RSVP: The Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Program

KBEP is an evidence-based relationship violence prevention organization that was founded in 2001. The RSVP Program targets college students with information on healthy relationships, dating violence, and sexual assault.

Bystander Intervention Is Not Enough

"While some colleges and universities are heavily invested in bystander intervention, it’s important to remember the limitations of this approach. Many times sexual and gender-based violence occurs when there aren’t any bystanders around. And when there were other people present, the perpetrator doesn’t exhibit any behavior that would be a recognizable precursor to perpetration. In addition, many bystander intervention programs rely upon and reinforce a type of masculinity that can make for problematic interventions. With that said, bystander intervention can still be a useful anti-violence strategy in conjunction with prevention."¹

The CDC emphasizes primary prevention as an effective and essential way to reduce sexual violence.

Why RSVP?

Changing Attitudes and Behaviors

RSVP is a promising and supported program that, in compliance with the best practices and recommendations of NotAlone.gov, uses an ecological approach to change the attitudes and behaviors of participants in order to replace a culture of violence, assault, and victim blaming with a culture of respect and nonviolence.

Healthy Skill-Building

Knowing about safer and healthier relationships is not enough to have those ideas become habits. RSVP provides participants with the practical skills that are needed to develop and navigate healthier relationships - a practice that is often overlooked in the dialogue on violence prevention and behavior change.

¹ http://www.ugcac.colostate.edu/bystander-intervention

The RSVP Program is unique in its integration of various behavioral change models - including Social Norms Theory, The Transtheoretical Model, and Social Cognitive Theory - with informational workshops, skill-building lessons, and interactive activities.

"No one really talks about healthy relationships here - how to be in one or how to get yourself out of an unhealthy one. I think having a more skill-based approach to these types of topics where someone learns a skill and then applying it to their relationship would be more helpful." - Participant quote

"I was more comfortable talking about sexual assault because I’m comfortable and know about it, but I don’t know a lot on dating relationships." - Participant quote