articles discuss disaster-related surgical care in developing countries, with few discussing improving local country surgical assets. Most papers instead discuss the impact of foreign surgical teams, which are also clearly needed. Reasons for these overall findings are discussed. Opportunities to investigate the significant gap in surgical preparedness to disasters should be addressed. Research on improving local surgical assets in LMIC, in particular to address the acute phase of disasters, may be beneficial.

Assessment of Advanced Life Support Training in Emergency Medical Personnel : a National Report of Thailand

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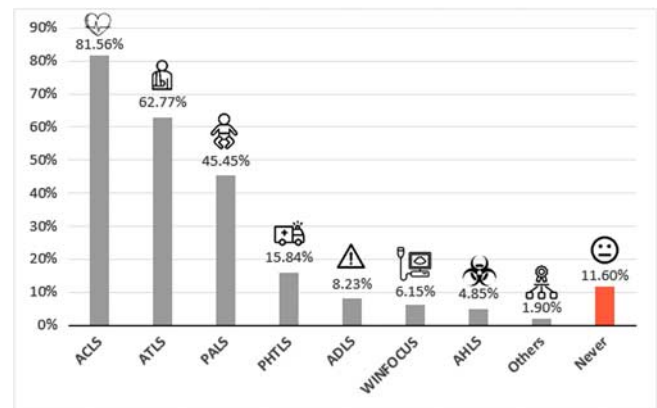
Study/Objective: To survey the number of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel certified in Advanced Life Support (ALS) in Thailand.

Background: In Thailand, Emergency Medicine specialty has been established for only 17 years. In-depth knowledge of emergency medicine training in ALS and knowledge gap between each kind of personnel had never been studied.

Methods: Research was done in the form of survey research using a questionnaire. The surveys were allocated by postal mail to emergency rooms in 13 health districts throughout Thailand. The target group was emergency medical personnel who practiced in EMS of Thailand: Emergency Physicians (EP), General Physicians (GP), Paramedics, Emergency Nurse Practitioners (ENP), and Registered Nurses (RN). A self-administered questionnaire consisting of personal and professional profiles, certificated status in ALS, and 50-questions of procedural competency assessment was used.

Results: According to 1,155 respondents (80% response rate), the percentages of personnel who passed each of the ALS courses is as follows: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) 81.56%; Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) 62.77%; Pediatric ALS (PALS) 45.45%; Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) 15.84%; Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) 8.23%; WINFOCUS Ultrasound ALS (WINFOCUS) 6.15%; Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS) 4.85%; and others 1.9%, respectively. There were 11.60% that had never been trained in ALS (Figure 1). The average competency score was 34.02/50 (SD = 8.81). EP had a significantly higher mean competency score than GP (P < .01). ENP had a significantly higher mean score compared with RN (P < .01); there was no significant difference between ENP and Paramedics (P = .06). Other factors that significantly associated with competency score were gender, hospital type, and work experience. Most of the participants (92%) desired additional training in ALS.

Conclusion: Emergency medical personnel in Thailand should be supported to train in ALS in order to comprehend standard emergency medical practice throughout the country.

Figure 1. Percentages of emergency medical personnel who passed each of advanced life support courses.
ACLS, ATLS, PALS, PHTLS, ADLS, WINFOCUS, AHLS, HAZMAT life support, Never passed any advanced life support courses

Senior Nursing Students Working as an American Red Cross Volunteer: Virtual Case Workers

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Study/Objective: The American Red Cross (ARC) Kentucky Region, and the University of Louisville (UL) School of Nursing, have facilitated a student clinical experience in disaster preparedness. Fall 2016, a pilot project developed from the Red Cross calls for virtual volunteers to assist with disaster relief services to natural disasters. In response, UL- 4th semester Community Practicum Leadership Practicum students were trained as volunteer virtual caseworkers for the ARC Disaster Services Disaster Action Team.

Background: The American Red Cross is mandated to provide assistance to victims of single- and multi-family fires, in addition to other disasters. Nurses assist caseworkers to provide support to clients, to assist with immediate response, and recovery needs by addressing health needs. Involvement of pre-licensure nursing students as caseworkers allows them to utilize their community leadership education to facilitate clients' recovery.

Methods: The 4th semester Community Health baccalaureate nursing students were trained and responded as American Red Cross virtual caseworkers; as part of a disaster response action team, they served individuals and families affected by home fires in the Kentucky and Southern Indiana region. The group received required training through online modules and in-person orientation to prepare for the role.

Results: The results showed that the nursing students and American Red Cross staff required additional education. The current on-boarding processes needed improvement, and case