

TITLE: Preparing UK and US Nursing Students to Better Support Population Health

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Topic is education for a better prepared workforce: Target audiences include: (1) educators and practitioners who have contact with professional healthcare students and (2) health system leaders who need a workforce knowledgeable about population health.

ABSTRACT: Background: While the US struggles to support population health without the benefit of universal coverage, the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK provides free healthcare to all at the point of service. Yet, the NHS is unsustainable, and health outcomes are generally not much better than US outcomes.

Aims:

New UK standards for nursing curricula to be integrated by autumn of 2020 drove interest in a qualitative study, addressing the following aims: (1) to identify the types of knowledge, skills, and attitudes required of nurses to support population health in whatever context they practice; (2) to describe models and teaching strategies for teaching population health in the UK.

Methods: The principal investigator, a Fulbright Research Scholar, worked with two health demographers to conduct this qualitative study. Twenty nurse leaders in academic, regulatory, and civil service sectors in the UK, primarily Scotland, were interviewed.

Results: Thematic analyses of the audiorecorded interviews identified nursing leaders' population health priorities and strategies; these were then compared with known US population health learning outcomes.*

Implications: Integrating population health concepts in nursing curricula, and intentionally exposing students to them is critical to reducing healthcare inequalities in the future.*

*Research will conclude in August

OBJECTIVE(S): The learner will be able to describe at least one way in which the s/he can promote population health awareness in health professional students/new graduates, regardless of their chosen practice area.

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