Preparing Nurse Practitioners to Care for the Urban Poor
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Background: Temple University serves the poorest, least educated citizens of Philadelphia. Despite the presence of multiple health care institutions, Philadelphians have the highest mortality rate and worst health indicators nationally. The area served by TU is a HPSA and a MUA. In Pennsylvania, 12% of the population lives below the poverty level, yet in the area served by the university, 38% of the population lives below the poverty level and 71% of the students qualify for subsidized lunches.

Level of Educational Program: This HRSA funded project establishes a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program to prepare Nurse Practitioners to provide primary care to clients in urban poverty.

Targeted Learning Outcomes: A curriculum was designed to enable graduates to: (1) Demonstrate informed primary care practice cognizant of population/context; (2) Leverage knowledge to improve health outcomes for clients/populations; (3) Utilize principles of prevention in primary care/population health; (4) Assume responsibility for developing collaborative systems of care that benefit clients/populations; (5) Engage in ethical professional practice; (6) Contribute to the evidence-based literature that emanates from practice initiatives; (7) Utilize growth and development theories in primary care/population health; (8) Influence practice improvements in primary care/population health; (9) Incorporates global determinants of health in primary care/population health.

Teaching-Learning Activities: The following activities were performed to meet the goal of the project: (1) develop a curriculum based on the Healthy People 2010 objectives; (2) incorporate core courses, such as epidemiology and urban health into primary care; (3) hold annual poverty simulation to help students understand the experience of poverty; (4) develop partnership with community to ‘staff’ poverty simulation; (5) develop urban clinical sites.

Evaluation Design and Outcomes: To ensure that students understand the unique needs of the urban poor, the following measures were used to determine outcomes: (1) established standardized case analyses for primary care courses with core expectations; (7) implement clinical evaluations to assess primary care skills and incorporation of core principles.

Bibliography:


HRSA. Find Shortage Areas: HPSA & MUA/P by Address.

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