

The Angel Shot Code

A Coordinated
Response to Sexual
Assault Prevention
in Public Spaces

August 2026

By Sydney Dawson

north shore
women's
centre
a place for women, a voice for women



The Angel Shot Code:

A Coordinated Response to Sexual Assault Prevention in Public Spaces

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Good Night Out is a non-profit organisation that provides “Safer Spaces” trainings and workshops on sexual violence prevention. Their primary activities are focused on supporting partners to build and improve their own prevention and response capacities. Their work focuses on restaurants, bars, pubs, festivals, art spaces and more, with a presence in Metro Vancouver and Victoria. These trainings focus on workplace culture, harm reduction, sexual violence prevention, alcohol serving awareness, and bystander intervention. They also operate a street team that acts as a resource for harm reduction and violence intervention in Downtown Vancouver.

Due to strongly aligned mandates to reduce and eliminate instances of gender-based and sexual violence from intersectional feminist viewpoints, Good Night Out consulted and developed materials for this project. We thank them for their invaluable support in training curriculum development, administration, materials and project consultation, and their generous partnership. We would like to especially recognize the dedication and support of Education Director Stacey Forrester, who has contributed significantly to the project since 2022.



The North Shore Women's Centre gratefully operates on the unceded Traditional Territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

About the North Shore Women's Centre

The North Shore Women's Centre (NSWC) is a grassroots non-profit organisation that strives to improve the social, economic, legal and political status of women. In operation since 1973, they encourage and support self-empowerment by acting as a resource and a catalyst for change from feminist perspectives. The NSWC offers a drop-in resource centre as well as programs and services. Their portfolio includes programming such as support groups, food security programs, a health and wellness program, legal clinics and workshops, skills training, peer counselling, and youth empowerment programming. They address issues such as intimate partner and family violence, food insecurity, women's wellness, skill-building, teen empowerment, technological literacy, legal support, and community support. They support the North Shore, with a mandate specifically extending to the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, and the District of West Vancouver ("North Shore").

The Sexual Assault Prevention in Bars and Restaurants (the Angel Shot Code) Pilot Project was developed by Sydney Dawson, who served as the lead researcher and project manager. Sydney has an educational background in anthropology and gender studies, with work in sexual violence prevention and responses, victim risk rhetoric, and social media as a communicative medium. She holds a BA and an MA in Anthropology.

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Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Canada

[Gender-based violence](#) is a form of violence that affects women and gender-diverse individuals in statistically significant ways. This includes intimate partner violence, sexual assault and rape, sexual harassment, stalking, and other forms of violence. According to the Canadian Women's Foundation (2022), approximately 30% of all women over the age of 15 will experience at least one sexual assault outside of an intimate partner relationship. That is almost 4.7 million women, or one in three. Due to low reporting, these numbers, drawn from official incidence-based crime statistics, [may not paint the full picture of sexual violence in Canada](#) (OCRCC, 2022).

One in three women will also experience unwanted sexual behaviour in public. Research suggests that restaurants and bars are the most common public places where serious incidents of sexual violence and harassment take place (Cotter & Savage, 2019). [A 2022 report by the Government of Canada](#) found that sexual violence is the only form of violent crime in Canada not declining, despite low rates of formalized involvement of law enforcement.

The vast majority of sexual assaults (87%) are gendered violence against women, and women are more likely than men to experience unwanted sexual behaviour in public or to be sexually assaulted. And, 52% of sexual assault offenders are known to the victim/survivor, meaning that it is slightly more likely that an individual will be assaulted by a friend, acquaintance, or neighbour than a stranger, although both pose a significant risk (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2022; WAGE Canada, 2025).

Project Description

The Sexual Assault Prevention in Bars and Restaurants Pilot Project (“the Angel Shot Code”) is a violence prevention research project developed by the North Shore Women’s Centre. Project development work began in 2022, and the pilot project began in 2024.

