Background

- The ARC-PA and ACCME require training in QI and research concepts for physician assistant (PA) students and Family Medicine (FM) residents.
- Although several training programs exist in FM, there is limited research on knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards research or QI concepts among PA students.
- Few existing curriculum are designed to train PA students how to conduct QI projects.
- There are no studies comparing PA students and Family Medicine residents.

Aims

1. To measure knowledge, skills and attitudes towards research methods and quality improvement concepts among PA students.
2. To compare knowledge, skills and attitudes among PA students and FM residents.
3. Develop a QI curriculum for PA students based on the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Model.

Project Design

DESIGN & SETTING: Mixed Methods
- UT Southwestern Department of Physician Assistant Studies and affiliated Family Medicine Residency Program.
- Cross-sectional survey and quasi-experimental curriculum design.
- 40-item online survey via Survey Monkey.
- Items ranked using Likert Scale (1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree).
- % Agree and Strongly Agree results reported.
- 5-10 minutes to complete.

PARTICIPANTS: PA students (N=34); FM residents (N=29).

TIME:
- Baseline data collected from FM residents from July-August 2013 and PA students in September 2014.
- FM curriculum implemented in September 2014. Results reported previously.
- PA curriculum will be implemented from January – May 2015.

MEASURES:
- Perceptions of knowledge (16 items).
- Confidence in ability to perform skills (14 items).
- Attitudes (10 items).

Results

Figure 1: PA Students’ Knowledge (%)

Figure 2: Comparison of PA Students’ and FM Residents Knowledge (%)

Figure 3: PA Students’ Confidence in Skills (%)

Figure 4: Comparison of PA Students’ and FM Residents Confidence in Skills (%)

Figure 5: PA Students’ Attitudes (%)

Figure 6: Comparison of PA Students’ and FM Residents’ Attitudes (%)

Discussion

PA Students:
- More knowledgeable of HIPAA, research cycle, basic statistics, and creating presentations.
- More confident analyzing and interpreting data.
- More favorable attitudes towards research and QI.

FM Residents:
- More knowledgeable of life cycle of a QI project.
- More confident in interpreting EBM.
- Less favorable attitudes towards research and QI.

Next Steps - PDSA

- Curriculum development for QI training in PA program in Plan phase.
- Collaborative QI training and project opportunities for FM and PA programs in development.
- Results of PDSA cycle will be presented after 2015 study cycle.

Figure 7: PA QI Curriculum PDSA Cycle