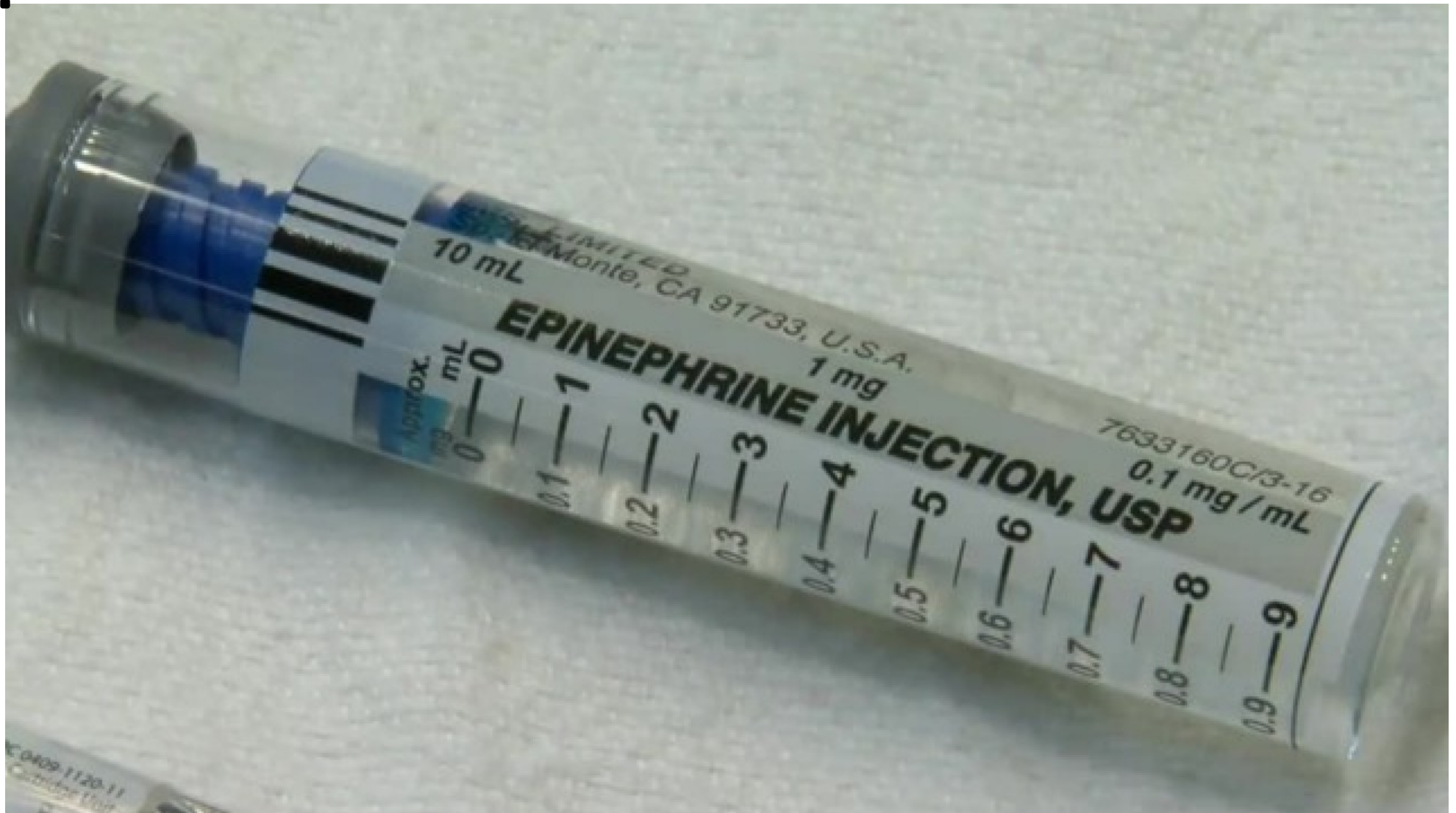




# **Timing of Epinephrine Administration In Cardiac Arrest**

Kimberly Pruett, MD  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque Fire Rescue

# Drug Shortage



**Known**



**Unknown**

# Epinephrine Physiology

## Alpha adrenergic :

- Increases diastolic pressure
  - Increases coronary blood flow
- Causes platelet activation
- Impairs microvascular blood flow

