

BACKGROUND

The P.A.R.T.Y. program (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth) is a licensed one-day in-hospital injury awareness and prevention program for Grade 10 students. The purpose of the P.A.R.T.Y. program 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 choices and adopt behaviours and actions that minimize risk.ⁱ

The P.A.R.T.Y. program was created to educate teens about the perils of risk-taking behaviour and the tragic consequences that may occur. This program is a vital component in the growing community effort to reduce death and injury related to alcohol and risk-taking behaviours. This program seeks to change attitudes and behaviours about risk-taking.

The purpose of this evaluation is to see if there is a change in the participants' attitudes and behaviours around risk-taking and injury prevention after participating in the P.A.R.T.Y. Program.ⁱⁱ

The P.A.R.T.Y. program is provided at the Timmins and District Hospital in collaboration with many community partners. Among them are Timmins & District Hospital, Porcupine Health Unit, City of Timmins Police Services, Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving (OSAID) group, Rehabilitation Unit, Emergency Room personnel, Emergency Room Physicians, Intensive Care Unit personnel, a Trauma Survivor, Emergency Medical Service, Seizure and Brain Injury Centre of Timmins, school administrators and teachers. Each partner plays an integral role in the program. Annual funding for the program is provided by Ontario Power Generation.

RESULTS

The survey results suggest that the P.A.R.T.Y. program is beneficial in improving participants' knowledge, attitudes, and anticipated behaviour in the short-term. There was a statistically significant change reported in the majority of post-P.A.R.T.Y. responses. However, this data alone is unable to determine whether there are long-lasting effects associated with the P.A.R.T.Y. program.ⁱⁱⁱ

Using the same evaluation questions in our Safe Grad event will allow us to compare risk-taking attitudes and behaviours between P.A.R.T.Y. program participants and a control group 2 years after participation in the P.A.R.T.Y. program. However, the first direct comparison will not be able to occur until this current group of P.A.R.T.Y. participants attend Safe Grad (2013 for most).

METHODS

Student participants were given a questionnaire one week prior to participating in the program. The same questionnaire was given to the participants approximately one week after participation in the program. The questionnaires were completed between October 2010 and May 2011. The questionnaires were adapted, with permission, from the Calgary P.A.R.T.Y. Program.

Six schools participated in 7 programs (Timmins High and Vocational Secondary School had 2 dates due to population size). A total of 173 students participated in the event. We received 177 Pre-P.A.R.T.Y. and 143 Post-P.A.R.T.Y. completed evaluations (82% post-P.A.R.T.Y. evaluation return rate from participants).

To ensure confidentiality, no names were placed on the questionnaires, only students' first 2 initials of first and last name and month of birth. These were then matched pre-survey and post-survey to ensure the same students' responses could be compared. In order to compare the pre-test and post-test scores for statistical analysis (descriptive statistics, and frequency distribution) we used SPSS version 19.0 (SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL, USA). As we had panel dataset, in order to determine the changes between studies, we utilized xt linear regression model analysis using STATA 9.0 (STATA Corp, Texas, USA).

Data are calculated by taking the ideal, or non-risk taking, answer to each question. For example, the ideal response to C (1) "Of all the times I rode in an automobile, I wore my seat belt," would be *all of the time*. However, some ideal answers were *none of the time*, such as "Of all the times I took a ride with someone, the driver had been drinking..."

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Short-term objectives

1. To reduce the number of cancellations by schools
2. To increase the number of participants per event
3. 75% survey return rate

Summary of Results

- There was 0 cancellations of P.A.R.T.Y. programs in the 2010/2011 school year, compared to the 2 cancellations in the previous years.
- There was an increase in participants per event in the 2010/2011 school year (avg. 25) compared to the previous year (avg. 21).

- There was an 82% survey return rate, which is higher than the goal return rate of 75%. Last year, the survey return rate (old process evaluation) was only 62%.

Results

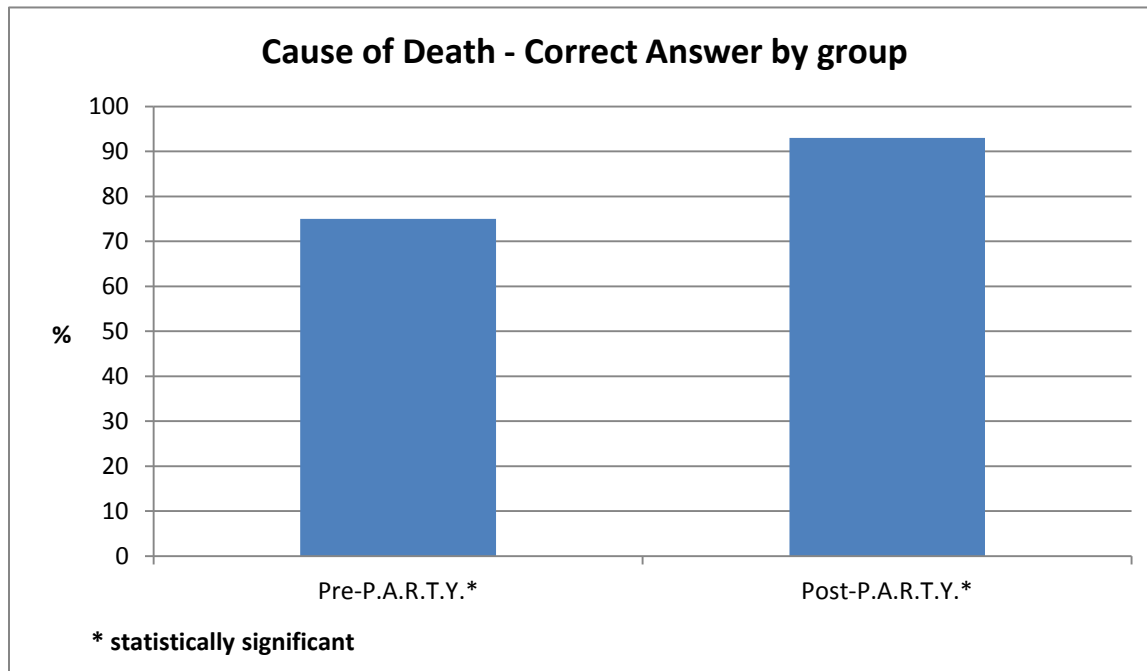
- Average age = 16.69
- 173 students participated in the event

