

Changing Attitudes with a Gerontological Nursing Course

Dr. Monica L. Tenhunen, DNP, RN,
GNP-BC, ANP-C

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

- Dr. Thomas Boucher
- 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 | 5 | 17.9 |
| Female | 23 | 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 Samples Test

Levene's
Test for
Equality of
Variances

t-test for Equality of Means

95%
Confidence
Interval of the
Difference
Lower Upper

F

Sig.

t

df

Sig.
2-
tailed

Mean
Difference

Std.
Error
Differen
ce

.082

4.132

1.637

.207

2.090

50

.042

2.107

1.008

.082

4.132

Equal
variances
assumed

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

Group Statistics

| Group | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
|-------|----|--------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2015 | 33 | 5.1012 | .83748 | .14579 |
| 2016 | 33 | 5.0809 | .63841 | .11113 |

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

Independent Samples Test

| | Levene's Test for Equality of Variances | | t-test for Equality of Means | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------|------------------------------|----|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---|--------|
| | F | Sig. | t | df | Sig. 2-tail | Mean Difference | Std. Error Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | |
| | | | | | | | | Lower | Upper |
| 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