

A-3. Nursing Education: Career Development

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Field survey of the careers of visiting nurses, Report No. 1:

Visiting nurses' background

Takeda M¹, Hayashi H¹, Mizuma N¹

¹Saitama Prefectural University, Koshigaya-city, Japan

Objective: The objective of this study was to identify the characteristics of visiting nurses working at visiting nurse stations in order to use this information to develop a training program for visiting nurses.

Methods: We developed a self-administered questionnaire to assess visiting nurses' perceptions of their careers and training needs, and we mailed 1,545 questionnaire forms to 309 visiting nurse stations. Our analyses ranged from basic information to the characteristics of visiting nurses and were based on responses received between February and April 2022. This study was conducted after receiving approval from the research ethics committee of the facility where the researchers work (20085).

Results: We collected 324 questionnaires (effective response rate: 21%). Females accounted for 95% of the respondents, and the mean age of the respondents was 46.2 years. Most nurses were registered nurses. However, some only had an assistant nurse license. In addition, 80% were nursing school graduates. Fourteen were Japanese Nursing Association-certified nurse specialists or certified nurse administrators. The mean number of years in practice as a nurse was 19.9. Thirty percent had been practicing as visiting nurses for less than 3 years, with the average being 6.7 years. Approximately 70% were full-time employees. Over 70% were married. On the 5-step clinical ladder, 15% were at level III, although over 60% responded that they did not know their level.

Conclusion: Based on the visiting nurses' backgrounds, it is possible that they prioritize child-rearing and other lifestyle-related aspects. Many visiting nurses have little experience, necessitating the need for planned learning support. Changing jobs and blanks (between jobs) interfere with continued learning and the acquisition of certification. In addition, if visiting nurses are unaware of their own level on the clinical ladder, it is difficult for them to advance their careers according to targeted goals.