



How well do students identify social determinants of health in Rapid Appraisal Community Diagnosis?

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- Using Rapid Appraisal (1) Year 1 medical students work collaboratively in small groups in Central Scotland communities. Key community respondents (e.g. teachers, pharmacists, local councillors) are interviewed over two afternoons on their community needs and health improvement strategies.
- The project offers an early active learning experience in the social determinants of health. Many communities studied have a high degree of social deprivation.
- Data obtained is triangulated with community observations and local/national health data. Students work together on a 15-minute presentation to peers and faculty. An individual report is also produced as assessed coursework.



What was done

- Data from the health needs and suggested strategies of 49 (49/250) student project reports from 22 communities was analysed.
- Responses were further organised into those from highly deprived (Deep-End) and less highly deprived communities for closer analysis.
- A comparison was made with national health strategies for the most socially deprived communities.

Outcomes

- 56 (5-26/community) needs were identified
- 63 (9-33/community) strategies were proposed

Highly Deprived Community Strategies



Discussion

- Results suggest good concordance with many Deep End (2) (most deprived) strategies.
- There was a good match with the elements of the “Dahlgren and Whitehead”(3) rainbow.
- However strategies tended to focus on lifestyle factors over wider socioeconomic conditions.
- The choice of strategies probably results from the community figures interviewed.
- Evidence for effectiveness of proposed strategies was presented relatively infrequently.

Conclusions

Year 1 Medical Students did well in identifying a wide range of community health needs and suggesting strategies to address these in more socially deprived Deep-End communities.

Inexperienced students completed the project with little available time.

Rapid Appraisal used in the Community Diagnosis Project provides an effective introduction to understanding social determinants of health within a short space of time.

Further learning is required, however, within the spiral medical curriculum to gain a more comprehensive appreciation of wider socio-economic conditions and their impact on health.

As a result of the project students may be more likely to appreciate their patients' problems.

Future Developments

Feedback project findings to communities

Focus more emphasis on the evidence for effective strategies

References

- 1 Davidson H, Capewell S, McNaughton J Community-orientated Medical Education in Glasgow: developing a community diagnosis exercise *Medical Education*, 1999 (33) 55-62
- 2 GPs at the Deep End <https://www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/healthwellbeing/research/generalpractice/deepend/> [Access Jan 9 2019]
- 3 Whitehead M and Dahlgren G What can be done about inequalities in health? *The Lancet* 1991 1059-1063