Assessing Knowledge of Nurse Practitioners on Youth in Foster Care: Results of Nationwide Survey

Adoption Competent Mental Health · https://bridges4mentalhealth.org/hub/adoption-competence/assessing-knowledge-of-nurse-practitioners-on-youth-in-foster-care-results-of-nationwide-survey/

Youth in foster care have complex physical, developmental, and mental health needs due to trauma, instability, and systemic disparities, yet pediatric advanced practice nurses (APNs) often lack sufficient knowledge to fully address these needs. A national survey identified significant knowledge gaps, highlighting the need for targeted education and training to improve care quality and health outcomes for this vulnerable population.

APNs are ideally positioned to provide comprehensive care, advocacy, and trauma-informed support. However, the national survey identified **three major knowledge gaps**:

- Integrating foster care health guidelines into clinical practice
- Recognizing risks and providing ongoing, trauma-informed care
- Navigating healthcare and child welfare systems and coordination requirements

These gaps limit providers’ ability to fully meet foster youth’s complex needs.

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