Nurses’ Willingness to Care for Patients With Opioid-Use Problems: Exploring Background, Personal, and Professional Predictors

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Background: In 2017, the United States declared the opioid epidemic as a national crisis in need of immediate attention. The health care system, with nurses at the center, has a major role in driving the response to the epidemic. Nurses’ low willingness to provide care to patients with opioid use problems is a major barrier to implementing preventive measures.

Purpose: To explore the background, personal, and professional predictors that may influence nurses’ willingness to provide care to persons with opioid use problems.

Methods: A descriptive-correlational design was employed, yielding a sample of 158 nurses from three hospital settings. Nurses’ background characteristics were measured using an investigator-developed questionnaire. Personal attitudes were measured using Familiarity, Perceived Dangerousness, Fear, Social Distance, and Personal Responsibility Beliefs subscales, and the Short Understanding of Substance Abuse scale. Professional attitudes were measured using the Modified Alcohol and Alcohol Problems Perception Questionnaire, and the Perceived Role Responsibility and Self-efficacy subscales. For background characteristics as predictors, hierarchical linear regression was used, controlling for demographic characteristics. For personal and professional predictors, hierarchical linear regression was performed controlling for demographic and background characteristics.

Main Results: The findings revealed that the background characteristics of Specialty and Workplace were significantly associated with nurses’ willingness ($F_{change}(4,149)=15.299$, $p<.001$) and accounted for an additional 28.8% of the variation in nurses’ willingness after controlling for demographic characteristics. The personal attitudes of Familiarity, Perceived Dangerousness, and Personal Responsibility Beliefs were significantly associated with nurses’ willingness ($F_{change}(7,141)=6.404$, $p<.001$), accounting for an additional 16.5% of the variation in nurses’ willingness after controlling for demographic and background characteristics. The professional attitude of Work Satisfaction was significantly associated with nurses’ willingness ($F_{change}(9,140)=22.116$, $p<.001$), accounting for an additional 41.1% of the variation in nurses’ willingness after controlling for demographic and background characteristics.

Conclusion: The findings from this study will be used as the foundation to develop interventions designed to target nurses’ willingness to provide care for this population in order to promote the transfer of opioid-acquired knowledge and skills into clinical practice.
Title:
Nurses' Willingness to Care for Patients With Opioid-Use Problems: Exploring Background, Personal, and Professional Predictors'

Keywords:
Nurses, opioid use and willingness

References:


Abstract Summary:
The opioid epidemic has reached crisis proportions. As the largest group of healthcare professionals, nurses are key in caring for patients with opioids-use related problems. Understanding background, personal and professional predictors of their willingness to work with this patient population may promote implementation of preventive measures into clinical practice.

Content Outline:
**Title:** Nurses Willingness to Care for Patients with Opioid-Use Problems: Exploring Background, Personal, and Professional Predictors
I. Introduction: A. Discuss the opioid epidemic in the United States

B. The role of nurses in addressing this crisis

Supporting evidence: In 2017, the United States declared the opioid epidemic as a national crisis in need of immediate attention. The health care system, with nurses at the center, has a major role in driving the response to the epidemic. Nurses’ low willingness to provide care to patients with opioid use problems is a major barrier to implementing preventive measures.

II. Body

A. Purpose: To explore the background, personal, and professional predictors that may influence nurses’ willingness to provide care to persons with opioid use problems.

B. Methods (include design, sample, setting, and measures used): A descriptive-correlational design was employed, yielding a sample of 158 nurses from three hospital settings. Nurses’ background characteristics were measured using an investigator-developed questionnaire. Personal attitudes were measured using Familiarity, Perceived Dangerousness, Fear, Social Distance, and Personal Responsibility Beliefs subscales, and the Short Understanding of Substance Abuse scale. Professional attitudes were measured using the Modified Alcohol and Alcohol Problems Perception Questionnaire, and the Perceived Role Responsibility and Self-efficacy sub-scales.

C. Main Results (displayed in the forms of tables and graphs): The findings revealed that the background characteristics of Specialty and Workplace were significantly associated with nurses’ willingness ($F_{\text{change}}(4,149)=15.299, p<.001$) and accounted for an additional 28.8% of the variation in nurses’ willingness after controlling for demographic characteristics. The personal attitudes of Familiarity, Perceived Dangerousness, and Personal Responsibility Beliefs were significantly associated with nurses’ willingness ($F_{\text{change}}(7,141)=6.404, p<.001$), accounting for an additional 16.5 % of the variation in nurses’ willingness after controlling for demographic and background characteristics. The professional attitude of Work Satisfaction was significantly associated with nurses’ willingness ($F_{\text{change}}(9,140)=22.116, p<.001$), accounting for an additional 41.1 % of the variation in nurses’ willingness after controlling for demographic and background characteristics.

III. Conclusions

A. The findings from this study will be used as the foundation to develop interventions designed to target nurses’ willingness to provide care for this population in order to promote the transfer of opioid-acquired knowledge and skills into clinical practice.

