

Learn, Do, Teach: Developing Nursing Students' Population Health Core Competencies Through Interprofessional Health Education

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Purpose

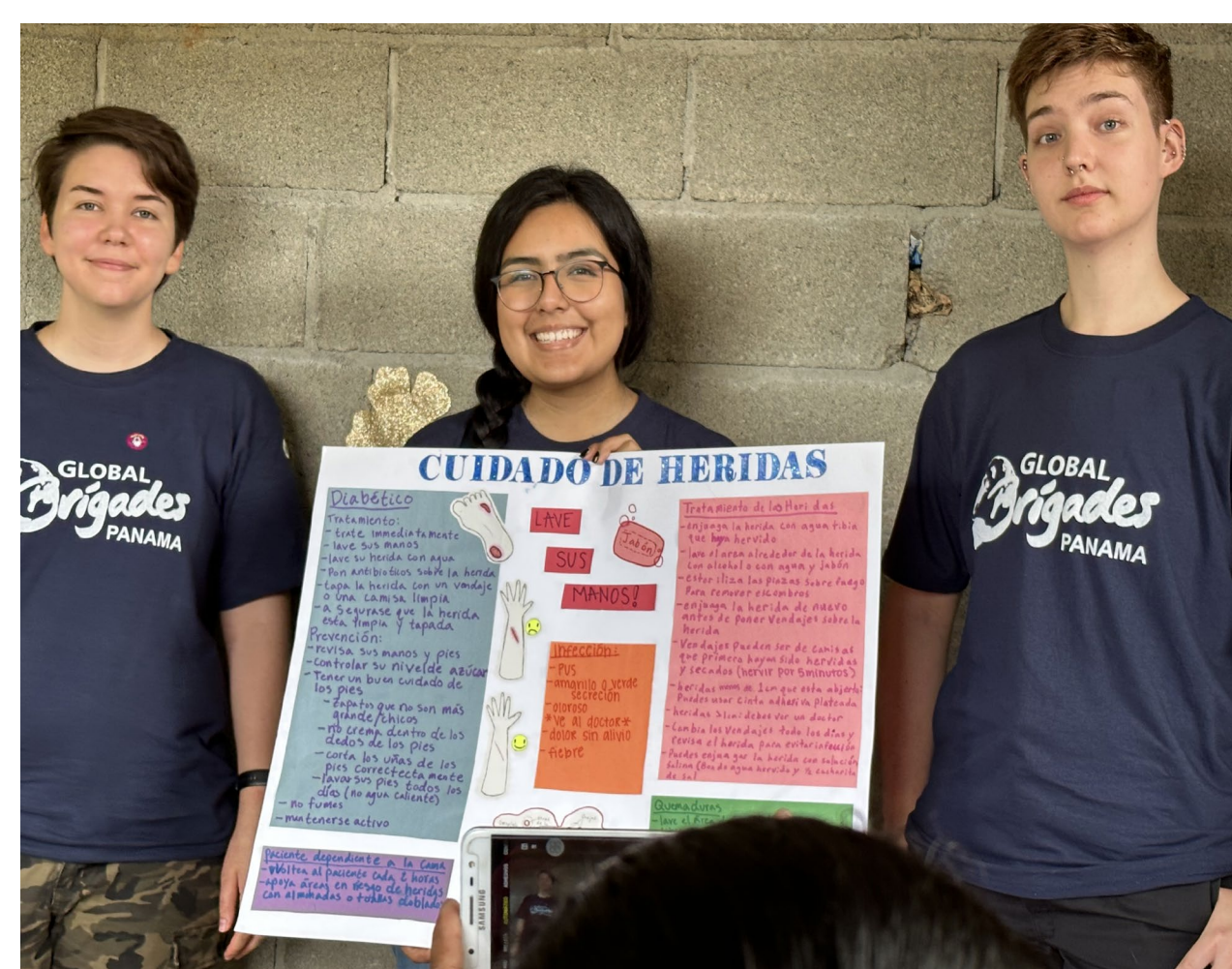
The purpose of the study was to determine if nursing students develop and improve competencies in population health principles through preparing, conducting and evaluating health teaching for community health workers (CHW).

Background

- The new *Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (2021) has identified population health competencies as a high priority for nursing graduates.
- This study explored the idea of teaching as an effective learning method to allow senior nursing students to develop competency in public health while contributing to body of evidence in public health competencies
- Participants provided health education to CHWs as part of the NURS 4280 Community Health Nursing Practicum - Study Abroad program in Panama.
- Prior to leaving for Panama, students were given a link to a pre-survey, which established a baseline of the students' perceptions of their competency in Domain 3: Population Health of the new *Essentials*.
- While in Panama, students were active in preparing health education for and teaching CHWs.
- Each clinical group prepared and taught one health educational topic to a group of CHWs.

Methods

Nursing students' self-perceived competencies in population health principles were assessed by Qualtrics® surveys administered before and after a 10-day study abroad experience..



Sample

Sixteen (16) senior nursing students participated in the Study Abroad trip to Panama for a Community Health in Nursing course.

- 15 students filled out the pre-study abroad survey.
- 12 students filled out the post-study abroad survey.



Procedure

Participants completed pre- and post-trip Qualtrics® surveys.

