Undergraduate Nursing Students’ Experiences with Horizontal Violence
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Introduction
Horizontal violence is a specific type of bullying that occurs between colleagues. It is often reported in the nursing profession and is linked to the common belief that, “nurses eat their young” (ANA, 2011).

In a few other studies:
- 48% percent of nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare workers reported receiving strong verbal abuse from a co-worker or an authority figure (ISMP, 2004).
- 57% of nursing students had experienced or witnessed horizontal violence in the clinical setting (Curtis, Bowen, & Reid, 2007).
- 66% of a survey’s respondents had heard that “nurses eat their young”, with 72% of the participants believing that the statement was true (Longo, 2007).

The purpose of the study is to examine horizontal violence experiences of undergraduate nursing students during clinical hours.

Methods
This study was derived from a Nursing 2011 journal pilot survey, the Nursing Horizontal Violence Survey, conducted by Dumont, Riggleman, Meisinger, and Leon (2011). The survey was sent out via email to all current undergraduate nursing students at a university in Northeast Texas.

Of the 65 students, 55 students responded to the survey. Students were 78% female, 85% were between the ages of 20 and 30 and over 67% were Caucasian. The majority did not have previous nursing work experiences.

Over 50% of the students reported that they experienced or witnessed horizontal violence at least once in the clinical setting.

Conclusions
The findings suggest that there is still horizontal violence occurring between nurses and nursing students during the learning experience. More research needs to be completed on the hospital locations where the violence occurs, type of horizontal violence and the frequency.

References