

# Role of Leadership: Interprofessional Collaboration and Joint Accreditation



**Carissa Blumenshine** MSN, RN, NPD-BC, PCCN, Manager Interprofessional Continuing Education, Advocate Health  
[carissa.blumenshine@aah.org](mailto:carissa.blumenshine@aah.org)



**Jennifer Graebe** DrPH, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Senior Director NCPD Accreditation and Joint Accreditation Programs, American Nurses Credentialing Center  
[Jennifer.graebe@ana.org](mailto:Jennifer.graebe@ana.org)

## Impact

- Joint Accreditation (JA) establishes standards for interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) emphasizing professional development designed by the team for the team.
- JA encourages a collaborative approach to education, where planning and implementation involve multiple professions working together to develop and deliver training benefiting the entire healthcare team.
- A team comprising of Nursing Professional Development and Medical Education leaders formed to elevate IPCE, ensuring inclusivity across diverse professions.
- An environmental scan of continuing education processes and a systematic review of education evaluations and attendance data, identified deficiencies in IPCE.
- Analysis revealed interprofessional activities fell below the JA requirement of 25% and were predominantly nursing focused, limiting other healthcare professional participation.

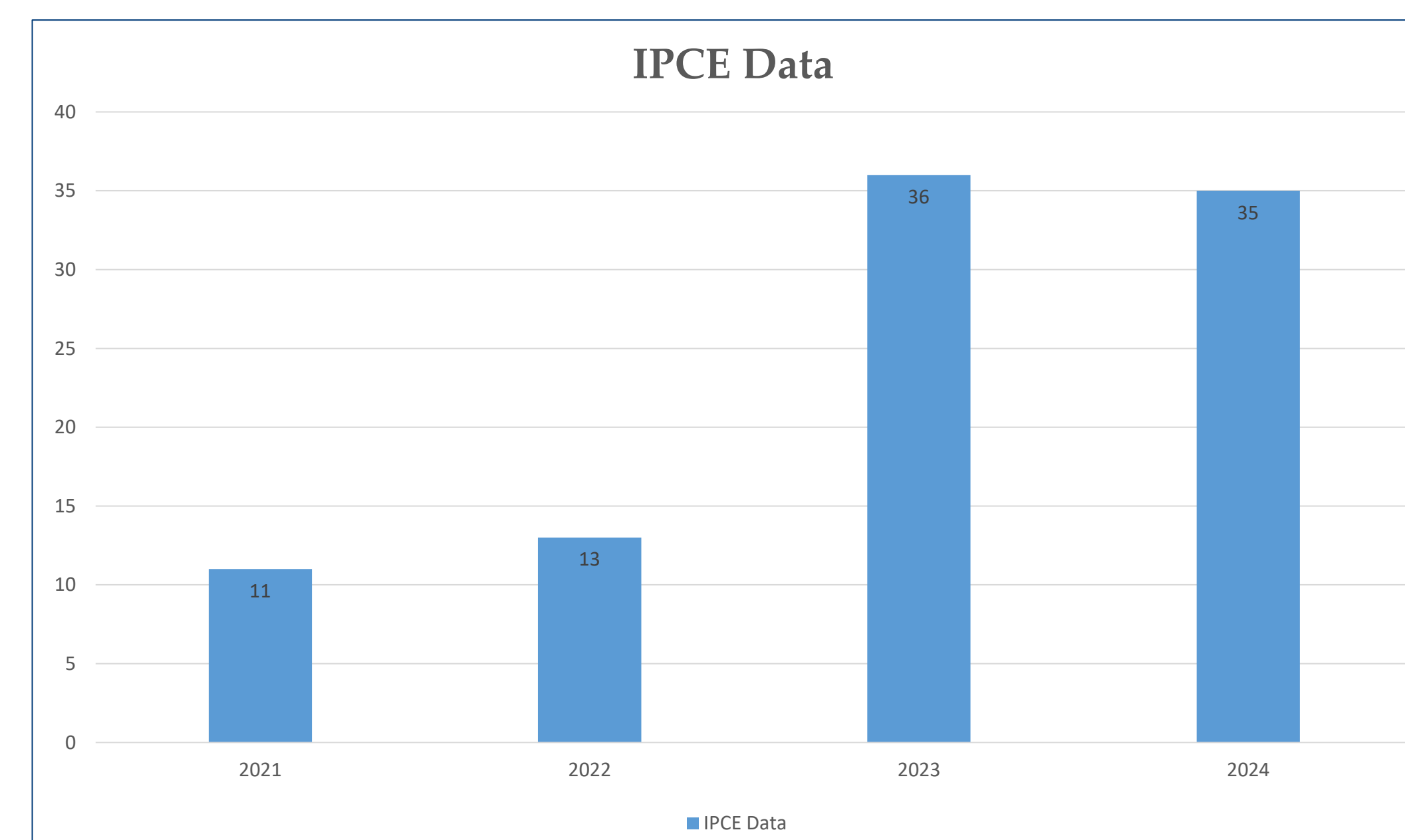


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INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

**Figure 1.** In support of improving patient care, Advocate Health is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

## Implications

- Comprehensive monthly data revealed significant increases in IPCE activities over a four-year period, with participation rising from 11% in 2021 to 35% in 2024.
- Since 2022, the organization experienced a 152% increase in IPCE attendance, indicating the tangible impact of the collaborative approach.
- Numerous IPCE activities geared towards State licensure requirements (Sexual Harassment Prevention, Implicit Bias, Cultural Competence), impacted this number.
- Evaluations reveal significant improvements in interprofessional communication, promoting teamwork, and strengthening trust and respect among professionals.



**Figure 2.** Illustrates IPCE activity increase over a four-year timeframe surpassing 25% JA standards.

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## Application to Other Settings

- The team advocates for continued integration of IPCE initiatives, emphasizing importance of inclusive learning environments centering on patient care to achieve organizational goals.
- Currently, Advocate Health is Joint Accredited for Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physician Assistant, Psychology, Social Work, and continues to examine opportunities for further growth and expansion across the enterprise.

## Lessons Learned

- Move beyond the ideology around what learning is or is not and that accreditation should not be a barrier.
- The Joint Accreditation criteria ensure that education is of high quality, outcome-driven, and free of bias and influence.

## Practical Takeaways

- To sustain the JA standard of 25% IPCE activities, educators are required to complete a form answering how education impacts the interprofessional team and patient care. This is then evaluated by learners.
- The IPCE activity results underscore the impact of interprofessional enculturation to reflect the target audience.
- The principles and strategies described in IPCE and achieving Joint Accreditation can be applied to other settings by focusing on key areas such as inclusivity and accessibility and strategic organizational goals such as collaboration and patient outcomes.

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