
Journal Review

13 May 02

An Evaluation of an Acquaintance Rape
Prevention Program.

Gidycz, C et al. Journal of Interpersonal
Violence. Vol. 16(11). Nov 2001.

Some Statistics

- ◆ 1 in 12 college men acknowledged committing an act meeting the legal definition of rape/attempted rape
- ◆ 18%-21% of women reported being sexually assaulted during one academic quarter
 - 7% of them were victims of rape/attempted rape.

Evaluation Programs

- ◆ Mix-sexed
 - ◆ Attitude change as dependent variable
- Yielding...
- ◆ Mixed and temporary results

Various Scales

- ◆ Rape Myth Acceptance Scale
 - Attitude changes directly following
 - Rebound demonstrated at 2 month follow-up
- ◆ Acceptance of Interpersonal Violence Scale
 - Significant posttest change in women
 - No change in men
- ◆ Attitudes Toward Women Scale
 - Desirable posttest scores for both men and women

Problems with Rape Education

- ◆ Non-systematic approach to studying the same population over time.
- ◆ Failure to document whether programs are having an effect on rates of aggression and victimization
 - Untested assumptions that positive change in score will yield reduced assault

Goals of This Study

- ◆ In a previous study
 - 152 college students given pre/posttests
 - ◆ Less accepting of myths
 - ◆ More empathetic
 - ◆ More liberal attitudes toward women
- ◆ Expand the previous study
 - Will men be less likely to be sexually aggressive in a 9 week period?
 - Will women experience less sexual assault in a 9 week period?

Methods

- ◆ N=1,136 (27% men, 73% women)
- ◆ Objectives of the prevention program
 - Basic statistics
 - Popular myths and facts about rape and rapists
 - Identify behavior consistent with rapists
 - Techniques to increase personal safety
 - Identify community agencies for support
- ◆ Special emphasis on “no means no”

Analysis of Sexual Victimization in 9 weeks

- ◆ 31% of the control and 42% of the experimental group were sexually victimized within the first quarter
- ◆ Other categories found more similar numbers across categories.

Analysis of Sexual Perpetration in 9 weeks

- ◆ Because there was not a significant interaction between group membership and perpetration during the first quarter, program participation was not related to perpetration during the first quarter for men.

Conclusions from the Study

- ◆ Participants learned a lot, but the information did not apply to them.
- ◆ Participants did not perceive themselves as vulnerable to either victimization or perpetration.

A Call for Future Research

- ◆ If programs are not affecting behavior, modifications must be made.
- ◆ Moving beyond documenting attitude change and toward documenting a program's positive impact on behavior.