

Canadian Undergraduate Nursing Students' Experiences with Learning Indigenous Health

Background

The purpose of this study is to better understand undergraduate nurses' experiences in learning about Indigenous health. This will determine what changes are needed within nursing education locally and across Canada. Implications for nursing education, research, practice, policy, and leadership will be drawn to provide pragmatic suggestions in improving Indigenous health status and outcomes. A qualitative study will be conducted using critical ethnography and semi-structured interviews to determine facilitators and barriers to learning about Indigenous health.

Methods

Critical ethnography will be utilized to examine 12 nursing students from four different Schools of Nursing on their experiences. A thematic analysis will be conducted to elicit current methods of learning about Indigenous health. Facilitators and barriers will also be presented to argue for nursing curriculum reform and broader implications for nursing programs.

Results

Little research exists on the learner's experiences of Indigenous health. Barriers and facilitators from learner's perspectives presented will allow for critical discussion. This will assist ongoing initiatives to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Report (2015) – Calls to Action #23 and 24.

Discussion & Conclusions

This paper will discuss various methods to approach Indigenous health education in nursing curriculums. It will conclude with recommendations to further advocacy work for adequate representation and value of Indigenous voices and perspectives within Canadian Schools of Nursing.

Interdisciplinary Reflection

Concepts from this study will draw from a diverse range of interdisciplinary knowledge including Social Sciences, Education, and First Nations Studies. Drawing from multiple disciplines will demonstrate the need for greater interdisciplinary approaches in understanding and improving Indigenous health.

Keywords: Indigenous health, Nursing, Critical Ethnography, Nursing Students Experience, Nursing Education