

The Effectiveness of Educating RNs On Stethoscope Disinfection

Amanda S. Berg BSN, RN

Lehigh Valley Health Network, amanda_s.berg@lvhn.org

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/patient-care-services-nursing>



Part of the [Nursing Commons](#)

Published In/Presented At

Berg, A. (2016, March 18). *The Effectiveness of Educating RNs On Stethoscope Disinfection*. Poster presented at LVHN Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program Graduation, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA.

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact LibraryServices@lvhn.org.

The Effectiveness of Educating RNs On Stethoscope Disinfection

Amanda Berg, BSN, RN

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

Current State

Stethoscope disinfection is a task that should be occurring between each patient use.

Observations revealed that RNs do not routinely disinfect their stethoscopes between patient use.

This places our patients at higher risk for:

- Infection
 - The stethoscopes are used as a vector for transmission.
 - The nurse's hands touching the infected stethoscopes are used as a vector.
- Longer patient length of stay
- Development of resistant infections (MRSA, VRE) (Merlin, et.al, 2009)

METHODS

- A team was formulated to observe night shift RNs on whether disinfection of stethoscopes was occurring
- A short survey was asked to inquire about stethoscope disinfection
 - How often do you clean your stethoscope?
 - After each patient
 - After each shift
 - When I have time
 - I don't remember the last time I cleaned it
- Education was given during Safety huddles and observation was performed after education.



PICO QUESTION:

In the Medical – Surgical setting, does RN education on stethoscope disinfection compared to no education increase compliance of stethoscope disinfection?

