Introduction

The purpose of this study was to examine and compare characteristics of athletic training student PEs during immersive and non-immersive experiences.

Methods

Participants documented:

- Clinical Site Type (college/university, secondary school, clinic, other)
- Student Role (observed, assisted, performed)
- Patient Encounter Length
- Diagnosis/Diagnoses
- Procedure(s) Performed

Descriptive statistics summarize the characteristic of each PE.

Chi-Square tests used to compare the percentages of student role during PEs in ICEs and N-ICEs (p<0.05).

Figure 2. Patient Encounter Characteristics Collected for This Study

Results

A total of 10,999 PEs occurred at ICEs and 18,228 PEs occurred at N-ICEs. Participants averaged 0.80 diagnoses and 1.35 procedures per PE that occurred at ICEs, compared to 0.82 diagnoses and 1.35 procedures per PE at N-ICEs. Chi-square analyses revealed that there were no significant differences in the percentages of observed (χ²(1) = .00, p=1.00), assisted (χ²(1)=.03, p=.862), or performed (χ²(1)=.007, p=.933) PEs between ICEs and N-ICEs.

Figure 1. Study Design and Participant Information

Figure 2. Patient Encounter Characteristics Collected for This Study

Figure 3. Patient Encounters by Clinical Site Type

Figure 4. Patient Encounters by Student Role

Conclusions

- There were few significant differences in characteristic of ICEs and N-ICEs for student role, patient encounter length, and clinical site type indicating limited comparative need for either type of clinical experience.
- Programs administrators should consider that there were no statistically significant differences in student role during ICEs or N-ICEs if intending to use ICEs for increased autonomy. This may allow for more flexible timing for ICEs to occur within the curriculum.
- More research is needed to examine additional characteristics of ICEs that may have impacted the results of this study such as length of the ICE, timing of ICEs and N-ICEs within program structure, and frequency of patient encounters per day at ICEs.

References