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DNPs as Postdoctoral Fellows: Reflections on Experiences and Competencies

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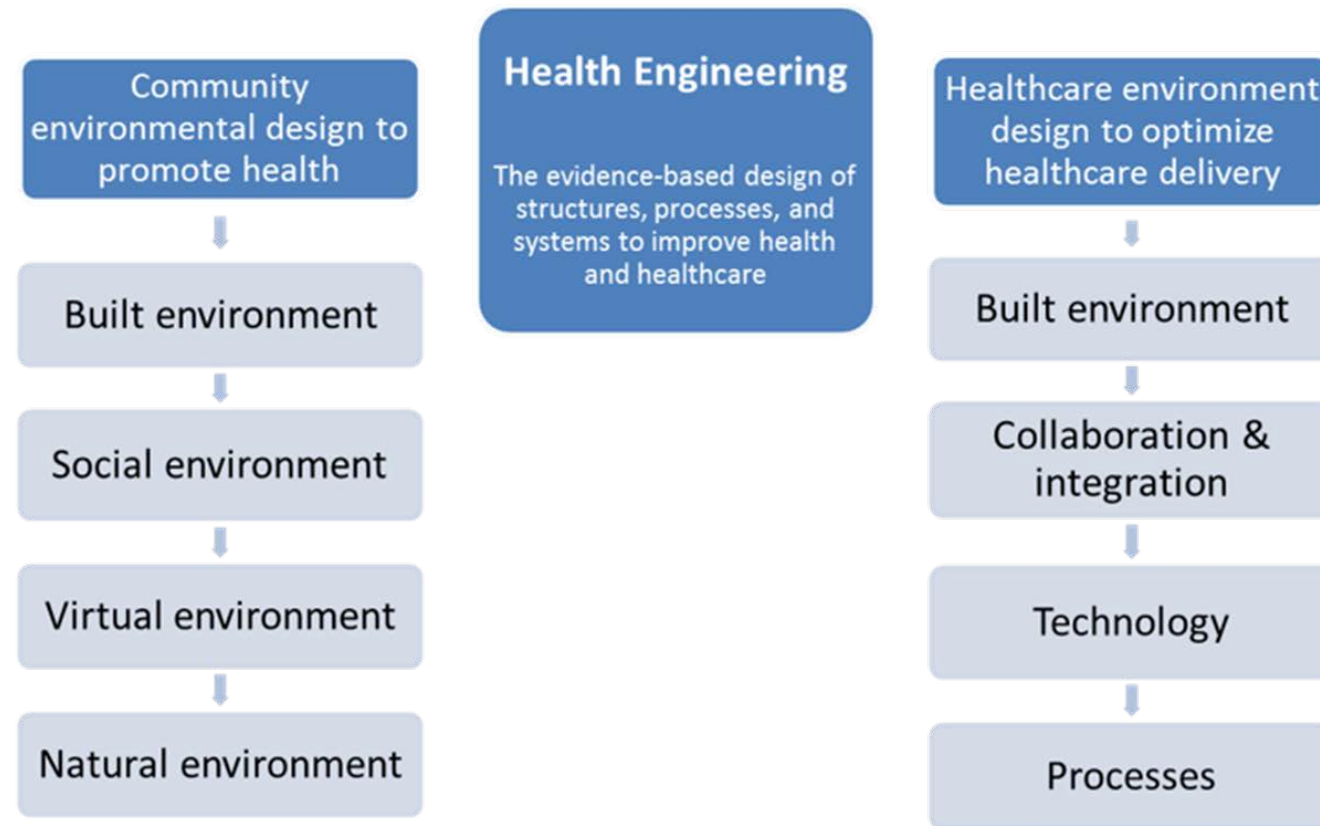
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Conceptual Model

“Our **environment** shapes the way our mental and cognitive processes function and **nudges** us in particular directions. This is the theory behind the notion that **environments can be engineered to nudge** people to make a healthy choice without a second thought “ (p. 20).



Postdoc: Definition & Competencies

- The National Postdoctoral Association (NPA, 2015), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF)

“... an individual who has received a doctoral degree (or equivalent) and is engaged in a temporary and defined period of mentored advanced training to enhance the professional skills and research independence needed to pursue his or her chosen career path.”

