

MANIPULATION BY PRISON INMATES AS IT PERTAINS TO FORENSIC NURSES: AN UNDERGRADUATE'S PERSPECTIVE

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Forensic nurses working with correctional populations (prison inmates) relate their expectations that they will experience manipulation; however, there is little research literature on the topic. This study was conducted to expand the knowledge on manipulation as experienced by nurses working in corrections, with the eventual purpose of developing intervention protocols to decrease its frequency and negative consequences that occur as a corollary of nurses being manipulated by inmate clients. With more than 2 million inmates in the United States, 25% of the world's prison population, research studies related to nursing and the delivery of health care to the inmate population remain scarce. This was a qualitative, descriptive study conducted in South Georgia. Interviews of five nurses were conducted using an open-ended interview technique. The interview schedule and the research data collection strategies were approved through the Valdosta State University Institutional Review Board in conjunction with Dr. Anita Hufft's research. A definition of manipulation of nurses by inmates in a forensic setting was developed based on the descriptions provided by the respondents. The experiences of these nurses have been recorded, as well as their suggestions to help other nurses in forensic settings to avoid manipulation by inmates. The nurses interviewed in this study recounted that they had experienced manipulation by inmates while working in a prison. They all believed that they were not prepared for the amount of manipulation or the consequences encompassing manipulation by inmates. The five nurses believed that further education by employers or nursing schools would be useful in their careers.