

EVALUATION ABSTRACT: THE EVALUATION OF GUY TALK IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Grantee

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Intervention Name

Guy Talk

Intervention Description

Guy Talk is a technology-supported universal primary prevention program designed to help adolescent boys build the necessary skills to make good life choices and resist risky behaviors, including risky sexual behavior. The Guy Talk program is designed as a 10-hour curriculum addressing developmental tasks considered critical for adolescent boys, including sexual attitudes and behaviors. Topics include: (1) understanding gender-role expectations; (2) managing emotions and feelings; (3) building positive peer groups, friendships, and leadership skills; (4) relationship management; (5) establishing independence through responsible decision making; (6) understanding healthy sexuality; (7) obtaining help and accessing resources; and (8) developing life skills for the future. Technology is a key component of the program and includes an interactive workbook delivered via a website and an app, "Condom Finder," which helps them find free condoms. Guy Talk is delivered before school, during school, after school, or on Saturdays, typically for two hours per week for five weeks in schools or for two Saturdays for five hours each day at the community site. It is designed to be delivered by a trained adult male group leader to between 6 to 15 boys in school or community-based settings. Guy Talk was originally developed by Dr. Craig LeCroy as an adaptation of the empirically supported female-specific program, Go Grrrls.

Comparison Condition

Business as usual

Comparison Condition Description

Participants assigned to the comparison condition will not receive any portion of the intervention or an alternative program from the project during data collection activities. It is expected that they will not receive any other sexual health programming or other programming that would influence the outcomes of interest during the evaluation; however, to take such programming into account should it occur, they will be asked to provide information in surveys about sex education programming they might have received in the applicable timeframe. They will become eligible to receive the intervention curriculum and its features after data collection activities are complete.

Behavioral Outcomes

None

Non-behavioral Outcomes

Pro-social gender norms, appraisal of sexual consent behaviors, condom use efficacy, self-assertive efficacy, social self-efficacy, communication with partner around birth control in past three months

Sample and Setting

This evaluation will take place in the Southern Arizona region. Evaluation staff will recruit 14-17 year old males to participate in the evaluation through school-wide outreach. The project will recruit for each planned program delivery at the delivery site and at other nearby community sites with tabling, posters, targeted social media advertising, word of mouth, and so on. To be eligible for the study, participants must be 14 to 17 years old, have parental consent, have assented, and be willing to participate in the intervention in the current semester if selected. The study expects to enroll a total of 382 youth (191 intervention and 191 comparison) over 3 cohorts. The study defines cohorts by the timing of the baseline data collection session. Cohort 1 baseline data collection period is fall 2016, the baseline data collection period for Cohort 2 is spring 2017, and so on. The study will include male students who participate in the intervention either at their high school or in a community setting.

Research Design and Data Collection

The research design is an individual randomized controlled trial. Evaluation staff randomly assign youth to the Guy Talk intervention group or the waitlist comparison group. Study participants in both the intervention and comparison groups will receive a baseline survey, an immediate post-test survey, and a 3-month post-program survey.

Study candidates who attend the kickoff session at each delivery site and provide parental consent, youth assent, and contact information will complete the baseline survey (paper or online) before random allocation to the intervention or comparison group. Evaluation staff will collect the baseline survey and conduct the random selection process. After selection, the comparison group will leave the session and the intervention delivery will begin curriculum programming immediately. Those selected to the comparison group will be waitlisted for 3 months for program delivery.

Intervention group participants will complete the immediate post-test survey on the last day of intervention delivery. Evaluation staff will track intervention group participants who do not attend the last day and comparison group participants to complete the immediate post-test survey online within eight weeks of the last day of program delivery. Evaluators will collect the 3-month post-program survey from both the intervention and comparison groups online. To engage youth in survey collection at immediate post-test and 3-month post-program, the evaluation team will contact youth via phone, email, or text message.

For the implementation evaluation, the evaluators will collect data on fidelity, attendance, and quality. The facilitator will collect an attendance sheet at each session, and after each session will complete a fidelity monitoring log. The evaluation team will randomly select 10 percent of all sessions to conduct a quality and fidelity observation. The text messaging service will record the number of text messages sent and received. A Guy Talk website program feature will record website usage.

Schedule/Timeline

Sample enrollment and baseline data collection began in October 2016 and will end February 2018. The immediate post-program follow-up data collection began in November 2016 and will end in March 2018. The 3-month post-program follow-up data collection began in September 2017 and will end May 2018.