

Title: Nursing Climate Resources for Health Education (N-CRHE): Bridging the Gap between Assessment and Action.

Background

Climate Resources for Health Education (CRHE) is an evidence-based, peer-reviewed, online repository of climate change and planetary health-related resources created by students and faculty advisors in conjunction with the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE) to create capacity building among health educators, students, and professionals. CRHE was initially developed to support medical school education.

Aim(s)

The authors of this abstract and a global team of nurses are developing a nursing version of the CRHE, known as N-CRHE, to support nurses at all levels of nursing education (bachelor's, master's, and doctoral).

Methods

The N-CRHE is population-focused to align with the nursing curricula. Each category (adult, pediatric, public/community health, healthcare systems) has a global team of expert nurses in the respected fields creating learning objectives and providing resources to support planetary health concepts (air pollution, extreme heat, food/water security, mental health, soil/ water/waste pollution, and vector-borne diseases).

The N-CRHE aligns with evidence-based best practices, GCCHE competencies, planetary health frameworks, and the Nurses Planetary Health Report Card (N-PHRC), a student-led initiative to evaluate university utilization of planetary health principles and metrics to bridge evaluation with action. The N-CRHE leadership team created a Strategic Actions Group, a team of nursing experts working to provide templates, mentorship, and simulation opportunities for nurses, students, and faculty interested in implementing sustainability solutions.

Results

Each of the global teams of expert nurses has carried out the creation of the learning objectives (LOs) for the identified climate and health concepts, which have been peer-reviewed by experts. All LOs have been created to emphasize the links between climate and health and/or underscore the relevance of the topic to nursing practice. Each of the community/public health nursing LOs have been designed to help students identify the topics and challenges affiliated with climate change, and develop potential mitigation and adaptation strategies considering local contexts and climate-informed health interventions applicable to the area of nursing practice.

The next phase of the project will focus on the creation of case studies; slide decks; simulation; and podcasts by global teams of nurses and student nurses according to each specific learning objective, incorporating planetary and global health principles.

Discussion

N-CRHE aims to be a hub of climate and planetary health-related resources designed to support, contribute, and amplify work currently implemented at all levels of nursing education and nursing practice. Nurses can model and lead in ways that planetary health strategies can be adopted in clinical and community settings. Nurses can be the driving force of sustainable change. In order to do so, it is essential to provide nurse educators and practicing nurses with tools to appropriately train the next generation of nurse leaders.

Implications and future perspectives

The goal is utilization by faculty in schools of nursing to support a climate and planetary health curriculum to prepare the global nursing workforce; support the professional development of the existing global nursing workforce; and leverage nursing as instrumental to build, contribute, and prepare a climate-ready health sector for a worldwide community of nursing practice.