

**Vulnerable Populations APA Paper**

Alyssa Brooks

Lakeview College of Nursing

N314: Introduction to Professional Nursing

Brittany Lawson, MSN, RN, CMAC

October 21, 2021

"I have neither given nor receive, nor will I tolerate others' use of unauthorized aid."

### **Vulnerable Populations APA Paper**

In 2021, nursing is a diverse workforce, not only for the nurses but also for all different cultural forms of client care. It is imperative that nurses must be able to acquire cultural competence within the workplace. Cultural competence is a life-long learning process that all cultures must be accounted for, and no culture is superior to another (Hood, 2018). Working as a nurse requires interactions with unfamiliar cultures, and it is the nurse's responsibility to respect, learn, accommodate, and recognize one's own bias toward different cultures. There are specific populations, called vulnerable populations, susceptible to unfair treatment based on improper cultural competence.

One specific vulnerable population are unborn children. This population includes an embryo and a fetus that has not yet been born. The unborn child is often overlooked because many individuals only focus on the mother's care and not the child inside who does not have a say in his or her healthcare needs. Nurses' ethical role is to preserve all human life to the best of their abilities. Another ethical role is to give clients the right to autonomy. These two ethical roles fight with each other when induced abortion comes into play. My role as a nurse, and the nursing profession as a whole, is to promote social justice for unborn children. This position as a nurse is compromised due to these two ethical roles fighting against each other for which one is superior in client care. In the nursing profession, induced abortion questions whether the mother or the unborn child is the client. I do have bias for both sides of the induced abortion debate. I believe that every unborn fetus should have the chance of life; however, there are particular circumstances where I do not think this is true. These circumstances are rape, low fetus viability, failure to thrive, or a mother's medical emergency. I believe the biggest reason for my bias is due to the fact that I personally have struggled with fertility issues, and I would have been grateful to be able to adopt a child if I could not have any of my own. Disability is a big topic on whether or not the child will have a failure to thrive. I have seen firsthand that this is just not true while working as a childcare worker for a disabled child for years. According to Florian and Rubeis (2018), empirical

studies and parents who raise a child with disabilities show that disabled children do not always have failure to thrive.

The vulnerable population of the unborn child is a nurse's responsibility to be culturally competent when caring for these clients. In different parts of the United States, induced abortion is seen as a mother's right to autonomy. As nurses, we have to respect that choice if it is legal in the state they are working. In other parts of the United States, induced abortion is illegal after a specific gestation. It is crucial to know cultural competence and understand diverse cultural views to provide the best client care possible in the nursing profession. Nurses have to know that those vulnerable populations cannot speak for themselves, and we have to speak up for those clients.

### References

- Florian, S., & Rubeis, G. (2018). *A burden from birth? non-invasive prenatal testing and the stigmatization of people with disabilities*. <http://doi.org/10.1111/bioe.12518>
- Hood, L. J. (2018). *Leddy & pepper's professional nursing* (9th ed.). Wolters Kluwer.