



Courtney Waters, M.P.H., M.S.

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Courtney Waters (she/her) is an associate research social scientist at the University of Arizona Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW). Waters has held roles on several state and federally funded projects addressing health inequities related to LGBTQ+ inclusion, sexuality education and housing. Recent projects include a three-agency collaboration that provides sexuality education, linkages to mental and behavioral health services, HIV testing and prevention navigation to LGBTQ+ youth ages 13-24 as well as a project aimed at enhancing the system of care for LGBTQ+ young adults experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Waters is the co-lead of the LGBTQ+ Equity Project which aims to enhance service providers' skills in serving LGBTQ+ community members. She is particularly passionate about sexuality education which she has been delivering in various settings for the past ten years, including college campuses, high schools, treatment facilities and community drop-in centers. Waters was responsible for adapting SIROW's Sexual Health Education for Youth (SIROW-HEY) curriculum to be more LGBTQ+-inclusive as well as updating a sexual violence prevention curriculum for adolescents. She also developed an LGBTQ+-affirming curriculum for adults called SIROW Health Education Queer (SHE-Q). Waters went on to train a team of health educators to deliver both HEY and SHE-Q with youth and young adults. Waters is currently the project director for Sex University, a program that will test the effectiveness of sexuality education curriculums as a tool for sexual violence prevention. Waters holds a master's degree in public health with a focus on maternal and child health and a master's degree in Mexican American studies with a concentration in Latino health and wellness, both from the University of Arizona. She also earned a bachelor of science degree in biobehavioral health with a minor in Spanish from Penn State University.