

**Attitudes Toward Patients with Substance Use Disorders: Literature Review**

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Substance use disorders (SUDs) present a significant challenge for healthcare worldwide. Patients with SUDs often are faced with a stereotype and discrimination. This treatment can come from healthcare professionals, hindering access to appropriate care and contributing to an adverse health outcome. Nurses, often the frontline providers, are crucial in caring for individuals with SUDs. Therefore, it is essential to understand a nurse's attitude toward patients with SUDs and research interventions that can help improve those attitudes. The review aims to analyze the impact of educational workshops on nurses' attitudes toward patients with SUDs. Researching existing literature can help assess the effectiveness of educational interventions in promoting positive attitudes among nurses and healthcare professionals, reducing the stigma, and enhancing the quality of care provided to patients with SUDs.

### **Nursing Attitudes Toward Patients with Substance Use Disorders: A Quantitative Analysis of the Impact of an Educational Workshop**

Nurses' attitudes towards patients with substance use disorders can vary based on an individual's perspective and experiences. Historically, there has been a stigma and judgments associated with SUDs. Some nurses hold negative attitudes and judgments toward patients struggling with addiction. This attitude leads to bias and sometimes a lack of empathy when providing quality care to patients. Education and training addressing SUDs positively influence nurses' attitudes (Jackman et al., 2020). By increasing one's knowledge and understanding, nurses can develop a more compassionate and empathetic attitude to provide adequate care to patients struggling with SUDs.

## **Key Points**

Data collection from the Drug and Drug Problems Perceptions Questionnaire was used to assess nurses' attitudes toward patients with SUD (Jackman et al., 2020)—the twenty-two-question questionnaire provided measurable data on how nurses viewed a stigmatized condition. The study subjects included nurses from a psychiatry department in an urban hospital. The data showed that education and training specifically address substance use disorders and can positively influence nursing attitudes. The study found that nurses understood the need to provide the appropriate treatment and support to help their patients (Jackman et al., 2020). Overall, the training program showed the stigma associated with SUDs and that healthcare professionals' attitudes changed after education and training.

## **Assumptions**

The study provides evidence of undergoing an educational training program to improve attitudes toward treating patients who suffer from SUDs. The change would then be implemented into practice after the educational experience has ended. The motivation of a nurse needs to be increased in order for a positive outcome to make an impact on patients. The author's overall findings are the effect of an educational training workshop on nurses' attitudes toward patients with SUDs (Jackman et al., 2020). Would educational training programs significantly change patient outcomes and how to treat patients with other stigmatized conditions? Future researchers now have the potential to expand the findings and outcomes.

### **Deficit/Conclusion**

The article's reasoning is the importance of noting that one's attitude toward patients with SUDs can vary among nurses as an individual. The attitude can be from their own experience and perspectives (Jackman et al., 2020). The Drug and Drug Problems Perceptions Questionnaire helped bring light to how nurses truly see those with SUDs. The author's reasoning is acceptable and shows great promise for the future. The overall trend is to recognize addiction as a disease, promote non-judgmental care, and advocate for support and treatment for those who suffer from SUDs (Jackman et al., 2020). Nurses need to recognize patient advocacy and support. Understanding and acknowledging those who suffer from SUDs is essential to provide the appropriate treatment and care on the patient's path to recovery. Not accepting this line of reasoning could have a significant impact, but further research on the extent of nurses' attitudes toward SUDs would be beneficial.

### **An Exploration of Emergency Physicians' Attitudes Toward Patients With Substance Use Disorder**

The article's authors include Mendiola, Galetto, and Fingerhood, who researched the perceptions, bias, and stigma of emergency physicians when treating individuals with SUDs. The article highlights the impact on the quality of care provided by emergency physicians (Mendiola et al., 2018). There is significant data about healthcare professionals' attitudes toward patients with SUDs. However, only some studies have specifically looked at emergency department physicians and their attitudes toward patients with SUDs. The article provides others with valuable insight for developing strategies and interventions that can enhance healthcare experiences and outcomes for individuals with SUDs in emergency settings.

## **Key Points**

Data collection from an anonymous Qualtrics survey was used to examine the attitudes of emergency physicians toward patients with substance use disorders (Mendiola et al., 2018). The Qualtrics survey provided measurable data that explores the complex dynamics between healthcare providers and patients with SUDs, highlighting the potential impact of physicians' attitudes on the quality of care delivered. It delves into the underlying factors contributing to these attitudes, such as lack of training, limited resources, personal experiences, and social stereotypes. The study subjects included emergency physicians who work at John Hopkins Health System. The study found a significant response in emergency physicians that prefer not to work with patients with substance use who have pain (Mendiola et al., 2018). The overall finding was that physicians have a lower regard for patients with SUDs than any other medical condition.

## **Assumptions**

The study provides evidence of how emergency physicians perceive and treat their patients with SUDs. The research identified helps future research in physicians treating and acknowledging the disease (Mendiola et al., 2018). Individuals with SUDs are more likely to use the emergency departments frequently; thus, emergency physicians are put in unique positions to provide early identification and interventions for those struggling with addiction (Mendiola et al., 2018). The article revealed that physicians had a lower regard for patients with SUDs than other medical conditions with behavioral components. The research also indicated that fifty-four percent of emergency physicians prefer not to work with patients with substance use (Mendiola et al., 2018).

