

The Relationship Between Nurses' Attitudes Toward Preventive Care and The Utilization of Community Health Services.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined how nurses' attitudes toward preventive care relate to the use of community health services in Mandaluyong City. Using the Theory of Planned Behavior as a kind of guide, the research aimed to figure out what community nurses think about preventive care, and to determine the actual utilization of preventive health services in the community setting. A quantitative descriptive-correlational research design was used. 39 Community Nurses participated, data gathered through a structured questionnaire. It measured nurses' attitudes based on the cognitive, affective, and behavioral aspects, it also captured the level of utilization of community health services. The data analyzed relied on descriptive statistics, weighted mean, standard deviation, and Pearson Correlation. The results showed that the respondents had positive attitudes toward preventive care, with an overall mean of 3.67. This indicates a strong agreement with preventive health practices. On the other hand, the utilization of community health services was also high, with an overall mean of 3.57. As the result, there was a low positive but still significant relationship between the nurses' attitudes toward preventive care and the utilization of community health services, ($r = 0.28$, $p = 0.02$). In other words, nurses who hold more favorable attitudes toward preventive care are more likely to support, push, and even promote the use of community health services. The study therefore concludes that nurses' attitudes matter in improving preventive healthcare delivery. It is recommended that continuing professional development programs and supportive institutional policies be strengthened to further promote positive attitudes and improve community health service utilization.

Keywords: *preventive care, nurses' attitudes, community health services, community nursing, preventive health, service utilization*

INTRODUCTION

Healthcare has increasingly shifted its focus away from only treating illnesses and toward preventing them before they even happen. Preventive care, which covers immunization, health education, disease screening, family planning, and services for mothers and children, this really matters for strengthening community health and lowering the overall disease burden. Health care was available in all in communities across the Philippines. Nurses, are key provider to the community, their primary role is to educate, counseling, implementing public health programs, and in the process they shape how community members see and actually use the health services that exist. One of the factor that relates to

prevention of illness is the positive attitude of the healthcare members, however, this study aims to fill the gap in relation of attitude of nurses' towards preventing care.

Statement of the Problem

This study sought to examine the relationship between nurses' attitudes toward preventive care and the utilization of community health services in selected communities. Specifically, it aimed to answer the following questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of community nurses in terms of age, sex, educational attainment, length of service, and training related to preventive care? (2) What is the level of nurses' attitudes toward preventive care in terms of cognitive, affective, and behavioral dimensions? (3) What is the level of utilization of community health services for preventive care as perceived and reported by community nurses? (4). Is there a significant relationship between nurses' attitudes toward preventive care and the utilization of community health services? (5) What program can be proposed based on findings?

Scope and Delimitations

The scope of this study focused in examining the attitudes of nurses, towards preventive care and utilization of community health services, The respondents are from the local city of Mandaluyong, who are currently employed as community health nurse, while the delimitation of this study are those who are only in the community, hospital employed nurses and other healthcare providers within the city is not included, furthermore this study only focuses solely in the variable of relationship of attitude and preventive care in the community, other factors such as organizational structure and patient response is not included.

Review of Related Literature

Preventive care is the main responsibility of community nurses, because it helps promote people's well-being and prevents diseases from getting serious. With health education, different screening steps, immunization, and community outreach programs, nurses end up helping public health in a very direct way. In Iriarte-Roteta et al. (2020) it is stated that nurses have an important part in health promotion and disease prevention, and also that their attitudes toward those tasks matter, because it changes how effectively those activities get done. If they maintain positive attitudes, people are more likely to engage in preventive care and community health initiatives.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored in the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991), which suggests that an individual's attitudes and perceptions influence their intentions and actions. In this study, the theory explains how nurses' attitudes toward preventive care may affect their participation in health promotion activities and their utilization of community health services.

Conceptual Framework

The framework focuses on the Input-Process-Output model: Input represents the demographic profile; Process refers to the relationship between nurses' attitudes toward

preventive care and their utilization of community health services. Nurses who have positive attitudes toward preventive care are expected to be more actively involved in health promotion and disease prevention activities,

METHODOLOGY

A quantitative research design was used to assess nurses' attitudes toward preventive care in community health services.

