**RESEARCH ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM**

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**Title:** Assessment of Racial Disparities Related to Knowledge of Diabetes of Allied Health Profession College Students

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**Introduction:** Approximately 37 million adults1 in the United States have diabetes, with the prevalence projected to increase to 60 million by 20602. It is imperative allied health professionals demonstrate sound knowledge of diabetes to provide competent patient care. A 2019 study found the knowledge of healthcare professionals regarding managing inpatient diabetes as being mediocre3.

**Objectives/Hypothesis:** The aim of this cross-sectional study is to investigate racial disparities related to knowledge of diabetes of allied health profession students.

**Methods:** The Revised Brief Diabetes Knowledge Test (DKT2), a validated and reliable tool, was distributed electronically to University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Salisbury University allied health profession students to assess diabetes knowledge4. The survey consists of two parts: general diabetes knowledge and insulin use. Score categories consist of a global score out of 23 with scores of average knowledge (12 –18) and high knowledge (19 – 23)5. Descriptive statistics, paired t-tests, and Chi-Square tests were used to analyze the data via Excel.

**Results**: A total of 40 students (6 males, 34 females) from the majors of dietetics, physical therapy, physician assistant, pharmacy, and nursing were enrolled in the study. A significant difference was observed between mean allied health profession DKT2 scores compared to mean DKT2 scores for African American (p = .013) and Caucasian (p = .027) students. No significance was observed among other ethnic groups.

**Conclusions:** Significant differences in DKT2 scores related to diabetes knowledge of allied health profession students indicate a racial disparity between African Americans, who demonstrate average diabetes knowledge, and Caucasians, who demonstrate high diabetes knowledge. Educators should apply cultural awareness in their teaching methods in the university setting to address racial disparities when educating allied health profession students of diverse backgrounds on diabetes management to ensure competent patient care.