

## Improving Burn Nursing Skills and Knowledge with Burn Specific Competencies

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# Improving Burn Nursing Skills and Knowledge with Burn Specific Competencies

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## BACKGROUND

- LVHN's Regional Burn Center is accredited by the American Burn Association (ABA).
- New 2015 ABA guidelines require all burn centers to develop burn-specific competencies.
- LVHN does not currently hold Education Days that focus on validation of burn-specific knowledge/skills.
- Varying levels of burn care skill and knowledge exist among nursing staff.
- Re-education and development of burn competencies are needed to correct gaps in knowledge deficits and meet ABA re-verification criteria.

## PICO QUESTION

- In burn nursing, does the implementation of a unit-based educational program with annual competencies, when compared to centers that do not utilize annual competencies, improve the knowledge and skill of the staff and meet criteria for ABA re-verification?

## EVIDENCE

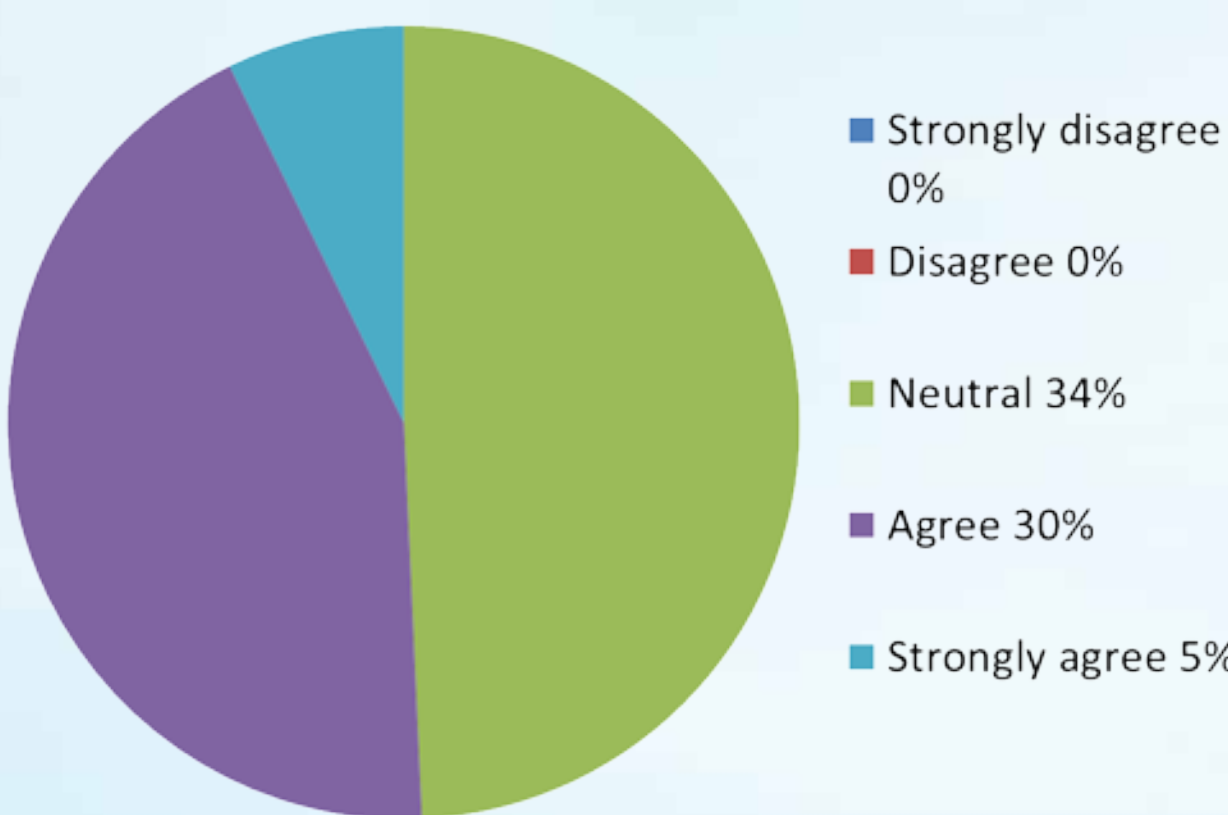
- Information obtained in the simulated environment is valid and appropriate for use in judging nurse competency... A skills re-credentialing program provides a valid assessment of nurse competence (Jones, Cason, & Mancini, 2002).
- There is a critical need for nursing-led evidence-based education. Education programs for post resuscitative and intensive care unit phase of a burn patient are limited. Having a standardized education resource improved staff knowledge related to burn nursing care (Olszewski et al, 2015).
- Major strides in understanding the principles of burn care over the last half century have resulted in improved survival rates, shorter hospital stays, and decreases in morbidity and mortality rates due to the development of resuscitation protocols, improved respiratory support, support of the hypermetabolic response, infection control, early burn wound closure, and early enteral nutrition. Critical care of the burn patient requires the participation of every discipline in the hospital (Latenser, 2010).

