

# Nursing Research Priorities for Ireland

Drennan et al. (2007)

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1547-5069.2007.00184.x>

## For which topic were research priorities identified?

nursing

## In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - Ireland

## Why was it conducted at all?

The profession of nursing constitutes the largest professional group of healthcare providers in Ireland (Department of Health and Children, 2002) and, as such, significantly influences therapeutic quality and cost-effectiveness of the health services. The development of nursing scientific knowledge, which is needed to guide these services, requires systematic targeting of nursing research endeavours and resources. There are many clinical phenomena, as well as managerial and educational issues of interest to nurses. A focused plan is needed in order to develop a substantiated body of knowledge that has high social relevance and can be used to guide patient care and professional decision making in nursing services.

## What was the objective?

to identify and rate clinical, managerial, and educational nursing research priorities in Ireland

## What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 10 research topics

## How long did the research prioritization take?

May 2004 - January 2005

## Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi; workshop

## How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to state five of the most important issues, problems, concerns, topics and questions for nursing in Ireland that need to be addressed through research and participants were asked to indicate whether they considered each issue stated to be moderately important, very important, or extremely important. Step 2: data processing: thematic analysis. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate the importance of each research issue. Step 4: Delphi round 3: participants were asked to re-rate based on group ratings of round 2, participants were given the opportunity to also rate the most frequently occurring examples of each issue. Step 5: workshop: participants discussed priorities and rated timeframe (short-, medium-, or long-term) within which research on the priority issues should be addressed

## Which stakeholders took part?

Nurses. Delphi round 1: 741 participants. Delphi round 2: 701 participants. Delphi round 3: 600 participants. Workshop: 122 participants.

## How were stakeholders recruited?

Participants were recruited via advertisements in professional journals and newsletters sent to all nurses on the professional register, as well as on the websites of these organizations. Personal letters of invitation to participate were sent through the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery. Invitations to participate were also distributed by post and electronically to speciality nursing organizations.

## Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.