

Introduction

Literature demonstrates understanding perceptions regarding nurses' readiness to use and implement evidence-based practices (EBP) and research in their own practice is vital to fostering a culture that is passionate for research. EBP and research readiness is also essential to maintaining progressive, effective, and appropriate patient care.

In addition, the designation of Magnet status by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center requires that designated hospitals set goals and meet criteria to measure the strength and quality of their nursing practices and patient outcomes.

One way this is accomplished is through participation in EBP and research.

Originally designated a Magnet hospital in 2009, LewisGale Hospital Montgomery (LGHM) experienced steady growth with EBP projects and research until 2013-14 when the facility realized a 55% decline in external and internal submissions of this type of work.



Objectives

An examination into the causes of this decline was needed in order to develop effective measures for strengthening EBP and research among nurses at LGHM.

Specific research questions are as follows:

1. What barriers exist for nurses to utilize EBP and perform research?
2. Do nurses feel supported to perform research?
3. Do nurses understand the difference between EBP and research?

Goals

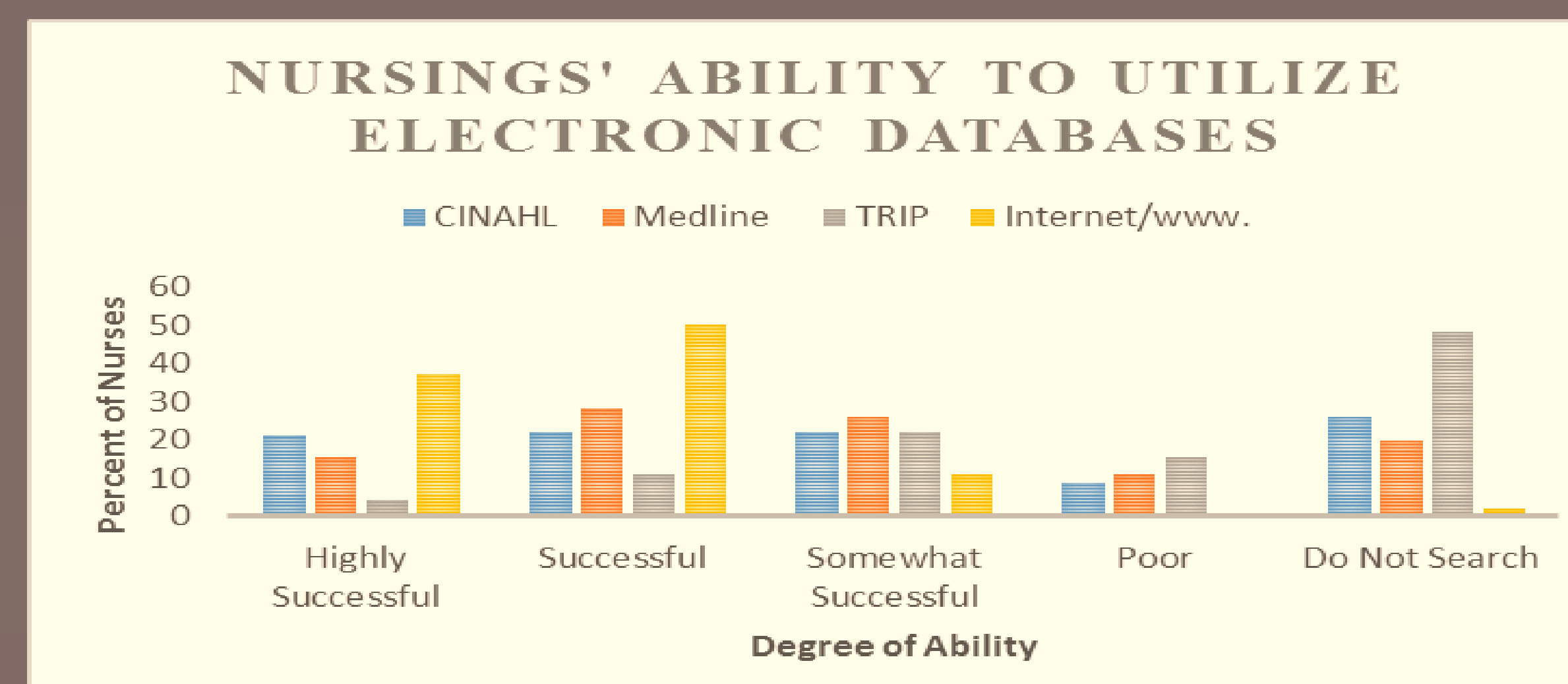
- ✓ To assess LGHM nurses' readiness to use EBP and research in their own professional practice
- ✓ To generate a better understanding of this facility's EBP and research culture

