



Objectives

01

02

03

04

Nurses

Patients Who Use Substances in the Hospital Setting

Recommendations For Health Care Organizations

Future Research Directions



Nurses'
Attitudes
Towards
PWUS in the
Hospital
Setting

Substance Use, The Hospital, and its Significance

Compound with the possibility of causing social and wellbeing harm, addiction ¹ Alcohol, marijuana

Heroin, crack/cocaine

Oxycodone

2019- 2021 Death by overdose increased by 50%; alcohol increased 18% ²

15% active in their substance use journey ³

High risk behaviors^{4,5}

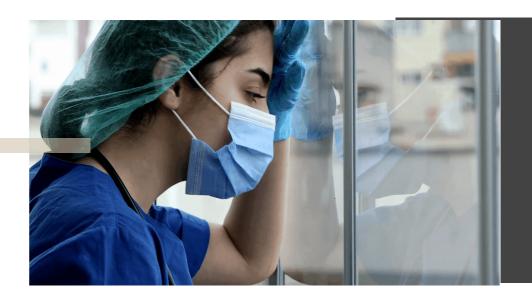
Adverse health outcomes ⁶

Why nurses?

- 1/29 Regulated Health Professions in Ontario ⁷
- Largest group of health professionals worldwide; 59% of the workforce 8
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Recognition
- Intervention



Nurses' Attitudes - What Are They?



NEGATIVE ATTITUDES

- 1. Low motivation, low satisfaction 10, 11, 12
- 2. Increased frustration, increased emotional drain 10, 11, 12
- 3. Problematic, disruptive and rude 13,14
- 4. "Waste of space", "something we have to deal with" 13,14
- 5. Personal safety concerns 10, 13, 15

Rationale For Nurses' Negative Attitudes

Substance use is an individual choice ^{15, 16}

Abstinence as the foundation to success in hospital 3,5

Personal views, attitudes, beliefs ^{3,5}

Lack of knowledge of determinants of substance use

Nurses, all facets

Patients, risk and Opportunity 13

Lack of organizational policy and/or procedure(s) 5,12,16

Environment of uncertainty, informa policies ⁵

How Can Organizations Help (1)?

Professional Development Opportunities

EDUCATION 16,19,2021,211

Current state, less academic, high risk patients, storage, and disposal, withdrawal management

CULTRUAL SAFETY TRAINING 23,24

Decrease stigma and discrimination
Applicable to local context, impacts of historic and ongoing colonialism



How Can Organizations Help (2)?



Implement organizational policy and/or procedure(s)

Interprofessional, lived experience

Minimize/exclude punitive approaches

Harm reduction philosophy



Patient Views on Treatment by Nurses'



Bad, demanding, non-compliant people ^{26,27}

"Frequent flyers" ^{26,27}

"lunkies" 26,27

Unprofessional Interactions

Stigma/discrimination ^{28,29}

Ignorance of comments/concerns ^{24,28,29}

Denial of care and/or pain management 4,5,29

Over-surveilled 5,24



Homelessness



Higher rates of substance use

17-30 times higher rates of overdose ^{30,31}



Decreased access to care

Increase repeat ER visits, hospitalizations ³²



Increased mental health concerns

Re-admission 33

Income

DECREASED INCOME



HIGH RISK BEHAVIOUR 34

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE



PATIENT NEEDS 34,45

1% INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT



INCREASED 3.6% DEATH RATE + 7% ER VISITS ³⁶

How Can the Organization Help?

Housing

- 1. Connections with community partners 35
- 2. "Housing-first" philosophy 36
- 3. Social work to aid 35

Income

- 1. Social work to decrease financial burden 35
- 2. Aid with medications, government identification ³⁵

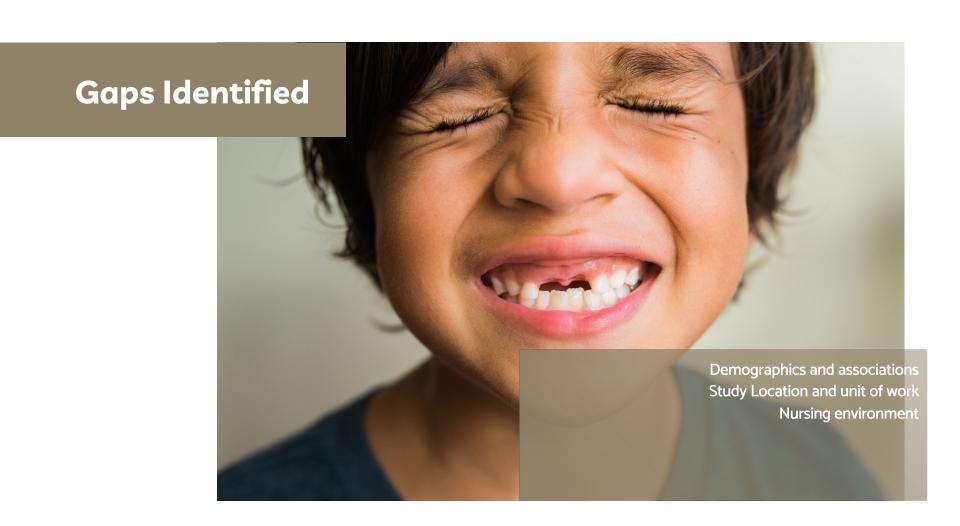
Educate nurses 37

Screen for SDoH! 37, 38



Is It Over Yet?





QUESTIONS?

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