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Utilizing medical simulation as exposure to ignite interest in the medical field for High School Students in rural Appalachia.

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Purpose

- Rural communities suffer from a shortage of healthcare professionals.¹
- One method for recruiting healthcare providers to rural areas is to target students born in the particular region.^{2,3}
- Expose high school students to the myriad of opportunities within the healthcare field while explaining the educational process necessary to reach those goals.

Background

- Create a simulation-based summer camp for local high school students.
- Give students the opportunity to experience the role of a primary healthcare provider.
- Expose students to the multitude of healthcare opportunities to determine in the healthcare field is right for them.



Methods

- Twenty-one students attended a five day camp.
- The camp was facilitated by medical students and undergraduate simulation lab interns.
- Morning sessions focused on instruction and basic skills practice.
- Afternoon sessions involved practicing those skills in simulated healthcare situations.

Daily Focus

- Day 1 – Patient History and Physical Exam
- Day 2 – Respiratory and Cardiovascular System
- Day 3 – Ultrasound, Trauma, CPR, and Healthcare Panel
- Day 4 – Suturing, Phlebotomy, and OB/GYN
- Day 5: Multi-system Integration, Standardized Patient Rounds, and Physician Panel

Data collection

- A survey using the Likert scale was collected before and after the camp to gather information on desire and perceived obstacles to a future in the healthcare field.

Results

Questions	Entrance Survey	Exit Survey
I have had enough exposure to the medical field to know that I am interested or not interested in the field.	19%	52%
If I decide that I want to be a physician, I believe that I am capable of achieving that goal.	52%	67%
If I decide I want to be a physician, I think I know enough about the educational process to pursue that career.	14%	43%
The Simulated Medicine in Action Camp improved my desire to pursue a career in healthcare:		76%
The Simulated Medicine in Action Camp improved my desire to become a physician:		62%
The Simulated Medicine in Action Camp improved my desire to pursue further education:		76%

Conclusion

- The Simulated Medicine in Action Camp provided clarity about the healthcare field and increased interest in becoming a physician.
- Simulated scenarios with standardized patients and synthetic patients is an effective tool to allow students to learn and practice medical skills.
- Programs such as this should be utilized in a greater capacity to boost rural high schoolers interest in the healthcare field, potentially playing a role in alleviating the rural healthcare deficiencies.

References

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- ³Feldman, Kymm, et al. "The difference between medical students interested in rural family medicine versus urban family or specialty medicine." *Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine*, vol. 13, no. 2, 2008, p. 73+. *Gale Academic Onefile*, Accessed 18 Sept. 2019.