

An Interprofessional Team-based Service-learning Program to Promote Hypertension (HTN) Screening and Access to Care in a Non-Clinical Setting

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Background

- Almost half of adults in the U.S. have hypertension (HTN).¹
- HTN is a risk factor for Cardiovascular disease (CVD) which is the leading cause of death in the U.S.²
- HTN is most commonly screened for in the clinical setting which excludes those who do not visit a provider.
- Therefore, It is essential to assess strategies that may improve access to HTN screening, care and control in non-clinical settings where communities are at elevated risk of HTN frequent.
- Public libraries are a trusted place among vulnerable populations for accessing health information and resources³ yet are an underutilized setting for health interventions.
- The Stony Brook Medicine Healthy Libraries Program (HeLP) is an innovative intervention⁴ in suburban public libraries which aims to:
 - improve interprofessional education (IPE) and collaborative practice competencies for students,⁵
 - provide the follow services at no cost to patrons or libraries:
 - BP screenings,
 - culturally appropriate health education,
 - assistance with accessing care and social services, and case management.
- **The purpose of this study is to evaluate the BP screening-related interactions between HeLP team members and library patrons.**

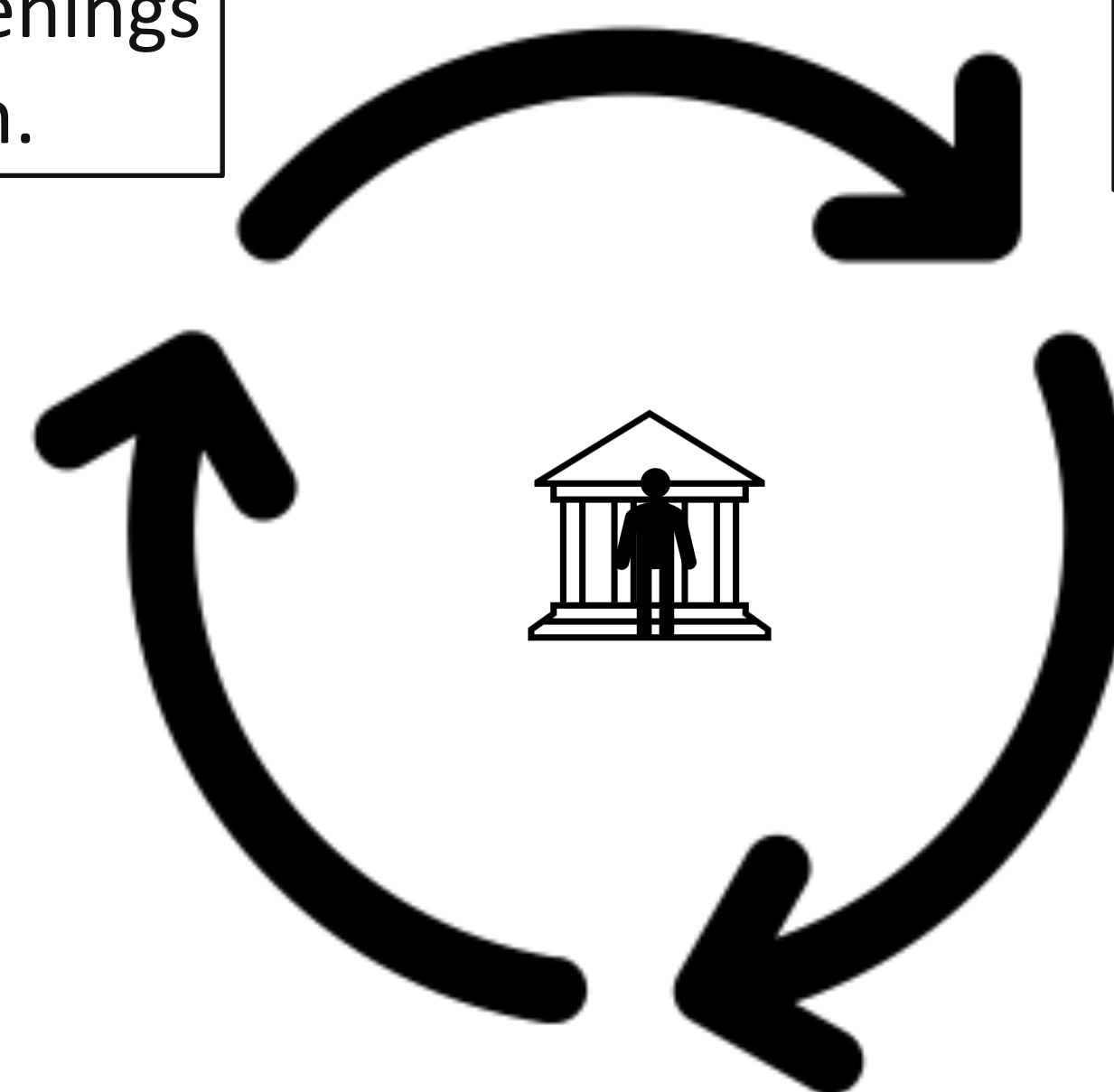
Methods/Measures

- Fifty-seven students were placed on interprofessional teams in 10 public libraries in Suffolk County, NY during the 2022 Fall semester.
- Students participate to fill course requirements:
 - Clinical rotations for Nursing
 - Community health service-learning course for PA
 - Practicum/internship for Public Health
 - Field education for Social Welfare
- BP was measured using a manual BP cuff, sphygmomanometer.
- High BP defined as ≥ 130 mmHg systolic or 80 mmHg diastolic.⁶
- Patrons self-reported prior BP history.
- HeLP students documented patron encounters in Qualtrics.
- Descriptive statistics were used to summarize screening outcomes (Qualtrics).

