

BACKGROUND

The City of Dearborn is experiencing a rising opioid epidemic. Composed of a largely Muslim and Arab immigrant population, Dearborn faces unique challenges with this epidemic such as deeply rooted perceptions of taboo and shame around opioid use. To increase awareness and to enhance the knowledge and preparedness of medical students, we created a seminar around opioid use and treatment, with a focus on the factors unique to Muslim communities. The aim of this study is to analyze the impact of a case-based seminar on the knowledge base and cultural literacy of medical students concerning the opioid crisis, especially within the minority faith communities of Metro Detroit.

METHODS

Participants

- 1st and 2nd year medical students; students will receive outreach hours for participating.
- Audience will be targeted through emails and social media platforms.

Seminars (Online via Zoom and In-Person)

- Psychiatry and faith experts speak on the importance of discussing opioid use among diverse religious backgrounds
- Facilitators then led small group case-study discussions on best practices for cultural competency and approaching opioid use sensitively
- The in-person session will have SP's that are trained medical students acting out cases of Muslim patients with opioid use disorder

Data Collection

- Qualtrics survey assessing knowledge and attitudes of opioid use and Muslim patients will be sent to all attendees prior and following completion of the session.

ANALYSIS PLAN

- We will compare the average Likert scores between statements in the Qualtrics presurvey to the postsurvey, which covers attitudes towards nonprescription opioid usage and the impact of culture on healthcare in the Muslim community.
- By analyzing the difference in average scores, we will determine whether our seminar impacted student perceptions of the opioid crisis in this minority community.
- Postsurvey will have a space for students to give feedback and personal thoughts, adding a qualitative measure to our analysis.

RESULTS

This initiative has hosted two prior events with the goal of improving the current program to expand our reach and the quality of education offered to participating medical students.

1st seminar:

On November 4, 2020, 58 participants filled out the pre-survey and 44 completed the post-survey, results signified a general increase in average Likert scores for statements regarding opioid usage and cultural competency.

2nd seminar:

On May 18, 2022, 52 participants filled out the pre-survey and 13 completed the post-survey, with no sufficient findings.

Limitations:

- Lower participation on the post-survey than pre-survey
- Small sample of medical students in a class
- Inadequate representation virtually versus with in-person standardized patients and overall more engaged learning experience
- Post-survey was immediate and might not reflect long-term takeaways from the event so further follow-up survey could provide useful information

Goals for our next seminar:

At the second seminar, roughly 25% of participants filled the post-survey. We were unable to generate significant findings given the low post-survey response. We plan to host another seminar, scheduled on December 5th with the goal of collecting more sufficient data.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- It is estimated that there are over 3.45 million Muslims in the United States alone, and this number continues to grow. [2]
- Michigan is home to some of the largest Muslim American communities in the US, including Dearborn, Hamtramck, and areas of Detroit. It is inevitable that WSUSOM students will encounter a Muslim patient in their time here and beyond.
- As a religious minority, there are special faith considerations that must be made for diverse Muslim patients. There lies a gap in medical education on this topic.
- This workshop intends to fill that gap by providing medical students with the tools necessary to tackle difficult conversations, particularly surrounding substance abuse, with special faith considerations.
- By utilizing standardized patients who are Muslim themselves, students will be able to simulate a patient experience that may occur during their career

NEXT STEPS

To improve opioid awareness and knowledge of medical students handling patients in Arab/Muslim communities our plan is to:

- Provide surveys on a periodic schedule to pre-clerkship and clerkship medical students
- Host more seminars, primarily in-person to offer a more engaged learning experience
- Integrate this content into the medical school P4 curriculum, and to create guides for other schools to adopt.

These steps will enhance medical student awareness and allow us to measure changes on how students handle such situations within inter-clerkship experiences.

REFERENCES

- [1] Strang J, Volkow ND, Degenhardt L, Hickman M, Johnson K, Koob GF, Marshall BDL, Tyndall M, Walsh SL. Opioid use disorder. *Nat Rev Dis Primers*. 2020 Jan 9;6(1):3. doi: 10.1038/s41572-019-0137-5. PMID: 31919349.
- [2] Muslims projected to be second-largest U.S. religious group by 2040. *NBC News*.