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Tracy L. Brewer

Wright State University - Main Campus, tracy.brewer@wright.edu

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PEDIATRIC NURSES ATTITUDES AND KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE PROVISION OF BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT IN A PEDIATRIC MEDICAL CENTER

TRACY L. BREWER, DNP, RNC
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Introduction

- ❑ Breastfeeding gives all neonates the best nutritional start in life.
- ❑ Successful breastfeeding depends, in part, on the support of the nursing staff caring for the breastfeeding dyad.
- ❑ Infants are admitted to pediatric hospitals and mothers look to pediatric nurses to provide breastfeeding support and encouragement.

Purpose

- ❑ Determine knowledge and attitudes of pediatric nurses' regarding the provision of breastfeeding support.

Research Questions

1. What are pediatric nurses' knowledge about breastfeeding and breastfeeding support?
2. What are pediatric nurses' attitudes about breastfeeding and providing breastfeeding support?
3. Is there a relationship between pediatric nurses' breastfeeding knowledge and personal breastfeeding experience?
4. Is there a relationship between pediatric nurses' attitudes toward breastfeeding and providing breastfeeding support and personal breastfeeding experience?

Theoretical Framework

Theory of Reasoned Action (Fishbein, 1979)

Significant relationship between knowledge and attitude scores
($r = -.29, p = .024$)

Background

- ❑ Lack of literature regarding pediatric nurse's attitudes & knowledge towards the provision of breastfeeding support.
- ❑ Nurses knowledge of and attitudes towards breastfeeding and the provision of breastfeeding support are marginal.
- ❑ Studies of pediatricians, dieticians, & nurses found that providers with previous breastfeeding experience = positive attitudes and/or knowledge towards providing breastfeeding support.
- ❑ Most nurses obtain their breastfeeding knowledge & experience in college.
- ❑ Educational interventions have shown to improve attitudes and knowledge of nurses towards provision of breastfeeding support.

Methods

- ❑ Descriptive survey design
- ❑ Sample & Setting:
 - Convenience sample of 145 registered nurses in a large pediatric medical center
 - ✓ Acute Medical
 - ✓ Cardiac Step Down
 - ✓ Cardiac Intensive Care
- ❑ Instruments
 - Demographic Survey (12-item)
 - Breastfeeding Survey (40-item)
 - ✓ Survey Monkey (Siddell et al, 2003)



Results

❑ Demographics

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Age | 31.6 years (M) 8.705 (SD) |
| Years Employed in Position | 66% 1-5 years 21% 6-11 years 7% 12-17 years 6% 18-30 years |
| Highest Degree in Nursing | 25% Associate 16% Diploma 55% BSN 4% MSN |
| Ever Breastfed an Infant | 47% Yes 7% No 45% Non-applicable 1% Did not answer |

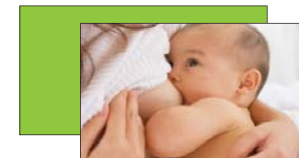
RQ1) Breastfeeding Knowledge:

| Scale | Max Score | Mean % correct response | Standard Deviation | Range % correct response |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Knowledge | 65 | 47.2 72.6% | 5.09 | 32-61 49-93.8% |

RQ2) Breastfeeding Attitudes:

| Scale | Max Score | Mean % correct response | Standard Deviation | Range % correct response |
|----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Attitude | 135 | 91.9 68% | 8.13 | 71-112 53-83% |

RQ3&4) Knowledge & Attitude Scores for nurses with personal breastfeeding experience or no personal breastfeeding experience



Knowledge and attitude scores were significantly higher in those nurses who had a personal breastfeeding experience.

- Knowledge: (t (74) = 2.287, $p = .025$)
- Attitudes: (t (74) = 2.306, $p = .024$)

Conclusion

- ❑ Study findings add to the body of evidence that pediatric nurses have marginal knowledge and attitudes to provide breastfeeding support in pediatric medical centers.
- ❑ Suggest the need for further intervention based studies to establish the effect of breastfeeding education in university pediatric nursing curriculums' & orientation programs in pediatric medical centers.
- ❑ Study Limitations
 - Convenience sample, only one specific hospital
 - Power .70: Small sample size
 - Marginal instrument internal consistency

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