a movie in theaters,” the newspaper reported. The poll shows divided opinions between Republicans and Democrats, levels of education, income, age, and between women and men, similar to other polls, the Republic reported.

  - Other Arizona Republic stories on results of the poll: May 20: K-12 Education; May 21: Affordable Housing; May 21: Unemployment Benefits;
• May 21, 2020: “Poll: 40% of Arizonans Facing Struggles Since Start of Pandemic,” by Greg Hahne, KJZZ-FM

An assistant professor in the School of Social Work (SSW), Paige Safyer, is co-author of a coloring book designed to help children understand the COVID-19 pandemic and alleviate their fears. Safyer was interviewed by KTAR radio, Raising Arizona Kids Magazine and by KTVK-TV’s Good Morning Arizona about “Georgie and the Giant Germ,” illustrated by a 12-year-old girl, and the book’s upcoming sequel, which will deal with what kids should know once stay-at-home restrictions begin to be lifted.

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• May 19, 2020: “Coloring a COVID-19 Explanation,” by Arrianee LeBeau, Good Morning Arizona, KTVK-TV
• May 25, 2020: “Coloring Book Helps Parents Explain COVID-19 to Their Kids,” by Griselda Zetino, KTAR-FM

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