

Title: Athletic trainers' confidence and preparedness in recognizing and responding to Social Determinants of Health needs among patients.

By: Adrienne Fletcher, BS, ACSM-EP, ATS

Context: Social determinants of health (SDOH) are recognized as environmental and socioeconomic circumstances that influence people's daily living conditions and long-term health outcomes. Athletic Trainers' (ATs) confidence and preparedness in their ability to recognize and respond to the impact of SDOH on patients is a crucial factor for promoting total wellness. However, domains of SDOH have recently been incorporated in CAATE standards may vary by type of professional training among ATs. The purpose of this study was to describe ATs' confidence and preparedness in recognizing and responding to indices of SDOH among patients.

Methods: Following expert review for content validity, we distributed an online survey, as part of a larger mixed-methods study, to ATs across the United States using the National Athletic Trainers' Association Research Survey Service. A total of 325 ATs completed the survey. We deployed two Likert-type scales for Preparedness (15 items) and Confidence (7 items) that incorporated responses of 1="Strongly Disagree" to 5="Strongly Agree". Both scales were internally consistent (Preparedness: Cronbach α =.93; Confidence α =.79).

Results: The majority of participants reported that they are prepared and confident in their ability to recognize and respond to SDOH but participants did not report strong or weak preparedness and confidence levels.

Conclusions: The lack of significant findings across groups and years of experience suggests a level of consistency among graduates of different professional education programs in preparedness and confidence in recognizing and responding to SDOH. However, most participants responded with "neutral" responses in both sections, suggesting that ATs only feel moderately prepared and moderately confident in addressing SDOH in their clinical practice. Because of this, there is a rationale for prioritizing professional development initiatives aimed at enhancing the efficacy of ATs in recognizing and responding to SDOH-related needs among patients.

Faculty mentor(s):

Dr. Patricia Kelshaw, PhD, ATC

Dr. Tamara Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC, FNATA

Dr. Tamerah Hunt, PhD, ATC

Dr. Kelsey Picha, PhD, ATC

Dr. Tarkington Newman, PhD, MSW, MS

Dr. Curt Bay, PhD

Dr. Thomas G Bowman, PhD, ATC