Are Canadians more willing to provide chest-compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)?—a nation-wide public survey

Lindsay Cheskes, BSc, MSc*[†]; Laurie J. Morrison, MD, MSc*^{‡§¶}; Dorcas Beaton, MSc, PhD**^{††}; Janet Parsons, MSc, PhD^{‡‡§§}; Katie N. Dainty, MSc, PhD*[‡]

ABSTRACT

Background: Bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) improves the likelihood of survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA), yet it is performed in only 30% of cases. The 2010 guidelines promote chest-compression-only bystander CPR—a change intended to increase willingness to provide CPR.

Objectives: 1) To determine whether the Canadian general public is more willing to perform chest-compression-only CPR compared to traditional CPR; 2) to characterize public knowledge of OHCA; and 3) to identify barriers and facilitators to bystander CPR.

Methods: A 32-item survey assessing resuscitation knowledge, and willingness to provide CPR were disseminated in five Canadian regions. Descriptive statistics were used to characterize response distribution. Logistic regression analysis was applied to assess shifts in intention to provide CPR.

Results: A total of 428 completed surveys were analysed. When presented with a scenario of being a bystander in an OHCA, a greater proportion of respondents were willing to provide chest-compression-only CPR compared to traditional CPR for all victims (61.5% v. 39.7%, p < 0.001), when the victim was a stranger (55.1% v. 38.8%, p < 0.001), or when the victim was an unkempt individual (47.9% v. 28.5%, p < 0.001). When asked to describe an OHCA, 41.4% said the heart stopped beating, and 20.8% said it was a heart attack. Identified barriers and facilitators included fear of litigation and lack of skill confidence.

Conclusions: This study identified gaps in knowledge, which may impair the ability of bystanders to act in OHCA. Most respondents expressed greater willingness to provide chest-compression-only CPR, but this was mediated by victim characteristics, skill confidence, and recognition of a cardiac arrest.

RÉSUMÉ

Contexte: Les manœuvres de réanimation cardiopulmonaire (RCP), effectuées par les passants améliorent les probabilités de survie en cas d'arrêt cardiaque survenu en milieu extrahospitalier (ACMEH); pourtant, les manœuvres ne sont effectuées que dans 30 % des cas. Dans les lignes directrices de 2010, on favorise les manœuvres de RCP par compressions thoraciques seules faites par les passants, un changement visant à accroître la disposition à pratiquer la RCP.

Objectifs: L'étude visait à : 1) déterminer si les Canadiens en général étaient plus disposés à pratiquer les manœuvres de RCP par compressions thoraciques seules que selon la méthode classique de RCP; 2) caractériser les connaissances du public sur l'ACMEH; 3) cerner les obstacles à la pratique de la RCP par les passants, ainsi que les facteurs facilitants.

Méthode: Un questionnaire d'enquête en 32 points, portant sur les connaissances relatives à la réanimation et sur la disposition à effectuer la RCP a été envoyé dans cinq régions du Canada. Les auteurs ont utilisé des statistiques descriptives afin de caractériser la ventilation des réponses, et ont eu recours à l'analyse de régression logistique afin d'évaluer les changements d'intention quant à la pratique de la RCP.

Résultats: Ont été analysés 428 questionnaires d'enquête remplis. Dans les scénarios d'ACMEH soumis, dans lesquels les personnes interrogées étaient des passants, une proportion plus grande de répondants était disposée à pratiquer la RCP par compressions thoraciques seules que selon la méthode classique, et ce, chez toutes les victimes (61,5 % contre [c.] 39,7 %; p<0,001), chez les inconnus (55,1 % c. 38,8 %; p<0,001) ou chez les personnes à l'apparence négligée (47,9 % c. 28,5 %; p<0,001). On a également demandé aux participants de décrire ce qu'était l'ACMEH : 41,4 % ont affirmé que le cœur arrêtait de battre et 20,8 %,

From the *Rescu, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, ON; †Institute of Medical Science, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON; ‡Institute of Health Policy Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON; §Department of Emergency Services, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, ON; ¶Division of Emergency Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON; **Mobility Program Clinical Research Unit, Keenan Research Centre, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, ON; ††Occupational Sciences and Occupational Therapy, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON; ‡‡Applied Health Research Centre, Keenan Research Centre, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, ON; and §§Department of Physical Therapy and Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.

Correspondence to: Dr. Katie N. Dainty, Rescu, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, 30 Bond Street, Toronto, ON M5B 1W8; Email: daintyk@smh.ca

© Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians

CJEM 2016;18(4):253-263

DOI 10.1017/cem.2015.113





CJEM • *JCMU* 2016:18(4) **253**

qu'il s'agissait d'une crise cardiaque. Figuraient parmi les obstacles à la pratique de la RCP la crainte de poursuite et le manque de confiance en ses capacités.

