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The Affordable Care Act and Student Perceptions

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INTRODUCTION

Health Policy and Population Health is a graduate course that encourages students to examine the impact of health policy on the United States health care system and its related outcomes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this assignment was to evaluate graduate students' awareness of gaps in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Students crafted a policy brief describing an amendment to the ACA to improve health outcomes for populations.

Student perceptions were assessed to determine how the course influenced their perceptions of policy on health outcomes.



PERCEPTION

"This project has been eye opening for me in many ways. It has taught me more about public health and ways to evaluate the different needs of both urban and rural communities. I can identify what important impact nurse practitioners can have by providing care to patients in underserved areas. I am motivated to become more aware of my own community's needs and how I can make a difference now and in the future.

DESIGN

A descriptive survey was used to evaluate students' perceptions towards amending the existing ACA and preferred topic of choice.

Participants included students from five sections of Nursing 5321. Amendment topics were analyzed using SPSS Version 21. Sample size was $N=83$ males and females enrolled in UT Tyler Graduate Nursing program. Data were collected by all five faculty and analyzed as one-group data for the purposes of this project.

RESULTS

Quantitative: $N=83$. Selected topics were categorized into 8 major areas of Health Care & Promotion. Disease-specific policy had the largest number with $n=28$ choosing this area to write their policy paper (See pie chart).

Qualitative: Analyzed by two researchers

Common Themes:

Learning, compromising, and advocating.

Public health services and health disparities

Expanded my knowledge, sparked an interest, and gained an appreciation.

Challenging, led to awareness, was eye-opening, and very informative.

Pre-/Post-:

Knowledgeable and acquainted to available resources

Moved from little understanding to a working understanding

Great value to my practice and will work to making care better

ACA is much more relevant to my practice

CONCLUSION

The assignment engages students in the policy development process and reinforces the content taught in the course about the ACA.

Students demonstrated expanded perception related to policy, health promotion, and the ACA.

The primary outcome indicated students would apply this new knowledge in their practice and community.

Topic Categories

