

# CIHR Qual Team: Preliminary Findings

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University of Arizona is on the occupied traditional lands of the Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui nations in Tucson (Too-son) NOT "Tuck-son".



# Southern Arizona Team - led by Dr. Michelle Téllez

## Erika Tenorio (she/they)

Queer Central-American Mexican Indigenous (Chorotega, Yaqui, Tohono O'odham)

University of Arizona Undergraduate

Majoring: Latin American Studies, Studio Art Illustration.

Minoring: American Indian Studies.



## Alejandra Encinas Garcia

Born in Hermosillo, Sonora and migrated with her family to the United States when she was 16.

Associates of Arts in Anthropology from Pima Community College.

Majoring: Spanish and Law. Minoring: Anthropology at the University of Arizona.

She hopes to help create communities where people like her hermanitos are safe.



## Kayla Osman (she/her)

Chicana from Southern California

B.A. in Psychological Science from California State University San Marcos

2nd year PhD student in the Family Studies and Human Development program at UA



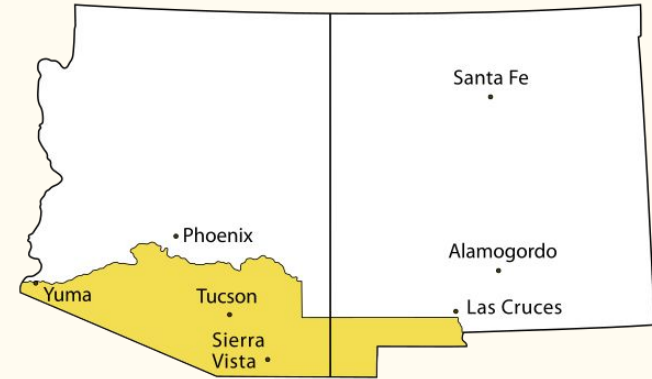
# Overview of Southern Arizona

“Arizona”- derives from different Indigenous communities, but is more known to derive from the Tohono O’odham word “Ali-sh-ohn” and Spanish colonizers pronounced it “Ari-zohn” upon their arrival.

23 tribal nations reside in Arizona but 22 are federally recognized.

Southern Arizona is also known as a borderland region, one that borders Mexico and the many Indigenous nations. In fact, 75 miles of the border traverses O’odham territory.

The border between US/Mexico was closed for 19 months (opened Nov. ‘21) impacting the economies on both sides which greatly depend on its dynamic relationship. The Migrant Protection Protocols have created a surge of migrants stuck at the border in their request for asylum given rise to health and sanitary concern on both sides of the border. Overall, Arizona is home to many migrant communities.



# Demographics

Table 1. Migrant community demographics (n = 17)

Characteristic	M (SD)	n	%
<b>Country of origin</b>			
Mexico		7	41.2
United States		2	11.8
China		2	11.8
Czech Republic		1	5.9
Singapore		1	5.9
Thailand		1	5.9
Malaysia		1	5.9
Philippines		1	5.9
Cuba		1	5.9
<b>Years in the US</b>	12.6 (9.3)		
<b>Age</b>	26 (4.3)		
≤ 20		2	11.8
21-29		9	52.9
≥ 30		6	35.3
<b>Gender</b>			
Woman/female		14	82.4
Man/male		3	17.6
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Single		13	76.5
Married		3	17.6
Divorced		1	5.9
<b>Language of interview</b>			
Spanish		5	29.4
English		12	70.6

Table 2. Indigenous community demographics (n = 13)

Characteristic	M (SD)	n	%
<b>Tribal Affiliation</b>			
Akimel O'odham		3	23.1
Tohono O'odham		7	53.8
Hia-Ced O'odham		1	7.7
Pascua Yaqui		3	23.1
Piipaash		1	7.7
Seminole Cree		1	7.7
Hidatsa		1	7.7
Quechan		1	7.7
Ak-Chin		1	7.7
Yo'eme		1	7.7
<b>Living on reservation</b>			
Yes		3	23.1
No		10	76.9
<b>Age</b>	27.2 (7.9)		
≤ 20		2	15.4
21-29		8	61.5
≥ 30		3	23.1
<b>Gender</b>			
Woman/female		7	53.8
Man/male		6	46.2
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Single		12	92.3
Married		1	7.7
Divorced		0	0

Note. The *n* for tribal affiliation will not match total *n* because many participants indicated more than one tribal affiliation.

# Initial Themes

## Migrant & Indigenous Communities

- 1. Mental health decline**
    - a. Described a deterioration or worsening of mental health during/as a result of the pandemic. Loss of motivation, anxiety, isolation, depression, etc.
  - 2. Difficulties adapting to virtual modalities in work**
    - a. Described the adjustment to working virtually as difficult, and occupations tied to community or in-person activities were especially impacted. Also related to resources (e.g., internet connectivity)
  - 3. Employment and/or financial hardship**
    - a. Described being negatively impacted by COVID-19 in relation to their job/income (e.g., laid off, hours reduced, pay reduced, etc), or any experiences of financial hardship as a result of the pandemic.
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# Initial Themes

## Migrant Community

- 1. Familial/community support**
    - a. Described giving or receiving support during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly surrounding the family.
  - 2. Vaccine hesitancy**
    - a. Expressed hesitancy toward the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - 3. Differences in COVID regulations/precautions outside of US**
    - a. Described the way in which countries outside of the US, such as Mexico, took the pandemic more seriously and implemented stricter precautionary measures.
  - 4. Family conflict**
    - a. Described experiencing conflict or tension with family/household as a result of the pandemic and staying at/working from home. (e.g., lack of personal space, more conflict)
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# Initial Themes

## Indigenous Community

- 1. Community commitment**
    - a. Many had occupations that were tied to their community, and expressed a dedication or commitment to giving back to their community in various ways
  - 2. Community support & mutual aid participation**
    - a. Described the community and family coming together to provide support and aid to one another, or participating, receiving, or witnessing said support.
  - 3. Mental Distress and family/loved ones**
    - a. Described feelings of isolation and loneliness tied to not being able to see loved ones. Difficulty associated with this.
  - 4. Access to necessities**
    - a. Described difficulty getting access to basic necessities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - 5. Support of Tribal Communities & Members (and possible tension)**
    - a. Described differences in access to tribal support and possible resulting tension.
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# Initial Themes

## Indigenous Community (Cont.)

### **6. Tribal Response to COVID**

- a. For the most part, most expressed that the tribal response to COVID was well handled and taken seriously. Some did highlight ways this could have been improved (i.e., providing more support to those off the reservation, communication) and the fact that having resources and infrastructure was a unique barrier/challenge. Few expressed that they felt the tribe was not prepared.

### **7. Cultural Practices and Traditions Impacted by Covid**

- a. Described COVID-19 impacting or interfering with cultural practices and traditions.

### **8. Family and Community Loss**

- a. Described experiences of family or community member loss as a result of the pandemic.

### **9. Cultural Loss**

- a. Described experiences of cultural loss as a result of the pandemic (e.g., loss of knowledge keepers, elders).
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# Discussion & Questions!

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Chiokoe Uttesia. S-ap'o. Gracias. Thank You.