

GERIATRIC SENSITIVITY TRAINING

HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP EMPATHY FOR OUR AGING POPULATION

Empathy (n): The action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts and experience of another without having the feelings, thoughts and experience fully communicated in an objectively explicit manner. ⁽¹⁾

Empathy in patient care includes:

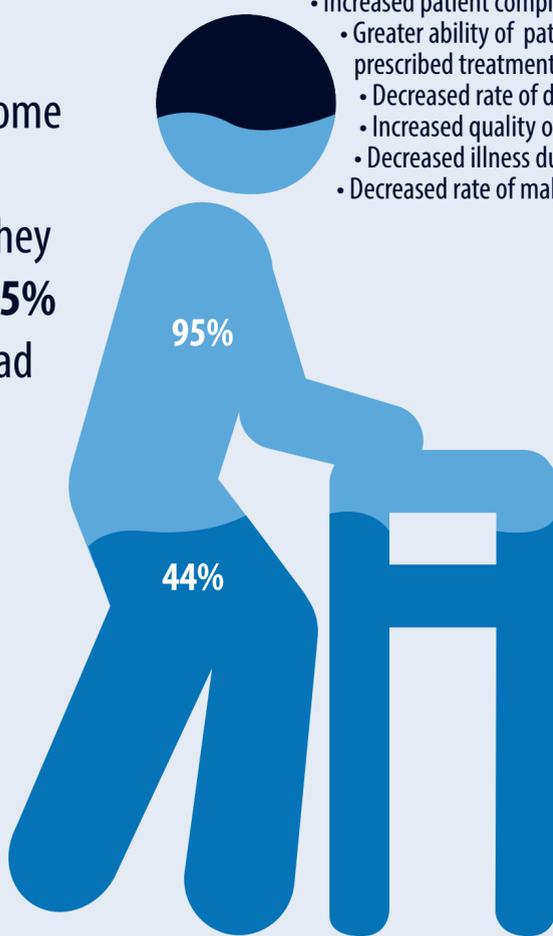
- Verbal communication
- Understanding nonverbal cues
- Spending time with patients
- Providing care

By attempting to recognize and empathize with patients, providers improve the odds of successful health outcomes like: ^(2,3)

- Increased reports of symptoms and concern by patients
- Increased diagnostic accuracy
- Increased sharing of illness-specific information with patients
- Increased patient participation and education
- Increased patient compliance and satisfaction
- Greater ability of patients to cope with prescribed treatments
- Decreased rate of depression
- Increased quality of life
- Decreased illness duration and severity
- Decreased rate of malpractice litigation

In 2000, a study interviewing nursing home residents reported that **44%** of residents said they had been abused and **95%** of residents said they had been neglected or had seen another resident being neglected ⁽⁶⁾

Geriatric patients who experience abuse, even modest abuse, have a **300% higher risk of death** ⁽⁷⁾



JOB GROWTH

Health & Social Assistance Industry Growth Rate through 2022:

29%

Average Industry Growth Rate through 2022:

