## 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, 1971)

### 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

## Results

### RQ1: Breastfeeding Knowledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Mean Score</th>
<th>% Correct Response</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>% Correct Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>47.2 %</td>
<td>5.92</td>
<td>32-61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-93.6%</td>
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</tbody>
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### RQ2: Breastfeeding Attitudes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Mean Score</th>
<th>% Correct Response</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>% Correct Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attitude</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>91.9 %</td>
<td>8.13</td>
<td>71-112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53-89%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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