Methods & Materials

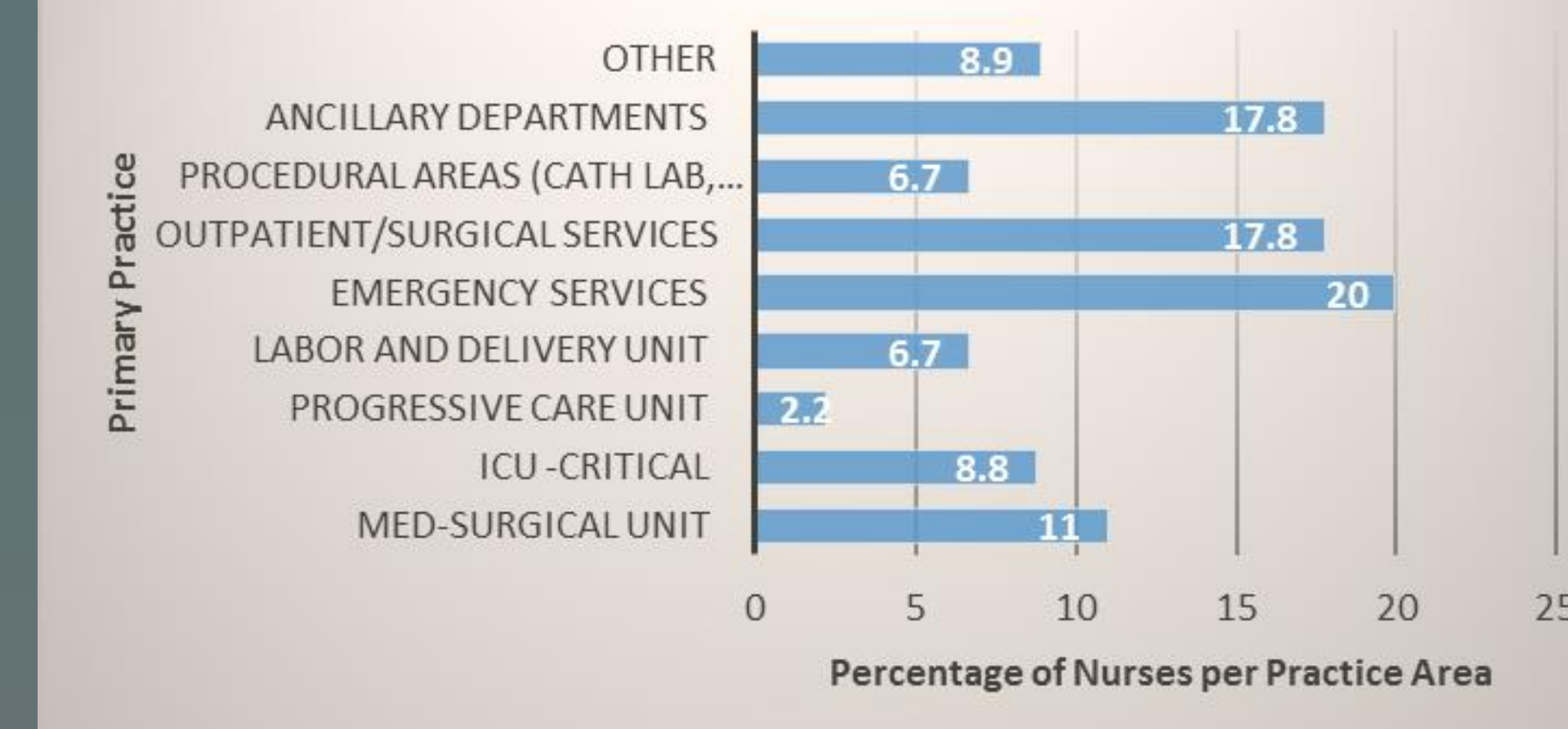
- ❖ Quantitative approach supported by a descriptive research design with an established survey as the data collection tool
- ❖ Permission to modify the original survey instrument to fit the needs of LGHM was granted from Dr. Diane Pravikoff
- ❖ Survey distributed to 186 RNs with 51 nurses (27%) consenting and participating in this study
- ❖ Survey consisted of a demographic inquiry, 27 rated response questions, and one open ended question to allow for comments