NPA (2009) Core Competencies

1. Discipline-specific conceptual knowledge development
2. Research skill development
3. Communication skills
4. Professionalism
5. Leadership and management skills
6. Responsible conduct of research



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DNP Research Projects

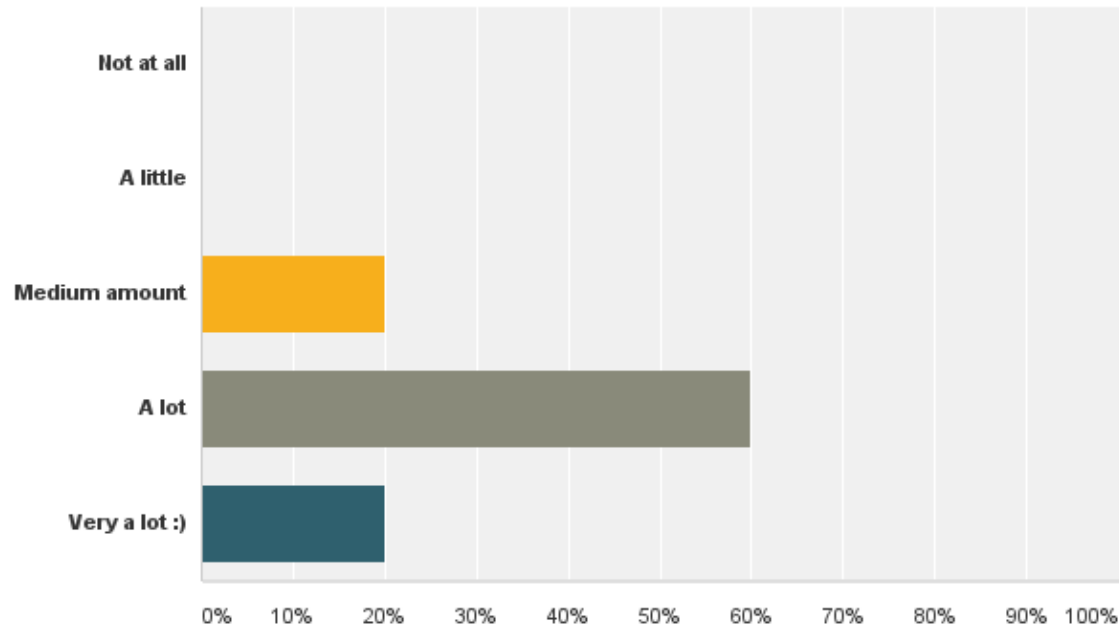
- **Convenience Care Clinic Nurse Practitioner Impact Analysis**
 - Debra Wallace DNP, FNP-BC
- **STEM Academy Campus Redesign: What Kids Envision**
 - Casey Cole DNP, FNP-BC
- **In-class Earthquake Disaster Simulation at STEM Academy**
 - Frances Dunningway DNP, FNP-BC
- **The Use of Smart Phone-Based Meditation to Decrease Stress and Anxiety in College Students**
 - Anna Reber-Frantz DNP



What the DNP Postdocs Reported (N=5)

