

## Introduction

RN professional status and contributions to care are National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators™ (NDNQI) of work satisfaction and are linked to quality and patient safety.<sup>1</sup> Research demonstrates that non-standard nursing uniforms cause confusion among patients and health care providers and contributes to the inability to identify the professional nurse and their contributions to healthcare care.<sup>2</sup>

## Purpose

The purpose of this study was to identify a standardized uniform style and color that reflected the professional status of registered nurses as perceived by patients and registered nurses.

## Sample

All RNs and 60 patients from Pennsylvania Hospital's medical and surgical units were recruited for the study.

## Study Design

A mixed methods approach identified RN and patient perspectives of professional nursing status and attire.

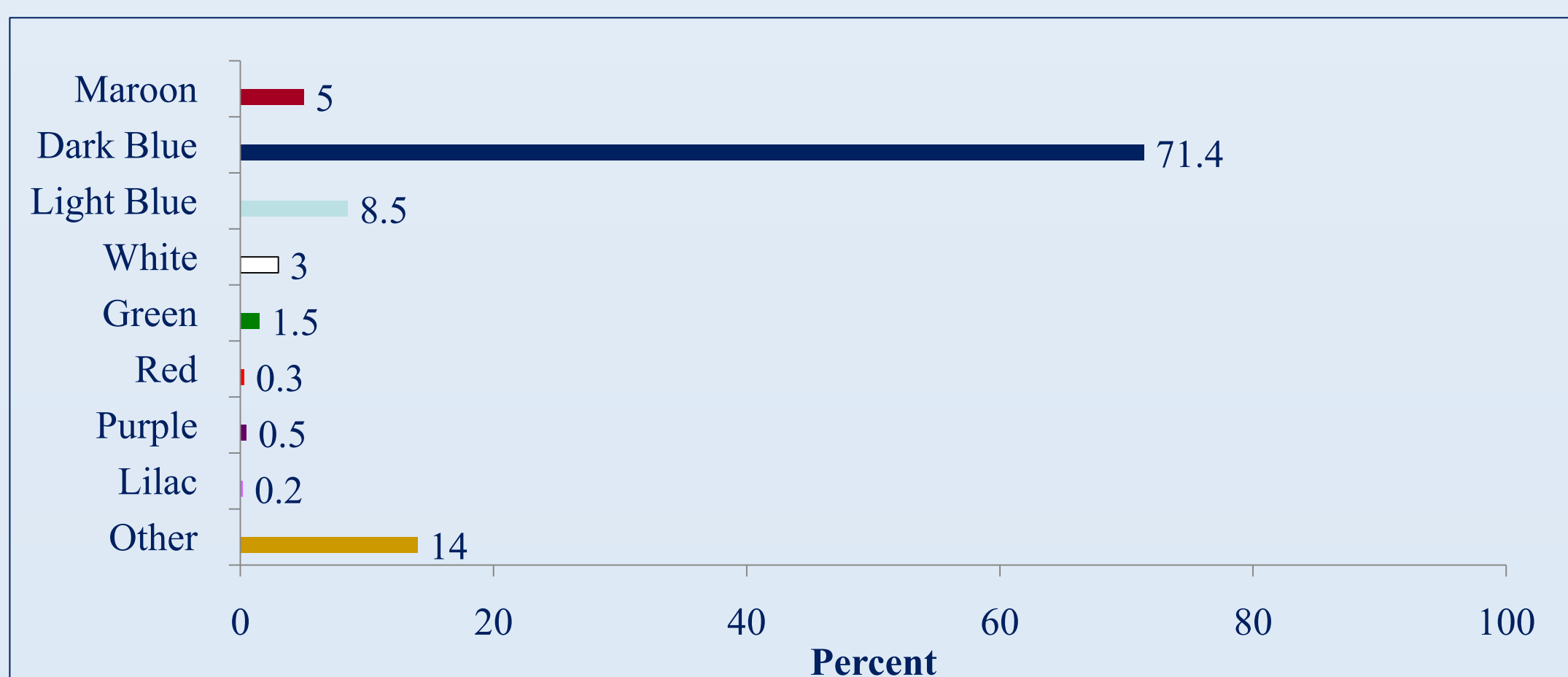
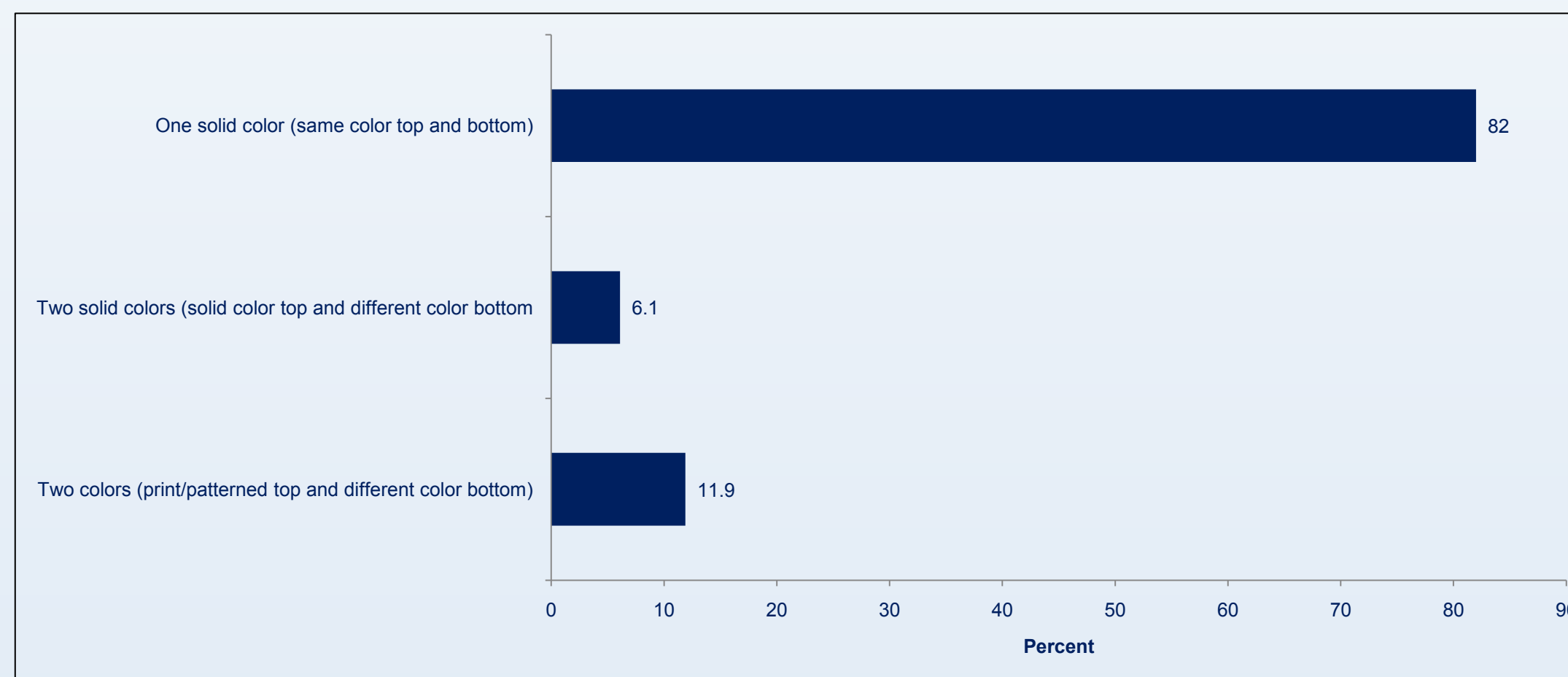
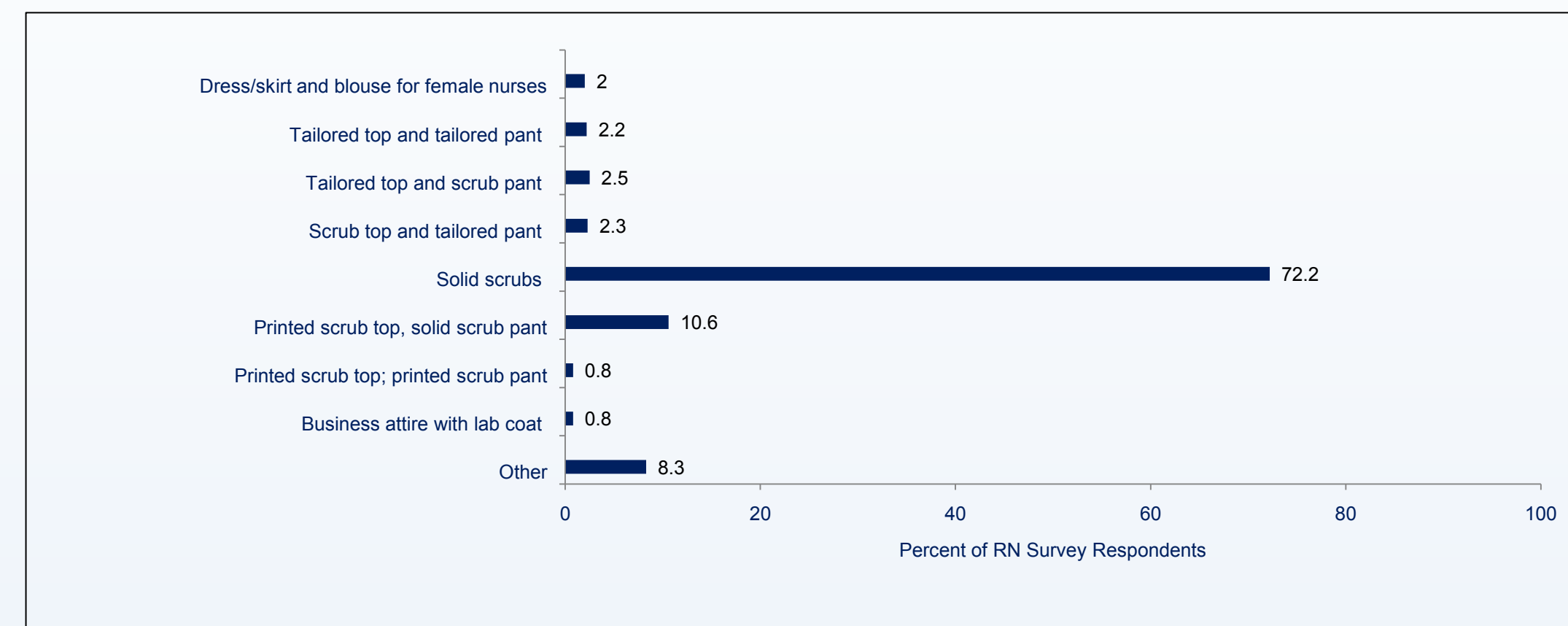
## Procedures and Instruments

RN representatives from each unit participated in a focus group exploring uniform style and color variability and its effect on RN professional image and status. An online survey examined RN's opinions on the optimal uniform style and color to represent professional nursing. Semi-structured interviews identified patient perspectives on nursing status and attire.

## Statistical Analysis

Measures of central tendency compared between group differences in professional status and attire.

## Graphs



## Professional Image at Pennsylvania Hospital



Figure 1: Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing photo from the early 1940s



Figure 2: Photo of RNs 2012 after Professional Image implementation

## Results

Although 79% of patients felt it was important to identify the RN, 43% could not do so. Uniform color was the patient preferred method of RN identification (50%). Patients preferred solid blue (22%), white (15%); or had no uniform color preference (56%). Nurses perception of professional uniform style and color are reflected in Figures 1 and 2.

## Conclusion

Patients and RNs link professional status and quality care to uniform style and color. Standardized uniforms inform RNs and patients of a nurse's professional status, scope of practice, and contributions to care. Identifying RNs and understanding their contributions and scope of practice is essential to nursing's professional status and patient safety.<sup>3</sup>

## References

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