

2. Faculté de médecine, Université de Sherbrooke, Longueuil, Canada
3. Department of Information Systems and Business Analytics, College of Business & Herbert Werheim College of Medicine, Miami, USA
4. University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, USA
5. BIDMC Emergency Medicine Department, Boston, USA

Introduction: Mass gatherings have become more frequent since the beginning of the 21st century. In Canada alone, music festival and sporting event industries will each represent yearly revenues over one billion USD by 2025. Such events require adequate medical planning, as they are associated with a greater prevalence of injuries and incidents than daily life, despite most participants having few comorbidities. Most often, the responsibility of medical planning lies with event producers. This study aims to compare the existing legislative requirements for mass gathering medical response in the ten provinces and three territories of Canada.

Method: This study is a cross-sectional descriptive study of legislation. Lists of legislative requirements were obtained by contacting via email or phone the emergency medical services (EMS) directors and Health Ministries of all the provinces and territories of Canada, and asking about any legislation or provision within existing laws regarding mass gatherings. Simple statistics were performed to compare legislation across provinces and territories.

Results: Data collection and analysis are planned to be completed by December 31, 2022. Initial data collection and analysis revealed that none of the seven provinces who answered our emails have provincial legislations. Two referred to specific provisions in the Public Health laws of their province, though nothing specifically refers to mass gatherings. One confirmed that mass gathering medical response was a municipal/local concern to be addressed by the event producers and the locality where the event takes place, and one referred to guidelines published in 2014.

Conclusion: Although some provinces and territories referred to provisions contained in public health legislation, none of the provinces reached to date could list specific legislation on mass gathering medical response. If this trend continues through full data analysis, it will highlight once more the need to provide more standardized guidance to organizers and municipalities in planning medical response.

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Management of Uncomplicated Acute Alcohol Intoxication at a Mass Gathering Event: Stop the Intravenous Fluids

Jamie Ransel¹, Julia Crilly^{1,2}, Gerben Keijzers², Sharon Mickan³, Matthew Munn⁴, Alison Hutton⁵, Amy Sweeney², Michelle Buckland², Laura Hamill², Delany Catherine², Katie East², Stephanie Hagar²

1. Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia
2. Gold Coast Health, Gold Coast, Australia
3. Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia
4. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
5. University of Newcastle, Newcastle, Australia

Introduction: Uncomplicated acute alcohol intoxication (UAAI) requiring medical management is common at some mass gathering events. Most of the mass gathering literature reporting on medical management involving UAAI are single case studies. The common clinical practice for UAAI at mass gatherings reported in the literature involves intravenous fluids and antiemetics. However, emergency department evidence suggests that administration of intravenous fluids does not enhance patient outcomes, and in some cases extends emergency department length of stay and costs.

Method: Using a retrospective cohort design of routinely collected data over a nine-year period (2010–2013 and 2016–2020), this study was set at an annual end-of-year ‘schoolies’ youth mass gathering event. The primary study aim was to determine the intravenous fluid management practices of UAAI at this event. Secondary study outcomes included patient demographic, clinical characteristics, and patient outcomes. Data were analyzed using time series and descriptive statistics. Ethical approval was obtained.

Results: In total, 378 patients were identified with UAAI at the event over the nine-year period. The median patient age was 17 years (IQR: 17–18), with 47.2% (n=179) being male. Overall, the median length of stay was 74 minutes (IQR: 40 – 144). Only 7.9% (n=30) patients received intravenous cannulation and 6.3% (n=24) patients received intravenous fluids. Proportionately, the use of intravenous fluids for the management of UAAI decreased over the study years [2010, 28.6%; 2011, 32.1%; 2012, 15.6%; 2013, 6.3%; 2016, 2.6%; 2017, 0%; 2018, 1.8%; 2019, 0%; 2020, 0%].

Conclusion: Some mass gathering events have a higher incidence of UAAI presentations. This is particularly true for those mass gathering events with young adults and at music festivals. Knowledge translation from the emergency department context regarding UAAI clinical management could be applied to the mass gathering event setting. This clinical management should include a conservative approach to the management of UAAI.

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Feasibility of Live Video Feed Transmission from UAVs for Medical Surveillance During the 2022 Montreal Marathon

Raphaël Lafortune BSc¹, Eddy Afram², David Iannuzzi MSc³, François de Champlain MD, FRCPC, MSc(A)^{3,4}, Valérie Homier MD, FRCPC, MSc(DM)^{3,4}

1. McGill University, Faculty of Medicine, Montreal, Canada
2. Côte Saint-Luc EMS, Montreal, Canada
3. McGill University, Department of Emergency Medicine, Montreal, Canada
4. McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Canada

Introduction: In recent years, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have been increasingly used for medical surveillance purposes in mass gathering events. No studies have investigated the reliability of live video transmission from UAVs for accurate identification of distressed race participants in need of medical attention. During the 2022 Montreal marathon, the aim of this study was to determine the proportion of data collection time during which live medical surveillance UAV video feed was

successfully transmitted and considered of sufficient quality to identify acute illness.

