

Nursing Students' Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Evidence-Based Practice, Research and Graduate Education in Nursing

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Disclosure Slide

- **Author: Adejoke B. Ayoola, PhD, RN**
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- The author has no conflict of interest in conducting this study. This is the personal work of this author and no sponsorship or commercial support was given to the author.
- **Learner objectives:**
- Participants will list at least three of the concepts related to evidence-based practice that the baccalaureate nursing students in the program believed are important for the nursing profession.
- Participants will state the percentage of nursing students in the baccalaureate nursing education program who:
 - were definite that they will pursue graduate study in nursing.
 - believed that conduct of original research in nursing is important to promote the future of nursing as a profession
 - were considering doctor of nursing practice (DNP) and those considering PhD in nursing

Background

- Nurses roles include research and evaluation of more effective ways of caring for patients.

(Institute of Medicine [IOM], 2011)

- Evidence-based practice (EBP) in nursing improves health outcomes.

(Melnyk & Fineout-Overholt, 2011; Melnyk, Fineout-Overholt, Malone, & Sigma Theta Tau International, 2011).

- Well-trained health professionals are needed to improve health care for all Americans.



Background



- The “Future of Nursing” report from IOM and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recommends:
 - Having at least 10% of baccalaureate program graduates enter master’s or doctoral degree programs within five years of graduation
(Institute of Medicine, 2011)
- Doctorally prepared researchers and practitioners are needed to ensure delivery of cost-effective high-quality care to improve health outcomes in United States.

Objective of the Study

- To examine nursing students' plans for **graduate education** and their perception of the **importance of evidence-based practice (EBP), research, and graduate education** in nursing to the future of nursing as a profession.



Research Questions

- What are the nursing students' perceptions and attitude about research in nursing, EBP and its relationship with the promotion of the future of nursing as a profession?
- What are the nursing students' perceptions and attitude about pursuing graduate study in nursing?



Design and Sample

- Study setting: A non-research intensive four years baccalaureate nursing program
- Convenience sample: 94 nursing students
- Online anonymous survey
- IRB approval



Measures

- Demographic questions
- The AACN “Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice” on:
 - Organizational and systems leadership for quality care and patient safety (Essential II)
 - Scholarship for evidence based practice (Essential III)
- Questions on impact of research, evidence-based practice (EBP), doctoral preparation in nursing (DNP and PhD) on the future of nursing as a profession

Data Analysis

- Simple descriptive design
- Used STATA 13 for analyses
- Univariate analyses
 - Percentages,
 - Means
 - Frequencies



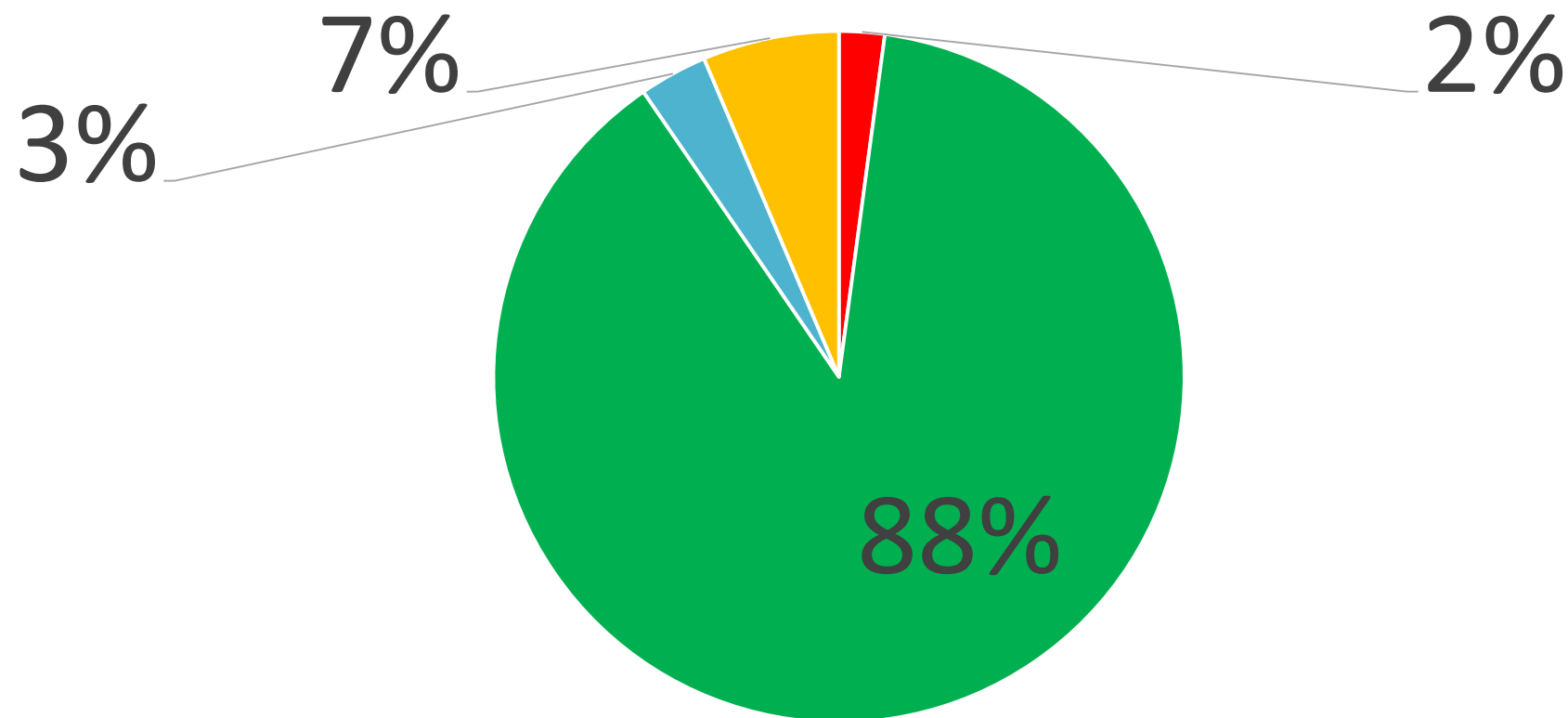
Age distribution of the students in the study (n=94)