The project’s initial goal was to understand and develop a coordinated response in the food and beverage services industry to the “Angel Shot Code,” a code phrase that became viral on social media in the 2020s. The project also sought to establish a community-specific understanding of instances of sexual and gender-based violence and harassment in public spaces which serve alcohol on the North Shore. This understanding would speak to the specific partner establishment(s) taking part in the project, and could provide directions for further research and wider applicability.

Overall, the project was intended to reduce instances of gender-based violence in public spaces, foster a sense of community safety, generate feelings of empowerment amongst both patrons and restaurant staff, and provide alcohol-serving establishments with valuable and long-lasting intervention resources. Due to the NSWC’s grassroots resourcing and reliance on voluntary participation of partnering establishments, this project cannot be used as a definitive conclusion on rates of gender-based violence, Angel Shot orders, or the need for this programming on the North Shore. As a pilot project, it was always intended to be limited in scope and exploratory in design.

The implementation stage ultimately involved one industry community partner. Beva Brewing & Blending, a women-owned craft brewery located in North Vancouver, participated in the 7-month pilot project.

Background on the Angel Shot

The Angel Shot is a code phrase that can be used by patrons who are feeling unsafe or uncomfortable in an alcohol serving environment. The code is widely known to signal distress and the need for intervention and/or de-escalation from venue staff.

The code phrase gained popularity on social media in the 2020s, and it is challenging to attribute an original source to its invention. A similar program rose to popularity in the United Kingdom in 2016, known as the #AskForAngela campaign. #AskForAngela is also a code phrase, where patrons could ask restaurant staff if an employee named Angela was working, to indicate a covert need for staff intervention due to real or perceived threats of violence. The campaign was developed by Hayley Child for [Lincolnshire County Council's Substance Misuse Strategy](#). The poster was designed to complement the concurrent “[NO MORE](#)” anti-sexual violence programming. As of 2026, after 10 years of implementation, [the campaign has seen widespread adoption](#) and remains a fixture of British nightlife, perhaps partially due to ongoing compliance checks in alcohol serving venues.

The #AskForAngela campaign did not find the same virality internationally. However, a similar code phrase, the Angel Shot, found social media virality on TikTok and other platforms in North America. The exact origin of the Angel Shot is unclear, and it has not been attributed to any formalized author or program at the time of writing. As of 2026, a company called Angel Shot App LLC has introduced a restaurant check-in app using this premise. The NSWC is not responsible for the invention of this phrase, and is not associated with its subsequent virality on North American social media.

However, the phrase's unknown source and massive popularity online pose unique challenges to its effectiveness. Individual social media habits are the primary determinant in people's ability to recognize the phrase, either for patron use or to correct identification and response by service staff. Essentially, factors such as quantity of social media use, use of particular platforms, algorithmic variability, and more all compound to create an inconsistent general knowledge of the phrase. The success of #AskForAngela may be attributed to its structured awareness campaign amongst both alcohol serving venues and the public; the lack of these measures with the Angel Shot's organic rise in popularity produces important gaps in its potential for effectiveness.

The NSWC's Angel Shot Code Pilot Project is intended to address this weakness by establishing a coordinated approach to educating patrons about the existence of the code and equipping service staff to appropriately respond to its use in their workplace.

The Angel Shot has three variations:

- An Angel Shot neat, which indicates that the patron would like assistance from staff in leaving the establishment safely, such as an escort to their vehicle
- An Angel Shot on the rocks or with ice, which indicates a patron's need for escalated assistance, including staff members calling them a taxi or rideshare
- An Angel Shot with lime, which indicates a dangerous situation and the patron's desire or need for authorities such as police or ambulance to be involved by restaurant staff.

The pilot was administered in stages, including research and development, outreach and community engagement, training, implementation, and analysis. It had three components: a poster, a training, and efficacy measurement.

The Poster

Building off of the success of #AskForAngela, the poster educated patrons of the existence of the Angel Shot Code safely and effectively while communicating that staff at the establishment are trained to respond to the code. Developed to be placed in the women's washroom of the partnering establishment, it contained the following text:

Feeling Unsafe? Bad Date? Is someone making you feel uneasy? Order an Angel Shot.

