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Introduction

Background and Significance

- Childhood obesity has increased globally
- Knowledge and attitudes of childhood obesity may vary across cultures
- Childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes have increased in Thailand
- Little is known about Thai nurses' knowledge and attitudes about childhood obesity
- Understanding about Thai nurses' perceptions of childhood obesity could provide additional strategies for ensuring a high quality nursing practice

Purpose

- To explore Thai nurses' knowledge and attitudes regarding childhood obesity

Method

Design

- Study is part of a large research project
- Descriptive
- Cross-sectional

Conceptual Framework

- Brofenbrenner's Social-Ecological Model

Sample

- Convenience sample
- N = 497; n = 486 had completed surveys which were used for analysis
- Registered nurses

Location

- Public Hospital in Thailand
- School of Nursing in Thailand

Instruments

- Questionnaire
 - *Attitudes Toward Obese Persons Scale: Children's version*
 - Adapted from Attitudes Towards Obese Persons (ATOP) and Beliefs (BAOP) Scale (Allison, 1995); CVI: 0.99
 - Confirmatory factor analysis: Factor loadings consistent with original scales
 - 26 item, Likert Scale
- Asian BMI classifications used in analysis (classifications non specific to any age group)

Data Analysis

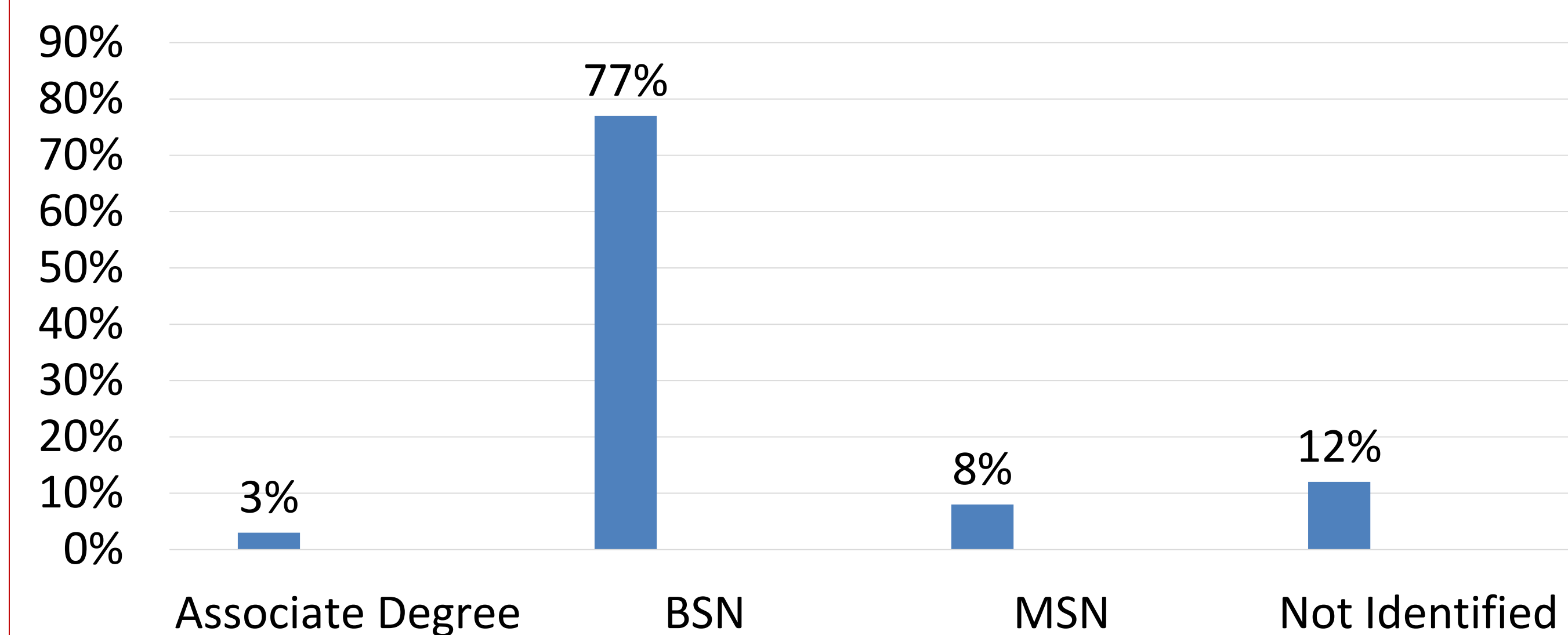
- ANOVA
- Cross-tabulation

Thai Translated Version

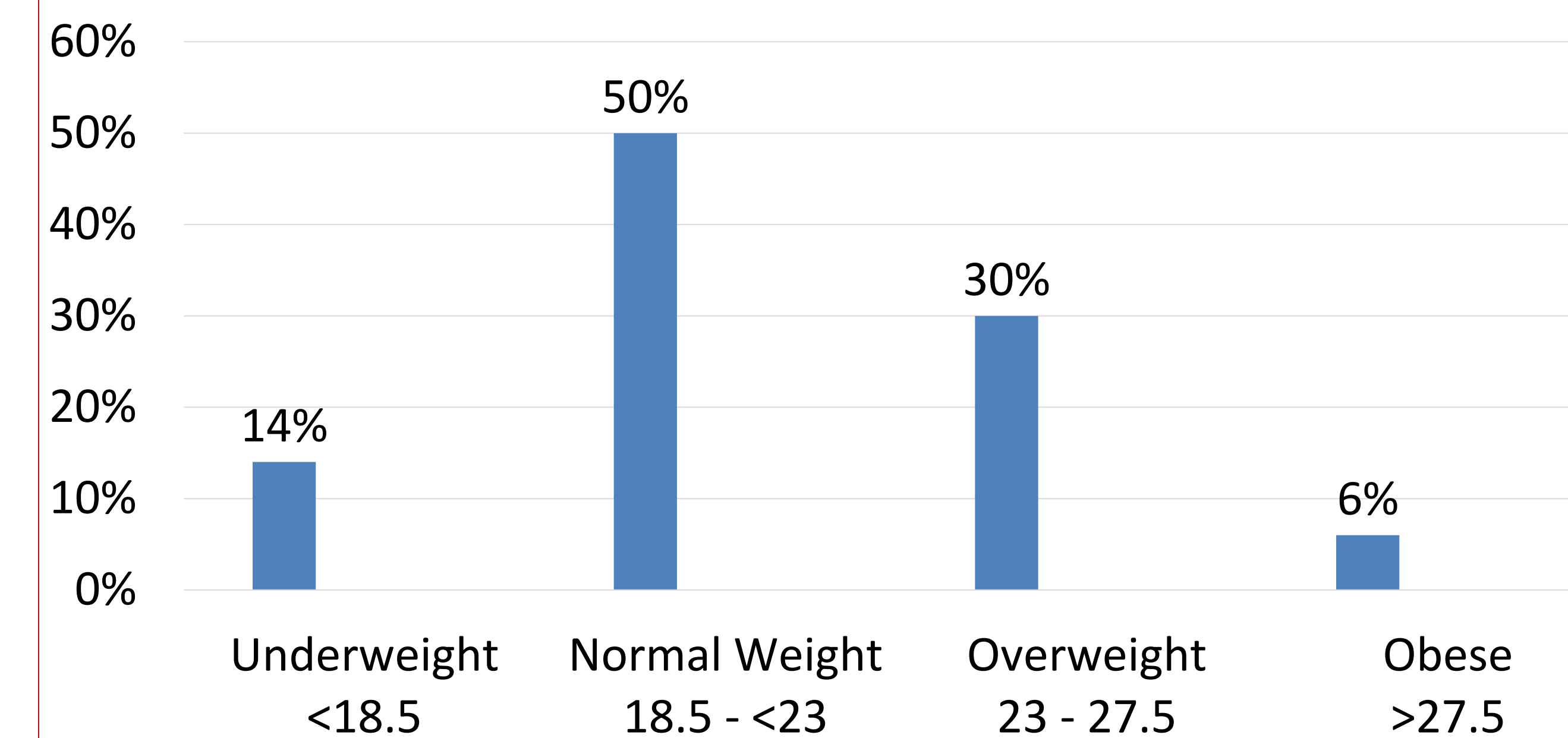
- Cronbach's alpha for ATOP= 0.686
- Cronbach's alpha for BAOP= 0.391

