

Hand Hygiene: Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Among Skidmore College Students

Presenters: Musa Bernard Komeh, Saada Legesse, and Sasha Letovsky

Advisor: Jennifer McDonald

*Abstract:*

*Proper hand hygiene is an important method for preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases among individuals and their communities. Students are highly susceptible to the spread of infectious diseases due to their shared use of restroom facilities, computers, dining and communal living. There had been no previous hand hygiene related studies conducted at Skidmore College. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to assess Skidmore College students' hand hygiene knowledge, attitude and practice, and to also design a hand hygiene intervention program. A survey that consisted of 21 open and closed ended questions was sent to 502 students that were randomly selected. The survey was conducted over a 14-day period and reminder emails were sent on day 8 and 11. A knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) score was formulated and categorized into low, moderate and high. One hundred and seventy-seven students completed the survey. Results showed that 144, 36 and 0 participants scored in the low, moderate and high KAP categories, respectively. There was a low to moderate correlation between knowledge and practice ( $r = 0.31, p < 0.05$ ) as well as between attitude and practice ( $r = 0.39, p < 0.05$ ). These results suggest that a hand hygiene intervention program is needed at Skidmore College. Therefore, an intervention program based on the Health Belief Model and students' responses was designed.*