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# Strategies Prior to a Mass Shooting to Improve Collaboration

**Poster Showcase**  
**#iaem23**

## Objective

*Identify strategies for first responders to use to increase collaboration among agencies while improve response to an active shooter incident. Conduct qualitative research as part of the requirements for completion of the Doctor of Emergency Management program.*

## Significance of Research

*Mass killings involving an active shooter have increased in the US over the last 20 years. According to the FBI (2021), an average of 16.4 active shooter incidents occur annually. As first responders see an increase of incidents, the need for improved responses is much needed.*

## Future Practice

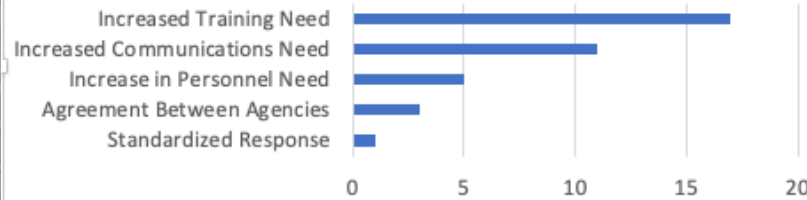
*These findings will not only potentially improve collaboration between first responding agencies, but they can also improve their response to other daily emergencies and improve relationships between departments.*

## Interpretation of Results

## Methodology

## Conclusion

**Identified Needs**



*The study used a qualitative participatory action research methodology to improve or change policies for county first responder agencies. The sample included 18 first responders from the county Sheriff's Department, Fire, and EMS agencies. A reflective thematic approach was used to analyze the data and identify themes. The use of Reflexive Thematic Analysis (RTA) was used, which according to Ibrahim and Edgley (2015) the process of RTA is done through a series of steps.*

*Increasing collaboration amongst the various first responding agencies begins to move the needle towards a proactive response, active shooter incidents cannot be preventative stopped, but the effects of an active shooter incident can potentially be reduced. The literature shows that the need for an improved response is necessary, but many agencies haven't jumped on board. There is no one perfect response to an incident due to the many factors that impact local governments, but the cost of not improving a response can supersede the initial costs of developing and funding a collaborative program.*

## Citations

- Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) (2021). *Active shooter incidents in the United States in 2020*. Retrieved from: <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-incidents-in-the-us-2020-070121.pdf/view>
- Ibrahim, N., & Edgley, A. (2015). Embedding researcher's reflexive accounts within the analysis of a semi-structured qualitative interview. *The Qualitative Report*, 20(10), 1671-1681.
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