

A Third-Year Service Learning Rotation Program: Dental Students' Perceptions of Community Engagement Experiences

Columbia University College of Dental Medicine

Carol Kunzel, PhD

Emily Byington, LMSW

Ivette Estrada, MA MPhil

Mari Millery, PhD

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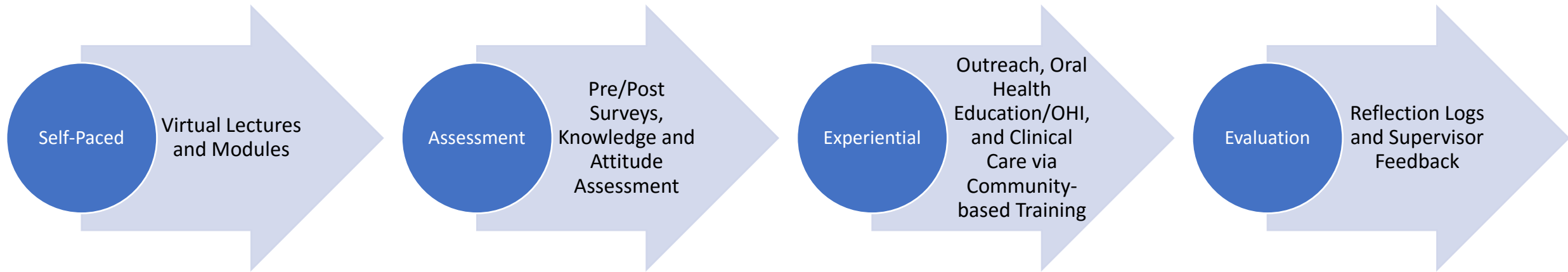
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Introduction

- With RWHAP support over 15 years, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine has partnered with multiple community partners to implement a comprehensive dental care delivery system for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Harlem, Northern Manhattan and the South Bronx, NYC.
- A new week-long Service Learning Rotation (SLR) has been integrated into the third-year dental student curriculum.
- Data analysis from this pilot year will be used for program quality improvement and modification.

Methods and Activities

The SLR provides a well-rounded educational experience:

