It Takes a Village: Addressing health Inequities via nurse practitioner education

Felesia Bowen, PhD
Assistant Professor &
Director Center for
Urban Youth and Families
Rutgers University
College of Nursing
Purpose

- Demonstrate how the principles of community based participatory research (CBPR) can be used by Nurse Practitioner (NP) programs with the local community to ameliorate the effects of health inequities
Objectives

- Verbalize how to use the principles of CBPR to partner with preceptors and agencies for NP student education.
- Identify community level health inequity issues that can serve as targeted service learning opportunities for NP students.
Health Inequities
"Collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities."

WK Kellogg Foundation Community Health Scholars Program
Key Issues

- Affordable Care Act
- Primary care Provider Shortage
- Limited Training Sites
Affordable Care Act

- “Obama Care”
- 8 million newly insured
- Ends pre-existing condition exclusion
- Coverage thru 26 years old
- Focus on preventive care
Provider Shortage

- Approximately 210,000 primary care physicians in practice\(^1\)
- 106,000 practicing nurse practitioners\(^2\)
- 55,625 primary care nurse practitioners\(^2\)
- 52,000 more primary care providers needed by 2025\(^1\)

Limited Training Sites

- Agency/practice resistance
- Decreased provider productivity.
- Competition for limited clinical practicum sites and preceptors.
Service Learning

Community Need

Training Opportunities

Decreased Disparity
The Project

- Pediatric Community Care
  - Developmental screening
  - Growth/BMI
  - Vision/hearing
  - Appropriate referral

- Setting
  - Newark, NJ
  - Preschools & elementary schools

- Subjects
  - Family and Pediatric NP students \( n=12 \)

- Method
  - Random assignment
  - Pre-post test

- Protocol
  - Training /pre test
  - Small teams
  - Data charts
  - Referrals
  - F/U
  - Post test
Outcomes

- 368 children between 6 mo 10 yrs
- 59 referrals for obesity
- 6 referrals for underweight
- 6 six referrals for vision deficits
- 12 referrals for speech delays
- 3 referrals for gross motor deficits
- 2 referrals for detailed autism
Level of Understanding Prior

- G&D
- Ped. Hlth Scr.
- Nutrition

Categories:
- Full
- Partial
Level of Understanding Post

- G&D
- Ped. Hlth Scr.
- Nutrition

[Bar chart showing levels of understanding post for different categories with labels Full and Partial]
Level of Comfort Prior

- **0**: Very Uncomfortable
- **0.5**: Uncomfortable
- **1**: Comfortable
- **1.5**: Very Comfortable

- **Children**
- **Urban env.**
Next Steps

- Permanent part of the pediatric practicum course.
- Agencies reaching out to the College of Nursing
- Interprofessional education
- Research funding

- Training and screening expanded
  - Oral health assessment
  - Fluoride varnish application
  - Lead and hemoglobin testing and referral.
References


Questions?