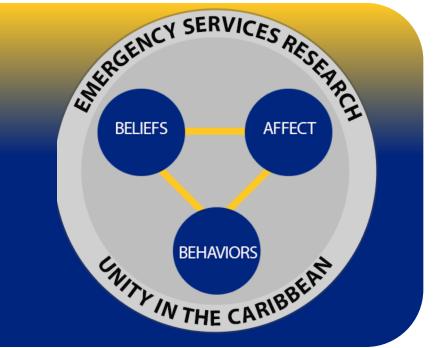


ATTITUDES OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STAKEHOLDERS IN BARBADOS:

A CONVERGENT PARALLEL MIXED-METHODS STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

The convergent parallel mixed-methods study examined the attitudes of emergency medical services (EMS) stakeholders in the English-speaking Caribbean island of Barbados based on the "EMS Agenda for the Future."

PROBLEM

There is a lack of evidence demonstrating active EMS stakeholder engagement aimed at improving prehospital EMS care throughout the Caribbean (Bahramnezhad et al., 2014; Barnett et al., 2006; Dasgupta et al., 2012). In Barbados and likely across the English-speaking Caribbean, the beliefs, affect, and behaviors of stakeholders working in A&E and in prehospital EMS may be affecting patient care.

DESIGN & METHODS

- Design: Convergent parallel mixed-methods
- •Data Collection: Surveys and semi-structured interviews
- **Methods:** Linear regression analysis (SPSSTM) and qualitative interview interpretation
- •Sample: Purposeful sample (N = 105)
- Setting: Bridgetown, Barbados
- Inclusion: Credentialed A&E doctors, prehospital EMS providers, and A&E nurses
- •Significance: Alpha .05 (95% CI)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- **RQ1**: What is the relationship between beliefs and behavior measures of each stakeholder group?
- **RQ2**: What is the relationship between beliefs and behavior measures of all EMS stakeholders based on Medical Direction?
- •RQ3: What is the relationship between beliefs and behavior measures of all EMS stakeholders based on Legislation & Regulation?
- •RQ4: What is the relationship between affect and beliefs measures of each stakeholder group?
- •RQ5: What is the relationship between affect and behavior measures of each stakeholder group?
- •RQ6: What is the relationship between affect and behavior measures of each group of EMS stakeholders based on Medical Direction?
- •RQ7: What is the relationship between affect and behavior measures of each group of EMS stakeholders based on Legislation & Regulation?
- •RQ8: What is the theme of all EMS stakeholders' belief, affect, and behaviors?

 •RQ8: What is the theme of all EMS stakeholders' dealing benefit superior aspects

RESULTS

- •Two of the seven (QUAN) hypotheses had significant findings (a = .05).
- •RQ1: A significant relationship was confirmed between beliefs and behavior measures of prehospital EMS providers only (b = 0.439, t(63) = 3.046, p = 0.003). A significant regression model was identified for (F(1,63) = 9.278, p = 0.003), with an R^2 of .130.
- •RQ4: Linear regression models were used to examine the affect and beliefs of each group of EMS stakeholders:
- A&E doctors, b = 0.234, t(28) = 2.428, p = 0.022. A significant regression model was identified (F(1,27) = 5.896, p = 0.022), with an R^2 of 0.179.
- EMS providers, b = 0.188, t(63) = 3.306, p = 0.002. A significant regression model was identified using the F test (F(1, 62) = 10.931, p = 0.002), with an R^2 of 0.150.
- A&E nurses, b = 0.240, t(10) = 2.705, p = 0.024. A significant regression model was identified (F(1, 9) = 7.318, p = 0.024), with an R^2 of 0.448.
- •RQ8: Eight themes emerged from the research through interpretive thematic analyses (NVivoTM).

DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

- •Inclusion: 104 (105) participants A&E doctors (n = 29; n = 6); Prehospital EMS providers (n = 64; n = 4); A&E nurses (n = 11; n = 5)
- •Cronbach alpha: Beliefs .88; Affect .82; and Behavior .57 (a = .64 after CFA process)
- •Sample: 57% EMS stakeholders 31-50 y/o
- •EMS Agenda Awareness: No knowledge 88% (n = 92); Has Read It 7% (n = 7)

CONCLUSION

•There is a significant association between the beliefs and affect of prehospital EMS providers. There is also significant association between beliefs and behaviors of all EMS stakeholders combined. The findings also suggest an opportunity to expand the scope of practice, standard of care and interprofessional collaboration to improve the care being provided to patients in the out-of-hospital setting.

IMPLICATIONS FOR LEADERS

•The findings are generalizable to other English-speaking Caribbean countries that have prehospital EMS delivery models similar to that of Barbados. A 2050 'EMS Agenda for the Caribbean' should be created with a panel from CARPHA, PAHO, CDEMA, CAFC, UWI, the Ministries of Health, the Barbados Ambulance Services, and Head Doctors in A&E departments.