INTRODUCTION
Concerns for appropriate staffing ratios in the contemporary Phase I postanesthesia care unit (PACU) persist. Current recommendations for staffing ratios in the Phase I PACU are based on expert opinion.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this study is to uncover evidence to support the current ASPAN recommended staffing ratios in the Phase I PACU.

METHODS
Using the Donabedian model as a theoretical framework, a mixed method approach was used including a survey followed by qualitative interviews with volunteer participants.

RESULTS
Quantitative Data
- Participants (N=94)
  - 94.74% were aware of ASPAN staffing recommendations
  - 36.17% had more than 31 years RN experience
  - 50.72% were CPAN, 10.14% were CAPA, 14.49% were both

Qualitative Data
- Participants (N=9)
  - Recorded sessions were digitally transcribed verbatim
  - Data analyzed using hermeneutic phenomenology
  - Approach seeks to understand experiences of nurses
  - Several themes emerged from the qualitative interviews

CONCLUSION
New knowledge based on staffing studies will provide additional support to nurses who have struggled with implementing the recommended nurse-to-patient ratios that have been promoted by clinical experts as best practice.

THEMES (6)
- "I have never been happier in my career as a nurse."
- "I'm a Phase I kind of girl. That's what I do."
- "I've come to feel that of course, there are good managers, better managers, bad managers, whatever."
- "I think the issue is that a lot of management think a nurse is a nurse is a nurse, so just do it. A specialty is very important."
- "Everyone is so welcoming. You're so friendly, even the anesthesiologist doctors I work with...they have my back."
- "We're lucky, we're a good group. Most of us have pretty level heads. Most of us have some good experience on us."
- "Our unit is committed to following ASPAN guidelines."
- "The ASPAN standard for staffing "represents what the bedside nurses do""
- "Sometimes the anesthesiologist, and the doctor will be sitting there and they're like, can we start this next case? And I'm like, NO, this patient has to be ready to go upstairs first."
- "We have to fight to keep our standards, management thinks we could handle more!!"
- "Patient safety is our number one goal. So that's what we strive for. And it should be a goal everywhere. And I think as caregivers, we do have that goal."
- "I feel like some people forget sometimes it's such a critical care area and that patients change on a dime."
- "Our unit is committed to following ASPAN guidelines."
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