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Alzheimer's in the Geriatric Population

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Alzheimer's in the Geriatric Population

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Abstract

There is a critical need for nurses in geriatric healthcare fields. As future nurses, we were interested to understand youth perceptions on the geriatric population. So, we conducted an anonymous, qualitative survey of five college students and asked them to share three adjectives about senior citizens in general and about a senior citizen in their life, such as a grandparent or older relative. After conducting the survey, we coded their responses into negative and positive categories and then we graphically represented the coded data. What we found from our data analysis is that most respondents provided negative adjectives to describe senior citizens, whereas, respondents used more positive adjectives to describe a senior citizen in their life. Since our generation will be taking care of the aging population, we felt it necessary to gain more insight on youth perceptions of the geriatric population. There is a critical need for nurses in geriatric healthcare fields. As future nurses, we were interested to understand youth perceptions of the geriatric population. So, we conducted an anonymous, qualitative survey of five college students and asked them to share three adjectives about senior citizens in general and about a senior citizen in their life, such as a grandparent or older relative. After conducting the survey, we coded their responses into negative and positive categories and then we graphically represented the coded data. What we found from our data analysis is that most respondents provided negative adjectives to describe senior citizens, whereas, respondents used more positive adjectives to describe a senior citizen in their life. Since our generation will be taking care of the aging population, we felt it necessary to gain more insight on youth perceptions of the geriatric population.



Research Questions

- How can we raise awareness for neglect and understaffing within health care facilities?
- How does neglect and abuse affect Alzheimer's patients and their mental health?



Introduction to our Research

- Our research showed that one way to assist Alzheimer's patients is to offer them more resources.
- One resource that has shown a positive effect on Alzheimer's patients are counseling/support group (Sørensen LV, Waldorff FB, & Waldemar G. (2008).
- These give Alzheimer's patients an improved way to express their feelings and thoughts (Sørensen LV, Waldorff FB, & Waldemar G. (2008).



Research on Resources

Health Facility Regulation, a Division of the Department of Community Health

- Certifies and regulates healthcare facilities
- Offers grants to elderly healthcare facilities that can help improve quality of life by improving facilities and employee training (Healthcare Facility Regulation, n.d.)

The Health Force of Georgia

- Takes care of Alzheimer's and Dementia patients in home
- includes home infusion therapy, respite care, companion care, personal care, skilled nursing care, Alzheimer's and Dementia care, and solving healthcare transportation needs (Memory Care. (n.d.)



