

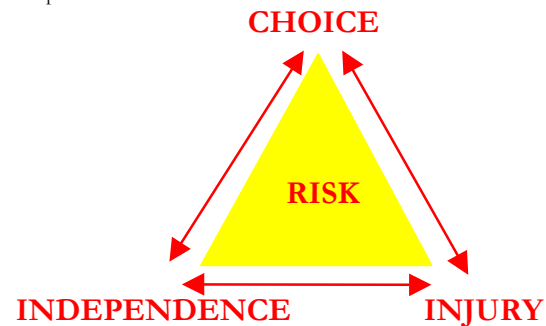
OUTCOMES OF AN INJURY AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

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INTRODUCTION

The P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth) Program was developed in 1986 for the community served by the Regional Trauma Centre at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Canada. The program consists of a one-day, in-hospital, injury awareness and prevention program for 30-35 students, age 16 years and over. The purpose of P.A.R.T.Y. is to provide useful, relevant information to young people about injury (trauma) that will enable participants to recognize potential injury producing situations, make informed prevention oriented choices and adopt behaviours and actions that minimize risk.



The critical, dynamic relationship between choice, independence and injury is explored. Led by a multidisciplinary team of health care professionals the program introduces the students to patients with severe injuries and highlights mechanisms of injury prevention. The program begins at Sunnybrook & Women's and continues at a spinal cord rehabilitation hospital.

AIM

The purpose of this study was to determine if participation in the P.A.R.T.Y. Program reduced the incidence of driving related offences and injuries.

METHODS

The study group consisted of consenting students aged 16 years and older who attended the P.A.R.T.Y. Program from January 1993 to December 1997. The control group was made up of students matched from the same age group and geographic area who had not attended the P.A.R.T.Y. Program. Ontario Ministry of Health and Ontario Ministry of Transportation data were used to determine injuries and traffic offences in students three to seven years after P.A.R.T.Y. Program participation.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates beneficial effects of a program designed to modify risk-related behaviours and decrease traumatic injury in young people. Further study is required to determine if the benefits of P.A.R.T.Y. remain long-term.

RESULTS:

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF HEALTH DATA

Control Group = 125,207		Study Group = 3,295	
# of admissions =	2721 (2.2%)	# of admissions =	31 (0.9%)
# of deaths =	18	# of deaths =	0

KEY MECHANISMS OF INJURY

Study Group	
Suicide Attempts	10
Other	8
MV Traffic	7
Falls	4

Control Group						
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	TOTAL
Suicide Attempts	160	177	195	178	181	891
Other	126	118	93	82	109	528
Assault	71	79	83	87	75	395
MV Traffic	100	70	86	75	60	391

RESULTS:

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION DATA

Study Group		Control Group	
# of offences =	1360 (1.6%)	# of offences =	2106 (1.9%)
Alcohol =	7 (0.3%)	Alcohol =	63 (1.5%)
85% of offences = speeding 10-20 over limit		65% of offences = speeding 10-20 over limit	

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

It was all the emotions you could ever feel rolled up into one.
A life saving experience that everyone needs.
What I consider to be a "bad day" is actually not so bad at all.
It made me realize how one little mistake can affect you for the rest of your life.
I never thought that could happen to a human body.
It was a very influential experience mainly because we were talking face to face with people that were once just like us.
Real, not like stuff on T.V.
This was the greatest experience for me because no other lecture or activity has ever hit me as hard as this program did.
The realization that you are not invincible.

A P.A.R.T.Y. DAY IN PICTURES

