



2024 SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

From Data to Policy

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Push and Pull – The Role of Regulators in the Rapid Expansion of Simulation During the Pandemic

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Outline

- Background Information

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• Results

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Background

OUR PANDEMIC YEAR—A COVID-19 TIMELINE

On March 11, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Here is a look back at a year in disruption.

A MYSTERIOUS NEW ILLNESS

Images appear of Wuhan in lockdown, where officials attempt to contain a mysterious virus. Soon after, new cases of and deaths related to (what's later named) COVID-19 surge in Europe.

THE WORLD SHUTS DOWN

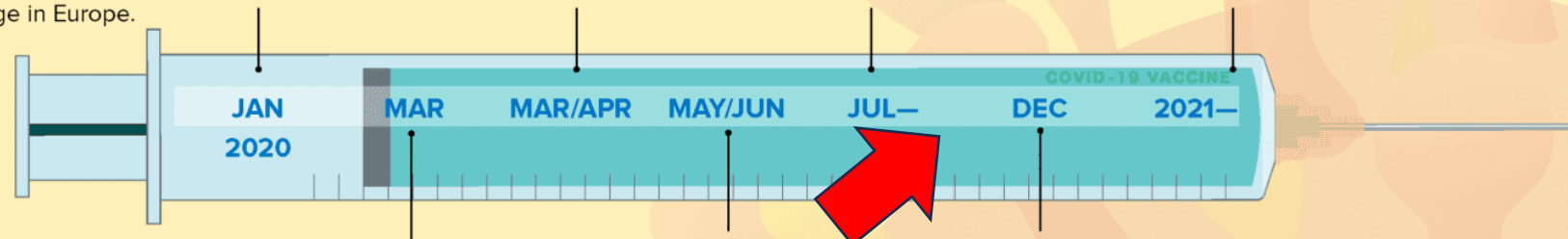
Countries seal borders; sports teams cancel seasons; schools close and employees go home. People start wearing masks and "social distancing."

UPTICK IN MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

People struggle as continued unemployment and/or working from home without childcare/school takes its toll. U.S. break records for daily cases/deaths.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

2021 begins with a race to vaccinate. Cases and deaths begin to fall. But the variants are still a threat, vaccine rollout is uneven, and we are still wearing masks.



