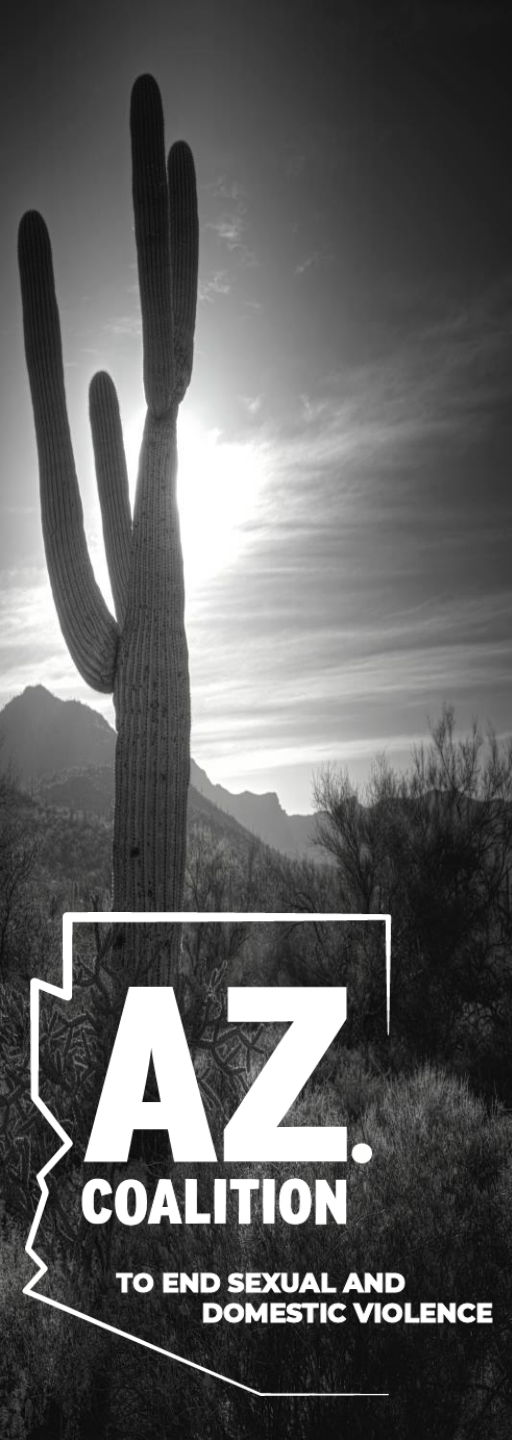




SERVING SURVIVORS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Carrie Eutizi, ACESDV



AZ.
COALITION

**TO END SEXUAL AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

CARRIE EUTIZI

SHE / HER

SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE COORDINATOR

ARIZONA COALITION TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

CARRIE@ACESDV.ORG

HOUSEKEEPING

- Can you hear me?
- This presentation may contain information and topics that are uncomfortable.
- You are encouraged to take care of yourself however you need.
- If you have questions – they are welcome!
- Please interrupt or notify me if I speak too quickly!

HOUSEKEEPING CONT.

- This training is for you! I hope you get whatever you can from it.
 - **I recognize that many of you are experts and value your additions to today's training.**

WHAT'S MY JOB?

- TRAINING

- Quarterly Sexual Violence Core Advocacy Training (SVCAT) for new advocates or renewal every 2-3 years
- By agency request
- Other webinars – check out ACESDV.org to see what's coming up

- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Support for advocates and agencies
- Help with hard cases
- Community connections
- Special event share out via Listservs
- Emotional support
- SART development and support

I don't know everything, but I'm dedicated to finding the right person to help when it's not me!!

Email me at Carrie@acesdv.org to join the SV Listerv!