## Beta adrenergic:

- Increases cardiac contractility
- Increases myocardial O<sub>2</sub> demand
- Increases risk of arrhythmias



# Epinephrine Literature

- Early epi is beneficial for ROSC
- Epi is not great for neuro outcomes
- High dose epi does not increase survival
- More epi associated with worse outcome



# Unanswered questions





Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

# Resuscitation

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/resuscitation](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/resuscitation)



## Clinical paper

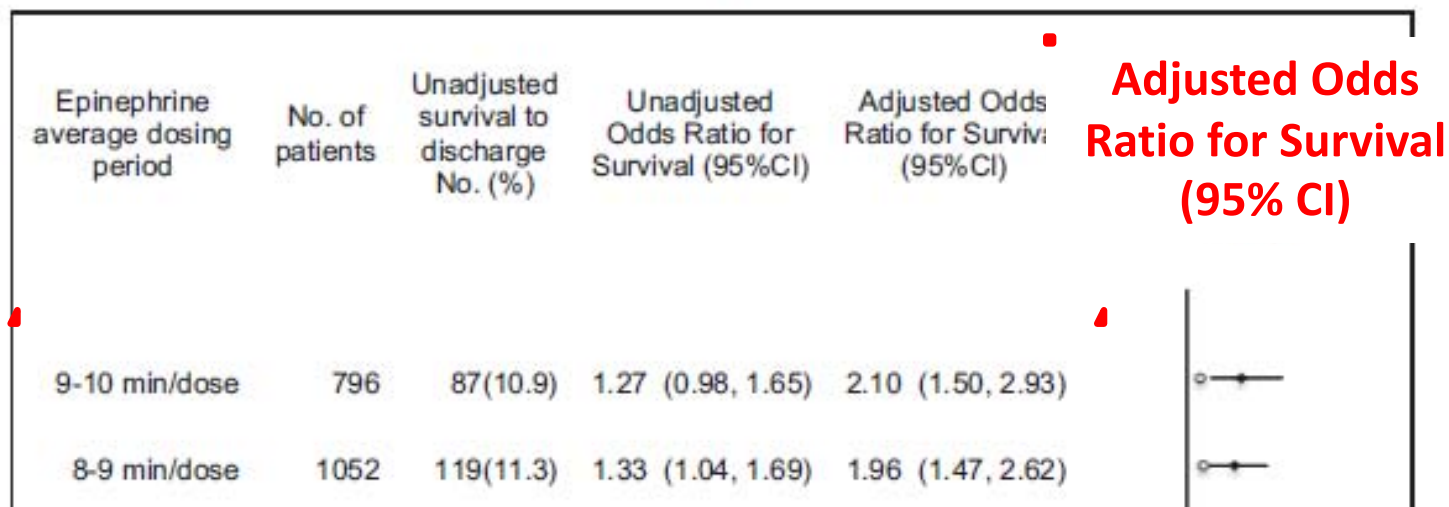
### Adrenaline (epinephrine) dosing period and survival after in-hospital cardiac arrest: A retrospective review of prospectively collected data<sup>☆</sup>



Sam A. Warren<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Ella Huszti<sup>a,b</sup>, Steven M. Bradley<sup>b,f</sup>, Paul S. Chan<sup>d,e</sup>, Chris L. Bryson<sup>b,f</sup>, Annette L. Fitzpatrick<sup>c,g,h</sup>, Graham Nichol<sup>a,b,i</sup>, for the American Heart Association's Get With the Guidelines-Resuscitation (National Registry of CPR) Investigators<sup>1</sup>

- Retrospective review of 20,000 IHCA patients
- Time between first epi and endpoint of resuscitation  
Total doses of epi
- Longer dosing intervals improved survival
  - True for both shockable and non-shockable rhythms





