

P1 Students' Interventions in a Disadvantaged Community in Puerto Rico After Hurricane Maria

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BACKGROUND

- Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico on September 20, 2018 as a Category 4 hurricane, with winds 155 mph and bisecting the entire island.
- The energy grid was heavily damaged and almost 100% of the island was without power.
- The access to water, food and medications was limited.
- As of June, 2018, nine (9) months after the storm, there were still approximately eleven thousand people without electricity and many without homes.
- Many deaths have been reported, being the elderly people the most affected. The total number of fatalities are still in dispute.

OBJECTIVES

- Expose P1 students to the community health needs in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.
- Contribute to the improvement of community health through the implementation of primary care interventions.

METHODS

- After Hurricane Maria and as part of the course FARM 7116: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, P1 students visited two (2) disadvantaged communities in San Juan, Puerto Rico:
 - Centro Cultural de la Península de Cantera
 - Centro de Edad Avanzada Las Margaritas
- A faculty member coordinated the visits with the administrators of the community organizations.
- The students assessed and prioritized participants' needs.
- Addressing the communities needs, students offered small educational talks, demonstrations and distributed written materials to the participants.

ASSESSED AND PRIORITIZED NEEDS



ACTIVITIES

DEMONSTRATIONS

- Water purification
- Hand washing and oral hygiene
- Recipe making: Hurricane Plate
- Exercise routine
- Stress management

EDUCATIONAL TALKS

- Diabetes
- Dengue
- Zika
- Chikungunya
- Leptospirosis
- Safe drug handling and storage
- Nutrition

MATERIALS

- Mi plato huracanado (My hurricane plate)
- ¿Cómo purificar el agua? (How to purify water?)
- Zika
- Leptospirosis
- Guía de ejercicios (Exercise guide)
- Receta para ensalada de granos (Grain salad recipe)
- First aid kit

RESULTS

- Students made 8 interventions.
- Fifty five (55) elders and 45 children participated.
- Evaluations showed that the participants as well as the administrators of the organizations were very satisfied with the students' interventions.

IMPLICATIONS

- P1 students implemented a primary care intervention addressing the immediate needs of a disadvantaged community.
- Students learned about community needs and their possibilities as future pharmacists to contribute to the quality of life of the people they serve when a devastating climatic event occurs.
- Students also learned how to proactively respond to future events.
- This content will be formally incorporated into the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum.

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