AZ.
COALITION

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ACESDV'S MISSION

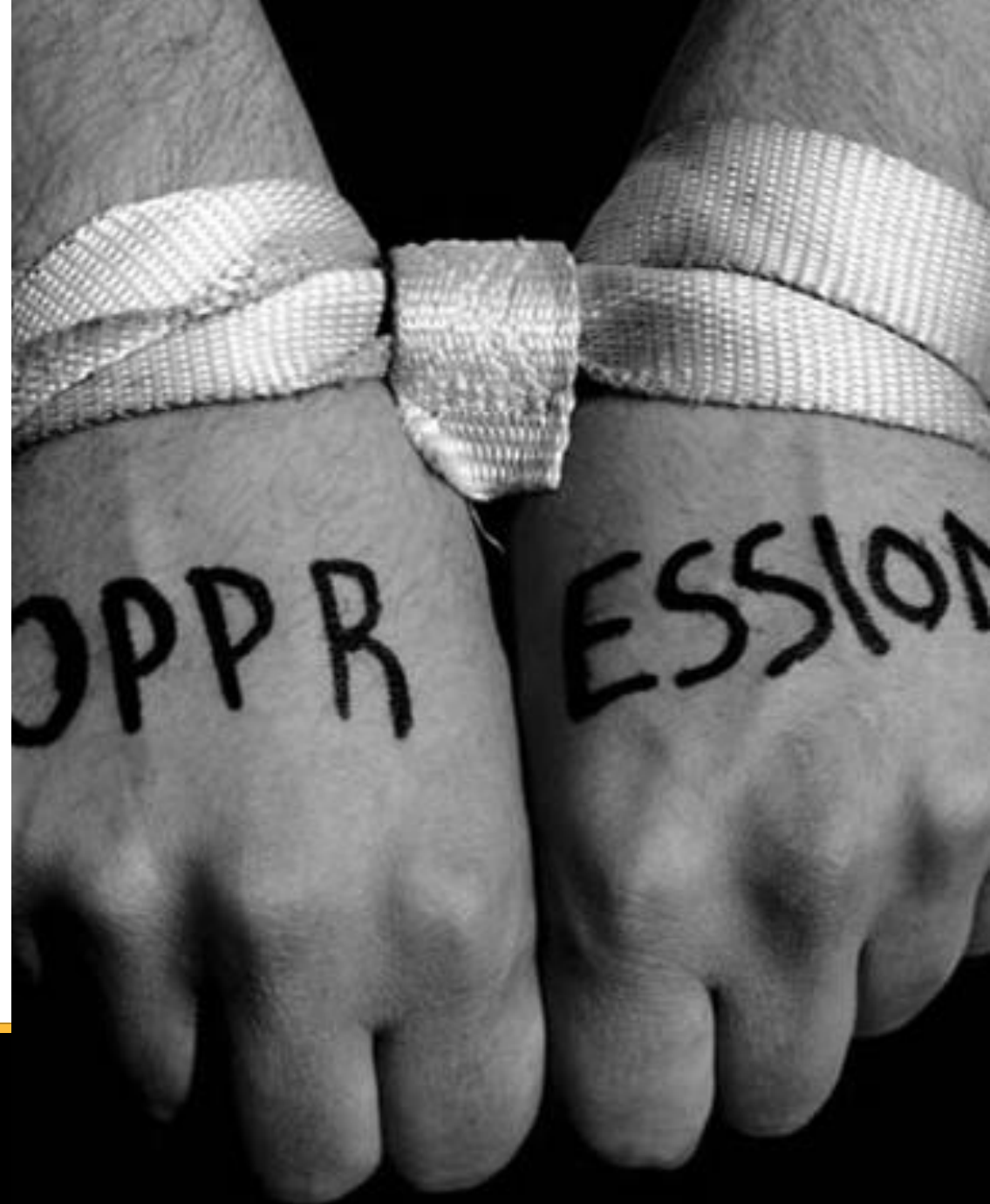
Our mission is to end sexual and domestic violence in Arizona by **dismantling oppression** and **promoting equity** among all people.



What is oppression?

- The systematic and pervasive subjugation or discrimination of non-dominant social groups, creating social inequity at all levels of society.
- Sexual violence is a form of oppression

Northwest Network (2019).



HOW DOES OPPRESSION SHAPE SOMEONE'S EXPERIENCE WITH SEXUAL VIOLENCE?



TALKING ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE

What is sexual violence?

*Presentation Language

- Gender neutral
- Sexual assault/abuse/violence
- Victim/survivor/ person who experienced sexual violence
- Harm-doer/person who has caused harm/abuser
- Justice/healing





SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Technology
Misuse**

**Sexual
Coercion**

Sex Trafficking

Rape

**Sexual
Harassment**

**Unwanted
Sexual
Contact**

**Non-Contact
Unwanted Sexual
Experiences**

**Made to
Penetrate**

Stalking

Expanding our Definition

Sexual violence is a range of sexualized behaviors both contact and non-contact

Whether each act is considered criminal or not, what matters to advocates is the impact on the survivor's wellbeing

It is not the advocates' role to define each survivor's experience. Only the survivor can do that

Difference with domestic violence—sexual violence is not defined by a type of relationship but by the unwanted behavior

(Resource Sharing Project et al., 2019)



EVERY 68 SECONDS, SOMEONE IN THE UNITED STATES IS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED.



