

Assessing Undergraduate Nursing Students' Knowledge of Elder Mistreatment



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Acknowledgments

- de Tornyay Center for Healthy Aging
- Maggie Baker, PhD, RN, Faculty Mentor
- Junior and Senior BSN Students
- Marty Lentz, PhD, RN, Consulting Faculty
- Family & SoN support



Problem

- Elder mistreatment (EM) affects 500,000 to 1.2 million persons aged 65-and-older annually in the US
- 65-and-over population increase from 12.4% in 2000 to 19.6% in 2030
- No national nursing curricular requirements for EM content—EM content has received the least amount of attention



Summary of Research Purpose

- To assess undergraduate nursing students' knowledge of elder mistreatment and to assess if additional instruction on this topic is needed within the undergraduate nursing curricula



Method

- Literature review
- Development of recruitment script, cover letter, 10 item anonymous questionnaire, and answer sheet
- Human Subjects Division approval
- Survey administration
- Data analysis
- GSA abstract submission



Elder mistreatment Questionnaire

The 10 item questionnaire addressed:

- Elder mistreatment definition
- Prevalence
- Most common victim, perpetrator
- Assessment skills and clinical applications
- Screening process—information to be obtained
- Domestic vs. institutional
- Underreporting cases
- Consequences



Demographics assessed

- Indicate your year in school.
 - BSN YR 1
 - BSN YR 2
- What is your age?
 - 18-25
 - 25-35
 - 35 or older



Demographics assessed

- Indicate your experience with elder mistreatment. (Circle all that apply)
 - Heard or read about it in popular media or literature
 - Heard or read about it during current course work or previous schooling
 - Clinical setting or work setting
 - Personal life
 - None



Demographics results

- BSN Student age groups
 - 18-25 (n=88)
 - 25-35 (n=57)
 - 35-or-over (n=18)
- Students' experience with EM
 - Popular media or literature (n=90)
 - Course work or previous schooling (n=78)
 - Clinical or work setting (n=45)
 - Personal life (n=14)
 - None (n=20)



Questionnaire results

167 total subjects

- Junior

- n=89 (Out of 98-100)
- Avg. score=50.9%
- Range=30-80%

- Senior

- n=78 (Out of 89)
- Avg. score=50.8%
- Range=30-80%



Questionnaire results

- Questions most frequently answered correctly
 - Definition of EM (n=166)
 - Assessment of EM victims (n=148)
 - Risk factors for long term care residents (n=117)
 - EM victim profile characteristics (n=116)



Questionnaire results

- Questions most frequently answered incorrectly
 - Likely explanation (theory) for EM (n=2 correct)
 - Most common perpetrator (n=18 correct)
 - EM prevalence (n=29 correct)



Conclusions and Next Steps

- Undergrad nursing students have partial EM knowledge deficit
- Results support inclusion of additional EM content in undergraduate nursing curriculum
- GSA abstract for 2005 annual meeting being reviewed
- Framework set for Honors Project



Contributions to My Education & Career

- Understanding of research process, including significance of HSD approval
- Confirmation of personal interest in nursing research opportunities
- Shaped subsequent research involving international sample population