

IMPACT OF ADL'S A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute PEER TRAINING PROGRAM



A 2006 Yale University Evaluation Study

In 2005-2006, Yale University conducted a national evaluation of the Anti-Defamation League's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute Peer Training Program. On the basis of data gathered from over 500 students in ten schools, located in urban, suburban and rural settings across the United States, Yale researchers determined that "the Peer Training Program can have an important effect on reducing bias in schools."

The Peer Training Program uses a unique combination of instructional and peer influence strategies to combat name-calling, bullying and harassment, and create safe and inclusive school communities. Yale evaluators concluded that this approach had a positive impact on students' knowledge and awareness about issues of prejudice and discrimination in their environments, as well as their response to incidents of bias they witness.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Enhanced understanding of the nature and manifestations of prejudice

Students are able to better identify structural discrimination on the basis of race, class, gender, religion, ability and sexual orientation.

Better comprehension of the negative impact of harassment

Students build empathy for others and recognize that name-calling and bullying can be a manifestation of prejudice.

Higher awareness of bias-motivated activities in schools

Students pay closer attention and are more aware of biased behaviors in themselves and other people.

Increased ability to respond to name-calling and other bias incidents

Students are more likely to intervene when other students are being targeted.

Greater confidence in ability to change their school climate

Students feel more empowered to enlist the support of their peers to stand up for others.

Improved skill in engaging peers in discussion about prejudice at school

Students show a greater level of comfort in talking about issues of bias and discrimination with their classmates.

To obtain copies of the full or summary reports, please contact the Anti-Defamation League or visit our Web site at www.adl.org.

