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Decreasing
Domestic Violence
in
Phoenix



2025 Project Citizen Public Policy Submission

Portfolio Section 1

Identifying the Problem

The Problem and its Causes (pg. 1)

The problem is that in Phoenix there is people getting sexually abused, physical, emotional, economic, technological and more. Let's start with physical abuse, physical abuse means when you get hit, punched, slapped, kicked, hair pulled or anything that can harm someone physically. To continue with, emotional abuse means when people make you doubt about yourself and hurt you verbally. There is also economic abuse, economic abuse is when your partner or someone controls the way you earn or spend money. To end with technological abuse means stalking or harassing someone online it can also be having access to someone's account.

The Problem and its Causes (pg. 2)

Why does domestic violence happen in Phoenix

The problems that domestic violence include are **Physical injury, psychological trauma, and ever death**.the reason why this problem happens in Phoenix is because of misunderstandings or traumas.

The Problem and its Causes (pg. 3)

Domestic Violence affects people and families of all kinds and death, disability and other injuries, childhood abuse. If one partner feels the need to dominate the other in any shape or form, it is significantly and more likely a relationship will turn violent.

Evidence of the Problem (pg. 1)

The evidence or victims of domestic violence can range from kids to teens to adults. Sometimes this evidence is show in a physical form or by witnesses. Domestic violence doesn't only have to females it also involves males. You can find more information about this in [Evidence Of Domestic violence.](#)



Issues Involved with the Problem (pg. 1)

Most victims of domestic violence have experienced depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance use disorders, suicidal ideation, low self-esteem, it can also cause heavy alcohol and drug use.



Issues Involved with the Problem (pg. 2)

The issues is that they can have suicidal thoughts and can commit or do more crimes since at the end of the

Issues Involved with the Problem (pg. 3)

In legal terms “In Arizona, domestic violence is defined by [ARS 13-3601](#). It refers to criminal acts, such as assault, battery, or harassment, committed against family or household members. Importantly, domestic violence is not an independent charge, but a designation that enhances the penalties for certain offenses within a domestic setting.” (Shah Law Firm).

This means a person can not be charged with just domestic violence. The domestic violence charge would be added on to a separate charge - like battery, assault, harassment, etc. that would deepen the consequence.

Existing / Current Policy (pg. 1)

When police respond to a domestic violence 911 call, the police officers may determine that charges are appropriate and issue a charge at the scene or send the case to a detective for more investigation. After investigation, the detective submits the case to the prosecuting agency for review for criminal charges misdemeanor crimes are sent to the City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office and felonies are sent to the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. A prosecuting attorney will then review the case and decide whether criminal charges should be filed.

Disagreements in the Community (Pg.1)

According to Officer Danny Domestic Violence is serious in our community because "Yes. As a Patrol Officer, I responded to several DV calls in our community. All DV calls are taken seriously with most of them not being violent. I have responded to many violent ones and it was very hard on families who were victims of it."

Disagreements in the Community (Pg.2)

According to Ulices, domestic violence is serious in our community because toxic relationships can become abusive. A question that Ulices was asked is “How would you feel if help is provided to attackers?” In response to that he said, “I feel like that’s good, they should also take anger management classes so they are not hurting loved ones.” This ties into our alternative policies which another group will get more into detail with.

Why Government Should be Involved (pg. 1)

Local government should be involved because it would be a problem for them - domestic violence is bad community members' safety. It is our problem but they solve it for us because without their help we would all be aggressive with each other and there would be a lot of deaths in phoenix

Mention Local government and explain how they should help.

Sources (pg. 1)

[Why Domestic violence?](#)

[Justice for Domestic violence](#)

[Evidence Of Domestic violence](#)

[What is domestic violence?](#)

[Domestic Violence Homicide](#)

[Help Guide](#)

[Domestic violence](#)

Portfolio Section 2

Alternative Policies



Alternative policies

Portfolio section 2

Alternative policy one

Valeria & Natalie

Alternative Policy #1

Our Alternative Policy #1 is providing the victims of domestic violence services including therapy, mental health support, and safety.



Alternative Policy #1 - Advantages

The advantages of policy #1 are the victims of Domestic Violence get to heal and feel safe with the therapy and mental health support provided. Another advantage would be lessening the long-term effects of domestic abuse, promoting resilience and emotional well-being among family members.

