

NURSING RESEARCH: PIONEERING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

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Objectives

1. Explore nursing research as a pioneering agent of healthcare change
2. Discuss the role of nurses in the future of healthcare
3. Identify at least one concrete research goal moving forward



Central Premise

We can no longer afford to practice under the guise of “the way things have always been done” or anecdotal opinion. We need evidence (research data) to steer the way nursing is practiced.

- Largest academic community hospital in PA
- Largest Level 1 Trauma Center in region

~20% of employees are nurses (N = 2,334)



Cedar Crest



17th Street



Muhlenberg



Health Centers

NURSING RESEARCH

A pioneering agent of healthcare change

Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prophylaxis

- Medical unit experienced high rate of iatrogenic VTE events
- Nurses conducted a retrospective study to review patient charts for procedures and outcomes
 - Literature review was also conducted to determine best practices
- **The Peter & Holleran VTE method** has been adopted nationwide for mechanical and chemical prophylaxis
- Iatrogenic VTEs are a thing of the past

Nursing Work Environment & Missed Care

- A group of nurses noticed several missed nursing care opportunities
- They embarked on a line of inquiry to determine the relationship between teamwork and a healthy work environment and missed care
- RNs and unlicensed personnel provided rich data on the factors of interest
- A hospital-wide intervention was implemented to promote teamwork and a healthy work environment
- **Baker, Bernecker, and Pasquale changed staffing models** and are lauded across the nation for decreasing missed nursing care

Illness & Immobility

- The hospital budget is severely strained by patient complications secondary to hospitalization
- Nurses implement a study to identify predictors and modifiable factors associated with the issue
- Nurses, staff and patients are included in the sample to get an accurate assessment of on the ground concerns
- Key stakeholders are included in the development of an evidence-based mobility project
- **The Yatsko and Keesler Evidence-Based Mobility Program** is adapted around the globe and patient outcomes improve in hospitals worldwide

Everything Starts Somewhere

- Every aspect of our practice originated from someone's idea
 - Scales & inventories for patient assessments
 - Medication dosing and administration
 - Nursing care protocols
 - Documentation standards

LVHN Nurses *Can Be* the Somewhere

- Your discoveries shape the individualized care for your patients
- What you find may be applicable to other health issues and institutions
- You have the intellect, power and expertise to lead the next breaking discovery in wellness and health

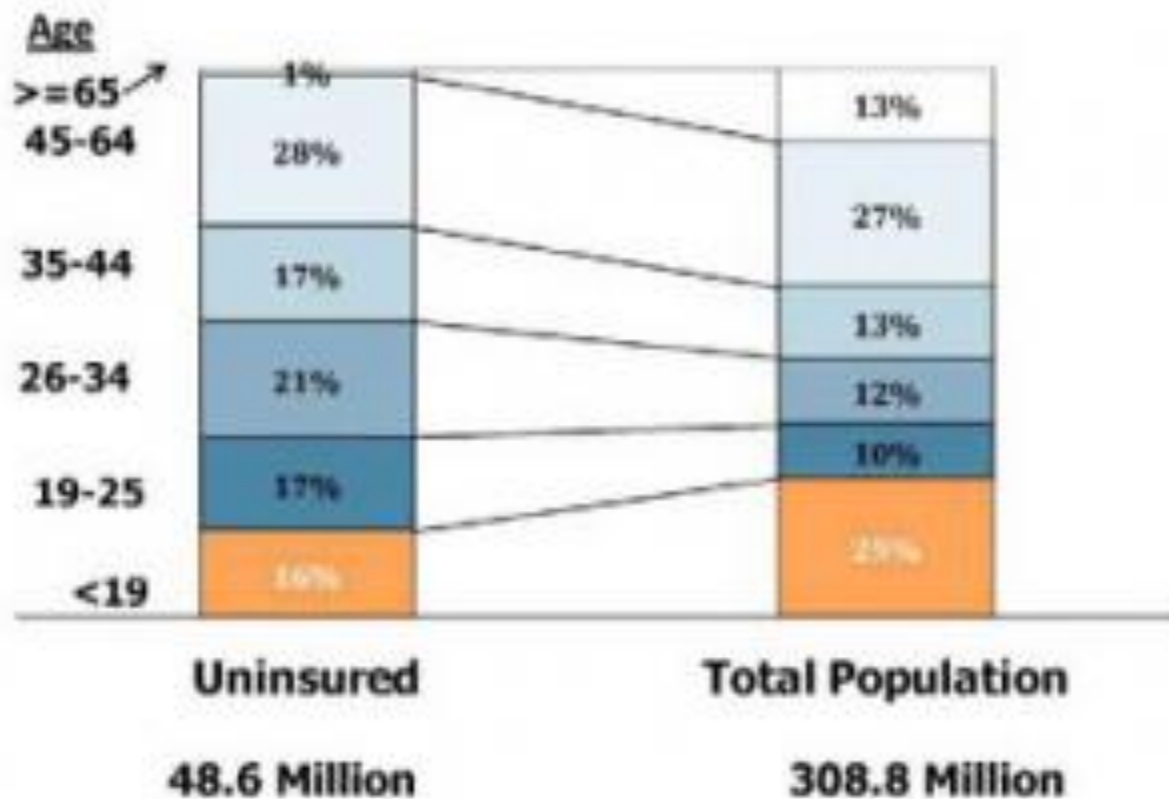
Don't despise small beginnings, one
"small" idea changes the course of
our lives

HEALTHCARE REFORM

We are the future of healthcare

The Canary in the Coal Mine

Profile of the Uninsured vs. Total Population by Age, 2011



Note: Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Income Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011*.

RWJF Report

- Scenario 2: Health If You Can Get It (“zone of growing desperation”)

Medicare and Medicaid experience severe budget cuts, most Americans are underinsured, medical tourism increases, epidemics spread and health and inequality worsen. The primary care physician shortage hurts community health centers, which struggle to treat many new patients who otherwise visit unreliable fee-for-service minute clinics. The public becomes highly fractured and disillusioned with the ineffectiveness of governance.

<http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/reports/2012/rwjf402050>

Why is this Important?

- We are at a pivotal point in the health of our nation
- **Healthcare changes are inevitable**
 - *We can either shape them, or be subject to them*
- Empirical data, to back our claims, can position our discipline to drive the future

You are the Experts!

- What needs to happen in your delivery of care?
- Your patients have unique needs, what are they?
- What can you do now to change the future?

FUTURE RESEARCH GOALS

Generating and implementing the evidence

“We need to adopt a culture of evidence-based administration, using models of nursing care delivery that are not based solely on cost saving, but have been evaluated on robust nursing research and supported by **reality testing from front-line staff** as well as nursing managers.”

~ Susan VanDeVelde-Coke

Reflective Moment: What patient care issue do you need to tackle through research?

Who will you partner with to make this happen?

Would additional training be helpful?

What resources will you need?

Let's End the Sibling Rivalry

Summary

- Nursing research is well positioned to be a pioneering agent of healthcare change
- Nurses have a clearly defined role in the future of healthcare
 - We can either accept the charge or remain passive agents in the system
- Your next idea could change patient care as we know it
- Don't wait for someone to get you started, begin today!

THANK YOU!

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