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Article Critique

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The article has provided a good title that succinctly suggests the key variables. The variable provides a significant view, and roadmap the paper will follow. The independent variable of the article is work schedule characteristics and nurse staffing. At the same time, the dependent variable is patient mortality. Furthermore, the population talked about are nurses.

Abstract

Abstract plays a critical role in enhancing the strength of research by providing a clear and concise summary. The article has provided an excellent abstract by presenting background information about the topic, stating the study's objectives to determine if work schedules in nurses affect patient mortality as well as the problem statement derived from the objective and method of the study. Also, in the discussion, the authors have presented results and conclusions showing work schedule is significantly related to mortality when hospital's characteristics and staffing levels are controlled.

Introduction

The introduction is stated precisely, and easy to identify the used elements. Therefore, this makes it possible to recognize the problem. The problem discussed in the introductions concerns the low nurse staffing leading to decreased patient results. A persuasive argument is built in the new study because the issue was explored more using the data gathered from several past studies expressing the detailed information to comprehend the effects of low nurse staffing in health facilities. The problem has a direct significance in nursing because it tends to portray the impact of extending nurses' work schedules. Some of the causes presented include

performance deterioration and fatigue to nurses due to high job exposure demands and inadequate recovery periods.

The research problem and the paradigm utilized in the article have a perfect match because the absence of time from the job is an element that is frequently associated with death. Similarly, the study's method is the cross-sectional design to integrate data from several health facilities. After comparing the data, results are obtained and analyzed the essential work schedule mechanisms that impact nurses. The quantitative approach used in the study was suitable because it assists in defining the research problem by using trends and examine work schedules relative to patient outcomes.

Hypothesis or Research Question

The study has clearly stated the hypothesis, and it emphasized the reasons that led to patient mortality. Therefore, they concluded that the nurse's performance decline affects patient outcomes. The hypothesis is appropriately worded, but the research question is not stated. This makes it clear with the stipulations of the main variables. The hypothesis is also consistent with the literature view and conceptual framework because they have followed the resolve of increased patient mortality in hospitals with experienced nurses complaining of aggressive work schedules.

Literature Review

The literature review is on current sources and also uses primary sources. The majority of the sources used in the review of literature are between 2-10 years. Furthermore, the review delivers a state-of-the-art statistical examination of the collected data, which comprises univariate and descriptive evaluations. Also, up-to-date sources utilization makes the new study's

foundation because evidence concerning the association between elements in the study is provided.

Conceptual/ theoretical framework

The study has described and demarcated vital concepts such as staffing data, work schedule, and mortality. Also, the conceptual framework created in the study revolves around the nurses' occupied situations influences with medical healthcare organizations patient results. There is a theoretical framework in the study as it is grounded on the balance theory that is a systematic method envisioned to measure hospital-level situations. Therefore, the researchers found out that nurses' performance is significantly impacted, resulting in adverse patient results. This makes the framework suitable for the research problem as it provides a vibrant distinction between the two.

Methods

Protection of human rights

The study used data collected in a survey done in 2004. Therefore, the authors followed procedures correctly to protect participants' rights. Although nurses and hospitals participated in the research, the authors did not mention which hospitals and nurses participated hence protecting their privacy such as names, age, and workplace. The research also was designed to reduce risks and enhance benefits to participants. They considered that quantitative research design usually utilizes studies such as experimental, survey, and correlation research. The study was advantageous to participants as nurses may have reduced schedules hence minimizing the risks to patients.

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Research design

The research design utilized in this study is cross-sectional design. The purpose of the task is to realize presence of augmented patient mortality in healthcare organizations where nurses grumble at increased work schedules. Moreover, the cross-sectional design effectively explains disease explanation, analysis and production, and recitation of disease procedures and instruments. The authors made suitable comparisons to ensure interpretability, including patient mortality and nurses' schedules. Also, the collection points for data used in the study were ideal. It included data from patients and hospitals across seventy-one acute care health organizations in Illinois and North Carolina. The data collected was also combined with data obtained from a survey of six hundred and thirty-three nurses in the organizations selected. Notably, data from acute care did not reduce threats and partialities because it only included data from non-federal hospitals. Furthermore, the study had a limitation of comprising nurses' participants who had more education than others, and teaching healthcare organizations were only involved in the study. Lastly, blinding was not utilized as concealed information got no exposure.