It details the three variations of the shot (neat, with ice, with lime) and their correlated staff responses, and concludes with the affirmation:

You have a right to feel safe and to be free of violence. Trust your gut. Reach out.

The poster also featured resources and a link to the NSWC website, accessible via typed link and QR code. The attached webpage contained information about the pilot project and an extended list of resources on the North Shore related to gender-based and sexual violence. The webpage also included digital versions of the poster and training materials available for download.

Sexual assault and harassment in public spaces is a form of gender-based violence in Canada; the poster was developed for display specifically in the women's washrooms at alcohol-serving venues for this reason. Women statistically use washrooms in public



Feeling Unsafe?

Bad date? Is someone making you feel uneasy?

Order an **Angel Shot**.

Angel Shot Neat:

A staff member will escort
you to your car.

Angel Shot With Ice:

A staff member will call you a taxi.

Angel Shot With Lime:

Staff will call the police.

**You have a right to feel safe and to be
free of violence.**

Trust your gut. Reach out.



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<https://www.northshorewomen.ca/angel-shot>

**GOOD
night
OUT**

The Angel Shot Code Pilot Project poster, as displayed in the 2024 pilot.

spaces more frequently than men, and spend longer times in these facilities (Harwood-Jones, Martin, and Airton, 2021; Meuller et al., 2005; Bovens and Marcoci, 2020). The women's washroom, therefore, is an ideal setting. It is both a relatively private space for a patron to engage with the poster, and could be considered a higher traffic area amongst the target demographic. This is also potentially one of the only spaces in many establishments that provides the option to access particular gender-based demographics specifically.

The Angel Shot is a viral code phrase, meaning its covert nature is inherently compromised. While we can infer it is meant to be known by those most statistically at-risk of experiencing gender-based and sexual violence without alerting perpetrators, it is not possible to ensure that only women or gender-diverse individuals will have encountered the phrase.

The goal of the pilot project is therefore not to keep the code phrase a secret or to limit its awareness to only women or gender-diverse individuals. This would not be possible in either online or offline contexts. The pilot's overall goal is to reduce instances of potential gender-based violence and foster a sense of community safety. Displaying information warning patrons that staff are being vigilant to prevent sexual and gender-based violence may even act as a deterrent for these behaviours, increasing self-policing based on the implication of surveillance (Yesil, 2006; Cook & Whowell, 2011).

While the poster is developed to target women and gender-diverse individuals in an intentionally private setting, awareness of the code or project amongst people of any gender has the potential to reduce instances of violence. Additional and/or dedicated research on adapting these materials for multi-gender washrooms or to specifically benefit gender-diverse individuals may be warranted in the future.

Based on these facts, during development, it was considered that Angel Shot orders at establishments with multi-gender washrooms may be lower than at other partnering establishments. In these cases, the poster may act as a deterrent for the kind of behaviour the code seeks intervention for.

Additionally, research has indicated that anti-sexual and gender-based violence campaigns that specifically highlight the role of men, as perpetrators or bystanders, can be received poorly by male participants. The study found that the campaigns may be interpreted as accusations rather than awareness-raising measures or specific calls to action (Walker et al., 2023).

In order to reduce the risk of these responses, the Angel Shot poster does not use

gendered language or display statistics about male violence against women. Gender-diverse individuals are at a particularly high risk of sexual and gender-based violence in public spaces (Blackburn, Katz, Oesterle, & Orchowski, 2024; Peterson et al., 2023), and this was another primary motivator for our use of non-gendered, second-person language on the poster.

The Training

The training component of the pilot project involved an approximately 2.5-hour in-person sexual assault and gender-based violence prevention and bystander intervention workshop. This was adapted and co-facilitated by Good Night Out Vancouver, and a trauma-informed response booklet was developed by the NSWC as an additional asynchronous resource.

The training developed by Good Night Out Vancouver is a 2.5-hour curriculum on brewery industry-specific staff and bystander intervention training, including a guest presentation by the NSWC's lead researcher and project manager. This involved specific materials and discussion about the Angel Shot Code for approximately 30 minutes. The training's goal was to develop a better general understanding amongst staff of the risks and ways to reduce and prevent gender-based violence in their workplace. Additional wrap-around support was offered to the participating establishment on an ongoing basis by the NSWC.

