



Training Future Healthcare Professionals to Work Effectively on Interprofessional Teams:

The Stony Brook Medicine Healthy Libraries Program (HeLP)

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Stony Brook Partner Schools/Programs:

- Program in Public Health, HeLP
- Health Sciences Library
- Physician Assistant Program, School of Health Professions
- School of Social Welfare
- School of Nursing
- Dietetic Internship Program



Stony Brook **Medicine**



What Is Interprofessional Education (IPE) and Why Is It Important?

- Team-based care leads to improved patient outcomes (Bosch & Mansell, 2015).
- IPE is when “two or more health professions learn, about, from and with each other” (WHO, 2010).
- IPE **prepares students** to work **in collaboration** with other professions to provide patient- and population-centered care.
- There is a positive relationship between IPE programs and healthcare quality measures (length of stay, medical errors, patient satisfaction, patient or caregiver education, and mortality.) (Cadet et al., 2023).
- Stony Brook Medicine has launched a new Center for Interprofessional Innovation (CIPI) that is part of the Stony Brook Medicine Strategic Plan.



Why Public Libraries?

- There were ~17,000 public libraries nationwide in 2019; **1.2 billion in-person visits** (Pelczar et al., 2021) in contrast to ~500 million PCP visits (CDC, 2019).
- Libraries are **trusted** by communities (Horrigan, 2016).
- Visited most by:
 - Low-income adults: “the working poor”
 - Ages 14-18, 35-44, 65-74
 - Women (Becker et al., 2010)
 - African Americans (Horrigan, 2016)
- **Address the social determinants of health** (Morgan et al., 2016; Philbin et al., 2019)
- **Librarians often feel unprepared** to answer health questions (Luo et al., 2013) and handle complex mental health needs (Hammock et al., 2023)



What Is HeLP?

An IPE team in the 8 to 15 public libraries per year.

- ~100 students participating each year
 - ~64 from the School of Nursing
 - ~25 from the Physician Assistant Program
 - ~5 from the Program in Public Health
 - ~5 from the School of Social Welfare
- Coordinate expert talks and trainings for patrons and librarians on health topics.
- Contact us if interested in sharing expertise with students, library patrons and staff.



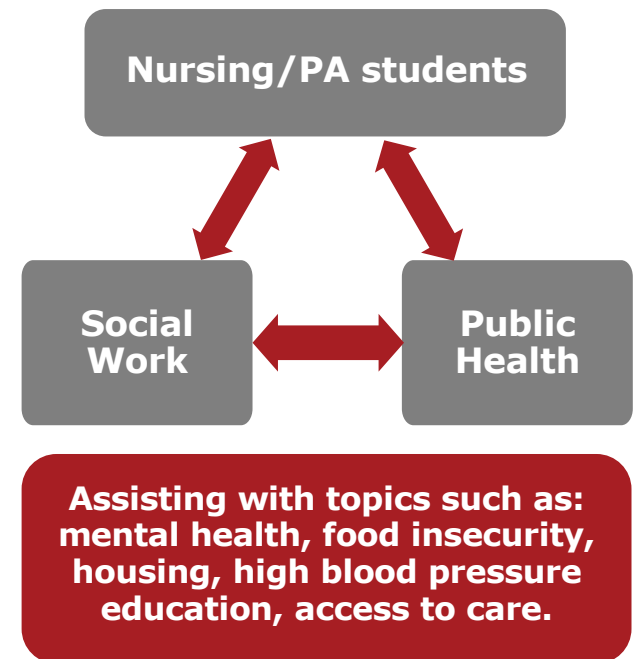


HeLP Team Model

Working together to address patrons' health and social needs for free.

- **Nursing/Physician Assistant (PA) students** provide blood pressure screenings and health education.
- **Public health students** provide reliable health information.
- **Social work students** connect patrons to healthcare providers and social service organizations.

*All students promote self-measured blood pressure (SMBP) monitoring kits for home use.





HeLP Impact

~800 patron encounters per year; ~30% repeat visits.

>1,500 borrows of free SMBP kits across 53 public libraries since 2021.

For future healthcare professionals who participate on a HeLP team ...

- Improves collaborative practice competencies.
- Provides a community-based setting for students to apply clinical skills.
- Supports an understanding of social and behavioral determinants of health.
- Enhances BP measurement skills attainment, including education on SMBP.
- Promotes communities out of care to connect to Stony Brook Medicine and access services.

Future directions:

- Expanding to include other professions and other community-based sites.
- Telemedicine



Student Quotes

"Working with other disciplines opened my eyes to the different perspectives and approaches to patient care. It helped me connect concepts I learned being in the social work program to emphasize the importance of holistic healthcare."

–Social Welfare

"One patron interaction that was meaningful to me was when a patron presented who didn't speak English. I was able to use the limited Spanish speaking knowledge I had to explain to him that he had high blood pressure, get him in contact with the social worker [student], and provide him with a primary care provider he could go to within the area who would look into his high blood pressure further."

– Nursing