SPN Position Statement

SIGNIFICANCE OF POPULATION HEALTH IN PEDIATRIC NURSING

All SPN Position statements are valid for two years after approval date.
Approved by SPN Board of Directors on 9/16/2020

Original Author: Sue Fowler, PhD, RN, CNRN, FAHA and
                    SPN Healthcare Policy and Advocacy Committee

The Society of Pediatric Nurses joins the multitude of healthcare professionals in recognizing the growing evidence on the impact of population health in the delivery of patient and family centered care to improve outcomes.

Population health refers to the incidence and distribution of health outcomes within a group of individuals (Kindig & Stoddart, 2003). The concept of population health is not interchangeable with public health (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2019), but its management can help influence public health by focusing on the population rather than individual outcomes (Institute of Medicine, 2002). The management of population health is a data-driven interdisciplinary process for detecting health problems to identify resources and policies that can address them.

Aggregation of population-level data generated by interactions between health status and social determinants of health create a holistic framework to guide policy and decision making concerning healthcare delivery, generating opportunities to improve quality, costs, and clinical outcomes (Jeffery et al., 2019). Health determinants include genetic, behavioral, social, and environmental attributes (IOM, 2002). For example, a pediatric nurse identifies an increase in visits to the emergency room due to acute exacerbations of asthma. After obtaining statistics on these visits and hospital admissions, as well as demographics of this patient population, the nurse reaches out to school nurses in the area in developing a proactive educational activity to help students prevent exacerbations and manage early symptoms.

The Society of Pediatric Nurses recommends nurses determine pediatric health problems and trends by examining population-level data, taking into considerations social determinants of health, and engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration to develop structures and processes to improve healthcare delivery and patient outcomes.

REFERENCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, July 23). *Population health training: What is population health?* https://www.cdc.gov/pophealthtraining/whatis.html

Kindig, D., & Stoddart, G. (2003). What is population health?. *American Journal of Public Health*, *9*(3), 380–383. https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.93.3.380

Institute of Medicine. (2002). The future of the public's health in the 21st Century [Electronic book]. Washington, DC: National Academies Press ISBN: 0-309-50655-7

Jeffery, A. D., Hewner, S., Pruinelli, L., Lekan, D., Lee, M., Gao, G., Holbrook, L., & Sylvia, M. (2019). Risk prediction and segmentation models used in the United States for assessing risk in whole populations: A critical literature review with implications for nurses' role in population health management. *JAMIA Open*, *1*, 205-214. https://doi.org/10.1093/jamiaopen/ooy053