The training also involved providing Beva Brewing & Blending with a reference booklet titled *Restaurant and Bar Staff's Angel Shot Response Guide: Suggestions for a trauma-informed violence-prevention response* (2024). This 20-page booklet was developed by the NSWC, with feedback provided by North Shore Family Services' Sexual Assault Response Program and Good Night Out.

The resource booklet was a suggestion and a resource for staff to recall key elements of the Good Night Out training. It offered specific reminder resources pertaining to trauma-informed responses to Angel Shot orders, disclosures of sexual violence, and de-escalation. Additionally, it compiled local follow-up resources for patrons and staff alike who may experience distress as a result of instances of gender-based violence in a restaurant setting or their personal lives. Participating restaurants that may use these materials in the future are advised to use their best judgment and consider this booklet only a resource, and not an instructional manual or policy; it exists to remind staff of best practices from a trauma-informed and intersectional feminist standpoint, and to direct affected parties to appropriate resources.

Physical copies were provided to the participating establishment at the time of their staff training, as well as distributed to management as a digital copy. It was also available on the North Shore Women's Centre's Angel Shot Code webpage for digital download.

Follow-Up Efficacy Measurements

The Angel Shot Code Pilot Project functions in part as a resource for assessing community need for enhanced or additional program development surrounding the issue of gender-based and sexual violence in public spaces such as bars and restaurants.

Sexual assault and gender-based violence statistics are not currently collected in a municipal or community-specific manner on the North Shore. Some data may be collected by third-party agencies, such as the Vancouver-based McCreary Centre Society, who produce a report on the findings of their annual [BC Adolescent Health Survey](#). This survey is administered to youth in Grade 7 to 12 across the province, and can provide some information on the experiences of school-aged youth in BC. As introduced earlier in this report, statistics do exist for the wider national population, which indicate a need for anti-gender-based violence programming in Canada.

After the training, the pilot project required participating establishments to add each variation of the Angel Shot to their point of sale (POS) system and track how many times an Angel Shot was ordered in their establishment in the following months. Surveys were administered and completed by the Beva Brewing & Blending staff team, asking questions about patron interactions with the poster, Angel Shot orders, staff preparedness, and other feedback.

Six survey responses were analyzed over a seven-month period, with the first two months serving as a control (poster not yet displayed). In order to meet the project's ultimate overarching goal of reducing and preventing gender-based and sexual violence in public spaces, the control period took place after staff had received the training, so that they would feel equipped to respond appropriately to and intervene in these instances if/when they appeared despite the poster not being displayed.

If given the opportunity to expand the pilot project's research and data collection component, allowing more time to establish a baseline or control for instances of sexual and gender-based violence amongst patrons of partnering establishments would strengthen our ability to extrapolate the data collected.

The second phase of the data collection component started at the beginning of month three. This phase began with staff displaying the Angel Shot Code poster in their facility's washrooms and concluded after the final feedback survey was completed at the end of the seventh month of the project.

The participating establishment was allowed to continue displaying the Angel Shot poster if they felt comfortable and well-equipped to continue responding to Angel Shot orders. They were also invited to incorporate a review of organisational policy and/or include the resource booklet as an element of new employee onboarding. The NSWCC continued to offer ongoing support to staff and interested patrons, should they wish to continue displaying the poster.

Findings and Discussion

Factors Influencing Results

The survey component of this project concluded in May, 2025. Over the course of seven months and six surveys, no Angel Shots were ordered at the participating restaurant partner. Ultimately, the lack of Angel Shot orders during the pilot project is a success, as it represents a low level of instance of violence risk at Beva Brewing & Blending during the pilot period. However, there are several factors that may have influenced this outcome.

