

Background / Purpose

Background

The benefits of nursing certification are numerous: professional growth, job satisfaction, improved patient outcomes, and increase in safe delivery of care (Wojciechowski, M., 2017). The percentage of certified nurses in the EUHM Peri-operative area (APC, Pre-op, Endoscopy & PACU) was low <3%. A pulse check of staff nurses identified a low desire to be certified and lack of knowledge regarding the benefits of certification

Purpose

Create a collaborative learning environment between Anesthesia Pre-operative clinic, Pre-operative area and Post Anesthesia Care units by inviting nurses to an engaging study environment
Prepare nursing staff to successfully take the Certified Ambulatory Peri-anesthesia Nurse and the Certified Peri Anesthesia Nurse exams

Goal

To increase the number of certified nurses in the perioperative area by 10% over 12 months

Discussion / Conclusion

Post certification course exam scores increased by 15% when compared to pre course exam

There was over a 50% increase in CAPA/CPAN certified nurses within the department over 12 months. This superseded the goal of 10%

Evaluations showed a “Good to Very Good” rating on content presentation and class engagement

Methods/Data Analysis

Education coordinators, nurse scholars, and unit nurse educators created learning templates from ASPAN recommended sources

Leadership was presented certification course plan outline

An average of 13 nurses participated in the classes each cohort

Staff who registered for class on learning management system and for exam received a voucher to cover registration cost

Leadership approved professional time for nurses who attended class and 20 CEs were obtained by nurses who completed entire course and post evaluation

Certification courses were over 4 weekends for 4 hours each session

Computerized formative evaluations were given after each class & summative exams were administered pre- and post- class

Outcomes were measured by comparing pre- and post-course exam scores & tracking CPAN/CAPA pass rates

Implications For Practice

Implementation of a formal certification course increased baseline knowledge for participants

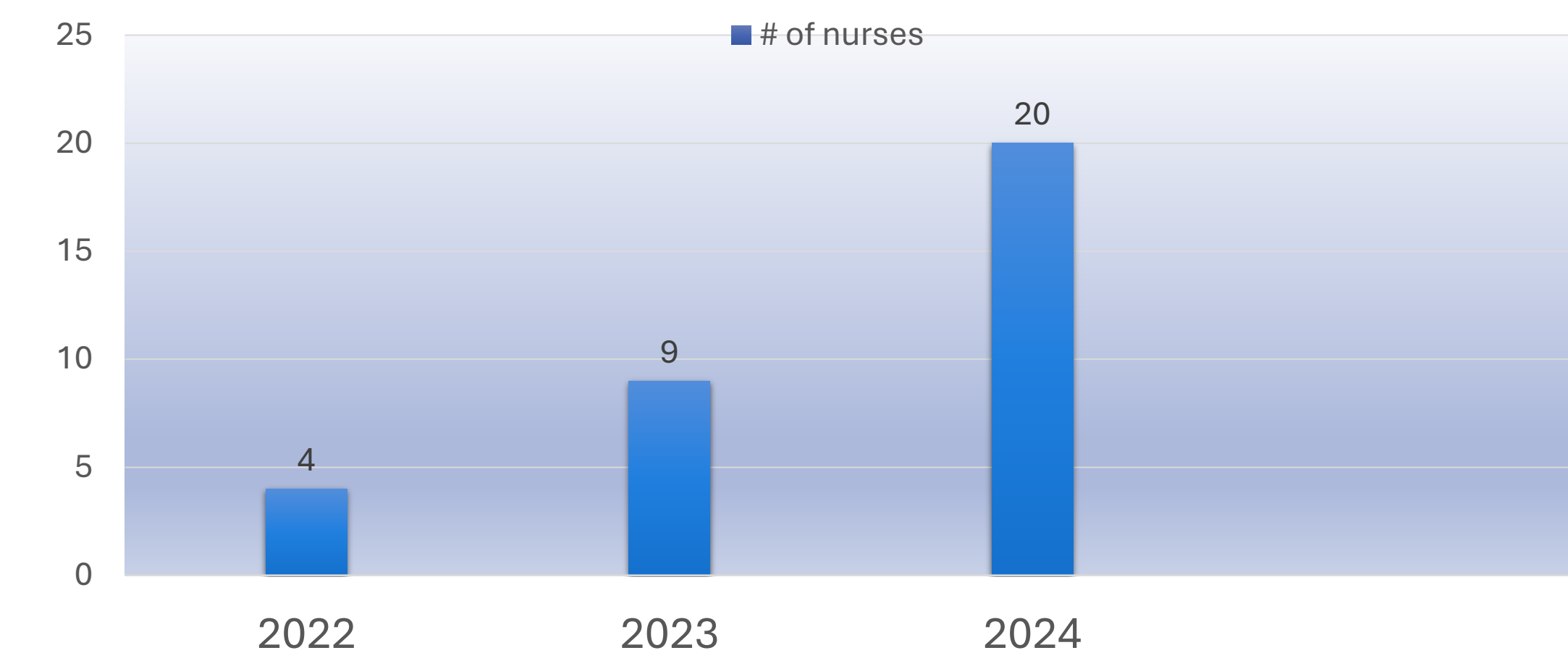
Offering a certification course may create interest in certification among staff nurses

