

Assessment of AED Resources and Awareness on College Campuses

Union University School of Pharmacy (UUSOP)

OBJECTIVE:

The goal of this assessment was to describe general knowledge of use and location of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on Union University's campus, estimate AED response times on campus with current resources, and raise awareness of AED operation and location on campus. In 2011, over 300,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occurred in the United States; only 31.4% of the victims survived. The current American Heart Association guidelines for adult CPR recommend that chest compressions begin within one minute and defibrillation within 3 minutes of a cardiac arrest. In a recent study, victims who received CPR and defibrillation with an AED prior to EMS arrival were more likely to survive to hospital discharge. The results of this assessment were used to write a proposal to University Leadership seeking funding for more AEDs on our campus.

PLAN:

The first phase of the study was to assess knowledge of AED presence and location on campus, self-reported ability to operate an AED, and willingness to respond in case of emergency, utilizing an anonymous survey. The approved survey was randomly distributed to students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The second phase of the study attempted to approximate AED response times from different locations on campus. Student volunteers were instructed to find an AED and return to their original location as quickly as possible. During the first timed response, participants were unaware of the location of AEDs. During the second timed response, participants were informed of AED locations on campus and were instructed to perform the same task as before.

OUTCOME:

Only 8% of survey respondents identified the correct number of AEDs on campus. Of those, only 2% knew the AED locations. Sixty-nine percent of participants indicated that they did not know how to use an AED, and 41% responded that they would not use an AED in the case of an emergency. On average it took the participants 23 minutes to find the AEDs when the locations were not known and 11 minutes when the locations were known. The proposal submitted to University leadership contained specific recommendations regarding increasing AEDs on campus and education of students, faculty, and staff.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Educate student pharmacists on locations and use of AEDs on your campus.
2. Develop a survey to poll other students and faculty.
3. Recruit volunteers to participate in timed trial runs.
4. After evaluating the results, request funds for additional AEDs and educational resources to educate the students, faculty, and staff at your campus.

QUESTIONS: Contact UUSOP SSHP President Anna Robinson at anna.robinson@my.uu.edu