Notably:

- Beva Brewing & Blending may not have been the ideal environment for the pilot project, with its relatively early closing time, lack of proximity to downtown nightlife, and no prior experiences of gender-based violence at the establishment.
- Beva Brewing & Blending only had multi-gender bathrooms, while the poster was developed to specifically be effective in gender-segregated women's washrooms. The visibility of posters to all patrons may have, in and of itself, acted as a deterrent.

Venue Factors

Firstly, the type and variety of restaurant partners are a key factor. Despite several months of targeted outreach prior to the pilot's start, only one establishment agreed to participate in the project. Beva Brewing & Blending is a small microbrewery with a local presence. Located in North Vancouver, it operates with closing hours between 8pm and 10pm. While management noted that the microbrewery industry in Vancouver is male-dominated, this establishment is women-owned, and slightly more than half of their staff team were women at the time of the project.

Its role as a craft brewery in a municipality with low nightlife activity, its intimate seating, and its proud badge as a woman-owned establishment may all contribute to the type of patrons and interactions attracted to this location. In the intake survey prior to the training, a representative from Beva Brewing & Blending noted that their participation in the project was largely preventative in nature. It was reported that Beva Brewing & Blending had never experienced an instance of gender-based violence in their establishment prior to participating.

As one staff member noted in their final survey response, their participation was beneficial, “but maybe would be more important in a downtown club-type environment. The brewery and its location and hours are fairly low-key/low event.” Similar sentiments were echoed in other final responses, such as “our size/layout where everything is seen from the bar area, hours of operation being closed fairly early... we might not be the ideal fit for a program like this... it would probably be more beneficial to get downtown bars/clubs that have a more lively night aspect than our place,” and “perhaps the project could consider the fact that our establishment is not open very late at night?”

For future expansions of this project, more diverse results could be garnered with the participation of multiple establishments of varying types (breweries, nightclubs, fast casual restaurants, bars, etc.) in multiple locations around the North Shore or Greater Vancouver Area. The North Shore’s geography as a community separated from downtown can make it a difficult destination to commute by transit, and nightlife generally attracts many patrons to the Downtown core.

Facility Factors

Beva Brewing & Blending hosts only gender-neutral washroom facilities. While this fact alone does not necessarily impact the effectiveness of the pilot, there is a chance that this played a role in the final results of the project. One staff member even specifically highlighted this feature as a potential deterrent to Angel Shot orders.

Foucauldian theories of surveillance become especially relevant when considering which patrons viewed the Angel Shot Code poster. Sexual violence and harassment in public spaces are overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women and gender-diverse individuals (Canadian Women’s Foundation, 2022); the poster was originally developed for women’s washroom spaces, with the ultimate goal of somewhat covertly providing this resource to the demographics most likely to make use of it.

Research has shown that self-policing behaviour becomes especially prevalent when individuals have reason to believe they are being watched (Yesil, 2006; Cook & Whowell, 2011). With a poster indicating that the establishment and its staff have an awareness of gender-based violence in public spaces, and a desire to showcase their allyship with those affected, the placement in a gender-neutral space may have “designed away” the behaviours that may have triggered an Angel Shot order (Yesil, 2006).

Therefore, we may also consider that the very presence of this poster, or the specialized

training on bystander intervention that staff received, may have also mitigated the number of instances of gender-based violence taking place during the research period.

Staff and Community Responses

Survey results provided insights into the effectiveness of the anti-gender-based violence training. Based on responses from the participating staff team, having the resource booklet as both a physical guidebook and a digital resource helped employees feel prepared and confident after the initial training. They found the training comprehensive and appreciated the practical examples and details on how to respond to varying instances of harassment as an aide.

Feelings of preparedness and confidence responding to incidents of gender-based violence and harassment stayed consistently high throughout the project. All responses reported were in the range of feeling “extremely,” “very,” and “moderately” prepared to respond to incidents in the seven months following the training. Staff also noted that they felt a personal connection to the pilot program. For example, one team member shared, “I like that we display the posters. That’s a great way to make people feel safe.”

