After the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) developed policy to increase survival from active shooter events. Termined the Hartford Consensus, the policy advances a bleeding control curriculum called “Stop the Bleed” (STB). The Consensus calls for diverse stakeholders; from emergency medical organizations to Boy and Girl Scouts; to disperse the Hartford Consensus curriculum to improve bystander resilience to act as first responders.

A national survey in 2015 conducted by the Hartford Consensus group found that training and supplies improve the lay public’s willingness to render immediate aid to victims of active shooter events. The STB curriculum teaches principles of immediate response using the simple structure of the “ABC’s of Bleeding.” The program is about an hour in length and includes hand-on practice for control of bleeding through proper tourniquet and pressure dressings use.

A group of nursing students, faculty and emergency nurses implemented the STB curriculum to address the public health threat of injury in active shooter events. The group partnered with a trauma program in Southeastern Louisiana and engaged other emergency stakeholders: the local chapters of the Emergency Nursing Association and Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

Bleeding control training was provided to 57 community members, and 12 bleeding control kits were donated to the scholastic and religious community sites. The events were covered by local news and those interested training referred to the trauma center project partner. The community based, grassroots effort to disseminate the ACS/COT Stop the Bleed training continues to be a valuable outreach initiative for emergency providers to improve outcomes from active shooter events.

Emergency nurses must incorporate injury prevention education into their practice in collaboration with interprofessional colleagues. Current STB instructors train eligible emergency providers to disseminate the curriculum. The Hartford Consensus goal is increase survival through enhancement of citizen resilience and emergency nurses are integral to this effort.

References