



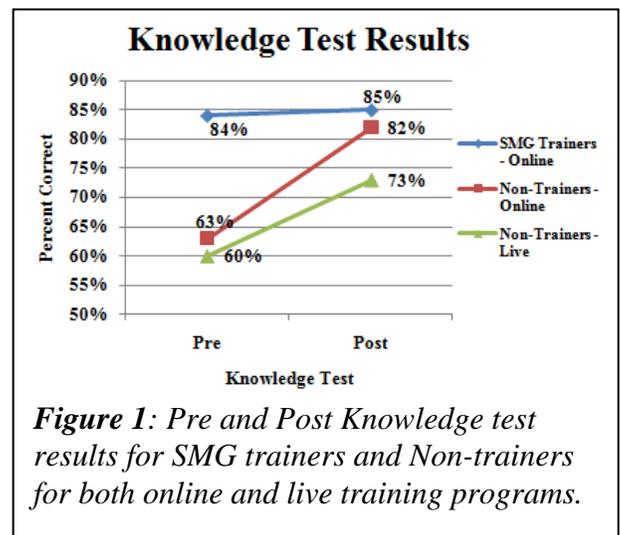
SMG Online Training Exceeds Live Training

By Dr. Bruce Linder, Psychologist, Vice-President
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Safe Management Group Inc. has evaluated and compared the effectiveness of its new online training program with the traditional live classroom version. Eighty individuals including 16 SMG Trainers, and 64 never-trained individuals completed the 25-unit online training program this past year. Seventeen individuals completed the traditional ‘live’ classroom version of the program in February. Knowledge testing was conducted for both programs using a 30-item multiple choice test of the course content given before and after taking the program. The individuals taking the online version of the course also completed a 10-item satisfaction survey for each of the 4 sections of the course – Risk Management, Relationship Management, Behaviour Management, and Aggression Management. The SMG Knowledge Test was found to be reliable (Chronbach alpha = .78). The results of the test displayed in **Figure 1**, show the means for trainers and non-trainers on the pre and post test, for both on-line and live training programs.

As expected, SMG Trainers were more knowledgeable than the inexperienced non-trainers on the pre-test for both online (84% vs. 63% correct, $p < 0.0001$, two-tailed t-test) and live participants (84% vs. 60% correct, $p < 0.0001$, two-tailed t-test). Online training was highly successful in teaching course content with a statistically significant increase in knowledge to a score of 82% correct, no different statistically from trainers on the post-test ($p = .287$, two-tailed t-test). Not only did the online program improve a non-trainer’s knowledge to that of someone who has had prior experience, but there was also a statistically significant difference between the post-test grades of individuals participating in the online course and classroom course. **Participants taking the online**

program performed significantly better than those in the classroom program ($F(1,95) = 4.229$, $p < 0.05$). Furthermore, these individuals in each group did not differ in age ($p = 0.79$) or prior education levels ($p = 0.06$).



In addition, the participants who took the online program were highly satisfied with the course as can be seen in **Figure #2**. Ninety-seven percent rated the course overall as “good”/”very good”/”excellent”. Two-thirds rated it as “very good” or “excellent”. **And, 88% rated the on-line course as “good”, “very good”, or “excellent” in comparison to classroom training.**

