



UL ENGAGE

Community Briefing

2018 No. 37

Munster Medics

Limerick Automated External Defibrillator (AED) database

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UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
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UL Engage

share

enable

grow

Promoting University Community Collaboration

Project Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of this project is to create a database of information on Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and their locations throughout County Limerick.

Project Objectives

The objective of this project was to contact parishes around Limerick to gain knowledge on AEDs in their area.

To learn about the different AED community groups and how they function.

To compile this information in a clear structure for Munster Medics to evaluate.

Our full list of questions consisted of:

- 1) Number of AEDs in the area.
- 2) Number of trained community members in the area.
- 3) The communication system used by the community group if the AED was needed to be used.
- 4) The date the community group last received training.
- 5) The date of expiry/ last service for the AED batteries and pads.

Project Rationale

Munster Medics work closely with groups to give training and information to AED community groups. This is to ensure that AEDs are used properly and that community responder groups are at their most efficient. For this reason Munster Medics wanted to have a database of information on AEDs around county Limerick so that they would better be able to aid and assist community responder groups.

COMMUNITY

Overview of Community Organisation

Munster Medics was founded in 2015 and is a Limerick based cardiac response and first aid training organisation. The organisation specialises in school teaching programmes for both primary and secondary schools. They also cover events in the Munster region. The organisation was founded with the aim of delivering the highest quality CPR, first aid training and events cover.

Munster Medics mission and dream is for every individual leaving education to have received at least basic CPR training.



Figure 1 Munster Medics Logo

Community Partners

Donal O'Brien comes from a farming background and worked in construction for 35 years. 20 years ago he came across a serious car accident. It was an eye opener as he became aware that he was unable to assist as he did not know any first aid or CPR. He decided to take a first aid course after the incident and continued his training throughout the years and is now a fully qualified EMT. During his training he met Majella Mason and together they founded Munster Medics. Their passion is to train as many people as possible in first aid and CPR as 70% of sudden cardiac arrests occur outside of hospital in the community or workplace and 92% of cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. For this reason Munster Medics began their project of creating a database of AEDs in County Limerick in order to help train and inform communities with defibrillators in their area.



Figure 2 Donal O'Brien and Majella Mason, founders of Munster Medics

STUDENTS



Ella Cinq-Mars – Ursinus College

Ella is a 3rd year student studying abroad at the University of Limerick for the semester. She studies biology at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania. Her interests in biology and community service led her to participate in the Munster Medics UL Community Practicum.



Ellen Long – University of Limerick

Ellen is a UL student in her 4th and final year of studying Politics and International Relations. She has always had an interest in non-profit organisations, having volunteered for several others in the past including Nenagh Special Summer-camp. This along with the fact that she hopes to work in a NGO after college led to her choosing the UL Engage module.

OUTCOMES

Despite sending out emails we received no information from AED suppliers on parishes in County Limerick that they had supplied AEDs to.

Calling individual community members from each parish though challenging at times was more effective. We were able to get information on the AED systems and locations of 42 parishes across County Limerick.

Munster Medics can use this information to interpret what communities would most need their assistance in improving or setting up a fully trained first responders groups.

This process has the potential to save countless lives. Having trained personnel within a community who can come to the assistance of a person suffering a life threatening emergency within minutes of an emergency call being made can be the difference in a person surviving.

Donal and Majella have a dream of training as many people as possible in first aid and CPR so as many lives as possible can be saved. By attaining information on AEDs around County Limerick, Munster Medics can bring crucial training and help set up communication systems that will allow communities to help themselves.

TESTIMONIALS

It's great to get students involved in the project. New faces to the organisation bring new ideas. It's great to see young students coming in with their own ideas and giving them a space to work on those ideas on their own.

The module really benefits us both. The students get an opportunity to get involved in a project that affects them and that they might never have been able to get involved with before. For us the organisation, it helps bring in fresh ideas and perspectives as well as helping us with the workload.

