

ABSTRACT

KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS OF A CONVENIENCE SAMPLE OF THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

This study investigated whether the medical community of Benin views domestic violence as a public health issue and if members of that community perceive a need to develop a comprehensive curriculum for screening for abuse in primary healthcare settings. The convenience sample consisted of 195 healthcare practitioners and administrators from mental health clinics and emergency rooms. The data were collected through a 33-item self-administered questionnaire. A total of 66% useable surveys were included in the data analysis. The research setting was the Republic of Benin in West Africa.

The findings indicated that the participants' knowledge of the health consequences of domestic violence met the World Health Organization's (WHO's) standards. However, their knowledge of the definitions of domestic violence and its related terms did not meet WHO standards.

Of the 121 participants who indicated their level of interest in training related to abuse screening, 74% were very interested and only 2% had no interest.

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