Rural Partnerships for Interprofessional Education in West Virginia
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HEALTH BURDEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>West Virginia</th>
<th>United States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age adjusted rate of invasive cancer (all sites, incidence)</td>
<td>454.2</td>
<td>456.4</td>
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<td>Age-adjusted mortality from major CV diseases</td>
<td>326.2</td>
<td>277.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age adjusted mortality with COPD for adults &gt;= 45 years</td>
<td>411.2</td>
<td>250.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes prevalence among adults &gt;= 18 years</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cigarette smoking among adults &gt;= 18 years</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overweight or obesity in adults &gt;= 18 years</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
<td>63.0%</td>
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CREATING THE PARTNERSHIPS

- Rural Health Initiative Act passed in the State Legislature and created 8 regional consortia (1991)
- W.K. Kellogg grant created Community Partnership Initiative created 4 rural, community-based academic health training sites (1991)
- 8 regional consortia and 4 health training sites merged into the West Virginia Rural Health Education Partnerships (WVRHEP) serving 47 underserved counties (1995)
- Three month rural rotations for health professions students become a graduation requirement (1996)
- Federal AHEC grant supports the development of 5 regional centers (2001)

THE PARTNERS

- 533 training sites (CHCs, FQHCs, critical access hospitals, dental offices, pharmacies, health departments, rehab centers, homeless facilities)
- 841 community-based field faculty
- Community-based health and social agencies
- Community-based site coordinators and clerical staff

INTERPROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Interdisciplinary Sessions (IDS)**
- Problem-based case scenarios with discussion facilitated by a community-based health professional
- Topics include: advocacy, end-of-life care, chronic disease management, health care reform
- Provide opportunity for increased knowledge of various health disciplines’ approaches to patient care

**Interdisciplinary Experiences (IDE)**
- Opportunity to work across health disciplines
- Includes shadowing experiences, health fairs, assessments and screening

**Interdisciplinary Teams (IDT)**
- Integrates health professions students into a team that focuses on a specific community health need.
- Each team includes a Primary Health resident and four or more students from a variety of other health disciplines.
- Examples – nutrition education to combat childhood obesity, home safety for elders

LESSONS LEARNED

- 10% of students request additional interprofessional activities
- 10% of students ask that interprofessional activities be eliminated from rural rotations
- Cases have to be carefully constructed – some do not lend themselves to interprofessional discussion
- Facilitator attitude is a key element
- Students prefer interactive experiences – service learning, health fairs, health education, team projects

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Centers of Excellence in rural health
- Extend interprofessional education from the community to the Health Sciences campus