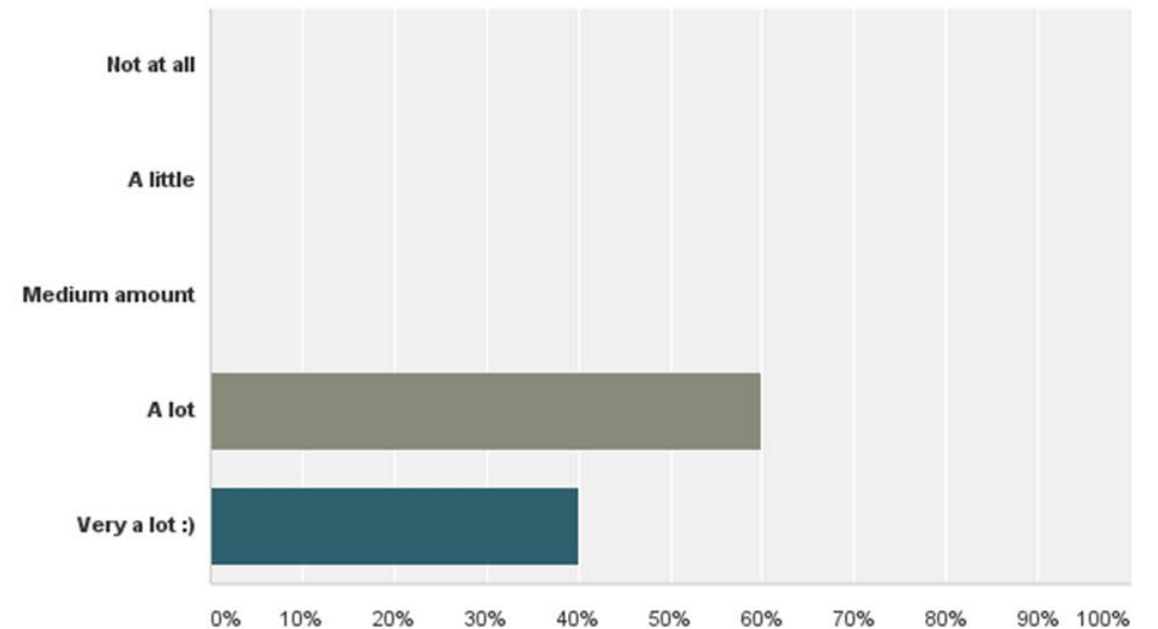
Q1 How well did the postdoc address the NPA competency: 1) discipline-specific (so nursing) conceptual knowledge development?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 0



Q2 How well did the postdoc address the NPA competency: 2) research skill development?

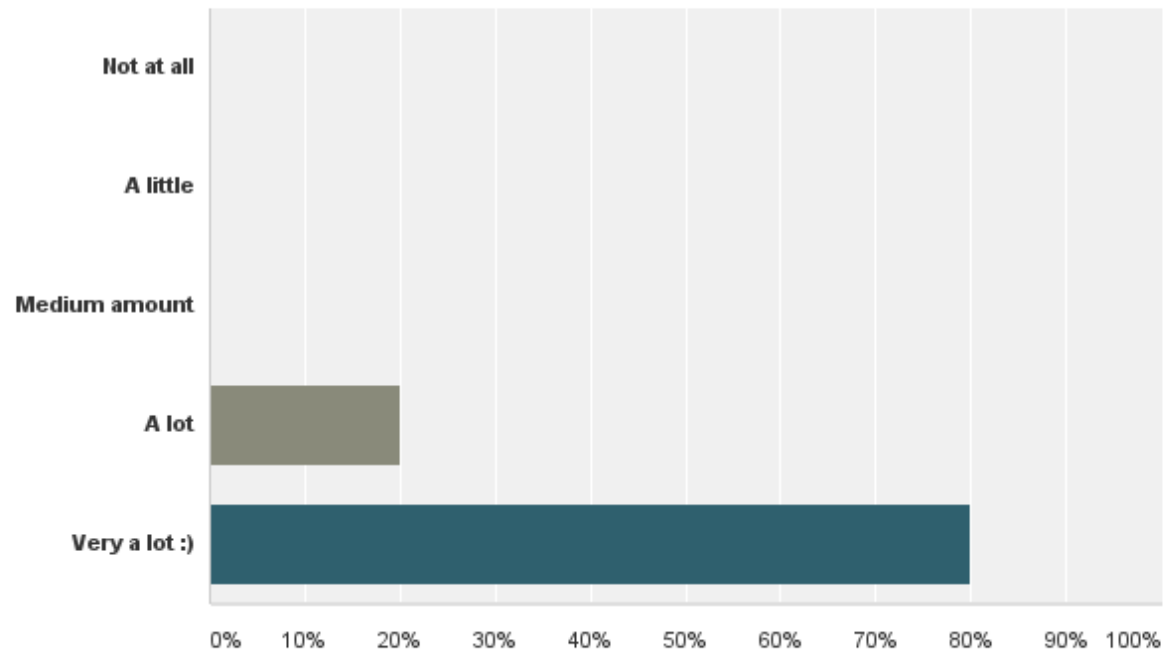
Answered: 5 Skipped: 0



What the DNP Postdocs Reported (N=5)

