The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence is the statewide voice for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Our membership includes sexual and domestic violence service providers and shelters, responders, survivors, and allied partners across Arizona.
Our mission is to end sexual and domestic violence in Arizona by dismantling oppression and promoting equity among all people.

ACESDV is grateful for the feedback and useful suggestions which informed this report and will provide a strong foundation for our policy initiatives in the 2021 legislative session and throughout the year. The voices of advocates, responders, allies, and survivors of sexual and domestic violence play an invaluable role in identifying and eliminating systemic challenges survivors face throughout their healing journey.

The Public Policy Department will utilize the findings in this report to inform ACESDV’s proactive policy agenda and prioritize our advocacy efforts at the municipal, state, and federal level. We will examine areas identified as priorities by survey respondents and identify key organizational partnerships and lawmakers with interest and expertise in the areas of need. These relationships will inform our proactive agenda, including drafting new legislation and modifying existing statutes.

ACESDV will explore and establish new relationships with allies and legislators, strengthen existing relationships, and build community coalition around priority issue areas. Findings in this report will also guide the Public Policy Department in ongoing conversations with other state Sexual and Domestic Violence Coalitions to examine successes and challenges in supporting similar policies in other states and identifying model legislation to bring forward in Arizona.

We recognize we cannot feasibly pursue all identified areas of need. This report will serve as a tool to work in collaboration with allied partners to determine leadership in pursuing certain initiatives. ACESDV continues to be committed to working closely with partners to drive forward legislation which benefits survivors and sexual and domestic violence programs, and to suppress efforts that may be harmful to survivors, their children and families, their pets, and the programs that serve them.

This report is a foundational tool to guide the public policy advocacy of ACESDV and other organizations committed to supporting survivors. We encourage you to connect with our Public Policy Department to receive ongoing updates and alerts about our legislative efforts, to support our strategic policy initiatives, and to be part of the movement to end sexual and domestic violence in Arizona.
Sexual and domestic violence is a pervasive and life-threatening experience for millions across the nation. According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 1 in 2 women and 1 in 4 men experience contact sexual violence in their lifetime. One in four women and 1 in 10 men are victimized through physical violence, stalking or sexual assault by an intimate partner. In 2019 alone, there were 93 domestic violence related deaths in Arizona.

Respondents included 181 advocates, allies, activists, responders, and survivors of sexual and domestic violence, with representation from all 15 counties in Arizona. This report describes the most-pressing sexual and domestic violence policy advocacy needs as identified by respondents across the state.
Respondents self-identified their current role(s) in the sexual and domestic violence movement. The chart below highlights those roles and accounts for all participants' responses in the survey.
ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Economic security and personal safety are linked for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Survivors may need economic supports and opportunities to recover from violence or leave an abusive relationship. ACESDV supports policies that promote justice, resiliency, and safety.

When asked how important economic justice policy initiatives are in the 2021 legislative session, respondents reported the following:

99.4% VERY IMPORTANT or IMPORTANT

When asked to rank the following economic justice policy initiatives in order of importance for the 2021 legislative session, respondents prioritized:

- Safe and affordable housing
- Expanding access to safe and affordable childcare options for survivors
- Equal pay
- Raising minimum wage
- Unemployment insurance
- Establishing an Individual Development Account (IDA) fund for survivors
- Paid sick leave
- Fair scheduling

Darkest shading = Most important
Mid shading = Second most important
Lightest shading = Third most important
ECONOMIC JUSTICE

ACESDV believes in enhancing survivors’ ability to maintain safety and promote social justice for the betterment of those affected by violence. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues that support our mission.

96.1% of respondents support advocacy related to affordable housing that may include reforms in qualifications in order to better support survivors.
When asked how important sexual violence services and response policy initiatives are in the 2021 legislative session, respondents reported the following:

99.3% VERY IMPORTANT or IMPORTANT

0.7% NOT VERY IMPORTANT or NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT

When asked to rank the following sexual violence services and response policy initiatives in order of importance for the 2021 legislative session, respondents prioritized:

- State allocated funding for sexual violence
- Eliminating or extending the SOL for civil suits related to sexual abuse and sexual assault
- Right to consult with an SA advocate during an MFE, interview by a peace officer, prosecutor, or defense attorney
- Sexual assault survivors victims' rights
- Funding set-aside for culturally specific services and support mechanisms
- Right to know status of sexual assault kit
- Expanding confidentiality privilege

Survivors of sexual violence need accessible, safe, and appropriate services to heal from the harm they have experienced. There is no one path to healing, which means that having appropriate criminal legal responses and robust service delivery without barriers is necessary for supporting sexual assault survivors.
ACESDV believes in enhancing survivors’ ability to maintain safety and promote social justice for the betterment of those affected by violence. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues that support our mission.

