



RN-BSN Students Participating in Immersion Project Become Change Agents for Migrant Workers & Their Children

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Background

Access to health care is a challenge for migrant workers due to lack of resources and affordability. This vulnerability results in high incidence of communicable diseases, chronic illnesses, infant mortality, malnutrition, sexually transmitted diseases HIV/AIDS and other illnesses (Etienne, Messmer 2016)

Methodology

A qualitative study (Munhall, 2012) was conducted on nursing students participating in prevention/education on HIV/AIDS, obesity, human trafficking, domestic violence, alcohol abuse, bullying, backpack safety, breast, testicular and colorectal CA. This collaborative inter-professional effort was between Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Haitian organizations: Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC) and Haitian American Nurses Association of Florida, Inc. (HANA) utilizing the churches in Immokalee, Florida.

Results

This initiative exposed students to WHO, Healthy People 2030, UN millennial goals by serving/educating in 3 churches and clubs.

- 1st church-109 people,
- 2nd 59 people,
- 3rd 107
- Boys/girls club-650 children,
- Center for girls 59 total 984.
- Of 22 Interviews conducted on students and transcribed, 15 were selected for content shown below.
- Four major themes emerged from students:
- 1) fear of deportation;
- 2) poor health due to unhealthy lifestyle;
- 3) economic constraints;
- 4) vulnerable to violence/abuse.



Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the immersion was to serve/educate migrant workers and their families in dire need of health care. Students participated in this immersion experience by caring for adults and children in a rural underserved population in a culturally competent manner.

Conclusion

This humanitarian mission served this underserved vulnerable population in Immokalee, Florida. Students improved their ability to provide culturally competent care, anticipating of migrant workers/needs.