Conclusions: L'étude a permis de relever des lacunes en matière de connaissances, ce qui peut certes faire hésiter les passants avant d'agir devant un ACMEH. La plupart des répondants ont montré une disposition accrue à pratiquer la RCP par compressions thoraciques seules, mais les caractéristiques des victimes, le manque de confiance en ses capacités et la non-reconnaissance de l'arrêt cardiaque en ont quelque peu atténué la portée.

Keywords: Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, bystander CPR, Canadian survey, ILCOR guidelines

INTRODUCTION

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) remains a significant cause of death worldwide. In Canada, some 40,000 OHCAs occur each year—a figure that equates to approximately one every 13 minutes.² Unfortunately, despite advances in medical treatment, overall survival rates of OHCA remain low at 8%-11%.1 Early bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation are known to be the two most important links in the chain of survival from OHCA;3,4 together, they have been shown to increase the likelihood of survival by 75% or more.5 However, despite a long-standing recognition of this, bystander CPR rates rarely exceed 30% and have remained consistently low.⁶⁻⁹ In particular, bystander CPR rates are considerably lower in most Canadian communities when compared to analogous international locations.9 Although rates of bystander CPR are well documented, the reasons that many bystanders are reluctant to perform CPR remain poorly understood.

Through various partnerships and collaborations, both local and nationwide, the resuscitation science community has put forth a strong effort to enhance bystander CPR rates over the past decade. Popular strategies include the integration of effective dispatch-assisted telephone CPR instructions, 10-13 the implementation of CPR education in schools, 14 the organization of mass CPR training events, 15-17 targeted CPR training for family members of individuals with known cardiovascular disease, 18,19 and, recently, the promotion of a simplified chest-compression-only (CCO) CPR technique for bystanders.^{20,21} However, these efforts have largely been unsuccessful, in that bystander CPR rates in OHCA remain unchanged. 22,23 Recently, international evidence-based guidelines have endorsed a simplified CCO approach for CPR. 20,21 The CCO-CPR approach emphasizes the importance of high-quality chest compressions and removes the requirement of mouth-to-mouth (MTM) ventilation. Studies have shown that CCO-CPR is associated with

similar outcomes in adult OHCA when compared to traditional CPR.²⁴⁻²⁶ This technique is currently being promoted internationally, with the goal of increasing bystander CPR rates.²⁵

While several authors have published research describing perspectives from other countries, 3,27-29 no known studies to date have examined the Canadian public perspective on cardiac arrest and bystander CPR. In particular, no published research exists on the influence of the new resuscitation guidelines on public perspectives toward resuscitation. As such, we sought to investigate Canadian knowledge, perceptions and attitudes toward OHCA and bystander CPR, and determine whether Canadians are more willing to perform the newly endorsed CCO-CPR³⁰ compared to traditional CPR. Our specific objectives were to 1) determine whether the Canadian general public are more willing to perform CCO-CPR compared to traditional CPR; 2) characterize public knowledge of OHCA; and 3) identify barriers and facilitators to bystander CPR.

METHODS

Survey design

A 32-item, online survey instrument was developed and administered according to the Tailored Design Method proposed by Dillman et al.³¹ The survey was developed based on existing literature, expert consultation, and previously documented scenario-based surveys.^{8,28,32-35} Interview data from an exploratory, in-depth qualitative study previously conducted by our research team were used to identify subtopics of particular interest.³⁶⁻³⁹ This ensured that the survey tool was robust and designed to fulfill the specific study objectives.

The survey and description of instruction are included in the Appendix (see supplementary material). The first section contained three screening questions to

254 2016;18(4) *CJEM · JCMU*

capture data on age, gender, and province of completion. The second section was designed to capture data on past CPR training and to assess participant knowledge of cardiac arrest, CPR, and automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). Questions regarding past exposure to cardiac arrest and performance of CPR in a real-world situation were also included. Determining knowledge of AEDs and willingness to use them in OHCA were not part of the initial objectives for this project. However, after exploring the topic of AEDs in detail throughout the qualitative interviews that informed this study, questions on AEDs were added to this survey. The third section involved scenario-based questions whereby participants were requested to visualize themselves as the witness of an OHCA and respond accordingly. For any given respondent, the order of appearance for two sets of scenarios (2005 v. 2010 instructions) was randomly allocated. The fourth, and final, section of the survey collected additional demographic data (marital status, offspring, education level, ethnicity, and so forth) to allow the evaluation of population representation.

Prior to administration of the survey, a pilot test of the online tool was conducted with a sample of 35 respondents. Upon completing the survey, test respondents were given the opportunity to provide feedback on clarity, brevity, wording of questions, and general concerns and comments in an open-ended fashion. Pilot test data were examined for quality and completeness. Feedback was largely positive in nature, and no suggestions were made regarding improving the clarity of the questionnaire.

This study was approved by both the St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto Research Ethics Boards.

