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Introduction

- Social determinants of health (SDoH) are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes (WHO, 2022)
- SDoh is described as where one is born, grows, works, live and ages (Healthy People, 2020)
- SDoh is one of the eight core concepts for the revised educational guidelines “The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education” (AACN, 2021)

Purpose

- Explore ways to educate students about the concepts of SDoh by using health fairs at a rural food bank
- Implement a student ran health fair that utilizes evidence based practice and the nursing process.

Methods

Students were instructed to follow a rubric to develop their educational booth based on the needs of a community assessment. Students were dived into groups of 2 and were assigned their rural location to implement a health fair at the rural food bank. The clinical assignment is based on the nursing process with the implementation of evidence based practice.

Students were to complete a formal paper about the health fair. The rubric for the paper utilizes the nursing process as it’s framework with community assessment, identification of the problem for the community, an evidence based plan for health education at the health fair, description of the implementation of the educational activity and evaluation of the health education and health fair.

Students participated in a post clinical conference with the theme of SDoh. The instructor was guided to ask the following questions:

- Describe the food inequities that were observed at the food bank.
- Describe the health literacy levels of the participations that you educated (and how did you come up with that assumption).
- What observations did you see regarding transportation or access to the food bank?
- Describe the health status of the participants that you observed at the foodbank (HTN, obesity, mobility). In conversation, did they disclose any health issues?
- Describe how you think the SDoh may have impacted the participants at the food bank.

Evaluation

- Food bank managers appreciated the students and asked the students to return the following semester
- One foodbank manager stated “I’m glad you didn’t forget about us”
- Nursing instructors were very supportive of the project and were very positive about the idea of doing health fairs again at foodbanks
- Nursing instructors reported that the foodbank was a great place to vividly point out SDoh and to point out the impact that SDoh have on participants and community
- Nursing instructors reported that they appreciated the post clinical conference questions that helped guide the discussion about SDoh

Conclusions

- Health fairs conducted by nursing students at rural food banks appear to be a promising strategy for teaching baccalaureate nursing students about SDoh
- This educational activity can also be used to evaluate AACN’s New Essentials “Domain 7: Systems-Based practice, Responding to and leading within complex systems of health care. Nurses effectively and proactively coordinate resources to provide safe, quality, equitable care to diverse populations.”

References

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Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2020). Social Determinants of Health. *Healthy People 2030*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>

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