

Journal 3: Mental Health Clinical

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When thinking about the arena of mental health nursing, there are many different issues that arise. The ethical or legal issue that stands out to me most pertaining to the mental health world is the lack of beds that are supplied in 2019.

According to an article by the National Alliance on Mental Health, 1 in 25 people in the United States will experience a serious mental health issue every year (NAMI, 2019). With this amount of people facing the need for mental healthcare, the shortages of beds that are occurring on psychiatric units is astounding. Referring to a statement made by the Treatment Advocacy Center in an article I read, they recommend forty to sixty beds per one hundred thousand people (Ollove, 2016). With that being said, the average beds that are supplied in the United States is 11.7 (Ollove, 2016). These citizens are being neglected of proper psychiatric care and oftentimes have to go to the ER. The ER is not always equipped for the mental health patients that need care.

When reflecting back on these numbers and statistics, it saddens me. The lack of beds and care across the board is something that needs to be acted upon as soon as possible, in my opinion. Mental health is an issue that most people are not educated on resulting in mental health not getting adequate funding that is needed. Mental health is an issue that many people face and should be able to get the help they deserve. It is evident that our nation is making so many medical advances but still lack the correct funding and resources to deal with the rise in mental health illnesses.

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