

ANXIETY OF CRITICAL CARE NURSES CARING FOR DYING PATIENTS:

A LITERATURE REVIEW

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BACKGROUND

DEATH IS AN INEVITABLE ASPECT OF LIFE.

In Ireland, 75% of deaths occur in either a general hospital, a long-stay residential care facility, community hospital, or a nursing home.

According to NOCA (2022), 25% admitted in the intensive care unit (ICU) did not survive their illness and died in the unit. Nursing is a caring profession catering people from birth extending to their death.

Nurses have been found to have the most frequent interaction with dying patients.



AIM

To explore the experiences of critical care nurses and their anxiety when caring for dying patients.

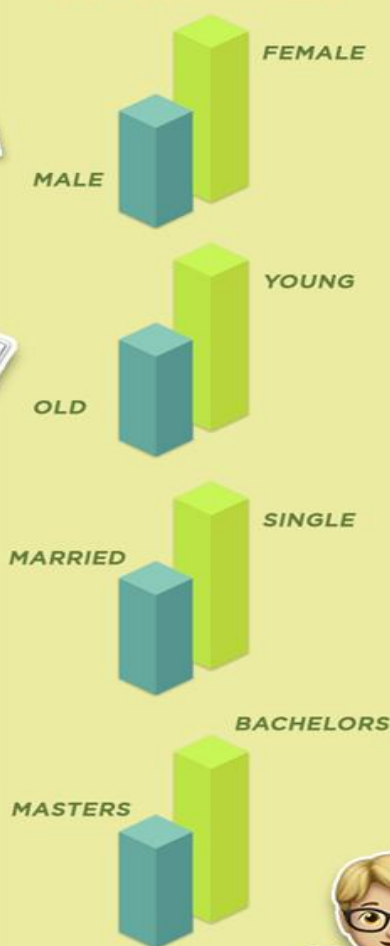
METHODOLOGY

Studies from 5 databases: CINAHL, Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, and Web of Science. Thirteen studies were included in the literature review.



FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHICS



FINDINGS

READINESS TO CARE:

The nurses' anxiety levels were found to have an inversely proportional relationship with their readiness to care for dying patients.



LIVED EXPERIENCE

A clear picture was painted using the stories of critical care nurses when facing death and caring for dying patients.



CORONA VIRUS - 19

The pandemic greatly affected the nurses' anxiety levels being in the frontline and experiencing the effects of the disease firsthand.



IMPLICATIONS

Anxiety among critical care nurses impacts their own well-being. Anxiety compromises the quality of care provided to dying patients. No studies have been conducted in the Irish setting to explore this crucial association further.

OTHER FACTORS

CIGARETTE SMOKING

Nurses who smoke have higher anxiety vs non-smoker nurses



CONSTANT EXPOSURE TO END-OF-LIFE CARE,



DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN RESUSCITATION