The HeLP Team Model

Nursing(n=32)/PA(n=11) students provide BP screenings and health education.

Public Health students(n=5) provide reliable health information.



Picture 1. The HeLP team on-site.



Picture 2. A nursing student performing a bp screening.



Social Welfare student(n=9) connect patrons to healthcare providers and social service organizations.

IPE Model Implementation

- Model 1:** Teams of Nursing, Public Health, and/or Social Welfare students rotated between 8 HeLP partner libraries over 8 weeks per semester.
- Each library was visited four times per semester for 2 1/2 hours for each visit (~ 80 hours).
- Model 2:** Teams of PA students, Public Health and/or Social Welfare students visited 2 public libraries for one-time visits (~10 hours).
- Model 3:** Social Welfare students offered additional hours outside of the HeLP team at the 8 HeLP partner libraries.
- Faculty supervisors on site with clinical students.

Discussion

- This study demonstrates that public libraries are a viable setting for BP screenings, education and assistance to access care.
- The percent of patrons with a HBP reading (%) was higher than the local percentage of adults with diagnosed HTN (31.8%)⁷ and national (45.4%). prevalence of HTN in adults.⁸
- BP screenings in public libraries may identify those who have undiagnosed or uncontrolled HTN, or who may be out of care.
- Limitations:
 - Documentation is not patron specific.
 - Student documentation may not be complete. Some patron interactions may be missing.
 - Although patrons are encouraged to meet with a provider, we do not have follow up data to confirm healthcare access/utilization.
- Further research is needed to understand how the HeLP team impacts the community through the library staff and patron perspectives.

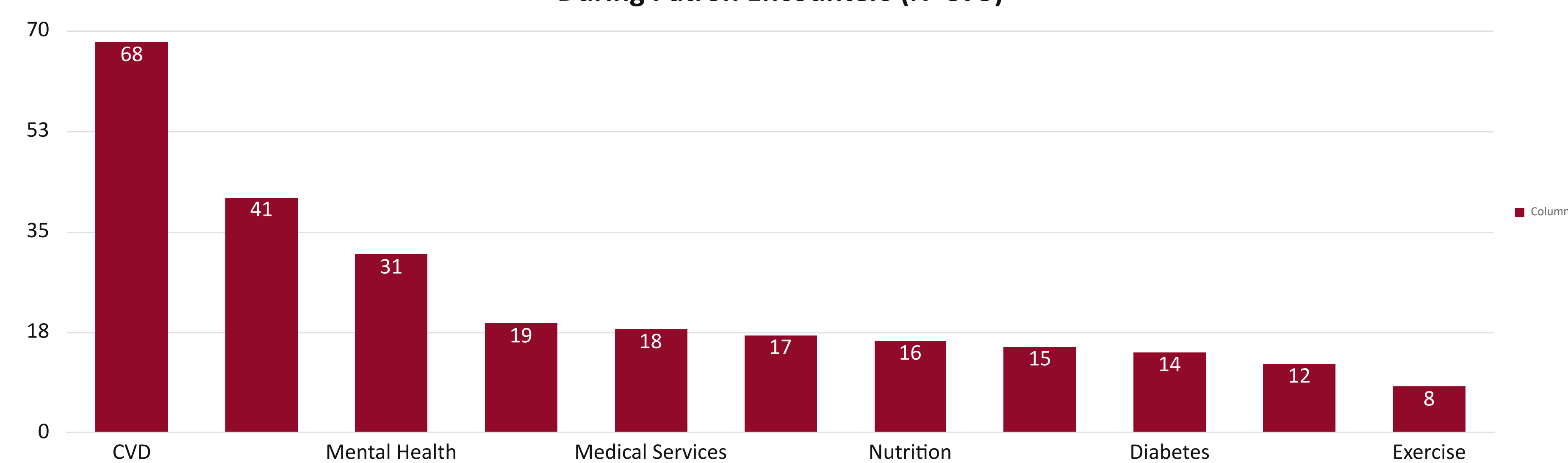
Results

There were a total of 375 patron encounters, 55% (n=201) were a first visit with the HeLP team;

- Clinical students (Nursing/PA) performed 261 BP screenings.
- Social work students met with patrons 97 times.
- Public health students met with patrons 14 times.

BP Screening Outcomes (N=261)	Percent (n)
Considered "high" according to National guidelines ⁶	56 (133)
Currently in care for HTN	43.6 (59)
Seen their primary care provider (PCP) within the last 12 months	79.7 (106)
Previously told that they have HTN	47.5 (124)
Screened "high" and previously told they had HTN	33 (86)
Screened "high" and not previously told they had HTN	18 (47)
Previously Prescribed Medication for HTN	38.7 (101)
Currently taking medication for HTN	82 (83)
Do not have a PCP	6 (15)
Have not visited their PCP in the last year.	10 (25)

Number of Times the HeLP Team Addressed Topics (Alone or in Combination) During Patron Encounters (N=375)



Acknowledgements

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- and the HeLP student team members.

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