

INTRODUCTION

- Emergency room nurses are some of the first members of the healthcare team to encounter older adult patients in a hospital setting.
- Due to the impact nurses have on patient care, their knowledge base for caring for the older adult population holds high importance.

BACKGROUND/SIGNIFICANCE

- Within the 7,000 monthly emergency room visits at Clara Maass Medical Center about 1,000 visits are from individuals 65 and older in age.
- On a national level, older adults will account for 20% of the population by the year 2030

PURPOSE

- Assess the knowledge gap in emergency room nurses caring for older adults and the need to educate them in order to provide a higher level of care to the emergency department older adult population.

METHODS

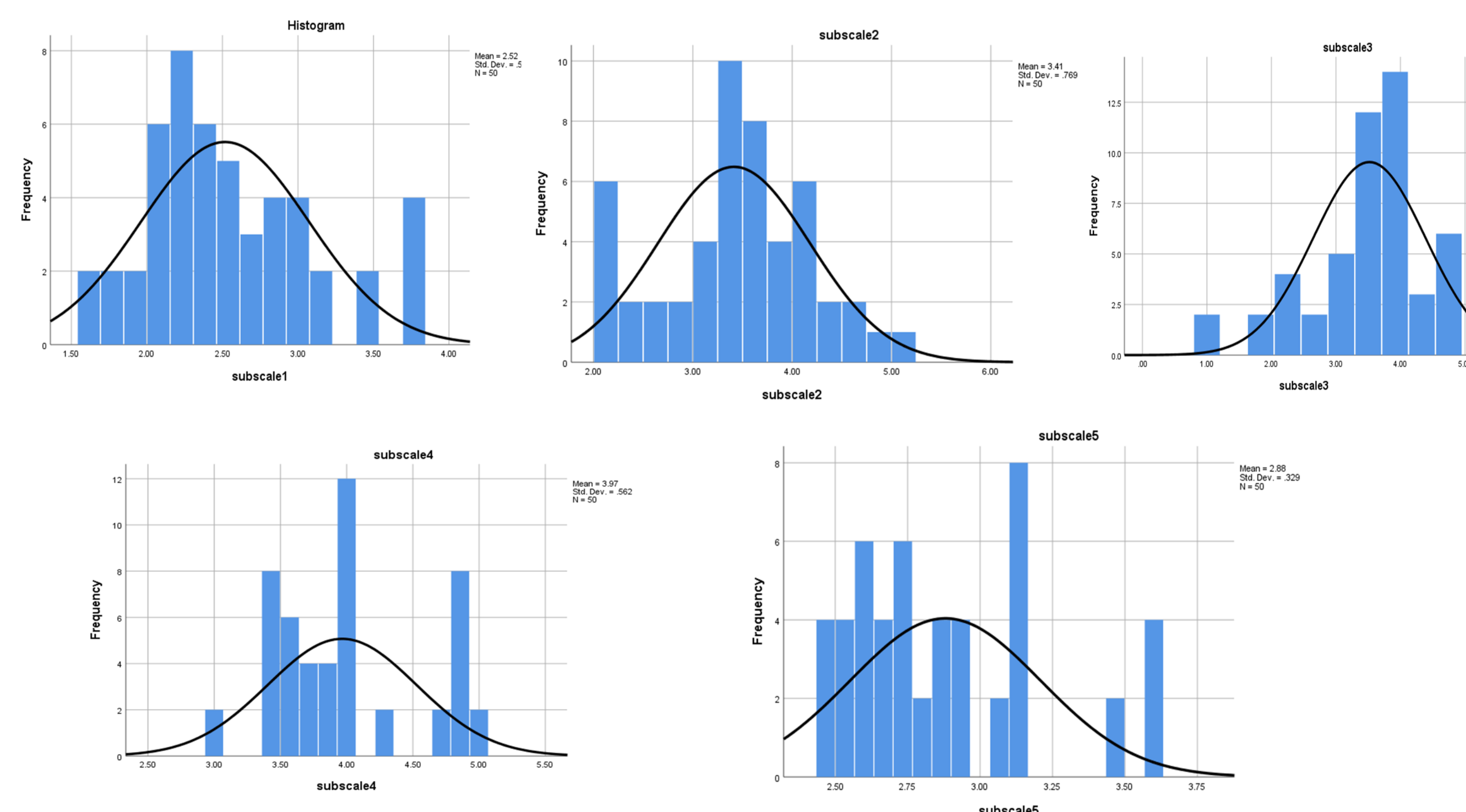
- Intervention:** Nurses provided with a web-based questionnaire assessing their knowledge in caring for older adults and their self-evaluated practice skills
- Design:** Descriptive study design
- Sample:** Clara Maass emergency room nurses
- Setting:** Emergency department of a small medical center in NJ
- Analytic Approach:** Inferential Statistics
- Outcomes:** Knowledge and practice skills measured through SPSS statistic software, version 25.0 for Windows

RESULTS

Characteristics of Participants

Age					Gender				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 21-30	22	44.0	44.0	44.0	Valid male	10	20.0	20.0	20.0
31-40	22	44.0	44.0	88.0	female	40	80.0	80.0	100.0
41-50	6	12.0	12.0	100.0	Total	50	100.0	100.0	
Total	50	100.0	100.0						

years_experience				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid <1	7	14.0	14.0	14.0
1-5	31	62.0	62.0	76.0
6-10	4	8.0	8.0	84.0
11-15	4	8.0	8.0	92.0
26-30	4	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	



DISCUSSION

- Subscale 1:** Examined how often specific interventions were used in caring for older patients in the emergency department. The majority of the population reported adequate use of the interventions with a minimum of 1.62, a maximum of 3.69 and a mean of 2.5169.
- Subscale 2:** Analyzed the participants' satisfaction with the sensitivity and delivery of care provided to older adults in the emergency department. The majority of the participants scored satisfied for subscale 2; minimum 2.00, maximum 5.00 and a mean of 3.4138.
- Subscale 3:** Examined the professional responsibility the nurses felt towards specific aspect of patient care and incidents in the emergency department. Most participants ranked themselves as feeling professionally responsible in the areas mentioned above. The minimum was 1.00, the maximum 4.75 and the mean 3.5183.
- Subscale 4:** Evaluated the attitudes nurses had towards everyday experiences and the frequency of those experiences with older adults in the emergency department. Nurses mostly felt that they often had positive experiences and attitudes in terms of the care they provided on an everyday basis in the emergency department to the older adult population. The statistical scoring was a minimal of 3.00, maximum of 5.00 and a mean of 3.9657.
- Subscale 5:** Analyzed perception nurses had of the day to day care they provided to older adults. Participants felt either neutral sometimes or adequate with their perception of care provided to older adults.
- High perception of being very capable in older adult care among the sample
- Participants showed to be unaware of their knowledge gap in understanding and caring for older adult patients.

LIMITATIONS

- Conducted in only one hospital; limiting the generalization of the results gathered
- Data collected from nurses self-reporting, possibly resulting in nurses answering questions based on what they believed the investigator wanted.
- The number of participants was minimal; results may have been different with a larger number of participants.

CONCLUSION

- Results indicate a need for educational interventions to improve the knowledge base of emergency room nurses caring for older adults.
- The increase in knowledge base will assist the emergency department in providing a higher standard of care to the older adult population.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Raysha Monel, BSN, RN
Email: rmm291@sn.rutgers.edu
Telephone: 973-573-1607