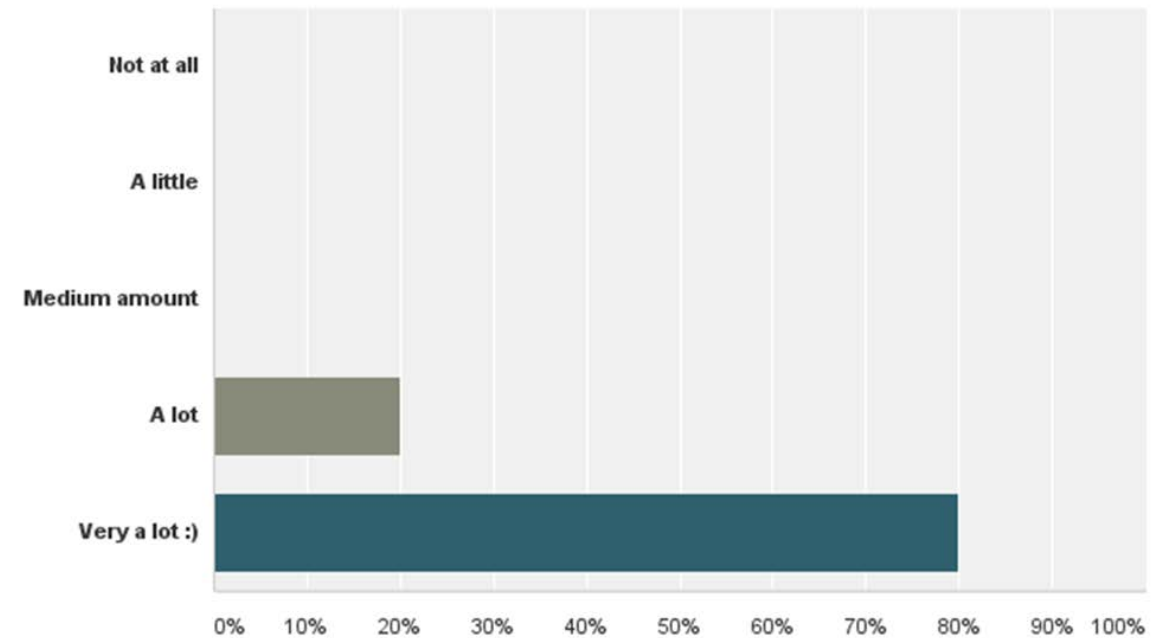
Q3 How well did the postdoc address the NPA competency: 3) communication skills?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 0



Q4 How well did the postdoc address the NPA competency: 4) professionalism?

