

Attitudes of school principals towards cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in Hong Kong secondary schools: a cross sectional study



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INTRODUCTION

- Bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) use can significantly reduce out-of hospital cardiac arrest mortality
- Current initiatives to encourage CPR training in Hong Kong are promising but limited and CPR knowledge in the public population remains low
- In other countries, CPR training in school-aged children has been demonstrated to subsequently significantly increase bystander CPR rates

OBJECTIVE

1. To investigate **whether school principals approve or disapprove of compulsory CPR teaching** in both Hong Kong secondary schools that currently offer and do not offer resuscitation teaching
2. To determine **the barriers preventing implementation of CPR training programs in schools** and what **strategies** would help promote CPR training in the future

METHODS

- Cross-sectional survey conducted between December 2017 and March 2018
- 20-question survey distributed via email or fax in 3 phases to all secondary schools (Form 1 to Form 6) in Hong Kong
- Special schools and tutorial schools were excluded
- School principals or vice-principals were invited to complete the questionnaire

Questionnaire breakdown:

Part I: General information about the secondary school

Part II: To assess, if any, the current CPR training program available at the school or reasons for not offering CPR training

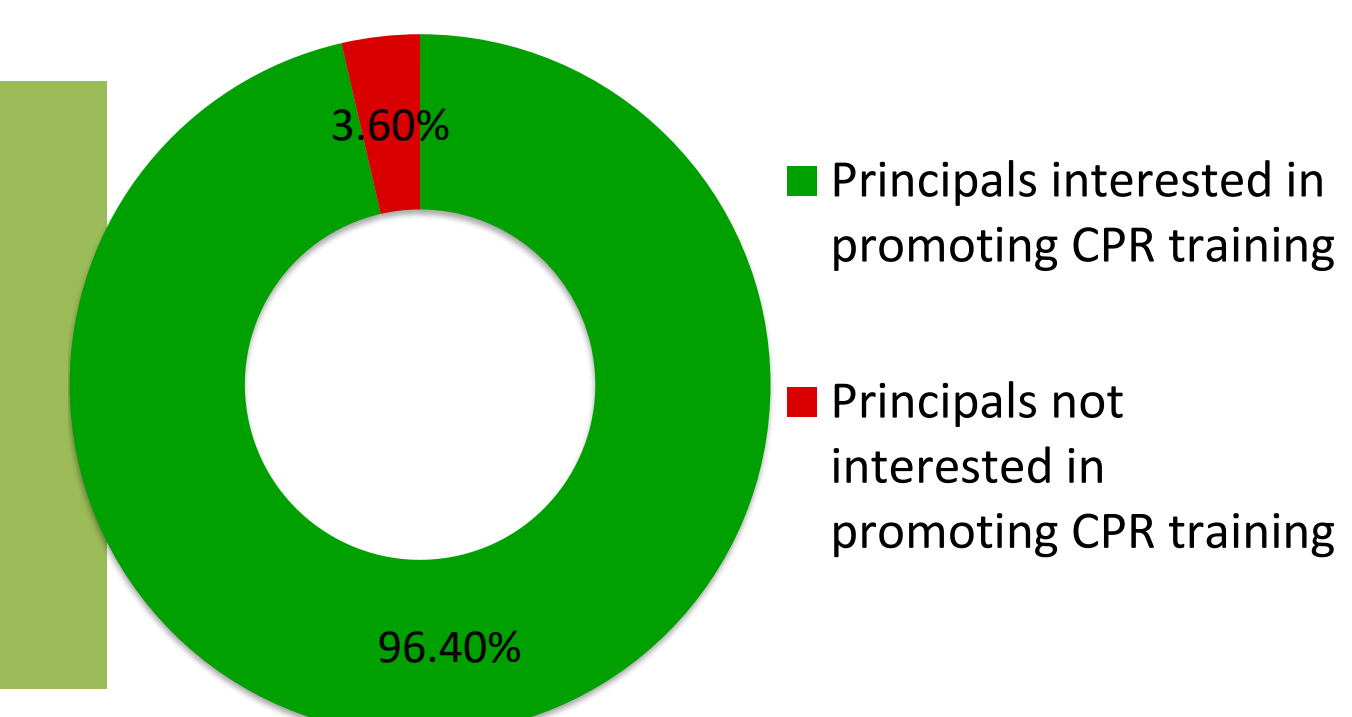
Part III: Attitudes of school principals towards resuscitation teaching for students

