

The Impact of Distressing APPE Events Experienced by Pharmacy Students

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Abstract

In the fourth year of pharmacy school, students are exposed to many potentially distressing events from many different sources. These experiences may have an impact on the mental wellbeing of these students, however the data in this area is lacking. This observational study measures distressing events of the class of 2022 pharmacy schools from SIUE and UMKC as they complete their fourth year APPE rotations, the effects on their mental health, and if these events were addressed. A survey was sent out after the fall semester and will be sent again after completion of the spring semester. The students were asked to recall any events that caused a negative effect while on a rotation, as well as how it impacted their ability to perform their required tasks. A total of 73 surveys were documented, with only 66 of those surveys being completed enough to be used in the final analysis. 42 people reported events, with a total of 59 events. 78% of the events were either patient care related or a student-provider conflict, with a majority of them taking place in a hospital or other patient care setting. Their experience moderately impacted their ability to provide patient care and to learn. Preceptors usually helped when addressing the event, but a majority of preceptors did not address the events. Distressing events are a serious issue pharmacy student may face on rotations and further investigation into interventions may be necessary to protect their wellbeing and mental health.