

**NICHE CONFERENCE**

---

## Nursing Student Attitudes Towards the Elderly: A Descriptive-Comparative Study

Saginaw Valley State University

---

APRIL 22, 2017
POWER PRESENTING  
Elizabeth Ros, RN, PhD  
Karen Brown-Fackler, EdD, RN, CNE


---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---


**NICHE CONFERENCE**


---

### Background

- Increase in the number of older adults requiring healthcare in diverse settings
  - Need for more professional nurses
- Lack of overall interest in gerontological nursing
- Deficient number of baccalaureate prepared nurses practicing in gerontological settings
  - Reducing this deficit is crucial to increasing quality of care in this population

(Fox, 2013)

---

POWER PRESENTING  
Elizabeth Ros, PhD, RN  
Karen Brown-Fackler, EdD, RN, CNE
 

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



**NICHE CONFERENCE**

---

### Background

- Attitudes towards the elderly among nursing students have been found to be correlated with:
  - Their decision to choose settings caring for the elderly for clinical placements
  - Choice of work settings after graduation  
(McLafferty & Morrison, 2004)
- Although there has been research on the attitudes of the general public towards the elderly, there has been little research on the attitudes of nursing students.

---

POWER PRESENTING  
Elizabeth Ros, PhD, RN  
Karen Brown-Fackler, EdD, RN, CNE
 

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---


---


**NICHE CONFERENCE**


### Purpose

To identify the attitudes of nursing students toward the elderly

- Provide guidance on strategies to improve attitudes
- Increase the number of professional nurses interested working in settings where elderly receive care.



FORUM PRESENTERS:  
 Elizabeth Ross, PhD, RN  
 Karen Brown-Fackler, EdD, RN, CNE

 NYU

---

---

---


---

---

---

---


---


**NICHE CONFERENCE**

### Methods

- Descriptive-comparative cross-sectional design
- Baccalaureate pre-nursing and nursing students in a five semester program
- Completed survey at the beginning and end of each semester

FORUM PRESENTERS:  
 Elizabeth Ross, PhD, RN  
 Karen Brown-Fackler, EdD, RN, CNE

 NYU

---

---

---


---

---

---

---


---


**NICHE CONFERENCE**

### Methods

- *Attitudes Towards Old People Questionnaire* (Kogan, 1961)
  - 34 item Likert scaled questionnaire
  - Measures attitudes toward elderly people with respect to both norms and individual differences, stereotypes of old people, and misconceptions about older people

FORUM PRESENTERS:  
 Elizabeth Ross, PhD, RN  
 Karen Brown-Fackler, EdD, RN, CNE

 NYU

---

---

---


---

---

---

---


---


**NICHE CONFERENCE**

## Findings

- **761 students participated in the study**
  - 151 were pre-nursing students
  - The rest relatively evenly distributed throughout the program.
- **Cronbach's Alpha:  $r = .901$**

FORUM PRESENTERS:  
 Elizabeth Ross, PhD, RN  
 Karen Brown-Fackler, EdD, RN, CNE

 NYU

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---


---


**NICHE CONFERENCE**

## Findings: Items with Highest Means (statements most agreed to)

Item	Mean	Standard Deviation
It would probably be better if most old people lived in residential units with people their own age.	3.90	1.34
One seldom hears old people complaining about the behavior of the younger generation.	3.58	1.18
Most old people are capable of new adjustments when the situation demands.	3.45	1.19
Most old people make excessive demands for love and reassurance.	3.44	1.20
Most old people get set in their ways and are unable to change.	3.41	1.29

FORUM PRESENTERS:  
 Elizabeth Ross, PhD, RN  
 Karen Brown-Fackler, EdD, RN, CNE

 NYU

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---


---


**NICHE CONFERENCE**

## Findings: Items with Lowest Means (statements least agreed to)

Item	Mean	Standard Deviation
In order to maintain a nice residential neighborhood, it would be best if too many old people did not live in it.	2.84	1.39
Most old people tend to let their homes become shabby and unattractive.	2.84	1.37
Most old people spend too much time prying into the affairs of others and giving unsought advice.	2.84	1.25
One of the most interesting and entertaining qualities of most old people is their accounts of past experiences.	2.86	1.49
When you think about it, old people have the same faults as anybody else.	2.86	1.30

FORUM PRESENTERS:  
 Elizabeth Ross, PhD, RN  
 Karen Brown-Fackler, EdD, RN, CNE

 NYU

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Findings

- Pre-nursing participants had statistically significant more favorable attitudes when compared to all the other levels in the program (p= .000)
- There were no statistically significant differences in the attitudes of the students at different levels in the program

---

---

---

---

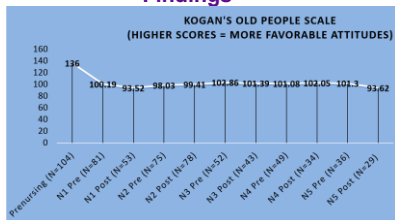
---

---

---

---

### Findings




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Conclusions

- Stereotyping of the elderly continues to exist in Nursing students
- In this study, attitudes towards the elderly become more negative when students enter the Nursing program
- This change in attitude may be due to the types of exposure they have to the elderly




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Implications

- Design clinical experiences so students are exposed to gerontological nursing throughout the program
- Include exposure to well elderly throughout program
- Carefully select clinical sites to include:
  - Positive work environments
  - Professional role models and mentors

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### References

- Chen, S.L., Brown J.W., Groves, M.L., & Spezia, A.M. (2007). Baccalaureate education in American nursing homes: A survey of nursing schools. *Nursing Education Today*, 27, 909-914.
- Fox, J.R., (2013), Educational strategies to promote professional nursing in long-term care. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 39(1), 52-60.
- Kogan, N. (1961). Attitudes towards old people: the development of a scale and an examination of correlates. *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 62(1), 44-54.
- McLafferty, I. & Morrison, F. (2004). Attitudes towards hospitalized older adults. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 47, 446-453.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---