The long term effects of Domestic Violence are emotional regulation, dissociation, numbing, suicidal, self destructive, self critical and trouble reading social cues. Not to mention it can become a cycle leading to harming the next person to the next, another long term effect is that it interferes with present and future relationships



Alternative Policy #1 - Disadvantages (pg. 1)

The disadvantages of this policy is

- Funding
- People will think it's unnecessary

*why might people think these services are unnecessary?



Funding is the main problem we will face because of how is hard to manage money out in the world but if we can somehow get the money how will we use it is the question.



Controversies and Conflict



Controversies and Conflict

themes and issues relevant to disclosure in healthcare settings. The fact that barriers to disclosure persist despite the development of international guidelines and regulations for healthcare services suggests that improving ACP and healthcare service responsiveness to domestic violence remains an important goal for the future.



In summary, the present study strengthened the research base on disclosure of domestic violence in healthcare settings by providing a comprehensive, updated systematic review of qualitative research barriers and facilitators of disclosure, advice of victims on disclosure, and the potential outcomes of disclosure. Results were partly consistent with a prior review, but also demonstrated novel t

Controversies and Conflicts (pg.

affect our brains - this is called neuroplasticity. When our senses are activated, when we learn something new, when we face stressful situations, or when we have many other kinds of experiences, our brains can change in structure and function. In part, this means that events or external stressors can lead to mental health struggles, but it also means that some experiences, including therapy, can help modify brain structure and function into a healthier state" (Mental Health America)



“Domestic violence is a hurtful and stressful situation that changes how the brain works.

“Studies consistently show that behavioral and emotional interventions work just as well or even better than medication to treat various mental health conditions, including anxiety, depression, and obsessive-compulsive disorder

Over the last few decades, advances in neuroscience have uncovered that life experiences



Alternative policy 2



Alternative policy 2 - Advantage

Provide services for people responsible for inflicting domestic violence - the offenders. This can look like therapy anger management, mental health support, etc.



The Second Alternative Policy is about helping the attackers because even they need help. The attackers have a reason to attack as well, not just because they want to, but some just do it because they can't help themselves, sometimes attackers don't mean to abuse others. The abusers are usually the people with major mental issues that can make them lash out verbally or physically. Some mental issues are factors of trauma like, child neglect, Bad parenting, their environment, and many other things that can be a factor.

Alternative policy - Advantage 2

- 1. CAN HELP THEM COPE WITH THEIR ACTIONS THAT HAD CAUSED SUCH DAMAGE**
- 2. GETTING THEM HELP CAN MAKE THEM MORE APPROACHABLE TO OTHER PEOPLE.**
- 3. IT CAN HELP THEM BE MORE KIND TOWARDS OTHERS**



- The services may help the abusers understand what they did was wrong
- The services also may help prevent the abusers from attacking again
- Therapy can help the attackers come to terms with their past

Alternative Policy #2 - Disadvantages

(pg.1)

- Controversial, people may think we shouldn't be providing services to the attackers or abusers.
- Some may not see it as an urgent matter.

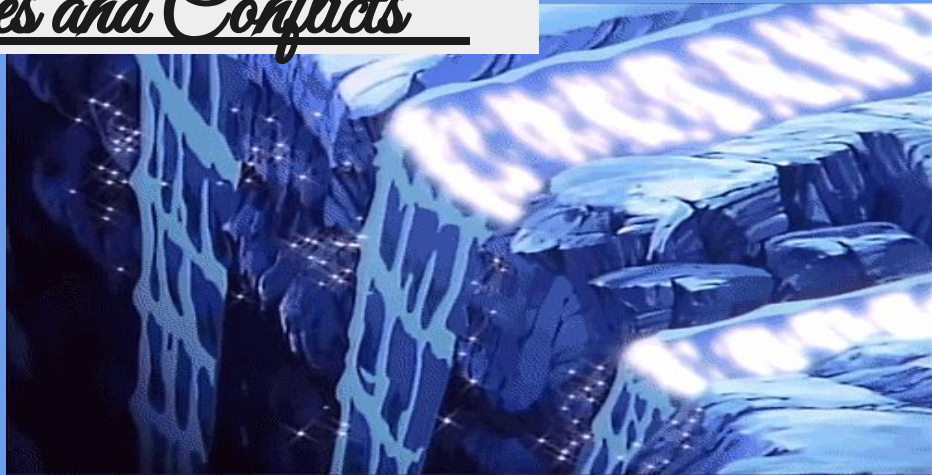


- Also some people may see funding for this policy as unnecessary.
- Questions may come up such as, why care now? Do people really need this help? How would you even get the money?

- People may try harming the attackers as an act of revenge.
- People may not care unless they end up getting paid for helping.
- Victims need attention not the abuser is what most would say.



