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Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC)

Spring 2024

Prevention Innovations Spring 2024 News

Prevention Innovations Research Center

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A Note from Our Directors

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we celebrate the 23rd [Annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#) (SAAM) we recognize the survivors of sexual assault and honor all the practitioners, friends, family, and allies who support survivors with respect and dignity.

We would like to call attention to the amazing work of UNH's [Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program](#) (SHARPP) and the work of the other 11 member organizations of the [New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence](#). Together these organizations are models for this year's SAAM theme, Building Connected Communities, by supporting survivors, their allies and community partners through advocacy, support services, prevention, and policy work.

We also acknowledge the sexual assault being perpetrated against women, men and children in current global conflicts and that there are many dedicated people supporting survivors in these situations and working to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

At the Prevention Innovations Research Center, we continue to work towards our vision of a “world free of sexual and relationship violence and stalking,” and are grateful for our practitioner and research colleagues around the globe.

In this short newsletter we highlight some of our research efforts and detail the national launch of two of our violence prevention and response strategies that were developed in partnership with researchers and practitioners.

Thank you for everything you do to support survivors and end sexual violence.

All our best,

Sharyn and Jane

Save the Date!



The 603 Challenge Starts April 8

Last year, you helped us to raise \$2,700. This year, our goal is \$3,000.

The 603 Challenge is UNH's largest fundraising event of the year. This week-long event is an opportunity for alumni and community members to support the department or organization of their choice. The funds we receive from the 603 Challenge each year go toward supporting our internship programs and student research assistants.

Donations received the morning of April 8 will be matched until funds run out.

Follow us on social media to find out more about when and how to maximize your gifts.

Prevention Innovations is on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

uSafeUS and uSafeHS Go National



uSafeUS® National Launch

We are excited to announce the national launch of the [uSafeUS®](#) Campus Violence Prevention and Safety Mobile Application (app). In April, we are expanding our current programs so we can reach more campuses and students across the US with the hope that we can make a bigger impact on preventing campus sexual violence.

uSafeUS is the only campus safety app currently available that provides both sexual violence prevention and post-violence response features to support survivors and direct students to on- and off-campus resources 24/7. We developed uSafeUS using formative research with students, community and campus victim advocates, campus administrators and law enforcement officials.

The uSafeUS mobile app provides college students with interactive prevention tools to help them leave risky or uncomfortable situations and gives them immediate access to help when violence occurs, with research- and trauma-informed guidance for post-violence situations and answers for friends, family, faculty, and staff to support student protection and policy adherence. uSafeUS also provides a way to reach students with engagement and prevention messages 24/7. The uSafeUS app bridges the gap in the areas of support, awareness, and education that currently exists in US colleges and universities by providing real-time information for survivors and their allies.

Information in uSafeUS can be customized by US colleges and universities using the campus administrator dashboard to ensure their students have information about local resources to help themselves or a friend in the aftermath of sexual violence. We have all the tools you need to promote uSafeUS on your campus including social media, syllabi statements, push notifications, digital and paper flyers, and a student ambassador program. We support your efforts with monthly Sandwiched-In meetings.

Please reach out to sharyn.potter@unh.edu to set up a time to learn more about the uSafeUS national launch.

LEARN MORE | UPCOMING WEBINAR

Tools to Support Campus Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

DATE: April 15, 2024

TIME: 2:30PM–4:00PM EDT

Sharyn Potter will discuss uSafeUS during this webinar with our NORC partner, Dr. Elizabeth Mumford. Dr. Mumford will also present a checklist developed by her and her colleagues that is used to inform and prepare campuses for effective prevention and trauma-informed CSA responses.

Learn More&Register



uSafeHS® Fall 2024 Launch

[uSafeHS®](#) provides students with learning content and strategies to support healthy relationships, tools to help students leave a risky situation, and resources and guidance to keep them safe at school and beyond. An administrator dashboard provides teachers with short, active lesson plans to easily integrate uSafeHS into health and advisory classes.

This evidence-based interactive student safety app was developed with research funding from the National Science Foundation and input from students, parent and guardians, educators, and high school administrators. uSafeHS has been successfully piloted at schools across New England.

Results from the Fall of 2023 pilot suggest introducing the uSafeHS app to high school students results in significant improvements in students' confidence when talking about and seeking help for problems related to mental health and substance misuse.

We are currently preparing for the Fall 2024 launch of uSafeHS and encourage those who are interested in joining this cohort to **reach out to Laurie Dawe at laurie.dawe@unh.edu.**

Other PIRC News & Updates

Evaluation of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) Economic Case Management Program (ECMP) Enters its Third and Final Year

Prevention Innovations researcher Elizabeth Moschella-Smith concluded the second year of her three-year project, Evaluation of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) Economic Case Management Program (ECMP), funded by the Office on Violence Against Women. The ECMP provides education, advocacy, referrals (e.g., housing), direct assistance with applications for programs (e.g., victim's compensation, food stamps, health insurance), and collaboration with over 40 community partners to address sexual assault survivors' economic needs.

Moschella-Smith's team, consisting of researchers from the University of New Hampshire and Brandeis University, conducted over 30 interviews with survivors who are receiving services from BARCC to support their financial wellbeing. Interviews are currently being conducted with a control group of survivors (who have not received services from BARCC) to understand the economic challenges they face in the aftermath of trauma. Follow-up interviews with survivors will also be conducted to examine how their economic stability changes over time. The research team hopes to gain a stronger understanding of the financial needs of survivors, as well as the value of economic services for sexual assault survivors.

Prevention Innovations Team Launches New Study Funded by the National Science Foundation

Elizabeth Moschella-Smith, Jane Stapleton, and Sharyn Potter are launching a new study funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to pilot a fieldwork safety toolkit, *Comprehensive Approach for Safe, Inclusive, and Responsible Research (CASIR²)*, in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

Scientific fieldwork is an integral part of STEM, yet presents unique challenges that are conducive to sexual harassment, discrimination, and incivility, including social isolation, limited communication methods, and confined travel and living arrangements. Although universities require physical and equipment safety plans, there have been few efforts to ensure safety from harassment in fieldwork environments.

*CASIR*² consists of four components (i.e., bystander training, a pre-departure orientation, a toolkit with online resources, and a post-fieldwork debrief) that specifically address sexual harassment to promote the safety and inclusion of women in STEM. Research labs from two universities are currently being recruited into the study to pilot *CASIR*². The goal of the project is to examine the impact of implementing *CASIR*² on experiences of sexual harassment, perceptions of the climate and intentions to persist in STEM, and intentions to help others and seek help.

Prevention Innovations Team Members to Present at IARR Conference in Boston

Dr. Victoria Bryan, a postdoctoral scholar at Prevention Innovations, will present findings from her dissertation research at the biennial International Association for Relationships Research (IARR) conference this July. Her talk titled, "Reflecting on—and Engaging in—Romantic Conflict: Does Taking One's Partners' Personality Into Account Help?" investigates whether people's ability to reason about personality—known as personal intelligence—influences their day-to-day and conflict communication behaviors with their romantic partner.

Intern **Sadie Gardner** (UMass Amherst '24) will also be presenting a poster titled, "Exploring Adolescents' Normative Beliefs About Romantic Relationship Dissolution." The poster was co-authored by Victoria Bryan, PIRC Postdoc Researcher; Tyler B. Jamison, Human Development and Family Studies Professor at UNH; and Sharyn Potter, PIRC Director.

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