Study setting and population

The survey was conducted with a representative sample of adults living in Canada. An external marketing company, Canadian Viewpoint, 40 provided nation-wide sampling and recruitment using their existing public research panels. Canadian Viewpoint has a well-established, representative Canadian consumer research panel. Members of the Canadian general public had previously opted to be a part of this research panel, provided their personal contact information to the company, and indicated a willingness to receive survey invitations by email. To be eligible for inclusion,

potential participants had to be 18 years of age or older, speak English, and be registered to the Canadian Viewpoint⁴⁰ research panel. The three Canadian territories were excluded because their combined population is extremely small relative to Canada as a whole, and, thus, their proportional representation in the survey would be negligible. A primary language other than English was also excluded, because the research team lacked translation abilities.

The sample size requirement was estimated to be 400 participants, based upon the total population of the Canadian provinces and a desired 95% confidence interval (CI) defined a priori. The sample size was selected using a table of population-based estimations for survey responses to achieve a 5% margin of error.³¹ The sample size required for \pm 5% sampling error in a population of 1,000,000 or greater with an estimated 50/50 split of responses is 384. According to Dillman et al., among large populations, there is virtually no difference in the completed sample size required for a given level of precision.³¹ We rounded our sample size up to 400 to ensure that we achieved the target number of responses and sampled five regions: British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes. Each of these regions was assigned a quota for the survey sample that was representative of its proportion of the total population reported in the most recent Canadian census.41

The survey was distributed over a 1-week window. Canadian Viewpoint sent reminder emails to non-responders at 48 hours after the initial contact in an attempt to maximize the response rate. Participants did not receive any compensation for completing the survey.

Data analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to characterize the study sample and distribution of responses.³¹ Open-ended questions were analysed qualitatively using a broad coding framework.⁴² The chi-square test, t-test, and multivariable logistic regression analyses were conducted as required to assess any shifts in intent and reported willingness to provide bystander CPR, based on the change from traditional to CCO. Definite willingness (defined as *Yes* responses) was coded as *Yes*, and unsure or unwilling responses (defined as *Maybe* or *No* responses) were coded as *No*. Each participant was thus classified as either a *Yes* or a *No* for both 2005 and 2010 CPR guidelines. Four groups of individuals within

CJEM · JCMU 2016;18(4) **255**

the sample were established for the analysis. The group labeled Y05/Y10 responded Yes to performing both types of CPR. The group labeled N05/N10 responded No to performing both types of CPR. The group labeled Y05/N10 responded Yes to traditional CPR and No to CCO-CPR, and the group labeled N05/Y10 responded the reverse. To evaluate reported changes in willingness based on the guidelines, groups 2 (N05/N10) and 3 (N05/Y10) were compared. Based on the literature and exploratory qualitative data published elsewhere, seven variables with the potential to influence intention to provide CPR were defined a priori and examined⁴³: gender, age, marital status, children, education, immigration status, and prior CPR training. McNemar's test was used for the analysis of dependent categorical variables in the scenario situations. Analyses were carried out using SAS Version 9.3 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC), and p values of 0.05 or less were considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

We received 428 completed surveys for analysis; 274 (64.0%) of respondents had received some type of CPR training. The demographics of the study participants are provided in Tables 1 and 2 and comparatively listed with results from the 2006 Canadian census to allow an assessment of representativeness.

Willingness to perform CPR

The results suggest that shifts in attitude exist regarding the 2005 and 2010 guidelines. Figures 1 and 2 summarize the distribution of respondents into the combined 2005/2010 willingness groups. Table 3 provides results of a comparative analysis of N05/N10 and N05/Y10 groups, undertaken to allow an assessment of shifts with the intention to provide CPR based on changes in the guidelines. The distribution of gender between these two groups was significantly different (p = 0.0015). Among participants who did not express a willingness to perform CPR according to the 2005 guidelines, women were more likely to indicate a willingness to perform CPR when MTM ventilation was removed (odds ratio: 2.3, 95% CI [1.4, 3.8]). After adjustments for the other variables of interest, female gender was found to be the only factor significantly associated with increased willingness to perform bystander CPR based on the change in the guidelines.

When the OHCA victim was unknown, for the sample as a whole, the proportion of respondents willing to provide CCO-CPR was significantly greater than the proportion of respondents willing to perform traditional CPR with MTM ventilations (61.5% v. 39.7%, p < 0.001). In analysing the different scenarios where the victim was identified, the proportion of respondents willing to perform CCO-CPR was significantly greater than the proportion willing to provide traditional CPR in two cases: stranger (55.1% v. 38.8%, p < 0.001) and unkempt/homeless individual (47.9% v. 28.5%, p < 0.001). Statistically significant differences were not found in the family, friend, and child scenarios.

