



Alcohol Education Resource Program University of Florida

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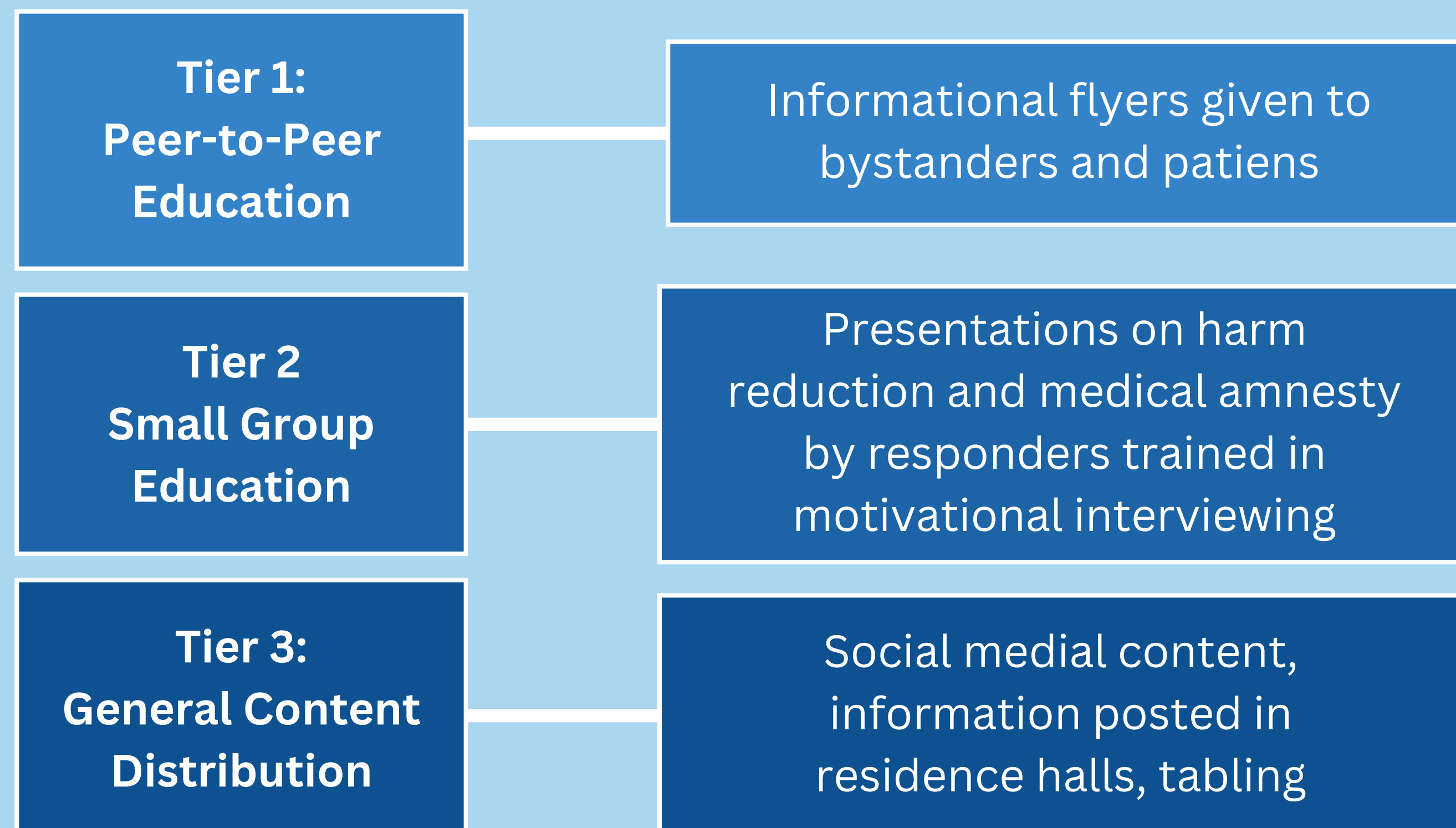
1. Gator Emergency Medical Response Unit, University of Florida



Introduction

College campuses have a high incidence of alcohol and substance use-related EMS calls. In 2023, one-third of all Gator Emergency Medical Response Unit (GEMRU) calls were related to substance use. The 2020 National Health Service Corps UF survey found that 48.9% of students would hesitate to call for EMS if someone passed out from alcohol due to being unsure if the person was experiencing an emergency.¹ Despite UF having an established medical amnesty policy for several years, only 29.6% of students strongly agreed that calling for help would not get a student in trouble.¹ While colleges have tried many systems of substance use education, they have been widely found to be ineffective.² The UF Alcohol Education Resource Program (AERP) seeks to combine multiple avenues of education to encourage safer substance use behaviors in UF students.

