

Title:

Moving Disaster Education From the Classroom to the Community

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Session Title:

Education Posters Session 1

Keywords:

community engagement, disaster preparedness and nursing students

References:

Chandra, A., Williams, M., Plough, A., Stayton, A., Wells, K. B., Horta, M., & Tang, J. (2013). Getting actionable about community resilience: the Los Angeles county community disaster resilience project. *American journal of public health, 103*(7), 1181-1189.

Henly-Shepard, S., Gray, S. A., & Cox, L. J. (2015). The use of participatory modeling to promote social learning and facilitate community disaster planning. *Environmental Science & Policy, 45*, 109-122.

Veenema, T. G., Griffin, A., Gable, A. R., MacIntyre, L., Simons, R. A. D. M., Couig, M. P., ... & Larson, E. (2016). Nurses as leaders in disaster preparedness and response—A call to action. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship, 48*(2), 187-200.

Abstract Summary:

Although active in the promotion of health and wellness in a variety of settings, nurses may offer limited support in disaster preparedness. Few examples exist demonstrating these activities within local communities. This presentation will highlight a disaster readiness, community-engagement program designed by a Midwestern School of Nursing.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
The participant will understand the role of nursing education in disaster preparedness.	Content to the learner will include current recommendations for disaster nursing practice.
The learner will discuss opportunities for student involvement in community engagement for disaster preparedness	Content to the learner will include examples of evidence-based, nurse-led disaster education interventions.

Abstract Text:

Nurses have a long history with community engagement and health promotion. This relationship has served to establish the profession as the most trustworthy of all professions for the past decade. However, we struggle in understanding our role in the delivery of primary prevention methods for disaster readiness and emergency responsiveness. Recent events have consistently demonstrated the need for continued efforts toward community health promotion and resilience (Chandra et al., 2013). Yet, few models exist where nurses take a leadership role in engaging the community in disaster response preparation and potentially prevention. Additionally, even fewer examples exist in the direct involvement of undergraduate nursing students in this effort.

The concept of community resilience supports the ability of a community to regain its prior level of functioning after a disaster event has occurred. Researchers acknowledge the lack of focus placed on disaster preparedness by traditional health care personnel and suggest action for improved delivery of holistic care (Adams & Canclini, 2008; Hipper, Orr, & Chernak, 2015). However, topics such as disaster preparedness are often left to emergency management personnel, fire safety, and local law enforcement.

The intentional involvement of nurses in this endeavor supports the professional focus of community engagement and health promotion. Both topics are important to the art and science of nursing practice but may remain elusive and abstract to inexperienced nurses and prelicensure students. While nursing educators have strategically improved their methods for community engagement through a variety of service-learning activities, internships, engaged research, and institutional engagement; the visibility of the profession in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response remains limited.

As nursing education has continued to focus on the improvement of disaster nursing concept delivery in prelicensure curriculums, opportunities exist for the experiential learning of undergraduate nursing students in community-based disaster support. This presentation will describe the intentional integration of a disaster preparedness community engagement program within a Midwest school of nursing with the intent of improving disaster preparedness for prelicensure nursing students and the local community.