Knowledge and understanding

When asked to describe a cardiac arrest in their own words, 41.4% of participants indicated that it means the heart has stopped beating. The next most common answer was a heart attack, reported by 20.8% of individuals. Symptoms of cardiac arrest cited by participants are provided in Figure 3. The three most frequently cited symptoms were chest pain, identified by 244 participants (57.0%), followed by difficulty breathing/shortness of breath (239 participants, 55.8%) and other pain (including general pain, left and/or right arm pain, shoulder, jaw, back or neck pain), identified by 159 participants (37.2%).

A total of 400 participants (93.5%) had previously heard of CPR. When asked to list as many steps in performing CPR as possible, airway, breathing, and circulation or some variation of this sequence was noted by 37.6% of participants. Chest compressions and rescue breathing were noted by 22.2%, and only 14% indicated CCO-CPR, as is recommended in the 2010 guidelines. Overall, 24 different chest compression-ventilation ratios were reported. Participant's perceptions of OHCA survival rates ranged from 50% survival (21%) to 0% survival (1.4%). Only 7% participants endorsed 10%, which is the currently reported rate of cardiac arrest survival.^{6,44}

Barriers and facilitators to performing CPR

The most commonly reported rationale for providing CPR was that the respondent felt a duty or responsibility to help, and would act across all ten scenarios. The sole exception was performing traditional CPR on an unkempt individual; for 40.2% of individuals, participants

256 2016;18(4) *CJEM* • *JCMU*

Characteristic	Study Sample		2006 Census	
	n	%	n	%
Gender				
Male	213	49.8	16,414,225	49.0
Female	215	50.2	17,062,460	51.0
Region				
Prairies	92	21.5	5,866,906	22.3
Ontario	202	47.2	12,851,821	48.7
Maritimes	44	10.3	2,327,638	8.8
Quebec	14	3.27	912,360	3.4
British Columbia	76	17.8	4,400,057	16.7
Marital status				
Single/never married	110	25.7	7,816,045	28
Married/living common law	249	58.2	16,084,490	57.8
Separated, but still legally married	23	5.4	698,240	2.5
Divorced	34	7.9	1,686,035	6.0
Widowed	12	2.8	1,584,530	5.7
Children				
Yes	257	60.1	4,109,295	52.3
No	171	39.9	3,752,565	47.7
Education level				
Grade school	*	_	†	_
Some high school	13	3.1	†	_
High school graduate	93	22.0	6,553,420	33.5
College or technical school degree	143	33.8	7,220,555	36.9
Attended university	33	7.8	1,136,145	5.8
Graduated university with an undergraduate degree	87	20.6	2,981,460	15.2
Completed a postgraduate degree	41	9.7	1,537,455	7.9
Completed a professional degree	13	3.1	136,845	0.7
Prefer not to answer	*	_	100/010	0.,
Immigration status				
Nonimmigrant	363	84.8	6,775,765	79.2
Immigrant (by birthplace)	65	15.1	25,720,175	20.8
Ethnicity	00	10.1	NA	NA
Caucasian	354	82.7	IVA	INA
Chinese	20	4.7		
South Asian (East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)	16	3.7		
African Canadian	5	3.7 1.2		
European descent	6	1.4		
Prefer not to answer	6	1.4		
Other	21			
	∠1	4.9	NIA	N I A
Prior heart disease diagnosis	E1	11.00	NA	NA
Yes	51	11.92		
No	377	88.08		

feared doing MTM ventilations and putting themselves at risk for disease or infection, whereas 23.6% of respondents reported similar fears in the case of a stranger. Barriers, such as lack of knowledge/confidence

in CPR skills, fear of litigation, and "depends on who else was there to help," were reported more frequently in the case of the stranger and unkempt individuals.

CJEM · JCMU 2016;18(4) **257**

DISCUSSION

This is the first study to explore the knowledge and willingness to engage in resuscitative efforts in OHCA among members of the general public in Canada. We found that Canadians express a greater willingness to provide CCO-CPR compared to traditional CPR with MTM ventilations; however, our results suggest that significant gaps exist in lay public

Table 2. Age and immigrant status of participants								
Characteristic	n	Min	Max	Mean ± SD				
Age Years in Canada (for immigrants)				45.97 ± 14.94 26.42 ± 18.22				
*One missing value. Max = maximum; Min = minimum; SD = standard deviation.								

knowledge with respect to OHCA that may warrant further attention.

The significance of early and effective bystander action has been recognized as the sentinel predictor of survival from OHCA. However, this has not translated well into action at the point of care; bystander CPR rates in Canada remain low, rarely exceeding 30%. While other international studies from the United States, ^{3,8} Europe, ⁷ Asia, ²⁸ Australia, ^{29,45} and New Zealand have evaluated attitudes, perceptions, and understanding of CPR, our results provide important insights into Canadian perspectives on cardiac arrest and resuscitation. It is also the first study to examine the influence of the new 2010 CCO guidelines on bystander willingness to do CPR.

