# National Study of Clinical Education in Family Nurse Practitioner Programs

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### Aim

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#### Methods

I A cross-sectional, observational, complex samples survey design was used to collect data from students enrolled in or affiliated with accredited FNP programs.

### Instrument

the 33-item investigator-developed, inventory

### Demographics

- 3,940 students completed the survey
- Consistent with national trends, 78%(n=3070) reported they were female and 22%(n=848) reported they were male.
- Data are representative of trends in age of nurse's educational level within the discipline, with 72%(n=2840) reporting they were 25-34 years old (X =32.4, SD = 7.27).
- The participants also well-represent FNP programs across U.S. regions proportional to their availability in the various urban and rural states in the country.
  - 50%came from the large middle sections (north and south) of the country, where

### Findings

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY	Frequency				
Clinical Task	Never	1-2 ú: - tes	o-d thites a	/-10 thates ~~	- 101Min se
ASSESSMENT					-
Adult					
Assessing patient for paign	10	212	450	11 Caster	- A <sup>(2)</sup> 10 mm
Obtaining a complene hasive nearth nistory	30	~17	'398'	f2f4	Z381
Obtaining a focused health his try was to	22	0	701 /81	70	2025 3033
Performing a comprehensive physicar exam-	5?1	4111	373°	3327	∠736°
Performing a focused physical exam	19	8	176	813	2925
Performing a mental health assessment	115	225	1071	399	2129
Performs age-appropriate screenings (e.g., developmental hearing.	,, 7T°	282=	835 °	¥75 <sup>-</sup>	2378"
Geriatric					
Assessing patient for pain	24	233	498	368	2817
Obtaining a comprehensive health history	34	49	1013	468	2377
Obtaining a focused health history	24	407	74	838	2596
Performing a comprehensive physical exam	37	62	452	6199	2720
Performing a focused physical exam 11 2 2 2 2 4 3	841	AE	477	700	2 5 21
Performing a mental health accesses sment	147+.	00902	579/0	engy4	177543
Performs age-appropriate screenings (e.g., developmental, hearing vision, oral health, genetics)	91	113	610	486	2639
Pediatric					
Assessing patient for pain	69	138	1306	315	2112
Obtaining a comprehensive health history	92	111	1017	0/1	2049
Obtaining a focused health history	47	67	303	965	2559
Performing a comprehensive A in 1 ascent exam	71	400 411	254 204	701 /21	2404 _4114
Performing a focused physical exam	44	61	868 = 4	13 475 2	492400
Performing a mentar realin assessment	444 4 4 4	0/1 271	943 <sup>045</sup>	202502	1478200
Performs age-appropriate screenings (e.g., developmental, nearing, vision, oral health, genetics)	76	283	445	1015	2120

## Findings

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#### Limitations

- Reliance on students' recall of their clinical experiences.
- Potentially biased data based on responses due to self-selection of respondents to survey solicitation, and/or program administrator's willingness to disseminate the study information and link to their students.
- Potentially omitting recently accredited schools (and therefore respondents) which were not yet included on published lists might have narrowed the sample.

#### Conclusions

- Current clinical experiences across FNP programs in the U.S. do not appear to provide the depth and breadth of patient encounters needed to prepare safe and competent practitioners.
- As demand continues to increase for primary care providers, it is vital FNPs have the requisite skills and knowledge to practice autonomously, perform assessments, diagnose, evaluate, and treat in accordance with their scope of practice.
- As members of academia and nursing regulatory bodies review these findings, it is incumbent that clinical learning experiences be regularly assessed to ensure they are providing opportunities for students to gain competency necessary for delivering care for patients across the lifespan.
- Perhaps clinical experiences should not be measured in hours but through experiences and competency.
- Other types of clinical experiences such as simulation may be beneficial to fill in existing gaps and should be explored as options to fulfilling current clinical requirements (hours) to meet learner outcomes.

### Questions?

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