THE VIRUS SPREADS, CASES MULTIPLY

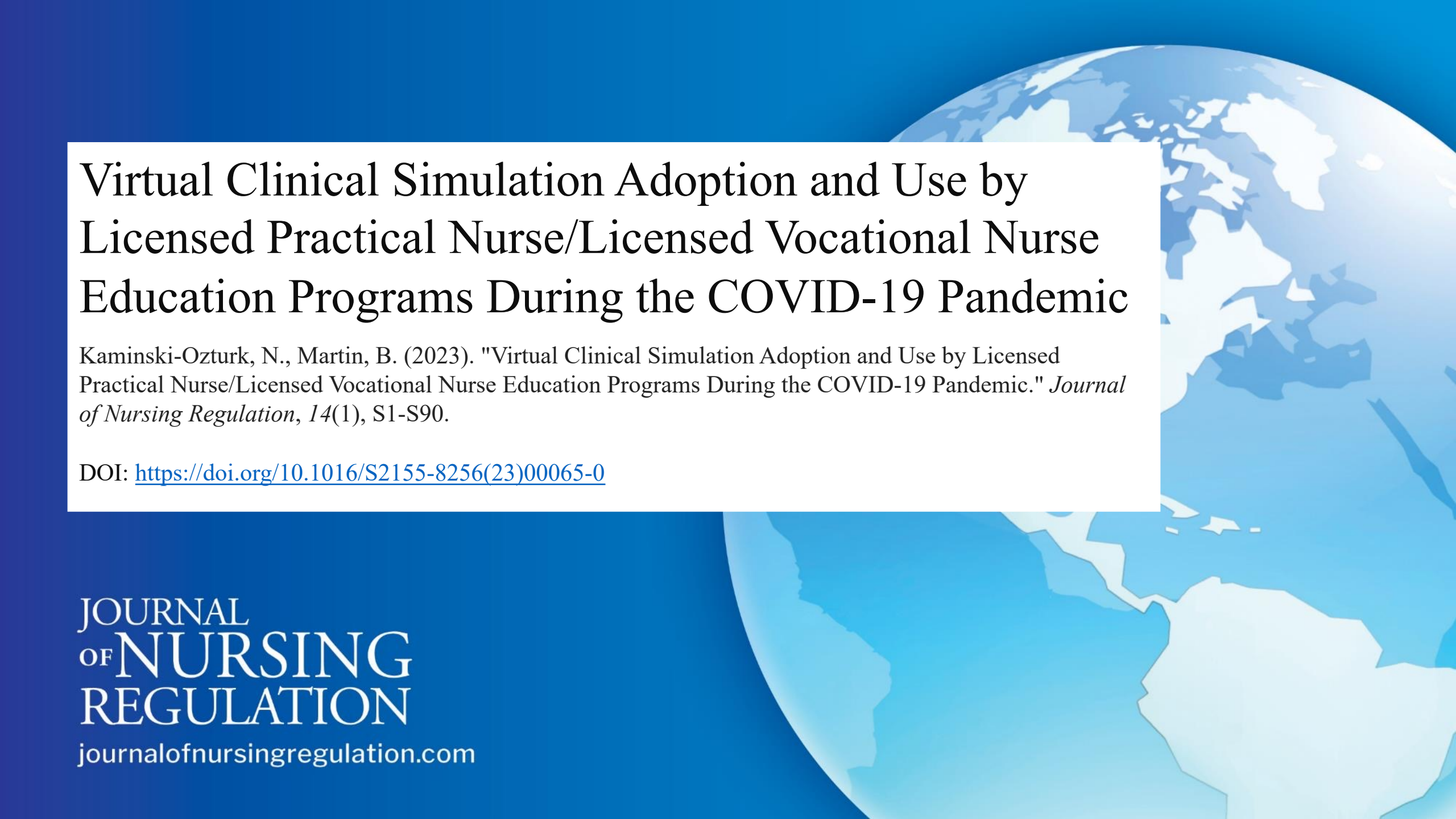
The Grand Princess cruise ship, docked outside of San Fran, has passengers with COVID-19; Bay Area is first in the U.S. to announce shelter-in-place orders; hospitals become overwhelmed as cases grow; there is a nationwide shortage of PPE.

FLATTENING THE CURVE—FOR A WHILE

After "flattening the curve," cases begin to skyrocket again as states "reopen" in different phases. Researchers continue to race to identify treatments and make vaccines.

NEW HOPE, NEW MUTATIONS

The FDA authorizes two vaccines. Major variants begin to circulate, some of which might impact the effectiveness of vaccines.



Virtual Clinical Simulation Adoption and Use by Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse Education Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Kaminski-Ozturk, N., Martin, B. (2023). "Virtual Clinical Simulation Adoption and Use by Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse Education Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 14(1), S1-S90.