Significant gaps in knowledge were found in several domains. Participants were overly optimistic about

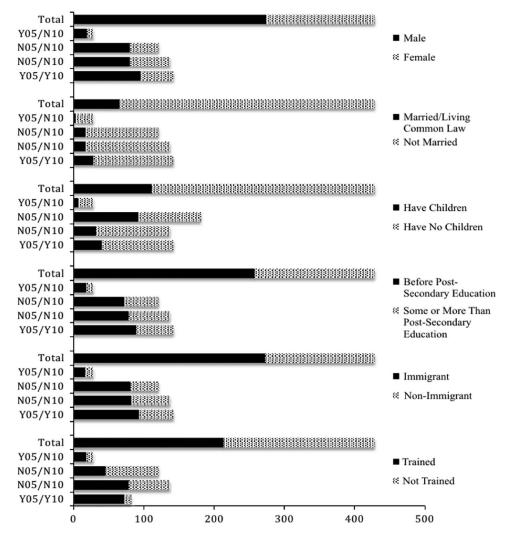


Figure 1. Distribution of respondents by categorical variable into combined 2005/2010 willingness groups.

survival from OHCA, with approximately half indicating a survival rate of 50% or higher. In 2006, Donohoe et al. reported a similarly high perception of survival rate, with 65% of respondents believing that at least half of OHCA patients survive.²⁷ Unrealistic assumptions about survival from OHCA may illustrate a lack of awareness amongst the general public.

Our findings suggest that the ability of the Canadian general public to appreciate when a person has suffered a cardiac arrest is poor. Confusion between the terms *beart* attack and cardiac arrest has been found elsewhere.^{27,47}

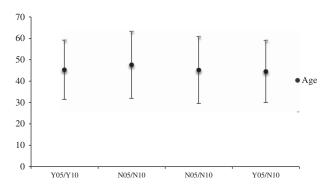


Figure 2. Age of participants categorized by combined 2005/2010 willingness group.

Arrest identification is the first step in initiating CPR, and lack of recognition may be a key to the low response rate by bystanders. Identification algorithms have been simplified (e.g., removal of pulse check, recognition of agonal breathing),⁴⁸ and other groups have developed effective strategies to help lay rescuers identify myocardial infarction.⁴⁹⁻⁵² It is possible that increasing awareness of these tools would help with the early recognition of OHCA.

Although many participants noted that CPR comprises airway, breathing, circulation, their responses demonstrated confusion in recalling the order. Despite the fact that CCO-CPR has been endorsed since 2008,²⁵ our data suggest that this is not widely recognized by Canadians. In a 2009 study in Arizona, Coons et al. found similarly poor awareness surrounding CCO-CPR; just over a third of respondents in his study had previously heard of it through print and broadcast media.⁸ Our results are consistent with and provide further support to the existing body of international literature, indicating an increased willingness to perform CPR if MTM ventilations are not required.^{3,27,29,33,53,54} Community-wide CPR education initiatives should be promoting the CCO-CPR technique more effectively.

	N05/N10	N05/Y10	Unadjusted p value	Adjusted p value		
Variable (%)	(n = 137) (%)	(n = 121) (%)	(chi-square test results)	(logistic regression)	Odds Ratio	95% CI
Gender						
Male	78 (56.9)	45 (37.2)	0.0015*	0.0017*	2.28*	1.365, 3.817*
Female	59 (43.1)	76 (62.8)				
Marital status						
Married/living common law	82 (59.8)	81 (66.9)	0.2388	0.131	1.58	0.873, 2.847
Not married	55 (40.2)	40 (33.1)				
Children						
Yes	78 (56.9)	72 (59.5)	0.6763	0.888	1.05	0.571, 1.912
No	59 (43.1)	49 (40.5)				
Education						
Before post-secondary	32 (23.4)	32 (26.4)	0.5665	0.380	0.77	0.421, 1.390
More than post-secondary	105 (76.64)	89 (73.6)				
Immigration status						
Immigrant	17 (12.4)	17 (14.1)	0.6974	0.476	1.32	0.619, 2.801
Nonimmigrant	120 (87.6)	104 (85.9)				
Prior CPR training						
Trained	80 (58.4)	80 (66.1)	0.2022	0.196	1.43	0.833, 2.440
Not trained	57 (41.6)	41 (33.9)				
Age	$47.6 \pm 15.61^{\dagger}$	45.2 ± 15.62	0.2093‡	0.195	0.988	0.970, 1.006

^{*}Reported as mean ± standard deviation

^{*}Two sample t-test.

