Diabetes is a significant health concern; it is essential that nurses are educated to provide competent and effective care for this population.

Previous research demonstrates that simulation is an effective teaching strategy.

**Purpose**

To evaluate the impact of a high-fidelity simulation experience on traditional prelicensure nursing students' knowledge and performance related to the care of the diabetic patient.

**Design/Procedure**

**Study Design:** Quasi-experimental pretest-posttest evaluating:
- Knowledge: 10 items
- Performance: 10 items

**Sample:** Traditional prelicensure BSN students enrolled in an adult health course from three Midwest universities

**Procedure:** Utilized INACSL Standards of Best Practice: SimulationSM for simulation design, debriefing, and evaluation

**Data Analysis:** Latent change scores and correlations

**Sample Characteristics**

- 233 students (M age = 21.07)
- 93.6% Female, 87.6% Caucasian

**Results**

- Simulation positively impacted scores on performance items
- The total score and score on knowledge items did not increase post-simulation.

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<th></th>
<th>Total pre</th>
<th>Perf pre</th>
<th>Know pre</th>
<th>Total post</th>
<th>Perf post</th>
<th>Know post</th>
<th>Simulati on</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean % (SD)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Score</td>
<td>69 ± 13</td>
<td>70 ± 12</td>
<td>.143</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>73 ± 14</td>
<td>76 ± 12</td>
<td>&lt;.001*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>66 ± 18</td>
<td>64 ± 17</td>
<td>.137</td>
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</table>

**Significance**

- Diabetes is a significant health concern; it is essential that nurses are educated to provide competent and effective care for this population.

- Previous research demonstrates that simulation is an effective teaching strategy.

**Pretest and posttest scores were positively associated with a large effect size (r = 0.656).**

- There was a positive association between pretest and simulation scores with a small effect size (r = 0.196).

- There was a positive association between simulation and posttest scores with a medium effect size (r = 0.280).

**Conclusion**

- Simulation in addition to theory lecture may improve clinical practice when caring for the diabetic patient.
- Those who scored higher on the pre-test performed better in the simulation and the post-test.
- The study's findings support the efficacy of high-fidelity simulation in traditional undergraduate nursing programs.