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## ***Performing Artists' Perceptions on the Importance of Certified Athletic Trainers Through Production***

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### **OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this study was to evaluate performing artist's perceptions of the importance of Certified Athletic Trainers through production; which includes auditions, rehearsals, and performances.

### **DESIGN AND SETTING**

This study was a descriptive survey research study conducted throughout Ohio. The survey was a SurveyMonkey link that was distributed via email and posted into private performing arts Facebook groups, both provided by local directors. The independent variables were male, female, and other gender identifying performing artists, with and without previous experience with a Certified Athletic Trainer, that are novice and veteran performers. Novice being a performer who has only been in the performing arts for 1 to 9 years, and veteran being a performer who has been in the performing arts for 10 or more years. The dependent variable was the performing artists' perceptions on the importance of Certified Athletic Trainers through production.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

The research was a convenience sample. A total of 175 performing artists were sent the survey link, via email and Facebook posts, with a return rate of 38% (n=67). 28% were male (n=19), 69% were female (n=46), and 3% were a gender not listed (n=2). 22% were musicians (n=15), 60% were actors (n=40), 8% were dancers (n=5), and 10% were another type of performer not listed (n=7). 39% were novice performers (n=26) and 61% were veteran performers (n=41).

### **INTERVENTION**

Questions 1-5 asked about previous experience with a Certified Athletic Trainer overall and regarding four of the five domains of athletic training; injury/illness prevention, examination/assessment/diagnosis of injuries and illnesses, immediate and emergency care, and therapeutic intervention. Questions 6-10 were about the performing artists' perceptions of the importance of Certified Athletic Trainers overall and based on the four domains that were previously listed. Questions 11-13 were demographics. A panel of experts established face validity of the survey. The content validity was established through the Table of Specifications (ToS). The College's Institutional Review Board approved this study. Quantitative descriptive statistics (frequency counts and percentages) and inferential statistics (Pearson's Chi Square and Kruskal Wallis) were calculated for every applicable item on the survey. Pearson's Chi Square test was used to analyze statistical significance for experience level of performing artists, novice and veteran. Kruskal Wallis test was used to analyze statistical significance for gender (male, female, and other) and past experience with a Certified Athletic Trainer (Yes, N/A, and No). The alpha level was set at  $p=0.05$  *a priori*. The data was analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24.0.

### **MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES**

The survey was comprised of 13 questions. Questions 1 and 6-10 used a five-point Likert Scale (Strongly Agree<sup>5</sup>, Agree<sup>4</sup>, Neutral<sup>3</sup>, Disagree<sup>2</sup>, Strongly Disagree<sup>1</sup>) to collect ordinal data. Question 2-5 used a five-point Likert Scale (Strongly Agree<sup>5</sup>, Agree<sup>4</sup>, N/A<sup>3</sup>, Disagree<sup>2</sup>, Strongly Disagree<sup>1</sup>) to collect

ordinal data. Question 11 used a two-point Likert Scale (Novice Performer<sup>2</sup>, Veteran Performer<sup>1</sup>) to collect nominal data. Question 12 used a four-point Likert scale (Dancer<sup>4</sup>, Actor<sup>3</sup>, Musician<sup>2</sup>, Other<sup>1</sup>) to collect nominal data. Question 13 used a three-point Likert scale (Male<sup>3</sup>, Female<sup>2</sup>, Other<sup>1</sup>) to collect nominal data.

### **RESULTS**

Out of the 67 performers that completed the surveys, 82% (n=55) believed it was important to have a Certified Athletic Trainer on-site through production, 85% (n=57) believed Certified Athletic Trainers are important in regards to injury prevention, 85% (n=57) believed Certified Athletic Trainers are important in regards to providing emergency care, 69% (n=46) believed Certified Athletic Trainers are important in regards to clinical injury diagnosis, and 82% (n=55) believed Certified Athletic Trainers are important in regards to rehabilitation. 55 participants agreed that it is important to have a Certified Athletic Trainer on-site through production. This was proven to not be statistically significant. Of the 55 participants that agreed, 27% were male (n=15), 71% were female (n=39), and 1.8% were another gender (n=1). Out of the 26 novice performers, 73% (n=19) agreed that Certified Athletic Trainers are important in the area of clinical injury diagnosis compared to the 66% (n=27) veteran performer who agreed ( $\chi^2=10.294$ ,  $df=4$ ,  $p=0.036$ ). Of the dancers, 100% (n=5) believed it was

important to have a Certified Athletic Trainer on-site ( $H=10.343$ ,  $df=3$ ,  $p=0.016$ ). Compared to 40 actors, 85% (n=34) who also agreed. Of the 15 musicians, 60% (n=9) agreed. Of the 7 participants who answered other, 100% (n=7) also agreed. Similar results can be found in regards to emergency care ( $H=10.109$ ,  $df=3$ ,  $p=0.018$ ). Of the performing artists, 44% (n=30) said they have had previous experience with a Certified Athletic Trainer and 50% (n=34) said they did not have previous experience.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is very positive to see that a majority of the performers that participated in the survey believed it was important to have a Certified Athletic Trainer through production, not only on-site but in regards to all the domains of athletic training. It did not come as a surprise that the majority of performers had not had previous experience with Certified Athletic Trainers, but it did come as a surprise that there were many performers that did have previous experience. With the majority of performers not having previous experience, this shows that there is still a need for Certified Athletic Trainers in the performing arts. By understanding this and opening up more jobs, it helps not only the Certified Athletic Trainer by getting them more job opportunities, but it also helps the performing artists by giving them someone they can go to for medical care.

**KEY WORDS:** *Athletic Training, Performing Arts, Dancer, Actor, Musician, Perceptions*