

Influence of Student Nurse Extern Programs on First time NCLEX-RN® success and Program completion

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Introduction

Student achievement of the program outcomes related to first time NCLEX-RN® success and program completion is concerning for schools of nursing.. The increase in passing standard for licensure exam led to a decline in pass rates for first time test takers. Program completion in community college nursing programs is as low as 20-42%. Nursing programs have implemented a variety of strategies to improve students' success rates on the licensure exam and improve program completion rates.

Purpose

The purpose of the study was to determine if students that participated in a student nurse extern program were more likely to complete the nursing program and pass NCLEX-RN® on the first write than students that did not participate in the extern program.

Null Hypothesis

1. There is no statistically significant relationship between student nurse extern program participation and NCLEX-RN® pass rates on first time write.
2. There is no statistically significant relationship between student nurse extern program participation and program completion.

Description of Program/Intervention

The Student Nurse Extern Program provides students that have completed at least two semesters of nursing courses an opportunity to enhance skills and apply knowledge, in the practice of nursing, while working under the guidance of a preceptor. The nursing program works cooperatively with hospitals to provide an extern experience for college credit. Extern participants work 320 hours with a preceptor at an affiliating agency.

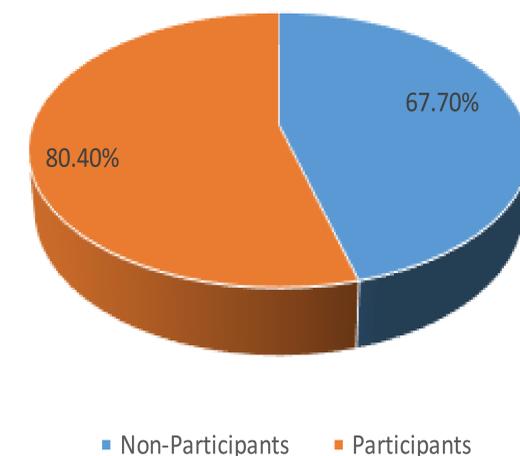
Methodology

Data were obtained retrospectively from students that were enrolled in one school of nursing from 2011 through 2018.

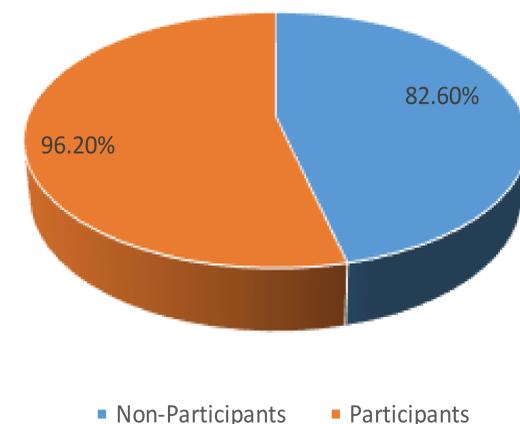
Findings

Results revealed that students that participated in a student nurse extern program were more likely to pass the NCLEX-RN® on the first write and more likely to complete the nursing program than students that did not participate in the extern program.

First-time NCLEX-RN® for Extern participants vs non participants



Program Completions for Extern participants vs non participants



Implications for Educators

- Inform students of benefits of Extern Programs
- Encourage participation in Extern Programs
- Support students through application process
- Seek funding for Extern Programs