DOJ (2020).

**WHO IS
IMPACTED BY
SEXUAL
VIOLENCE**

Marginalized communities are at increased risk of experiencing sexual violence

- People of color
- 2SLGBTQ+
- People with disabilities
- Immigrants
- People living in rural areas



More than **half of women** (54.3%) and **one third of men** (30.7%) have experienced contact sexual violence during their lifetimes

1 in 2 transgender and gender non-conforming individuals have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime

(Fast Facts, 2023)

(National Center for Transgender Equity, 2016)



An estimated 32% of women and 14% of men first experienced contact sexual violence prior to turning 18

1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys have experienced child sexual abuse

NISVS, 2017/Dube et al, 2005; Finkelhor, 2014



People with disabilities experience sexual assault 3x more than people without disabilities

People with developmental/intellectual disabilities experience sexual assault 7x more than people without disabilities

Smith, N., Harrell, S., & Judy, A. (2017). How safe are Americans with disabilities? Vera Institute.



Over 1 in 2 Native American/Alaskan Native women and 1 in 3 Native American/Alaskan Native men have experienced sexual violence

Native American/Alaskan Native women are often assaulted by a non-Native individual

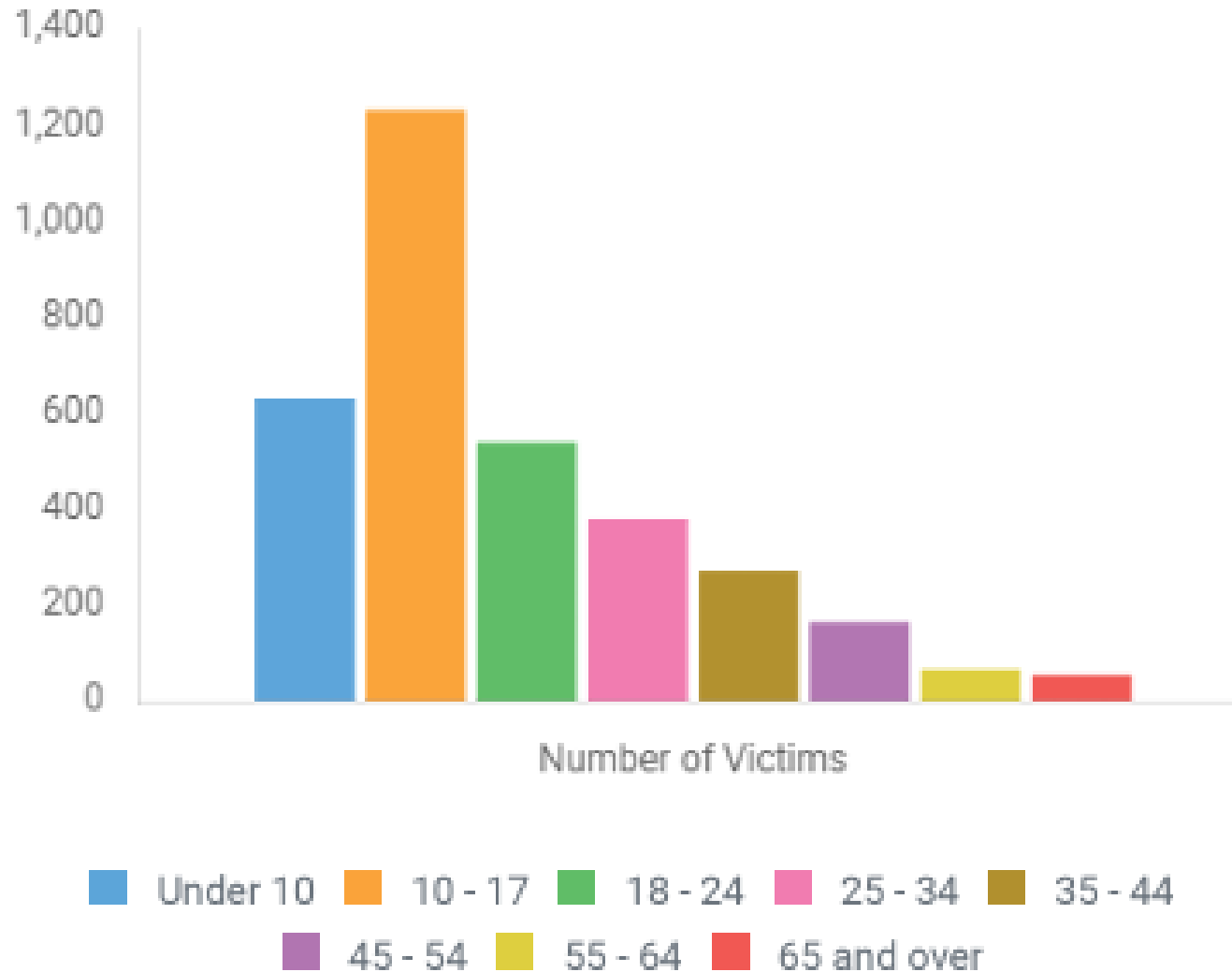


NISVS, 2017 & NCIC, 2022

