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Research Summary

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Category (clinical/public health):	Both
Data focus:	SHEFA

Title Effectiveness of Community Mental Health home visit in reducing inpatient admission of mentally ill patients: A look at Vila Central Hospital's experience from 2012 to 2021

Abstract

Purpose/ Aim:

The purpose of this research is to provide effectiveness and importance of community mental health Home visit.

Introduction:

Mental health issues remain a topic less openly discussed in Vanuatu. There is a treatment gap of 99% for people with mental illness receiving treatment. Access to and continuity of treatment are some of the contributing factors to this treatment gap. This is reflected in the increase in patient admission and readmission to Vila Central Hospital (VCH) Mental Health unit, the Mind Care (MC) clinic. The weekly community mental health home-visits goal is to ensure the 'difficult patients' and those with difficulties in accessing hospital services are visited and given treatment in the community. This study research focuses on the effectiveness of Community Mental Health home visit carried out by the mental health nurses from 2012 to 2021 in urban and peri-urban Port Vila.

Method:

A retrospective review of data taken from MC clinic's admission book and home-visit log was collated and analyzed using Microsoft Excel. Graphs were extracted to look at trends in admission as a result of home-visits.

Result:

The study findings shows a high number of admission and re-admissions in 2012 and 2013 (42 and 32 respectively) , prior to introduction of home-visits. Home-visit program was introduced in 2015, with the number of visits increasing from 45 in 2016 to 157 in 2021. As a result, the number of admissions and re-admissions reduced from 25 to 1 between the years 2016 and 2021.

Conclusion:

The study shows that community mental health home visit is a very important service supporting the treatment and management of mentally ill patients because it decreases their frequency of admission and readmission.