Survivor advocate brief

Survivor advocates are trained professionals who provide free and confidential services to UArizona students who are survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and other forms of sexual violence. Support services include, but are not limited to, safety planning, emotional support, assistance within the legal system and connections with off campus resources.

Students' Perceptions of Survivor Advocates:

- Created a confidential atmosphere: 83%
- Felt safe working with them: 83%
- Felt comfortable working with them: 83%
- Were sensitive to their cultural identities: 83%
- Helped address their main concern: 78%

Key Insights:

- The **majority of students** (94%) reported that bringing their situation to the Survivor Advocacy Program positively impacted their ability to succeed in school.

- There have been a **significant increase in student reports of strangulation** in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Sexual Assault (SA), and consensual sexual encounters, in line with national trends among college-aged students. Nationally, the risk for intimate partner homicide for individuals who experience strangulation increases by 700%.

- Students reported feeling more empowered to make their own decisions about their case (94%), ability to access resources (100%), and identify safe support systems around them (89%).

- **Every student** in the Survivor Advocacy Program reported that their **overall experience with their Survivor Advocate was very helpful.**

- **100%** of students reported that the Survivor Advocacy Program helped them to feel that they deserved support.

- **26%** of female undergraduate students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. Students are less likely to report compared to their same age non-student peers.

- **80%** of students reported that the Survivor Advocacy Program helped them to communicate their needs with professors and improve their academic performance.

Select Outcomes from Survivor Advocacy Program:

- **90%** of students reported the Survivor Advocacy Program helped them access academic supports
- **100%** of students reported the Survivor Advocacy Program allowed them to better focus on their studies

Survivor Advocates Program helped students to stay enrolled in classes or at the UA

- **89%** of students stayed enrolled in classes at the University of Arizona
**Select Demographics of Survivor Advocacy Program Users**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ, Pansexual, Questioning</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender, gender non-conforming, genderqueer</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person with a disability</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraternity or Sorority Member</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Gen Student</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pell-Grant Recipient</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Student Outcomes from the Survivor Advocacy Program**

- More capable of making a safety plan: 83%
- More capable to engage in self-care when needed: 100%
- More capable to access help with emotional wellbeing when needed: 94%
- Felt much more control over their life circumstances: 78%

**Student Voices**

- “My Survivor Advocate was awesome with helping me find a way to keep my situation discreet and find help with balancing my academic and emotional challenges at the same time and asking for accommodation without uncomfortably providing my professor with information.”
- “Absolutely incredible. I seriously can’t even put it into words.”
- “Extremely supported, both in terms of connection to resources and emotional support and rapport.”
- “My Survivor Advocate was amazing. She has been a huge support for me while going through all of these awful things lately. She’s been a blessing for me, and I couldn’t have gotten through this without her help.”
- “My Survivor Advocate was awesome with helping me find a way to keep my situation discreet and find help with balancing my academic and emotional challenges at the same time and asking for accommodation without uncomfortably providing my professor with information.”
- “It made me feel better having an expert to talk to with unbiased and non-judgmental views.”
- “A safe space” “Very helpful. I’m grateful.”
- “One of the few places on campus that actually paid attention.”
- “I felt seen and validated in all of my situations. My Survivor Advocate reached out weekly and set up resources for me that I didn’t know existed. I absolutely attribute most of my healing and acceptance of the situation because of her and all of the work she has done.”
- “I feel very comfortable talking about my situation and I feel so much better after doing what I needed to help myself.”
- “My Survivor Advocate was very supportive and like a friend to me who heard me out and was on my side.”
- “Very helpful and comforting. It was good to have someone on my side when meeting with Dean of Students.”