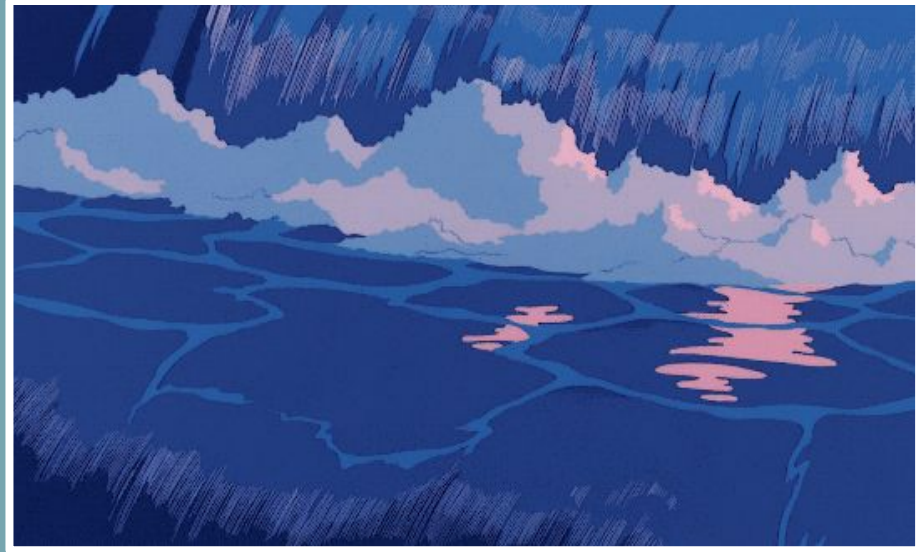
Controversies and Conflicts



Controversies and Conflicts

Controversies (drama) around why helping abusers exists.

Why is helping domestic violence abusers controversial?<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC1525346/#:~:text=They%20contend%20that%20RJ%20is,in%20a%20potentially%20patriarchal%20family>. They contend that RJ is too “soft” on male offenders; to truly legitimize the criminalization of domestic violence, society must punish men who abuse women. They also worry that RJ approaches may re-privatize domestic violence by locating the solution in a potentially patriarchal family.



<https://www.aihw.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/understanding-fdsv/community-understanding-and-attitudes/community-attitudes>



Sources

[Chrysalis](#) this website can be useful for alternative policy one for the standing of no abuse.

[Law Domestic Violence Resources and Referrals](#) this domestic violence website can be useful for alternative policy one.

Sources, pg, 1



Understanding the Impact of Domestic Violence | McLean Hospital

Portfolio Section 3

Our Proposed Policy Solution

Our policy

Our Proposed Policy (pg. 1)

Our community problem is to decrease domestic violence. Our proposed policy to help is raise awareness and get people to feel more comfortable in reporting domestic violence abuse to authority or someone who can be trusted. We can spread awareness through different park/community events where experts and police can explain the problem and support families and individuals on how to spot and escape abuse. With this happening it can encourage anyone who is experiencing domestic violence to speak up and get help.

Our Proposed Policy (pg. 2)

We are going to inform people about domestic violence and how it can harm other people around them. We should be able to provide this because the disagreements about the current way of dealing with the problem is that its not enforced that much, and because of this people don't pay attention to domestic violence and are scared to report it, this should help people report it and feel safe knowing that the other person is getting help as well.

Level of government

Level of Government Responsible to Help (pg. 1)

The level of government responsible to help is the local government because they can raise awareness with posters posted on local buildings, billboards, news channels, and even school events. This level of government is also able to create charity campaigns to fund everything we need to make our proposed policy possible. They can also host community gatherings and raise awareness with social media especially because many people go on social media. Phoenix government can also look for evidence of domestic violence in social media like X, Facebook, and Snapchat. In summary, the local government will be able to help us in many ways to raise the awareness of domestic violence to our community.

Level of Government Responsible to Help (pg. 2)

We want to start at local government to help with our policy because once we are able to decrease domestic violence in Phoenix we will be able to focus on other cities and states throughout the United States. Even if we decreased domestic violence by a little bit, it would still be progress to being able to lower down the cases of domestic violence and help many individuals. Then, we would be able to decrease domestic violence everywhere not just in Phoenix.

Advantages

Advantages of our Policy (pg. 1)

Advantages of our policy is that people that are going through domestic violence can get help and tell someone they trust. By reporting domestic violence abuse, the people hurting them can get help as well such as with domestic violence, anger management classes, as well as cognitive behavioral therapy for the offenders and the victims who don't really know how to cope. People should feel safe reporting something dangerous knowing everyone is gonna be able to get help.

