

Level of Preparedness of Public Health Nurses During
Dengue Outbreak in Iloilo City

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Abstract

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne viral infection, can rapidly spread and potentially cause a global pandemic, necessitating careful monitoring (Aliaga-Samanez et al., 2021). Eventually, it occurred yearly, with major outbreaks occurring approximately every 3 years (Smith, 2022). This study, with an emphasis on the value of training, aimed to determine the level of preparedness of public health nurses (PHNs) in Iloilo City during dengue outbreaks. The major goal was to evaluate the impact of training on workplace safety, psychological interventions, information access, and equipment sufficiency in terms of preparedness. The study's specific objectives were to characterize PHNs' traits according to their training and ascertain whether there is a meaningful correlation between the different kinds of training and readiness levels.

A descriptive-correlational design was employed, targeting all 108 public health nurses in Iloilo City, with 60 participating. Data were collected using a researcher-developed questionnaire, the findings revealed a significant relationship between training levels and preparedness during dengue outbreaks. The Chi-square test, Pearson Chi-square test, using the Gamma Coefficient, and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) were used for inferential statistics, all set at 0.05 level of significance. PHNs with comprehensive training were better prepared in terms of equipment sufficiency, workplace safety, information access speed, and psychological support. Strong correlations were observed, with statistically significant gamma values (0.678 to 0.801, $p < 0.05$).

The study highlighted the significance of inclusive training programs for public health nurses, centered on the outcomes of both prepared and unprepared nurses. It showed that training programs focusing on the Prevention and Control and Communicable Disease Control Service should be attended by the PHNs as these presented the lowest participation rates. Sufficient training bestows upon nurses the necessary competencies and expertise, augmenting their capacity to efficiently handle dengue epidemics.

Enhancing public health nurses' training is essential for managing dengue outbreaks in Iloilo City because it enhances public health crisis management, safeguards community health, and lessens the impact of dengue epidemics. Better preparedness and reaction are ensured by ongoing investment in professional development, which eventually improves public health outcomes.

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