

The program is designed to span either one or two years when it is combined with a Masters Program in Public Health. During that time, the fellow acquires expertise in numerous disaster-related topics. This is accomplished through participation in a variety of activities, ranging from acting as a physician and educator in the emergency department to working on disaster management and planning within local and national public health agencies.

The effectiveness of the fellow-designed, hospital-based plans are tested periodically using drills that have included several area hospitals as well as the New York City Fire Department Emergency Medical Service. In addition to obtaining this advanced level of training, individual fellows also focus on specific areas of interest, such as planning for radiological events or pediatric patients during a disaster.
Keywords: disaster management; disaster preparedness; fellowship; public health

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(23) Effects of Different Educational Modalities on 5th and 6th Grade Children: Earthquake Personal Protection Behavior Knowledge in Israel

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The goal of this study is to assess how effectively child education modality improves the knowledge of fifth and sixth grade children regarding personal protection behavior during and immediately after an earthquake.

A questionnaire was distributed to 2,648 pupils from the fifth and sixth grades of 120 different schools in a nation-wide geographic distribution across Israel. The questionnaire included three multiple choice questions concerning personal protection behavior after an earthquake, five theoretical questions on earthquakes, and three questions on exposure to posters and attendance at earthquake drills or lectures. The effect of each education modality on the children's knowledge was analyzed.

Attending a drill improved the knowledge of the children by 20% ($p < 0.05$). Attending a lecture improved the knowledge by 10% ($p < 0.05$). Exposure to posters did not significantly change the knowledge. The age factor improved the knowledge of the children by 10% ($p < 0.05$), which was unrelated to the educational modality used.

Earthquake drill attendance improves the personal life-saving behavior of fifth and sixth grade children. More of these educational programs should be conducted in order to improve the personal protection knowledge of fifth and sixth grade children following earthquake.

Keywords: child education; children; earthquakes; personal protection; questionnaire

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(24) Evaluation of Emergency Procedures Applied by EMS Teams in Simulated Mass-Casualty Events: Analysis of Experiences of International Polish Championships in EMS Procedures

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The Championships in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Procedures, an annual international competition, has taken place in Poland since 2002. Every year, almost 80 advanced standard EMS teams (including one physician or paramedic) take part in the event. Aside from Poland, the competitors also come from Slovakia, Germany, Ukraine, Belarus, Serbia, Hungary, Turkey, Greece, and Israel.

During a three-day event, the teams perform about 10 simulated emergency scenarios. Their performances are evaluated according to international standard procedures by a team of judges. In both the 2004 and 2005 competitions, one of the scenarios involved a mass-casualty event. In 2004, the 56 teams were faced with a shooting incident at a disco, where about 15 people sustained various types of injuries. In 2005, the task was to rescue 11 children involved in a school bus accident. The judges considered the following: (1) ensurance of safety; (2) communication with the dispatch center; (3) assessment of the incident site; (4) organization of procedures on location; (5) triage; (6) cooperation with other emergency services and with other EMS teams; and (7) preliminary medical procedures. The average number of points scored by teams was similar in both scenarios and amounted to 50.6%, ranging between 0.0–80.8%, which was lower than the average for other the other simulations (60.2%).

This study indicates that even in simulated circumstances, the emotional burden on the teams is greater, and they are more prone to errors than during routine EMS simulations.
Keywords: competition; emergency medical services; mass-casualty incident; Poland; simulation

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(25) Beyond Cultural Competence: Culturally Responsive Emergency Care

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Introduction: Many health agencies use cultural competence to deliver appropriate care to patients from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. The aim of this paper is to challenge this definitional model and recommend a timely move beyond cultural competence.

Methods: A systematic literature review was conducted to identify models used for teaching cross-cultural care to healthcare professionals.

Results: Although the review identified various models for providing care across cultures, cultural competence was featured as an internationally prevailing model, which was adopted by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council in 2006 for use in the Australian context.