

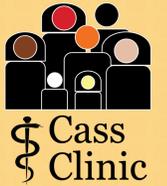
VOLUNTEERING AT URBAN STUDENT-RUN FREE CLINICS IMPROVES PERCEIVED MEDICAL STUDENT PREPAREDNESS FOR CLINICAL CLERKSHIPS



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Introduction

- Student-run free clinics (SRFCs) provide hands-on learning opportunities for medical students to engage with local communities as well as practice clinical proficiencies.
- While SRFC volunteerism is typically not a requirement of medical school curriculums, studies^{1,2} have suggested that SRFC participation may be associated with increased clinical preparedness, particularly for medical school clinical clerkships.

Objective

Our study seeks to understand whether SRFC volunteerism in an urban environment improves medical student self-perceived readiness for third-year clinical clerkships.

Methods

- We surveyed a random selection of graduating M4 (Class of 2022) and rising-M4 (Class of 2023) medical students at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan.
- Students were asked about their retrospective SRFC volunteerism and perceived clinical preparedness for their first day of M3 clinical clerkships.
- Responses (n=29) to 12 Likert items were grouped into volunteers (volunteer frequency>0) and non-volunteers (volunteer frequency=0) and analyzed using unpaired one-tailed Student's t-tests.
- Overall clinical preparedness scores were calculated as mean outcomes from all survey items.

Results

- No significant difference in general perceived clinical readiness (overall clinical preparedness score p=0.085) between SRFC volunteers and non-volunteers
- No significant difference (p>0.05) between SRFC volunteers and non-volunteers for most clinic readiness parameters
- For accurately obtaining a manual blood pressure and providing resources for food insecurity, **SRFC volunteers reported a significantly higher level of preparedness** on their first day of clinical rotations compared to non-volunteers (p=0.026, p=0.039; respectively)

Conclusion

- Our study shows that SRFC volunteers self-reported increased readiness on their first day of clinical clerkships in **obtaining manual blood pressure and providing resources for food insecurity** compared to non-volunteers.
- Of note, each SRFC provides different patient care experiences that can have non-uniform effects on students.
- Understanding variations among SRFC models, as well as quantifying objective clinical preparedness, may help standardize effects of SRFC volunteerism on clinical preparedness.

On Day 1 of your first M3 clerkship, how prepared did you feel...

Direct Patient Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing medication reconciliation • Asking patients about social determinants of health • Treating chronic illnesses (HTN, DM, etc.) • Interacting with under-served patients
Practical Clinical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribing patients medication • Using Electronic Medical Records (EMR) • Interpreting heart and lung sounds • Accurately obtaining a manual blood pressure
Navigating Community Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking to the specific needs of the Detroit community • Referring patients to other specialties • Providing resources for housing insecurity • Providing resources for food insecurity

Very Unprepared (1) Somewhat Unprepared (2) Somewhat Prepared (3) Very Prepared (4)

Table 1. Four-point Likert scale survey questions evaluating medical students perceived preparedness for clinical clerkships.

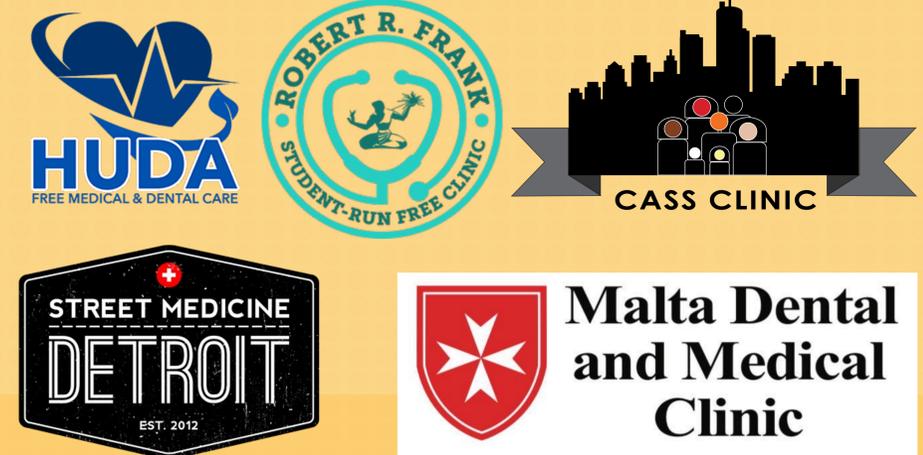


Fig 1. Sample of student-run free clinics in Detroit affiliated with Wayne State University School of Medicine.

References

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2. Laitman, B. M., Chandrasekaran, S., Rifkin, R., Barnum, K., Thomas, D. C., & Meah, Y. S. (2018). Benefits of a Physician-Scientist-Tailored Curriculum at a Medical Student-Run Free Clinic. *Medical science educator*, 29(1), 9–10.