

Abstract

This Doctor of Nursing (DNP) project focused on the problem surrounding the rising trend in patient aggression and violent incidents in an acute psychiatric setting. The purpose of the study was to identify the need for a change in policy and practice in order to prevent workplace violence in healthcare settings toward nurses, as well as to improve knowledge, awareness, and to implement a safety plan. The methods used in this study included a collaboration between nurses and key constituents to introduce the DNP project including planned strategies for safety intervention implementation. A pre-knowledge safety plan survey was given to the nursing staff and the results were used to plan trainings and in-service material regarding the new safety plan and policies. During the evaluation of the safety plan intervention outcomes, the results were determined by reviewing charts, post knowledge surveys, and data analysis interpretations. The results of the intervention indicated an increase in nurses' knowledge and awareness of the safety plan by 17% while incidents of violent behavior in patients reduced by 2%. In conclusion, the comparison between the nurses' pre-and post-intervention reviews showed an increase following the education intervention, and it resulted in a decrease in patients' violent behavior. Therefore, through changes in safety plan and policies, nurses gained insight to safely handle patients' violent behavior.

Keywords: safety, safety policy, aggressive and violent behavior, mental illness,