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Professional Experience: 2005-2008--1st & 2nd semester, First on Nursing Faculty, First on the University of Jordan. 2009-2011--MSN Full-Scholarship in the field of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, the University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan. 2014- present--PhD student at University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. Author or coauthor of 14 publications primarily relating to substance use issues. Recipient of numerous awards and scholarships such as the STTI rising star, Marianne Marcus Award; EPIC
scholarship; Ruth Perkins Kuehn Award for Doctoral Student; The International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA) Lois Widy Student Scholarship and the American Psychiatric Nursing Association (APNA) Board of Directors (BOD) Student Scholar. Recipient of a number of internal and external grants. Presented at numerous local, national and international conferences. Editorial Manager for the Journal of Addictions Nursing.

**Author Summary:** Khadejah is a PhD Candidate with various educational, leadership and research experiences. She has MSN in the area of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. Most of Khadejah's clinical and research experiences have been in the area of substance use disorders. Khadejah has currently 3 funded projects.

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**Professional Experience:** 2012-present--Professor, School of Nursing, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 2014-present--Professor, Graduate School of Public Health, Departments of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 2014-present--Professor, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 2004-present--Director, Center for Research and Evaluation, School of Nursing, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

**Author Summary:** Dr. Susan Sereika's area of research is statistics. The area of statistics that particularly interests her is the modeling and assessment of longitudinal data. She has collaborated as a co-investigator and statistician on a number of research projects with either intramural or extramural funding in the health sciences, many of which have targeted regimen adherence using multiple modes of monitoring.

**Third Author**
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**Author Summary:** Dr. Deborah S. Finnell is Professor and Director of the Master’s Nursing Program at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) School of Nursing. She has received funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to integrate screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment in the prelicensure and graduate nursing curriculum at JHU, and funding from American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) for an alcohol screening and brief intervention project for nurses.

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Author Summary: Karen pursued nursing and graduated from CCAC in May of 2015. She worked on a post-operative orthopedic unit at Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA for 3 years. Through the evidence based council, Karen became a research intern on two research projects. She currently works as a research coordinator at Hillman Cancer Center in the Lung Center.

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Professional Experience: Dr. Cipkala-Gaffin began her work in Mental Health following obtaining a Master’s degree in Psychiatric Nursing with a specialty in Consultation and Liaison from UCLA. She has worked in Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant in Los Angeles providing psychological support to patients, families and staff. Most recently she has worked at Western Psychiatric Clinics and Institute for the past 20 years with the Consultation and Liaison Service. She is a psychotherapist and focuses on women’s health. She also contributes to the psychological needs of patients and staff and consults on many mental health issues in her role as a Nurse Scientist.

Author Summary: Dr. Cipkala-Gaffin is a Nurse Scientist/ Epidemiologist/Board Certified Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, who is currently working in the Department of Nursing Education and Research at UPMC Shadyside. She has been involved in numerous research studies as a PI and Co-Investigator. She is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. Her research interests include fall prevention with technology interventions, hearing loss, delirium, cardiac rehabilitation, oncology, orthopedics and mental health.

Sixth Author
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Professional Experience: Dr. Dawn Lindsay joined the Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (IRETA) in April 2011. She completed her graduate work in clinical psychology at the University of Cincinnati in 2002 and as on the faculty in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh until joining IRETA. She has eight years of experience conducting NIDA- and NIAAA-funded research in the area of adolescent substance use disorders. She is a member of the American

**Author Summary:** Dr. Dawn Lindsay is the Director Evaluation Services at IRETA. In this capacity, she is the evaluator of the National SBIRT ATTC and oversees other research and evaluation activities at IRETA. Prior to joining IRETA, she conducted research on adolescent substance use disorders in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. She is a member of the American Psychological Association and American Evaluation Association.

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**Professional Experience:** Dr. Kathryn Puskar is a tenured professor and director of the master’s program in psychiatric nursing at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. She has conducted individual psychotherapy, group, and family therapies. Her major interests focus on mental health, depression, life transitions, schizophrenia, and coping methods. Dr. Puskar has over 100 publications including School Health, Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, Issues in Mental Health Nursing, Archives in Psychiatric Nursing, and The Nurse Practitioner. She was co-editor of a special issue on depression/suicide in The Journal of Child Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing. Her research has lead to numerous presentations. She serves on editorial boards and is a fellow of The American Academy of Nursing, of the National Academics of Practice, and Past President of The American Psychiatric Nurses Association. She is a recipient of the Pennsylvania Nightingale Award for Research and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Research Award.

**Author Summary:** Dr. Puskar is currently the PI of a HRSA-funded grant targeting substance use in rural populations. Dr. Puskar has published more than 150 papers in refereed journals, authored book chapters, and gathered several awards for her research. She is the past President of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, and a Fellow of the National Academies of Practice.

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**Professional Experience:** Scholarly interests: mental health outcomes research; bereavement following sudden, unnatural death specifically by suicide; complicated grief; SBIRT, and alcohol and other drug research. Teaching: in both the undergraduate and graduate education programs in psychiatric-mental health and cross-cultural healthcare nursing courses.

**Author Summary:** Dr. Mitchell is a professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. She is the Project Director on two HRSA-funded and one SAMHSA-funded grants designed to teach Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment to Registered Nurses, anesthesia students, and Nurse Practitioner students, respectively. Additionally, she is working with the CDC on two projects to incorporate Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention into nursing practice with the ultimate goal of preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.