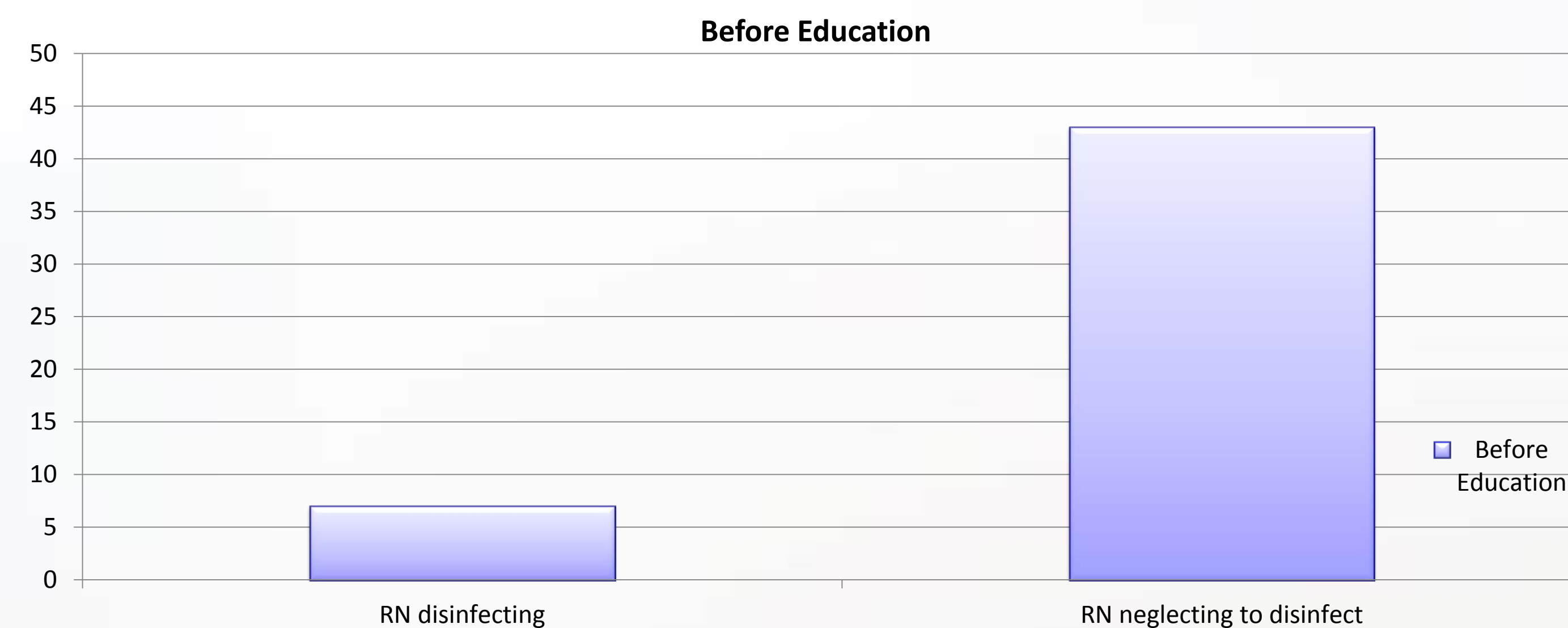
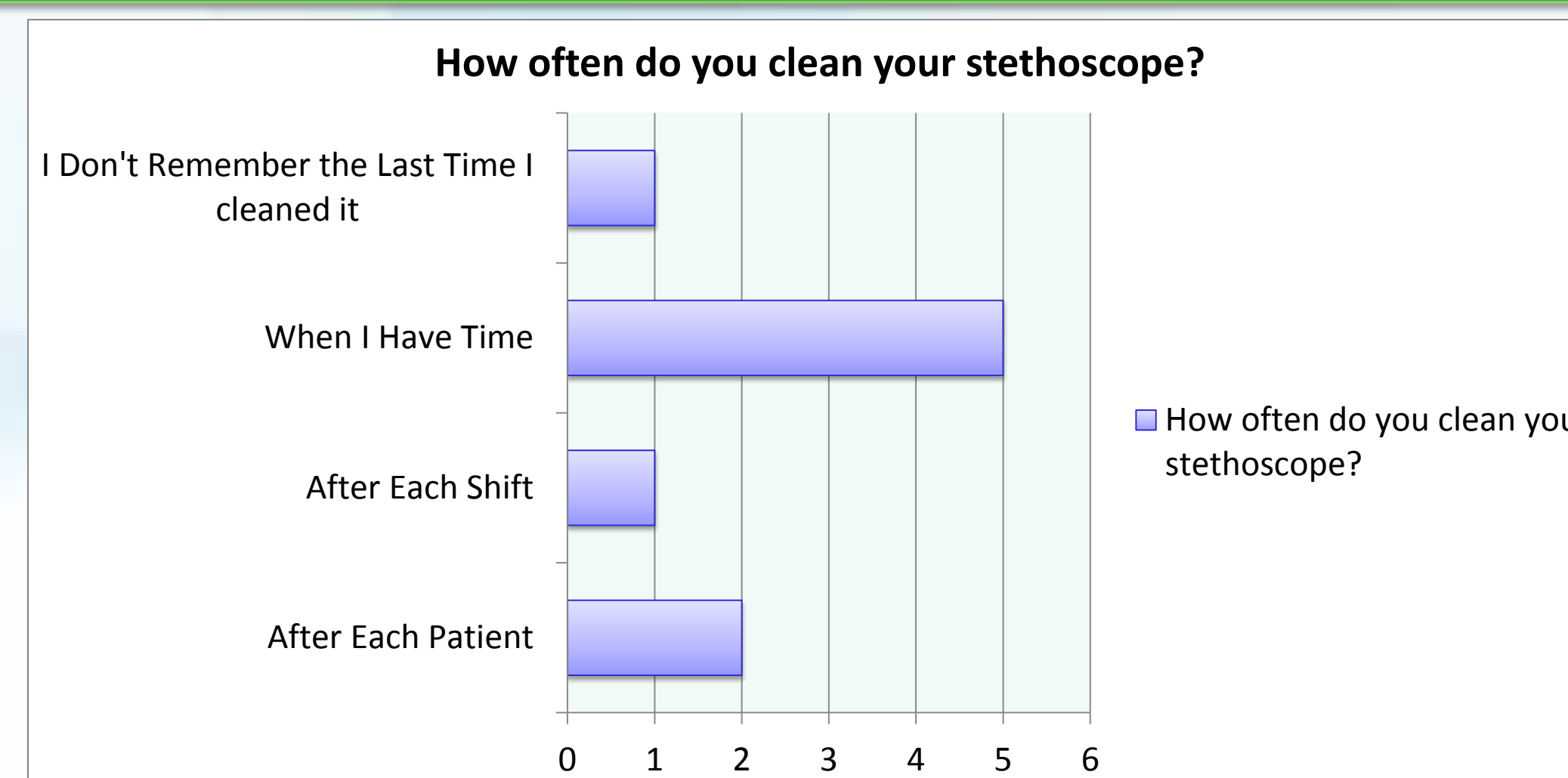
P: Nurses Medical - Surgical