Population and sample

The authors described the population involved in the study, and it included nurses in non-federal hospitals. The population is explained in appropriate detail because it included all nurses who had over one year of experience and operated at a non-federal hospital. However, they did not provide information concerning the range of age of nurses. The sample design used for the sample representative was not the best. They only needed to meet the requirements stated above; this created more biases because, among the five thousand questionnaires sent to the nurses, an average of 2624 nurses responded to the questionnaires. The sample size was not adequate as it included only one population of nurses working in non-federal hospitals. If they could have included federal hospital nurses' then maybe the results could be different.

Data collection and Measurement

The definitions involved in the study were consistent—both the operational and conceptual definitions aligned with the task. The authors provided variables through the survey data obtained in 2004, and one of the sources used in data collection was the American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals. The methods are justified as it presented twelve working schedules projectors developing eight independent elements indicating that instruments such as patient outcome, work schedules and condition and mortality are explained adequately. Again, the data provided were valid and reliable, considering that the elements measured were unique in helping nurses and organizations understand the healthcare job's challenges. Also, the administrators can restructure their nurse's schedules to ensure improved patient care.

Procedures

The procedure used in this case came up with 12 schedule items in creation of 8 independent components. The procedure was rigorously developed as well as implemented and there was no evidence of intervention infidelity. Finally, the data was not collected in a manner that reduced bias as only a portion of them responded to the questionnaires. No training is offered in this case as the task was to fill in the questionnaires.

Results

Data Analysis

The analysis addressed all the hypotheses because the statistical information was delivered through the analysis segment and tables. The analysis provided the answers based on the objective of the study. Suitable statistical methods were utilized, and the study used predictive analytic software. Also, confounding variables were controlled well, such as the

association between nurses' schedules and patient mortality was explained by the binomial logistic model and with generalized estimating equations methods. The type I and type II errors were minimized using the predictive analytic software and generalized estimating equation (GEE). Furthermore, the GEE used a pairwise deletion to indicate missing values being examined was suitable.

Findings

Statistical information is presented, and this indicates that the study was done efficiently. Nevertheless, information concerning accuracy of estimates is not delivered. However, they limited the use of nurse survey data regarding the scheduling information being self-reported. Meta-analysis is also enabled with appropriate information.

Discussion

Interpretation of the Findings

Most of the data was interpreted and discussed within the study's context and based on prior research. For example, the paper started by presenting previous studies finding that nurse staffing is associated with patient mortality. There were no causal inferences in the study. The interpretations were well developed and constant because the augmentation in inpatient mortality was a big concern due to fatigue. There was an issue of generalizability in the findings due to bias in participants based on acute care.

Implication

The authors explained the implications of the study and presented them clearly and comprehensively. They encompassed the design utilized and the limitations of the study.

Moreover, the authors stated that the study used both predictors and results on data obtained in 2004; thus they now accept the evaluation of the time-based sequence of the forecasters and results.

Global Issues

Presentations

The study has followed all the requirements of a quantitative research design, and this has enabled it to be of quality based on organization, well-informed, and critically examined. The study is also vibrant and succinct for practicing nurses providing tables presenting statistical examination of several pieces of research accomplished.

Researcher Credibility

The authors need to have experience and the best qualification for researching as it adds to the assurance of the results and elucidations. Therefore, administrators can now realize that antagonistic work schedules tend to enhance medical errors due to fatigue from nurses, which leads to increased patient mortality.

Summary Assessment

The study results are valid and reliable, regardless of the limitations presented. I say this since the evidence and statistics have comprehensively been offered, making me confident with the findings. The authors gave evocative proof that can yield positive results in the nursing field because the problem has been realized. An increase in nursing staff is required to reduce adverse nursing schedules hence reducing inpatient mortality. Furthermore, providing a better working environment for nurses leading to improved patient care.

Reference

Trinkoff, A. M., Johantgen, M., Storr, C. L., Gurses, A. P., Liang, Y., & Han, K. (2011). Nurses' work schedule characteristics, nurse staffing, and patient mortality. *Nursing research, 60*(1), 1-8.

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