

BACKGROUND

Parenting: It's a Life (PIAL) is a curriculum for 7-12th grade students that introduces them to intrapersonal and interpersonal skill building, including the realities and challenges of romantic and non-romantic relationships. PIAL created a teen dating violence (TDV) awareness program called Advocating for My Relationships (ADMYRE) to meet the needs of youth through contemporary scenarios that involve TDV and modern challenges in relationships. This report summarizes student responses to the ADMYRE program.

Data were collected from youth in schools and outreach organizations (e.g., 4-H) in Iowa that voluntarily requested PIAL to facilitate the ADMYRE program from February 2022 to June 2022. Pre-program surveys were electronically administered to youth seven to 10 days before program facilitation, while post-program surveys were electronically administered immediately after the program ended. The pre-program and post-program surveys included 16 quantitative and two qualitative questions that measured attitudes toward romantic relationship characteristics, content knowledge, and beliefs about TDV and relationship experiences. 208 and 186 youth completed the pre-program survey and post-program survey, respectively, while 151 youth completed both pre- and post-program surveys.

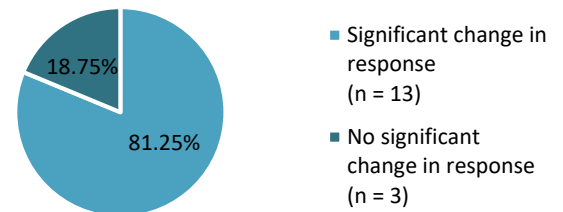
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How do participants respond to the ADMYRE program? How useful is ADMYRE for participants? How do participants plan to apply knowledge gained from the program to their lives?

RESULTS

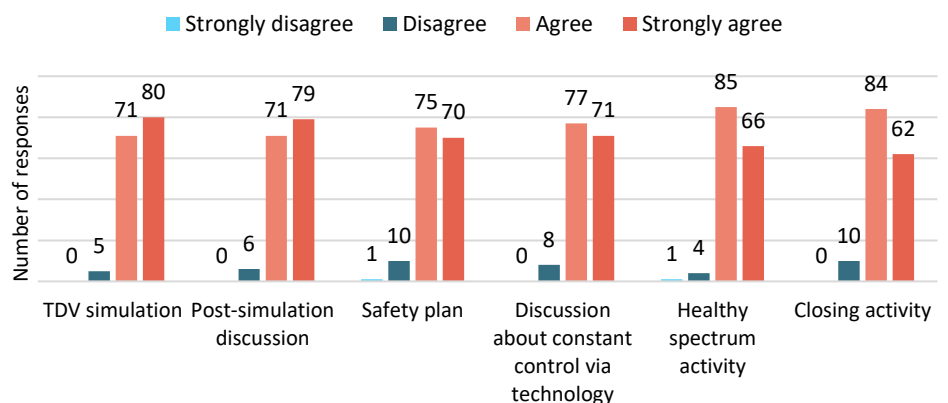
After participating in the ADMYRE program, respondents demonstrated a significant change in responses to 81.25% of all 16 quantitative items, whether asked to describe relationship characteristics, knowledge gained, or how agreeable aspects of the program were. This implies that the program changed how participants would respond to most of the survey items. The results, which focus on the quantitative items of the ADMYRE surveys, are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Survey Items That Demonstrated a Significant Change in Response

