Sentinel City® is a virtual simulation program for population health nursing. As an online learning platform, it enables students to actively engage in the application of population health theory into practice including how to conduct a windshield survey and home assessments (www.sentinelu.com).

Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between the use of Sentinel City® virtual simulation program for student community/public/population health nursing clinical learning and their ability to meet their learning outcomes among different Canadian schools of nursing?
2. How do students’ experiences differ and/or align across the different jurisdictional sites?

Research Methodology

- **Quantitative**
  - Descriptive survey
  - Statistics

- **Qualitative**
  - Open-ended questions
  - Common themes

Study population

- All registered (2020/2021 academic year) nursing students (n=1,340) in community health nursing courses

Participants

- N=272 consenting students
- Response rate of 20.2%

Results

- **Age**
  - Under 20: 36
  - 21-25: 131
  - 26-30: 30
  - 31-40: 22
  - Over 40: 6

- **Stream in the Program**
  - Direct Entry (58.48%)
  - Advanced Standing/Accelerated (23.66%)
  - RPN/LPN to BSN (12.05%)
  - Second Degree Entry (3.57%)
  - Prefer not to answer (2.23%)

- **Year of Program**
  - 2: 79
  - 3: 51
  - 4: 91
  - No answer: 5

Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge about CHN process
- Population health assessment
- Planning a population health intervention
- Integrating principles of PHC into practice
- Applying a population health perspective
- Recognizing health inequities

- Knowledge/Critical thinking
  - Not Confident
  - Slightly Confident
  - Neutral
  - Confident
  - Very Confident
  - Prefer Not to Answer
How did Sentinel City® support learning in a community practicum?

I am disappointed in this experience and believe I had the ability to learn so much more if this was an in-person practicum, it baffles me that a virtual experience was selected over a real placement as it will never compare."

Enhanced Understanding of Community Health Nursing

Not Meeting Clinical Expectations

Recommendations

- Virtual simulation should be used as a complementary teaching tool to support students' learning.
- Addition of built-in opportunities for student self-evaluation.
- Integration of a variety of clinical activities geared toward students at different levels of education.
- A robust orientation and professional development program for clinical instructors.

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Disclaimer: The research team has no affiliation, monetary or otherwise, with Sentinel City®.