

The Impact of Gender on the Selection of Crisis Management Practices

Ashley S. Virgin
The University of Alabama

ABSTRACT

This proposed study aims to investigate the crisis management practices of staff in a residential treatment facility. Specifically, the researchers are seeking to determine what if any relationship exists between the gender of the staff member implementing the crisis management procedures and the level of intervention selected by the staff member. This study will offer the opportunity to staff to share their thoughts on how they choose which crisis management procedures to use.

INTRODUCTION

Many residential treatment facilities that use crisis management procedures in response to youth behavioral concerns need additional data to continue to assess crisis management responses and the level of intervention that is selected for use. Within this proposed study, the researchers will investigate gender blindness as defined by Alvinus (2019), which is the act of not distinguishing between genders. This can have a profound effect on crisis intervention decision-making due to the impact on behavior (Jansson & Linghag, 2015). This proposed study will allow space for staff within the designated residential treatment facility to express how they personally choose which crisis management procedures (e.g., verbal de-escalation, physical restraint, seclusion) to use, providing essential first-person perspective data. The data collected through the study will allow the researchers to assist staff and researchers alike in providing quality, data-informed care for the youth in residential treatment facilities.

METHODS

Research Question:

What impact does the gender of a staff member have on their selection of crisis management procedures within a residential treatment facility serving children and adolescents?

Participants:

Inclusion Criteria:

- A staff member at the residential treatment facility
- Trained by the residential treatment facility in crisis management procedures
- Direct contact with the clients (e.g., children and adolescents) of the residential treatment facility

Exclusion Criteria:

- Not presently employed with the residential treatment facility
- Interns or practicum students
- Staff without direct contact with clients (e.g., children and adolescents) of the residential treatment facility (e.g., administration, front office staff)

Proposed Research Activities



INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

Interview Questions for Staff Members:

1. With what gender do you identify?
2. How long have you worked with youth in residential treatment facilities?
3. How long have you worked in your current position?
4. How do you define a crisis?
 - a. What does it look like?
 - b. What does it sound like?
5. What are the differences between a crisis experienced by one of the youth you serve, and a crisis experienced by an adult?
6. How do you define crisis management?
7. What training have you received in crisis management procedures?
8. How often do you receive training?
9. Are you provided opportunities to practice the crisis management procedures away from the youth you serve?
10. Have you sought out any additional crisis management training outside of that provided by the residential treatment facility?
11. What do you personally do when you deem that a youth is in crisis? (Please list in order of least invasive to most invasive)
12. How often do you encounter a youth in crisis?