

Preparing the Future Pharmacists to Achieve the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) Goals

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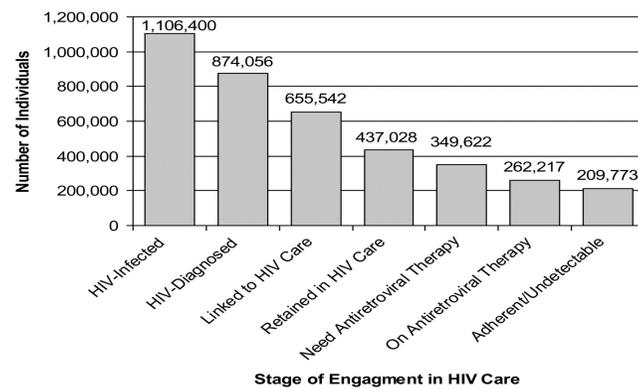
Background

In 2010 the White House released the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) which was the first coordinated effort to achieve the vision of the US becoming a place where new HIV infections were rare by 2015.

The NHAS goals are:

- reducing new HIV infections
- increasing access to care
- improving health outcomes for people living with HIV
- reducing HIV related health disparities¹

The NHAS states that in order to accomplish these goals, a more coordinated national response must be taken with this epidemic. Soon after Gardner et al. published the multiple gaps in HIV care that currently exist which include:²



The University of Maryland Baltimore campus initiated the Preparing the Future (PTF) course to mobilize an academic institution to address and help achieve the NHAS goals with the gaps in the continuum of care identified by Gardner et al. in mind.

The PTF course was 1st initiated by the JACQUES Initiative at the School of Medicine University of Maryland Baltimore campus in Fall 2011 which only included 1st and 2nd year medical students. In its 2nd year of inception the PTF program expanded to include medicine, nursing, and social work. In the Spring of 2013, the PTF program was initiated at the School of Pharmacy (PTF-SOP).

Objectives

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy implemented a course to prepare future pharmacists to help achieve the NHAS goals through an interprofessional approach.

Methods

The PTF-SOP was offered to 2nd and 3rd year pharmacy students as a 1 credit elective. The PTF curriculum integrated the **Core Competencies of Interprofessional Practice**.

- *Competency Domain 1: Values/Ethics for Interprofessional Practice*
- *Competency Domain 2: Roles/Responsibilities*
- *Competency Domain 3: Interprofessional Communication*
- *Competency Domain 4: Teams and Teamwork*

The course included a didactic and service learning component which consisted of:

Didactic Components

Capacity Building Course(s):

- Preparing the Future (PTF) HIV 101 Workshop (3 hours)
- Optional HIV Testing Training (6 hours)
- Pharmacy-specific sessions for reflection (3 sessions x 2 hours)

Enrichment Workshop Course(s):

- Interdisciplinary Case Conference (2 hours)
- LGBT Cultural Competency Workshop (2 hours)
- Social Justice Workshop (2 hours)

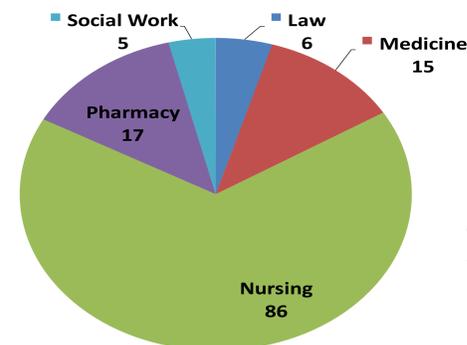
Interprofessional Service Learning Components:

All PTF-SOP students were required to attend four 3 hour Service Learning activities to draw upon the skills acquired through the didactic sessions and apply their skills in a practice environment. The Service Learning component could be fulfilled in multiple locations including:

- Outreach, Testing and Linkage to Care:
 - A Walgreen's Pharmacy
 - Community and Public Health nursing practicum sites
 - School of Dentistry's Dental Clinic and other community-based sites
- Early Treatment, Retention & Adherence:
 - The JACQUES Initiative's PTF Clinic
- Full Continuum of Care & Service Delivery:
 - HIV Summit Planning Committee
 - World AIDS Day Planning Committee
 - City Uprising HIV Outreach Day Planning Committee
 - Program Evaluation

All students completed a pre- and post-test that included an assessment of knowledge/attitudes/behaviors towards the HIV epidemic.

Students Demographics



In academic year 2012-2013, 17 pharmacy students enrolled in the PTF-SOP class. A total of 129 students from all disciplines completed the pre- and post- test for the course.

Results/Conclusions

Questions	Discipline	Percentage of "True" response from Pre-test	Percentage of "True" response from Post-test	p-value
I am able to discuss HIV in a culturally competent manner with my patients/clients.	All	43.4	93.8	<0.001
	SOP	35.3	88.2	
Barriers to engagement and retention in HIV care are multi-faceted and often not related directly to their HIV.	All	85.3	93.8	0.011
	SOP	82.4	100	
I am/would be comfortable talking to patients about their HIV risk behaviors, including sex and drug-using behaviors	All	70.4	96.3	<0.001
	SOP	81.3	87.5	
I don't think that it is too complicated to offer an HIV test as a routine part of medical care.	All	85.3	97.2	<0.001
	SOP	68.7	81.2	

Implications

As pharmacists are the most accessed point of healthcare, it is important for them to be prepared to contribute to the achievement of the NHAS goals. The PTF course has been effective in contributing to increased knowledge as well as changes in attitudes towards HIV.

References

1. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/NHAS.pdf>
2. Gardner EM, McLees MP, Steiner JF, et al. The spectrum of engagement in HIV care and its relevance to test-and-treat strategies for prevention of HIV infection. CID 2011;52(6):793-800.