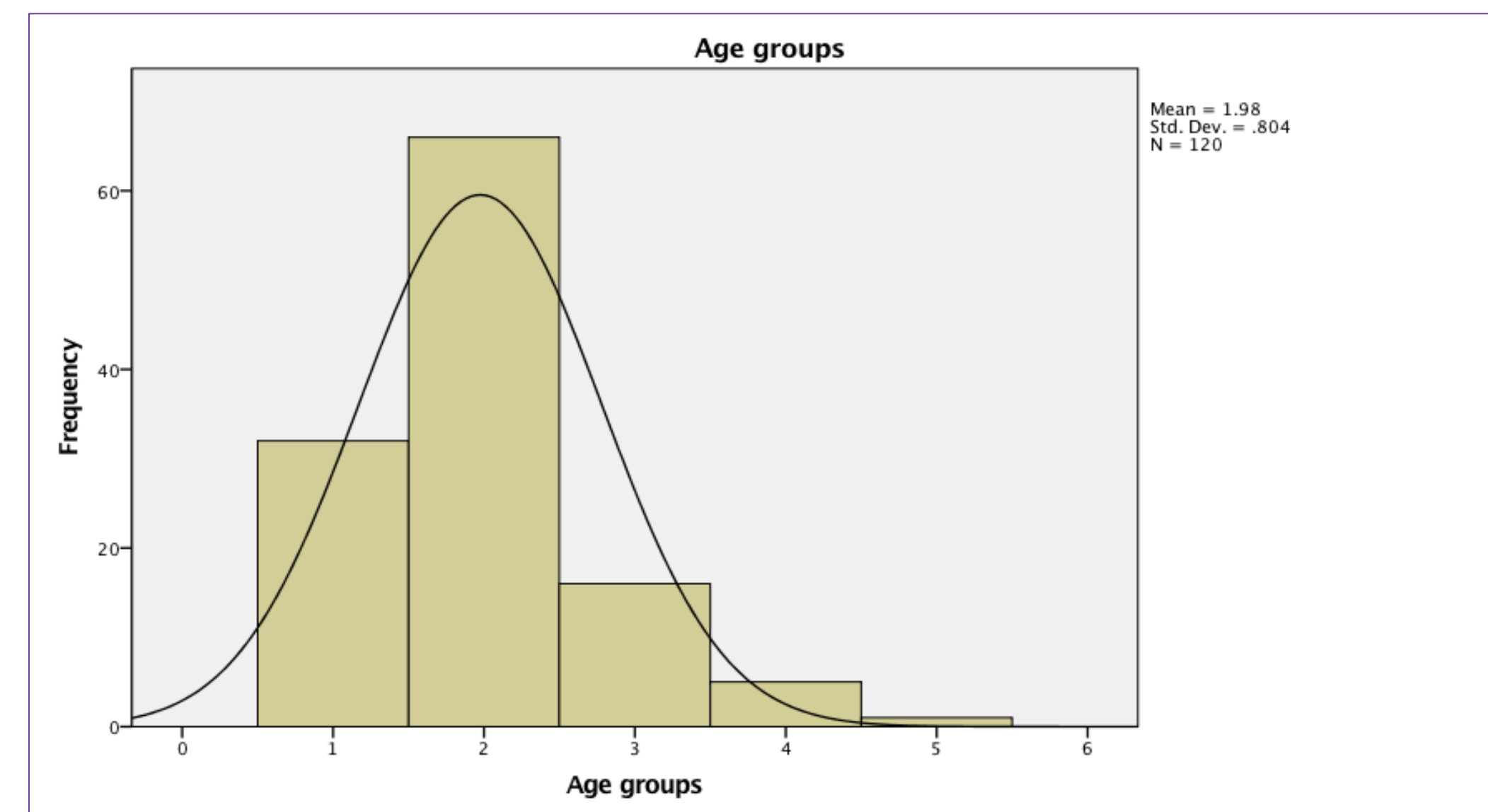


Introduction

- Caring is an emotion. It is a feeling of compassion and an understanding of the difficulties of others
- Research indicates that caring behaviors and attitudes are an important part of the knowledge base for nursing students
- This descriptive study reports the findings of caring attitudes and behaviors of nursing students using the Caring Dimensions Inventory (CDI)