Introduction of certification course increased knowledge and interest in resources offered by professional organization (ASPAN) and engagement in evidence-based practice

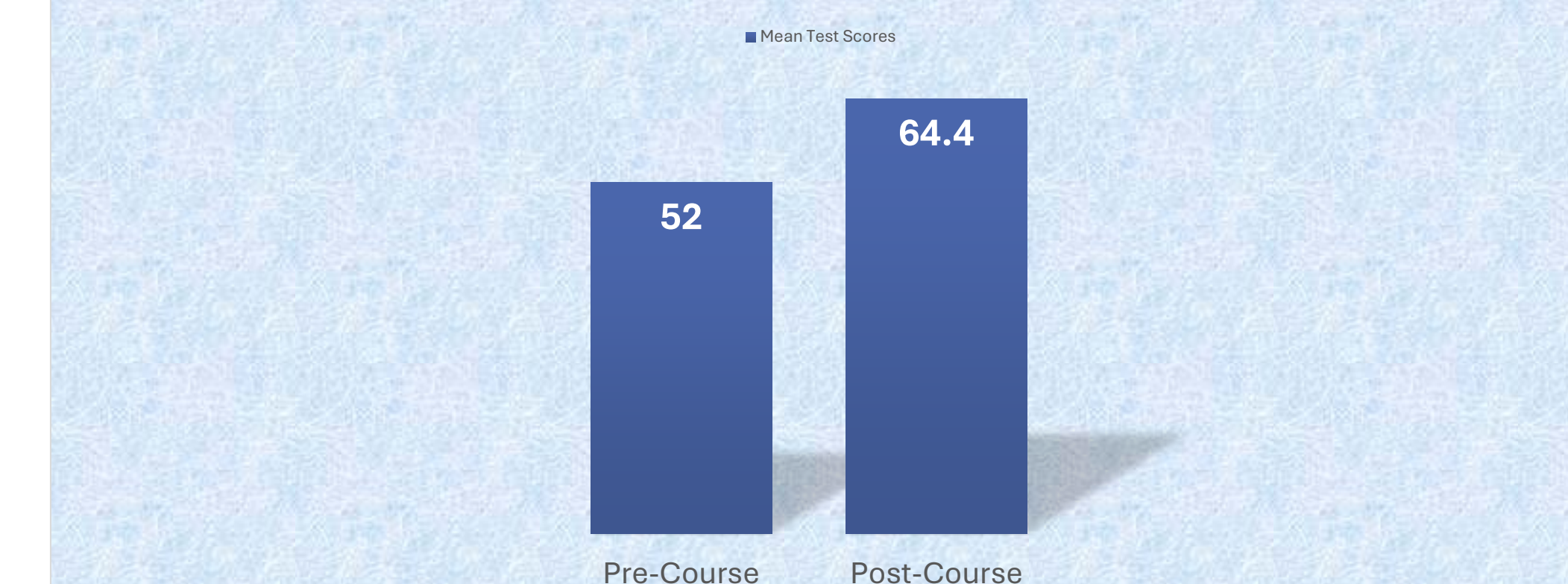
Plan-Do-Study-Act process identified areas of improvement including updates to information, revising summative and formative exams and implementing case studies to enhance retention of information and increase class engagement

Results

CPAN/CAPA Certified Nurses
EUHM PACU/Pre-op/APC/ENDO



CAPA/CPAN Mean Test Score Comparison
Fall 2024



Supporting Evidence/References

Sherman, R. O. (2018). Why certification in nursing matters. *Emerging Nurse Leaders*. Retrieved from <https://www.emergingnleader.com/why-certification-in-nursing-matters/>

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Schroeter, K. (2015). The value of certification. *Journal of trauma nursing*, 22(2), 53-54. <http://dx.doi.org/doi: 10.1097/JTN.0000000000000120>

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