

How do community nurses care for people living in Domestic Squalor?

Dr Debbie Kralik

Royal District Nursing Service, SA

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Research Team

Dr Debbie Kralik
Royal District Nursing Service SA

Dr Anne van Loon
Royal District Nursing Service SA

Dr Kay Price
University of South Australia

Nurses and clients of the Royal District Nursing Service SA

Overview

- Aim
- Research processes
- Findings
- Limitations
- Implications for practice
- Next steps

Aims

- To develop an understanding of the strategies and decision-making processes that nurses use when providing care to clients living in domestic squalor.
- To describe the ways nurses assess this client group
- To identify the decision-making processes nurses use to inform their nursing care so that it is effective
- To understand the assumptions nurses use to distinguish between situations of self-neglect, hoarding and squalor
- To explore the organisational structures that assist and impede care giving
- To understand the impacts of caring for this challenging client population on the nurse.

Research method

- Qualitative biographical design
- 20 community nurses who had experience working with people living in domestic squalor.
- Comprehensive literature review

Interview questions

- Can you tell me about your experiences of caring for someone living in domestic squalor?
- Then, in a semi-structured interview format.
 - the environmental cues nurses use to recognise that
 - the concerns nurses have about the health of the person
 - nurses' perceptions of barriers and enablers to working effectively with people living in domestic squalor
 - the signs that nurses use to delineate a person is coping or not coping
 - the interventions nurses use and referral points
 - how nurses advocate for and/or protect their client
 - how nurses protect other health workers
 - the mechanisms nurses use to communicate with other staff regarding the client

Findings

Defining and describing:

- Squalor
- Hoarding
- Self neglect



Findings

- Indicators of squalor
- Assessment of people living in squalor
- Interventions
- Discussing squalor with people
- The impact of squalor on care giving
- Organisational processes

Limitations

- Small sample size
- One organisation/ one location
- Clients perspective missing
- Rural and remote not considered

Implications for practice

- Person centred
- Non judgemental approach
- Relationship development
- Assessment skills
- Develop expertise in complex behaviours
- Communication between health services
- Multi-service and inter-agency protocols

Next steps

- Inter-agency inter-disciplinary collaboration
- Research funding
- Larger study involving clients



Contact

- Dr Debbie Kralik
- Debbie.kralik@rdns.org.au

- Dr Anne van Loon
- Anne.vanloon@rdns.org.au