

Background and Purpose

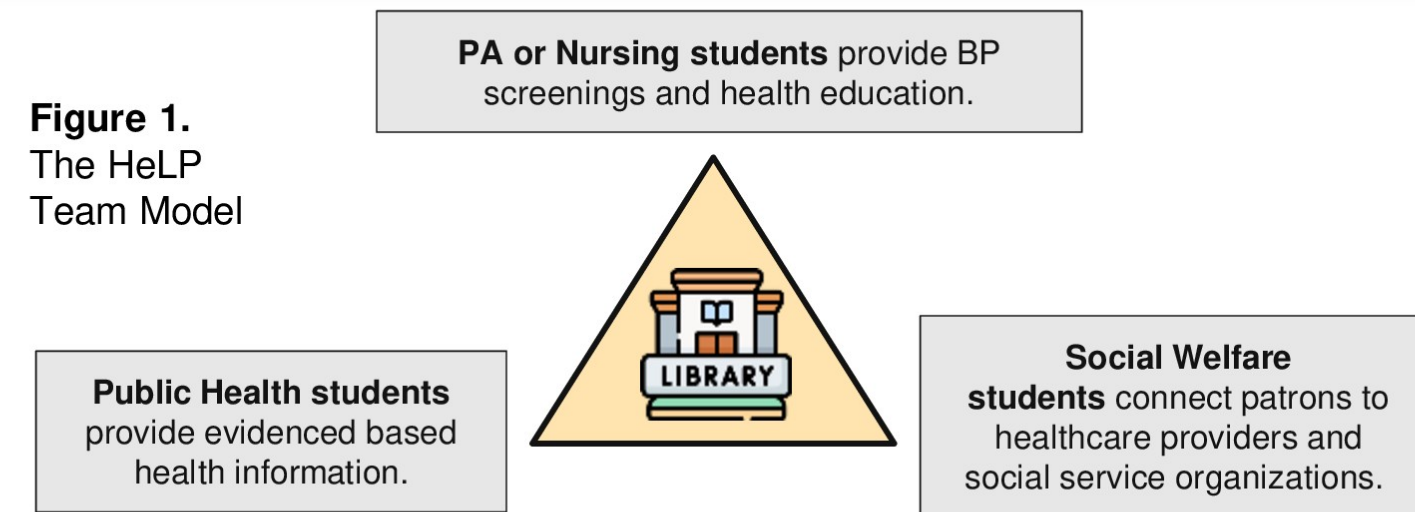
- Nearly half of adults have hypertension (HTN)¹, a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD), the leading cause of death and disability in the United States.
- Healthy People 2030 highlights the need for evidence-based blood pressure (BP) screenings in adults to identify those with high blood pressure (HBP).
- BP is often not accurately measured in clinical settings.²
- HTN is commonly diagnosed in the clinical setting, yet many adults do not regularly visit a provider and are unaware of their risk of HTN. Alternative models for BP screening, care and control, are needed outside of the clinical setting.
- Public libraries are trusted places for health information and resources.³ They provide a setting where qualified health care providers (such as PA, MD, NP, RN) can do BP screenings and promote access to care.
- The Healthy Libraries Program (HeLP)⁴:
 - is an interprofessional (IP) team model in which nursing, or PA students provide free BP screenings in public libraries along side BSW/MSW and MPH students to collaboratively address social behavioral determinants of health.
 - promotes students' IP and collaborative practice competencies essential for team-based care.

This presentation summarizes the BP screening outcomes and interactions between HeLP PA team members and patrons who visited several Suffolk County libraries in New York State.

Methods

- First year PA students (n=26):
 - were trained in the HeLP IP model⁴ and their team roles
 - participated in IP teams during 6 visits at 6 public libraries in the 2022-2023 academic year as an option for service-learning coursework.
- IP teams (see figure 1) were supervised by PA faculty.
- Students documented patron interactions using a standardized tool in real-time (QualtricsSM).
- Descriptive statistics were used to summarize BP screenings.

Figure 1.
The HeLP
Team Model



Results

Figure 2: Types of Library Patron Visits (N=61)

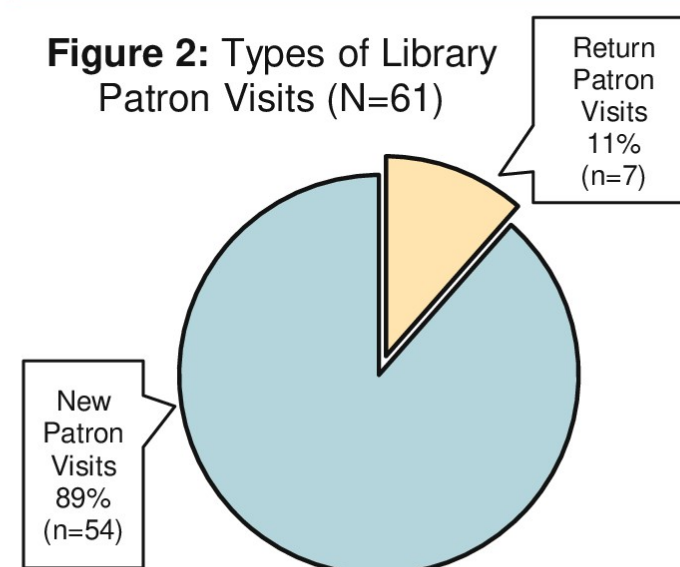
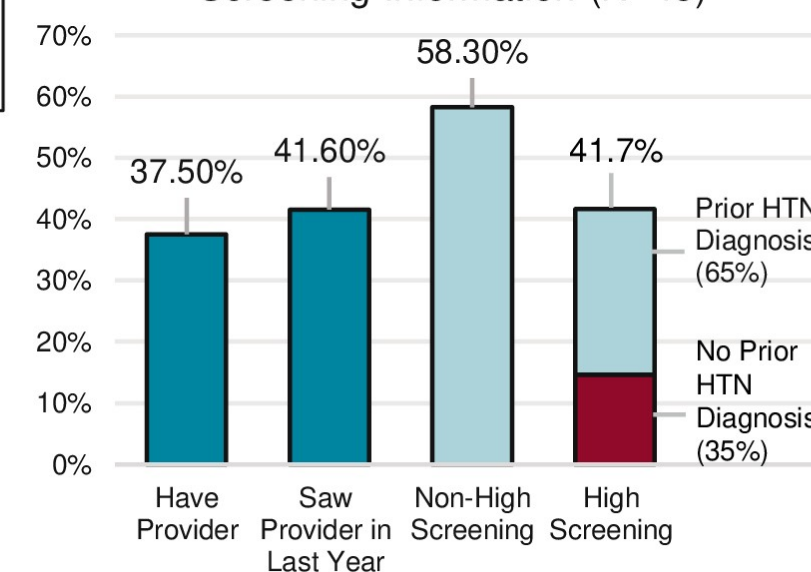


Figure 3: Library Patron BP Screening Information (N=48)



The Stony Brook Medicine HeLP team providing services to library patrons.

Discussion

- Health care providers, including PAs, must improve access to BP screening, care and control in non-clinical settings where communities who are at elevated risk of HTN frequent.
- HeLP promotes access to care and education for community members while providing PA students with novel opportunities to strengthen their BP measurement skills as well as PA Profession competencies.⁵
- HeLP is ongoing and has added education on self-measured BP for PA, nursing, and medical students to strengthen their BP measurement knowledge and skills further.

Conclusion

The findings support public libraries as viable settings for practicing BP measurement skills for PA students, and community impact. Future analyses will assess IP competency attainment among PA students participating in HeLP.

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Poster



HeLP website