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Emergency department nurses experiences with screening for IPV: Implications for nursing education

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Although health care providers are encouraged to screen for intimate partner violence (IPV), most studies have indicated that routine screening does not consistently occur. In the United States, 20 people per minute are victims of IPV. Women who are victims of violence have a 50% higher rate of using the ED services and up to a 21% higher rate of primary and specialty care visits than patients without a history of IPV. A study that explored the connection between women who were murdered by an intimate partner and previous contact with the health care system, identified that out of the 34 homicide victims, 44% of those women had encounters with health care providers in the ED. The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore the experiences, views, and perceptions of RNs working in the ED with regard to screening for IPV. Most of the nurses indicated a lack of clinical preparedness through their formal educational experiences, or through hospital in-services, in address screening for IPV. This presentation will focus on how the experiences shared by the RNs in screening for IPV were incorporated into the development of assessing and addressing victims in a nursing education curriculum as well as the implications for nurses' to be involved in the development of policies implemented in the ED which focus on addressing victims.

Biography

Theresa M Fay-Hillier has completed her Doctorate in Public Health at Drexel University's School of Public Health; Master's Degree in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Holy Family University. She is a Board Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She was a Co-leader of a homicide bereavement group for families at the City of Philadelphia Office of the Medical Examiner. She has presented at both national and international conferences on issues related to intimate partner violence, harm-reduction strategies in addressing individuals addicted to opioids, and implementation of collaborate simulation experiences into nursing programs. She has also Co-authored several peer reviewed articles and is Co-editor of a textbook on child maltreatment. She traveled to Bolivia to provide consultation and education to judges, prosecutors and forensic psychologists to enhance the evaluation of sexually assaulted children and teens and to explore strategies for successful prosecution of the offenders. Her focus of research in obtaining her DrPH at Drexel University's School of Public Health was related to health care providers' experiences in addressing IPV.

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