

## Undergraduate Research Symposium May 18, 2018 Mary Gates Hall

### Online Proceedings

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#### POSTER SESSION 1

Commons West, Easel 34

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

##### **The Doorway Project: Addressing Youth Homelessness with a Community Café Model**

*Nina Martha Cole, Fifth Year, Nursing*

*UW Honors Program*

*Ann Phuong Thi Nguyen, Senior, Nursing, Public Health-Global Health*

*UW Honors Program*

*Mentor: Josephine Ensign, Psychosocial & Community Health, Nursing*

According to a January 2017 Point-in-Time count, there were over 11,000 individuals experiencing homelessness in the Seattle/King County region, with approximately 30% of those individuals under the age of 25. The University District of Seattle has been designated as an area needing special attention and increased funding to support homeless youth and young adults. Our proposal is to create an urban community café (The Doorway Café) to bridge the strengths of the University District with the social, legal, and health care needs of local homeless and food insecure youth in one centralized location. We predict that the creation of a navigation center/café will allow for an improved system of integrated services, ultimately leading to housing security and improved health outcomes. We conducted a qualitative study consisting of twenty in-depth, semi-structured interviews with homeless youth in the University District. Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and thematically analyzed to highlight data pertaining to personal lived experiences of homelessness, basic needs, and services to integrate into The Doorway Café. Preliminary thematic analysis suggests that having stable housing is a necessary prerequisite for youth and young adults to care for their other basic needs, such as health care. Interviewees expressed that the most successful café would feel safe and the resources offered would be low-barrier. The results of our research inform the services The Doorway Café should offer based on the responses of local homeless youth. Future research should explore the role that The Doorway Café has in continuity of services and in increasing housing stability among youth in the University District.

#### POSTER SESSION 1

Commons West, Easel 33

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

##### **The Doorway Project: Using Digital Storytelling to Assess the Needs of Homeless Youth**

*Moriah Justine Ortega, Senior, Nursing*

*UW Honors Program*

*Mentor: Josephine Ensign, Psychosocial & Community Health, Nursing*

Homelessness among youth in Seattle's University District has become a crisis that has been overlooked and neglected by our community. The lack of accessible resources and poor educational opportunities, have made it difficult for this population to have their basic needs met. A major resource homeless youth lack is a solid support system. This research project is part of a larger community project that is looking at the barriers that are inhibiting homeless youth from meeting their needs and escaping homelessness. The purpose of this study is to describe, from the youth's perspective, the resources and support that are needed to help them achieve overall health. The larger study will design and implement a sustainable community café for homeless youth and youth at risk for homelessness in the University District that provides services and support. For this study, we applied a digital storytelling methodology, which is used as a community based participatory approach, to gain better understanding of youth homelessness and their needs in their own words. Digital storytelling is typically a short video 3-5 minutes long. The interviews were guided by questions as well as open conversation for the participant's to share their story of homelessness. We conducted three interviews and created three digital stories. This study did not contain random sampling and was conducted strictly by a volunteer basis. After the interviews were conducted we used digital images with voice-over narrative to create the digital story. The aim was to analyze these videos to shed light on the specific needs the youth have. It also served to give researchers more information on the particular barriers homeless youth are currently facing and guided activities within the community café. These will also help suggest legal and policy reform in the homeless youth community as well as bring greater awareness to the community.

# POSTER SESSION 1

Commons West, Easel 13

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

## **Injury in the Immigrant Forest Industry: Perceptions around Barriers to Safety**

*Sara Y Post, Fifth Year, Nursing*

*Samrawit Admasu (Sam) Sima, Senior, Nursing*

*Mentor: Butch de Castro, School of Nursing*

Increased specialization within the forestry industry has led to the rise of a distinct industry known as forestry services. Whereas logging historically encompassed this work, a separate population increasingly participates in the remote grooming and tree planting of forest lands. Physically demanding, dangerously hazardous, and low paying, forestry services work in the Pacific Northwest predominantly employs Mexican and Central American immigrants. As an extension of my honors project at the UW School of Nursing, I examined how occupational injury among this group of workers with correlates with attitudes that workers and employers hold about their work environments. Performing a secondary analysis using survey interview data collected by the UW Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety & Health Center, and the Northwest Forest Worker Center, I identified top risk perceptions and barriers to workplace safety as reported by workers, as well as by a set of employers and supervisors. Not only was there variation in the prevalence of worker injury between different employers, there was also variation in the perceived attitudes about workplace safety. In future research, it will be possible to link the experiences of workers with the attitudes and policies of those who employ them.