## Longer Epi Dosing Intervals Correlated With Increased Survival

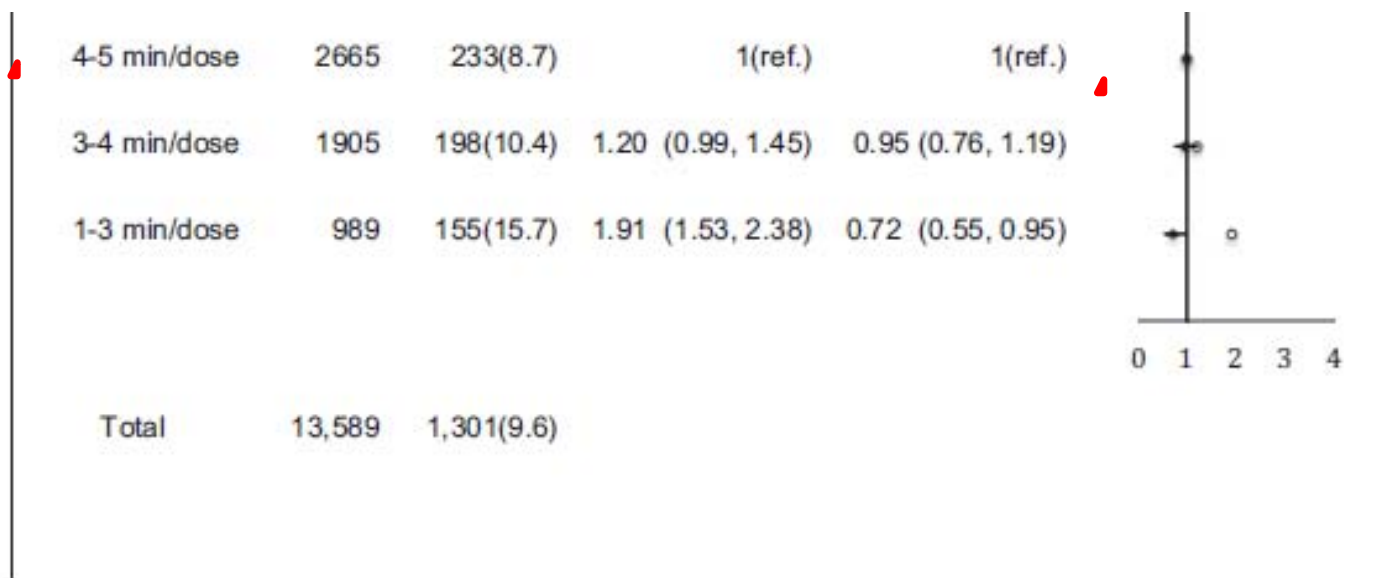
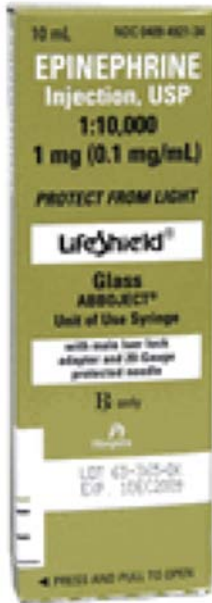


Fig. 5. Survival to discharge by category of epinephrine average dosing period for in-hospital cardiac arrests of duration less than 20 min.



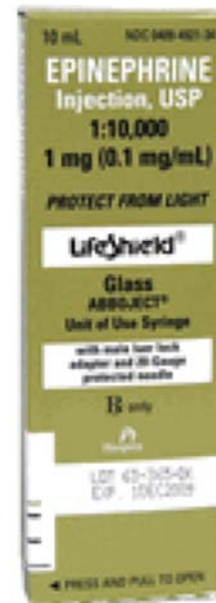
WHAT IF ... ?

