



School of Nursing

Evaluating the Effectiveness of an Educational Intervention On Future Teacher Allergy Knowledge

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Introduction

Teachers are often the first responders in an allergic emergency at school, making it imperative for them to be knowledgeable on the triggers, symptoms, and treatment of food allergies. However, many studies have shown that current teachers lack proper food allergy knowledge, which could endanger their food-allergic students in the event of a reaction. A potential solution to combatting this knowledge deficit is to educate future teachers on allergies during their undergraduate course of study. Understanding future teachers' health education needs allows nurses to provide essential learning experiences that ultimately will result in better health outcomes for school-age children.

Objectives

- To identify how an educational intervention by a healthcare professional can affect future teachers' knowledge of food allergies
- To identify how an educational intervention by a healthcare professional can affect the opinions of future teachers regarding food allergies

Interventions

- One pre-survey and one post-survey was sent out to all undergraduate education students (42 future teachers) at Elms College via e-mail
- Pre-survey assessed baseline allergy knowledge/opinions
- Post-survey assessed allergy knowledge/opinions after viewing a 7-minute video presentation on allergic reaction triggers, symptoms, treatment, and prevention

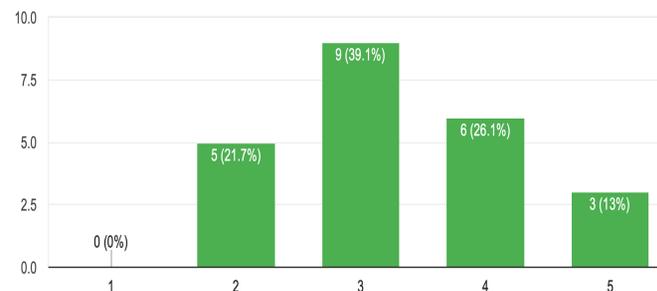
Outcomes

- Twenty-three participants responded to the pre-survey and twelve participants responded to the post-survey.
- In the post-survey, there was an overall increase in knowledge of the way allergic reactions are triggered, in the type of medication used to treat anaphylaxis, and in allergic reaction prevention methods.
- In the post-survey, participants indicated that they were more confident in recognizing signs/symptoms of an allergic reaction than they were pre-intervention.
- In the post-survey, participants were more likely to agree that it is important for future teachers to receive allergy training as part of their undergraduate education.
- Interestingly, in the post-survey there was an overall decrease in knowledge of the symptoms of an allergic reaction as well as knowledge of the top 8 food allergens.

Pre-Intervention

On a scale of 1-5, (1 being not confident at all, and 5 being extremely confident) rate your confidence level at recognizing signs of allergic reaction/anaphylaxis.

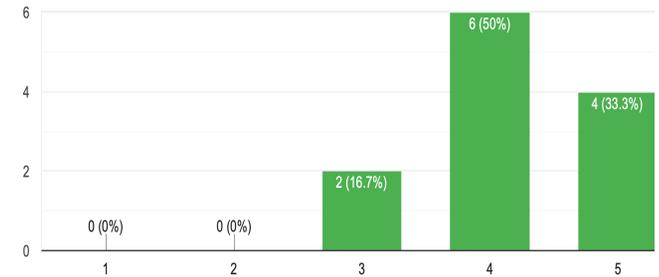
23 responses



Post-Intervention

On a scale of 1-5, (1 being not confident at all, and 5 being extremely confident) rate your confidence level at recognizing signs of allergic reaction/anaphylaxis.

12 responses



Conclusions

- Future teachers feel it is important for teachers to be knowledgeable about allergies and they believe it is important to receive allergy training during the undergraduate course of study.
- Future teachers feel more confident in their ability to identify signs of anaphylaxis after receiving allergy education.
- Though future teacher allergy knowledge did increase in some areas post-intervention, it decreased in others. This could be due to several limitations of the project: 1) The post-survey was administered during mid-term exam week which may have prevented participants from focusing on the post-survey. This limitation could also account for the steep decrease in response rates on the post-survey. 2) Due to the nature of the google survey format, there is no way to guarantee that participants actually viewed the educational video before taking the post-survey.