Figure: Age Groups

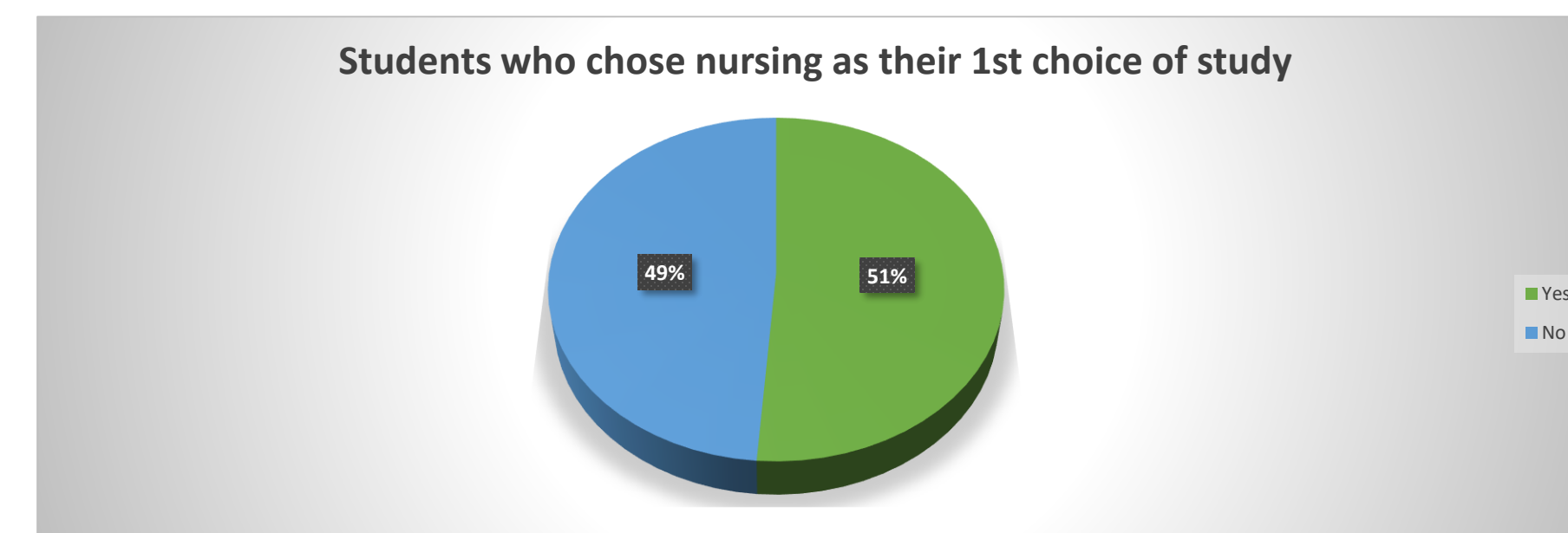


Purpose

- The purpose of the study was to expand current knowledge development and to fill the gap as related to whether or not nurses' first choice in profession was nursing
- This study builds on the concept of caring and adds to the knowledge base of nursing students and may contribute to further development of the nursing curriculum

Methods

- Descriptive statistics were computed using the SPSS software to determine the distribution of variables in the sample
- Data was then analyzed by using a *t*-test to determine the difference between the mean CDI scores of nursing students who chose nursing as a first career and nursing students who did not
- A total of 121 students from accelerated and traditional baccalaureate programs answered the CDI questions
- The demographic characteristics were the students' age (groups 18-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51 and over), gender, race/ethnicity, and planned career trajectory
- The independent variable was whether nursing students chose nursing as a first career or not
- The dependent variable was the CDI score



Results

- There was a significant difference on the CDI scores between those nursing students who chose nursing as a first career and nursing students who did not
- The CDI scores of students who chose nursing (mean 109.97, SD 10.20, $p = .02$) than those who did not choose nursing as their primary career choice
- Out of the 103 females and 18 males; a CDI significance was not found
- Race did not show a significance difference
- Age groups showed statistically significance between groups (mean square .44, $p = .016$)
- The post hoc multiple comparisons by ages also showed statistically significance on the CDI (mean .23572, $p = .004$)
- In this sample the CDI had a Cronbach's alpha of 0.87

Table: Age, Number & Percentage

Age Groups	Number	Percentage
18-20	32	26.40%
21-30	66	54.50%
31-40	16	13.20%
41-50	5	4.10%
51-60	1	0.80%
Missing	1	0.80%
Total	121	100%

Conclusions

- Caring is an essential concept of the nursing curriculum, and may be measured with the use of the CDI.
- Watson's theory of human caring may serve as a philosophical context for a humanistic approach to care
- Essentially, the results of the study may fill a gap in nursing knowledge in terms of what is known about BSN nursing students' attitudes and caring behaviors

Pathway to Caring



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