This project is difficult because it can be hard to get the public involved. We have previously surveyed communities and everyone seemed to think that it was a great idea to buy defibrillators and train thirty to forty people. The problem now is that in many areas, no one is checking on AED batteries and pads and there are areas that are lacking fully functioning communication systems.

Ellen and Ella have done great work to get this project off the ground. With the information they have gathered we can look for gaps in communities where training or professional advice may be needed.

Donal O'Brien Munster Medics

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We recommend that future students continue calling people from parishes around County Limerick.
- We could recommend in areas where you have no contact person to call a local business or health clinic and they will often be able to point you in the right direction.
- Many areas have community centres or community councils that are very obliging to answer your questions or to send you in the direction of someone who can.
- We recommend that future students keep up contact and meet with the community partner throughout the course of this project as we found Donal to be very helpful when progress became difficult.
- Do not be discouraged if the pace of which you are gathering information slows down. It is the nature of the project to have periods of little progress followed by bursts of success.

GALLERY

QUESTIONNAIRE

Munster Medics

Name of Group:

Contact Person:

E-mail address:

Mobile Number:

Number of trained members:

Number of Defibrillators in Area:

Are the Defibrillators up to date/when do they expire:

Communication system for Group:

Date of last training for group members:

Thank you!!

Figure 3 A copy of the questionnaire we used whilst ringing community members.



Figure 4 The map of Limerick we used to locate towns and villages with AEDs.