Findings

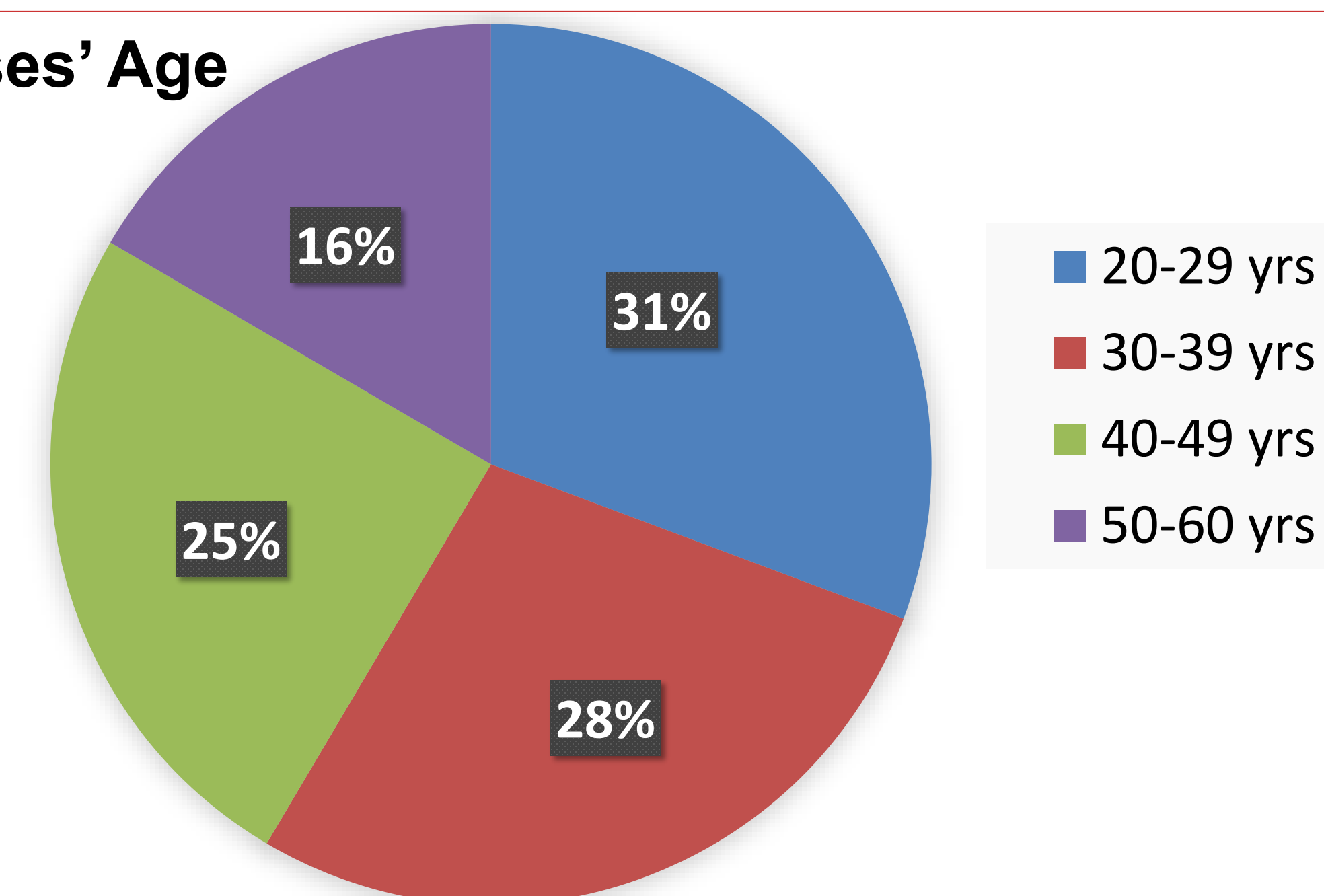
Nurses' Level of Education



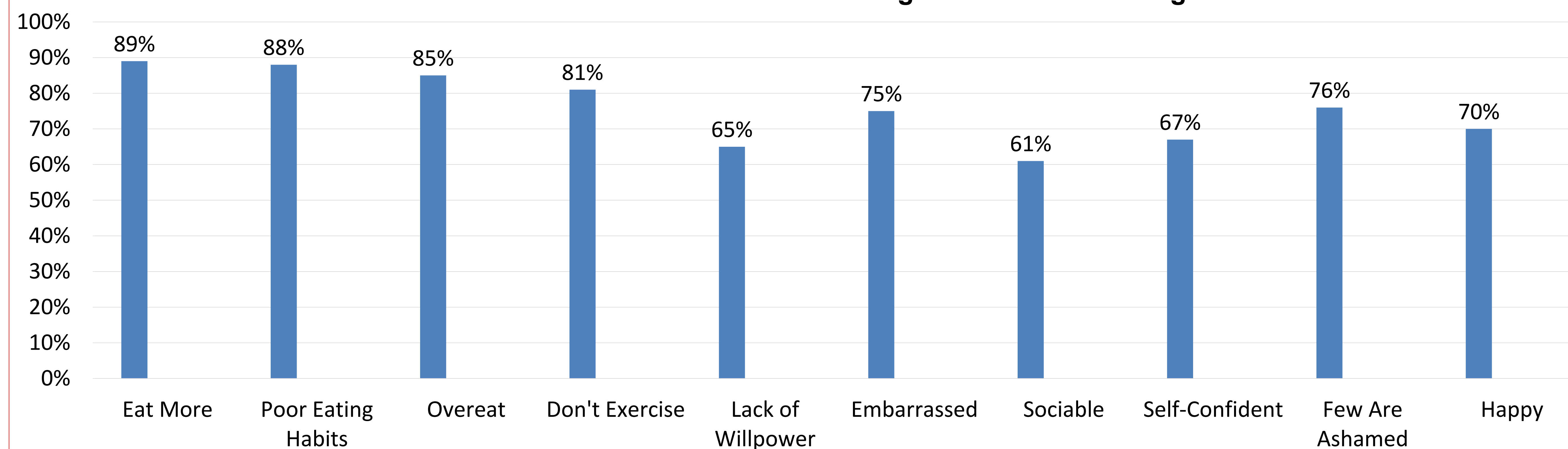
Nurses' BMI



Nurses' Age



Nurses' Perceive that Children Who Are Overweight Have the following Attributes



Discussion

Conclusion

- A majority of Thai nurses perceived childhood obesity was caused by dietary excess, physical activity deficits, or behavioral issues
- A majority of the Thai nurses perceived that overweight children were confident, sociable and as happy as other children
- BMI level used to identify a child as overweight in Thailand is lower than the BMI level used in the U.S

Implications

- Recognizing Thai nurses' knowledge and attitudes toward childhood obesity is helpful for further development of programs and strategies for addressing childhood obesity in Thailand

Further Research

- Examine nurses' knowledge and attitude about childhood obesity from multiple cultural and global perspectives
- Explore the impact of nurses' perceptions of childhood obesity on clinical practice
- Find a reliable tool similar to the BAOP but in Thai language