Changing Attitudes with a Gerontological Nursing Course

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Learner Objectives

- Learner will be able to:
 - discuss current research on nursing students and their attitudes toward older adults
 - compare results of the study to previous study results on nursing student attitudes
- There is no conflict of interest for the author in this presentation
- No sponsorship or commercial support was given to the author

Acknowledgment

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- Assistant Professor
- Department of Mathematics
- Texas A&M University-Commerce

Purpose of the Study

 The purpose of the study was to determine baccalaureate nursing student attitudes toward older adults and if a gerontological nursing course changes their attitudes

Literature Review

- Older Adults
 - 14.1% of the U.S. population in 2013
 - By 2040 21.7% of the U.S. population
- Nursing programs
 - Required to provide relevant knowledge about aging
 - Education needs to address incorporation of attitudes in providing care

Literature Review

- Nursing students
 - Do not desire to work with older adults
 - Attitudes influence this desire
- A 2013 systematic review
 - Indicated inconsistent attitudes regarding older adults
 - Not any consistent predictors of attitude

Literature Review

- Gerontological Nursing Course
 - Knowledge level increased but no change in attitudes
 - Increase in knowledge along with more positive beliefs about older adults
- Limited research in the U.S. on nursing student attitudes regarding older adults

Methods

- 52 Baccalaureate nursing students in 2 cohorts
- Gerontological Nursing Course added after first cohort
- Instruments
 - Demographic Survey
 - Palmore's Facts on Aging Quiz
 - Kogan's Old People Scale
- Completion of instruments at four times during the program for those with the course

2015 Cohort Results

Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male Female	5 23	17.9 82.1
Total	28	100.0

Age

	Frequency	Percent				
24 or younger	12	42.9				
25-30	8	28.6				
31-39	6	21.4				
40-49	2	7.1				
Total	28	100.0				

2016 Cohort Results

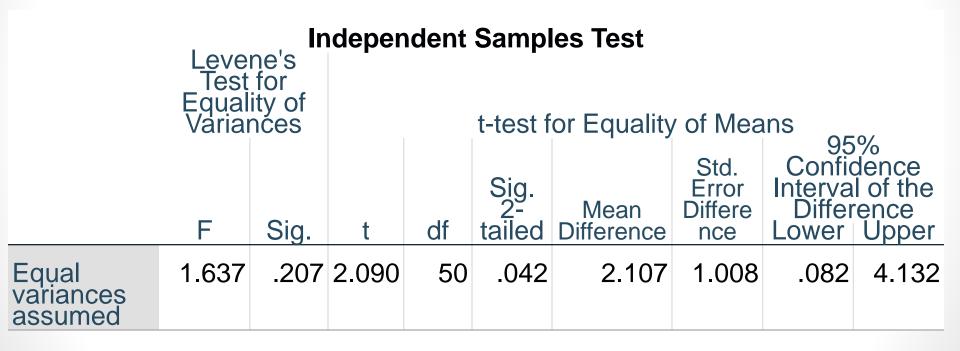
Gender					
	Frequency	Percent			
Male	3	12.5			
Female	21	87.5			
Total	24	100.0			

Age						
	Frequency	Percent				
24 or younger	8	33.3				
25-30	5	20.8				
31-39	9	37.5				
40-49	2	8.3				
Total	24	100.0				

Independent t-Test Results Palmore's Facts on Aging Quiz

Group Statistics							
	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean		
	2016	24	16.75	2.111	.431		
	2015	28	14.64	4.531	.856		

Independent t-Test Results Palmore's Facts on Aging Quiz



Independent t-Test Results on Kogan's Old Persons Scale

Group Statistics Std. Deviation Std. Error Mean Ν Mean Group 2015 33 5.1012 .83748 .14579 33 5.0809 .63841 .11113 2016

Independent t-Test Results on Kogan's Old Persons Scale

	Leve Test Equa Varia	ene's t for lity of nces	Independent Samples Test t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. 2- tail	Mean Differenc e	Std. Error Difference	95% Conf Interval Differe Lower	of the
Equal variances assumed	3.131	.082	.111	64	.912	.02030	.18331	34591	.38652

2016 Cohort Repeated Measures ANOVA

- Repeated measures ANOVA was calculated comparing the scores of participants at four different times:
 - Before any clinical courses
 - Before gerontological course
 - After gerontological course
 - End of program

2016 Results on Palmore's Facts on Aging Quiz

- No significant effects was found (F(3,54) = 1.224, p > 0.05).
- No significant difference exists among the means at the four different times.

2016 Results on Kogan's Old Persons Scale

- No significant effects was found (F(3,96) = 1.866, p > .05).
- No significant difference exists among the means at the four different times.

Conclusion

- Compared to other studies
 - Course changed attitudes in comparison of cohorts
 - Course doesn't appear to change attitudes within the second cohort
 - Similar to other results

Limitations and the Future

- Limitations
 - Small sample size at only one university
 - Other factors can influence attitudes
- Future
 - Study ongoing with two more cohorts of students
 - More studies needed on what influences attitudes