Characteristic	n	%
Age		
Mean	21.18 years	SD = 1.61
Range	20-29 years	
20 years	30	31.91
21 years	41	43.6
22 years	15	15.96
23 years and above	6	7.44
Missing	1	1.06

College level or status of the students in the study (n=94)

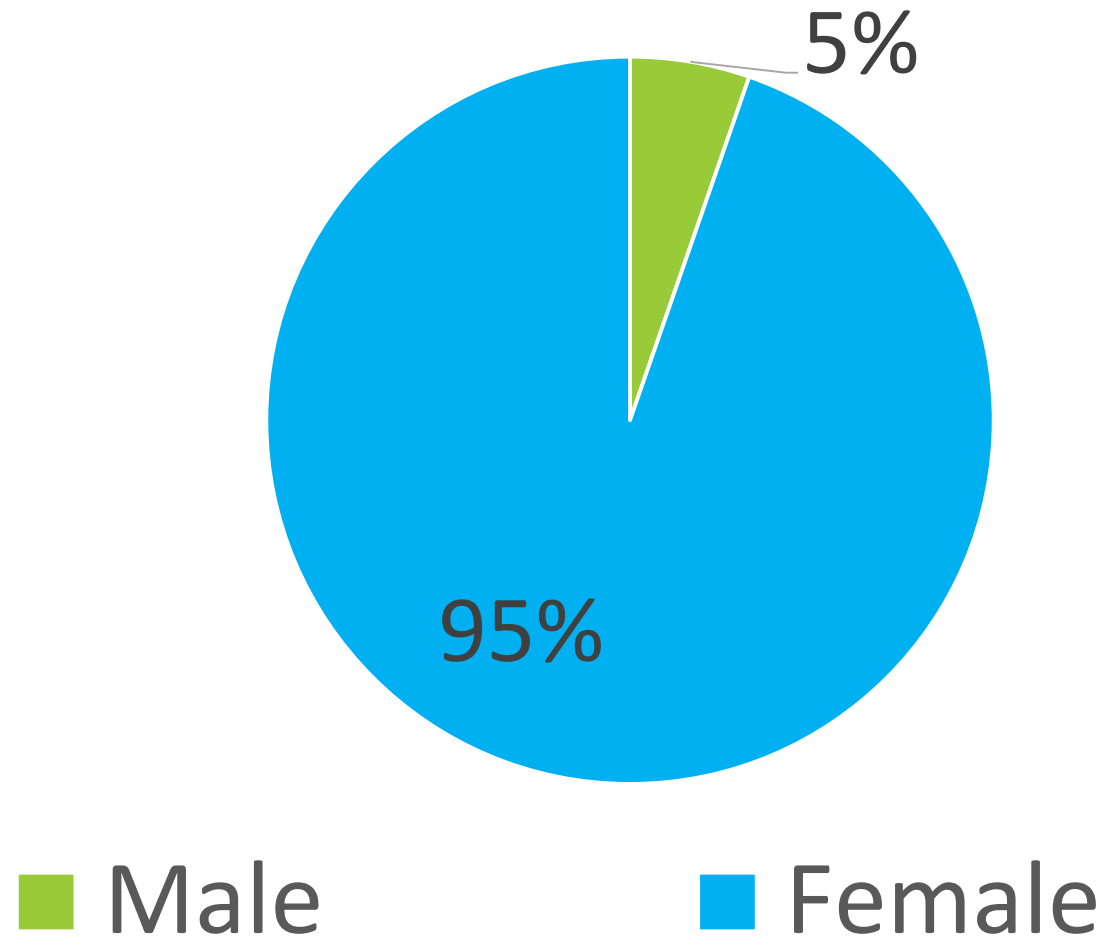
College Level or Status	n	%
Junior nursing major – third year of college	36	38.30
Junior nursing major – fourth year of college	8	8.51
Senior nursing major – fourth year of college	40	42.55
Senior nursing major - fifth year of college	7	7.45
Other (Please specify)	3	3.19