SEXUAL ASSAULT: VICTIM AGE

This is a NIBRS only chart

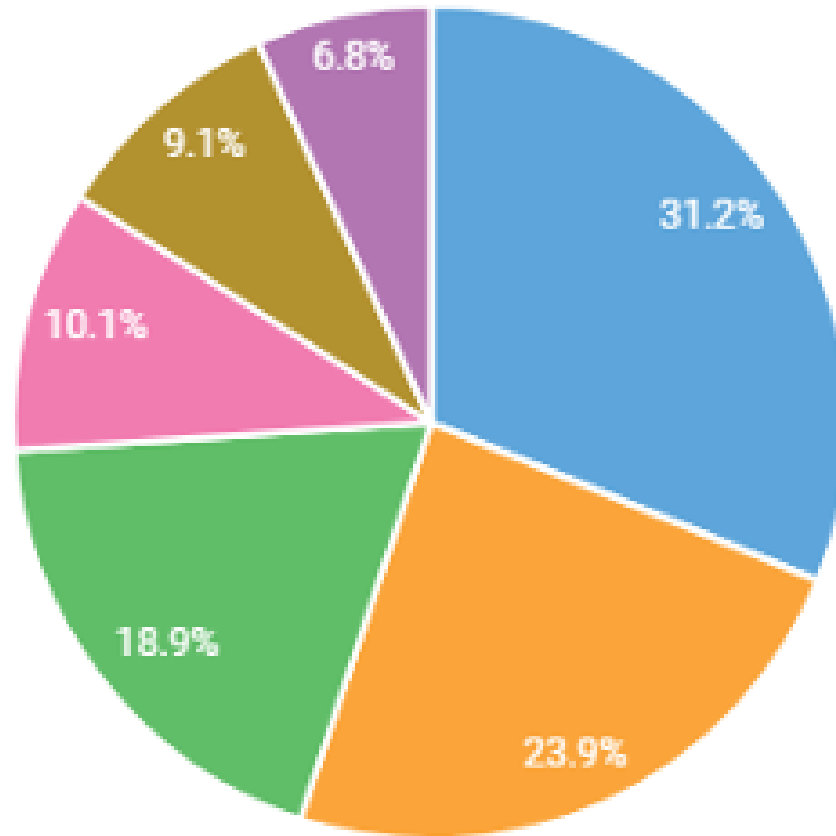
2023 DATA IN ARIZONA



SEXUAL ASSAULT: VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP

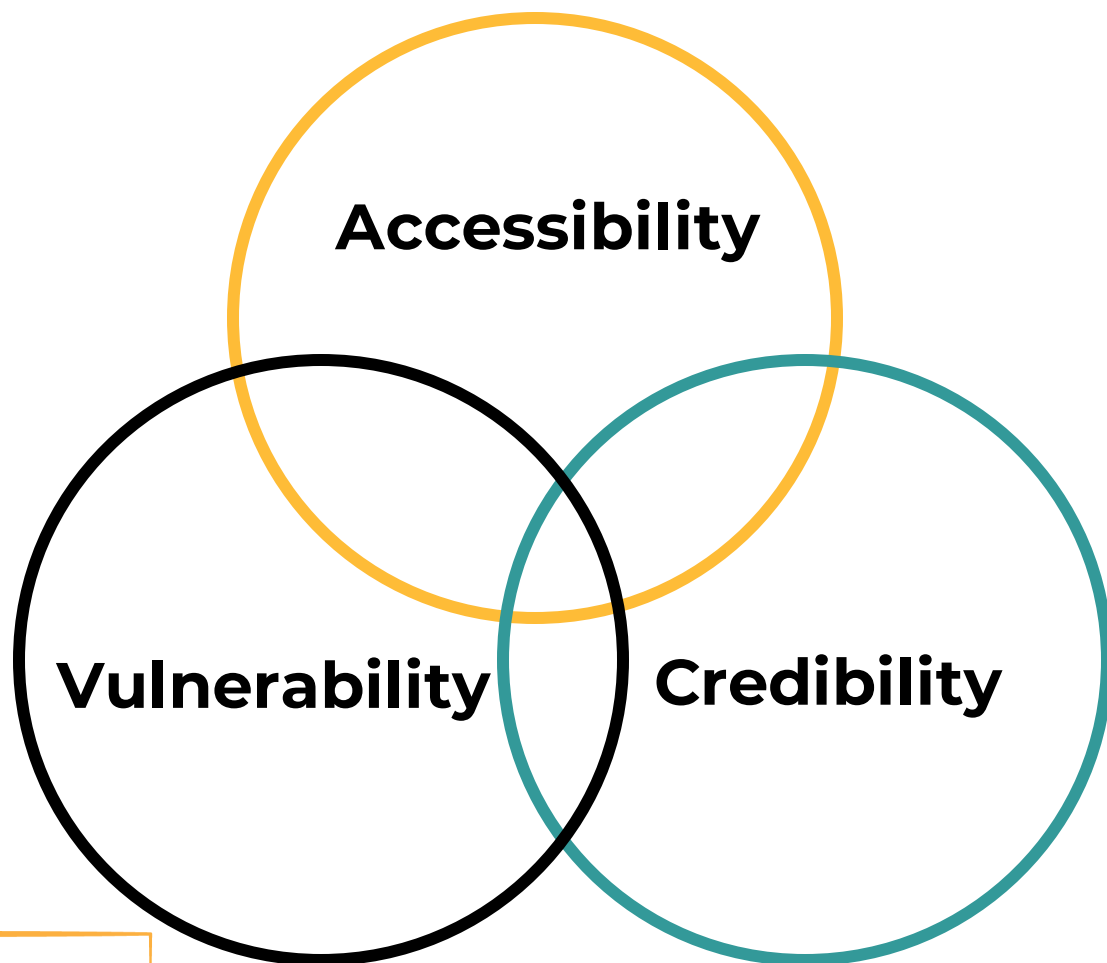
This is a NIBRS only chart

2023 DATA IN ARIZONA



HOW ARE WE DOING?

MOST VICTIMS ARE TARGETED



Who/ which groups of people are seen at the intersections of the chart?

- Using substances
- Using medication
- Unsheltered/housing insecure
- Immigrants and undocumented
- In foster care
- In detention settings
- With criminal, or school records
- Poor/ lower socio-economic status

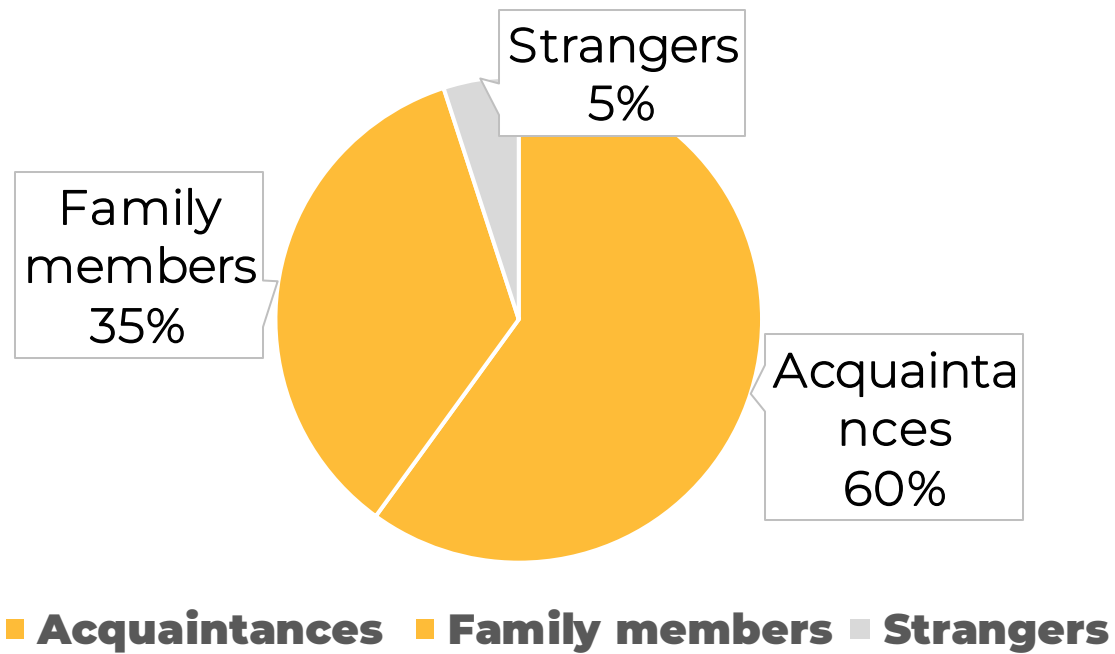
80-90%
of adult victims
know their perpetrator

