

Past Event: 2023 NCSBN Annual Meeting - Nursing Licensure and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic: Lessons Learned Video Transcript
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Event

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More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/past-event/2023-ncsbn-annual-meeting>

Presenter

Fairman, Patricia D'Antonio, and I, decided to do this study in 2020 because of the so many debates that were happening early on in the COVID pandemic about the shortage of nursing, about temporary licensing for nursing, about trying to move nurses from state to state, and the meaning of licensing that we heard politicians and others think about.

And in terms of the pandemic, there were lots of comparisons to that 1918 flu. Some of them were grounded in solid historical scholarship, but many of them weren't. And so we were lucky enough to apply for and secure funding to do this study. And here's the en-US Steyng for nursif1 0 0 1 54.025gd,(t)20(767t)1367(

Those people just didn't show up for their jobs or they were sick themselves and dying. Bodies began to

Again, they didn't lean into the data that they had. But spending time with your workforce report and your report on the use of students, nursing students, during COVID, you documented, first of all, not only in real time, important issues related to COVID, also, issues that really mattered to nurses, all different types of nurses, as well as to the American public, such as staffing challenges, nurse burnout, and again, issues of diversity important to the profession.

So, in other words, I think your sophisticated efforts don't just assume that society is going to reward nurses for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. You've provided them with data and rationale and a roadmap for what needs to happen and why. But one final caveat, one of the things we can see from history, data alone is never enough.

You also need to have a political voice and capture and mobilize unheard voices. And again, I think your materials make it possible for nurses to do this. Those nurses in 1919 did not yet have the vote, and it would not be decades that both men and women of color everywhere in the United States would be able to vote.

There were also barriers to other ethnicities, such as, for example, Chinese people could not achieve citizenship in the United States until the 1960s by law. So I put up here some of the tools that we used to do our study that, if anyone's interested in looking at their state or using this as a student assignment, you can also email me.

My email address, you can just go on the UPenn website and find my email address. And I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have about how to go about it for your particular state. Those first two are particularly helpful.

We have lots of materials on our website, and the University of Michigan has a fantastic database that has hundreds of thousands of newspaper articles and other materials from all around the U.S. And so I'm just going to end by thanking you for showing the profession and society what a responsive regulatory approach to a crisis can look like, one that shapes a brilliant future.

Thank you so much.