Advantages of our Policy (pg. 2)

Advantages for our policy is Domestic violence would be that it would be brought up more and noticed because its not brought up much as it needs to so it would help victims feel safer with reporting it or talking about what they're going through from domestic violence and feel safer with asking for help whether its from a trusted adult or anyone they feel they can trust. Domestic violence is something serious so we need to help the people going through it feel safe and make sure they feel better of themselves reporting it.

Advantages of our Policy (pg. 3)

Our policy would give victims and offenders the therapy or treatment they need. It would also help with reaching out to police and telling them what they're going through while also feeling safe by reporting it. Our advantages to our policy should be able to help people feel safe with knowing that everyone else is getting help as well. Everyone should be feel mentally safe and physically safe.

Disadvantages

Disadvantages of our Policy (pg. 1)

One disadvantage of our policy is that individuals who are going through domestic violence they may not be able to go to events that raise awareness about domestic violence. They also may not be allowed to get help or talk to someone because the person who is hurting them verbally or mentally doesn't let them go out to events, the park, ect. We can fix this by making sure resources that can help people are very easily accessible such as putting up posters on how they can get help in grocery stores and more. Another reason as to how our policy can be an disadvantage is that some victims might feel too embarrassed by what they went through that they don't want to admit it (**Reasons Victims of Domestic Violence Don't Seek Help**). We can fix this by making everyone who tries to report Domestic Violence feel comfortable and not rush them into taking about it.

Disadvantages of our Policy (pg. 2)

The disadvantages of our policy is victims also may be too scared to speak up because maybe they feel threatened or not comfortable enough to share that information of what there going through. Victims might be too scared to open up to someone or even call for help because the abuser is threatening them or holding them hostage to not open up on how they feel or if they feel safe or not. Victims might also lie to police, someone around them to cover up that everything is okay to not get more hurt from the abuser.

Disadvantages of our Policy (pg. 3)

A disadvantage with our policy is that most people are very busy mostly due to work and might not find some time to come to community awareness events. Another disadvantage is that there can be language and communication barriers which will make it harder for people to communicate and raise awareness(*Commonplace*). Some people might not have access to technology especially younger people so they will not be able to see things put in social media to raise awareness, victims also might not be able to call for help with a phone. Another problem could be that there might be a lack of awareness of community gatherings being hosted in the city. These problems can be fixed by having a translator since a majority of people in Phoenix speak spanish. We can also host the community gatherings at a time where more than the usual people would not be working. Lastly we should give out newspaper to homes that say community gatherings will be happening and the information about it.

Constitutionality

Why Our Policy is Constitutional (pg. 1)

Our public policy is constitutional because it does not go up against people's freedom of speech as we let victims speak up. The public policy also does not violate unreasonable house searches. The public policy we determined does not have to do anything about not letting people have weapons, it might also be able to protect the victim. This policy also does not let the government pay you more than needed in bail and give torture as punishments.

Why Our Policy is Constitutional (pg. 2)

Our policy is constitutional because it won't go against the freedom of firearms for self defense. In cases where it can get physical I think it's better for everyone to know that they aren't getting charged or so if they decide to use self defense or firearms. Victims of domestic violence are gonna wanna use self defense or anything to defend themselves from the abuser so the victim should not be charged if they did use firearms or even self defense to feel safe from their abuser.

Why Our Policy is Constitutional (pg. 3)

Our policy is constitutional because we are not preventing the victims rights or anything in the Bill of rights. It gives them a space to speak out without breaking the Bill of rights or laws. Also would be comforting to be able to see how many others have been through such moments.

Sources

Sources Used (pg. 1)

MRSC:

<https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/engagement/resources/community-engagement-resources#:~:text=Web-based%20engagement%20p>

<https://www.maricopacountyattorney.org>

Commonplace:

<https://www.commonplace.is/blog/top-10-challenges-in-community-engagement>

Sources (pg. 2)

Bill of Rights:

<https://www.aclu-de.org/en/know-your-rights/bill-rights-simple-language>

<https://www.dvawareness.org/campaigns>

Reasons Why Victims of Domestic Violence Don't Seek Help:

<https://www.harborhousedv.org/what-is-domestic-violence/reasons-victims-of-domestic-violence-don-t-seek-help#safety-alert>

SOURCES (PG. 3)

DVAP riverside:

<https://dvapriverside.org/the-importance-of-raising-awareness-about-domestic-violence/>

Portfolio Section 4

The Action Plan



Supporters of our Policy

Some supporters of our policy are victims because they have experienced domestic violence whether it was physical, emotional, or verbal. This will make them want to get justice for what they have been through.