I: Education on stethoscope disinfection

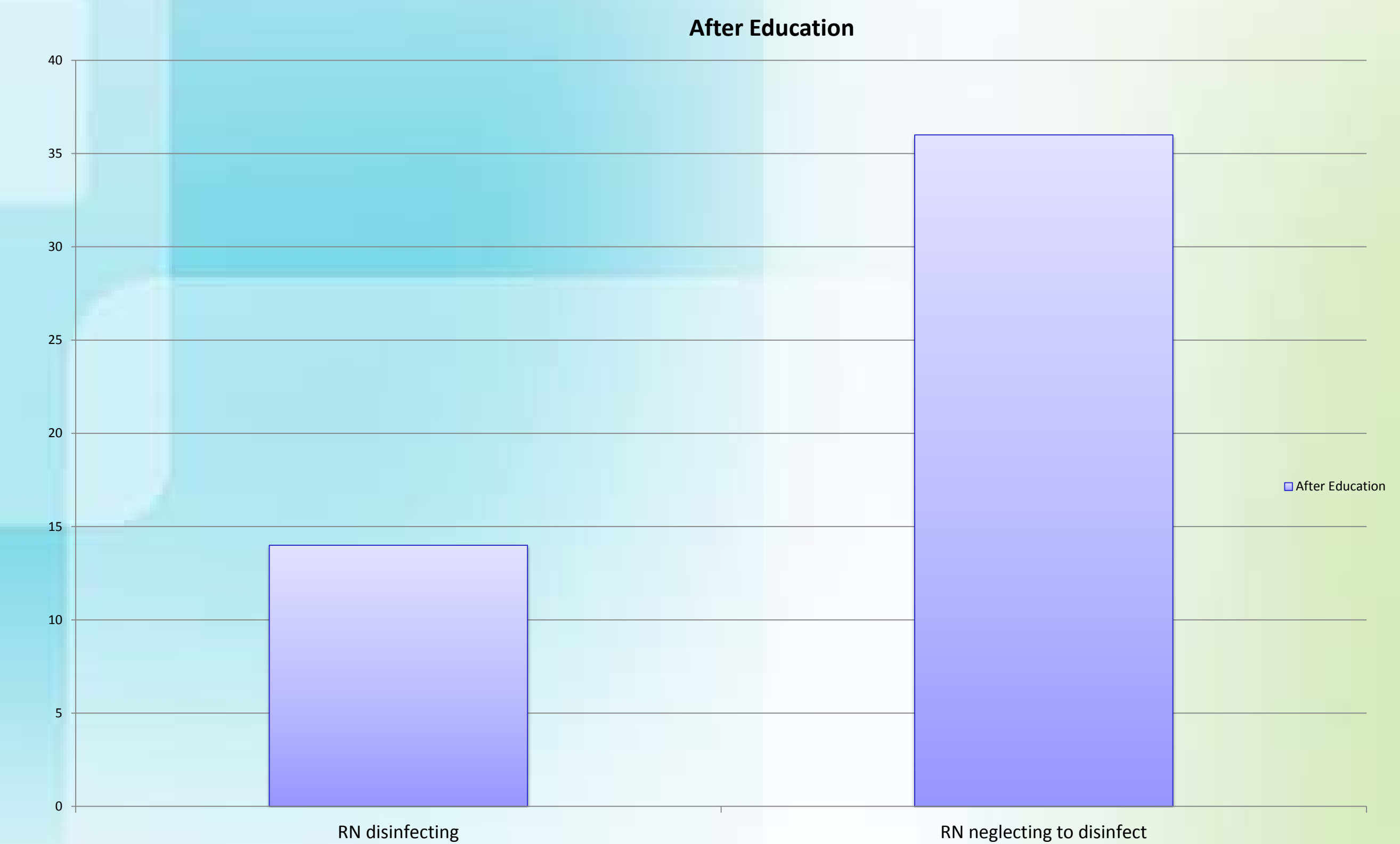
C: Compared to no education on stethoscope disinfection

O: Increase compliance of stethoscope disinfection

OUTCOMES



RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

- **Nurses clean their stethoscopes more frequently when they know they are being audited.**
- **Nurses clean their stethoscopes more frequently when alcohol wipes are readily available on their workstations.**

References:

- Longtin Y., Schneider A., Tschopp C., et al: Contamination of stethoscopes and physicians' hands after a physical examination. *Mayo Clin Proc* 2014; 89; pp. 291-299
- Merlin, M., Wong, M., Pryor, P., Rynn, K., Marques-Baptista, A., Perritt, R., & ... Fallon, T. (2009). Prevalence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* on the stethoscopes of emergency medical services providers. *Prehospital Emergency Care*, 13(1), 71-74. Doi:10.1080/10903120802471972
- Núñez, S., Moreno, A., Green, K., & Villar, J. (2000). The stethoscope in the Emergency Department: a vector of infection?. *Epidemiology & Infection*, 124(2), 233-237.
- Raymond, M. (2009). Stethoscopes retain, breed pathogens. *Healthcare Traveler*, 17(3), 17-17 1p.
- Youngster, I., Berkovitch, M., Heyman, E., Lazarovitch, Z., & Goldman, M. (2008). The stethoscope as a vector of infectious diseases in the paediatric division. *Acta Paediatrica*, 97(9), 1253-1255 3p.