## January - June



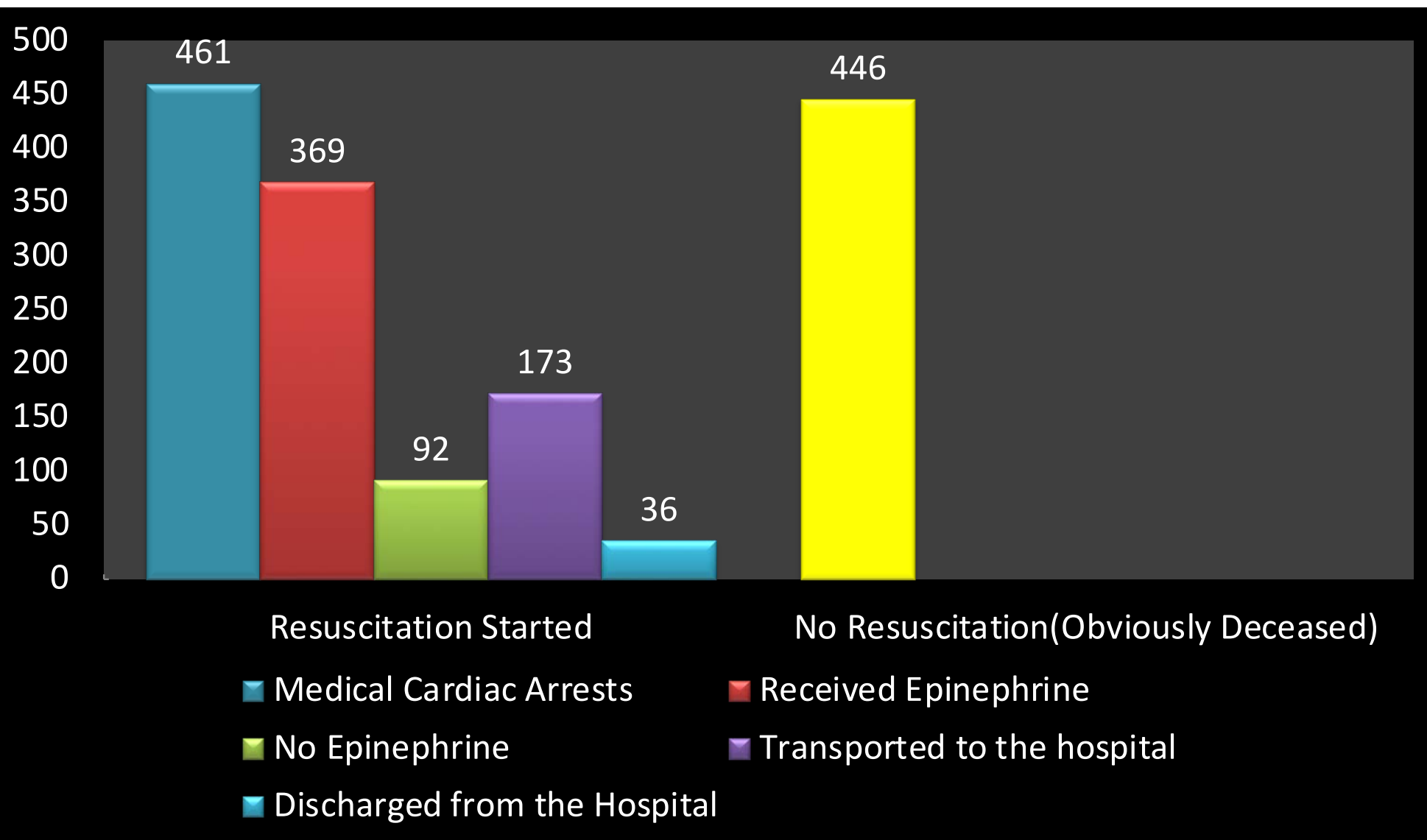
Epi Administered  
Every 3-5 Minutes

## June - December



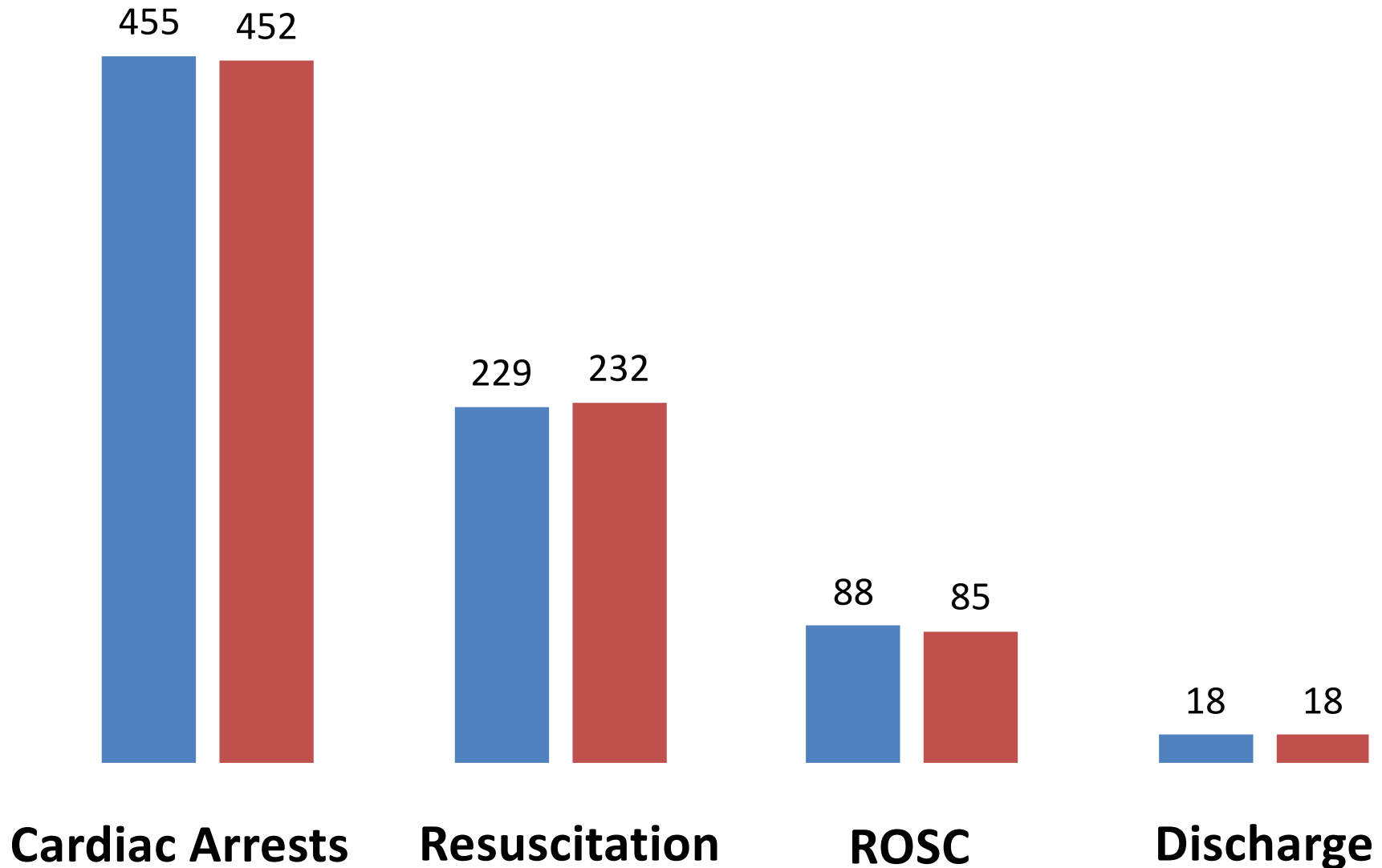
Epi Administered  
Every 10 Minutes

