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#### Recommended Citation

Weiland, Donald, "Can Nurses Have an Impact on Global Health?" (2021). *Student Research Poster Presentations 2021*. 14.

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# Can Nurses Have an Impact on Global Health?

Donald Weiland III

## INTRODUCTION

Global Health is an area of practice that prioritizes improving health and maintaining prosperity of all individuals worldwide. In today's world, many people struggle with maintaining complete physical and mental well-being. This is due to the lack of healthcare access, knowledge and insurance across the world (Edmonson, McCarthy, et al, 2017).

While there are many roles in the healthcare community that impact Global Health, one professional in particular does more than your average. Nurses, are healthcare professionals who focus on the care of individuals, families and communities so they attain the most optimal health and a better quality life.

## SIGNIFICANCE

- An estimated 19.7 million children under the age of one year did not receive basic vaccines (World Health Organization, 2020).
- Rotaviruses are the most common cause of severe diarrhoeal disease in young children throughout the world. Global immunization coverage was estimated at 39% (World Health Organization, 2020).
- The world's biggest killer is ischemic heart disease, responsible for 16% of the world's total deaths (World Health Organization, 2020).
- COVID-19 is the leading cause of death in Brazil, England, France, and Mexico and the second-leading cause in the U.S. (Troeger, 2021).
- Tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year (World Health Organization, 2020).

## POSITION STATEMENT

Global Health is important in maintaining the safety of individuals worldwide, Nurses not only work in various environments, but continuously address many health issues that universally impact Global Health in positive way.

## SUPPORT FOR POSITION

Nurses provide about 90 percent of healthcare services in the world. They work in diverse settings including: wellness clinics, hospitals, schools, churches and businesses. These numerous work environments allow nurses to provide leading-edge treatments and education to a wide variety of people (The University of Texas at Arlington Academic Partnerships, 2018).

Globally, many nurses don't have a defined role. This is due to many locations across the world not having enough physicians available to provide care that people need. Luckily, nurses are there to provide the care to those who are in desperate need. Without nurses, people around the world would not have as many healthcare providers to maintain a healthy state (The University of Texas at Arlington Academic Partnerships, 2018).

Advanced practice nurses also expand access to care and improve Global Health outcomes. The nurse practitioner role is transformative in primary health care delivery. They address unmet healthcare needs worldwide by crossing borders for meaningful practice, conducting research and participating in scholarly exchanges (Kooienga & Carryer, 2015).

## IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Nurses will play a key role in recognizing and responding to emerging disease threats across the care continuum (Edmonson, McCarthy, et al, 2017).
- Nurses will provide health services, interventions and health education to numerous communities or populations (Edmonson, McCarthy, et al, 2017).
- Nurses will grasp a complete understanding of care delivery models, infection prevention, and biopsychosocial humanity in order to be a valuable asset in the healthcare team (Edmonson, McCarthy, et al, 2017).
- Nurses will provide care in rural, remote or poverty-stricken areas, where physicians may not be available (The University of Texas at Arlington Academic Partnerships, 2018).
- Nurses should educate the population and communities on how to protect yourself from illnesses such as COVID-19 (Troeger, 2021).



Gostin, L. & Friedman, E. (2019).

## CONCLUSION

Global Health is still a worldwide concern. Many people are still struggling to maintain complete physical and mental well-being. Evidence shows that access to healthcare seems to be one of the biggest problems.

To approach this issue, healthcare facilities are going to have to be more populated with nurses. Nurses will expand care and guidance to countless communities, improving the overall status of Global Health.

Future plans for nurses to impact Global Health in a positive direction would be to educate all on the importance of health and provide services in various locations.

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