## **Deficit/Conclusion**

The study aims to establish how emergency physicians think about patients with SUDs. The Qualtrics survey concluded that many of the s emergency physicians had low regard for patients with substance use disorder. The reasoning is vague, so the authors emphasized the need for future research to identify the contributing factors. The author also emphasized the need to develop interventions to lessen the negative attitudes among emergency physicians toward patients with SUDs (Mendiola et al., 2018). Not accepting the number of physicians who prefer not to work with patients who have SUDs could significantly impact the patients. With future research and interventions, the attitudes toward patients with SUDs will decrease the stigma and improve patient outcomes with those seeking care in the emergency department.

## **Faculty, Staff, and Student Perceptions of Substance Use Disorder Stigma in Health Profession Training Programs: A Quantitative Study**

The article aims to investigate the perceptions of faculty, staff, and students regarding the stigma associated with substance use disorders within health professions (Barenie et al., 2023). This study uses quantitative research to gather its data and analyze the responses. The study's findings provide insight into the prevalence of the stigma within health profession training programs and its potential impact on students (Barenie et al., 2023). Researchers aim to raise awareness about the negative consequences of the stigma and advocate for interventions and policies that promote a more supportive and inclusive environment for individuals with SUDs. The article develops a deeper understanding of how faculty, staff, and students interact and communicate with an individual with SUDs (Barenie et al., 2023).

## **Key Points**

Data collection from a self-administered survey from February 2021 to March 2021 is analyzed to determine the impact of care provided to individuals with SUDs. The survey participants included students, faculty, and staff from six health-related colleges at one Mid-South health science center in the United States. The article assessed if the respondents know someone with a SUD, where or if there are interactions with the individual, the most common challenge, perceptions of SUDs, and how comfortable one is continuing a relationship with the individual. The study indicates that the stigma around SUDs determines how individuals who suffer from substance use are perceived and treated. The study discovered a decreased willingness to seek treatment out of fear or shame. Individuals not seeking care also impact how healthcare professionals treat and care for their patients. Research has shown how individuals perceive people with SUDs can change over time (Barenie et al., 2023).

## **Assumptions**

The article provides in-depth interventions tailored toward improving communication in academic healthcare training settings (Barenie et al., 2023). These interventions could minimize the challenges experienced by faculty, staff, and students when interacting with individuals with SUDs. The potential impact that tailored communication training could have on an individual's behavior is clear, and the research highlights a need for such training programs (Barenie et al., 2023). Research suggests such training interventions should be tailored to their specific audience, considering their role on the healthcare team. The article aims to establish an intervention to improve communication skills and minimize challenges when caring for people with SUDs (Barenie et al., 2023).

## **Deficit/Conclusion**

Research from the article determines a need to show an understanding of SUDs and the stigma within health professional training programs. It highlights the need for educational institutions to address the issues to ensure the well-being and success of faculty, staff, and students. The research agrees with existing research links to the stigma associated with SUDs to a lower quality of care (Barenie et al., 2023). The article analyzed the data to find that training programs and ways to communicate with those who have SUDs could significantly improve patient outcomes and minimize the stigma. The study shows that discrimination toward individuals with SUDs significantly declines after healthcare professionals undergo a training program (Jackman et al., 2020). Accepting a program from a research article could be the key to eliminating the perception of people with SUDs.

## **Conclusion**

The literature review emphasizes the importance of understanding and addressing healthcare professionals' attitudes toward patients with SUDs. Patients are more likely to seek and adhere to the appropriate care when they feel understood, respected, and supported (Mendiola et al., 2018). By increasing knowledge and awareness of SUDs, healthcare professionals can appropriately treat their patient's needs, leading to better patient experiences and outcomes (Jackman et al., 2020). By conducting research studies and evaluating the impact of educational interventions, healthcare institutions can implement effective training programs. Addressing attitudes toward patients with SUDs is essential for transforming healthcare. A supportive and inclusive environment makes healthcare workers better equipped to deliver patient-centered care (Barenie et al., 2023). Doing so contributes to reducing the stigma

associated with SUDs. Educational interventions, training programs, and tailored communication strategies can significantly impact patient outcomes, nursing practices, evidence-based practice, quality improvement efforts, and the healthcare system. By promoting empathy, respect, and comprehensive care, healthcare professionals can reduce the stigma, enhance the quality of care, and support individuals with SUDs on their path to recovery.

Improving all healthcare professional's attitudes toward patients with SUDs can lead to better patient outcomes. By promoting non-judgmental care, empathy, and patient advocacy, nurses, emergency physicians, students, faculty, and staff can establish trusting relationships with their patients, which is crucial for effective treatment and outcomes.

The information reviewed in the articles helps nursing practice establish ways to improve care. Educational interventions play a vital role in shaping the nursing practice. These interventions can translate into improved communication, assessment, and care planning, improving patient experiences and outcomes (Jackman et al., 2020). Nurses posing positive attitudes toward individuals with SUDs have become more effective in their nursing practice.

The literature review highlights the importance of evidence-based practice and quality improvement efforts. By conducting research studies and evaluating the impact of educational interventions, healthcare institutions worldwide can use the evidence to support implementing effective programs (Ochoa, 2022). This evidence helps address attitudes toward patients with SUDs and the development of training programs. Overall, this will improve the quality of care provided to patients with SUDs.

Fostering a supportive and inclusive environment within health professions and addressing attitudes toward patients with SUDs is vital for transforming healthcare. Professionals can be better equipped to deliver person-centered care to individuals with SUDs which

contributes to reducing the stigma associated with SUDs and promoting a holistic approach to addiction treatment (Holmboe et al., 2022). Improving attitudes also aims to overcome barriers to care, increase treatment accessibility and reduce the burden of SUDs on healthcare systems. Data collection from the research articles help understand the effects of implementing training and education programs and how it improves patient outcomes.

### References

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