

Introduction

Homelessness, Healthcare and Discharge Planning

- As of 2020, around 580,466 people are experiencing homelessness in America¹
- A complex social issue closely associated with poor health and requires a systematic way for society to care for the needs of those living without a home^{2,3}
- Manifest accelerated aging and susceptibility to premature death because of poor health status and constant exposure to environmental elements^{3,4}
- Transitional care for unhoused patients is challenging, requires longer discharge planning time, and results in lengthy stays in healthcare settings⁴⁻⁶

Healthcare Staff Training on Discharge Planning Needs of Unhoused Patients

- Patient-Centered Discharge Planning^{4,5}
- Housing-First Model and Harm-reduction Informed Services⁷
- Role of Staff Attitudes Towards Unhoused Patients⁸⁻¹⁰

Communities for Learning and Sharing in Skilled Nursing Facility (CLASS) Training Program: Development and Evaluation

CLASS Training Program

- Implementation of Communities of Practice among Interdisciplinary staff at SNF on discharge planning for unhoused patients^{11,12}
- Participation in group-based activities using Cole's group leadership format.¹³

Training Program Details: Three group activities

- Patient-centered Discharge Planning, Professional Communication Strategies, and Evaluation of Discharge Planning resources and sources of information

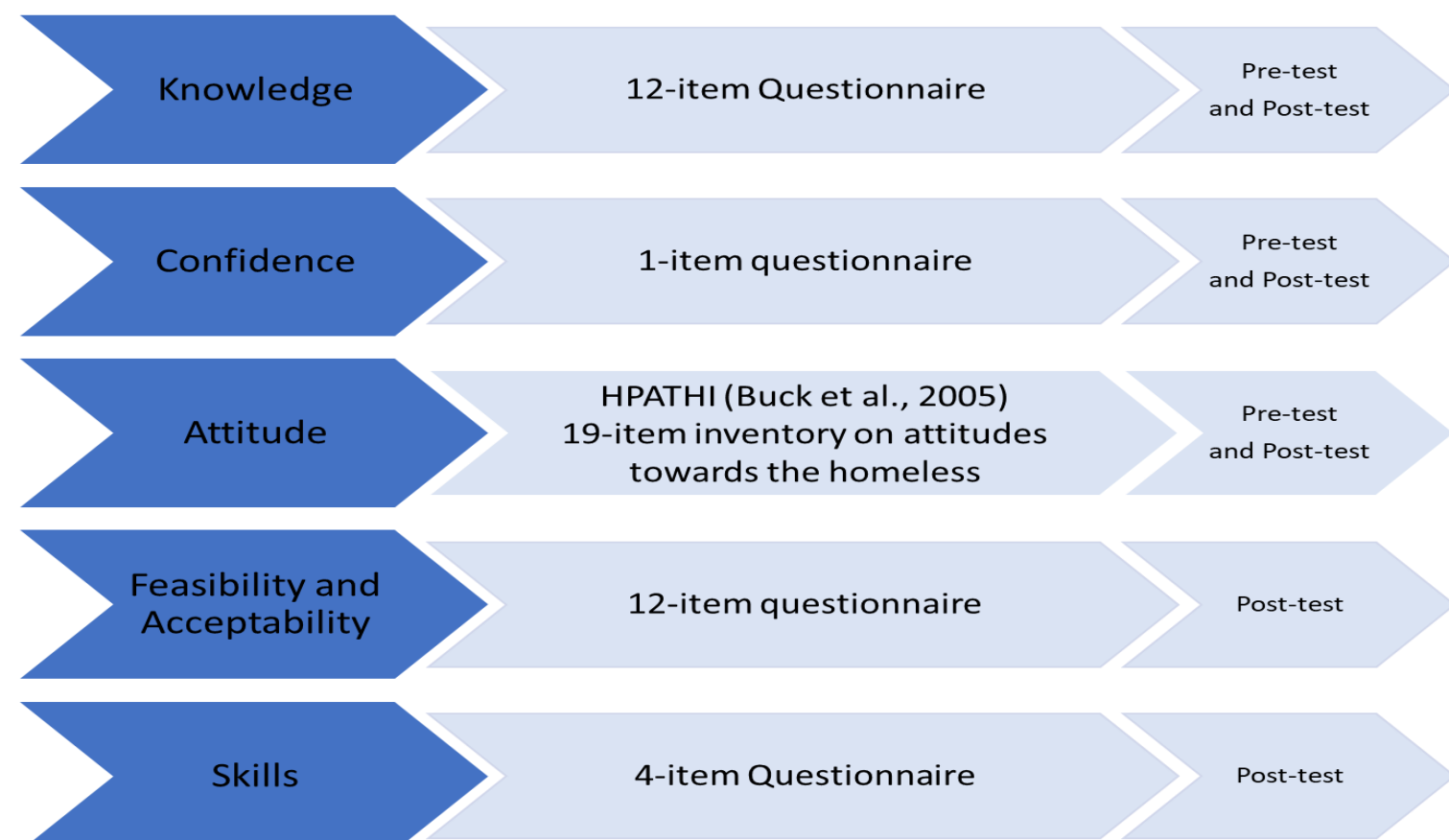
Methods

Purpose of the Study: Examine the impact of the CLASS training program on the interdisciplinary team working with unhoused patients at an SNF

Study Design: Descriptive on-group pre-test and post-test

Study Participants: Recruited via convenience sampling and staff working full-time and performing clinical and non-clinical roles at the SNF.

Survey Instruments:

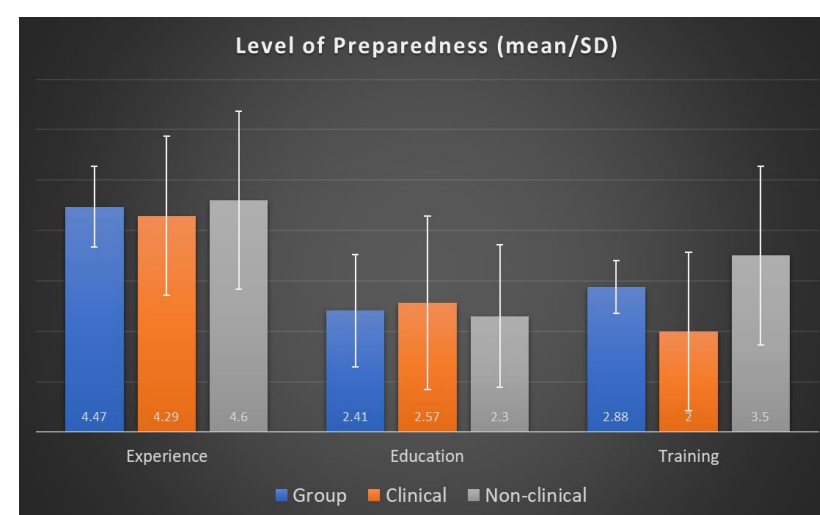
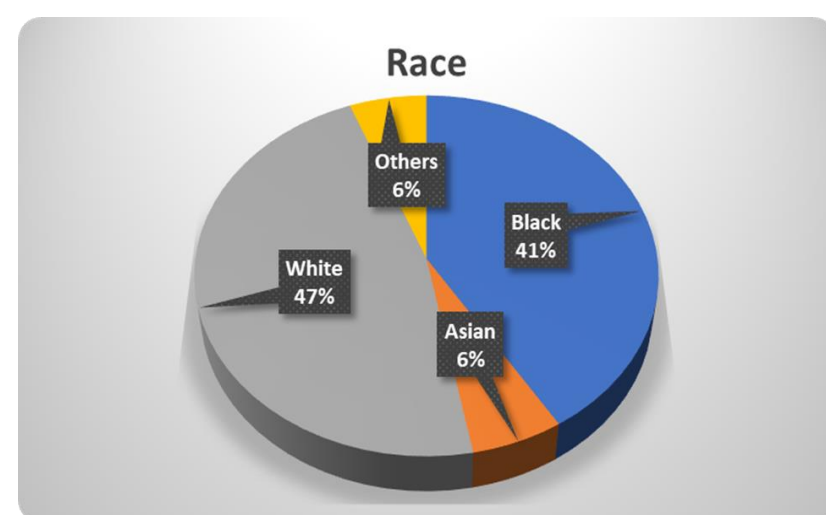


Data Analysis: Descriptive analysis, Wilcoxon signed rank test on pre-test/post-test scores, Post-hoc to compare change for the clinical and non-clinical staff, and a level of type I error set at an alpha of 0.05

