

The vulnerable population: Impoverished

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Cultural competence is the integration and transformation of knowledge about individuals and groups of people into specific standards, policies, practices, and attitudes used in appropriate cultural settings to increase the quality of services; thereby producing better outcomes ” (Cultural competence in..., n.d.). This states that cultural competence is being able to acknowledge your own culture so you can learn and be mindful of other people's cultures. The first step in being efficient in cultural competence is identifying your personal beliefs. In the healthcare field such as nursing, cultural competence is very important to the overall outcome of the patients well being. When you are a nurse, you encounter people from the entire world and everyone is different. Being knowledgeable about other cultures makes patients feel more comfortable and can affect their overall experience and health. Cultural competence is not only being knowable about different people but also vulnerable populations such as impoverished people.

Having a low income has a major impact on the quality of a person's health status. “Life expectancy, learning abilities, health behaviors, and risks for developing the disease are affected by poverty, as are educational, work, and lifestyle opportunities” (Poverty and Health, n.d.). These are all ways that having limited material affects a person's health status. When you are caring for a person with limited resources, the nurse has to be extremely sensitive to effectively plan the care for the patient. Some patients may not have homes to go to or enough money to change their diets as needed so a nurse has to work around what's best for the patient. Although these populations of people are very vulnerable, people may still have different views about them.

I feel very in debt to the people that are impoverished and are not able to afford certain care or be knowledgeable on certain health conditions. I feel that certain things like water, housing, and healthcare should be free to the public because it is basic human needs. I feel that delivering healthcare to the homeless and improvised populations should be a priority in the healthcare field. To me, the

vulnerable populations are put on the back burner and only focus more on people that can afford healthcare insurance. I honestly would volunteer and work for free to make sure these set of people get what they need. A piece of an object like money should not get in away of rather a person lives a short or long life.

In conclusion, cultural competence is very important in the healthcare field. When you are knowledgeable about other cultures than the patient outcome and health status are more positive. Cultural competence also includes vulnerable populations such as impoverished people. When a person does have adequate financial support, it can affect their life expectancy because of the lack of education and early diagnoses. Overall I feel that impoverished people should be our priority.

References

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