

An analysis of nurse-led COVID-19 interventions among homeless populations – a mixed methods study

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COVID-19 presents health/healthcare challenges worldwide, including the imperative to protect individuals/communities vulnerable to attendant health issues and to limit contagion to/from these populations. There is a significant knowledge gap concerning the multifactorial disease trajectories and care needs among homeless cohorts in pandemic contexts. People who are homeless, particularly those with addictions and/or sleeping rough, experience a range of co-morbidities and health vulnerabilities. Additionally, contagion risks arise from poor access/adherence to infection control measures among this often geographically mobile population who have inadequate healthcare access. Congregated/unstable accommodation (e.g. hostels, asylum centres) inhibits social distancing and self-isolation.

For those who are socially excluded, nurses are often the most accessible and trusted members of the healthcare team; planning, delivering and evaluating health promotion/healthcare among hard to reach populations. This research aims to examine the characteristics of a selection of nurse-led COVID-19 interventions among homeless populations in Ireland. Through analysing the strengths/limitations of these initiatives, the research will identify what is most efficacious and will recommend best practice in systematic healthcare planning/provision in pandemic intervention among homeless cohorts.