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Rodeo Athletes' Perceptions of the Available Onsite Medical Care Provided

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OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this study was to investigate the medical care perceptions of rodeo athletes at one Southwest Ohio rodeo as compared to others.

DESIGN and SETTING

This study utilized a descriptive survey. The independent variable was the rodeo athletes. The dependent variable was the perception of medical care.

PARTICIPANTS

50 surveys (convenience sample) were distributed (100% return rate). 56%(n=28) Novice bull riders, 42%(n=21) Jackpot Experienced (Semi-Professional) bull riders. Experience: 70%(n=35) 0-5 years, 14%(n=7) 6-10 years, 16%(n=8) 11 years+. 76%(n=38) were 18-25 years old, 18%(n=9) were 26 years+.

INTERVENTION

The main topics of the survey were perceptions of rodeo athletes and the demographic data. Face validity and content validity were established. The research had IRB approval. Descriptive statistics (frequency counts/percentages) and Pearson's Chi Square test were used. The alpha level was set at $p=.05$ *a priori*.

MAIN OUTCOME MEASURE

The survey was made of 23 Likert-scale questions.

RESULTS

88%(n=44) of bull riders strongly agree/agree that the quality of medical care provided at this Southwestern Ohio rodeo is above average compared to 62%(n=31) for

others. 78%(n=39) strongly agree/agree that the quality of medical care provided at the PBR is above average. 95.9%(n=46) agree/strongly agree that the medical care is provided in a timely manner. 81.2%(n=39) believe that care provided is equal to all divisions, 90%(n=45) believe that care provided is equal to all ages/experience levels, and 60%(n=30) of the bull riders have stated yes, that when injured at the rodeo, they received high quality medical care there. 94%(n=47) agreed/strongly agreed they were aware of medical care available at this rodeo facility, 72%(n=36) agreed/strongly agreed that they were aware of medical care available at other rodeo facilities, and 72%(n=36) agreed/strongly agreed that they were aware of medical care available at the PBR. 25.9%(n=7) of the Novice riders did not know the location of medical care providers at the PBR, whereas 65%(n=13) of the Jackpot Experienced riders did know where the medical care providers are located at the PBR. ($\chi^2=11.588$, $df=2$, $p=.003$). 22.2%(n=6) of the Novice riders did not know the location of medical care providers at other rodeo facilities along the Eastern Coast, whereas 90%(n=18) of the Jackpot Experienced riders did know where the medical care providers are located at other rodeo facilities along the Eastern Coast ($\chi^2=16.319$, $df=2$, $p<.001$). 82%(n=41) of the bull riders strongly agree/agree that they know the medical care providers here at this southwest Ohio rodeo are Certified Athletic Trainers (ATCs).

CONCLUSION

This study revealed rodeo athletes reported better medical care at this southwestern Ohio rodeo where Certified Athletic Trainers covered. This reflects an emerging field for

athletic training where ATCs knowledge and skills can be utilized.

KEY WORDS: *Athletic Training, Medical Care, Rodeo Athletes, Bull Riders, PBR*