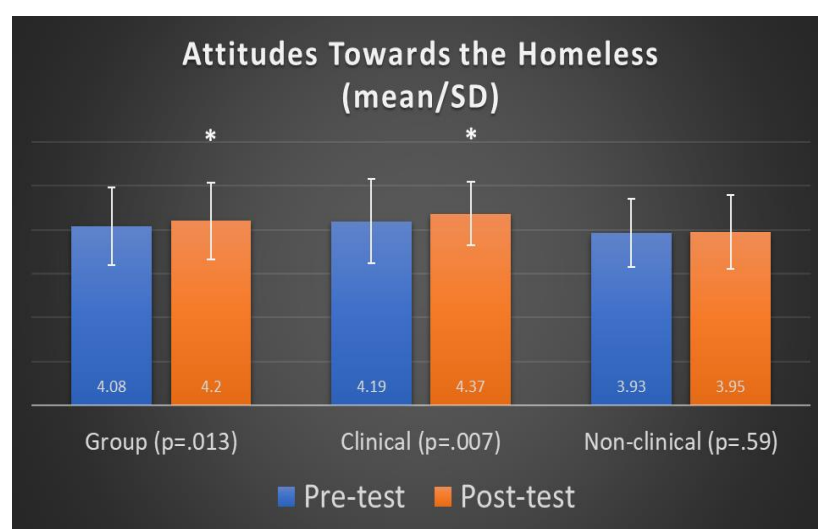
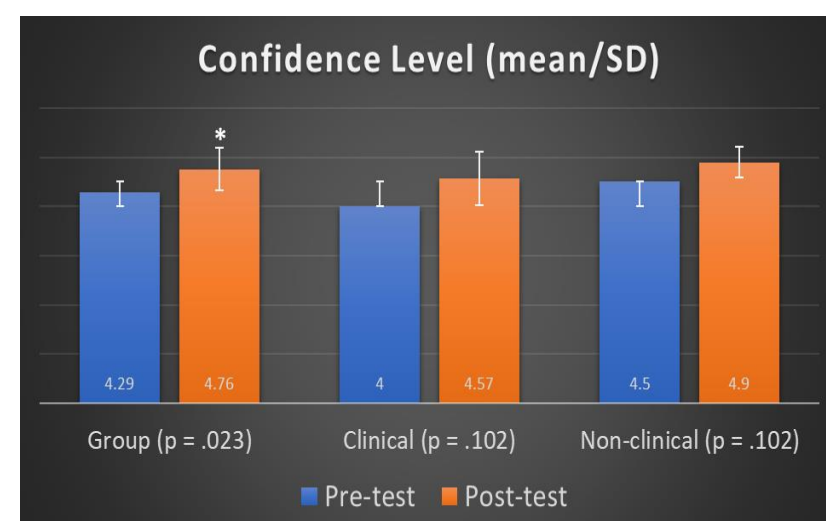
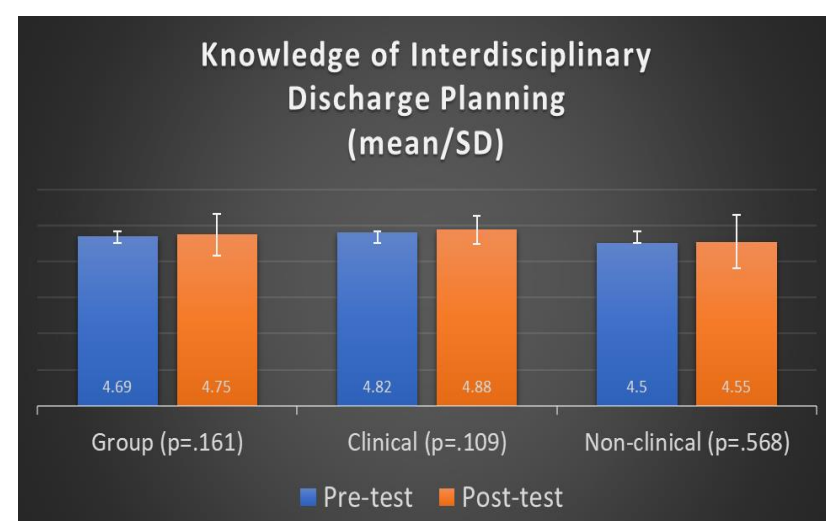
Results