Supporters of our policy would be Politicians. I think they would support us because they represent citizens, make decisions, and make the formulation of public policy. Other supporters of our policy are witnesses of domestic violence. They are supporters because they have witnessed domestic violence and have probably wanted to step up or help the person that was going through the domestic violence. Many witnesses of domestic violence have wanted to help but just don't know what to do in the moment.





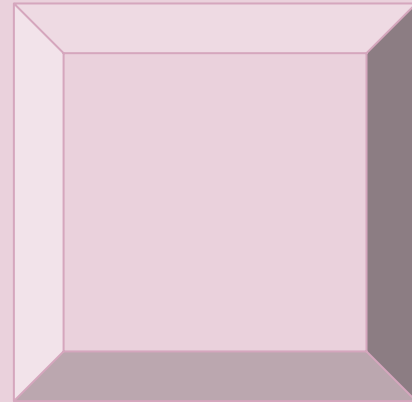
Opponents of Our Policy

The opponents of our policy are people who support domestic violence or people who are satisfied on disobeying the policy. Another opponent of our policy are people who like domestic violence and like to see other people getting hurt. The opponents of our policy are people who enjoy taking their anger out on people physically, verbally, or emotionally. Other opponents of our policy are people with low self esteem.

Government Supporters of our Policy



Government supporters would be the President. I think he would support us in this situation because this is a very serious problem that many states have. Another reason he would help us is to avoid people that will try to protest against him. A government supporter could be a mayor that sees this problem and wants to see a change because they think this is a serious problem in their city. Another government supporter is maybe the senate of state who has also noticed the spike of domestic violence crime.



Government Opponents of our Policy



Governments Opponents would obviously be haters because they don't like it and just want to tear apart the plan. Government officials that believe that domestic violence isn't a big thing/ give no recognition. Lazy government officials that are well aware of domestic violence and that its a big problem and don't want to take a part of the act because they believe it would take too long.

Outline of our Action Plan

For our outline of our solution, we plan on bringing more awareness to the community about domestic violence. Our final goal is to have fundraisers and charities for our solution. Our first step to this goal would be getting a permit to host fundraisers at a park or in any public place. A permit costs 400 dollars so a way we could get this money is door to door sales, and food sales. Once we have the permit we can move onto step two.



Outline of our Action Plan

Our second step to our action step is to figure out what we are going to have at the fundraiser. We can have food like fries, pizza or we can also have snacks and desserts like ice cream or popsicles.



Outline of our Action Plan

For our third step we will rent out all the things we need at the fundraiser. If we want to make invites were gonna have to rent stuff so our guests will be happy and having fun, we also can buy toys or gifts when you win a game as a prize. We can play lots of fun games with our guest's. The cost of it won't be that much because we can go to dollar tree and get all the toys and gifts from there and it will be just a couple of dollars. We can also come up with lots of fun ideas.



Outline of our Action Plan

Our fourth step would be to plan a date for the fundraiser and set out flyers around to see and tell family and friends to come. Another way is to make a public announcement to the community. More ways is to get people's attention is to make videos and post it on social media or contacting media an ad also can spread out the message or maybe a billboard these are ways we are going to make sure everyone knows about the fundraiser.



How we will get
opponents to Support Our
Policy

Try to convince the Opponents that what we are trying to do is what's right and best for people who have fallen victim. Victims could also be opponents because they probably don't want to speak about it but we can get them to talk about it by convincing them we are trustworthy and trying to make a change. We can get the opponents to support our policy by getting them to realize what pain the people who have fallen victim to domestic violence



How We Will Fund Our policy

We will fund our policy by hosting charities and fundraisers. Hosting charities and fundraisers is a good way to fund our policy because charities and fundraisers bring many people together to help support an important cause like ours. We will fund our policy by hosting charities and fundraisers. Hosting charities and fundraisers is a good way to fund our policy because charities and fundraisers bring many people together to help support an important cause like ours. Another way we can fund is finding a sponsor or a nonprofit organization to partner with who will pay for our expenses.



Our Sources

One nonprofit organization we can contact is SHIELD Foundation. Our source to find the permit fee and info was Permit Fee and info. Our sources also came from interviews we did for our project. We can also contact government officials at Congress.gov