

Comal TAB: Translating Research to a Community Family Violence Outreach Initiative

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Introduction

In 2009 the Comal Translational Advisory Board (TAB) was established as a project of the Institute of Integration and Medicine (IIMS) through the CTSA-Community Engagement Core Function, the South Central AHEC and the UT School of Public Health San Antonio Regional Campus.

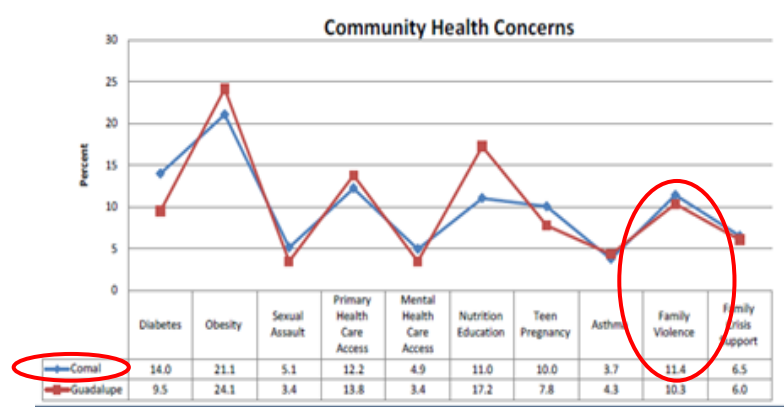
Since our inception, we have modeled our activities through the Public Health Conceptual Model to inform our health priority assessment activities and to select community based research topics in Comal County. We meet monthly, every 3rd Thursday of the month.



Significance

Violence is a significant problem in the United States (U.S.) that affects people in all stages of life. All forms of violence-child abuse and neglect, youth violence, intimate partner violence sexual violence, elder abuse and suicidal behavior-are interconnected and often share the same root causes.

After the community expressed concerns of family violence in Comal County in a 2012 Community Health Concerns Assessment, the Comal TAB started the violence project in December 2014 with the purpose of better understanding the community's awareness of domestic violence as well as their familiarity with local resources for preventing and addressing domestic violence.

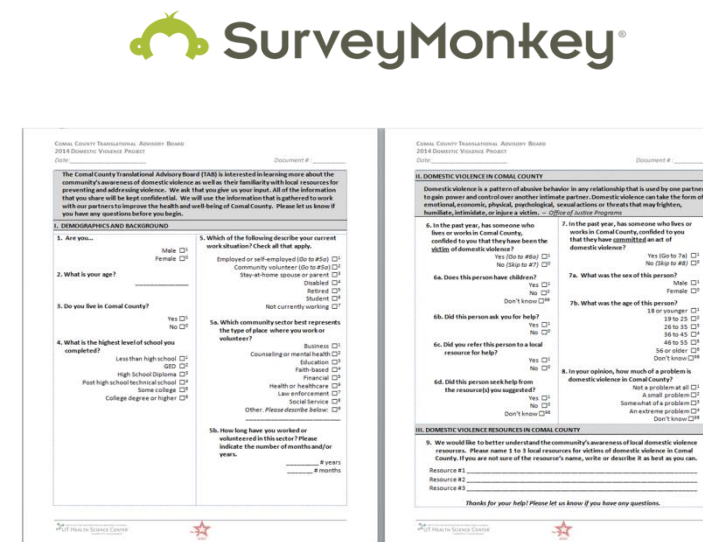


After measuring the level of awareness, The Comal TAB is now seeking to establish and implement a community approach to violence and increase the capacity of the individual residents to recognize and respond appropriately and safely to opportunities for violence prevention.

Methods

We sought to assess the awareness of the community at large about domestic violence using a convenience sample collected through Survey Monkey –an online survey collection site. In addition to awareness we looked at the community's knowledge about the resources available to address domestic violence.

The online survey was comprised of three sections with a total of 9 questions, and assesses the survey-takers demographics, awareness about domestic violence and the resources available within the county. The survey was conducted in only English, took each participants 5-10 minutes to complete, answering two primary domestic violence questions leading to sub-questions.

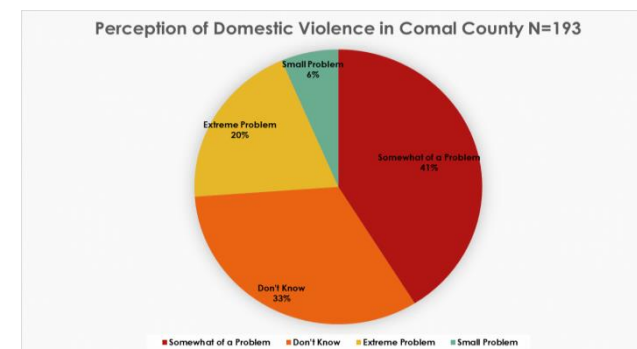


Findings

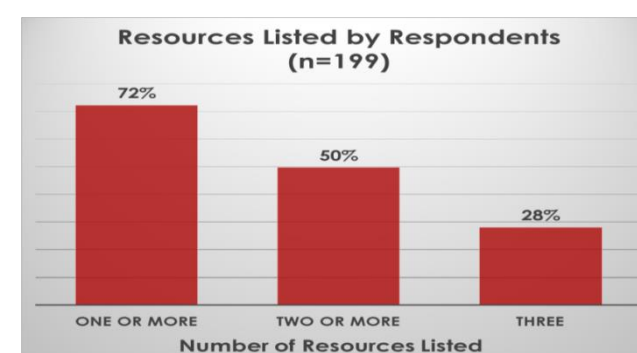
There were a total of 199 respondents who were 18 and older. 81.3 % (n=161) of the respondents were female and 18.6% (n=37) were male.

- 25% (n=48) of the respondents noted they were approached and confided in by a domestic violence victim in the past 12 months.
- 69.8% (n=37) of the self-disclosed victims had children and 45.2% (n=24) self-disclosed victims asked for help.
- 78.8% (n=41) respondents noted that they offered a referral to a domestic violence resource and 44.2% (n=23) confirmed that the victims sought help from the domestic violence resource.
- 3.6% (n=7) survey responders had been approached by a domestic violence perpetrator.

We asked the respondents a question to analyze their perception of domestic violence within the county. 193 responded and the results are shown below.



For their familiarity with local resources we asked the respondents to name 1 to 3 local resources. The results are show below.



Next Steps

During the summer of 2016, we will partner with a UTHSCSA researcher whose primary focus is in partner violence to conduct community oriented focus groups. Our focus groups will interview professionals who counsel and/or provide treatment to domestic violence victims in Comal County. We will gather their input on the characteristics and behaviors of violence victims and violent situations in Comal County. We intend to use these results to build a community awareness toolkit that will be disseminated to increase the awareness and resources to the community at large.



Conclusion

- Working with other organizations to build a tool kit for domestic violence victims and how to safely diffuse a domestic violence situation when you witness it.
- Apply for a pilot grant
- Continue raising awareness
- Investigate how to measure impact
- Present at the McKenna Health Summit in December 2016
- Start Awareness Campaign