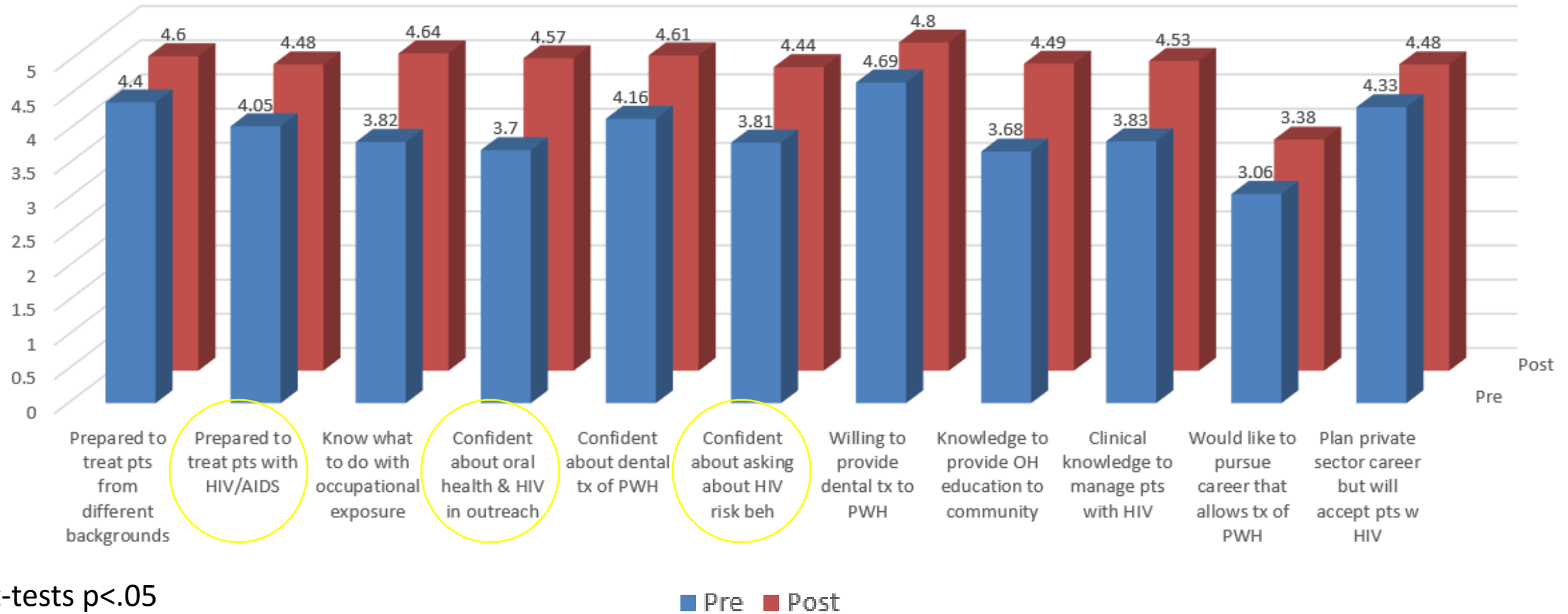


Data Analyses were conducted using paired t-tests and ANOVAs

Results - Overview

- Ninety-five students rotated through the program in the spring 2021 semester.
- The experience was well received, with 79% of students rating the overall experience 7 or higher out of 10 (average rating 8).
- Attitudes such as self-reported willingness, preparedness, and confidence to treat PLWHA, and the future likelihood of treating PLWHA, improved significantly pre to post.

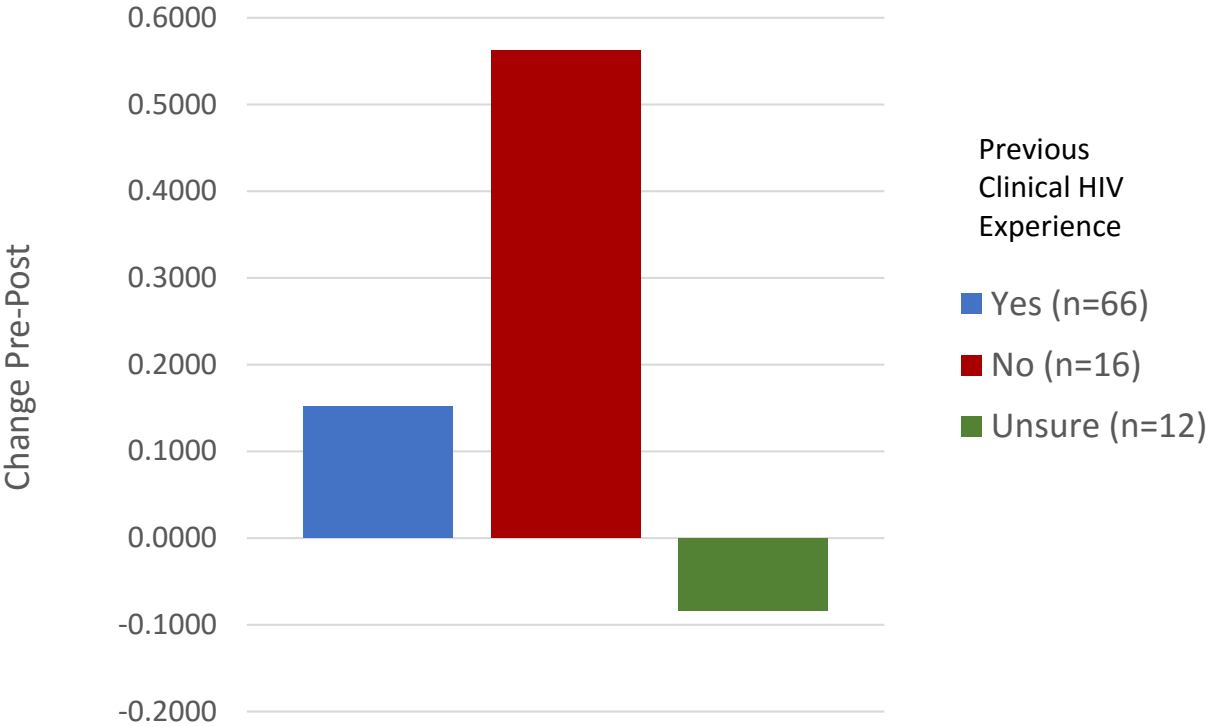
Results – Items with Significant Pre-Post Change



