

Exploring the Effectiveness of Advanced Nursing Practitioners in Improving Healthcare Access in Underserved Populations

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Opinion

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INTRODUCTION

Underserved populations face significant barriers in accessing quality healthcare services, resulting in health disparities and poorer health outcomes. Advanced Nursing Practitioners (ANPs) have emerged as a valuable resource in addressing these challenges. This research article aims to explore the effectiveness of ANPs in improving healthcare access for underserved populations. By examining the roles, responsibilities, and impact of ANPs, as well as the barriers they encounter, this article highlights the positive contributions of ANPs in enhancing healthcare access and outcomes in underserved communities. Access to quality healthcare is a fundamental human right, yet many underserved populations face significant barriers in obtaining timely and appropriate healthcare services. Underserved populations include individuals who experience financial limitations, lack health insurance, live in rural or remote areas, belong to minority groups, or have limited English proficiency.

These populations often suffer from health disparities and poorer health outcomes due to limited access to healthcare services, resulting in increased morbidity and mortality rates. Addressing healthcare disparities and improving access to care require innovative approaches and a multidisciplinary healthcare workforce. Advanced Nursing Practitioners (ANPs) have emerged as a crucial component of the healthcare workforce, playing a vital role in enhancing healthcare access for underserved populations^[1-3]. ANPs, including nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists, possess advanced education and training that enables them to provide comprehensive, evidence-based care.

DESCRIPTION

This research article aims to explore the effectiveness of ANPs in improving healthcare access in underserved populations. By examining the roles and responsibilities of ANPs, as well as the barriers they encounter, this article highlights the positive contributions of ANPs in enhancing healthcare access and outcomes in underserved communities. The findings of this research can inform healthcare policymakers, administrators, and providers on the value of ANPs in addressing healthcare disparities and shaping healthcare delivery models. The roles and responsibilities of Advanced Nursing Practitioners (ANPs) are crucial in improving healthcare access and outcomes in underserved populations. Through their advanced education and training, ANPs are equipped with the knowledge and skills to provide comprehensive, evidence-based care, and assume expanded responsibilities beyond the traditional nursing role. This section discusses the significance of ANPs' roles and responsibilities in enhancing healthcare access for underserved populations.

ANPs, such as Nurse Practitioners (NPs), play a vital role in expanding primary care services in underserved areas. NPs are trained to assess, diagnose, treat, and manage common acute and chronic conditions, making them well-suited to address the primary care needs of underserved populations. They can provide a wide range of services, including health promotion, disease prevention, health counseling, and management of common illnesses. By offering accessible and high-quality primary care services, NPs improve healthcare access and contribute to early detection and management of health issues in underserved communities. Culturally competent care is another important aspect of ANPs' responsibilities in improving healthcare access. Underserved populations often face cultural and linguistic barriers when seeking healthcare, which can lead to misunderstandings, disparities in care, and reduced access. ANPs are trained to provide culturally sensitive care, taking into account the unique needs, beliefs,

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and practices of diverse populations. By promoting cultural competence [4,5].

ANPs can establish trust and rapport with patients, facilitate effective communication, and ensure that healthcare services are delivered in a culturally appropriate manner. ANPs also play a vital role in enhancing health education and promotion efforts in underserved populations. They educate patients and communities about preventive measures, healthy lifestyle choices, and disease management strategies. ANPs are well-positioned to provide patient-centered education, addressing patients' specific needs and empowering them to actively participate in their own healthcare. By promoting health literacy and empowering individuals, ANPs can improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare disparities in underserved communities.

CONCLUSION

ANPs' roles and responsibilities encompass a wide range of activities, including expanding primary care services, providing culturally competent care, enhancing health education and promotion, facilitating care coordination and case management, addressing mental health needs, reducing emergency department utilization, improving chronic disease management, and enhancing patient satisfaction. These responsibilities are tailored to meet the unique needs and challenges faced by underserved populations.

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