## METHODS

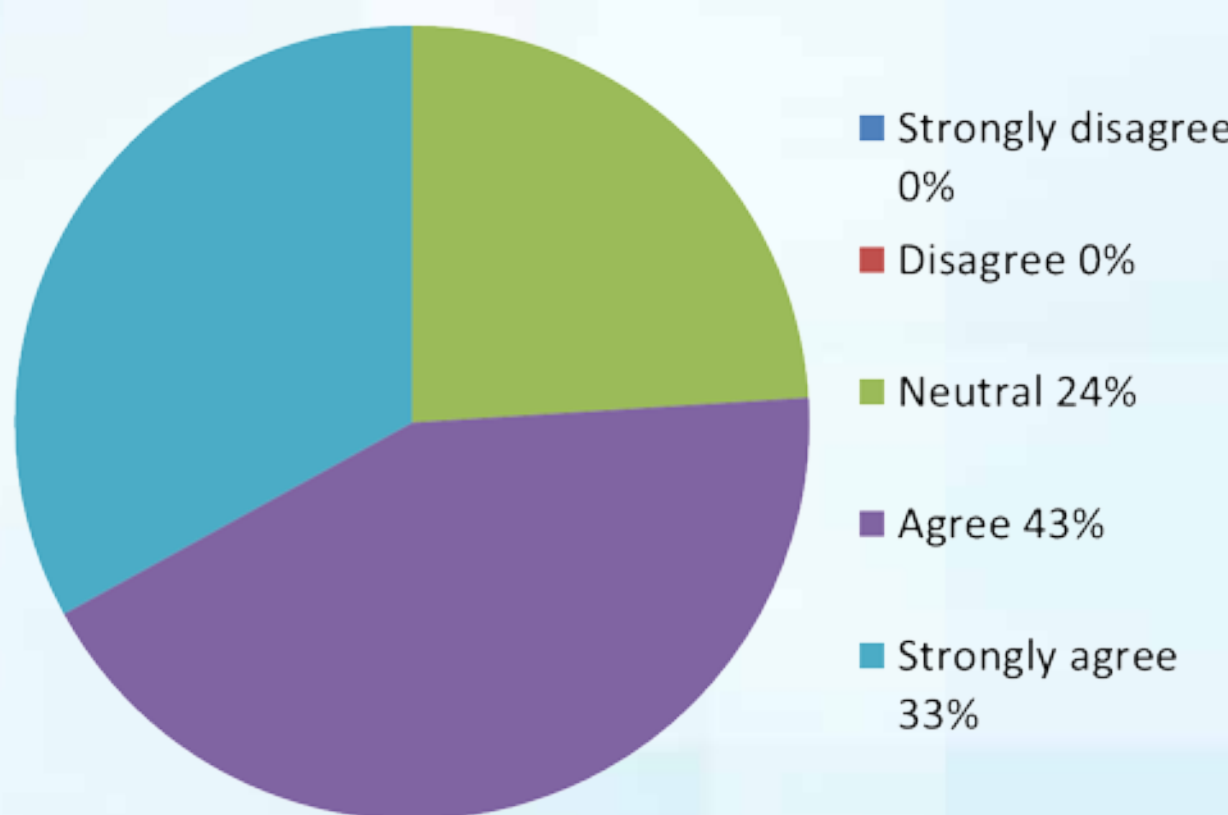
- A needs assessment and pre-survey to gather RN burn care skills/knowledge baseline.
- Burn Education Days were provided over a 2 day period to accommodate RN schedules; Included hands-on skill/competency stations:
  - Burn Education Days were provided over a 2 day period to accommodate RN
  - Elastic tubular support bandage sizing & application
  - Central line redress
  - Self-adhering elastic support wrap & elastic bandage application.
- Post-surveys to determine if education was beneficial and/or increased knowledge of burn care.

