Presented at the 2011 DNP Conference in New Orleans, LA

First Author: Charles P Cooley, DNP

Affiliation: Veterans Affairs VISN 6

Abstract Category: DNP in Clinical Leadership, DNP in Academic Leadership and DNP in Administrative Leadership

Title: Public Policy Involvement and Behavioral Intentions Towards Health Policy Research Among Nurses with Professional Doctorates

Purpose: Present Public Policy Involvement/Research of DNPs

Objective 1: Examine the activities of DNP in policy leadership activities

Objective 2:

Objective 3:

Abstract:

The public policy involvement and behavioral intentions of nurses with professional doctorates toward research of health care policy are the focus of this study. This survey consists of two instruments. The first instrument based on Dr. Holtrops’ instrument used to measure public policy involvement of the respondents and the second based on the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) by Dr. Ajzen used to measure intentions of the respondents toward public healthcare policy research. The survey included Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduates currently. Those meeting the inclusion criteria were asked to complete an online questionnaire, based on both above instruments. A sample 274 respondents to the first instrument and a sample of 201 to the second instrument was obtained from an online social group, Doctors of Nursing Practice, LLC, consisting of 634 total DNP graduate throughout the United States. The first instrument of public policy involvement found that respondents mainly limited their public policy activities to voting for candidates much the same as the general population. The second instrument found DNP involvement in research that impacts health policies is extremely beneficial but they reported a lack of both time and knowledge to conduct research. Based on the findings it is recommended that DNP education programs and profession organization promote understanding of how the DNP graduate can access key policy makers, the policy making process and researcher’s role in effecting healthcare policies.


Second Author Bio:
**Other Author BIO:**

**Question 1:** What is the present level of DNP involvement compared to general U. S. voting?

**Question 2:** What is the number one barrier sighted for decreased involvement in public policy?

**Question 3:** What are the sighted attitudes of DNPs towards public policy research involvement?

**Question 4:** What are some of the beliefs of DNPs of what others think of their involvement in public policy research?

**Question 5:** What is the present level of research in public policy?