Research Design

This study employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design to determine the relationship between nurses' attitudes toward preventive care and their utilization of community health services. According to Creswell and Creswell (2023), correlational research examines the association between variables without manipulating them. This design was appropriate for identifying whether nurses' attitudes are related to their use of community health services in a real-world setting.

Research Steps

The study followed a systematic process that included identifying the research problem, reviewing relevant literature, and using the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991) as its foundation. After securing the necessary approvals and observing ethical standards, a validated questionnaire was administered to 39 community nurses, and the collected data were analyzed using appropriate statistical tools.

Date Collection and Sample Selection

Ethical principles were followed, and approval was obtained from the Board of Ethics and the City of Mandaluyong to conduct a study among employed community nurses. The participants volunteered for the study. The electronic survey questionnaire was posted on social media platforms exclusively for Nurses in Mandaluyong and was to be answered within 2 weeks. In total, 39 nurses took part in the study. The nurses were chosen for their direct involvement in delivering preventive healthcare services, such as health promotion, disease prevention, health education, immunization, and other community-based programs.

Data Analysis Methods

The collected data were verified, organized, and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools to address the research objectives. Frequency and percentage were used to describe the respondents' demographic profile, while weighted mean and standard deviation were computed to assess nurses' attitudes toward preventive care and the utilization of community health services. Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient (Pearson r) was used to determine the relationship between the two variables, with a significance level set at 0.05.

Research Hypotheses and Validation

Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient (Pearson r) was used to test the relationship between nurses' attitudes toward preventive care and the utilization of community health services. The results showed a low positive but statistically significant

relationship ($r = 0.28$, $p = 0.02$), leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis and indicating that nurses with more positive attitudes toward preventive care tend to demonstrate greater utilization of community health services.

Study Limitations and Ethical Considerations

The study complied with the Ethical protocols of the school and institution. The study underwent review by the Legal Counsel of Mandaluyong, and consent was obtained prior to conducting the study to ensure the privacy of individual nurses who participated in the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study revealed that community nurses were predominantly female, aged 30–39 years, held a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, and were mostly in the early stages of their careers, reflecting a competent and developing workforce in community health practice. Findings showed that nurses demonstrated highly positive attitudes toward preventive care, as evidenced by their commitment to health promotion, patient education, and active participation in community-based health programs. The level of utilization of community health services was high, with immunization, tuberculosis management, and communicable disease control identified as the most frequently implemented programs, highlighting nurses' significant contribution to improving community health outcomes. Furthermore, a statistically significant low positive relationship ($r = 0.28$, $p = 0.02$) was found between nurses' attitudes and service utilization, supporting the proposed program, *"Strengthening Preventive Care Uptake Through Nurse Capacity Building and Community Engagement,"* to further enhance preventive care delivery and community health services.

SUMMARY

This study examined the relationship between community nurses' attitudes toward preventive care and their utilization of community health services. The findings showed that the respondents generally had positive attitudes toward preventive care and reported a high level of participation in community health services. A significant positive relationship was found between the two variables, suggesting that nurses with more favorable attitudes toward preventive care are more likely to engage in community health activities. These findings emphasize the important role of nurses in promoting preventive healthcare and support the need for continuous education and professional development to strengthen community health service delivery.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, community nurses demonstrated positive attitudes toward preventive care and reported a high level of utilization of community health services. The study also found a significant positive relationship between these variables, indicating that nurses' attitudes influence their involvement in preventive healthcare activities. These findings emphasize the importance of fostering positive attitudes among nurses to strengthen community health services and improve health outcomes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that community nurses continue to strengthen their competencies in preventive care through ongoing professional development, evidence-based practice, and participation in continuing education programs. Enhancing nurses' knowledge and attitudes toward preventive care may further improve the utilization of community health services.

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AI DECLARATION STATEMENT

AI-supported tools helped with grammar and structure in creating this article. No AI tools were used to collect, analyze, or interpret data; all authors are credited for their academic contributions.

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