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A Mixed Methods Characterization of Student-Led Street Medicine Teams



Introduction: “Street Medicine” is the practice of providing medical care to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness where they live (Tito 2023). Student-led Street Medicine teams have been established globally at medical and nursing schools, providing key health and social services developed to address the unique needs and circumstances of people in their communities. Our central research question is: “What are the current practices, experiences, challenges, and opportunities of student-led Street Medicine teams?”

Methods: Thirty student-led Street Medicine teams will be surveyed and interviewed between August and October 2024 to obtain data on their establishment, organizational structure, institutional support, financial resources, services, legal challenges, documentation, training, research, and partnerships. The quantitative data survey data will be compiled and analyzed using basic descriptive statistics. The qualitative interview data will be thematically coded using ATLAS.ti.

Results: Data collection is currently underway. Preliminary results will be available and assembled together by November 8, 2024.

Conclusions: The collected data will be used to publish a manuscript adding to the limited peer reviewed literature on the development and continuity of student-led Street Medicine teams. A database of information on the practices, experiences, challenges, and opportunities of student-led Street Medicine teams will be created for the Street Medicine Institute (SMI), a membership community that provides expert training, guidance, and support to Street Medicine programs existing in over 140 cities in 27 countries across 6 continents (*Street Medicine Institute*). This will promote greater transparency and collaboration between SMI members, allowing them to better serve people in their communities.