

INTRODUCTION

- The E-Responder **Youth Leadership Program (YLP)** was developed in response to reports from the community that online provocations were escalating in to in-person gun violence among youth at risk for gang involvement in New York City
- The YLP is a strengths-based, sociopolitically-informed, 24-lesson curriculum that addresses **emotional expression, power and oppression, critical consumption of content, and activism** (Linehan, 1993; Nelson-Gray et al., 2006; Watts, Williams & Jagers, 2003)
- Preliminary results from a pilot implementation support the YLP’s effectiveness in **preventing violence and increasing youths’ pro-social behavior** (Sichel, Javdani, Ueberall & Liggett, in press)
- However, little is known about the relation between **critical consciousness and long-term wellbeing**, or **implications of sociopolitical interventions** for the ways in which youth perceive society and social interactions, or their long-term wellbeing

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Critical Consciousness	Ability to critically analyze social and political conditions and act to address inequality
Perceived Discrimination	Perceived frequency of unfair treatment in a variety of settings
Self-Efficacy	Belief in one’s ability to cope with adversity, solve problems, accomplish goals

PILOT IMPLEMENTATION

- The YLP was implemented by Violence Prevention Professionals (VPPs) via a **quasi-experimental, naturalistic, pilot** in four sites in New York City (1 school, 3 community organizations). A fifth site served as a control

METHODS & MATERIALS

E-RESPONDER YLP

- Implementation of the 12-week YLP curriculum took place during six months in 2016; data were collected at three time points: immediately before, immediately after, and six-months post-intervention

DESIGN

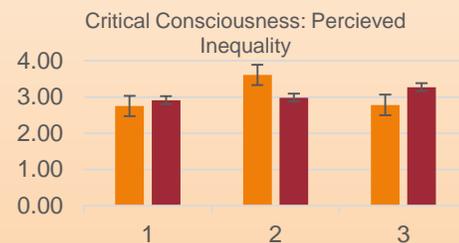
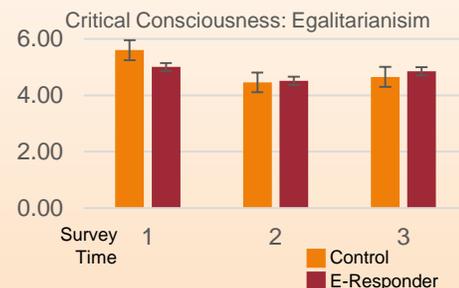
- Secondary analysis of de-identified quantitative survey data and focus groups transcripts from 12 groups (6 with staff, 6 with youth)
- Participants: 81 NYC Youth (YLP, n=70; Control, n=11), and group facilitators

MEASURES

Critical Consciousness Scale: sub-scales address perceived inequality and endorsement of egalitarian ideals; 13 items, six-point Likert, “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree” (Diemer, Rapa, Park, & Perry, 2017)

Perceived Discrimination: addresses frequency of perceived discrimination (general) across five settings: school, playground, while shopping, on the street, and in a public setting; five-point Likert, “never” to “almost daily”

General Self-Efficacy Scale: statements address one’s perceived ability to cope and solve problems; 10-items, four-point Likert, “not at all true” to “exactly true” (Schwarzer & Jerusalem, 1995)



“Every class it felt like we had a new break through with one of the kids. There was no space to talk about these things [before], and the YLP provided the space and examples they needed to get it started.”
 – YLP Facilitator

ANALYSIS & RESULTS

- As indicated in Table 1, **self-efficacy** is significantly **positively correlated with the endorsement of egalitarian ideals**, and **negatively correlated with perceived discrimination** in baseline measurements
- Descriptive analyses suggest a trend such that **youth in the E-Responder condition increased in measures relevant to critical consciousness** over time, unlike those in the control. This was supported by feedback from youth and facilitators
- E-Responder appeared to be **protective for youths’ self-efficacy** over time

“There was a lot of ‘oh snap’ moments. It forced us to think a lot deeper about what is going on around us and what were in the [YLP videos]...I knew a lot of this stuff, but learned the vocabulary that made it easier to talk about and express our opinions.”
 – YLP Participant

Table 1. Baseline Bivariate Correlations

	1	2	3	4
1. Critical Consciousness	-			
2. CC: Perceived Inequality	0.877**	-		
3. CC: Egalitarianism	0.423**	-0.062	-	
4. Perceived Discrimination	0.160	0.175	0.002	-
5. Self-Efficacy	0.193	0.025	0.370**	-0.308*

Note: N = 62-67. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.001.

DISCUSSION

- Exploratory analyses support E-Responder as an intervention that increases critical consciousness, and protects against long-term depreciations of self-esteem
- The negative correlation between perceived discrimination and self-efficacy may reflect the harmful consequences of experiencing stigma
- The positive association between egalitarianism and self-efficacy may be related to the activating force of egalitarian views
- Limitations of the current study include size/power; future implementations should make use of larger control groups so as to allow for better comparisons

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