- Both surveys were identical and consisted of 24 questions related to the participants self-perceptions of their population health competencies.
- The 24 Questions were taken directly from the Domain 3: Population Health core competency in the new *Essentials* (2021).
- Students were asked "On a scale from 1-5, with 1 being not competent at all and 5 being extremely competent describe your own competence on the following questions".
- All students participating in the study-abroad trip developed and provided health education for the CHWs

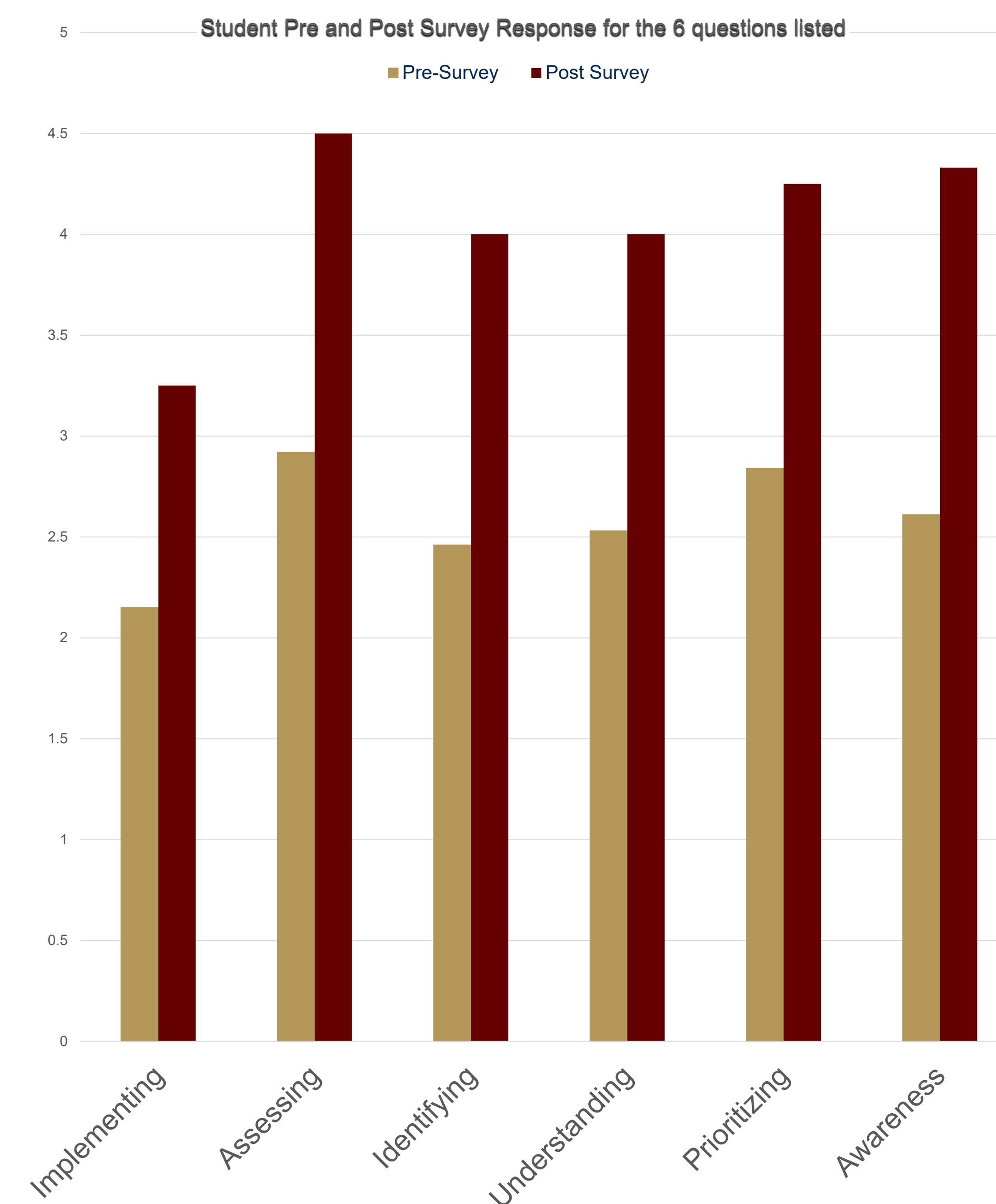


Results

All 24 Survey Question scores increased from the pre- to the post-survey.

Key take aways from the results include students' self-assessed increases in:

1. Ability to **implement** sociocultural and linguistically responsive interventions
2. Ability to **assess** communities and/or populations
3. Ability to **identify** population needs and appropriate methods of evaluation
4. Ability to **understand** the public health system to address population health needs
5. Ability to **prioritize** patient-focused and/or community action plans that are safe, effective, and efficient in the context of available resources.
6. **Awareness** of interconnectedness of population health across borders



Conclusions

Community Health Workers (CHW) are members of the health team who are typically lay providers from within the population nursing interventions are attempting to reach (Olaniron, 2019).

CHW's are an important link in reaching marginalized populations.

Nursing students can be a helpful addition to the healthcare team in providing education on principles of health and health topics will impact the marginalized communities.

Our study demonstrated positive results for the students, increasing their comfort level in identifying and addressing population health needs as well as fulfilling a much-needed gap in education for CHW.

Implications for further research

- Evidence from this study is expected to add to the body of nursing science through exploring innovative teaching methods for nursing students teaching population health in a community.
- This area of study needs more robust evidence, especially as the new *Essentials* (2021) begin to be incorporated into nursing curricula nationwide.
- The goal is to extend this study in future to look at the impact the CHW education has on the ability of the CHWs to address community health needs, use of the physician referral system, and population health outcomes in the regions covered by the CHWs receiving education from nursing students.

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