Demographics

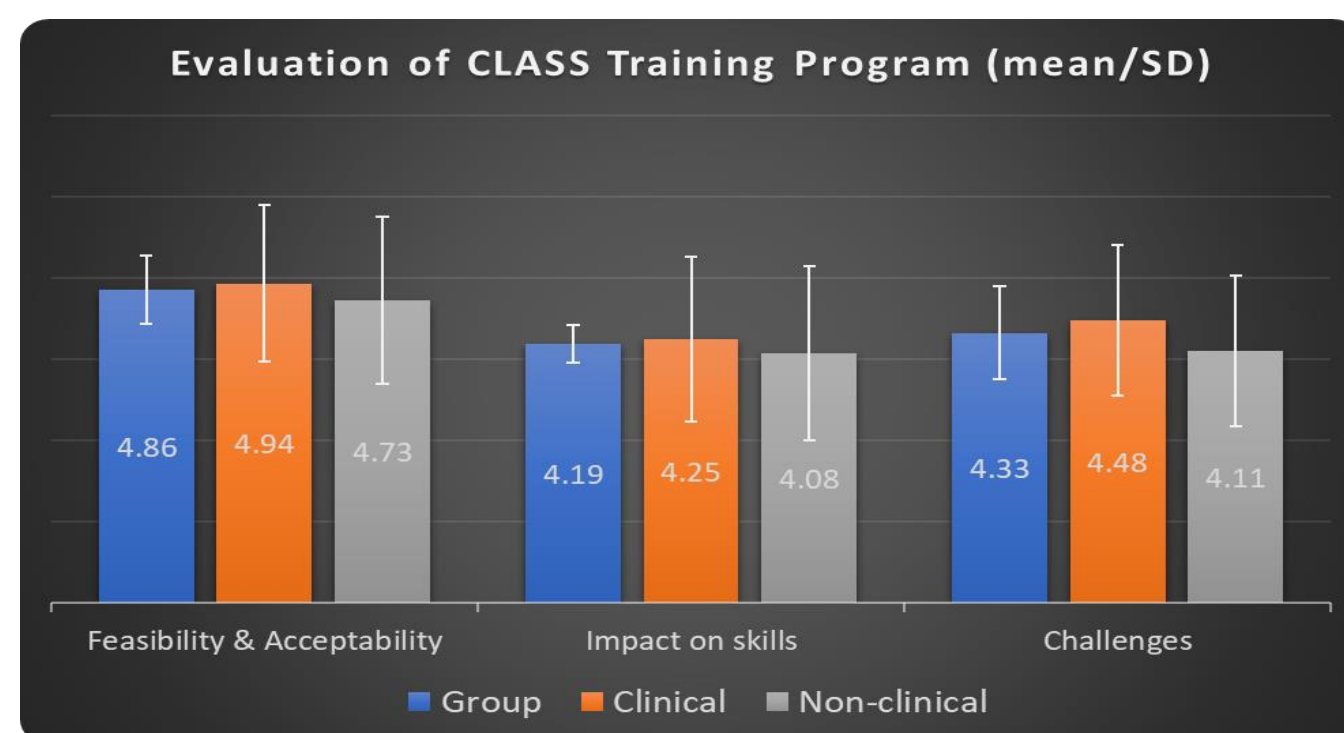
Characteristics N = 17	Participants N (%)
Gender	Female 14 (82)
	Male 3 (18)
Roles	Clinical 7 (41)
	Non-clinical 10 (59)



Results on Participants' Variables



Results on Evaluation of the CLASS Training Program



Discussion

- CLASS training program is an innovative and novel training that improve the health care staff's capacity for interdisciplinary discharge planning around unhoused patients in SNF
- Training that targets participants' attitudes towards the unhoused patients lead to increased confidence in participating in discharge planning and improve health care experiences of unhoused patients^{4,5,14,15}
- Limitations of the study are as follows: small sample size, short duration of the training program, implementations in one study site, and familiarity with study participants

Conclusion

- Findings indicate the feasibility of CLASS, a novel interdisciplinary discharge planning program, to positively influence the participants' attitudes.
- Participation in the training program increased the participants' confidence to participate in discharge planning for unhoused patients.
- A training program grounded on communities of practice reinforced the participants' knowledge around discharge planning and increased their capacity to engage in interdisciplinary patient-centered care, and housing-first focused discharged planning for the unhoused patients.

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