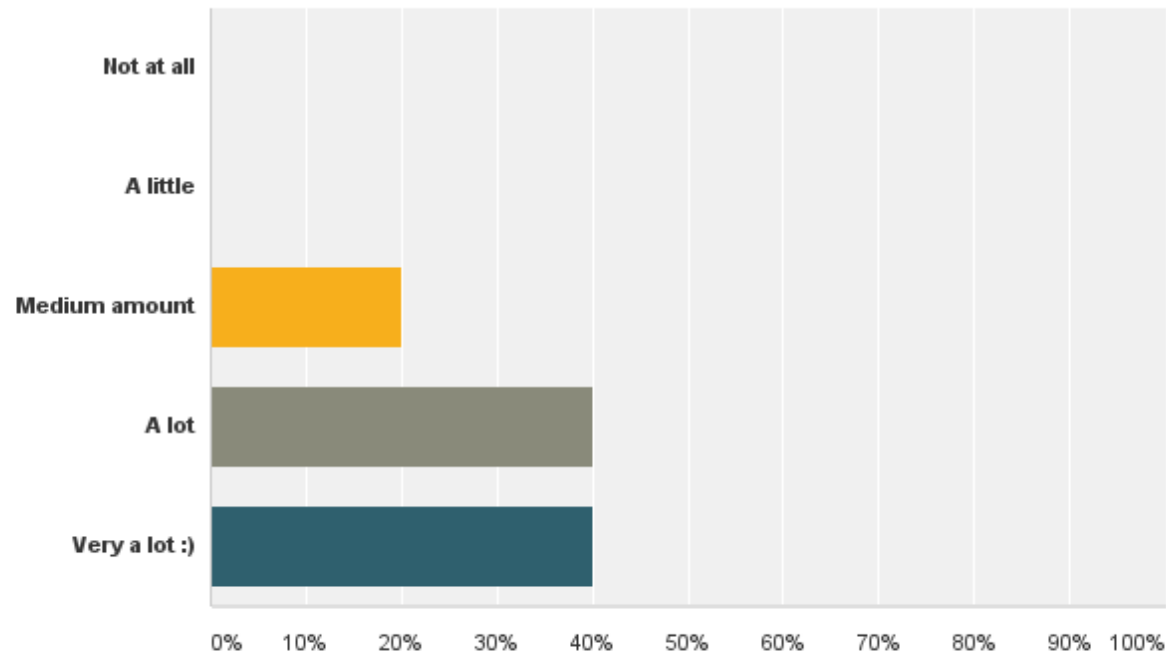
Answered: 5 Skipped: 0



What the DNP Postdocs Reported (N=5)

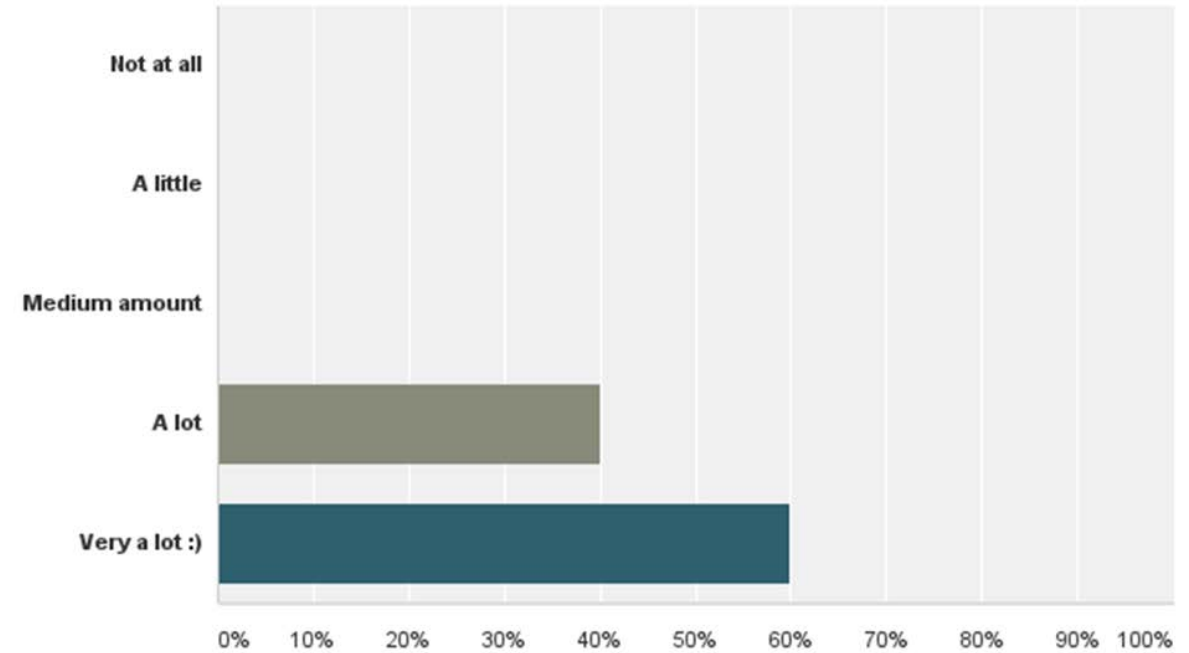
Q5 How well did the postdoc address the NPA competency: 5) leadership and management skills?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 0



Q6 How well did the postdoc address the NPA competency: 6) the responsible conduct of research?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 0



Conclusions (and the soap box)

- 4 of 5 DNPs were able to complete the postdoc and meet the competencies of the postdoc role
- Given the challenges of the current healthcare environment and the predictions and needs for the future
 - Not “waste” doctoral education by setting philosophical, political, or arbitrary limits on the capacity of any doctorally prepared nurses to contribute to the knowledge development and work of the discipline
 - Let’s see what more DNP postdocs can do