A QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION OF THE NOT A NUMBER ANTI-TRAFFICKING PREVENTION PROGRAM WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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CSEC/TRAFFICKING VICTIMIZATION

Prevention

Improved Victim Services

Justice System Improvements
THE NOT A NUMBER (NAN) PREVENTION PROGRAM

- Trafficking prevention program developed by the non-profit organization Love146 in 2014
- Interactive 5-module curriculum developed for in-person group delivery to youth ages 12-18
- Educates on trafficking and exploitation, recruitment, vulnerabilities, communication and help-seeking
- Recently completed a quasi-experimental study on NAN in Houston Independent School District (HISD)
- Currently building on this research with a CDC-funded randomized controlled trial evaluation of NAN in Minnesota
METHODOLOGY

- **Pre-test survey administration:**
  - Spring 2022: Houston HS1 (n=175)
  - Fall 2022: Houston HS1 (n=216) & Houston HS2 (n=205)
  - Total of 596 students completed pre-test surveys

- **Research groups:**
  - 375 youth received the NAN program in health class (implementation group)
  - 221 taking physical education did not receive NAN (control group)
Post-test surveys were administered 2-3 months after program delivery.

Out of the 596 students that took the pre-test survey, we were able to match pre- and post-tests for a total of 449 students (75%).

The evaluation compared pre-post findings for 300 implementation group students and 149 control group students.
SAMPLE

- 14% 9th grade; 18% 10th grade; 23% 11th grade; 45% 12th grade
- 35% Black; 64% Latino; 4% White
- 52% Male; 47% Female; 1% Other
- 79% Heterosexual; 21% Other sexual orientation
MEASURES

OUTCOMES:

1. Knowledge/myth rejection
   • Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
   • Relationship safety
2. Help-seeking
3. Safety planning
4. Online risk and safety behaviors
5. Victimization

Demographics:
• Age
• Gender
• Sexual orientation
• Race/ethnicity
• Living situation

Risk/resilience:
• Peer/family support
• School connectedness
• Neighborhood safety
• Alcohol/drug
• Food insecurity
• Depression
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It can be hard for people who trade sex for money or other items of value to stop even if they want to.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical force is usually the way that someone gets a youth to trade sex for money or other items of value.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth who choose to trade sex for money or other items of value are victims.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If someone decides to trade sex for money or other items of value, it is their fault if bad things happen.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading sex for things of value is a harmless way to make some money.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IF SOMEONE DECIDES TO TRADE SEX FOR MONEY OR OTHER ITEMS OF VALUE, IT IS THEIR FAULT IF BAD THINGS HAPPEN.
Trading sex for things of value is a harmless way to make some money.
## Outcomes - Relationship Abuse Knowledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telling a boyfriend/girlfriend what friends they are allowed to see is a form of abuse.</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting abuse in a relationship can make things better for the person being hurt.</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is a problem if someone who is ten years older says they are romantically interested in you.</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If your boyfriend/girlfriend is very controlling, it is a sign that they care a lot about you.</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### OUTCOMES-HELP-SEEKING

How likely is it that you would do the following things if you were feeling pressured by somebody to exchange sex for money or other items of value?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Very unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat unlikely</th>
<th>Somewhat likely</th>
<th>Very likely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get help from a parent or caregiver</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get help from another adult like a teacher or counselor</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get help from a friend</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look up advice on the internet</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get help from a crisis hotline or a community agency</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call 911 or talk to the police</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHANGE IN MEAN HELP-SEEKING SCORES

Pre-test | Post-test
---|---
Control | Implementation
OUTCOMES-ONLINE RISK & SAFETY

- Have you ever met up with someone in person who you met online? (9% → 11%)
- Have you talked about sex with someone you only knew online? (5% → 7%)
- Have you sent nude or nearly nude photos to someone you only knew online? (2 → 4%)
- Have you checked your social media privacy settings to make sure they were private? (30% → 53%)
- Have you blocked or stopped talking with someone because they were making you feel uncomfortable? (25 → 38%)
Youth Victimization

19% of youth survey participants said that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact.

6% of youth reported being physically hurt on purpose by a dating partner.

1.2% of youth reported trading sex or sexual activity for money or something of value.
Youth Risk Factors

- Worry about safety getting to school: Sometimes, Often, Always: 32%
- Feel hopeless every day 2 weeks or more last 3 months: Yes: 44%
- Food insecurity past 30 days: A lot, Sometimes: 25%
TRADING SEX EXPOSURE BY FOOD INSECURITY

Suspected friends/family of trading sex

- No food insecurity: 5%
- Food insecurity: 22%

CSE victim

- No food insecurity: 0%
- Food insecurity: 5%
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Outcome evaluation of trafficking prevention is starting to build.
- This quasi-experimental study found support for some outcomes for the NAN program: trafficking knowledge, help-seeking intention & awareness of resources.
- No findings for internet safety, relationship health knowledge, boundary setting.
- Promising finding for a quasi-experimental study and opportunities to improve rigor and measurement quality.
What are the goals of primary prevention?

- CSEC Prevention
- Knowledge
- Self-efficacy
- Help-seeking skills
- Boundary setting skills

Issues:
- Income inequality
- Family violence
- Structural racism
- Sexism & Sexual violence
IMPLICATIONS

- We need to think through the logic model for prevention. What are risk factors? What can prevention education accomplish? What is in place now? What is missing? What else is needed?
- Evaluation needs to accompany program development and growth
- Innovative approaches to other risk factors needed
Thanks!

Thank you to Love 146 team members Erin Williamson, Aria Flood, Sarah Mouser, Tenisha Brown, & Daniella Pèrez who assisted us in coordinating the research; and to the HISD high school staff and the study participants for their time and their willingness to share their experiences with us.

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