



Bystander Intervention Training: Does It Really Work?

Landry Otis, Dr. Dolan, Dr. Roncalli
Carroll College, Gender Studies Program



Sexual Assault in the U.S.

- “College aged women are more vulnerable to victimization (Azimi et al., 2021; Davidov et al., 2019)
 - 18-24 demographic (20.5% will experience a sexual assault)
- “Nonconsensual sexual contact or penetration obtained by force, incapacitation, or psychological or verbal coercion” (Davidov et al., 2019)
- Majority of these incidents involve alcohol and/or drugs (Azimi et al., 2021)
- Attacked largely by males they know
 - (Ex)-partners, rather than by strangers (Azimi et al., 2021; Davidov et al., 2019)

Bystander Intervention

- Davidov and colleagues (2019)
 - Social marketing campaigns, psycho-educational programs, and skill-building interventions
 - Goal: empowering student response
- Zinzow and colleagues (2018)
 - Maintained bystander gains from baseline to their four-month follow-up on most measures
 - Ex: “definition of consent”
- Azimi and colleagues (2021)
 - Victims of sexual violence = less intervention
- McMahon and colleagues (2020)
 - Little is known regarding minority students
 - Ex: “students of color” & “LGBTQ-spectrum students”

References

- Azimi, A. M., Fleming, J. C., & Hayes, B. E. (2021). Victimization prevention and awareness on college campuses: Interconnection between Title IX and #MeToo. *Journal of Criminal Justice, 46*(1), 33-50. [DOI:10.1007/s12103-020-09586-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-020-09586-6)
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- McMahon, S., Burnham, J., & Banyard, V. L. (2020). Bystander intervention as a prevention strategy for campus sexual violence: Perceptions of historically minoritized college students. *Prevention Science, 21*(6), 795-806. [DOI:10.1007/s11121-020-01134-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-020-01134-2)
- Zinzow, H. M.; Thompson, M. P., Goree, J., Fulmer, C. B., Greene, C., & Watts, H. A. (2018). Evaluation of a college sexual violence prevention program focused on education, bystander intervention, and alcohol risk reduction. *College Student Affairs Journal, 36*(2), 110-125. <https://www.proquest.com/central/docview/2154504944/fulltextPDF/131F961DD45447BAPQ/9?accountid=135130>

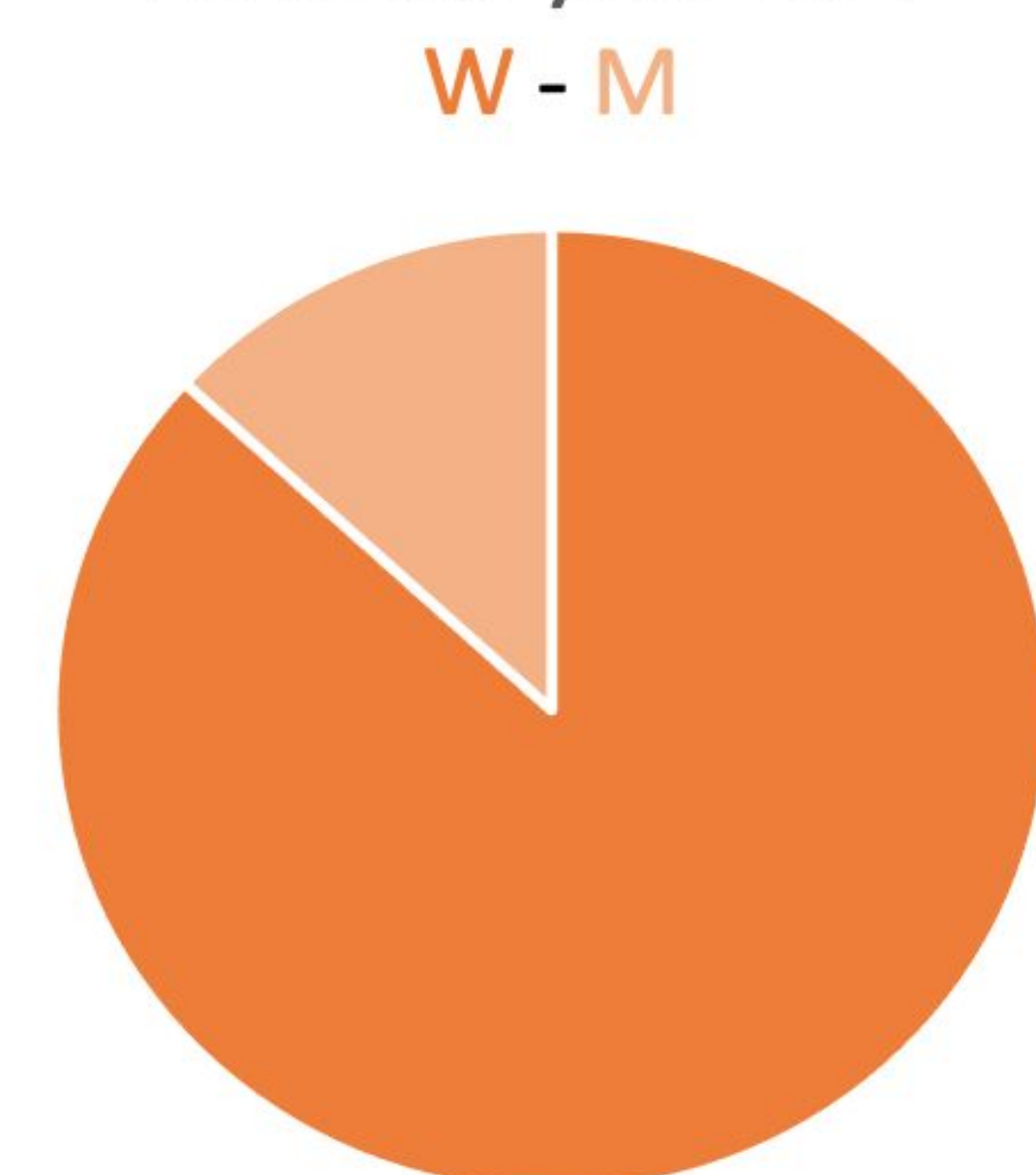
What can be done?