Staff also reported on the discourse surrounding the poster amongst patrons. They noted an overall positive reception: “I received a positive comment from a patron... the patron ‘loved’ that we were displaying this messaging in our washrooms, stating it felt welcoming. On another date, I answered a patron’s question about the poster, and she said that now that she knows our male staff have received some training through this pilot project, she would now feel more comfortable approaching one of our male team members should a concern arise.”

Another response remarked: “[a] guest who works in a liquor store said that it was awesome that we had them up and that they were stoked to see us participating in the program.” They additionally commented that the Angel Shot Code was “a wonderful resource to see on the North Shore.”

From the survey responses, we can conclude that, despite no Angel Shot orders, the pilot program itself increased feelings of comfort and safety amongst female patrons. One response also indicated that a male patron had also commented on the value of the initiative, suggesting that the pilot may have created a sense of safety and appreciation even amongst varied gender groups.

One staff member shared, “I felt very pleased to receive the positive feedback about the

poster being displayed and knowing that these two female patrons felt more comfortable here as a result of us displaying them.” Further, another remarked, “... I am very glad we participated in this project, and I felt that it has been beneficial to our business and contributed to our patrons and staff feeling safer at Beva.”

Based on trends amongst all responses, the pilot project also made a positive impact amongst staff, who felt pleased to participate in an initiative to strengthen the community and felt passionate about the issue of gender-based violence.

Negative comments and feedback arose, as well. Staff noted that, on one occasion, a patron who identified himself as a police officer took issue with the poster’s instruction to connect with employees rather than directly involving law enforcement at the first instance of discomfort. As reported by [West Coast LEAF](#), only 5% of sexual assaults are reported to police (2018).

Research has indicated that there are many factors that may lead victims and survivors to avoid formally engaging with the police and/or law enforcement regarding their experiences of gender-based violence. [*We Are Here: Women’s Experiences of the Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault*](#) (2018) notes that some prevalent factors include socio-cultural attitudes, deep misgivings about the legal system, instances where victims did not find criminal justice system actors helpful, personal repercussions of reporting, concerns about the justice system process, and a limited sense of control or choice following a report (Prochuk & West Coast LEAF, 2018).

In response to this instance, the participating staff member recalled: “I told him not all incidents require the police, and that [calling law enforcement] can escalate things... additionally, sometimes it is time sensitive and waiting for the police may take too long.”

On the North Shore, police detachments offer several avenues for individuals who have experienced violence, including sexual violence, to find support. Both the [North Vancouver RCMP](#) and the [West Vancouver Police](#) offer a victim services programs, and more information about the province’s Victim Services and Violence Against Women Programs can be found on [the Government of British Columbia’s online directory](#).

Staff received instruction during the training and in the resource booklet on emergency resources and when/if it may be safest to involve them. Individual restaurants may also have their own internal protocols for police involvement in patron incidents. This staff member’s response demonstrates a nuanced and practical understanding of the challenges that some victims and survivors — as well as establishment staff — may consider when deciding whether or not to involve law enforcement, and future iterations

of this pilot project may take into consideration the value of sharing this resource on poster designs.

While staff favourability of the project was high, one team member raised concerns. They noted "... I have had only one person respond to the poster, and it was a joke saying his wife was being verbally abusive. I love the passion and willingness to make a difference, but I feel like this is a counterproductive campaign." This sense of counterproductivity was later elaborated on as specifically being attributed to the presence of the posters in washrooms where male patrons would also be exposed to it, a feedback trend which should be considered in future iterations of the project.

Staff responses to negativity from patrons ranged from neutral acknowledgement to one instance of a lack of confidence in the project premise. However, one employee reflected, in response to humorous comments from patrons, that "they seemed to not understand what it is like to be harassed in a liquor-serving establishment." This comment reaffirms sentiments shared at the training session from staff members that anti-gender-based violence training in alcohol-facilitated spaces keeps both patrons and employees safer, and can empower individuals with a wide array of personal experiences with harassment and violence with a newfound confidence and intervention skillset.

