



Impact eNews from the UW School of Social Work

RESEARCH ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

Social work research is rooted in a deep commitment to community. At the School of Social Work, our scholars collaborate with diverse, often marginalized, populations to collect meaningful data, co-create strategies for change, and develop culturally appropriate tools to measure impact.



Conversations about suicide can lead to better firearm safety

Meeting one-on-one with unexpected audiences, such as those attending gun shows, can spur behavior changes that promote firearm safety, according to new research from Forefront Suicide Prevention. These informal conversations allow the Forefront team to engage with gun owners on a personal level, resulting in more people locking up their firearms. [MORE](#)



How limited access to health care affects immigrant communities

Immigrant groups face barriers to health care that most Americans do not, says Assistant Professor Jane Lee, a health equity researcher. Yet their anxiety, concern and fear affect not only their own lives but their families and communities. Lee advocates the development of culturally appropriate strategies such as community-based health care workers to expand access. [MORE](#)



Pandemic continues to cause health issues for older adults

According to new research from Assistant Professor Clara Berridge, not only has the pandemic increased social isolation among older adults, but lack of access to or familiarity with the Internet is causing many to neglect chronic health conditions. Without consistent funding, Berridge says, state-supported services for older adults may become even more destabilized. [MORE](#)



Police encounters with youth affect Blacks and whites differently

A new study by the School's Social Development Research Group shows that Black youth who experienced contacts with police—even inconsequential encounters—as early as eighth grade were 11 times more likely than their white counterparts to be arrested by the time they turned 20. [MORE](#)

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

New speaker series showcases School scholars at the center of foundational change. MSW students who entered the School last fall did so during extraordinarily challenging times. As a special offering to the class of 2020, Dean Eddie Uehara created Leading Lights, a nine-part speaker series that introduces new students to School scholars and teachers who have made foundational contributions to systemic social change. Each lecture is available via livestream to the entire social work community. Next up, on Feb. 25, is Professor Karina Walters, a leading Indigenous health scholar and activist. [MORE](#)

The Joshua Center launches youth-engagement strategies to prevent sexual abuse. With its newly launched website and social media platforms, the School's Joshua Center on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention is focused on raising awareness and ending the sexual abuse of 12- to 17-year-olds, particularly underserved youth in diverse communities. The Center works with a cadre of youth to create authentic youth-oriented prevention messages for social media as well as videos called Youth Discussions. Also on the website are research and written materials on child sexual abuse for parents and caregivers. [MORE](#)

New report spotlights shortage of Latino doctors in Washington state. At a time when Latinos constitute more than 40% of all COVID-19 cases in the state, Latino physicians are a key factor in preventing disease and improving long-term health outcomes. But a recent study from the School's Latino Center for Health found a significant shortage of Latino physicians statewide. To advance health equity, the Center compiled a series of recommendations for legislative and top decision-makers when developing policies that address serious health care disparities. [MORE](#)

Bringing data science to bear on equity issues involving space mission teams. Professor Elena Eroshva has been selected to join the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's committee to explore ways to increase diversity and inclusion on the leadership teams of future NASA missions. The group will also review data on overall obstacles that women and minorities face in science and engineering. Eroshva's research interests focus on developing and applying statistical methods to address equity issues in the social, medical and health sciences. [MORE](#)

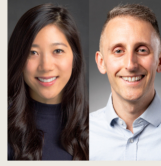
A spotlight on leadership and legacies during Black History Month. This month, we are

celebrating the African Americans who have shaped and strengthened America, including social worker and civil rights trailblazer Whitney M. Young Jr. The first dean at Atlanta University School of Social Work, Young later served as head of the National Urban League. As an advisor to Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, he strongly influenced the federal poverty programs of the 1960s. Learn more about Young's lasting contributions to racial justice, and join the UW community at Black History Month events throughout February. [MORE](#)

FACULTY NEWS

Inaugural Roffman Term Faculty Fellowships for Antiracism announced

Assistant Professor Jane Lee and Assistant Teaching Professor Justin Lerner are the inaugural recipients of the Roffman Term Faculty Fellowships for Antiracism. The new program, created in collaboration with Professor Emeritus Roger Roffman, will enable scholars to carry out personal and professional activities to enhance their knowledge and understanding of antiracism work. Said Dean Eddie Uehara: "This new fellowship program will greatly enhance contributions to the School's education, research and service mission to support transformative antiracist strategies and actions." [MORE](#)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alum Joe Thompson shares vision as new leader of Mercy Housing Northwest

Appointed president of Mercy Housing Northwest last summer, Joe Thompson (MSW '96) is expanding affordable housing with permanent supportive services such as child care and employment assistance so that residents can look beyond today and follow their dreams for tomorrow. "The affordable part of housing is just the first step to solving all sorts of really complicated and interrelated issues, and that's one of the things that I just love about Mercy," says Thompson. [MORE](#)



IN THE NEWS

[Project seeks to better tailor responses to student mental health at the UW](#), *UW News*, January 14, 2021 (Professor and Associate Dean Paula Nurius)

[How WA schools can support students struggling with mental health](#), *Crosscut*, January 6, 2021 (Associate Professor Jennifer Stuber and Forefront in the Schools program evaluator Taylor Ryan)

[How it feels in a pandemic where the death rate really is 20%](#), *The Seattle Times*, December 25, 2020 (Assistant Professor Clara Berridge)

['We find our way:' How older adults are coping with pandemic isolation](#), *KUOW*, December 23, 2020 (Assistant Professor Clara Berridge)

[With so many schools online, child maltreatment reports in Washington plummet](#), *The Seattle Times*, December 9, 2020 (Associate Professor Emiko Tajima)

[UW study: Young whites report more illegal acts, young Blacks arrested more](#), *KOMO News*, December 3, 2020 (Endowed Professor for Prevention Kevin Haggerty)

[Gun advocates take the lead in embracing suicide prevention message](#), *The Oregonian*, November 30, 2020 (Associate Professor Jennifer Stuber)

['How did we not know?' Gun owners confront a suicide epidemic](#), *The New York Times*, November 17, 2020 (Associate Professor Jennifer Stuber)

[UW gun safety study](#), *KOMO News*, October 19, 2020 (Associate Professor Jennifer Stuber)

[How poverty hurts Washington state's democracy](#), *Crosscut*, October 21, 2020 (Emerita Senior Lecturer Diana Pearce)

[Senior sensors: Digital contact tracing wasn't up for debate in senior living facilities](#), *The Verge*, October 15, 2020 (Assistant Professor Clara Berridge)

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Box 354900 Seattle, Washington 98195-4900

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