Almost half of female
victims of rape (47.1%)
reported that at least
one perpetrator was an
intimate partner



NISVS, 2017

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PERPETRATORS



SEXUAL VIOLENCE

OPPRESSION

POWER

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

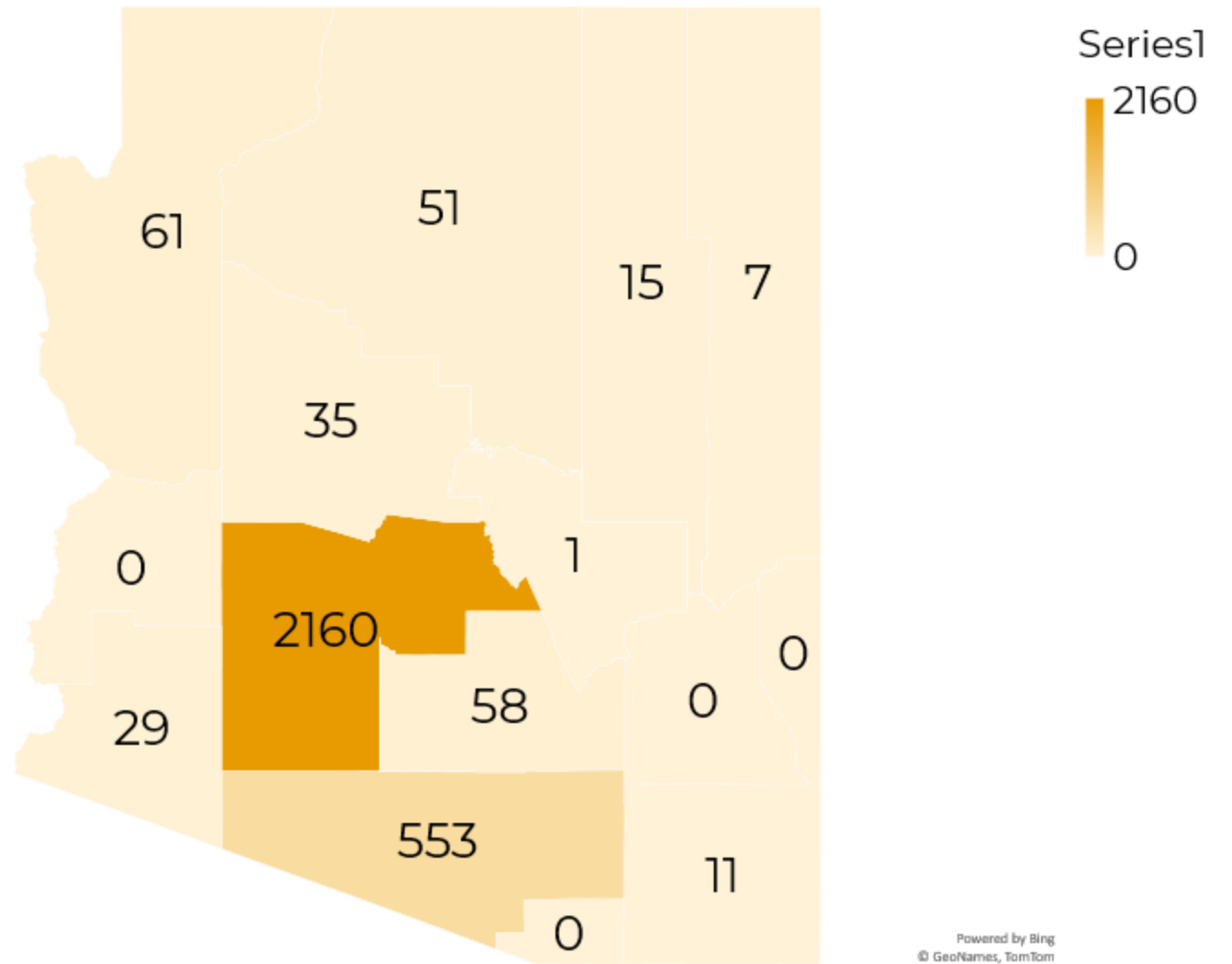
- Sexual assault in rural areas is notably underreported compared to urban areas.
- Only 42% of violent crimes, including sexual assault, are reported to police in rural areas.

