

## **Abstract:**

**Background:** Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and traumatic bleeding can occur unexpectedly, including on college campuses. An immediate response with proper equipment is necessary. On college campuses, awareness and accessibility of first-aid equipment, like automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and Stop the Bleed Kits (SBKs), is paramount for rapid response.

**Objective:** The study aims to assess Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUe) community members' current awareness, knowledge, and readiness in using these devices, with a secondary goal of familiarizing the campus community with these terms to better aid in response rates.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted at SIUe from January 20 to February 20, 2026. A survey was sent out to faculty, staff, and students that evaluated the participants' ability to locate a SBK or AED, current awareness of the devices, current training and confidence with the devices, knowledge on legal requirements, and opinions on SBK accessibility. Responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics, with the primary outcome being AED location identification.

**Results:** A total of 89 surveys were analyzed. Nearly all participants (94.4%) were aware of AEDs, and 97% identified their purpose. That being said, the correct identification of AED locations was low, with the mean number of correctly identified locations being 0.64 out of five. The awareness of SBKs was lower with 38.2% of participants having heard of them and 71% correctly identified their purpose. Training levels were limited: 30.2% had active CPR certification, and only 4.7% had reported SBK training in the past two years.

**Conclusion:** Awareness and training of AEDs were relatively high. Despite this, knowledge of device locations and confidence in use remained limited. SBK preparedness and awareness were lower. This suggests a need for improved training and accessibility.