Abstract:

Objectives: Reaching the public health nursing (PHN) workforce for continuing education training poses multiple barriers including time commitments and geographic accessibility. An interdisciplinary team of librarians and nurses, Nursing Experts: Translating the Evidence (NExT), was formed to provide this training. Two modalities of instruction on Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) and Knowledge Translation were developed, an in-person session and an asynchronous online tutorial.

Methods: The instructional goals for the training includes introducing high quality, free government resources available from the NLM/NIH, summarizing Brownson’s model for evidence-based public health, and applying a case study to demonstrate knowledge translation into daily practice, policy development, and grant writing. For in-person sessions, nurse and librarian dyads provide a three-hour educational session to Illinois public health departments. The online asynchronous tutorial was developed with the same objectives to provide access to a wider geographic audience. Training effectiveness was measured using pre/post survey methodology. Measures will include: familiarity with EBP content, EBP inquiry, resource allocation, confidence with EBP discovery and application, and perceived understanding of the information provided.

Results: Preliminary results for the in-person session indicate all measures of frequency before and anticipated use with the EBP concepts and resources use show improvement. The participants (n=68) were able to develop new skills (m=4.06, SD=.968) and were able to find evidence-base literature (m=4.16, SD=.980). The online asynchronous tutorial was launched in January of 2016 and is currently being advertised to the public health nursing workforce. The comparative analysis will be expanded using relevant statistical calculations when sample size is larger and tested for normality.

Conclusions: At this time, initial results indicate positive findings with participants attending the in-person sessions. Additional data will be added and analyzed after four more in-person education sessions and as more participants take the online tutorial. Comparative analysis will occur once data is procured and will be presented in the conference poster. Findings will help inform further development of continuing education training for the PHN workforce.