Healthy People 2020- Assessment of Pharmacy Priorities

Lisa J. Woodard1, Abby A. Kahaleh2, Hoai-An Truong3, James D. Nash4, Hyma Gogineni5, Linda K. Ohri6

Washington State University College of Pharmacy1, Roosevelt University College of Pharmacy2, West Coast University School of Pharmacy3, Regis University School of Pharmacy4, Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy5, Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions6

OBJECTIVE

To identify perceptions of pharmacy educators on the priorities and roles of pharmacists in meeting Healthy People 2020 objectives.

METHODS

The AACP Public Health SIG (AACP PH SIG) Development Committee conducted a literature review to examine the level of pharmacist’s involvement in meeting the Healthy People 2020 topics/objectives. Based on the review and experts’ opinions, the topics were grouped into 9 categories:

• CHRONIC DISEASES (Arthritis, Osteoporosis, and Chronic Back Conditions; Cancer; Chronic Kidney Disease; Dementias, including Alzheimer’s Disease; Diabetes; Heart Disease and Stroke; Respiratory Disease)

• ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS (Environmental Health; Food Safety; Global Health; Health Care Associated Infections; Injury and Violence Prevention; Medical Product Safety; Occupational Safety and Health)

• PHARMACOGNOMICS

• HEALTH CARE SERVICES (Access to Health Services; Educational and Community Based Programs; Health Communication and Health Information Technology; Public Health Infrastructure)

• INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Blood Disorders and Blood Safety; HIV; Immunization and Infectious Disease; Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

• LIFESTYLE (Health-Related Quality of Life and Wellbeing; Nutrition and Weight Status; Physical Activity; Sleep Health; Tobacco Use)

• NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH (Mental Health and Mental Disorders; Substance Abuse)

• POPULATION (Adolescent Health; Early and Middle Childhood; Disability and Health; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health; Maternal, Infant, and Child Health; Older Adults; Social Determinants of Health)

• PREVENTION AND WELLBEING (Family Planning; Preparedness)

A 14-item survey was developed with 3 main sections: (1) priority of categories to improve the nation’s health, (2) importance of the pharmacist role to achieve the category objectives, and (3) demographics characteristics. An electronic survey was sent to members of the AACP PH SIG. A Likert scale was used (1 = lowest priority to 5 = highest priority) to ask the respondents to rank their top 5 categories.

Surveys were emailed to 600 individuals listed on the AACP PH SIG. The original email and two follow-up emailings resulted in 170 responses for a 28% response rate.

RESULTS

Demographics of Respondents (n=170)

- Majority AACP PH SIG (n=164) 91%
- Number (%) US States represented (n=161) 36 (72%)
- Full-time academic position (n=166) 84%
- Asst/ Assoc/ Full Professor (n=164) 38%/ 29%/ 22%
- Public health degree (n=166) 31% (67% - MPH)
- Teach public health in curriculum (n=159) 77%
- Has clinical practice site (n=162) 55% (63% ambulatory)

- Survey results indicated that there is a general congruence between what respondents felt was important to the health of the nation and what was important as a pharmacist role.

- Top 5 ranking categories for importance to health of the nation were:
  1. Chronic diseases
  2. Health care services
  3. Lifestyle
  4. Prevention and well being
  5. Environmental factors.

- Top 5 ranking categories for importance of the pharmacist role were:
  1. Chronic diseases
  2/3. Health care services and lifestyle (tied)
  4. Infectious disease
  5. Population

DISCUSSION

- Overall, the findings are consistent with evaluation of the literature regarding the current role of pharmacists in public health. This report identifies the following current roles as most well documented: chronic diseases (diabetes, hepatitis C), health care services (access to care), lifestyle (nutrition, weight, physical activity, tobacco), infectious disease (immunizations, HIV), prevention and wellbeing (preparedness).

- Although there are similarities between the top categories listed above, additional researchers may want to focus on examining in-depth the unique differences.

- Additional research is warranted to further examine factors that are empowering to pharmacists to further achieve the Healthy People 2020 Objectives.

CONCLUSIONS

Identified priorities can guide educators to better prepare student pharmacists and engage practitioners to increase and document efforts in meeting Healthy People 2020 objectives and advance pharmacists’ role in public health.

REFERENCES