CI = confidence interval

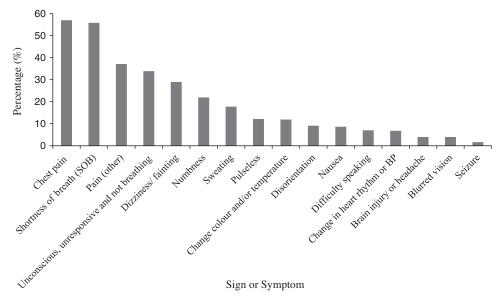


Figure 3. Percentage of participants citing various signs and symptoms of cardiac arrest.

Previous research has found that 67%–80% of respondents indicate a lack of knowledge and/or confidence in skills as a significant barrier. Fear of litigation was inconsistently reported, with some studies identifying it as a key issue and others as a very minor issue. In our study, only 6%–12% of participants cited a lack of knowledge and/or confidence in skills as a barrier, and fear of litigation was not prevalent in any scenario except with a stranger. This discrepancy may be due to the differences in legislation (such as Good Samaritan protection laws) and the litigious culture of other countries.

Our study was also designed to look more closely at the public perception of barriers and facilitators to the performance of bystander CPR, and thus provides important insight into key issues, which may be very informative for the design of future education and knowledge translation strategies. Interestingly, underlying humanitarian and altruistic values appeared to play a key role in participants' decision-making processes, with many citing a responsibility or duty to help any person in need. In an interview study carried out in 2000 of volunteer bystanders, Axelsson et al. noted that humanitarian values, expressed as a wish to save a life or the wish to help another person, constituted the foundation of the bystander's actions.⁷ Our results suggest that this concept similarly underscores much of Canadians' reported willingness to perform bystander CPR. Moreover, our logistic regression suggests that females are significantly more likely to increase their willingness based on the shift in the guidelines compared to males. In concert, these two findings suggest that Canadian CPR training initiatives should continue to promote a simpler, CCO technique, leverage the influence of humanitarian values, and perhaps consider gender differences in both the development and delivery.

Our results provide important insights that could help inform interventions to improve bystander CPR rates; however, it is not without limitations. First, a larger sample size would have been required to compare responses by region. Second, we sampled the population using online panels of individuals who had consented and registered with a survey company. This format offered a significant advantage in terms of the size and range of respondents sampled; however, Web-based surveys have inherent selection bias in that specific groups in the populations may be underrepresented due to less Internet access. Furthermore, recruitment of participants tends to be based on self-selection. Both under-coverage and self-selection may lead to biased estimates,⁵⁶ although the direction and magnitude are difficult to estimate given the increasingly wide availability of the Internet. Despite the potential bias, we feel that this was the most feasible approach for achieving a larger sample of members of the Canadian general public. We were not able to offer the survey in other languages due to limitations in our

260 2016;18(4) *CJEM* • *JCMU*

ability to analyse non-English narrative responses; however, given that the 2011 census indicated that 75% of the Canadian population reported English as their first language and 63.5% of the population whose mother tongue was neither English nor French reported speaking English at home,⁵⁷ we feel that this still can be viewed as a nationally representative survey. Finally, participants were asked to report their behavioural intentions in hypothetical scenarios related to bystander CPR. Although intentions are a predictor of actual behaviour, it is unclear whether reported intentions would be completely concordant with actual behaviour in real-life OHCA situations.^{58,59}

CONCLUSION

Our findings provide important insight into the Canadian perspective on cardiac arrest and resuscitation that has not existed previously. This research revealed that Canadians are more willing to provide CCO-CPR. Of equal significance, this research revealed serious and fundamental gaps in knowledge about CPR on the part of the lay people that may contribute to bystander inaction at the scene of a cardiac arrest. Barriers and facilitators included fear of litigation and lack of skill confidence. Future work in this area should apply this information to tailor and redesign future educational initiatives and strategies.

Financial support: This project was funded by the University of Toronto's Department of Emergency Medicine, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (and the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians.

Competing interests: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium supported this research through its career development awards. This research was also supported by the American Heart Association and Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada through grants.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

To view supplementary material for this article, please visit http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/cem.2015.113

REFERENCES

 Berdowski J, Berg RA, Tijssen JG, et al. Global incidences of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and survival rates: systematic review of 67 prospective studies. *Resuscitation* 2010;81(11): 1479-87.

