



Nursing students' attitudes towards the homeless: Implications for curricula

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DISCLOSURES

Conflicts of Interest and Disclosures: Neither the planner(s) or presenter(s) indicated that they have any real or perceived vested interest that relate to this presentation

Objectives:

Explore

- Explore the complex issues of homelessness in the healthcare system

Analyze

- Analyze empirical research and anecdotal reports related to overall negative attitudes towards those experiencing homelessness by healthcare professionals

Discuss

- Discuss best practice recommendations for integrating SDOH into nursing curricula, thus assessing and addressing attitudes towards the homeless.



OBJECTIVE #1

Explore the complex issues of homelessness in the healthcare system

Definition of Homeless?



On a single night, in 2022, approximately **582,500** people were experiencing homelessness in the U.S. (de Sousa, et al., 2022), as compared to 568,000 in 2019 (Henry et al., 2019)



Factors contributing to the complex issue of homelessness

- ★ Health disparities (Copeland, et al., 2020)
- ★ People who are poor have less access to health care and receive a lower quality of care (Jarrell, et al., 2014).
- ★ Negative attitudes, stigmatization, and stereotypes





Barriers

- ★ Negative attitudes perceived by the homeless population are barriers to obtaining healthcare

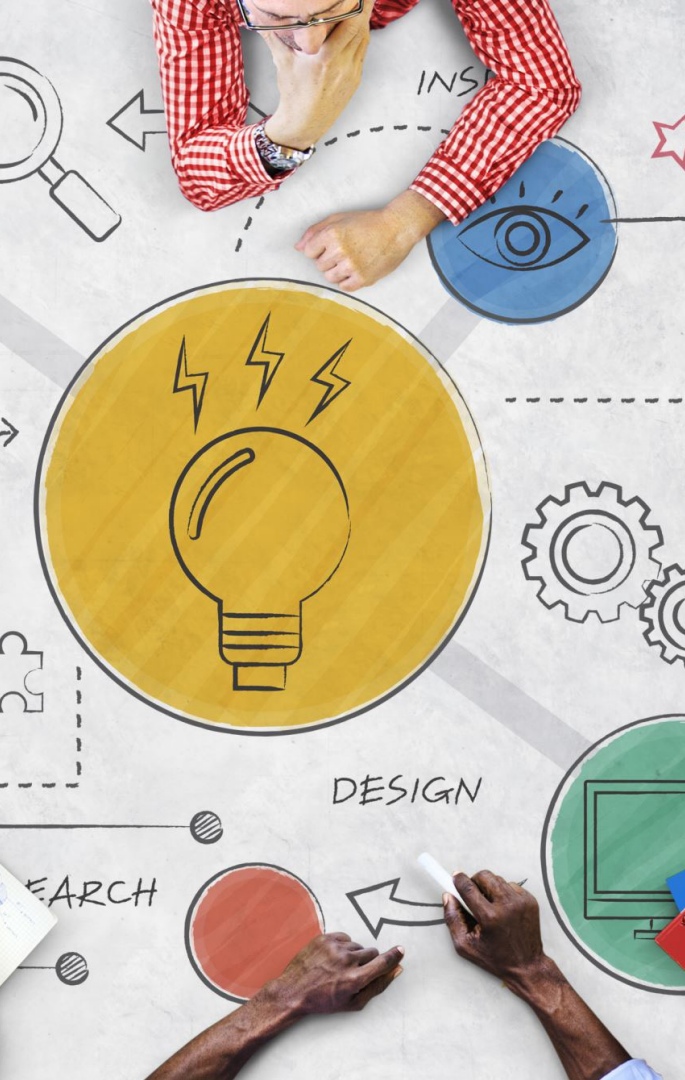
A word cloud featuring various terms related to medical malpractice and patient care. The words are arranged in a non-uniform, overlapping manner. The colors of the words include shades of green, purple, blue, and pink. The words are: nurses, humiliated, neglected, injury, treatment, irresponsible, thought, rushed, judged, provider, shamed, drugs, result, bias, substandard, care, seeking, illness, and behavior.

nurses
humiliated neglected injury
treatment
irresponsible thought rushed judged
provider shamed
drugs
result bias
substandard
care
seeking
illness
behavior



Objective #2

Analyze empirical research and anecdotal reports related to overall negative attitudes towards those experiencing homelessness by healthcare professionals



Methodology

- ★ Mixed Methods
- ★ Target Population
- ★ Participants

Research Questions

What are beginning nursing students, new graduate nurses, and nursing faculty' attitudes towards persons experiencing homelessness?