Results

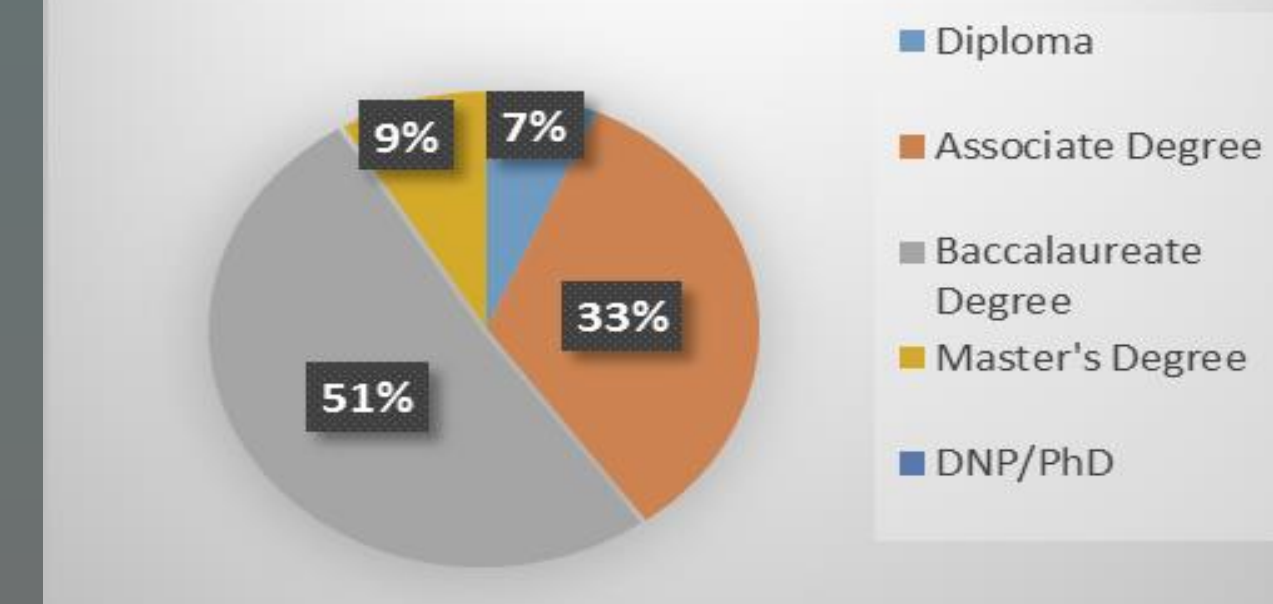
- How often the nurses felt they needed research and EBP information to support their nursing roles:
 - 23% stated seldom (less than once a month)
 - 17% stated daily
 - 26% stated often (several times a week)
- What presents barriers to their confidence/comfort in utilizing research besides time:
 - 42% stated difficulty in accessing research materials
 - 26% stated they lacked the skills to perform searches
 - 23% felt they lacked knowledge regarding research
 - 12% felt they lacked knowledge regarding EBP
- Organizational constraint that most affects the utilization of EBP and research in their own practice:
 - 36% state recruiting and retaining nursing staff
 - 40% state organizational budget for acquiring resources
- 68% agree or strongly agree that implementing EBP increases the certainty that positive patient outcomes will be met
- 90% agree or strongly agree that it is important to incorporate EBP into practice
- 28% were not sure if facility provided access to electronic databases
- 40% stated they have never received instructions on how to use databases such as CINAHL, Medline, and TRIP
- Nurses were asked to rate their ability to find information using the electronic resources. The following graph represents their responses:



