

# Delphi Survey of Priorities in Clinical Nursing Research

Lindeman (1975)

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## For which topic were research priorities identified?

clinical nursing

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

North America - USA

## Why was it conducted at all?

Establishing priorities for nursing research could provide helpful guidelines. A priority statement could be employed to interpret the significance of certain programs of research, as well as cope of nursing research to funding agencies, legislatures and the public.

## What was the objective?

to identify specific, significant aspects of nursing practice for which the scientific base is inadequate or the outcome of an intervention uncertain

## What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 150 research topics

## How long did the research prioritization take?

March 1974 - September 1974

## Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

## How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: survey asking participants to identify burning questions about practice of nursing, 2000 items submitted. Step 2: data processing: final list of 150 items. Step 3: Delphi round 2: survey with 150 items: participants were asked 3 questions: Is this an area in which nursing should assume primary research responsibility? (yes/no) How important is research on this topic for the profession of nursing? (rating) What is the likelihood of change in patient welfare because of research on the topic? (rating). Step 4: Delphi round 3: survey with 150 items: participants were asked to re-rate and write comments if opinion differed substantially from majority based on median ratings from round 2, comments summarized in minority opinion report. Step 5: Delphi round 4: survey with 150 items, participants were asked to re-rate

## Which stakeholders took part?

Nurses, administrators, clinicians, educators, researchers, funders. 341 participants in all 4 Delphi rounds: 79 administrators, 71 clinicians, 127 educators, 25 researchers, 3 funders, 16 others.

## How were stakeholders recruited?

Participants were recruited via correspondence, personal contact and review of published rosters and membership lists. Professional nursing organizations, military officials, allied health organizations, funding agencies and foundations requested to identify persons to serve as panelists. Persons knowledgeable about clinical practice as well as have an appreciation for research were asked to participate.

## 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.