



6ER-027

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Background

Studies support the incorporation of pharmacy students to improve access to costly medications, mitigate barriers to medication compliance, and provide clinical pharmacy services to the medically underserved. While some reports indicate that gaps in knowledge about underserved patient care issues may be associated with the level of comfort and attitudes of students caring for the underserved patient populations.

Aim and Objective

The objective of this study was to assess the attitudes, perceived knowledge, and skills of pharmacy students to deliver care to underserved populations.

Materials and Methods

385 pharmacy students were eligible to participate in the study from December 2020 to January 2021. Students completed a modified version the Health Professionals' Attitudes Toward the Homeless Inventory, a voluntary survey administered between December 2020 and January 2021 to assess attitudes toward the underserved. Each participant was asked to rate 8 statements concerning attitudes toward the underserved and 8 statements regarding perceived skillfulness in caring for the underserved in providing medication reconciliation services and patient counseling on a scale from 1 - "Strongly disagree", to 5 - "Strongly agree".

Results

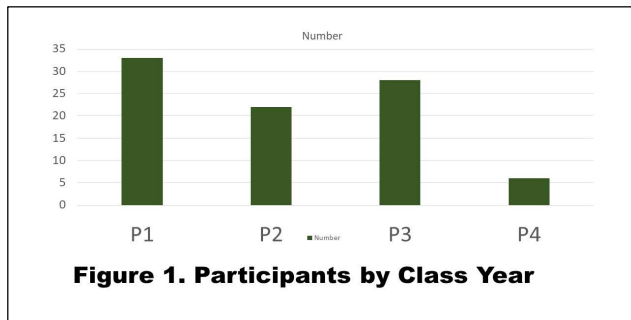


Figure 1. Participants by Class Year

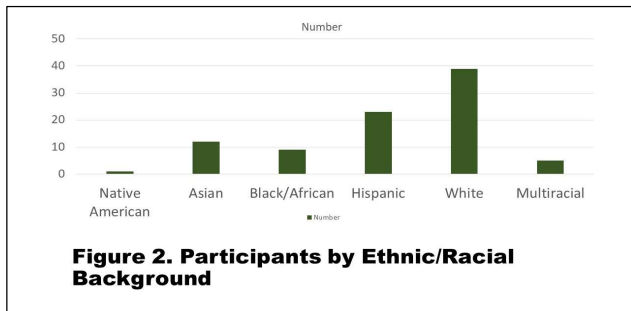


Figure 2. Participants by Ethnic/Racial Background

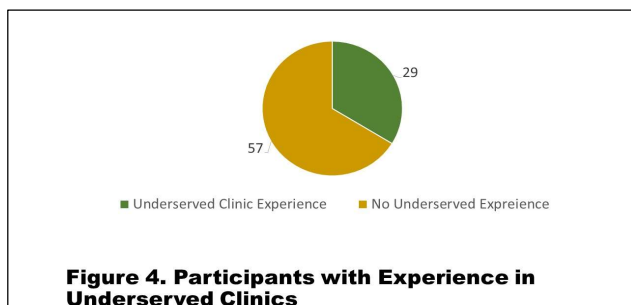


Figure 4. Participants with Experience in Underserved Clinics

Results

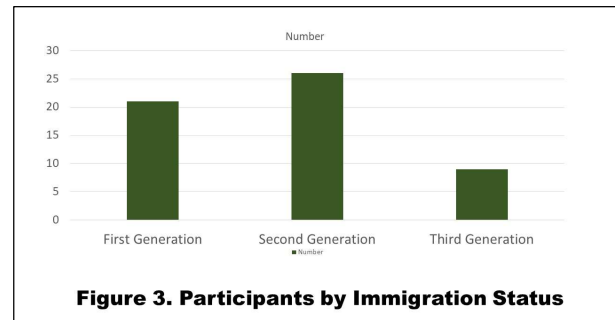


Figure 3. Participants by Immigration Status

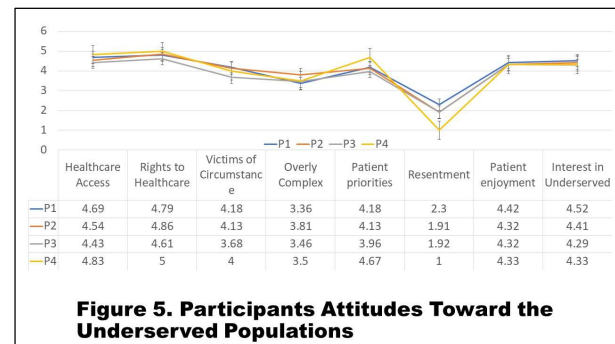


Figure 5. Participants Attitudes Toward the Underserved Populations

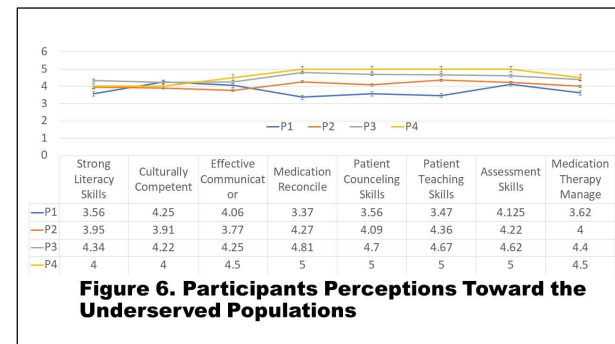


Figure 6. Participants Perceptions Toward the Underserved Populations

Conclusion and Relevance

The attitudes and comfort that students hold toward underserved populations did not differ significantly between class years. The perceived skillfulness increased longitudinally between first and fourth-year students in the areas of conducting medication reconciliation activities, counseling, and assessing medication understanding in underserved patients. Students in the P1 class year perceived skillfulness in caring for the underserved was higher than students in the P4 class year.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of our student volunteers who participated in this project.

Reference: Lupu AM, Connor SE, Jonkman L. Pharmacy students' actual and perceived knowledge related to underserved populations across the professional curriculum. *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning* 2013; 5(6): 526-540

Disclosures

Authors of this presentation have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.