Bureau of Justice Statistics



Sexual Assault Reports in Arizona, 2019 Per FBI "Violent Crimes" Report

Do you think these are the only sexual assaults that occurred?



Powered by Bing
© GeoNames, TomTom

SEXUAL ASSAULT IS THE MOST UNDERREPORTED CRIME TO POLICE

75% of sexual
assaults are not
reported

80% of reported
rapes are reported by
white women



Challenges in rural areas

- **Geographic isolation**
 - Long distances to services or no available services
 - Limited transportation options



Challenges in rural areas

- **Lack of anonymity and privacy**
 - Small, close-knit communities
 - Fear of community judgment
 - Service providers may be someone the victim knows



Challenges in rural areas

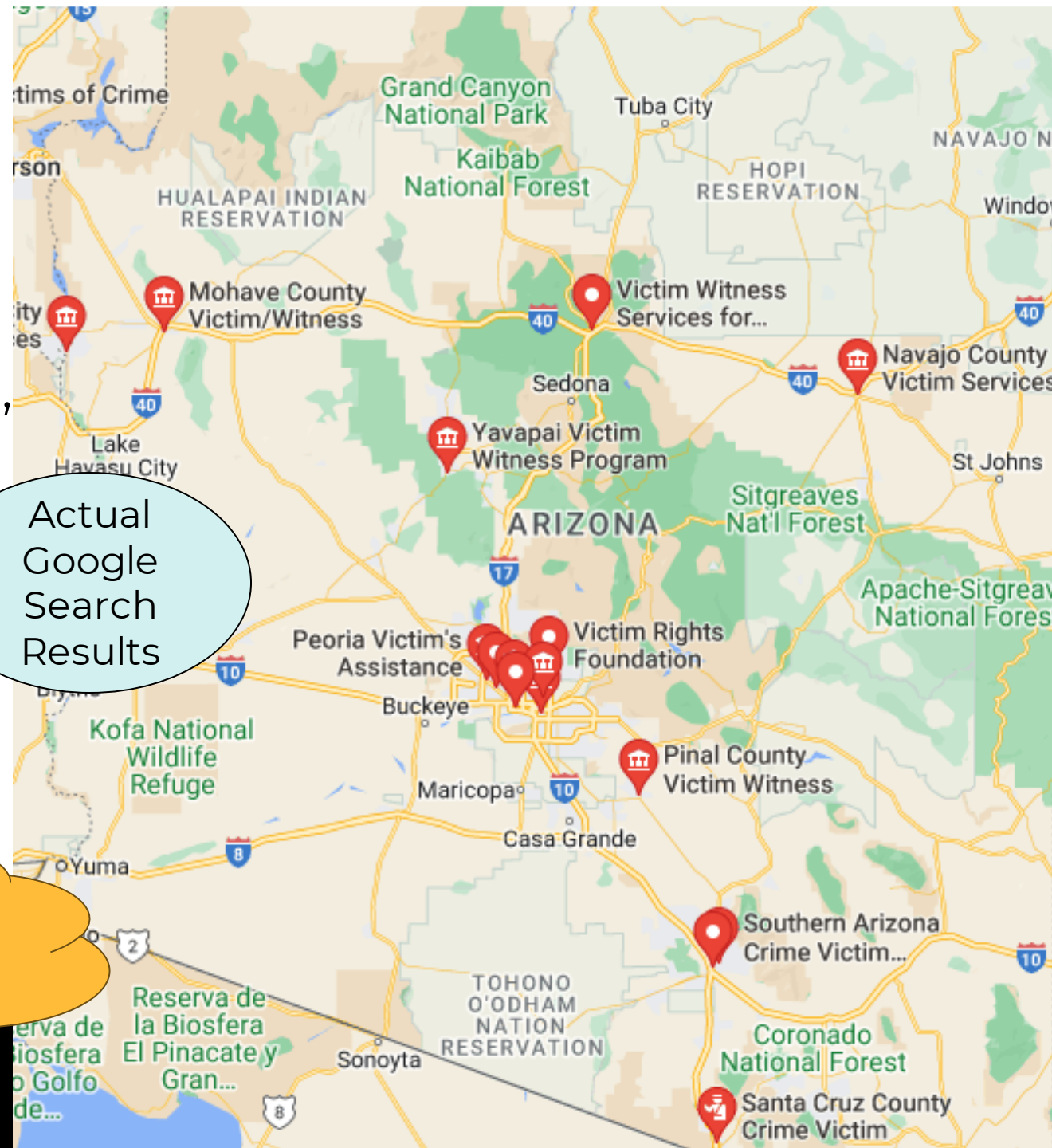
- Limited availability of resources
- Fewer specialized services (e.g., counseling, medical care)
- Limited law enforcement presence