Year	# Events	# Participants	Comments
2010/2011	7 (6 schools)	173 Students (avg. 25 students / program)	11 Teachers 6 observers (2 communities) 177 pre-surveys 142 post-surveys (82% return rate)
2009/2010	5	103 students (avg. 21 students / program)	Note: H1N1 was a factor in the decrease of number of events and students. 64 Evaluations (62% return rate)
2008/2009	7	174 students (avg. 25 students / program)	

KNOWLEDGE QUESTION

Summary of results – More participants correctly identified the leading cause of death after participating in the P.A.R.T.Y. program.

Q. What is the leading cause of death of Canadian Teenagers, aged 13-19?



ATTITUDINAL QUESTIONS

Short-term objectives

1. To increase participants' ranking of risky behaviours.

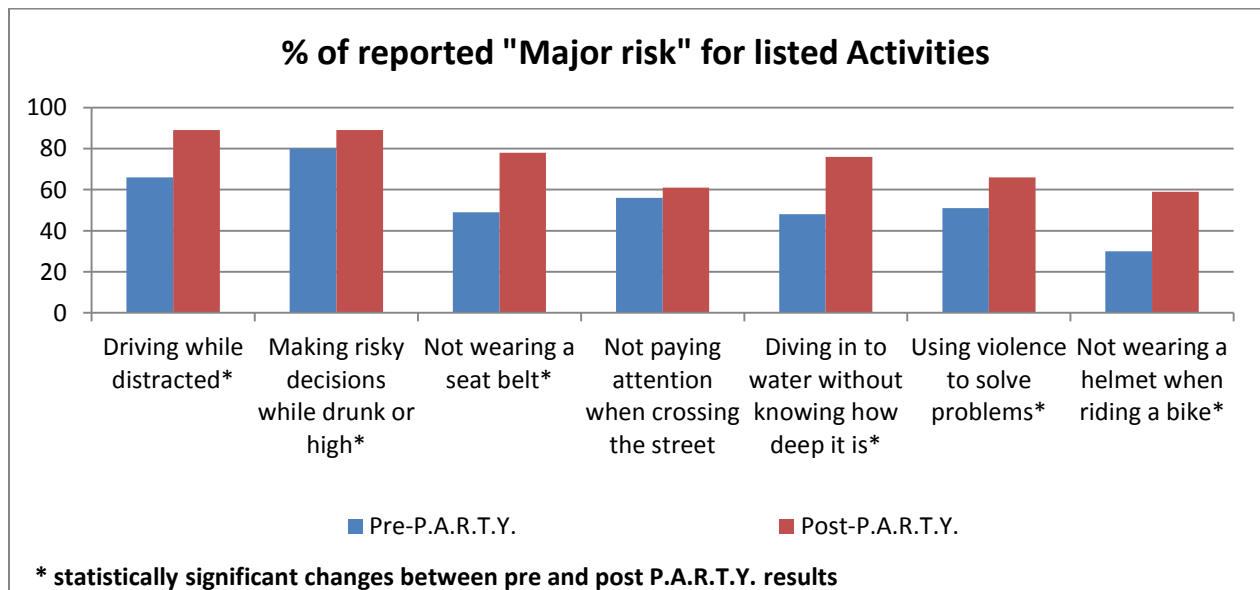
Summary of Results

After attending the P.A.R.T.Y. program:

- There was an increase in participants' perception of the relative riskiness of situations in six of the seven designated situations (distracted driving, risky decisions while impaired, no seatbelt use, diving into shallow waters, using violence to solve problems, no helmet when riding a bike).
- There was an increase in participants who agreed that: they are at risk of being injured; injuries can be prevented; the impact of injuries can be serious; and their being injured affects others.

RESULTS

Q. Here are some choices that put people at risk for being injured or killed. Please tell us how much of a risk you think each one is for teens:



- Think before you act.

Comments:

- Positive comments about Mark Russell's (injury survivor) presence and content.
- Very informative.
- It's a great program.
- Every student should participate.
- Cool experience.

Areas for improvement:

- The beginning of the day was too long.
- There could be more of a focus on not partying.
- Too much talking/repeating.
- The make-up could have been better.

ⁱ Kershaw T., Marko J & Gerwing, J. (2010). P.A.R.T.Y. Program Evaluation 2006-2008. Saskatoon: Saskatoon Health Region.

ⁱⁱ Kershaw T., Marko J & Gerwing, J. (2010). P.A.R.T.Y. Program Evaluation 2006-2008. Saskatoon: Saskatoon Health Region.

ⁱⁱⁱ Kershaw T., Marko J & Gerwing, J. (2010). P.A.R.T.Y. Program Evaluation 2006-2008. Saskatoon: Saskatoon Health Region.