Recent national headlines have increased the awareness and concern for youth safety in camps on college campuses. In response, universities across the country have begun exploring what their responsibility is for the safety and well-being of youth that interact with staff at their college campuses. In 2012, the OSU Department of Athletics and College of Social Work partnered to develop trainings for staff interacting with youth athletes at the Buckeye Sports Camp (BSC). Annually, BSC provides 140 summer camps to 140,000 youth on campus with 1,350 staff employees. “Protecting Youth at BSC” was created to enhance staff’s knowledge of the child abuse and neglect, dictate appropriate reporting procedures within the university, and determine staff’s willingness to report suspicion of child abuse and/or neglect.

### METHODS

#### Intervention

The main component of “Protecting Youth at BSC” was a training presented by College of Social Work faculty and staff. Key topics were the 1) definition and signs of abuse, 2) responsibility of staff in preventing and reporting abuse, and 3) process for reporting suspected abuse to designated HR personnel. Camp staff received a handbook to keep as a resource.

#### Sampling

A retrospective online survey was provided to staff who participated in the training. Of the 707 staff contacted, 7 did not have valid email addresses. 271 responded to the survey to allow for a 39% response rate (n=271).

### Statistical Analysis

Categorical and descriptive statistics were computed for quantitative data using SPSS 19.0.

### RESULTS

#### Respondents were asked to name two of the following signs

- Physical abuse: 178 (65.7%) could name one sign, and 169 (62.4%) could name two correctly.
- Sexual abuse: 158 (58.3%) could name one sign, and 145 (53.5%) could name two correctly.
- Emotional abuse: 165 (60.2%) could name one sign, and 155 (57.2%) could name two correctly.
- Neglect: 165 (60.2%) could name one sign, and 154 (56.9%) could name two correctly.

- 96.8% agreed that if there was a suspicion of child abuse or neglect for a Buckeye Sports youth, they would report it to the designated OSU contact.

### DISCUSSION

Unfortunately, the failure to follow through with the intention to report often only comes to light after serious problems. Future research should explore what model(s) best translates knowledge and intention into action. Additionally, exploring attitudes and awareness held by staff prior to trainings in order to identify changes from pre to post could benefit university athletic programs. Furthermore, different roles at camp may benefit from role-specific trainings.

Study limitations included that it was retrospective and lacked diversity in study participants.

### CONTACT

- Allison Gibson, MSW, PhD Student gibson.422@osu.edu
- Lauren Paluta, MSW Student paluta.2@osu.edu
- Nora Skotko, BSSW Student skotko.2@osu.edu

References are available upon request

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