

Vulnerable Populations APA Paper

Vulnerable Populations: Homeless Population

Kate Dominguez

Lakeview College of Nursing

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Shelby Bosh

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“I have neither given nor receive, nor will I tolerate others’ use of unauthorized aid”.

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When someone thinks about nursing, there are ton of things that can come to their mind. It brings up the tasks that are preformed on the daily and all of the different specialties, but also how you never know what may happen that day. In nursing, they must be able to adapt very quickly and be able to change your plan of care as rapidly well. The vulnerable population I will discuss is the homeless/impoverished population.

When discussing the homeless or impoverished, there are many different aspects and topics that can be discussed. I think about how they get their food, where they go when it's winter or severe weather, how lonely they feel, and what happens if they need medical attention. With that, they will have different needs than someone with access to a doctor whenever required. With nursing, you will need to be able to adapt to anything that is thrown at you. One of the ways is understanding cultural competence. According to Hood (2022), "a developmental process that builds continuous increases in knowledge and skill development in the areas of cultural awareness, knowledge, understanding, sensitivity, interaction, and skills" (p. 289). With that, it shows that cultural differences can alter the plan of care very quickly, and you need to understand to provide the best care method. Communication is huge and necessary in health care, but it also includes being culturally competent. Tulane University (2021) stated, "Differences between healthcare providers and patients can affect communication. This can, in turn, impact both clinicians' and patients' decisions regarding treatment... When healthcare providers fail to recognize their differences and their patients, they may inadvertently deliver lower-quality care. Cultivating skills that improve cross-cultural communication can play an important role in providing equitable care" (para 5). In health care, many different factors and necessities go into the plan

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of care. Being culturally competent can help prevent any mistake that may occur if someone is not culturally competent.

In the homeless/impoverished populations, there are many unique needs that people may not realize. One thing is their health care is not taken care of. Most of the time, they do not have the opportunity to receive the healthcare they need since they do not have the money to do so, but also, they do not have insurance, most likely. The idea of the possible bill scares them away and defers them from trying to receive the care they need. Unfortunately, this is a life-or-death situation in some cases. Some other needs of this population would be clothing. If it is during the colder months, they would be exposed to colder weather, which may result in health issues, especially if they do not have the correct clothing for the weather. There are many needs for the homeless population, but they do not have access to them most of the time.

When this population does attempt to receive health care, you may never know what you're about to encounter. Being culturally competent is especially important at this moment. Being culturally competent allows you to provide the best possible care and make patients more willing to receive the help they need. These populations may be uncertain about receiving care as they may not be able to afford it or even keep up with the upkeep, depending on the health issue. According to National Coalition for the Homeless (2018), they stated "Diseases that are common among the homeless population include heart disease, cancer, liver disease, kidney disease, skin infections, HIV/AIDS, pneumonia, and tuberculosis ... People who live on the streets or spend most of their time outside are at high risk for frostbite, immersion foot, and hypothermia, especially during the winter or rainy periods" (NHCHC, Para. 5). With being their health care provider, you want to make them as comfortable as possible and provide the best care.

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I would not mind providing care to this population. With me going into health care, I need to be able to provide care to anyone who needs it. That may be the homeless, a criminal, or a regular person. Everyone will need care throughout their life, but when going into health care, you need to be okay with providing that care to them. I would still offer the best possible care to that population as they deserve it just like everyone else. I would not go into nursing if I were not okay with delivering care to whoever needed it.

Overall, being in the medical field, you will come across different populations. You will need to be okay with providing care to all people and comfortable giving the best possible care. Knowing cultural competence will help prevent any barriers that may arise and also help make them more comfortable in difficult situations. Even the homeless population they do deserve the best care possible and deserve access to health care.

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References:

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