## RESULTS

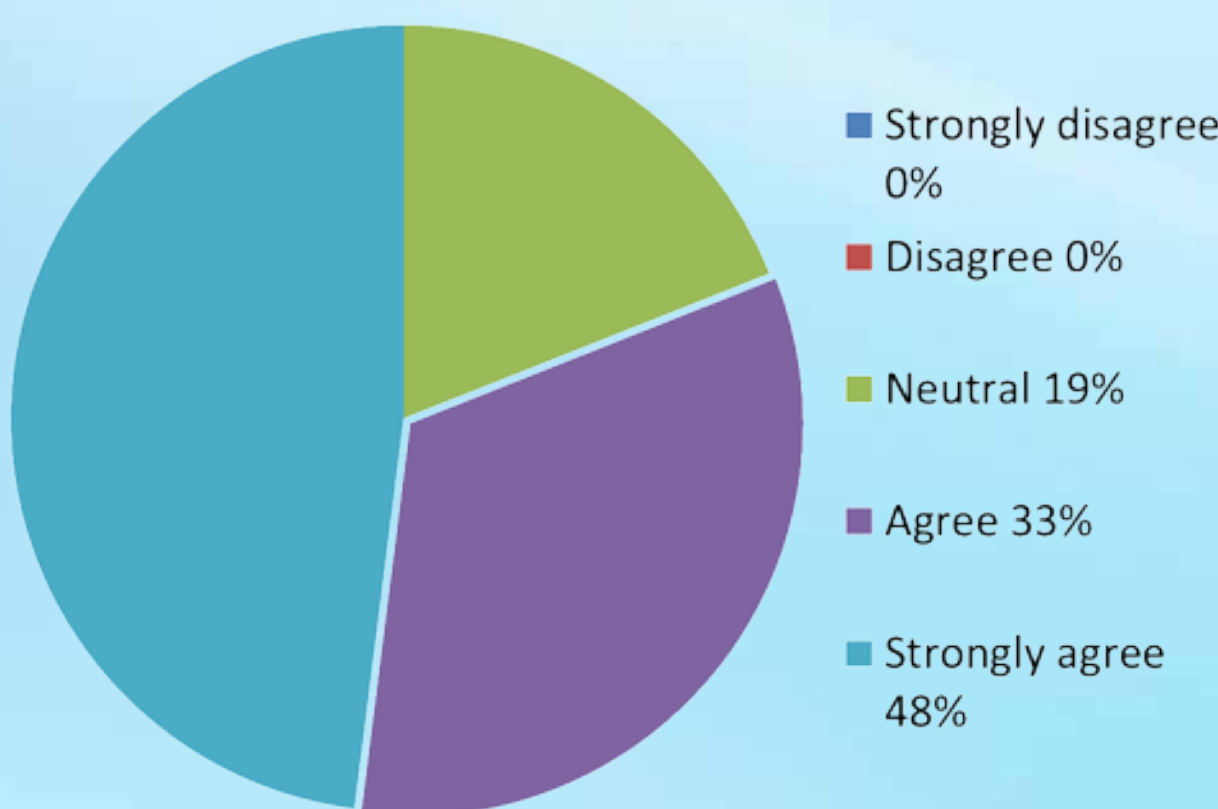
Pre-assessment Perception:  
Sufficient Burn Education is Provided



