Caring for the Poor: Analysis of Nurses’ Attitudes Toward Patients from the Culture of Poverty

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Implications for Practice

The purpose of this project is to assess the attitudes of nurses toward patients from the culture of poverty and to provide an educational intervention about poverty that may reduce bias.

Setting and Method

Setting and Sample
- 150 bed rural community hospital in Missouri
- 25 registered nurses

Method
- Quasi-experimental, cross-sectional pre/post survey design

Instrument
- Attitudes Toward Poverty Scale - Short Form (Yun & Weaver, 2010)

Educational Intervention
- Power point presentation: Caring for the Poor: Understanding and Advocating for Patients from the Culture of Poverty

Proposed Project

PICOT clinical questions:
- What are the attitudes of registered nurses toward patients from the culture of poverty?
- How does an educational intervention change those attitudes?

Problem Statement:
In the United States, 43.1 million or 15.9% of the population lived in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). It is important that nurses are aware of and understand their attitudes and biases toward poverty so they can positively affect delivery of care and outcomes for poverty patients.

Nurses cognizant of their own belief systems and bias provide patients with individualized culture based care. Understanding the culture of poverty allows nurses to intervene appropriately when judgmental comments are made by staff about patients.

Improved decision-making and health outcomes may occur when nurses build relationships of mutual respect with patients from the culture of poverty.