Survivors' Voices on Prevention

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Abstract:
Sexual violence is a prevalent societal problem that has many detrimental consequences for survivors. In an attempt to reduce the high incidence of sexual violence in the community, Brining in the Bystander™ encourages bystanders to safely and effectively intervene in situations at risk for sexual violence. The current research on this topic primarily focuses on the effectiveness of Brining in the Bystander™ on changing attitudes and behaviors of college students. This prior research, however, has failed to analyze the impact the program specifically has on survivors. Thus, the purpose of the present study is to allow survivors to voice their perceptions of Brining in the Bystander™ and to compare attitude change among survivors in the control and the program group. Implications for practitioners and future research will also be discussed.

Method:
The Bringing in the Bystander™ in-person Program: 4.5 hour program, split into two sections, that encourages bystanders to intervene in situations at risk for sexual violence. The program covers the continuum of sexual violence and includes activities focused on informing individuals about the prevalence and consequences of sexual violence, providing tools for intervening safely and effectively, and building empathy for survivors of sexual violence.

Qualitative Measurements:
- Assess attitudes and behaviors of survivors in terms of in the previously listed variables.
- The attitudes and behaviors of female survivors looked similar to non-survivor females in terms of in the previously listed variables.

Quantitative Measurements:
- The attitudes and behaviors of male survivors looked similar to non-survivor males in terms of the previously listed variables.

Findings/Conclusions:
In order to analyze the qualitative data, content coding was used, and common themes were found in the participant responses. These themes were used to separate the responses into groups, and the agreement rate among the three coders was 92.8%.

83.9% stated they would react differently if they encountered a situation involving sexual violence.

83.9% believed Brining in the Bystander™ was beneficial and educational.

96.8% believed Brining in the Bystander™ had a positive impact on survivors in the program group. (See Figure 1.2). All results comparing time 1 and time 2 were statistically significant for the program group. Since the control group did not experience any intervention between time 1 and time 2, we expected little to no change in the results. Our hypothesis was supported, and the control group results were not statistically significant.

Conclusions & Implications for Research/Practice/Policies:
Overall, survivors perceived Brining in the Bystander™ to be beneficial and educational. Survivors acquired new information that encouraged them to act differently in future situations.

The findings suggest that Brining in the Bystander™ positively impacted survivors’ attitudes and behaviors toward situations at risk for sexual violence. Despite practitioners expressing concern for survivors who participate in intervention programs, the current study suggests survivors are not traumatized by the information and activities presented within the program.

In fact, survivors indicated their approval toward the realistic content presented.

Further research needs to be conducted focusing on the attitudes of survivors toward prevention programs in order to solidify our research.

References: