



“Continuing Care” with EC-ERT:

Innovative Pre Hospital Care

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Introduction

Demographics:

- Eckerd College:
 - Student population: 1,957
 - 87% of students live on campus
 - Active campus life
- EC-ERT:
 - 24/7 non-transport BLS response
 - 16 EMTs

Problem:

- Multiple unique non-emergent calls received by the Eckerd College Emergency Response Team (EC-ERT) at one time.
- Due to a lack of resources, EC-ERT was forced to transfer care to county ALS, subsequently resulting in transport.

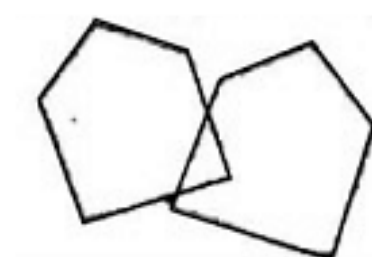
Solution:

- Reduce unwarranted ALS transports and provide further care to the Eckerd Community by increasing the number of resources, namely available responders and assessment space, thus allowing for more time to monitor patient needs.

CC Parameters

- Additional team of at least 2 NREMTs
- Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) of ≥ 10
 - Eyes (3), Verbal (3), Motor (4)
- Stable Vitals (monitored at least every 30 minutes)
- No more than 2 failed Cognitive Evaluation attempts in the field
- Maximum stay is 2 hours
- Cognitive Evaluation limited to 1 attempt every 30 minutes while in CC
- Patient must score at least 23/29 on Cognitive Evaluation to terminate CC

EMS Cognitive Evaluation (Minimum Passing Score = 23)

Questions/Tasks	Maximum Points	Actual Points
1. What is the Year? <input type="checkbox"/> Season? <input type="checkbox"/> Month? <input type="checkbox"/> Day of Week? <input type="checkbox"/> Their Birthday? <input type="checkbox"/>	5	
2. Where are we? <input type="checkbox"/> Street? <input type="checkbox"/> City? <input type="checkbox"/> State? <input type="checkbox"/> Country? <input type="checkbox"/>	5	
3. The evaluator will name any three objects. Repeat the names of these objects three times. Ask the individual to repeat the names of these objects after 3 seconds.	3	
4. Begin with the number 100 and ask the individual to count backward by fives to at least five numbers (i.e., 100, 95, 90, 85, 80).	5	
5. Ask the individual to repeat the names of the three objects of question three.	3	
6. Show the individual a pen and a watch. Ask the individual to name them.	2	
7. Ask the individual to repeat: "no ifs, ands, or buts."	1	
8. Ask the individual to follow a three-stage command: "Take this paper in your right hand, fold it, and place it on the floor."	2	
9. Ask the individual to read and do the following: "RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND."	1	
10. Ask the individual to write any complete sentence:	1	
11. Ask the individual to copy the design below: 	1	
Did the individual draw the design correctly? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	1	
Responder administering evaluation: _____	Maximum 29 Points	Total Score
Name of individual being evaluated: _____		
Witness: _____		

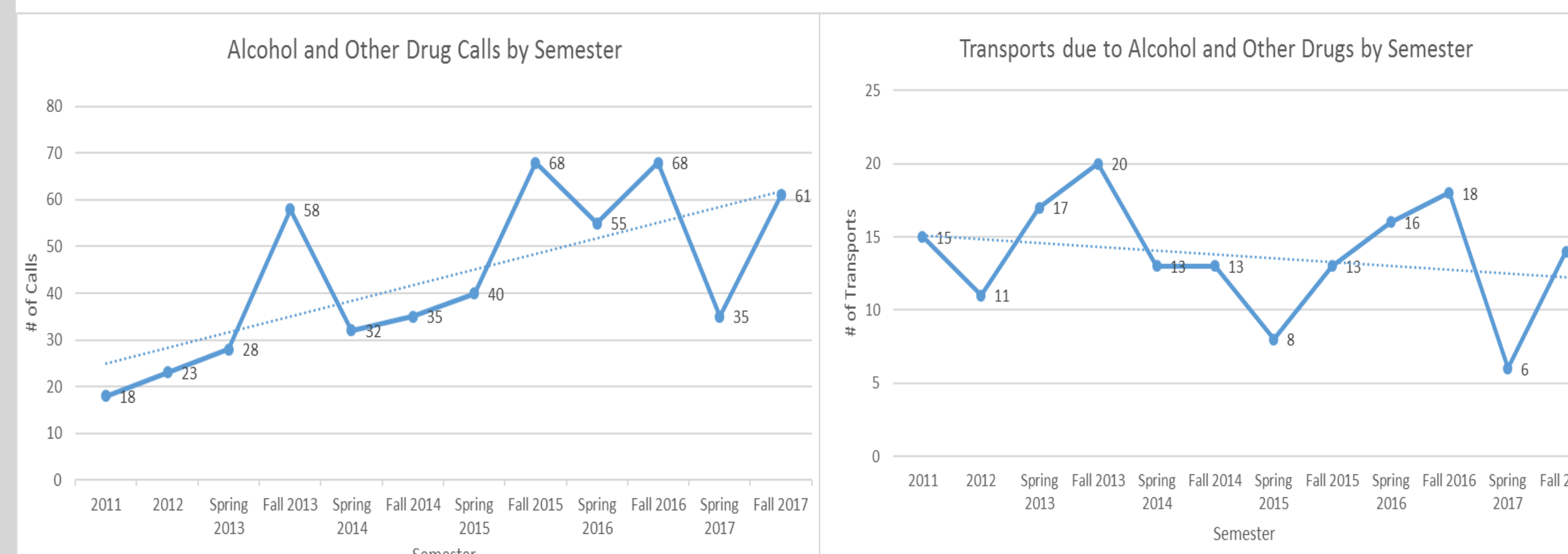
Development

EC-ERT created a program called “Continued Care” (CC) to provide an additional prehospital care resource to those patients who required additional time on scene to monitor their condition until care could be terminated.

- The EC-ERT office is equipped with a designated CC area, complete with a hospital bed and response gear.
- On weekend nights, an additional team of at least two EMTs are assigned to be the CC Team, ensuring an additional team is available for response on busy nights.
- Due to the limited space and a team of two BLS responders, the capacity for CC is limited to one patient.
- Standard Operating Procedures indicate protocols for utilizing CC

Evaluation

- First utilized in 2015, with 9 instances of use
- Use of program increases each year
- Even as call volume increase, number of ALS transports decreased
- CC team can act as a secondary team on busier weekend nights if there are multiple calls at once
- CC team ensures there are additional responders available to Eckerd College



Conclusion

CC is a beneficial prehospital care resource for Eckerd College, as the program allows EC-ERT responders to take more time with non emergent patients by offering additional responders, specific protocols and resources to monitor patients for extended periods of time.

- Through its design and implementation, CC reduces non emergent ALS transports, thus reducing strain on the county EMS system and local emergencies rooms.
- Many students also benefit from not having to pay for extensive hospital and transport fees if they are able to leave CC with improved conditions.
- Awareness of CC has increased on campus to the point where students have begun to request CC if they do not feel comfortable staying alone once they are responded to.
- Moving forward, EC-ERT hopes to track more specific CC trends over time (i.e., # of calls where CC is used as a secondary team, # of calls where CC is just used to monitor patient condition, any “seasonal” trend).

CC is still a relatively new implementation and minor changes are continuously being made.

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