- Heart and Stroke Foundation. Statistics; 2014. Available at: http://www.heartandstroke.com/site/c.ikIQLcMWJtE/b.34839 91/k.34A8/Statistics.htm-references (accessed December 17, 2014).
- Hubble MW, Bachman M, Price R, et al. Willingness of high school students to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillation. *Prehosp Emerg Care* 2003;7(2):219-4.
- Dias JA, Brown TB, Saini D, et al. Simplified dispatchassisted CPR instructions outperform standard protocol. Resuscitation 2007;72(1):108-4.
- 5. Weisfeldt M, Everson-Stewart S, Sitlani C, et al. Ventricular tachyarrhythmias after cardiac arrest in public versus at home. *N Engl J Med* 2011;364(4):313-21.
- Nichol G, Thomas E, Callaway CW, et al.. Regional variation in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest incidence and outcome. JAMA 2008;300:1423-31.
- Axelsson A, Herlitz J, Fridlund B. How bystanders perceive their cardiopulmonary resuscitation interventions; a qualitative study. *Resuscitation* 2000;47(1):71-81.
- 8. Coons SJ, Guy MC. Performing bystander CPR for sudden cardiac arrest: behavioral intentions among the general adult population in Arizona. *Resuscitation* 2009;80(3):334-40.
- Vaillancourt C, Grimshaw J, Brehaut JC, et al.. A survey of attitudes and factors associated with successful cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) knowledge transfer in an older population most likely to witness cardiac arrest: design and methodology. BMC Emerg Med 2008;8:13.
- 10. Vaillancourt C, Verma A, Trickett J, et al. Evaluating the effectiveness of dispatch-assisted cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructions. *Acad Emerg Med* 2007;14(10):877-3.
- Rea TD, Eisenberg MS, Culley LL, et al. Dispatcherassisted cardiopulmonary resuscitation and survival in cardiac arrest. *Circulation* 2001;104:2513-6.
- Bang A, Biber B, Isaksson L, et al. Evaluation of dispatcherassisted cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Eur J Emerg Med 1999;6(3):175-83.
- 13. Mirza M, Brown TB, Saini D, et al. Instructions to "push as hard as you can" improve average chest compression depth in dispatcher-assisted cardiopulmonary resuscitation. *Resuscitation* 2008;79(1):97-102.
- 14. Cave DM, Aufderheide TP, Beeson J, et al. Importance and implementation of training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillation in schools: a science advisory from the American Heart Association. *Circulation* 2011;123(6):691-706.
- Fong Y, Anantharaman V, Lim S, et al. Mass cardiopulmonary resuscitation 99—survey results of a multi-organisational effort in public education in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. *Resuscitation* 2001;49(2):201-5.
- 16. Pane G, Salness K. A survey of participants in a mass CPR training course. *Ann Emerg Med* 1987;16(10):1112-6.
- Selby M, Kautz J, Moore T, et al. Indicators of response to mass media CPR recruitment campaign. Am J Public Health 1982;72(9):1039-42.
- 18. Chu K, May C, Clark M, et al. CPR training in households of patients with chest pain. *Resuscitation* 2003;57:257-68.
- 19. Lie K, Richardson M. Attitudes of health professionals toward cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for family

 $CJEM \cdot JCMU$ 2016;18(4) **261**

- members of cardiac patients. Coron Health Care 1999;3(2): 91-8.
- Bhanji F, Mancini ME, Sinz E, et al. Part 16: education, implementation, and teams: 2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. *Circulation* 2010;122(18 Suppl 3):S920-33.
- 21. Blewer AL, Leary M, Esposito EC, et al. Continuous chest compression cardiopulmonary resuscitation training promotes rescuer self-confidence and increased secondary training: a hospital-based randomized controlled trial*. *Crit Care Med* 2012;40(3):787-92.
- Vaillancourt C, Stiell I. Cardiac arrest care and emergency medical services in Canada. Can J Cardiol 2004;20(11): 1081-90.
- 23. Vaillancourt C, Stiell I, Wells GA. Understanding and improving low bystander CPR rates: a systematic review of the literature. *C7EM* 2008;10(1):51-65.
- Omi W, Taniguchi T, Kaburaki T, et al. The attitudes of Japanese high school students toward cardiopulmonary resuscitation. *Resuscitation* 2008;78(3):340-5.
- 25. Sayre MR, Berg RA, Cave DM, et al. Hands-only (compression-only) cardiopulmonary resuscitation: a call to action for bystander response to adults who experience out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest: a science advisory for the public from the American Heart Association Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee. Circulation 2008;117(6): 2162-7.
- Bobrow BJ, Spaite DW, Berg RA, et al. Chest compressiononly CPR by lay rescuers and survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. *JAMA* 2010;304(13):1447-54.
- 27. Donohoe RT, Haefeli K, Moore F. Public perceptions and experiences of myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest and CPR in London. *Resuscitation* 2006;71(1):70-9.
- 28. Taniguchi T, Sato K, Fujita T, et al. Attitudes to bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation in Japan in 2010. *Circ J* 2012;76(5):1130-5.
- Jelinek GA, Gennat H, Celenza T, et al. Community attitudes towards performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation in Western Australia. Resuscitation 2001;51(3):239-46.
- Travers AH, Rea TD, Bobrow BJ, et al. Part 4: CPR overview: 2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. Circulation 2010;122(18 Suppl 3):S676-84.
- Dillman DA, Smyth JD, Christian LM. Internet, mail, and mixed-mode surveys: the tailored design method surveys. 3rd ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons; 2009.
- 32. Axelsson A, Thoren A, Holmberg S, et al. Attitudes of trained Swedish lay rescuers toward CPR performance in an emergency. A survey of 1012 recently trained CPR rescuers. *Resuscitation* 2000;44(1):27-36.
- Kanstad B, Nilsen S, Fredriksen K. CPR knowledge and attitude to performing bystander CPR among secondary school students in Norway. *Resuscitation* 2011;82(8): 1053-9.
- 34. Chew KS, Yazid MN. The willingness of final year medical and dental students to perform bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation in an Asian community. *Int J Emerg Med* 2008;1(4):301-9.

