Mass Gathering Medicine and Event Medicine

Adam Lund

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Vision:
To improve public safety at mass gatherings and special events and to reduce the burden these events create on health infrastructure.

Situation:
Mass gatherings and special events are increasingly common. In this out-of-hospital and prehospital setting, there are unique risks associated with specific types of gatherings. These risks are arguably poorly understood and the evidence base to support practice is currently drawn from case reports and infrequent case series.

Stakeholders:
Vancouver Coastal, Fraser, Vancouver Island & Interior HA's; regional hospitals; local community members; attendees/participants, educ.institutions preparing multi-disciplinary health care professionals; event producers ; MoH, WHO, World Association of Disaster & Emergency Medicine, Centre of Excellence in Emergency Preparedness, CAEP, Karmik, Health Night Life, Drug Policy Alliance, Cnd Centre on Substance Use & Addiction, BC Centre on Substance Use, BC EHS, Justice Institute of BC

Priority Goals:

- Contributing leadership and research towards improving the evidence-base for event medicine
- Developing national standards for research and clinical practice in mass gathering health
- Creating a national network of event professionals to support excellence in pre-hospital event medicine
- Disseminating best practices in event medicine

Inputs

- Multi-disciplinary clinicians who work and volunteer in the context of event medicine
- Close Collaborators: Clinicians and learners through the Mass Gathering Medicine Interest Groups in Canada
- Event Medical Services Providers who collaborate in data sharing, and examining best known practices
- Event Producers committed to identifying & mitigating risks, founding best practices for industry
- Academic Partnerships: Flinders University (Australia), JIBC

Activities

- Research: Ongoing Projects with a distributed national and international team
- Education: Engaging multi-disciplinary learners in clinical, education dev't & research activities
- Clinical Practice: Promoting excellence in out of hospital and austere practice settings
- Advocacy: Engage with policy makers to promote application of best known practices in event medicine

Outputs

- Research: Reporting and research data sets for mass gathering health; international focus in partnership with WHO, Flinders University and JIBC
- Research: Publications including editorials, case studies, case series, and theory development
- Education: Faculty liaison for student clubs and groups
- Education: Framework for medical direction in event context, atypical practice environments, including austere settings
- Clinical Practice: Harm reduction, health promotion, illness/injury prevention at mass gatherings
- Clinical Practice: protocols to improve participant safety at mass gatherings
- Advocacy: National network for excellence in mass gathering health
- Advocacy: Reduction of the impact of mass gatherings on local health infrastructure including local emergency departments and the ambulance services

Outcomes

Short Term (<1 yr)

- Research: Cnd leadership & participation in WHO Mass Gatherings Minimum Data Set
- Research: 2-3 publications annually (amongst distributed team members)
- Research: Data analysis of cases from 3-5, large scale music festivals
- Clinical Practice: Collaborate w harm reduction org's regarding festival health
- Education: Dissemination of Tabletop Exercise methodology for mass gathering planning
- Advocacy: Foster networking of health experts (national focus) and stakeholders across event genres

Long Term (2-3yrs)

- Research: Reboot mass gathering event and patient registry project to accommodate international users/ research collabs
- Education: Providing training opportunities for future emerg physicians and medical directors in Event Medicine
- Clinical Practice: Integrating best evidence harm reduction initiatives into event medical practices
- Clinical Practice: Clinical decision tool to support an evidence-informed approach to altered LOC at music festivals
- Advocacy: Harm reduction framework for music festival health

Anticipated impact

- Research: Standardized data collection for MGH researchers, internationally
- Research: Cont'd evolution of science underpinning mass gathering health, focused on sm-med events (≤100,000 attendees)
- Education: Est. Event Medical Life Support training program for multi-disciplinary learners & planners
- Clinical Practice: Reduce # of transfers & hospital admissions
- Advocacy: A shared voice for advocacy in individual Cnd provinces/territories
- Advocacy: National community of practice; shared research projects; shared resources
- Overall: UBC seen as international leader in the field of Mass Gatherings and Event Medicine

Significant Challenges:
Sustainability of a program of research given the relative lack of protected time for research and related administrative activities; relative lack of research infrastructure (e.g., easy access to a statistician)