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Challenges Associated with the Integration of Population Health Content and Prelicensure Nursing Curricula- Experiences of Nurse Educators

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Abstract

Title: Challenges Associated with the Integration of Population Health Content and Prelicensure Nursing Curricula- Experiences of Nurse Educators

Presenter: (Undergraduate Research Assistant) Stephanie Jones

Background: In April 2021, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing released new BSN essentials that emphasized population health. This inclusion of population health as an essential could improve prelicensure nursing students' knowledge and skills in providing population health-based services. Also, it could help improve their attitude towards population health.

Objective: To explore the challenges of nurse educators' perception and experience associated with the integration of population health content to prelicensure nursing curricula.

Methods: This is a secondary analysis of the qualitative data collected in an ongoing mixed-methods study exploring how population health content is integrated into prelicensure nursing curricula. The eligible participants, who have terminal degrees and teaching prelicensure nursing students, were recruited by email and posts on professional registered nursing organizations' websites. The email interviews included semi-structured and demographic questions. The data was examined using content analysis. Nine participants' responses were used for the preliminary data saturation. Question nine was compared across participants for this study.

Results: There were three key challenges: 1. Lack of faculty involvement, comprehension, availability, and experience; 2. Lack of available experiential sites; 3. Students lacked the ability to relay content, interest, and flexibility. As nursing educators, one had 1-5 years of experience, three had more than six years of experience, and five had more than 10 years of experience. Five participants were faculty members, and four were curriculum coordinators at their respective institutions.

Conclusion: More empirical evidence is needed to fully understand the challenges and ascertain the best solutions for improved integration of population health content in prelicensure nursing curricula. This is vital for certifying prelicensure nursing programs meet the AACN essentials on population health.

Keywords: prelicensure nursing programs, population health, challenges, curricula