Part IV: Acceptable future strategies to encourage CPR training in schools

RESULTS

Out of the 506 Hong Kong secondary schools, 120 questionnaires were received and included in this study (response rate 25.1%; 8 excluded due to being incomplete or completed by primary school)

Figure 1: **108 (96.4%)** secondary school principals were interested in promoting resuscitation training to students



■ Schools that currently offer CPR training
■ Schools that currently do not offer CPR training

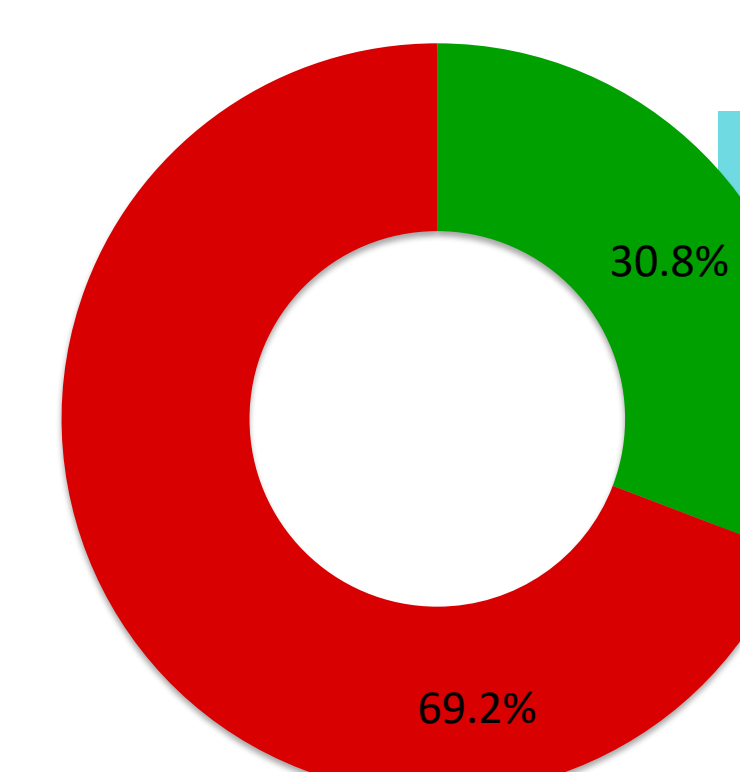


Figure 2: Only **37 (30.8%)** secondary schools **currently** offer CPR teaching

76 (69.1%) principals agree or strongly agree that resuscitation training should be **compulsory**

Top reasons for not providing CPR training

1. Time restriction (28.7%, n=54)
2. Resources are not available (15.4%, n=29)
3. Resuscitation is not mandatory in curriculum (14.9%, n=28)

Significant school attributes that favor approval of compulsory CPR training

1. Band 1 schools
2. Higher number of total staff (>120)
3. Greater number of staff who have learned resuscitation (>40)

The most effective strategies to encourage CPR training programs in schools

1. Increase funding for training and equipment (27.4%, n=93)
2. Increase the number of resuscitation instructors provided (17.4%, n=59)

CONCLUSION

- **School principals are mostly supportive of resuscitation teaching in schools, thus, mandatory CPR training in Hong Kong can hopefully be implemented in the future**
- Self-directed video based e-learning training programs or teachers as CPR instructors can be considered to tackle the lack of resources
- Comprehensive promotion to principals, teachers, students, and parents to emphasize the importance of resuscitation teaching is warranted
- Attitudes of students, teachers, parents, and government should also be investigated

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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