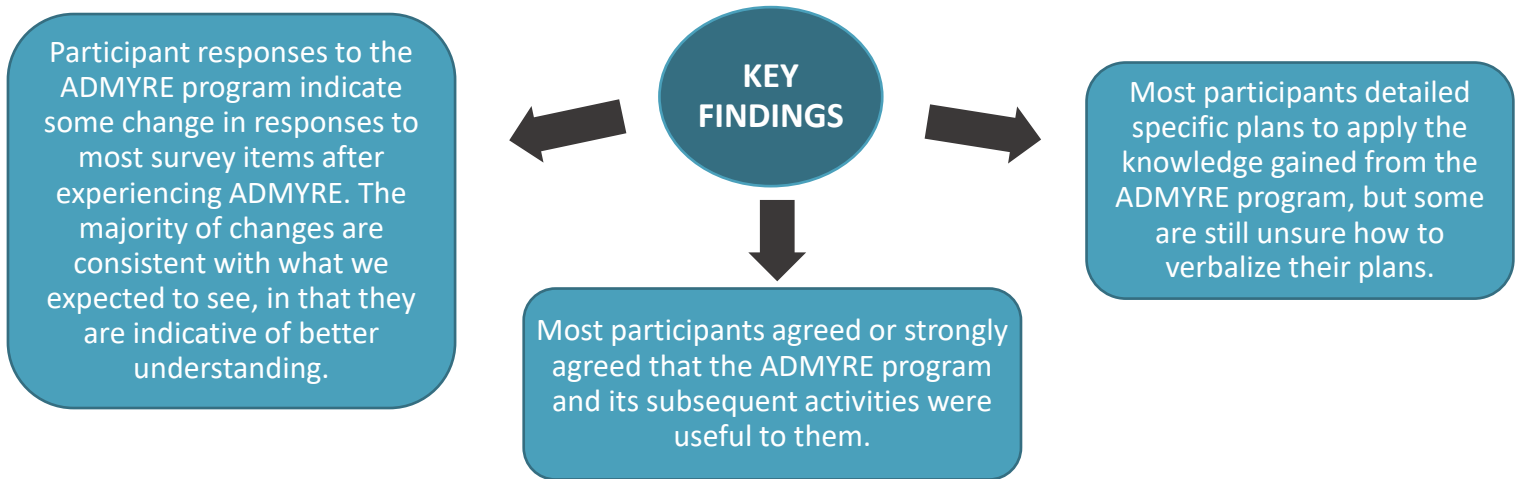
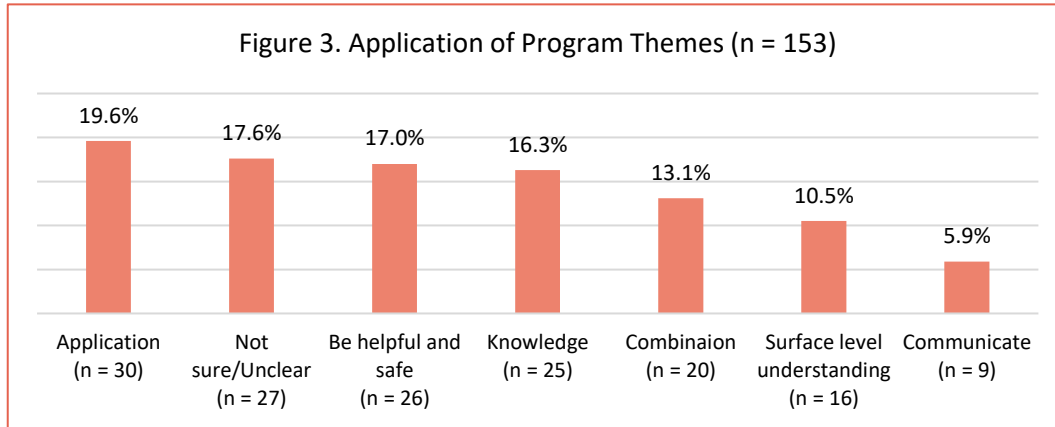


When responding to the six quantitative items asking about the usefulness of the ADMYRE program and certain aspects, participants overwhelmingly reported agreement or strong agreement that the program and its components were useful to them. These results indicate that participants found the activities they experienced during the teen dating violence awareness program to be beneficial for their comprehension of teen dating violence, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Usefulness of ADMYRE Activities (n = 156)



Seven themes emerged from the responses to the qualitative item asking participants to identify their plan to apply the knowledge they gained from participating in ADMYRE to their lives. These themes indicate that although a small number of participants were unsure how to respond to this question, most participants detailed their plan to apply the content of the program, either through helping themselves and/or others be safe, communicate more, or have more knowledge and awareness of steps to take, as shown in Figure 3.



LIMITATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

- Some youth did not complete both surveys.
- The report is based on cross-sectional pilot data.
- Analyses conducted show general trends only.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- Allow more time for post-program survey completion. This may help enhance qualitative responses from participants, especially if they have more time to consider what they learned or increase the number of completed surveys to be included in analyses.
- Continue to implement the program state-wide to collect longitudinal data and increase the generalizability of findings.
- Continue to adjust surveys as necessary to allow accurate reporting of what participants learned and took away from participating in ADMYRE.



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