

What itch do we scratch?

Nursing home education delivered by hospices

Compiled by Rebecca Harding, Outreach Nurse, Sarah Hill, Outreach Nurse and Professor Derek Willis, Medical Director

Aim

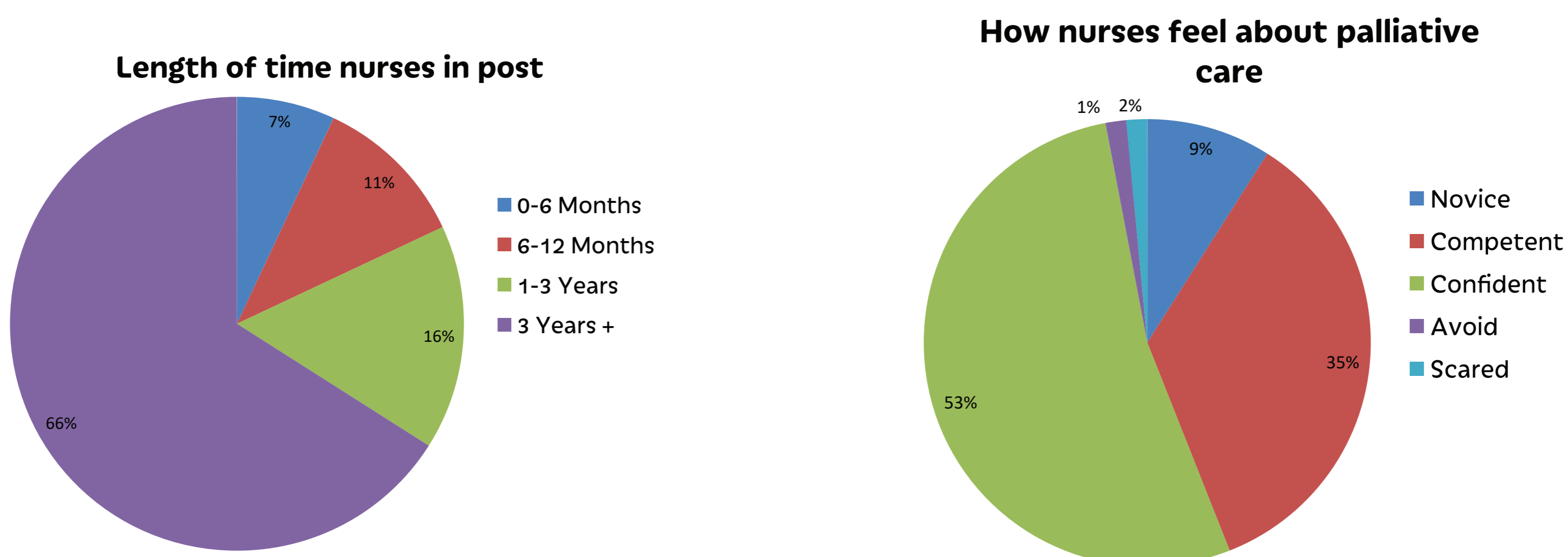
End-of-life care needs to be delivered in a range of care settings. Hospice professionals are key to promoting best practice, and influencing the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of other healthcare organisations.¹ Education and training is key to building these foundations.² This poster focuses on describing what palliative care education is needed for nurses in nursing homes and if it differs to community.

Method

All nursing homes covered by a member of our Outreach Team were asked to participate in the study. Questionnaires with a combination of multiple choice questions and free text answers were sent to all nursing homes. Nursing home managers were contacted and permission given before questionnaires sent. The questionnaires were hand-delivered or posted. Each nursing home was asked to complete and return the questionnaires within six weeks.

Results

Questionnaires were sent to 17 nursing homes with a return rate of 78%, which equates to 12 nursing homes. Out of all respondents only data from registered nurses was collated. In total 62 nurses completed the questionnaire which made up 71% of all respondents. Part of the project was to ascertain how long each respondent had been in their current post. Results show that the majority of respondents, 66%, had been in post for three or more years. Respondents were also asked to describe how they felt about their understanding and experience of providing palliative care.



Respondents were asked about the core subjects currently included on the education programme delivered to community nurses by our Outreach Team and if they would help improve their care. The topics respondents said were most beneficial were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Advance care planning | Symptom control |
| Advanced communication | Medication and interactions |
| Palliative care emergencies | |

Out of all nurses who responded, 65% said they had completed palliative care training, 35% said they had no palliative training of any sort and only 10% indicated they had completed training in palliative care at university level.

Conclusions and recommendations

Nurses working in nursing homes want education that deals with a broad number of subjects rather than anything specific. Respondents identified an overall need for training which would suggest a separate teaching programme for nursing home staff is required.

References

1: Hospice UK (2017) Transforming Care Strategy (2017-2022)
<https://www.hospiceuk.org/docs/default-source/about-us-documents-and-files/hospice-uk-strategy-2017-2022.pdf?sfvrsn=6>

2: National Palliative and End of Life Care Partnership (2015) Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care: A National Framework for Local Action (2015-2020)
<http://endoflifecareambitions.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/P>



University of
Chester

