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Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program, year two (2000-2001) evaluation summary

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Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program Year Two (2000-2001) Evaluation Summary

Goals

MVP's major objective for year two of the evaluation is to assess Program outcomes including:

- change in levels of student knowledge and awareness
- change in student attitudes concerning gender violence and ability to be an active bystander
- student satisfaction with the MVP Program.

Corroborate findings from year one.

Methodology

The MVP evaluation was conducted by an independent consultant. She utilized a quasi experimental, pre-test and post-test design that was proven to be valid and reliable.. Additionally, the mixed method approach incorporated qualitative and quantitative data to corroborate the findings.

Sample

Treatment Group -211 students in 10 schools

Comparison Group- ** students in 3 schools

Findings

Knowledge and Awareness

- Study found important differences between treatment and comparison groups on the five knowledge variables
- Overall, participation in the MVP Program seems to have heightened the level of knowledge and awareness that students have regarding gender violence

Attitudes Regarding Gender Violence

- MVP has a desirable impact on student attitudes regarding gender violence.
- MVP participants show improvements in their attitudes while attitudes among control group students stayed roughly the same.

Attitudes Regarding Self-Efficacy and Prevention

- MVP improved confidence in their ability to be active bystanders

- Female participants had a particularly strong reaction to the Program in terms of self-efficacy or confidence

Students Perceptions of Attitudes Among Their Peers

- participants exhibited a better understanding of attitudes concerning gender violence held by their peer groups

Student Satisfaction

- Student expressed high levels of satisfaction with the MVP Program specifically students reported that they:
 - would recommend the program to a friend
 - spoke to someone about MVP
 - especially enjoyed class materials and exercises (**specifics**)
 - enjoyed hearing peer's attitudes and perspectives
 - gained personal knowledge
 - experienced an increase in skills and confidence
 - appreciated the group atmosphere, the fact that it was interactive, co-ed and confidential
 - felt safe and comfortable
 - appreciated how trainers treated students

Focus Groups

Focus groups conducted during year two of the evaluation provided powerful data to support the fact that MVP's bystander approach to prevention is effective for young women. Additionally, it is the bystander approach that provides women with the feelings of safety and empowerment that young women feel after training.