Overall, staff had a favourable opinion of the pilot project and reported more positive comments than negative. Trends included increased feelings of empowerment and safety in the workplace, a feeling of pride in being a part of anti-violence work, and an increased sense of community safety amongst patrons. As noted by one respondent, "...even just bringing awareness to gender-based harassment and violence and increasing our staff's and our patrons' comfort level in talking about these issues is of benefit, even if we didn't respond to any incidents..."

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Angel Shot Code pilot project was very effective in increasing a sense of community safety, staff confidence, and overall educating on gender-based violence. While no Angel Shots were ordered during the pilot project, factors such as partner establishment size, industry, location, facilities, and hours can all be considered variables that may have influenced these results.

This low number of Angel Shot orders does not, however, indicate a lack of need for anti-gender-based violence resources, initiatives, or trainings in alcohol-serving spaces. A low number of Angel Shot orders can be considered in the context of the above factors, as well as the confidence of staff in de-escalating patron interactions and engaging in bystander intervention. Additionally, further systematic measurements of the statistical presence of gender-based violence on the North Shore would be an asset for this and other projects that seek to address the issue in our communities.

Sexual violence remains one of the most underreported forms of violence in Canada, and it continues to rise. In 2021, rising rates of sexual assault accounted for a 40% increase in the Violent Crime Severity Index (Moreau, 2022). Even so, sexual assault remains vastly under-reported, and the 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Places indicated that women only reported the most severe assault that they experienced, if they reported at all (Cotter & Savage, 2019).

One in three women will experience sexual assault in their lifetime, and more than 60% of British Columbians know a woman who has been sexually or physically assaulted. Every week, there are more than 1000 physical or sexual assaults against women in BC (Dean, 2019).

Based on these numbers, we know that instances of gender-based violence remain a serious public safety threat for women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals; the North Shore is no exception. Further research and an extended project that would allow for variables that may have impacted results should be undertaken. This would allow researchers to gather a more comprehensive picture of how gender-based violence impacts women and gender-diverse individuals in public spaces in North and West Vancouver.

Overall, both staff and patrons had a favourable impression of the Angel Shot program, but responses varied between industries; while one individual felt the initiative was less useful than contacting police, both staff and patrons with experience in the alcohol service industry commented on its utility and benefit for servers and guests alike.

The combination of a live facilitated training and a reference resource in the form of the information booklet was highly successful. By providing follow-up resources that could be consulted as needed, both physically and digitally, staff felt well-supported and confident in their ability to execute the principles of the Safer Spaces training.

Recommendations

Based on these results, we can recommend the following:

- An extended project which takes the successes of the Angel Shot Code pilot project (community senses of safety, staff feelings of confidence, patron appreciation, high levels of preparedness based on training methods and materials), while further testing areas where more information is needed.
- A pilot project that includes a wider variety of restaurant partners, across various alcohol-serving industries, sizes, gender-segregated washroom facilities, locations on the North Shore, and potentially expansion to Downtown Vancouver would glean more reliable data. Additionally, an extended length of the program, which tracks at least three months of control testing and six months or more of efficacy measuring, would be a benefit.
- Additional consultation with community partners in the development of materials and project implementation, including law enforcement, liquor distribution, alcohol serving certification bodies, and more.
- Additional research that seeks to understand the role of surveillance, awareness of staff vigilance, and other visibility-based measures in deterring acts of gender-based violence in public settings.
- Funding to be made available for restaurants, bars, and other service establishments to undergo Safer Spaces training, based on the overall favourability and confidence in handling and escalating instances of violence and harassment provided by these measures.

In conclusion, the Sexual Assault in Bars and Restaurants Pilot Project (the Angel Shot Code) was successful in establishing a framework for equipping service industry staff to respond to instances of gender-based violence in public spaces in a trauma-informed manner. It successfully fostered a sense of awareness, appreciation, and safety amongst patrons at higher risk for experiencing these forms of violence, and even

amongst those less at-risk.

Gender-based violence is one of the most pervasive and damaging forms of violence in Canada, and, with the implementation of systematic approaches that empower women and gender-diverse individuals to speak up and seek trained support, we can create safer communities and spaces in our own neighbourhoods.

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