

Learning To Care, Caring to Learn: A Multi-Disciplinary Initiative to Provide Health to the Homeless

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INTRODUCTION

- The “new IPE” highlights the significance of education, practice, and collaboration to improve health and support for people and communities.
- This aligns with our institution’s threefold approach to IPE which combines didactic, simulation, and clinical practice initiatives to improve health outcomes of our patients and communities.
- An area of unmet medical need identified in our local community was care for people experiencing homelessness (PEH).
- Studies across the United States have reported that interdisciplinary interventions that are timely, responsive and coordinated to meet the complex medical needs of this population are an effective approach to patient care.

OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the importance of relating didactic, simulation, and clinical practice initiatives in interprofessional practice and education to meet community needs
2. Outline strategies to implement large-scale interprofessional initiatives using available resources.



METHODS

Program Structure



Assessment

Participants complete pre- and post-surveys examining

- Prior experiences with poverty and homelessness
- Attitudes toward homelessness
- Self-efficacy beliefs in interprofessional learning

Attitudes are measured using the validated Health Professionals’ Attitudes Toward the Homeless Inventory (HPATHI) and self- efficacy through the Self-efficacy for Interprofessional Experiential Learning Scale (SEIEL).

RESULTS

2022-2023 Academic Year

Poverty Simulation

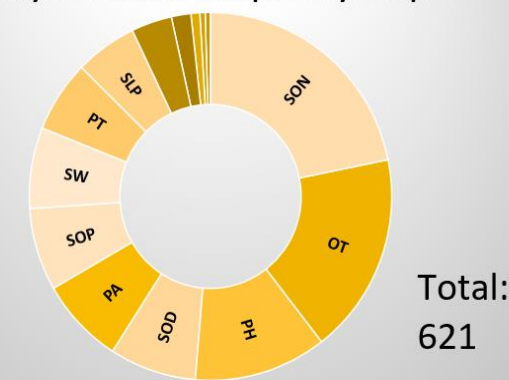
- 621 Learners
- 14 Unique Disciplines
- 10 Simulations

"Street Rounds"

- Bi-Monthly Interaction
- 10-20 Learners Per Round
- 6 Unique Disciplines

RESULTS

Poverty Simulation Participants by Discipline



CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

- A better understanding is gained of caring for people experiencing homelessness and/ or poverty.
- The importance of each role of the members of the care team in providing care to meet community needs is reinforced.
- The need for additional leadership and advocacy efforts is highlighted.
- Future expansion opportunities for additional disciplines, including graduate medical education, to participate is being explored.

REFERENCES

Missouri Community Action Network. (2022, November 20). *The Community Action Poverty Simulation*. <https://www.povertysimulation.net/>