

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing  
James Madison University School of Nursing  
Omega Zeta

Nursing's Emerging Role to Protect Population Health in a Changing Climate

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to evaluate an educational program designed to mobilize nurses and other health care providers (HCP) to reduce health care's contribution to the public health threat of climate change and to effectively protect health in a changing climate.

Design

A time series descriptive design will be utilized to survey HCP related knowledge, engagement and personal and professional behaviors pre, immediately post and 4 weeks post program participation.

Population/Sample/Setting

A convenience sample of nurses and other HCPs who participate in a continuing education program held at a central Virginia university will be utilized.

Variables studied/Intervention

This project will examine the impact of the 6.5 hour educational program on nursing knowledge, engagement, motivation and personal and professional practice behaviors pertaining to health and climate change mitigation.

Method

Program participants will be invited and consented to anonymous and electronic completion of a psychometrically validated instrument for measuring nursing and other HCP knowledge, attitudes, engagement and personal and practice related climate mitigation behaviors. Descriptive statistics and One-Way ANOVA will determine changes in the participants over time.

Findings/Conclusions

Nursing and other HCP knowledge, engagement and personal and professional climate and health related behaviors and the impact of an educational program will be determined.

Implications

The health impacts of climate change are predicted to be profound. Nurses have ethical professional responsibility to protect population health. Curricular and educational guidelines and clinician competencies are needed in order to equip and empower nurses in their emerging roles to protect human health in a changing climate.