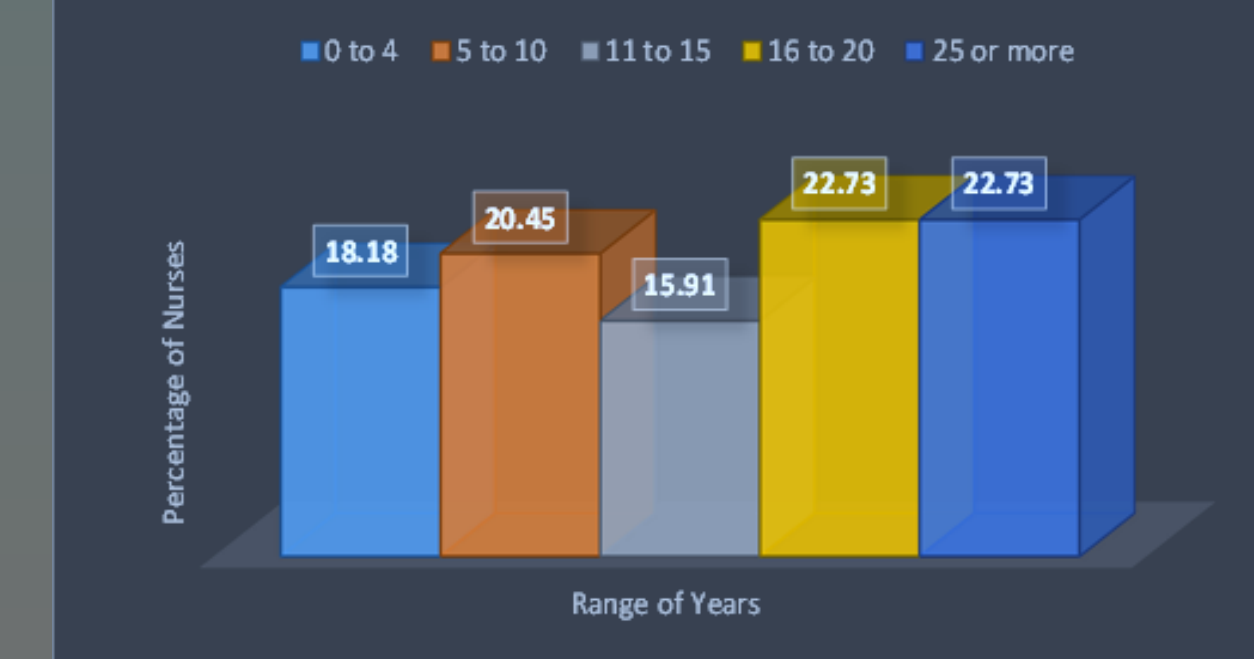
Demographic Data



Educational Background of RN Respondents



YEARS OF SERVICE AT LGHM



Conclusions

Survey results at LGHM indicated:

- ❖ Many nurses not familiar with resources and tools for EBP and Research (in general and available at facility)
- ❖ Many nurses not confident in research skills
- ❖ Recruiting and retaining nursing staff affects nurses' ability to perform EBP and Research
- ❖ Organizational budget a barrier to engagement and participation of nurses in EBP and Research projects
- ❖ Nurses believe EBP and research are essential in practice, which is significant in understanding the culture at this facility

Recommendations

1. Develop and implement formal EBP and research education/classes
 - increase confidence and comfort level of the nursing staff in utilizing EBP and research
 - Improve search skills and familiarity with electronic database
2. Evaluate online resources/access and upgrade facility services
 - Location of research links
 - Access to full research articles
3. Re-survey nursing staff after implementation of formal education
4. Measure/determine if EBP education and research class offerings increase the number of projects and studies generated at this facility

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References

Available upon request