Program Development & Implementation



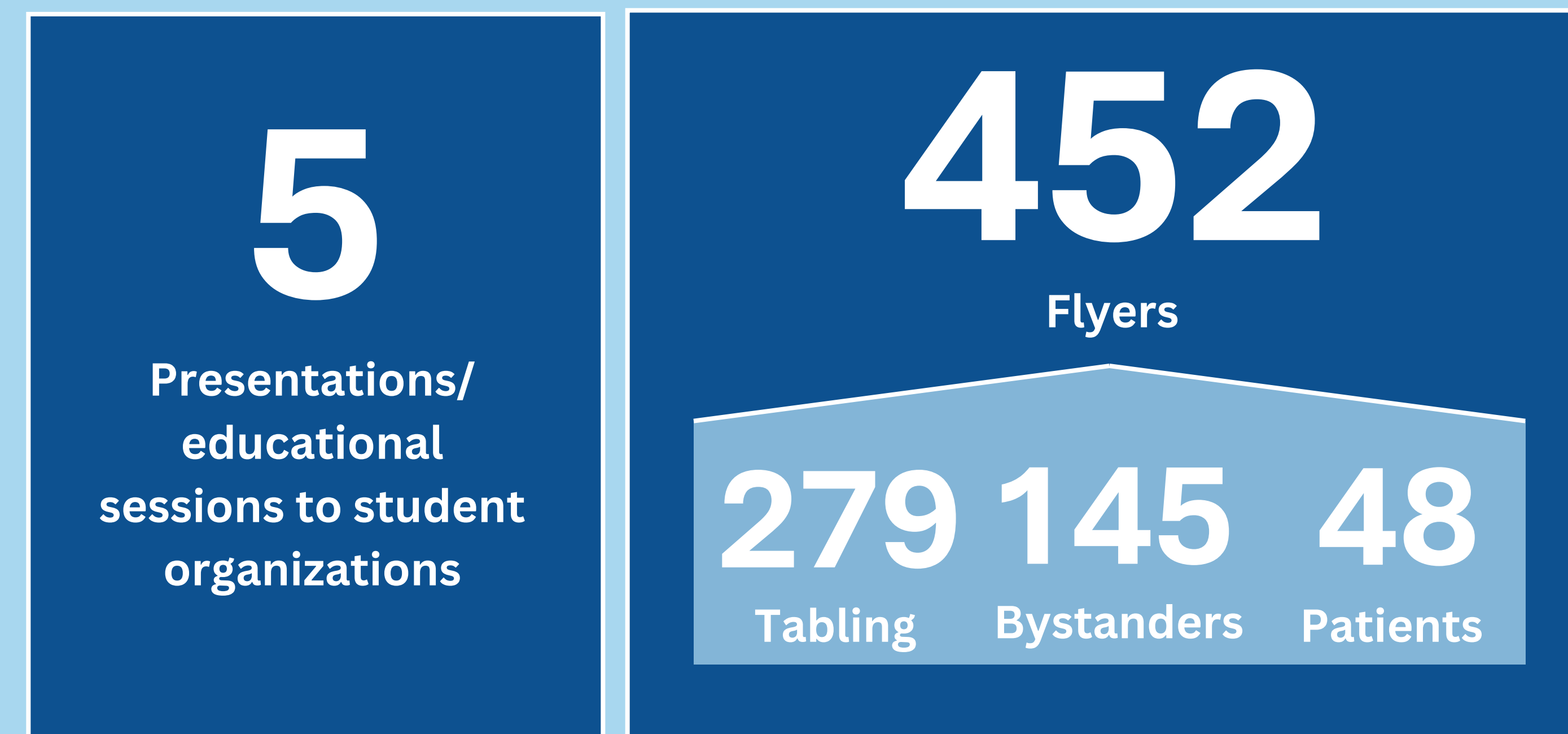
AERP centers the UF medical amnesty policy and harm reduction principles. The program was developed by students in the Gator Emergency Medical Response Unit, based on current published materials on alcohol education. Content was then approved by the University Police Department, GatorWell Health Promotion Services, the Dean of Students Office, and the Housing Office. Responders were trained in motivational interviewing by health promotion specialists. AERP was originally funded through alcohol sales at University Athletic Association events.

Program Progress

Program flyers for bystanders, patients, and tabling:



Since content approval in 2023 AERP has given...



Conclusion

Collegiate EMS groups have both the medical authority and student connections necessary to effectively provide substance use education. As medical providers, responders can correctly identify and discuss indicators of a medical emergency. As peers, discussions about substance use can be easier. Through the multiple paths of AERP, GEMRU responders were able to educate over 500 students.

While the need for better education about safe substance use, harm reduction, and medical amnesty on college campuses is apparent, meaningful action to address it remains a challenge. Integrated outcome measurement systems between multiple departments are essential. The medical amnesty policy at UF involves, at a minimum, four different offices. Creating meaningful education about a policy like that requires significant time to connect with each different department and get their approval. Student information, including contact information, at each stage, is also then protected by FERPA, so assessment of whether interaction with AERP positively impacted students is often reliant on anecdotes and generalized assessment. These observations also highlight the need for clear end-point agreement between fiscal agencies and implementation groups.

Program Evaluation

Evaluation: AERP has effectively connected with students in a variety of settings - from student organizations to one-on-one. The flyers have been the most active part of the program. In particular, giving medical amnesty and safe substance use information to those on the scene for a substance use emergency allows responders to quickly identify those who will find the information most relevant.

Limitations: UF's fiscal system identified flyers given to patients as their primary priority for determining future funding allotments to the unit as a whole. This often contrasted with responder priorities on scene, especially in substance use emergencies needing transport by ALS.

Future Development: Additional presentations with Greek life on campus and student groups, development of a separate flyer for patients, and Narcan education in dorms.

Sources

1. American College Health Association. American College Health Association - National College Health Assessment III: University of Florida Executive Summary Spring 2022. Silver Spring, MD: American College Health Association; 2022.
2. Kelly-Weeder S, Phillips K, Rounseville S. Effectiveness of public health programs for decreasing alcohol consumption. Patient Intell. 2011 May 12;2011(3):29-38. doi: 10.2147/PI.S12431. PMID: 23180975; PMCID: PMC3505028.

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