Racial distribution of the students in the study (n=94)



■ Black or African American ■ White ■ Hispanic ■ Asian

Gender distribution of the students in the study



Other student demographic characteristics (n = 94)

Characteristics	n	%
In the nursing honors program		
Yes	14	14.89
No	80	85.11
A member of Sigma Theta Tau International or will soon be inducted into STTI		
Yes	10	10.64
No	84	89.36

Plans to pursue graduate study in nursing (n=94)

	n	%
Definitely will not	12	12.77
Definitely will	27	28.72
Undecided	55	58.51

Degrees students anticipate pursuing in graduate school (n=80)

Options	n	(%)
PhD in nursing (research degree)	0	0
DNP (doctor of nursing practice – advanced practice degree)	38	48
PhD/DNP (combined program)	6	8
Masters degree in nursing	28	35
Other – “Unsure. Either PhD, DNP or Masters”	8	10

Attitude towards research and evidence-based practice and its relationship to the future of nursing

To what extent do you agree or disagree (n=89)	Agreed or strongly agreed n (%)	
Conduct of original research in nursing is important to promote the future of nursing as a profession	76	85.40
Knowledge and skills in leadership, quality improvement, and patient safety are necessary to provide high quality health care.	87	97.75
Professional nursing practice is grounded in the translation of current evidence into one's practice	83	93.26

Attitude towards research and evidence-based practice and its relationship to the future of nursing

To what extent do you agree or disagree (n=89)	Agreed or strongly agreed	
	n	(%)
Focus on the translation of new science , its application and evaluation are necessary to improve health outcomes	83	94.32
It is important to continue to generate evidence through nursing practice to guide improvements in practice and outcomes of care.	86	96.63

Attitude towards research and evidence-based practice and its relationship to the future of nursing

To what extent do you agree or disagree (n=89)	Agreed or strongly agreed n (%)	
Nursing profession will have to continue to generate new ideas based on a critical evaluation of existing knowledge	81	91.01
Part of the roles of nurses is to research and evaluate more effective ways of caring for patient care	82	92.14

Attitude towards research and evidence-based practice and its relationship to the future of nursing

To what extent do you agree or disagree (n=89)	Agreed or strongly agreed	
	n	(%)
The nursing profession needs doctorally prepared researchers to ensure delivery of cost-effective high-quality care to improve health outcomes in United States.	63	70.79
The nursing profession needs doctorally prepared nurse practitioners to ensure delivery of cost-effective high-quality care to improve health outcomes in United States.	70	78.65

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths**

- One of the few studies to assess undergraduate nursing students perspective in relation to :
 - AACN Nursing Essentials II and III
 - Relevance of EBP and research to the future of nursing profession

- **Limitations**

- Small sample size
- Convenience sample
- One institution



Conclusion

- Understanding of relevance of EBP, research, and graduate education in nursing to the promotion of the future of nursing profession
- Slightly less than a third of the students were definite that they will pursue graduate study in nursing
- About 83% of the graduates from this institution are considering masters or doctoral degree after graduation
- Increasing interest in pursuing DNP (doctor of nursing practice – advanced practice degree)
- Lack of interest in research-focused doctoral degree (PhD)

Implications

- Further studies replicated in research-intensive institutions
- Great strides towards achieving the “Future of Nursing” goal!
- Need to emphasize the importance of research-focused doctoral degree early in the training of the next generation of nurses.



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Question