- Even with societal issues, such as victim-blaming, bystander intervention training can provide the necessary tools for individuals to intervene in detected unsafe situations. However, more changes need to be implemented in order for the program to be more effective, such as distributing it to all college personnel and incorporating education on intersectionality and greater victim advocacy.

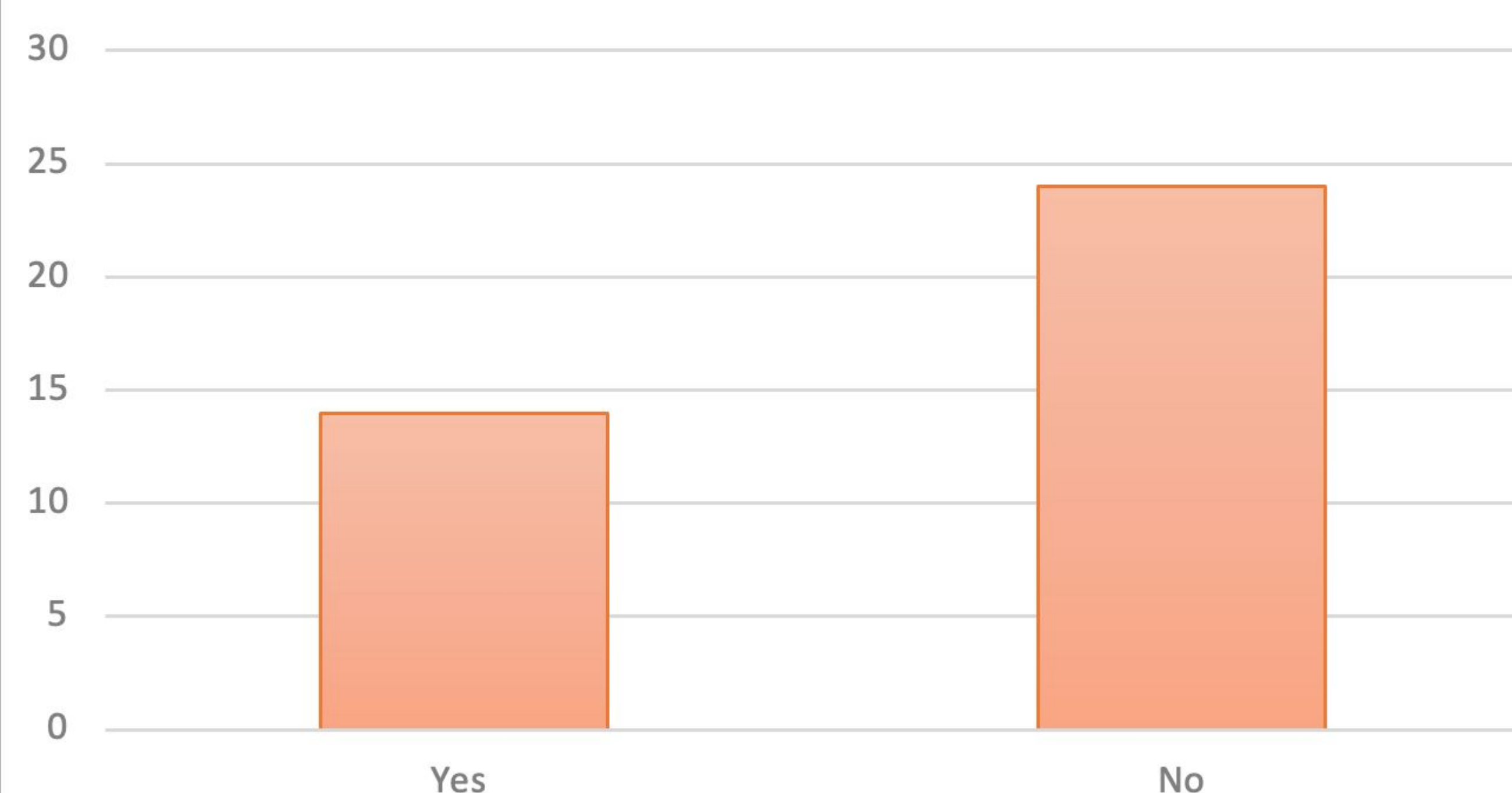
Efficacy & Improvements

- **Significant evidence that implementing training emboldened students to advocate for survivors, and enabled victim-blaming to be reduced**
- Requirement for faculty, staff, and administration
- Intersectional identities education
 - Crenshaw and “critique of antidiscrimination law”
- Ensuring victim support & advocacy
 - Friedman and “institution building”

Sexual Assaults at Carroll College
38 in the year 2021



Was there a bystander present?



Did the bystander intervene?

