

Influencing Undergraduate Nursing Student Attitudes on Older Adults

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PURPOSE

To determine BSN student attitudes toward older adults and whether gerontological nursing education affects those attitudes.

BACKGROUND

As the number of older adults increases, we will need more nurses

Education specific to the health care needs of this population should enable nurses to provide safe, quality care

- incorporation of attitudes about aging
- knowledge regarding the aging process
- increased complexity of these patients
- use of evidence-based practice (AACN, 2010)
- Focus on population increases
- Focus on complexity of care (NLN, 2011)

METHODOLOGY

Literature Review

Terms: “undergraduate nursing”; “baccalaureate nursing”; “nursing education”; “attitudes”; “student attitudes”; and “older adults”

Years: 2008-2016 Databases: CINAHL

Article references were reviewed for other articles that fit the search criteria.

Twenty-six (26) articles were identified

LITERATURE REVIEW FINDINGS

Limited evidence from studies

Nursing students don’t want to work with older adults

Nursing student attitudes vary throughout their education program

Education can influence attitudes

No clear predictors of best methods to improve attitudes were found

IMPLICATIONS FOR NURSING

Further research is needed

Challenge to determine the best way to positively influence attitudes

SELECTED REFERENCES

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2010). Recommended baccalaureate competencies and curricular guidelines for the nursing care of older adults: A supplement to the essentials of baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice. Retrieved from http://www.aacn.nche.edu/geriatric-nursing/AACN_Gerocompetencies.pdf

National League for Nursing (2011). Caring for older adults: A living document from the National League for Nursing. Retrieved from [http://www.nln.org/docs/default-source/about/nln-vision-series-\(position-statements\)/nlnvision_2.pdf](http://www.nln.org/docs/default-source/about/nln-vision-series-(position-statements)/nlnvision_2.pdf)

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