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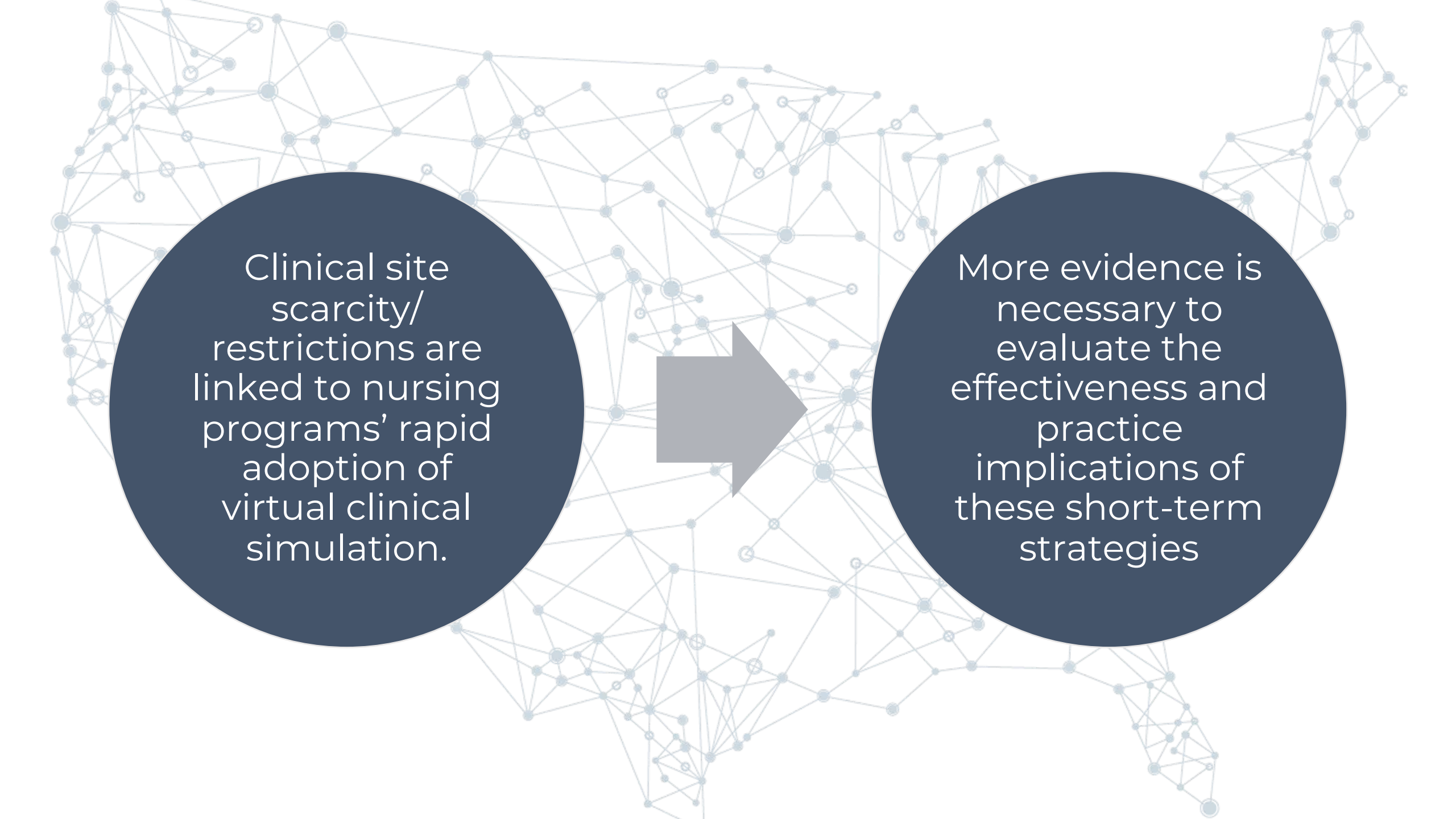


Aim

To understand the degree to which prelicensure practical/vocational nursing (LPN/VN) programs in the U.S. shifted to virtual clinical simulation due to clinical site restrictions during the early stages of the pandemic.



- **A Qualtrics-based survey instrument** was developed to ask administrators about their plans to use virtual clinical simulation during the fall 2020 term and compare their approach to the previous fall (2019) term.
- **1,133 deans and directors** each representing all active LPN/LVN prelicensure programs were sent the survey in September 2020.
- **266 nursing programs** participated in the curriculum survey, yielding a **23.5%** response rate



Clinical site
scarcity/
restrictions are
linked to nursing
programs' rapid
adoption of
virtual clinical
simulation.



More evidence is
necessary to
evaluate the
effectiveness and
practice
implications of
these short-term
strategies



Prelicensure Nursing Clinical Simulation and Regulation During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Kaminski-Ozturk, N., Martin, B. (2023). "Prelicensure Nursing Clinical Simulation and Regulation During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 14(2) 36-42.

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2155-8256\(23\)00090-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2155-8256(23)00090-X)

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A magnifying glass is positioned over a laptop keyboard. The lens of the magnifying glass is centered on the text, which is displayed in a clean, black, sans-serif font. The background shows the blurred keys of the laptop and the soft glow of the screen.

Aim

Examine the degree to which prelicensure RN nursing programs planned to substitute their clinical instruction with simulation during the pandemic.



Phase 1

Data on pre-pandemic simulation regulations within the United States and select territories was collected and compared to updated pandemic-related guidance and direct communications to nursing programs between March and June 2020.



Phase 2

A Qualtrics-based survey instrument was developed to ask administrators about their plans to use planned use of simulation during the fall 2020 term and compare their approach to the previous fall (2019) term.

