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Factors that Affect Nurses' Perception of LGBTQ Patients

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Factors that Affect Nurse's Perception of LGBTQ Patients.: An Integrative Literature Review

Background

In 2018, about 4.5% of Americans identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ). A 3.5% increase since 2012 (Newport, 2018). Despite progress in equality legislation, the LGBTQ community still face significant barriers in accessing health care and discrimination from health care staff (Culley & Haigh, 2016). Because patient outcomes are highly correlated with nursing attitudes, it stands to reason that a nurse's negative attitudes towards the LGBT patient population will negatively affect LGBT patient outcomes (Puhl, Latner, King & Luedicke, 2014).



Purpose Statement

This literature review will explore ways to address nursing stigma towards the LGBT population to improve LGBT patient outcomes. This will be used to implement new strategies in the hospital and educational settings in order to change these attitudes and provide better patient outcomes in this patient population.

Conceptual Framework

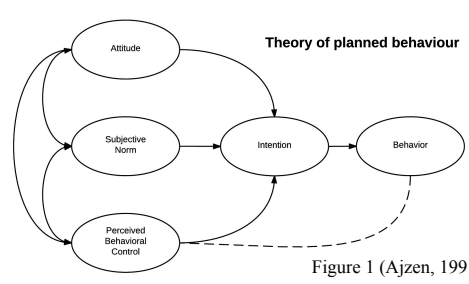
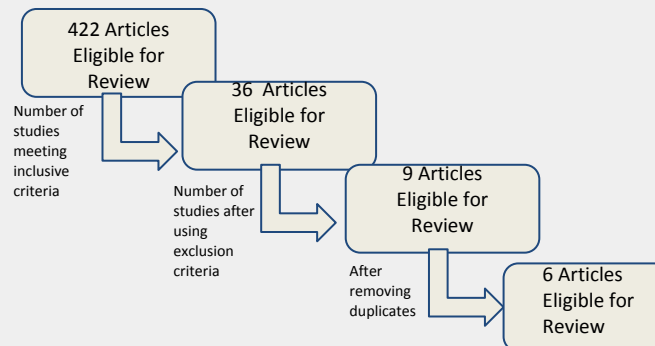


Figure 1 (Ajzen, 1991)

The Theory of Planned behavior is a theory developed by Icek Ajzen that links one's beliefs to one's behavior.

Methods

A computerized search of the literature was completed using Cumulative Index to Nursing and Health Literature (CINAHL), PubMed, and ProQuest Nursing. Multiple combinations of the following terms were utilized to search through the databases: LGBT patients, homosexual patients, transgender patients, sexual and gender minorities, nursing attitudes and nursing stigma. Articles were then selected based on criteria in a method outlined below.



Results

Themes pulled from literature:

Education:

Nurses who were education on LGBTQ health issues were more likely to have positive attitudes towards this patient populations. Nursing students who had LGBTQ health in their curriculum were more likely to have positive attitudes as well.

Introspection: Those who were more self-efficacious and who understood their own biases were more likely to have positive attitudes.

Environment: Hospitals who defied heteronormative practices also had nurses who had more positive attitudes towards the LGBTQ population. More exposure also lead to more positive attitudes.

Implications/Discussion

Nursing educators should ensure that LGBTQ topics are included in the curriculum of their nursing school. Topics should include LGBTQ health issues, and culturally sensitive care. Hospitals should also mandate continuing education that includes LGBTQ health care issues. Nurses should also take personal responsibility to reflect on their own personal biases towards the LGBTQ patient population.

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