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Student Influences in Choosing Pharmacy

Veronica Asomani-Amoah

Cedarville University, vasomaniamoah@cedarville.edu

Kingsley Njangnso

Cedarville University, kingsleynjangnso@cedarville.edu

Lauren Petry

Cedarville University, laurenpetry@cedarville.edu

Colin Sprague

Cedarville University, colinsprague@cedarville.edu

Molly Turner

Cedarville University, mollyturner@cedarville.edu

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Veronica Asomani-Amoah, Kingsley Njangnso, Lauren Petry, Colin Sprague, Molly Turner, Douglas C. Anderson, and Jeb Ballentine

Student Influences in Choosing Pharmacy

Veronica Asomani-Amoah; Kingsley Njangnso; Lauren Petry; Colin Sprague; Molly Turner; Douglas Anderson, Pharm.D., D.Ph., C.A.C.P.; Jeb Ballentine, Pharm.D.

Statement of the problem

What has changed in the profession?

- The practice of pharmacy has shifted from product-centered to patient oriented services since the late 20th century¹
- There has been an increasing proportion of females joining the profession over the past 30 years, up to 47% in 2004²
- There has been an increase in the number of pharmacists with diverse ethnic backgrounds due to the increase in patient diversity³
- The reasons why students chose to pursue a pharmacy career have changed over the past 50 years¹

What are the implications of these changes?

- The need of pharmacists to possess strong communication skills, the ability to listen and question appropriately, and have high cultural competence¹
- Schools of pharmacy desire for their graduates to have the greatest impact possible on patient care by mastering these skills, which aid in continued success in the field once entering into practice⁴
- Revised Accreditation Counsel of Pharmacy Education standards in 2006 require focus on professional knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, sound judgment, and ethical behavior⁵

Significance of the problem

- Many factors influence a student's decision to study pharmacy
- The prevalence of these motivating factors is not known
- No research exists on a national scale or across diverse populations

Proposed Methods

Study Design

- Divide the nation into geographic regions: Northwest, Southwest, Northeast, Southeast, Mid Atlantic, West Coast, Midwest, Central
- Select schools of pharmacy within these regions

Sample

- Cluster based on geographic region
- Take random sample from within each cluster

Data Collection

- Administer survey to P1, P2, and P3 students enrolled in schools of pharmacy in the United States based on region
 - Northeast, Northwest, Mid Atlantic, Southeast, Southwest, Midwest, Central, & West Coast
- Administer to as many as 4,000 students
- Survey to be administered at the beginning of a class period and completed in 10 minutes
 - Enables a return rate greater than 70%

Measurement

- Surveys will be numbered with a random sample taken from within each cluster
- A large enough sample will be taken to ensure $\alpha = 0.05$ and a power of 0.8
- Statistical analysis will be done in IBM SPSS software
- Likert data will be analyzed with Spearman Rank Correlation
- Nominal Data will be analyzed with the Chi Square Analysis

Proposed Analyses

Comparisons will be made based on race, cultural background, gender, region

Objectives

- To determine the race, cultural background, gender, and regional factors on students' perceptions and influences in choosing pharmacy as a profession on a national scale
- To survey students in schools of pharmacy across the United States in order to obtain a sample that is diverse in all the above stated categories and is large enough to provide statistically valid results

Hypothesis

H₀: The race, cultural background, gender, and regional background of an individual does not have a statistically significant influence on their perception of pharmacy as a profession or their decision to pursue a career in pharmacy.

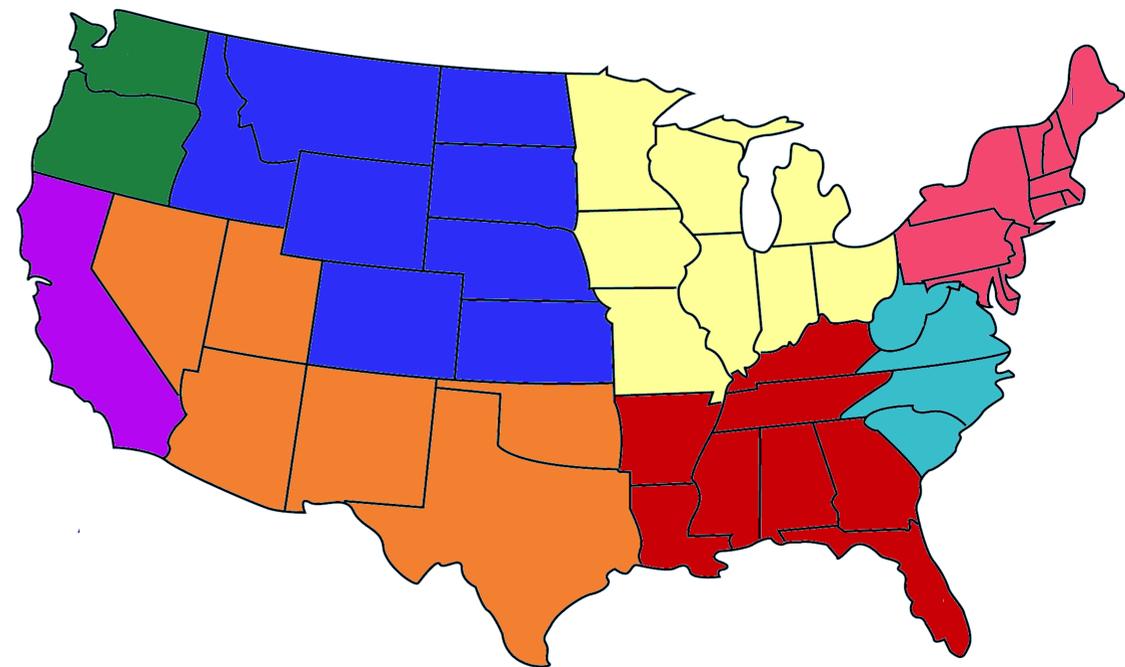
H_A: The race, cultural background, gender, and regional background of an individual has a statistically significant influence on their perception of pharmacy as a profession or their decision to pursue a career in pharmacy.

Limitations

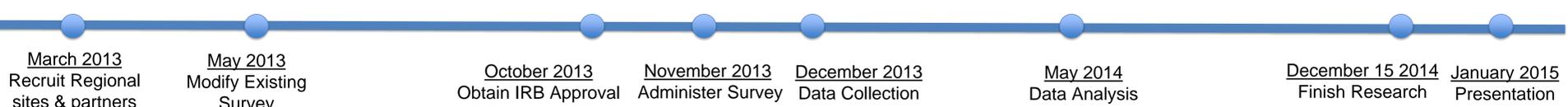
- Won't know if sample is representative of all schools of pharmacy in the United States
- Depth of Questions asked is limited by the necessity to have survey completed in 10 minutes
- No way to find out why students chose to study something other than pharmacy
- Assessing and defining complex cultural differences through a survey can be challenging

Future Directions

- Results could be used for better recruitment
- Results could be used to better develop curriculum to fit the needs of future pharmacists and the future of the profession
- Results could be used to better equip high school guidance counselors in advising well-suited students towards careers in pharmacy



Projected Timeline



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