1,604 deans and directors each representing all active RN prelicensure programs (with valid emails) were sent the survey in July 2020.

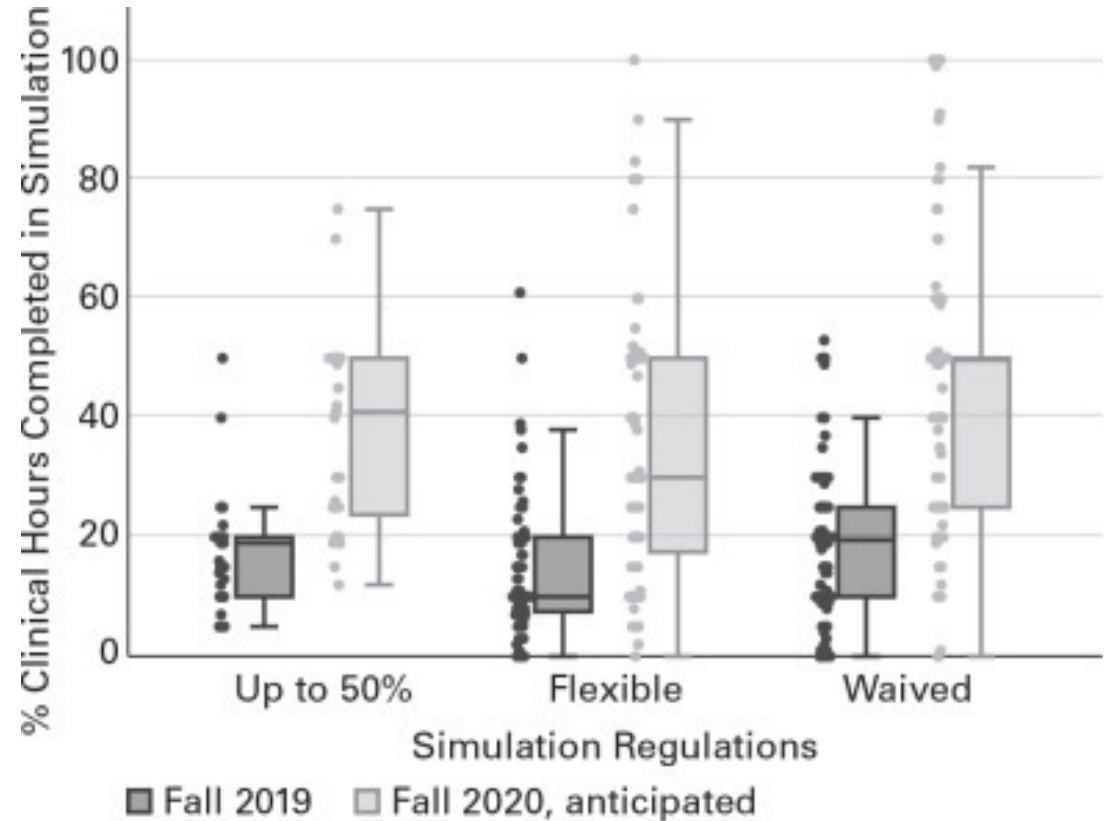
526 prelicensure RN programs participated in the survey measuring pre-pandemic, and pandemic simulation usage, yielding a **32.8%** response rate.



28 of U.S. nursing regulatory bodies issued emergency orders or guidance to allow for the expanded use of simulation-based education

- 14 adopted a flexible approach
- 9 temporarily waived simulation-related restrictions

Most programs increased their use of simulation-based education, with the most pronounced changes occurring in jurisdictions in which emergency orders modified or waived existing clinical substitution thresholds.



Note. Includes only jurisdictions that adjusted simulation regulations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



In Summary:

Nursing regulatory bodies' rapid communication, and guidance on the proportion of clinical courses completed in simulation were instrumental in supporting prelicensure nursing programs ability to deliver their instructional content during the pandemic.

Proactive guidance from regulatory bodies may be an effective tool in managing future health crises

A blurred photograph of a hospital hallway. In the foreground, the word "Questions?" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font. The background shows a brightly lit corridor with several people, including one person in blue scrubs standing in the distance. The image is intentionally out of focus, creating a bokeh effect with the lights and figures.

Questions?