

Registered Nurse's Attitudes of Caring for Patients with Alcohol and Drug Abuse Diagnoses.

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Registered Nurses' Attitudes of Caring for Patients with Alcohol and Drug Abuse Diagnoses

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Background

- We chose this project due to the observations that the group had made during their time in the ED.
- There exists a need to further explore nurses perceptions regarding caring for this challenging population.
- Critical to this issue of quality patient care is the rising incidence of comorbid drug and alcohol abuse among hospitalized patients.
- Nurses are crucial in the identification and accessibility to treatment for people with substance use disorders.
- Under treatment for patient's due to stigma.
- Quality of care for our patient's would be improved with a lessened stigma .
- PICO question: Would the implementation of an anti-stigma program for nurses in the Emergency Department - when compared to not having an anti-stigma program - decrease stigma towards patients presenting to the ER who have substance use disorders or histories.
- P: ED registered nurses
- I: Implementation of anti stigma program
- C: No staff education
- O: Nurses who experience stigma towards substance abusers receive education on the topic and experience less stigma towards this patient population

Conclusion

- Our research shows that stigma's among ED nurses do exist when related to caring for patient's with substance use disorders.
- **Pre-survey results:** It was found that 80% of our ED staff feels that it is worthwhile to care for these patients and if they had the choice, they would care for them.
- However, 60% felt that they did not have sufficient resources to properly care for the patients.
- **Post-education survey results:** By giving out post survey to the same number of ED nurses that received our pre survey, it was found that our education and tips sheet did help the ED staff feel like they had increased access to the resources necessary to care for this patient population, improved from 60% to 68%.
- The education provided had a positive impact on the ED nurses as they feel they have increased access to resources.

Evidence

- In a study by Ana Gotay (2014), it was found that health professionals have a set mental attitude about substance abusers which appears to be part of their value and belief system which also prevails in society.
- An article in the Journal of Nursing Administration, research was done and the data analysis revealed that ethical duty to care, negative perceptions toward patients with substance abuse/dependence, need for further education, sympathy, and issues with pain management were themes found among nurses taking care of patient's with substance abuse.
- A study titled, "Stigma, Discrimination, and the Health of Illicit Drug Users", 85% of respondents reported that most people think someone who uses drugs is unreliable, and 84.5% report that most think drug users are dangerous.

Outcomes/Results

	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Discrimination Item – A	12%	80%	0.08%	0%
Acceptance Item – B	0%	0.04%	68%	28%
Item – C	44%	48%	0.08%	0%
Item – D	20%	60%	16%	0.04%
Attitude Item – E	0%	16%	80%	0%
Item – F	4%	20%	36%	28%
Item – G	4%	12%	68%	12%
Item – H	8%	20%	48%	24%
Training Item – I	4%	56%	36%	4%
Item – J	8%	68%	28%	4%

Methods

- Pre-survey, distributed to 25 ED RNs, which addressed ED nurses discrimination towards the substance abuse population, acceptance of the population, attitude towards the population, and training provided to staff to care for the population. Our goal of the pre-survey was to determine if a stigma exists among ED nurses towards substance use disorders.
- TLC Education including evidence found in our research.
- Post-survey, also distributed to 25 ED RNs to see how the education impacted the stigma among the ED nurses
- Tips sheet emailed to department to help the ED nurses have a resource to reference.
- Our objective was to assess health professionals' attitudes towards patients with substance use disorders and examine the consequences of these attitudes on healthcare delivery for these patients, which was included in the survey.

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