victim services



Actual
Google
Search
Results

www.arizonasurvivors.org



Challenges in rural areas

- Cultural and social barriers
 - Stigma surrounding sexual violence
 - Hush-culture
 - Traditional gender roles make it difficult for non-female identified people to report





Challenges in rural areas for undocumented survivors

- Lack of trust or safety in systems
- Inability to get to sexual assault examiner due to checkpoint locations
- Limited awareness of VAWA laws or T/U Visa availability
- Language barriers

Challenges in Rural areas for Indigenous Survivors

- Historical trauma with government
- The FBI has very few investigators and thus successful prosecution only occurs for 1 in 10 sexual assault cases
- Each of Arizona's 22 different tribes has different laws and processes
- Physical isolation and lack of basic need resources
- For additional education on this topic, please reach out to SWIWC

SWIWC



STRATEGIES

How to Support, Advocate, and Increase Services for Rural Survivors

Enhance Accessibility of Services

Mobile advocacy units

- Providing services directly in rural communities
- Mobile health clinics
 - Cochise county has 8 mobile RV units

Telehealth services

- Mental health counseling via telemedicine
- Confidentiality and privacy considerations
- TeleSAFE

Transportation assistance programs

- Vouchers or partnerships with transportation services
- There are no Ubers, Lyfts, or taxis in many areas
- Counties can seek federal funding for transportation grants





Expand Community Resources

Train local healthcare providers

- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training
- Trauma-informed care practices
- Attend Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Establish local support groups

- Peer support networks
- Online forums and virtual meetings
- Ask behavioral health providers to host survivor support

Mandate Community Resources

- Texas made SARTs in every county a requirement by law



Strengthen Legal and Law Enforcement Support

Training for law enforcement in rural areas

- Trauma-informed response training
- Sensitivity to rural-specific issues

Legal aid and advocacy

- What legal services exist in rural spaces?
- Victim advocacy programs

Hi, I am a statewide trainer 😊

Community Education and Awareness

Public awareness campaigns

- Address stigma and myths about sexual violence publicly
- Promote available resources and services
- Coordinated community response planning

Education programs

- Consent and healthy relationship education
- Teach parents, children, teachers, *anyone* how to identify and report sexual violence
- Move away from “stranger danger” to “bodily autonomy and consent”



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

- What is Trauma-Informed Care?
 - Approach to care that acknowledges survivors carry trauma (not just from their sexual violence experience but also in their lived experiences from facing both subtle and overt forms of oppression)
- The goal is to avoid re-traumatization and exacerbation of trauma symptoms, cultivate an environment full of empathy, safety, and healing. A healing-centered framework builds upon trauma-informed care.
- Paradigm shift
 - From “What’s wrong with you?”
 - To “What has happened to you?”

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

- When working with survivors in rural areas:
 - Maintain confidentiality and make sure information is shared on a need-to-know basis
 - Remain non-judgmental
 - Build rapport and earn the survivor's trust
 - Give survivor voice and choice whenever possible
 - Be honest about your capabilities and knowledge
 - Be responsive to survivor's outreach
 - Utilize active listening skills

**THANK YOU
FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!**





**Please complete
this form!**

Questions?

Carrie@ACESDV.org