

Vulnerable Populations Paper

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Cultural competency can have multiple different meanings depending on the type of view and subject you are referring to. For example, there can be cultural competency within nursing, social work, education, etc. It just depends on which subject you apply it to. Cultural competency is “the ability to understand and interact effectively with people from other cultures” (Preemptive Love, 2020). Within the nursing field, Western Governors University describes it as, “Cultural competence in nursing encompasses a nurse’s capability to engage with patients who come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds where healthcare may be a challenge due to economic disparity, religious background, societal complications, and other potential barriers to care” (“Cultural Competence in Nursing,” 2021). In a simpler way, it’s the ability to work and engage with patients of different sexualities and cultural backgrounds.

It’s important to have cultural competence because it will allow you to take care of your patient with the highest degree of care and do it effectively (Deering, 2022). It can also allow your patient to feel comfortable about you which then can lead to deeper connections (Deering, 2022). That itself can make you a better nurse. The importance focuses on health equity through patient-centered care. It allows the patient to be their full selves.

Caring for incarcerated individuals can be different but the nursing principles should never change depending on their background. People have many different opinions when it comes to incarcerated individuals. In the healthcare environment, I believe that everyone should receive care if they need it, no matter what is going on. Everyone deserves to receive care if they are ill. Nurses should look past their crimes when they are providing care. “Incarcerated persons have higher rates of mental illness than the general public, especially depression, mania, and

psychotic disorders. Mental illness can contribute to criminality” (Roscoe, 2023, para 2). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services discusses a study that has shown people of both sexes who are incarcerated are more likely to have high blood pressure, cancer, asthma, and infectious diseases (U.S Department of Health and Human Services, n.d.). It appears to me that the incarcerated need more attention when it comes to their health. I personally want to be the best nurse I can be, and I know that establishing a nurse-patient relationship is what will help me succeed when providing care to an incarcerated person. Most people seem to have hate towards them, so to be a nurse that gives them a space to be comfortable is my goal.

Personally, I can't decide if I would want to know the crime of the individual, I am providing care for. I think I could go back n forth between yes or no. The reason I would want to know is because knowing their background could help prepare me before providing care. On the other hand, it wouldn't really matter to me whether I know or not. Like I said before, I just want to do what I practiced, and that is to be a nurse. I want to provide care to whoever needs it regardless. I don't believe that they should be treated any different when it comes to healthcare. I switch the roles and think of it that way, I would want to be treated properly.

References

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