- Parnell MM, Pearson J, Galletly DC, et al. Knowledge of and attitudes towards resuscitation in New Zealand high-school students. *Emerg Med J* 2006;23(12): 899-902.
- Cheskes L. Assessing public perceptions of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and bystander willingness to act in out-ofhospital cardiac arrest [Master's thesis]. Toronto: University of Toronto; 2014.
- 37. Creswell JW. Research design: qualitative and quantitative approaches. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications; 1994.
- 38. Morse JM. Approaches to qualitative-quantitative methodological triangulation. *Nurs Res* 1991;40(2):120-3.
- 39. Green J, Thorogood N. Qualitative methods for health research. 2nd ed. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications; 2009.
- Canadian Viewpoint. Real people, Real solutions, Real Data;
 Available at: http://canview.com/.
- Statistics Canada. 2006 Census release topics; 2006. Available at: http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/ 2006/rt-td/index-eng.cfm.
- 42. Braun V, Clarke V. Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qual Res Psychol* 2006;3:77-101.
- 43. Sasson C, Meischke H, Abella BS, et al. Increasing cardiopulmonary resuscitation provision in communities with low bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation rates: a science advisory from the American Heart Association for healthcare providers, policymakers, public health departments, and community leaders. *Circulation* 2013;127(12): 1342-50.
- CPR Statistics. CPR and sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) fact sheet; 2011. Available at: http://www.heart.org/HEART-ORG/CPRAndECC/WhatisCPR/CPRFactsandStats/CPR-Statistics UCM 307542 Article.isp.
- Dwyer T. Psychological factors inhibit family members' confidence to initiate CPR. Prehosp Emerg Care 2008;12(2): 157-61.
- Parnell MM, Larsen PD. Poor quality teaching in lay person CPR courses. Resuscitation 2007;73(2):271-8.
- Larsen P, Pearson J, Galletly D. Knowledge and attitudes towards cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the community. N Z Med 7 2004;117(1193):U870.
- 48. Berg RA, Hemphill R, Abella BS, et al. Part 5: adult basic life support: 2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. *Circulation* 2010;122(18 Suppl 3): S685-705.
- Alberts MJ, Perry A, Dawson DV, et al. Effects of public and professional education on reducing the delay in presentation and referral of stroke patients. Stroke 1992;23(3): 352-6.
- 50. Barsan WG, Brott TG, Broderick JP, et al. Urgent therapy for acute stroke. Effects of a stroke trial on untreated patients. *Stroke* 1994;25(11):2132-7.
- 51. Finn J, Bett J, Shilton T, et al. Patient delay in responding to symptoms of possible heart attack: can we reduce time to care? *Med J Aust* 2007;187(5):293-8.
- Bell M, Lommel T, Fischer J, et al. Improved recognition of heart attack and stroke symptoms after a community-based intervention for older adults, Georgia, 2006-2007. Prev Chronic Dis 2009;6(2):A41.

262 2016;18(4) *CJEM* • *JCMU*

- 53. Cho GC, Sohn YD, Kang KH, et al. The effect of basic life support education on laypersons' willingness in performing bystander hands only cardiopulmonary resuscitation. *Resuscitation* 2010;81(6):691-4.
- 54. Shibata K, Taniguchi T, Yoshida M, et al. Obstacles to bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation in Japan. *Resuscitation* 2000;44(3):187-93.
- 55. Johnston T, Clark M, Dingle G, et al. Factors influencing Queenslanders' willingness to perform bystander cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. *Resuscitation* 2003;56(1):67-75.
- 56. Bethlehem J. Selection bias in Web surveys. *Int Stat Rev* 2010;78(2):161-88.
- 57. Statistics Canada. Linguistic characteristics of Canadians: 2011 census of population; 2012. Available at: http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/98-314-x/98-314-x2011001-eng.cfm.
- Ajzen I, Brown T, Carvajal F. Explaining the discrepancy between intentions and actions: the case of hypothetical bias in contingent valuation. *Pers Soc Psychol Bull* 2004;30(9): 1108-21.
- Ajzen I, Fishbein M. The influences of attitudes on behaviour. In: *The bandbook of attitudes* (eds. Albarracin D, Johnson B, Zanna M). New York: Routledge; 2005, 173-221.

CJEM · JCMU 2016;18(4) **263**