96.2% of respondents support establishing a sexual violence services fund that would provide programs to opportunity to apply for state funding in order to develop and sustain comprehensive sexual assault services in line with established best practices.

93.9% of respondents support advocacy around establishing community-based, stand-alone rape crisis centers to provide comprehensive and holistic healing services throughout a survivor’s lifespan.

89.5% of respondents agree that a change in law should be made to allow the courts to determine parental rights based on clear and convincing evidence instead of requiring a conviction, which is consistent with at least 26 other states.
When asked how important reproductive justice policy initiatives are in the 2021 legislative session, respondents reported the following:

95.1%

VERY IMPORTANT or IMPORTANT

4.9%

NOT VERY IMPORTANT or NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT

When asked to rank the following reproductive justice policy initiatives in order of importance for the 2021 legislative session, respondents prioritized:

Darkest shading = Most important
Mid shading = Second most important
Lightest shading = Third most important
ACEDSV believes in enhancing survivors’ ability to maintain safety and promote social justice for the betterment of those affected by violence. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues that support our mission.

94.6% of respondents support legislation for age appropriate comprehensive sex-education for all Arizona students that teaches healthy relationships and healthy sexuality in an evidence based manner, if parents could opt out based on their individual beliefs.
When asked how important overcriminalization policy initiatives are in the 2021 legislative session, respondents reported the following:

94.3% VERY IMPORTANT or IMPORTANT

5.7% NOT VERY IMPORTANT or NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT

When asked to rank the following overcriminalization policy initiatives in order of importance for the 2021 legislative session, respondents prioritized:

- Arrested/Incarcerated survivors
- State violence
- Restorative justice strategies
- Ending mass incarceration/mass imprisonment

Past approaches to sexual and domestic violence have heavily involved the criminal legal system, which has primarily been to the detriment of marginalized communities, especially communities of color. ACESDV is interested in looking to solutions that promote healing and that center the voices of survivors, especially those who have been most impacted by the system.

Darkest shading = Most important
Mid shading = Second most important
Lightest shading = Third most important
ACESDV believes in enhancing survivors’ ability to maintain safety and promote social justice for the betterment of those affected by violence. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues that support our mission.

**OVER-CRIMINALIZATION**

93.1% of respondents support a process for getting criminal convictions that happened during trafficking set aside for survivors.

85.4% of respondents agree that we need legislation giving authority to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to order/administer the type of Offender Treatment Programs (OTP) needed for each offender of domestic violence.

77.1% of respondents support proximity laws requiring parents be incarcerated within visiting distance of children to ensure a continuing parent/child relationship as has been shown to reduce the trauma of incarceration on children.

69.0% of respondents support the creation of a state board to evaluate risk of recidivism and set the length of time for persons convicted of sexual offenses to be listed on the state registry.
Firearm law reform that protects survivors and keeps guns out of the hands of those causing life threatening harm is needed to address domestic violence related fatalities.

There is an undeniable correlation between gun violence and domestic violence, and the accessibility to firearms amplifies the likelihood of a domestic violence lethality. ACESDV is committed to ensuring those who commit dangerous acts of domestic violence do not have access to firearms, and educating the public about the risks associated with firearms and their link to gender-based violence.

When asked to rank the following firearm policy initiatives in order of importance for the 2021 legislative session, respondents prioritized:

- Expressly ban people convicted of DV from purchasing or possessing firearms: **94.3% VERY IMPORTANT or IMPORTANT**
- Universal background checks: **5.7% NOT VERY IMPORTANT or NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT**
- Red flag laws
- High-capacity magazine and semi-automatic assault weapons ban
- Mandatory buy-back of semi-automatic assault weapons
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**FIREARMS**

90.9% of respondents **agree that we need legislation to address the gaps in Arizona law regarding firearms and persons subject to a domestic violence order** as well as the need for a process laid out to ensure compliance/transfer of firearms.
ACESDV believes in enhancing survivors’ ability to maintain safety and promote social justice for the betterment of those affected by violence. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues that support our mission.

Among survey respondents:

- 93.1% support access to **safe and affordable healthcare** for survivors as a priority.
- 82.2% support family law reform and related protections for survivors as a priority.
- 91.5% support protections for immigrant survivors as a priority.
- 91.5% support expanding and enhancing legal support for survivors as a priority.

OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST
ACESDV believes in enhancing survivors’ ability to maintain safety and promote social justice for the betterment of those affected by violence. We will continue to focus our efforts on additional legislative issues that support our mission.

**OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST**

91.7% of respondents agree that there is a need for federal funding set-asides for organizations to provide culturally relevant services to survivors including the development of innovative culturally-specific strategies to enhance access to services and resources among people from various cultural backgrounds.

78.8% of respondents support statute modifications surrounding relationships in which persons are living in a group home, shelter, or dorm facility need to be made.