APPENDICES

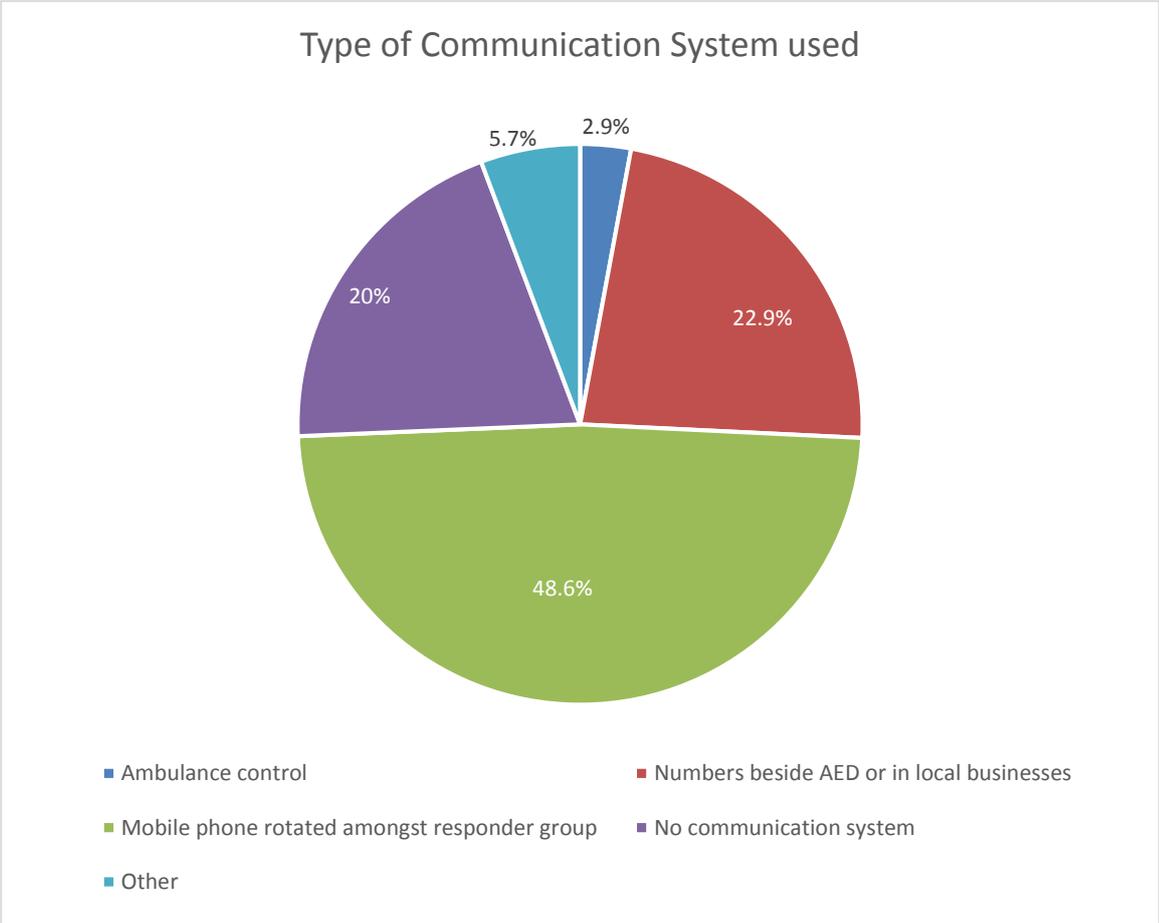


Figure 5 Information gathered on community communication systems

AED supplier email:

To whom it may concern,

We are two UL students conducting undertaking a university of Limerick Practicum Module which provides curriculum based accredited learning that deploys academic expertise in response to identified community needs, in the context of applied community projects, designed and implemented by collaborative teams comprising UL Staff, Community Partners and Students

As part of our project work, we have been asked to create a database of all the AEDs in the county of Limerick.

We would greatly appreciate if you could give us the following details:

- Who/what organisations have you supplied AED to in the County Limerick Region
- The type of device supplied

Thank you in advance for helping us with our project.

Regards,

Ellen Long & Ella Cinq-Mars

Follow Up Email:

Subject: Reminder: UL Practicum AED Project

To whom it may concern,

We hope you have received our previous email regarding our census of AEDs in Co. Limerick as part of the University of Limerick Practicum module.

If possible could you please answer the following:

-Who/what organisations have you supplied AEDs to in the County Limerick region.

-The device you supplied.

We would greatly appreciate your response as we are limited by the time constraints of 1 semester.

Regards,

Ellen Long

Ella Cinq-Mars

CENSUS OF AEDS IN COUNTY LIMERICK



AED

Ella Cinq-Mars & Ellen Long
Academic Supervisor: Bernie Quillinan

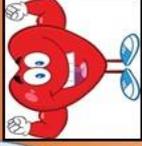


Munster Medics

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are hard to find!



Map of parishes in county Limerick



INTRODUCTION

Approximately 5,000 people die from sudden cardiac arrest every year in Ireland. 70% of Cardiac arrests occur outside of hospital, in the community or workplace.

Every minute after the onset of cardiac arrest the chance of survival goes down by 10%.

Training members of the community in CPR and having first responder groups can help save lives.

Munster Medics was founded in 2015 with the aim of teaching people CPR and first aid

AIM & OBJECTIVES

- To get in contact with parishes around county Limerick.
- To create a database of AEDs in County Limerick.
- To create a document where this information is compiled and clear.
- To help Munster Medics in organizing and finding information about AEDs.

QUESTIONNAIRE
Munster Medics

Name of Group: _____

Contact Person: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mobile Number: _____

Number of trained members: _____

Number of Defibrillators in Area: _____

Are the defibrillators up to date/when do they expire: _____

Communications system for Group: _____

Date of last training for group members: _____

Thank you!

INTERVENTION

Throughout this project we emailed and called members of parishes from all over County Limerick.

We asked them a list of questions about AEDs in their town.

We also sent emails to AED suppliers asking them where in County Limerick they might have supplied AEDs to.

OUTCOME

This information was collected and compiled into a neat excel document for Munster Medics use.

We managed to get the information for 42 out of 83 parishes in county Limerick.

Munster Medics will analyse the information and see how they can best aid each community

CONCLUSION

We would recommend to continue reach out to people in the communities.

When possible community centres and local businesses are a great first step towards getting information on that community.

Calling people on the phone worked much better than emailing them

EVALUATION

The impact of this project makes AED information easier to access.

This in turn could save lives by improving efficiency in an emergency.

QUESTIONNAIRE

CONCLUSION

AIM & OBJECTIVES

OUTCOME

CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

OUT



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