



Background

Family involvement in mental health care is a therapeutic intervention in the management of mental illness. Yet, families find it difficult to accept mental illness when loved ones admitted to long-term mental health care for care, treatment and rehabilitation.





Aim



Setting



To describe nurses' perceptions of family involvement in long-term mental health care in Limpopo Province

Mental Health Institutions of Mopani, Vhembe and Capricorn districts of Limpopo Province.

Methods:



A quantitative descriptive design was used of which the population comprised nurses working at three mental health institutions.

Probability simple random sampling was used select 360 respondents.

Data was collected using self-administered questionnaires.

Statistical Product and Service Solution version 23 was used to analyse data by statistician.




Sample size

Mental health institutions per District	Number of nurses per institution	Number of participants
Mopani	217 = 21%	91 = 7,2 %
Vembe	251 = 24%	103 = 8,3%
Capricorn	573 = 55%	166 = 19%
Total	1,041 =- 100	360 = 34,6





Results:



The majority, (89%) respondents acknowledged that there were challenges that affect families' involvement, (92%) agreed that family members' involvement was insufficient and (81%) indicated that poor family contact affects the provision of quality mental health care.

Therefore, the respondents believed that families' involvement has positive impact on the management of mental illness.



Recommendations



MHCUs should be admitted in their local district mental health institutions to enable their family members to be involved and visit without traveling long distance.

Maximum security wards should be built in all institutions providing mental health services to prevent MHCUs to be transferred and admitted far from their local hospital due to lack of maximum security



Conclusion

Nurses perceive that family members play significant role when involved in caring for MHCUs admitted in long-term mental health institutions.





Thank you



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