An Informatics Challenge

Presenting data to diverse audiences is challenging. Yet, communicating the evidence to policy-makers, as well as other audiences, is a critical competency for the doctorally prepared nurse practitioner.

Guided by the following AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advance Nursing Practice:

- Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation’s Health
- Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Health Care
- Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care

An innovative learner-centered assignment was crafted for our doctor of nursing practice students.

Information Knowledge Systems

Students were challenged to engage in a data to wisdom journey and create a Population Health Brief informed by Making Data Talk: A Workbook. (National Cancer Institute: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health)

Data to Wisdom Journey

This learning journey included:

- Identification of data elements
- Exploration of data sources based on a query related to a population
- Assessment of data quality

Population Health Brief

- One page synopsis of a health issue and visual presentation of the data directed toward policy-makers.
- One page narrative addressing how the brief was created based on the roles of data in communication, audience tendencies, strategies to overcome tendencies, and visual symbols for data presentation. The narrative is a self-assessment of how best to present data for informed decision-making and illustrating the data to wisdom continuum.

Narrative Examples

Role of Data – Raise Awareness: With the intent of raising awareness, this brief needed to increase a policy maker’s knowledge that a costly primary care access gap exists among elderly individuals with dementia.

Audience Tendencies: Remaining aware that savvy policy makers possess an inherent tendency toward being attuned to financial implications, major points that concluded the financial bottom line of costly hospitalizations were presented.