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Program

Emergency Management and Homeland Security | Behavioral Sciences

Title of Presentation and Research Question

What makes a CERT program successful and effective?

Abstract

There has been little research conducted about Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). Even so, previous research suggests that CERT programs present a viable option for increasing a community's disaster resilience by increasing preparedness education and building interpersonal bonds among community members. Still, additional research indicates that measuring the success of CERT is challenging to quantify. This study seeks to determine what makes a CERT program successful and effective.

Method

The researchers are utilizing purposive sampling and a structured questionnaire to interview CERT Program Coordinators. CERT Program Coordinators identified as potential participants were contacted via an email solicitation. This email provided a general overview of the study and invited the individual to be a participant. Upon confirmation of interest an informed consent form was sent via email. This informed consent form included more in-depth information about the study. After completing the informed consent form, an interview was scheduled with each participant to be conducted via a videoconferencing service. Interviews are scheduled to conclude by March 11th and approximately 10-12 CERT Program Coordinators will participate.

Findings/Analysis

The interviews with CERT Program Coordinators for this study are being recorded via a videoconferencing service. The interview recording and transcript will be utilized to analyze the participant responses. This study will benefit academicians and practitioners by adding to the body of academic literature available regarding CERT. Additionally, this study is expected to benefit society by identifying steps to success for communities seeking to increase their disaster resilience through CERT program implementation.