

Principal Investigator (last, first, middle initial) Wang, Henry E.

## ABSTRACT

Give a brief summary of the research proposal. Include specific aims, research hypothesis, background and significance, experimental design and methodology, and data analysis. Must fit within abstract box (4½ x 7½).

**Specific Aims:** The overarching goal of this effort is to characterize EMS organizational safety culture and to determine its relationships with EMS agency characteristics. **Research Hypotheses:** 1) EMS organizational safety culture is higher than in other healthcare settings. 2) Organizational safety culture varies between different EMS agencies. 3) Organizational safety culture is higher in air medical than ground based EMS agencies. Hypothesis 4) Organizational safety culture is associated with EMS agency characteristics.

**Background and Significance:** A growing body of literature highlights the growing problem with medical errors in Emergency Medical Services (EMS). There is also awareness that organizational culture may influence patient safety and outcomes in healthcare settings. There are currently no data describing the organizational culture of EMS. The goal of this effort is to characterize EMS organizational safety culture.

**Experimental Design and Methodology:** We will administer an Emergency Medical Services Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (EMSSAQ) to personnel at 60 air medical and ground-based EMS agencies. This instrument is directly derived from the Intensive Care Unit SAQ (ICUSAQ) developed and tested by Sexton, et al. The survey has six domains of questions: 1) Teamwork Climate, 2) Job Satisfaction, 3) Perceptions of Management, 4) Safety Climate, 5) Working Conditions, and 6) Stress Recognition. We will also identify system characteristics for each EMS agency. We will calculate EMSSAQ domain scores for each agency and draw comparison with system level characteristics. **Data Analysis:** We will facilitate the hypothesized comparisons using t-tests. We will examine variation in EMSSAQ scores between agencies using Pearson's correlation coefficient. We will examine relationships between EMSSAQ scores and EMS system characteristics using Generalized Estimating Equations.