

Poster Th 5

Title: Lactation Curricular Content of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Programs in the United States

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Key words: Lactation, breastfeeding, nursing education, curricula, pediatric nurse practitioner

Introduction: Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNP) are in a unique position to promote and manage breastfeeding, however the amount and content devoted to lactation education in PNP programs is unknown. This study explores the lactation curriculum offered in PNP programs.

Method: An on-line survey of PNP programs was conducted via Limesurvey. Data collected assessed and analyzed the amount and type of lactation content and clinical opportunities provided to students.

Results: Thirty-two programs responded. Three programs offered specific breastfeeding courses; 19% devoted 1-2 hours to didactic lactation content, 44% provided up to 3 hours. Students had the opportunity to practice lactation skills in 68% of programs. Four offered lactation simulation. No programs utilized lactation clinical competencies.

Discussion: Standardization of lactation education will assist programs in future curriculum mapping. Development of competencies and lactation simulation experiences may offer PNP students a broader opportunity to gain critical lactation management skills and improve breastfeeding outcomes.