Method: Four UAVs equipped with high resolution cameras were deployed at two predefined high-risk areas for medical incidents located within the last 800m of the race. The video footage was transmitted in real-time during four consecutive hours to a remote viewing station where four research assistants monitored it on large screens. Interruptions in live feed transmission and moments with inadequate field of view on runners were documented.

Results: On September 25, 2022, 8,577 athletes registered in the Montreal marathon and half marathon. Out of the eight hours of video footage analyzed (four hours per high-risk area), 91.7% represented uninterrupted live video feed with an adequate view of the runners passing through the high-risk areas. The total interruption time was 22 minutes and 19 seconds, and the field of view was considered inadequate for a total of 17 minutes and 33 seconds. Active surveillance of drone-captured footage allowed identification of two race participants in need of medical attention. Appropriate resources were dispatched, and UAV repositioning allowed for real-time viewing of the medical response.

Conclusion: Live video transmission from UAVs for medical surveillance of runners passing through higher-risk segments of a marathon race for four consecutive hours is feasible. Live feed interruptions and segments with an inadequate field of view could be minimized through practice and additional equipment redundancy.

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Prevention and Preparedness for Mass Gathering Disasters: Our Efforts and Successes in Hyogo, Japan

Shinichi Nakayama MD, PhD, Takashi Ukai MD, Shuichi Kozarawa MD, Tetsunori Kawase MD, Satoshi Ishihara MD, Soichiro Kai MD, Takeshi Yoshida MD
Hyogo Emergency Medical Center, Kobe, Japan

Introduction: Both prevention and preparedness are essential to avoid casualties and deaths in mass gathering disasters (MGDs). What countermeasures should be taken?

Method: Retrospective analysis of a MGD at Akashi City Fireworks Festival in 2001; discussion of countermeasures at Kobe Luminarie, an annual light festival to commemorate the Great Hanshin Earthquake. Retrospective analysis of mass casualty incidents (MCIs) between 2003 and 2022 in which the alert function of EMISHP (Emergency Medical Information System in Hyogo Prefecture) was activated. Duration from emergency call to activation of alert function (activation time), number of casualties, and number of destination hospitals were evaluated.

Results: More than 200 persons were injured and eleven people died in the Akashi Fireworks crowd crush. The main cause of this MGD was lack of gateway control and one-way flow control of visitors. With such measures in place, no MGD has occurred at Kobe Luminarie. In the past nineteen years in Hyogo, the alert function has been activated for 288 MCIs, such as vehicle accidents and fires. Activation time ranged from

1 to 73 minutes (median value=12). The casualty count ranged from 0 to 662 (median value=5). The number of destination hospitals ranged from 0 to 54 (median value=2). In all cases, emergency medical coordinators at Hyogo Emergency Medical Center, a principal hub hospital for disasters, directly or indirectly contributed to the medical response, e.g. securing hospital capacity, dispatching doctor-attending cars/helicopters and other medical teams to the scene, sharing information on the MCI between fire departments and hospitals.

Conclusion: Prevention of MGDs requires taking proactive measures, such as gateway restriction and one-way flow control without bottlenecks. Preparedness is made possible by the alert function of EMISHP; it enables smoother patient transport to hospitals and contributes much in securing sufficient time and resources for medical response in MCIs, including MGDs.

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Standards of Medical Planning and Response for Emergency Medical Teams During Mass Gatherings: A Systematic Review

Kris Spaepen RN, MSc EMDM¹, Camila Lajolo MD, MPH, LA², Ninlang Wang MD, MPH, MA², Flavio Salio MPH, MSc², Ives Hubloue MD, PhD³

1. Research Group on Emergency and Disaster Medicine, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium
2. World Health Organization, EMT secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland
3. Research group on emergency and disaster medicine, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

Introduction: Mass gathering events (MGE), organized or unplanned, can attract sufficient attendees to strain the planning and response resources of the host community, state, or nation, thereby delaying the response to emergencies. MGEs also have the potential to cause a mass casualty incident. But MGE can also lead to improvements in the organization of local emergency medical services or public health that form the legacy of that MGE. Emergency medical teams (EMTs) could be deployed to ensure health security as a surge in MGE. But these EMTs should be built on guiding principles and core standards. However, to the best of our knowledge, there are no standards on medical planning and response during any type of MGE (e.g., sports, religious, or festivals).

Method: A systematic review was performed in accordance with current guidelines, using six databases, namely Medline (via the PubMed interface), Scopus, Embase, Cochrane Library, ScienceDirect, and CINAHL, as well as literature sourced by Google Scholar and The Journal of Prehospital and Disaster Medicine. Studies published on minimum standards or medical planning and response during MGE from 2002-2022, written in English, were selected and assessed for eligibility by two reviewers.

Results: From a total of 20,159 articles, 138 were screened, and 32 were assessed for eligibility. Two were only abstracts, and the others did not contain any description of minimal standards available for medical planning or response in different types of MGE.