

**Presentation Type**

ViPER Poster (virtual)

**Presentation language**

Português

**Theme**

3 - Nursing and health education

**Title**

Health Break: Preparing Nursing Students to Work with Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

**Introduction**

Student's exposure to individuals with intellectual disabilities is limited in the traditional clinical settings. Research shows that individuals with disabilities report dissatisfaction with personal experiences with healthcare professionals. Parents of children with disabilities have described their care as inexperienced, poorly organized and fragmented. In order to educate nursing students on interacting with individuals with differing abilities they need experience

**Objectives**

The purpose of Health Break is to allow nursing students the opportunity to work with individuals with intellectual disabilities in a non-medical setting.

**Methodology**

Guided by course objectives, sophomore nursing students spend 25 hours in community learning settings. During this process students implement projects caring for populations with a variety of health conditions in a community setting. Nursing students developed physical and mental health activities in conjunction with the Career and Community Studies program (CCS) at TCNJ. CCS is a college based program for individuals with intellectual disabilities

**Results**

Students benefited from this program by gaining experience with communication and exposure to populations that differed from their own. Students developed the ability to apply classroom knowledge to the "real world", improved social responsibility and citizenship skills

**Conclusions**

All nursing students can benefit from early exposure to community engaged learning. By introducing patient encounters early in a nursing student's' career, opportunities for longevity with community organizations may become apparent. Many students choose to continue their community engaged learning volunteer service throughout their college career.

**Keyword 1**

Alternative clinical site

**Keyword 2**

Intellectual disabilities

**References 1**

Matziou V, Galanis P, Tsoumakas C, Gymnopoulou E, Perdikaris P, et al. (2009) Attitudes of nurse professionals and nursing students towards children with disabilities. Do nurses really overcome children's physical and mental handicaps? *Int Nurs Rev* 56: 456-460.

**Financing entities**

None