# 2017 Aggregate OOHCA Data



# 2017 Cardiac Arrest Data

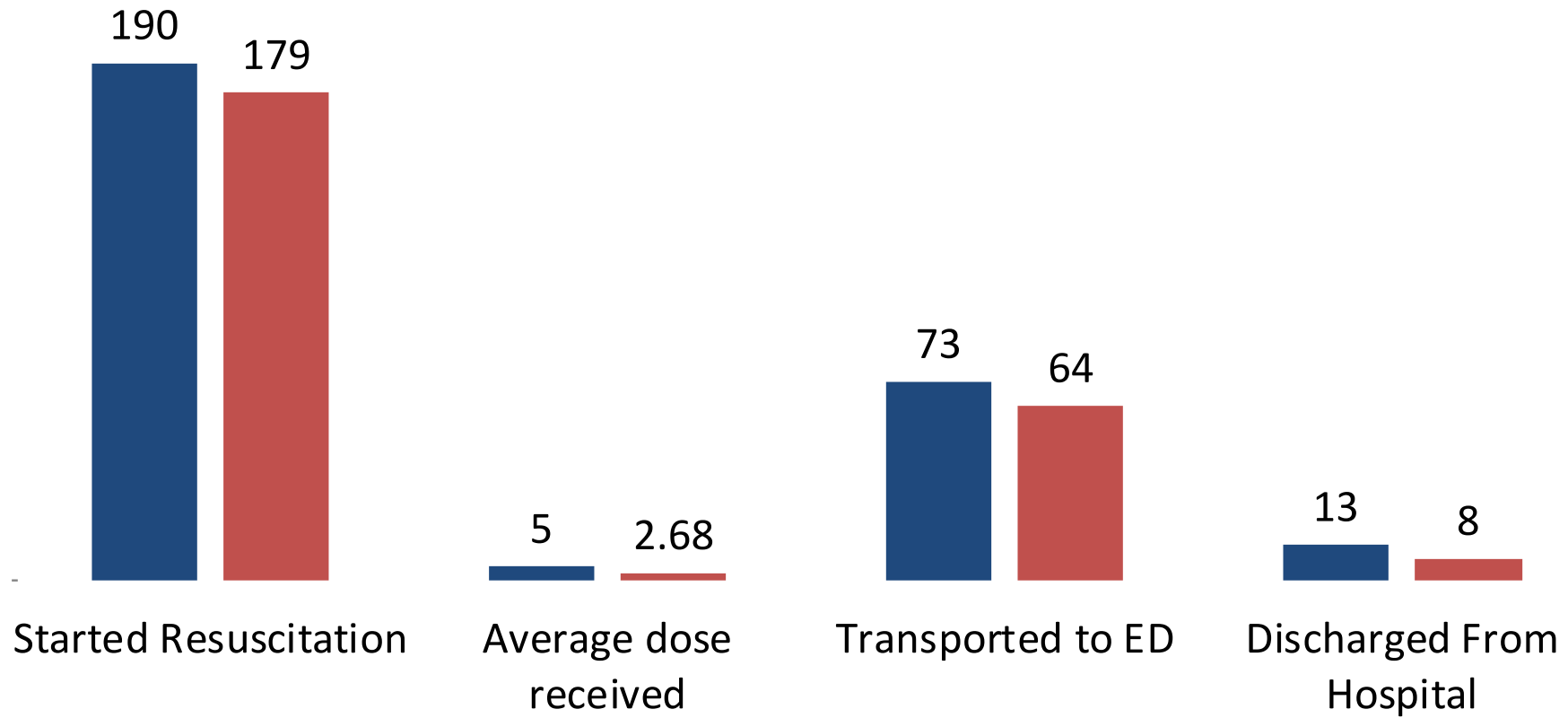
■ January-June ■ July-December



# 3 Minute Vs. 10 Minute Epi

## 6 Month Epi Admin Breakdown

