

# A New Content Management System for the SVPEP Website

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The Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH) is responsible for hosting and maintaining the [Sexual Violence Prevention and Education \(SVPEP\) website](#). The website is primarily designed to provide the SVPEP Program Manager and funded contractors in Arizona with information, resources, and research on primary prevention of sexual violence. MEZCOPH works to ensure that the website is easy to access, navigate, and contains updated content to promote the design and implementation of programming.

Until recently, MEZCOPH created and maintained the SVPEP website using Dreamweaver, a website design software system. Dreamweaver is a great software package usually used for small, static websites. In August 2008, the SVPEP Program Manager and funded contractors completed a survey to evaluate the website. Based on the data gathered from the survey, knowledge from research literature, and collaboration with the Department of Biomedical Communications, MEZCOPH developed a major project to improve the organization and navigation of the website using [Drupal](#), a website content management system. Drupal is an open-source software and is developed and maintained by a community of website users and developers. In Drupal, each website is maintained by a local site administrator who is responsible for the content of the website. MEZCOPH in collaboration with Biomedical Communications will act as the site administrator of the SVPEP website. The website is secure and content revisions can only be made by the site administrator or special users who the administrator has given permission to. Those only with permission are allowed to revise website content.

There are several advantages to using Drupal to manage the SVPEP website.

- Drupal has advanced functionalities and several free add on modules that include: blogs, collaborative authoring environments, forums, peer-to-peer networking, newsletters, podcasts, pictures galleries, a role based permission system, site administer permissions, and search functions. These will improve the usability of the website and make the website more dynamic without requiring advanced programming skills. These functions will allow MEZCOPH to keep pace with rapidly changing technology.
- Drupal has database driven website pages. The website contains several resources, publications, and a database containing hundreds of research summaries about sexual violence prevention. This feature will allow MEZCOPH to make the research summary database easier to use and search. Easier access to the articles will encourage the funded contractors to utilize more evidence-based strategies for improving the design,

implementation, and evaluation of their SVPEP funded programs.

- Drupal has a role-based permissions system function. This function allows the site administrator to assign special permissions and roles to users of the website, such as the Program Manager. If requested, the Program Manager could have access to specific areas of the website and able to make revisions. This helps ensure that the information provided on the website is updated by knowledgeable individuals.
- Other features of Drupal include: version controls, which track all content changes, poll and survey modules, and multi-lingual functions. In the future, MEZCOPH may work with the Program Manager and funded-agencies to include online surveys and Spanish-translation on the website.
- Drupal is open-source so the website can be updated and the content revised from anywhere that has an internet connection. As a result, the website will be easy to maintain and update in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

The migration of the SVPEP website from Dreamweaver to Drupal will improve the overall functionality of the SVPEP website and will ensure that it is innovative, modern, and easy to navigate and use. A modern and easy to use website will not only improve the accessibility of the website to sexual violence prevention educators and professionals but also any individual who may visit the website. MEZCOPH expects that advancements made to the website will increase website traffic. By increasing the number of individuals who visit the SVPEP website, MEZCOPH is raising awareness about sexual violence in Arizona and highlighting the importance of primary prevention.