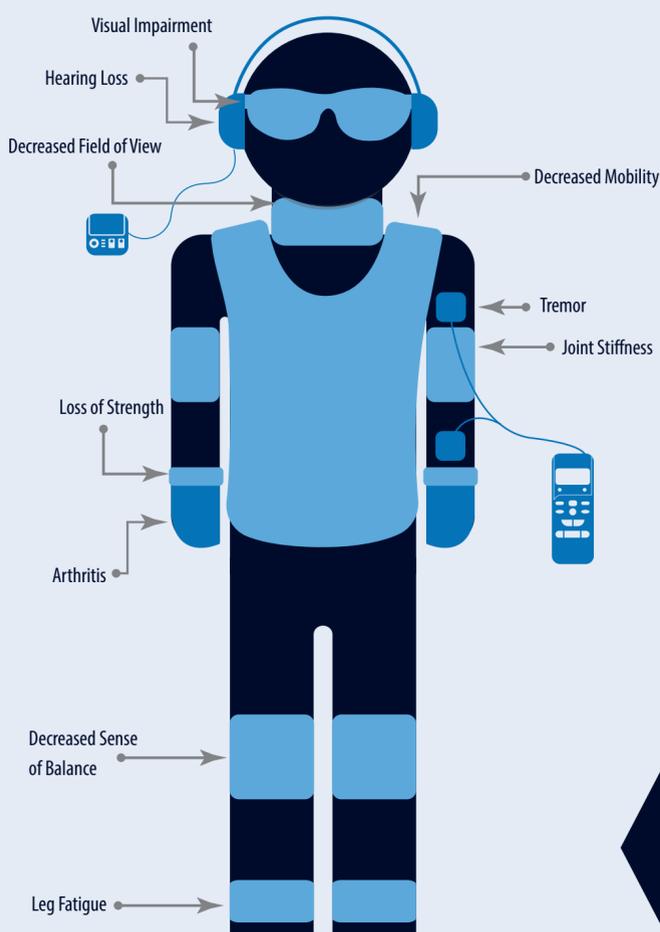
11%

Industry Growth

Careers in geriatrics and gerontology are increasing . . .

- **4 of the top 6** occupations with most projected job growth through 2024 deal with geriatric care ⁽⁴⁾
- Health occupations and social assistance industries are expected to have the **fastest employment growth and add the most jobs** through 2024 ⁽⁴⁾
- **5 million job openings** will be available in the healthcare and social assistance sector from 2012 to 2022 ⁽⁵⁾
- Healthcare and social assistance industry careers are projected to **increase 29 percent** through 2022, compared to an average of 11 percent for all industries ⁽⁵⁾

Geriatric Simulation Suit



“Expressing care for another is not an innate ability present more naturally in some people than others, but rather a skill that can be taught and nurtured through a supportive educational environment.” ⁽⁸⁾

We must help our future workforce develop this skill so appropriate care is provided to our rapidly aging population. Videos, curriculum and experiential learning tools like age simulation suits can help.

83%

of participants were able to empathize with life in old age “very well” after participating in an age simulation suit experience. ⁽⁹⁾

95%

of participants better understood the physical conditions of aging after participating in an age simulation suit experience. ⁽⁹⁾

Sources

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STEP-BY-STEP PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS:

All PDF documents require the use of Adobe Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded for free at www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html.

- 1) Open file in Adobe Acrobat
- 2) File -> Print
- 3) Under Page Size & Handling, highlight the Poster button
 - a. Select tile scale of 100%
 - b. Select an overlap of 0.005 in
 - c. Select poster orientation of Portrait
- 4) Click the Page Setup button at the bottom of the page
 - a. Select paper size to 11 x 17
- 5) Check your Printer Properties by clicking the Properties button after the printer name to ensure
 - a. Color printing is enabled
 - b. Single-sided printing is selected
 - c. Page size is selected as 11 x 17
- 6) Click the Print button at the bottom of the page
- 7) Cut out printed poster and tape 4 printed pages together



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Industry Growth
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Health & Social Assistance Industry Growth

29% Average Industry Growth Rate through 2022

11% Healthcare and social assistance industry careers are projected to increase 29 percent through 2022, compared to an average of 11 percent for all industries.²⁰

4 of the top 6 occupations with most projected job growth through 2024 deal with geriatric care.²¹

Health occupations and social assistance industries are expected to have the **fastest employment growth and add the most jobs** through 2025.²²

5 million job openings will be available in the healthcare and social assistance sector from 2012 to 2022.²³

Healthcare and social assistance industry careers are projected to **increase 29 percent** through 2022, compared to an average of 11 percent for all industries.²⁴

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95% of participants better understood the physical conditions of aging after participating in an age simulation suit experience.²⁷

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printinfographicinstructions-AJ | 06/2017