■ January-June ■ July-December



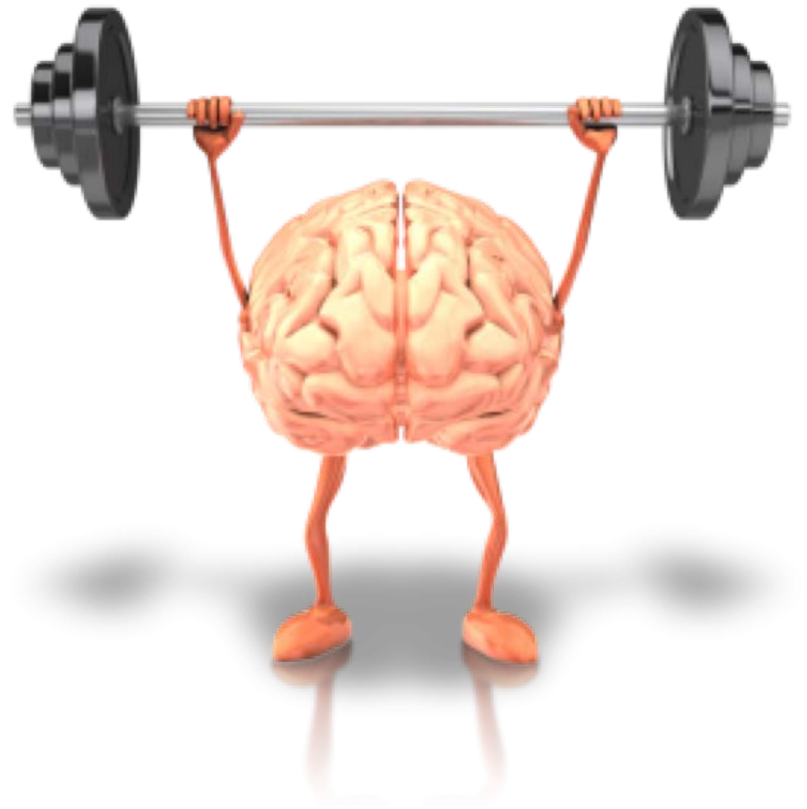
# The BIG Question



**Are We Saving Lives, or  
Prolonging Death?**

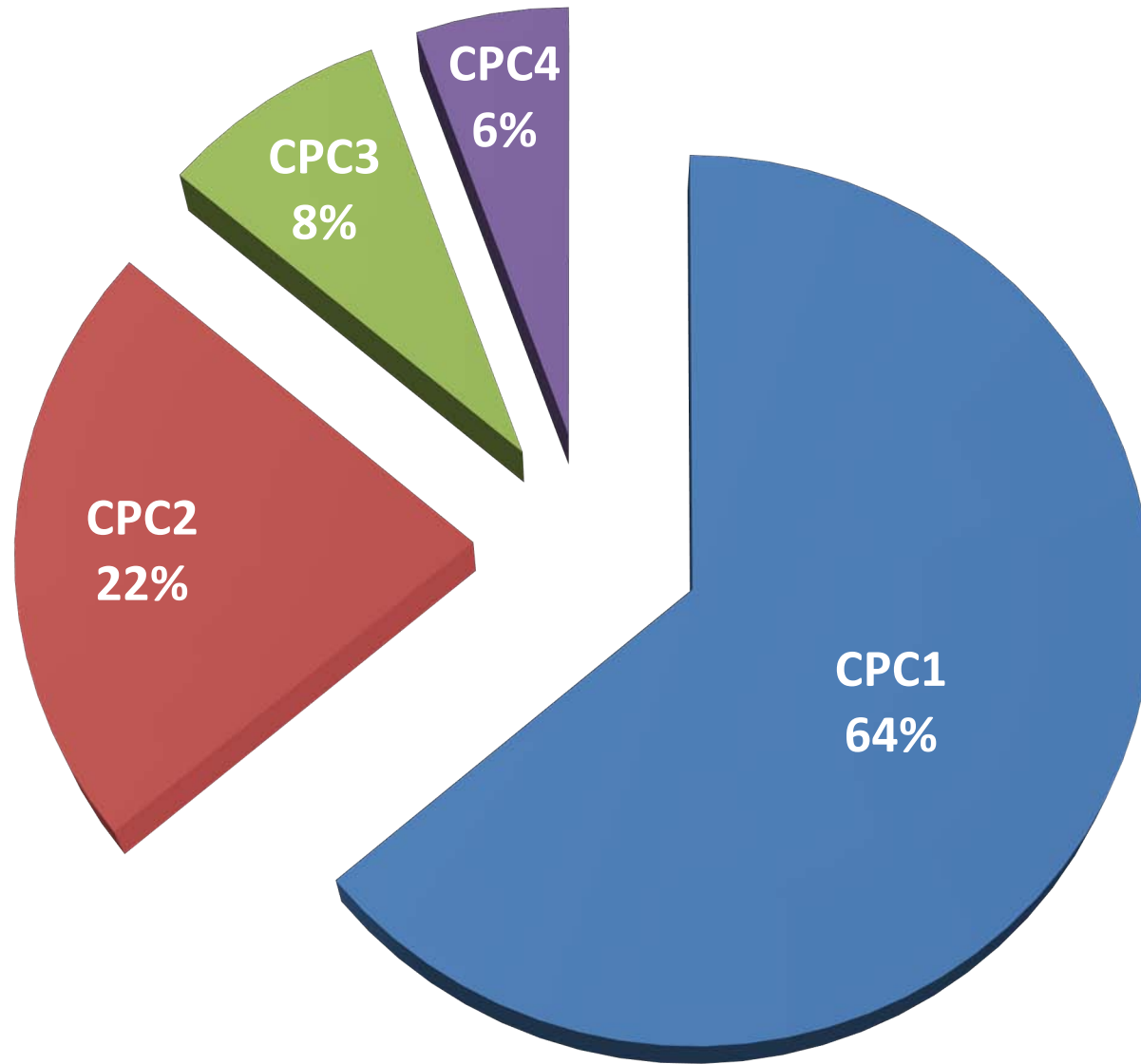
# Cerebral Performance Category

- CPC 1 = Normal or only mild deficits
- CPC 2 = Moderate disability, independent ADLs
- CPC 3 = Severe disability, dependent on others
- CPC 4 = Vegetative state