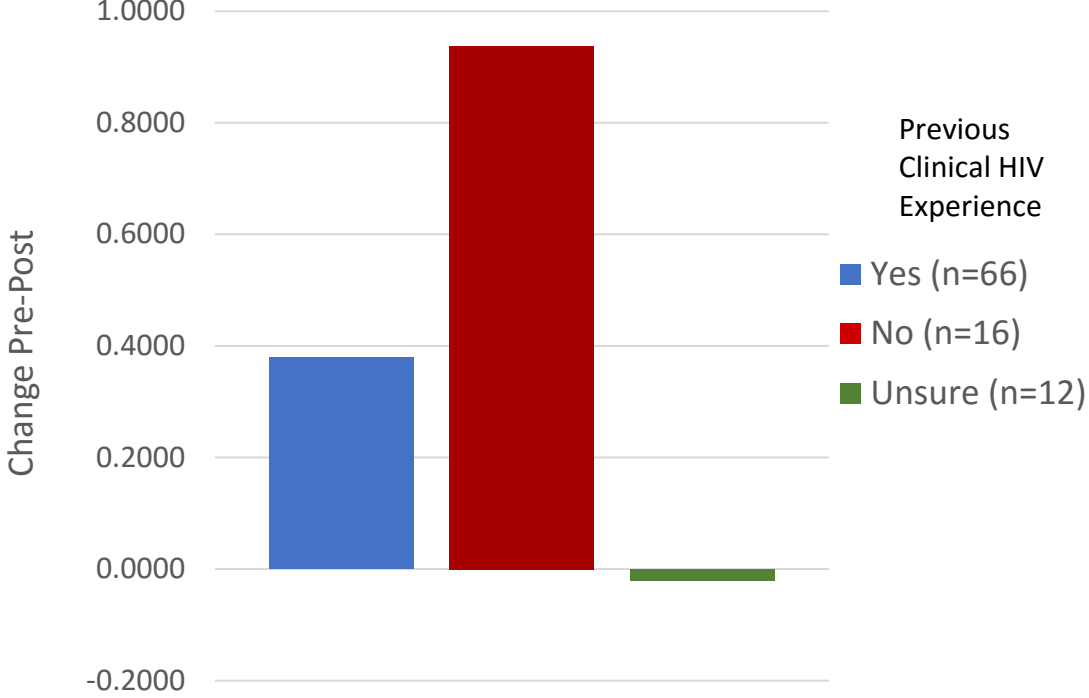
N=95
paired t-tests $p < .05$

Results – Sub-Groups and Pre-Post Change

Pre-Post Change in Preparedness to Treat People from Different Backgrounds by Previous Clinical HIV Experience



Pre-Post Change in Preparedness to Treat PWH by Previous Clinical HIV Experience



One-way ANOVAs $p < .05$

Conclusions

- Third-year dental students had enriching experiences with community-based partners.
- Pre-post surveys suggest the experience had a positive impact on students' clinical preparedness, confidence, and attitudes related to HIV care.
- Prior clinical HIV experience can impact a student's learning.
- Service Learning-based education provides a meaningful context for educational programs that train dental students to treat PLWHA.
- Similar programs should be reinforced throughout the four-year dental school curriculum.

Acknowledgments

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