Alcohol and substance abuse

0046 OVERDOSE DEATHS INVOLVING ALCOHOL IN US VETERANS

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Statement of purpose Alcohol-involved overdose deaths have increased in recent years and often occur in combination with other substances. To inform overdose prevention efforts, this study assessed patient characteristics and treatment utilization among Veterans who died from alcohol-involved overdoses nationally.

Methods/Approach Using Veterans Health Administration (VHA) records linked to National Death Index data from 2012 to 2017, trends in overdose mortality were examined and patient characteristics and treatment receipt were compared across alcohol overdose categories (alcohol alone, alcohol+opioids, alcohol+other substances).

Results Across the study period, 1497 Veterans died from alcohol overdose alone, 1078 Veterans died from alcohol+opioids and 289 died from alcohol+other substances. Veterans who overdosed on alcohol+opioids and alcohol+other substances were more likely to be homeless, live in urban areas, and more likely to have comorbid depressive disorder and stimulant use disorder. Only a minority of patients who died from alcohol-involved overdose were seen in substance use disorder treatment settings within a year before their death, but the majority were seen in either mental health or primary care settings. Only about 7% of Veterans who died from alcohol overdose received any medication treatment for alcohol use disorder in the year prior to their deaths.

Conclusions The vast majority of patients who died from alcohol overdose did not receive treatment in substance use disorder settings or effective medication treatments.

Significance This study is the first to examine treatment characteristics of people who died from alcohol-involved overdose and suggests further efforts are needed to prevent the spectrum of alcohol overdose deaths including implementing alcohol use disorder treatment in settings outside of substance use disorder settings.

Firearms

0047 INVESTIGATING THE FEASIBILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY OF FIREARM SAFETY COUNSELING AND DISTRIBUTION OF SAFE STORAGE DEVICES IN THE PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

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Statement of purpose To assess feasibility and caregiver acceptability of providing firearm safety education and free safe-storage devices in the ED.

Methods/Approach Prospective feasibility study of caregivers in a pediatric ED. Participants completed electronic surveys on firearm safe-storage knowledge and practices, and received video-based firearm-safety education. We offered those with firearm access free cable locks and device education. We contacted subjects two weeks post-ED visit to assess firearm safety practices, cable lock use, and acceptability of the intervention.

Results We enrolled 307 participants. 43 participants (14%) reported a firearm in the home at some point during the week. 16/43 (37%) of families with guns had never received safe-storage information prior to this ED visit. Among those with handguns, 17% reported not using a safety device and 17% reported storing the gun loaded. 47 (15%) of all participants received one or more cable locks from the study team. 240 (78%) subjects completed the 2-week follow-up survey. 182 (75%) participants had shared the firearm-safety information they received with others, 213 (89%) felt the ED was an appropriate place to discuss firearm safety, and two participants had removed a firearm from their home. Of the 163 participants who had the opportunity to ask about firearms in the homes where their children visit, 111 (68%) did ask, compared to only 61/163 (37%) at time of ED intervention, ($p<0.01$). Amongst those with guns, 31/43 (89%) reported using a safe storage device for their firearm.

Conclusions It is feasible to provide firearm-safety education and cable locks to caretakers in the ED. Caretakers considered these practices acceptable and appropriate. The education and device distribution led to a change in intended and actual practices of firearm safety.

Significance Providing firearm safety education in the ED can lead to improved firearm safety practices.

TBI/concussion injuries

0048 VISIO-VESTIBULAR FUNCTION OF PEDIATRIC PATIENTS PRESENTING WITH THE FIRST CONCUSSION VS. A RECURRENT CONCUSSION

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Statement of purpose The purpose of this study was to investigate visio-vestibular examination (VVE) outcomes in high school-aged patients presenting with their first concussion vs. recurrent concussion.

Methods/Approach This study was performed by querying data collected prospectively in the electronic health record for patients aged 14–18 years old presenting for their initial injury visit to specialty concussion care centers within 28 days of injury between January 2018 and August 2020. Demographic information including lifetime concussions were self-reported prior to the start of the exam. The VVE consisted of 9 maneuvers: smooth pursuit, horizontal/vertical saccades and gaze stability, binocular convergence, left/right monocular