Are new graduate nurses' attitudes different from beginning nursing students' attitudes towards the homeless? Are new graduate attitudes different from nursing faculty attitudes towards the homeless?

What course assignments influenced new graduate nurses' attitudes towards persons experiencing homelessness from new graduate nurses' perspective and from the faculty's perspective?

Did new graduate nurses have any other experiences while they were a student that influenced their attitudes towards homelessness?

1 STRONGLY DISAGREE 2 DISAGREE 3 NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE

4 AGREE 5 STRONGLY AGREE

+

1. Homeless people are victims of circumstance.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Homeless people have the right to basic healthcare.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Homelessness is a major problem in our society.	1	2	3	4	5
4. Homeless people choose to be homeless. (Reversed scored)	1	2	3	4	5
5. Homeless people are lazy. (Reversed scored)	1	2	3	4	5
6. Healthcare dollars should be directed toward serving the poor and homeless.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I am comfortable being a primary care provider for a homeless person with a major mental illness.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I feel comfortable being part of a team providing care to the homeless.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I feel comfortable providing care to different minority and cultural groups.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I feel overwhelmed by the complexity of the problems that homeless people have. (Reversed scored)	1	2	3	4	5
11. I understand that my patient's priorities may be more important than following my medical recommendations.	1	2	3	4	5
12. Doctors should address the physical and social problems of the homeless.	1	2	3	4	5
13. I entered medicine because I want to help those in need.	1	2	3	4	5
14. I am interested in working with the underserved.	1	2	3	4	5
15. I enjoy addressing psychological issues with patients.	1	2	3	4	5
16. I resent the amount of time it takes to see homeless patients. (Reversed scored)	1	2	3	4	5
17. I enjoy learning about the lives of my homeless patients.	1	2	3	4	5
18. I believe social justice is an important part of healthcare.	1	2	3	4	5
19. I believe caring for the homeless is not financially viable for my career. (Reversed	1	2	3	4	5

Item	Beginning Nursing students: Mean score Range (1-5)	Beginning Nursing students: Standard Deviation	New Graduate Nurses: Mean Score Range (1-5)	New Graduate Nurses: Standard Deviation	Existing Faculty: Mean Score Range (1-5)	Existing Faculty: Standard Deviation
Homeless people are victims of circumstance.	3.54	.51	3.8	.63	3.68	.901
Homeless people have the right to basic healthcare.	4.58	.50	4.7	.95	4.63	.830
Homelessness is a major problem in our society.	4.25	.99	4.7	.49	4.63	.638
Homeless people choose to be homeless.	4.04	.81	3.7	.82	3.78	.809
Homeless people are lazy.	4	.66	4.2	.63	4.25	.852
Healthcare dollars should be directed toward serving the poor and homeless.	3.5	.78	4	.67	4.29	.638
I am comfortable being a primary care provider for a homeless person with a major mental illness.	4.08	.88	4.1	.57	3.49	1.16
I feel comfortable being part of a team providing care to the homeless.	4.42	.65	4.4	.52	4.35	.79
I feel comfortable providing care to different minority and cultural groups.	4.75	.44	4.7	.68	4.49	.58
I feel overwhelmed by the complexity of the problems that homeless people have.	3.13	.74	3.1	.99	2.79	1.07
I understand that my patient's priorities may be more important than following my medical recommendations.	3.67	.64	3.9	.74	4.36	.612
Doctors should address the physical and social problems of the homeless.	4.08	.72	4.2	.63	4.4	.62
I entered medicine because I want to help those in need.	4.75	.53	4.9	.32	4.53	.58
I am interested in working with the underserved	4.25	.74	4.3	.82	4.26	.71
I enjoy addressing psychological issues with patients.	2.25	.61	2.9	1.20	2.43	1.10
I resent the amount of time it takes to see homeless patients.	3.75	1.07	4.2	.63	4.18	.74
I enjoy learning about the lives of my homeless patients.	4.08	.72	4.20	.63	4.07	.70
I believe social justice is an important part of healthcare.	4.5	.66	4.50	.53	4.35	.80
I believe caring for the homeless is not financially viable for my career.	2.38	.78	2.30	.82	2.15	.88
Overall Mean/Standard Deviation	3.89	.27	4.04	.34	3.95	.31

Table 8

Mann-Whitney U Test New Graduate Nurses Versus Beginning Nursing Students (overall scores)

Total N	34
Mann-Whitney U	149.500
Wilcoxon W	204.500
Test Statistic	149.500
Standard Error	26.342
Standardized Test Statistic	1.120
Asymptotic Sig.(2-sided test)	.263

