



AEDs in Faith-Based Communities

Dana Walker, DNP, RN

Samford University



INTRODUCTION

Sudden cardiac death is survived by less than 25% of victims in the community setting.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel respond to around 300,000 calls annually for victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

Out of 300,000 victims of sudden cardiac arrest only 24,000 survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

Early defibrillation increases survival rates in sudden cardiac death.

Survival rate of sudden cardiac arrest decreases by 10% for every minute defibrillation is delayed

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project was to plan, implement, and evaluate education on the use and maintenance of an automated external defibrillator (AED) in the faith community setting to promote safety for individuals attending church functions who might experience a sudden cardiac event with an emphasis on the ongoing maintenance of the equipment.

ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions were made:

Organizational policies and guidelines affect AED education and maintenance practices.

Inadequate knowledge contributes to lack of compliance for maintaining AEDs.

Turnover rates in leadership and safety committee members contribute to non-adherence to recommended practices.

Church administration will be supportive of the implementation of the AED maintenance plan.

Adult learners are able to build on foundational knowledge for application of an ongoing AED maintenance and education plan.

Each committee member is accountable for AED training.

IMPLEMENTATION

This project targeted one faith-based organization that received free AEDs from a nonprofit organization. The organization is located in a rural community in the southeastern United States. Although there was initial education, there was not an ongoing plan to maintain and educate faith community members and staff on the use and maintenance of the equipment.

- ♥ AED training video link emailed to all safety committee members to watch
- ♥ Hands on demonstration/return demonstration sessions
 - ♥ Overview of AED , location, AED use, Q & A, Evaluation
- ♥ AED Maintenance Checklist
- ♥ AED Guidelines from AHA
- ♥ State AED laws
- ♥ Formal AED presentation to all church staff
- ♥ Safety committee attended AED class
- ♥ AED materials (pads/batteries) updated
- ♥ Medical Director obtained



FRAMEWORKS USED

Kotter's Model of Change



Eight-Step Process Change Model (Kotter International., 2016)

AHA's AED Implementing an AED Program

1. Obtain Medical Oversight
2. Work with local EMS
3. Choose an AED
4. Contact technical support
5. Make sure program support is available
6. Make sure AED is visible and accessible
7. Develop an education program
8. Raise Awareness
9. Implement an ongoing AED maintenance and education plan

(AHA, 2016)

AED Education Involved the Following Demographics

- ♥ Age range = 23 – 64 years old
- ♥ Female participants = 12
- ♥ Male participants = 15
- ♥ Medical training = 8
- ♥ No medical training = 18
- ♥ Unknown = 4 - did not complete evaluation

DISCUSSION

Course Evaluation Comments:

- ♥ Is a razor included in the kit?
- ♥ Can you wear your rings while using an AED?
- ♥ Great job!
- ♥ Excellent and informative AED educational event!
- ♥ I did not receive any written instructions.
- ♥ I do not remember the course objectives.
- ♥ This instructor made me feel confident and not intimidated.
- ♥ I am glad I participated because I feel like I would be more likely to use the AED if someone collapses at the church.
- ♥ Thank you so much for taking the time to teach us this skill.
- ♥ I would like to get involved more with responding to an emergency at the church.
- ♥ I am a nurse but I have never used an AED.
- ♥ The video was convenient to watch on my phone.

Recommendations

Implement an ongoing AED maintenance plan

- ♥ Monthly checklist supported by policy
- ♥ Every 2 year AHA CPR training
- ♥ Every 6 month AED Video refresher
- ♥ Annual AED awareness campaign – February
- ♥ Maintain medical oversight

References

References available upon request