P1-33: Using Distance Technology to Deliver Asthma Education to School Nurses in an Appalachian Area: ADEP (Asthma Distance Education Program)

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Abstract:
Introduction: The purpose of the project, funded by the National Association of School Nurses, was to develop and evaluate distance learning technology as a method to deliver asthma education updates for school nurses in West Virginia. The hypothesis was that using distance learning methods is an effective means to deliver asthma education. The prevalence of lifetime asthma for West Virginia is higher than the national average. The need for continuing asthma education for school nurses is supported by current literature and the National Institutes of Health. Travel distance, work schedules, time constraints with large caseloads, monetary compensation and willingness to participate during personal time have been identified as barriers to continuing education for school nurses in rural settings. Distance learning methodologies were used to address some of the identified barriers.
**Method(s):** During an inservice day, all school nurses in one rural county (N=11) agreed to participate as the intervention group. The group was randomly assigned to participate in a web based platform of either an archived presentation by an asthma educator or a live presentation by the same presenter. A quasi-experimental design with pre and post- intervention evaluation measured asthma knowledge and asthma management experience with children, confidence and group demographics using Winkelstein's School Health Personnel Questionnaire (SHPQ). School nurses in a neighboring county (N=9) served as the control, completing the SHPQ at a separate time.

**Results:** Participants (N=20) reported an average of 10.8% of their time was dedicated to working with children with asthma. The Mann-Whitney U Test was performed revealing no significant difference between the groups for asthma knowledge. Post-test management communication scores differed significantly between the archived and live groups (p=.01). A significant difference in confidence scores was noted between archived and live groups pre-test (p=.011) and post-test (p=.005).

**Discussion & Conclusions:** The results of this pilot study suggest that distance learning methods are an effective means to deliver continuing education to school nurses. Additional research using a larger sample size is needed to further examine this topic.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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