Table 9

Mann-Whitney U Test New Graduate Nurses Versus Nursing Faculty (overall scores)



Total N	82
Mann-Whitney U	307.500
Wilcoxon W	2935.500
Test Statistic	307.500
Standard Error	70.453
Standardized Test Statistic	-.745
Asymptotic Sig.(2-sided test)	.456



Correlate to Literature

1. Negative attitudes (including nursing Students)
2. SDOH are poorly addressed in healthcare curriculum
3. Service learning as an intervention (Reflection)
4. Simulation as a pedagogical tool
5. Nursing Faculty as role models

A close-up photograph of a person's hand and forearm. The hand is making a thumbs-down gesture, with the thumb pointing downwards and the other four fingers curled into a fist. The skin is light brown. The person is wearing a light gray t-shirt. The background is plain white.

NEGATIVE ATTITUDES

SDOH



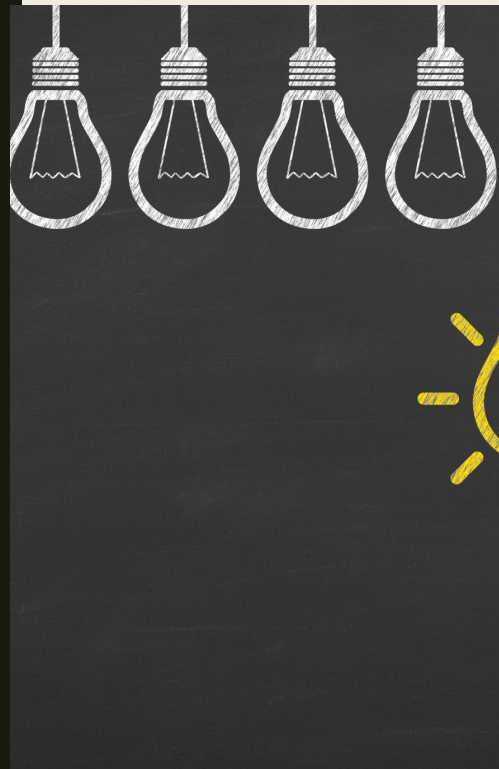
- ★ It is critical for faculty to understand the gaps existing in curriculum regarding vulnerable populations (Opalinski, et al. (2021).
- ★ Create new experiential learning experiences for students at all levels of education
- ★ NOT just a stand-alone course.

(Opalinski, et al. (2021).

Experiential Learning

Solely integrating SDOH into the didactic components has been ineffective in influencing attitudes among nursing students' and recommend experiential learning experiences as an effective teaching methodology.

Thornton and Persaud (2018)





SIMULATION



NURSES PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN SHARING BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDES



Objective #3

Discuss best practice recommendations for integrating SDOH into nursing curricula, thus assessing and addressing attitudes towards the homeless.

Medical and Allied Health

- ★ Emergency department
- ★ Homeless clinics
- ★ Police ride-along
- ★ Homeless shelter
- ★ Student-run free clinic (SRFC)





Experiential
(Simulation, digital
storytelling, service
learning)



Case studies

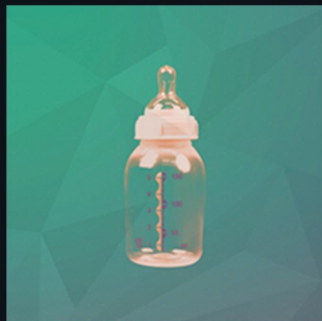


Intrapersonal
Assessment



Collaboration (IPE)

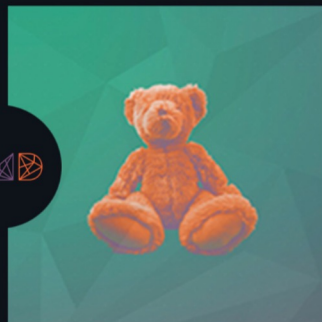
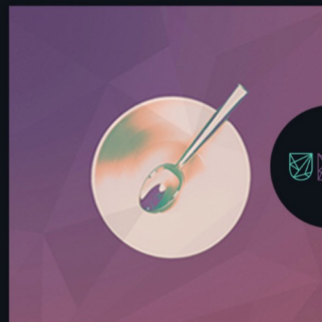
Nursing Studies



**IT'S JUST STUFF.
UNTIL YOU DON'T HAVE IT.**

USE YOUR NAME FOR GOOD AT
NAMESFORCHANGE.ORG →

CONTINUE TO →
SPENT





Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at

- ▶ gannonj@Moravian.edu
- ▶ [LinkedIn/in/Jacqueline-gannon-6a42908a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/Jacqueline-gannon-6a42908a)



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