


**Training in Prehospital Death Notifications Linked to Improved Provider Comfort and Preparation**

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## Disclosures

- No interests to disclose



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## Background

- Delivery of death notifications is not an uncommon practice for first responders
- Currently there is no standardized training for EMS professionals in delivering bad news



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## Background

- Unknown what training, if any, is given to providers and how it affects the ability to deliver notifications
- Unknown how prepared and comfortable providers are with death notifications



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## Objective

Describe the prevalence of death notification training by provider level and its association with preparation and comfort in performing the task.

**Hypothesis:** A lack of training is associated with lower preparation and comfort amongst prehospital personnel delivering death notifications.



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## Methods

- Electronic questionnaire sent to random sample of 19,330 EMS providers registered with NREMT in April 2017.
- Respondents reported:
  - death notification training
  - adult death notifications in the last 12 months
  - preparedness and comfort level rated on a 4 point scale
- Inclusion criteria: currently practicing, non-military, EMT or higher certification



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## Methods

- Key Measures and Data Analysis
  - Data were stratified by EMS certification level (BLS vs ALS)
  - Comparisons performed with Chi-square tests
  - Odds ratios were calculated to estimate association between training and provider comfort and preparation, controlling for certification level
- Independent Variables
  - Self-reported training and instruction, adult death notifications delivered
- Outcome Variables
  - Preparation and comfort in providing death notifications



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## Results

- 2,333 responses (12.1% response rate)
  - 1,514 met inclusion criteria
  - 88% of ALS respondents and 42% of BLS respondents have performed at least one death notification in their career
    - Of these, 87% of the ALS respondents have performed the notification within the past 12 months, compared to 78% for BLS respondents.



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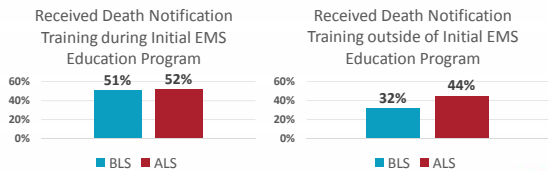
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## Results



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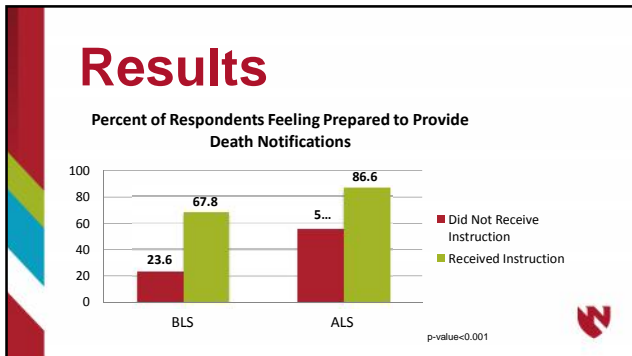
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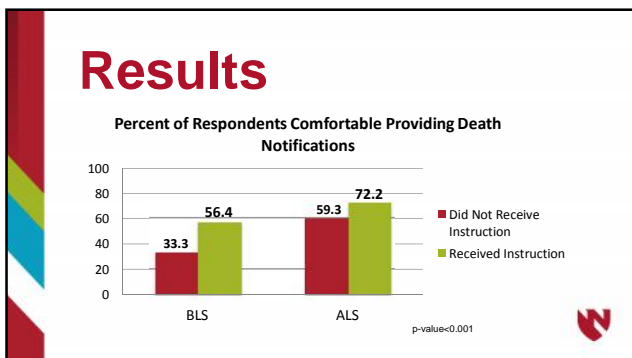
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## Results

Association of Previous Training with Comfort and Preparedness in Delivering Death Notifications

Outcome	OR (95% CI)*
Comfort	2.20 (1.77-2.75)
Preparedness	6.05 (4.73-7.74)

\*Controlling for certification level. (p < 0.001)

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## Limitations

- Recall Bias
- Response Bias
- Self reported



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## Conclusions

- Death notification training was associated with increased EMS provider comfort and preparedness
- Training for delivering death notification is not wide-spread
- Future work should assess barriers to receiving death notification training



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