

Project SHARE: Empowering Student Community Health Advocates



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Background

Studies have shown that students can be effectively trained as community health workers and have a positive impact on educating fellow students and their communities about improving their own health (6). Incorporating advocacy and leadership skills in a community health worker education program provides community health workers the training needed to elevate their impact from a one-to-one relationship with only the specific people involved in the intervention to an expanded role that gives them the skills to advocate for community level changes that address the larger systematic causes of health disparities (9). This program is innovative because it goes beyond training high school students as community health workers and expands their role to community health advocates in a library-led education and outreach training initiative in order to reduce health disparities in Baltimore neighborhoods. The aim of the project is to develop a replicable student health advocacy curriculum that can be used by community-academic partnerships nationwide.

Funding

The SHARE Project has been funded by the National Library of Medicine Information Resource Grant. A 3 year, \$205,000 grant was awarded in order to help reduce health disparities.

Partnership

A partnership was created between the following institutions in order to achieve the ultimate goal of reducing health disparities in Baltimore:

- Health Sciences and Human Services Library
- Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy
- National Partnership for Action
- Parent Engagement
- Advisory Committee

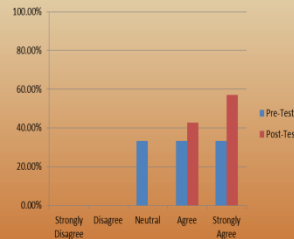
Curriculum

The SHARE curriculum was designed to be aligned with national standards. In addition, a 154 hour Pre-Post Test was developed and deployed.

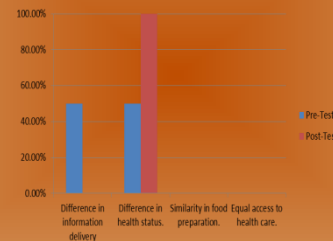


Results

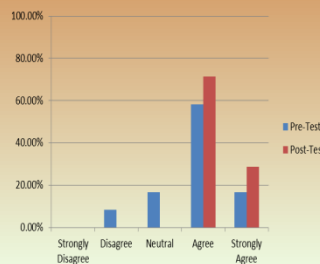
I am confident in my ability to find trustworthy and unbiased health information.



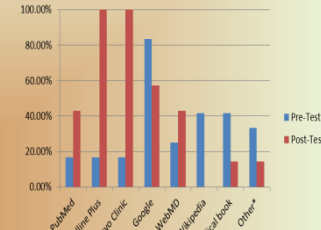
What is health disparity?



I am confident in my ability to develop health communication materials.



Which of the following resources have you used to find health information? (check all that apply)



Discussion

The program was successfully completed by 7 students. 2 of the students who completed the SHARE program successfully were asked to serve the role of an Ambassador who would promote the SHARE program to their fellow students at Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy and help the second cohort of students in the program. The program resulted in an increase of knowledge regarding health disparities, health literacy, and health advocacy as supported by the Post Test. The second cohort curriculum will be further developed in order to attain further success in the second year of the program.

“The most important thing I learned is how to give a good presentation and how to find out whether information is credible or not.”



“Research about health and wellness and how we can help ourselves”