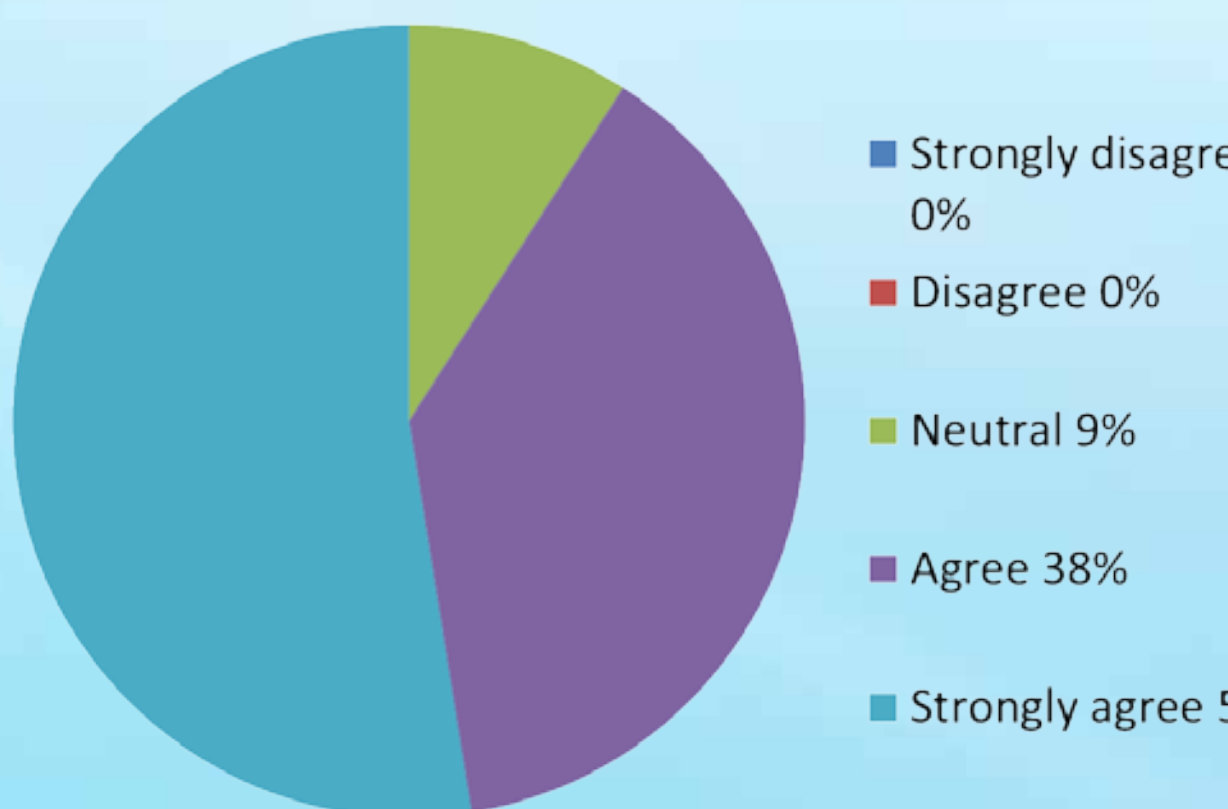
Post-assessment Perception:  
Sufficient Burn Education is Provided



Pre-assessment:  
Annual Competencies Improve Burn  
Nursing Education and Patient Care



Post-assessment:  
Annual Competencies Improve Nursing  
Education and Patient Care



## OUTCOMES

- Of 23 clinical nurses employed on the burn unit, 21 participated in the project.
- Pre-assessment surveys indicated knowledge level of burn care and comfort level of performing burn-specific care varied.
- Post-assessment surveys showed marked improvement of clinical staff knowledge and comfort level.
- Pre- and post-assessment surveys reiterate the need for annual burn specific competency evaluations.

## CONCLUSIONS

- The results of this study show that burn specific education improves overall competency of staff.
- All staff were provided the same education on topics covered, therefore decreasing the knowledge gap.
- LVHN Regional Burn Center will continue to host annual Burn Education Days to meet ABA re-verification criteria.

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3. Olszewski, A., Yanes, A., Stafford, J., Greenhalgh, D. G., Palmieri, T. L., Sen, S., & Tran, N. (2016). Development and Implementation of an Innovative Burn Nursing Handbook for Quality Improvement. *Journal of Burn Care & Research*, 37(1), 20-24.

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