In-Field Research

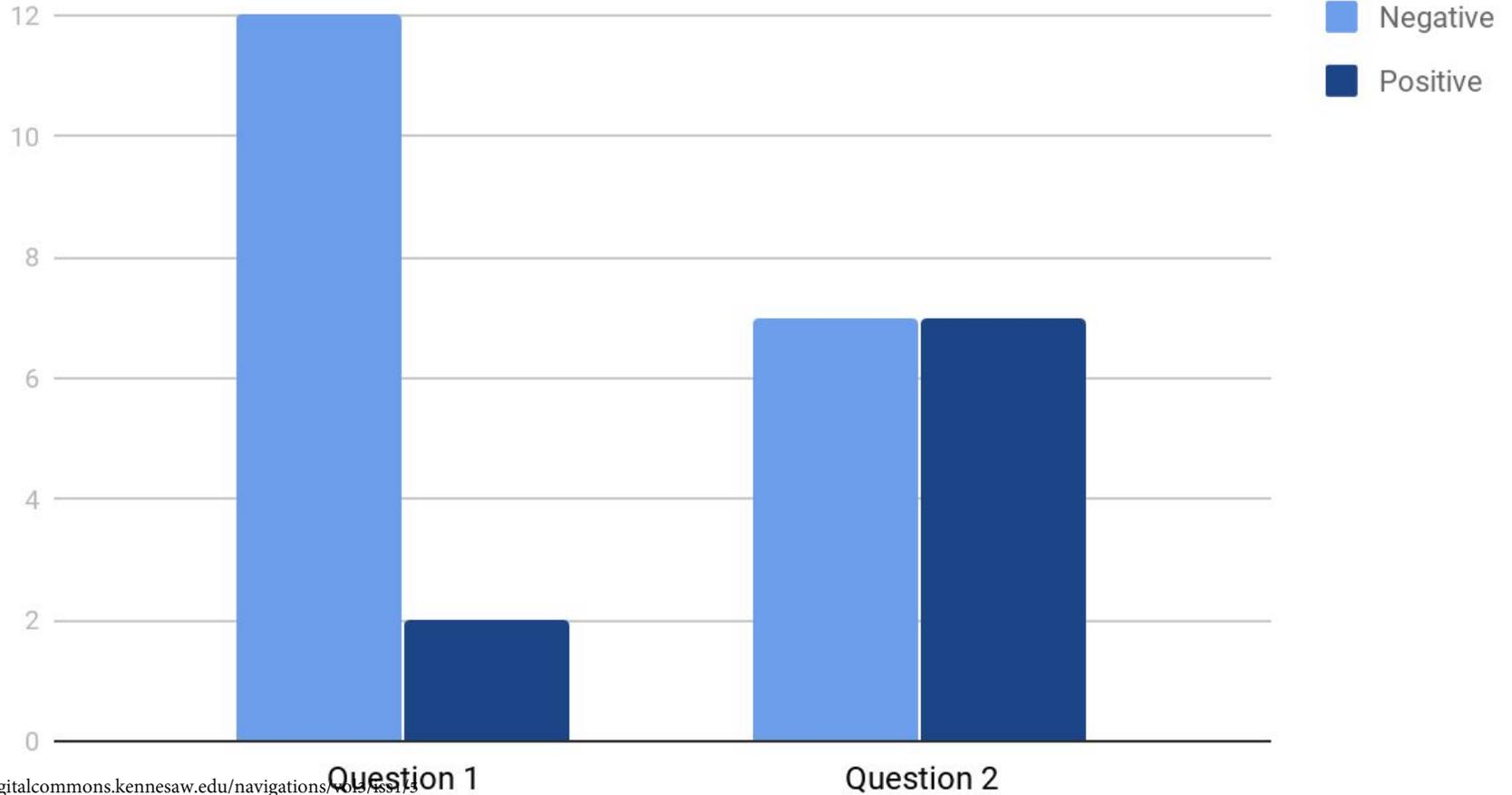
- Another type of research that we completed was in-field research. As a class we went to the Cobb Senior Services and took a tour of the facility.
- Cobb Senior Services provides senior citizens with many different resources, such as assistive technologies. These technologies range from new bathroom products and security enhancements to assistance with eating and drinking.
- In addition to touring Cobb Senior Services, we participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. While at this event, we listened to a first hand account of someone with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. The speaker was diagnosed and still lives with hope for a cure.
- This experiences helped us get a glimpse into how Alzheimer's disease affects the community.

Survey Methods and Results

- As future nurses, we were interested to understand youth perceptions of the geriatric population.
- To accomplish this, we conducted an anonymous, qualitative survey of five college students and asked them to share three adjectives about senior citizens in general and about a senior citizen in their life, such as a grandparent or older relative.
- After conducting the survey, we coded their responses into negative and positive categories and then we graphically represented the coded data.

Points scored

Graphic Representation of the Data





Data Analysis

- What we found from our survey is that most respondents provided negative adjectives to describe senior citizens, whereas, respondents used more positive adjectives to describe a senior citizen in their life.
- It is necessary for us as future nurses to understand youth perceptions of the geriatric population so we can raise awareness on these issues. We think this study is particularly important because our generation will be providing care for the geriatric population.



Conclusion

- After researching about Alzheimer's patients, we found that they experience more abuse and neglect than patients without Alzheimer's or dementia-related diseases.
- Since many Alzheimer's patients cannot advocate for themselves, they are at higher risk of experiencing mistreatment.
- Again, our research showed that one way to assist Alzheimer's patients is to offer them more resources. One resource that has shown a positive effect on Alzheimer's patients are counseling/support groups. These give Alzheimer's patients an improved way to express their feelings and thoughts.
- Counseling for caregivers has also proven to have a very positive effect on the quality of care given to Alzheimer's patients. Patients enjoyed being with peers and it boosted their self-esteem. It also helped them find new ways to manage everyday problems in their life. And, it helped caregivers manage the challenges of dealing with the patient's illness.



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