# CPC Scores For Discharged Patients



# 2017 CPC Scores of 1 or 2

## EPI Every 3 minutes

January – June 2017

16

16/229 OHCA patients = 8%

16/88 ROSC patients = 18%

## EPI Every 10 minutes

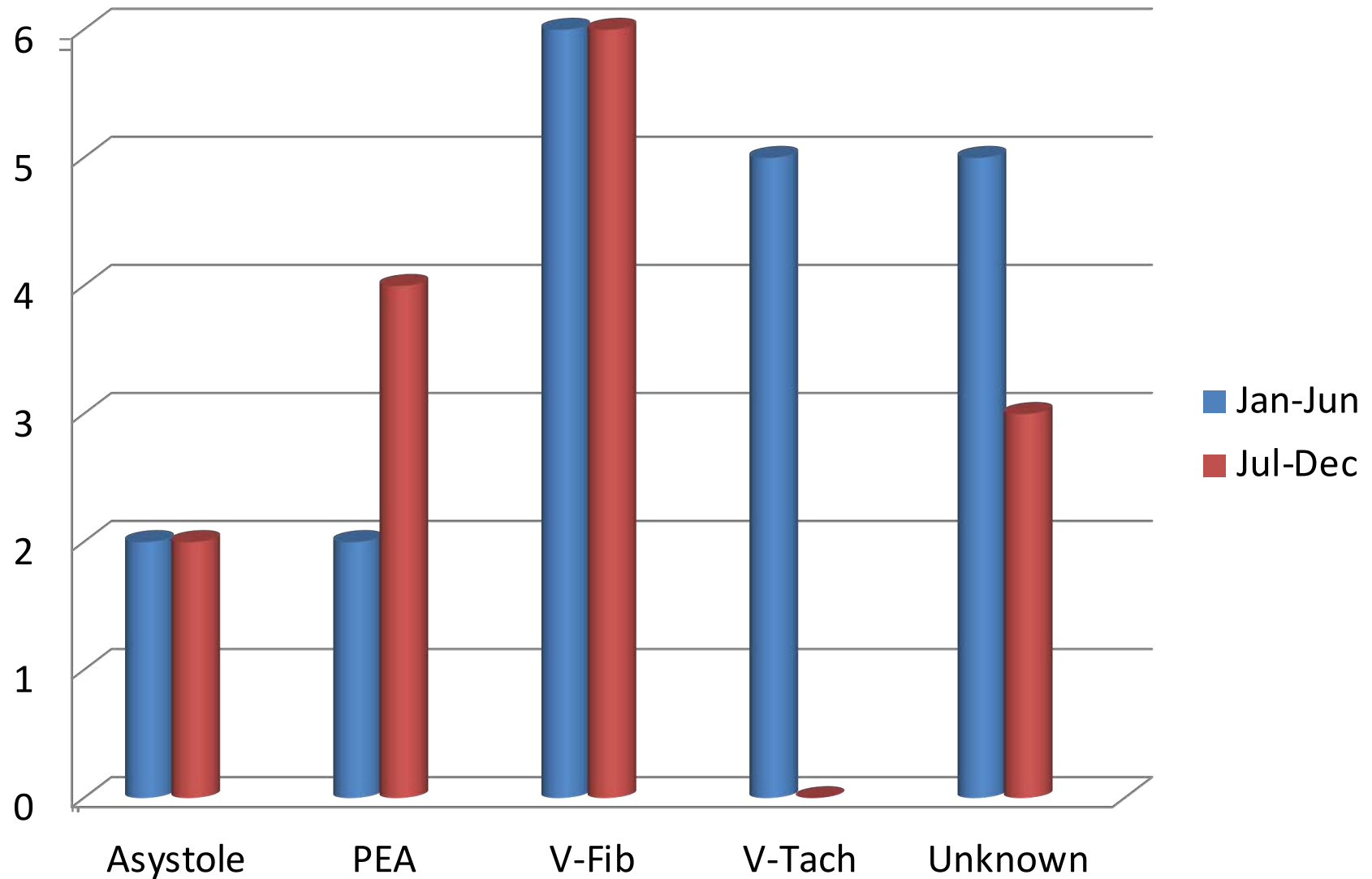
July – December 2017

15

15/232 OHCA patients = 6.5%

15/85 ROSC patients = 18%

# Initial Rhythm vs. CPC 1&2



**52% of our patients discharged  
with a CPC1 did not receive  
epinephrine at all**

**48% of patients discharged with a CPC1  
received an average of 2 doses of  
epinephrine**

SO  
WHAT?

# CONCLUSION

**Giving epinephrine  
every 10 minutes  
did not cause harm**





*Thank  
you*



**Data collected and analyzed by:**

- Capt. Nathaniel Meisner, AFR Paramedic
- Lt. Chuck Dimas, AFR Paramedic
- Dorothy Habrat, MD
- Graham Smith, MD
- Andrew Harrell, MD
- Kimberly Pruett, MD