

**Attitudes toward alcoholism:  
Analysis among Colombian nurses**

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Harmful alcohol use has **increased** in the population in the last few decades and has become an area of great interest to health care

Approaches in most Latin American countries are based on the hygienist training of their health care professionals, focused on a **moral, judging** conception toward substance use.



(WHO, 2014)  
(Güchert, 2011)

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❑ Causing an **obstacle** to this population's access to health care because of the fear of being judged by the professionals offering the service

❑ Which negatively affects user adherence to the treatment programs offered



(Gilchrist, 2011)

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❑ Colombia, in 2013, around 2.6 million individuals aged between 12 and 65 abuse alcohol, meaning that 31% of the Colombian population use alcohol.

❑ In relation to alcohol abuse, the difference between sexes is much smaller, compared with levels for low risk use in the population

(Ministerio de salud y protección social, 2013)

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❑ These figures show the need for strategies to deal more adequately with the population affected by this problem

❑ It is relevant to identify the role of the nurse in this issue, being the health care professional that playing an essential role in transforming care for those with alcohol-related disorders



(Díaz Heredia & Mazziale, 2010)  
(Vargas, 2010)  
(Villar, 2008)

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❑ Analyzing the statements about the nurses' attitudes toward alcoholism, it can be seen that professionals with specific training in the area have a greater chance of showing positive attitudes toward alcohol use and to caring for this population

❑ Health care professionals with little or no training manifested attitudes that tended to be negative, influenced by fear of facing situations for which they did not feel prepared by specific training.

(Vadlamudi, Adams, Hogan, Wu, & Wahid, 2008)  
(Crothers, 2011; Happell, Carter, & Pinkahana, 2002)  
(Iqbal, McCambridge, Edgar, Young, & Shorter, 2015)

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❑ In South America, health care professionals, **nurses** in particular, manifested more ambivalent attitudes than nurses in other parts of the world

❑ Showing more positive attitudes toward **use**

❑ And more negative attitudes **to providing care to individuals with alcohol-related disorders**



(Navarrete & Villar, 2004; Villar, 2008).

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❑ The majority of studies approaching this topic were conducted in Brazil and there is a lack of studies from other countries, specifically from Colombia, there are no publications referring to nurses' attitudes toward alcohol and associated issues.

(Sandra C. Pillon, 2006)  
(Soares, Vargas, & Oliveira, 2011)  
(Divane, Vargas, 2014; Divane Vargas, 2010)

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The aim of this study is:

To identify the **attitudes** of Colombian nurses toward alcohol, alcoholism and individuals with alcohol-related disorders

☐ Scale of Attitudes to Alcohol, Alcoholism and Alcoholics - SAAA

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☐ The sample consisted of **605 nurses**

☐ who met the inclusion criteria: speak Spanish as the native language, linked to the health care institutions in question and working there, exercising their profession, at the time the SAAA was applied.

☐ Of these, 303 (50%) returned the completed questionnaire.

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☐ 95% carried out their professional activities in hospital health care (Accident and Emergency, intensive care, hospitalization, Gynecology, Pediatrics, Oncology)

☐ 5% in services specializing in mental health care

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**The respondents were:**

Predominantly female nurses  
(77.9)

With a mean age of 32  
(SD=9.9)

Without professional experience of individuals with  
alcohol related disorders (56%)

With postgraduate level of education (46.7 %)

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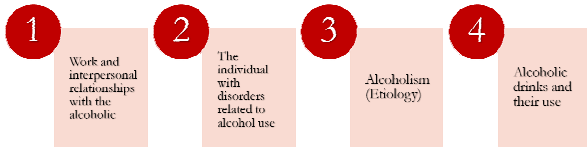
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The Spanish version of the Scale of Attitudes to Alcohol,  
Alcoholism and Alcoholics - SAAA was used.

This version contains 48 items divided into four factors:



(León, Vargas, & Diaz, 2017)

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❑ The results obtained from the scores for the Spanish version of the SAAA indicate that the nurses' **attitudes tended to be negative (56.8%)** with a mean response of **3.0** for women and **3.1** for men.

❑ Negative attitudes were more predominant in relation to the nurse's attitude to interpersonal relationships with the user at work

❑ They had more positive attitudes toward alcoholism

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Ambivalence

**AMBIVALENT?**  
WELL, YES AND NO.

yes  
 no  
 maybe

**SHOULD I STAY  
OR  
SHOULD I GO?**

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The greater the **age**, and the more **time elapsed since graduation**, the more negative those health care professionals' attitude toward alcohol and toward individuals with alcohol-related disorders.

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graph LR
    A[+Age] --> C((Negative Attitude))
    B[Time elapsed since graduation] --> C
  
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**Professional experience** and **having had specific training in the area** were shown to be positively significantly associated with nurses having positive attitudes.

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graph LR
    A[Professional experience] --> C((Positive Attitude))
    B[Had specific training in the area] --> C
  
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❑ The study was conducted in a specific region of Colombia and in public institutions, meaning we cannot extrapolate the results for the whole population of the country's nurses.

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❑ This study is relevant for nursing in Latin America as there few studies on the attitudes of nurses toward alcohol and associated issues are being conducted here, this being the first specific one carried out in **Colombia**.

❑ It also represents a guide for constructing an updated reading of the attitudes of workers in this category of health care professional toward alcohol and associated issues

❑ as well as providing an opening to think about including and improving the content on caring for users with substance-related problems in **nursing course curricula** so as to increase frequency nursing students' contact with this population from their studies onwards.

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