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Recommended Citation

Kelly, Mary Jo; Johnson, Sarah; Rangel, Teresa; and Springer, Gale, "Health Professional Concern for Environment and Behaviors to Protect Climate Health" (2024). *Articles, Abstracts, and Reports*. 8532. <https://digitalcommons.providence.org/publications/8532>

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Health Professional Concern for Environment and Behaviors to Protect Climate Health

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Background

- Healthcare contributes to 8.5% of green house gases, in the United States (U.S.) impacting climate change
- Climate change contributes to catastrophic weather patterns and is attributed to 7 million premature deaths annually
- Health care professionals (HCP) have a responsibility to impact climate health and therefore health of patients
- HCP comprise 13% of the U.S. workforce and could be mobilize to significantly reduce carbon emissions
- Little is understood about HCP concern for the environment and behavioral actions taken to preserve the environment at home or work

Purpose

- To describe HCP concern for the environment and behaviors at home/work to preserve climate health, and test relationships between these constructs as well as HCP age.

Methods

- Secondary analysis of survey-based study (n=930) using 3 subscales of the valid and reliable Climate and Health Tool (CHANT) as seen below.
 - Concern for environment, climate-preserving behaviors at home and climate-preserving behaviors at work
- Snowball technique used to electronically distribute surveys across 32 sites via email, rounding & posted flyers with QR codes

Results

- Average age was 43 and years of experience 17.0
- Sample mostly female (77%), RN role (70%), and Caucasian (80%).
- Average concern, behaviors home and work scores: 14.6±5.5; 11.9±3.7 out of maximum 20; and 6.0±3.6 out of maximum 16, respectively.
- See correlation table below for more details.

Discussion

- Participants expressed high concern for environment, regardless of age
- Older age linked to more home and work behaviors
- With higher concern, more likely to reports behaviors to protect climate health
- Lower number of behaviors to protect the environment reported at work than at home

CHANT Subscales with Results:

Awareness of Climate Change	Concern for Environment	Behaviors at Home to Preserve Environment	Behaviors at Work to Preserve Environment	Motivation to preserve environment
5 items	5 items	5 items	4 items	3 items
Range from 0-20	Range from 0-20	Range from 0-20	Range from 0-16	Range from 0-12
Higher score = more awareness	Higher score = more concern 14.6±5	Higher score = more behaviors at home 11.9±3	Higher score = more behaviors at work 6.0±3	Higher score = more motivation

Correlation Table:

	Concern	Work Behaviors	Home Behaviors
Age	-0.04	0.21**	0.16**
Concern		0.21**	0.33**
Work Behaviors			0.49**

**p<0.01



Implications for Practice

- Increased concern may increase individuals' behaviors to protect the environment
- HCP are concerned regardless of age; older HCP reported more activity
- Need to promote climate protective behaviors in the work environment.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to participants and research site coordinators.