

Implementation of School Nurse Delegation



Jessica H. Gerdes, RN, IL-PEL CSN, NCSN
 Marjurie Ribeiro, PhD, Data Analyst
 Independent / Non-Affiliated

Practice Issue

~The Illinois Nurse Practice Act (NPA), revised, effective Jan. 1, 2018, gave Registered Nurses authority for broad delegation of nursing interventions.

Review of Evidence

~IASN discussion board and other communications indicated lack of and mis-understanding of the delegation authority.

~Little has been published regarding delegation in the revised Nurse Practice Act.

~No data exists on the status of implementation of delegation in Illinois schools by Illinois RNs.

Implementation

~Approximately 2,000 Illinois school nurses were emailed survey.

~As incentive, a \$50 gift card was offered and provided to three respondents in a random drawing.

~671 completed the survey; 6 replies were removed due to ineligibility.

~666 responses were studied.

~Survey response rate, 33%

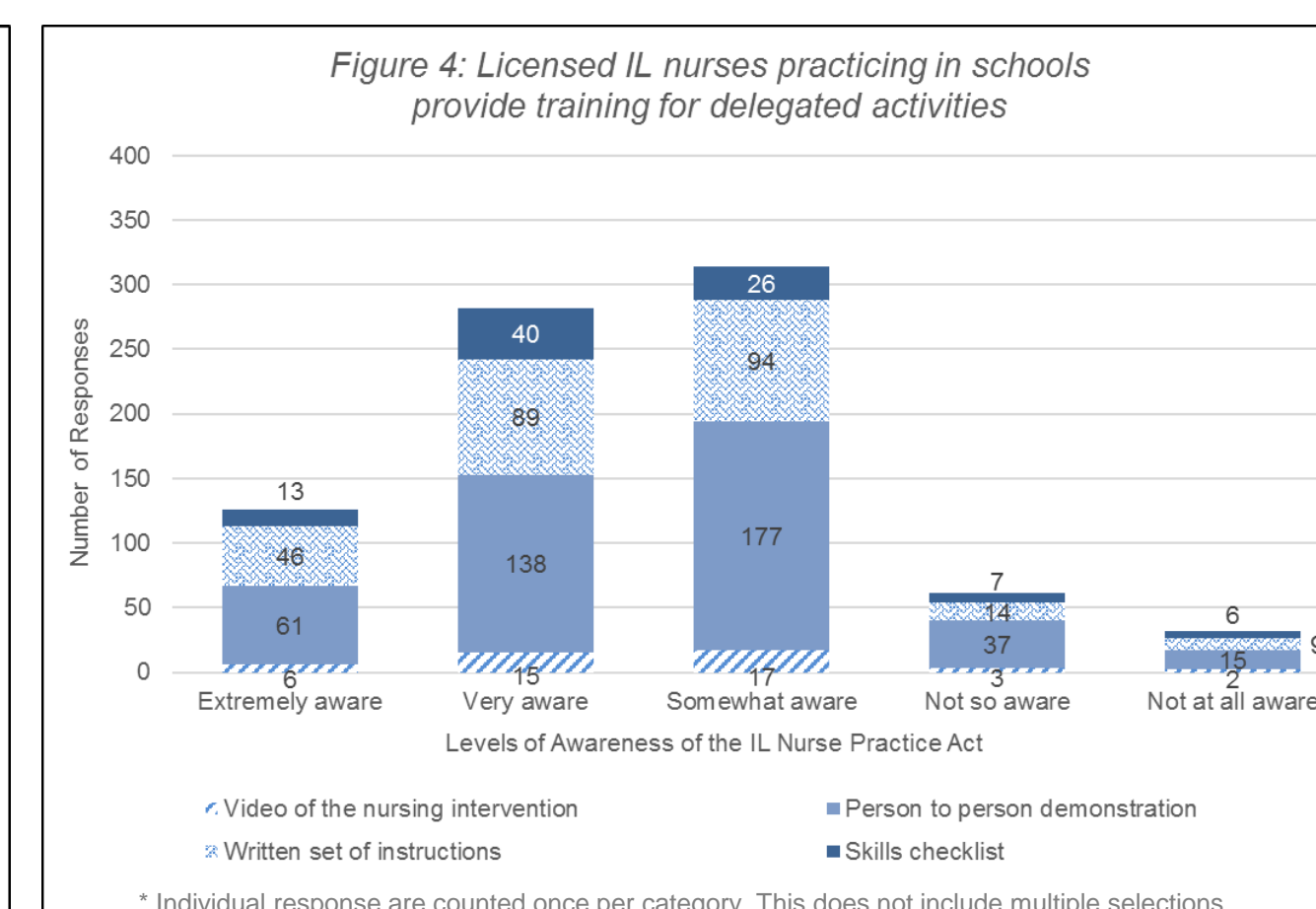
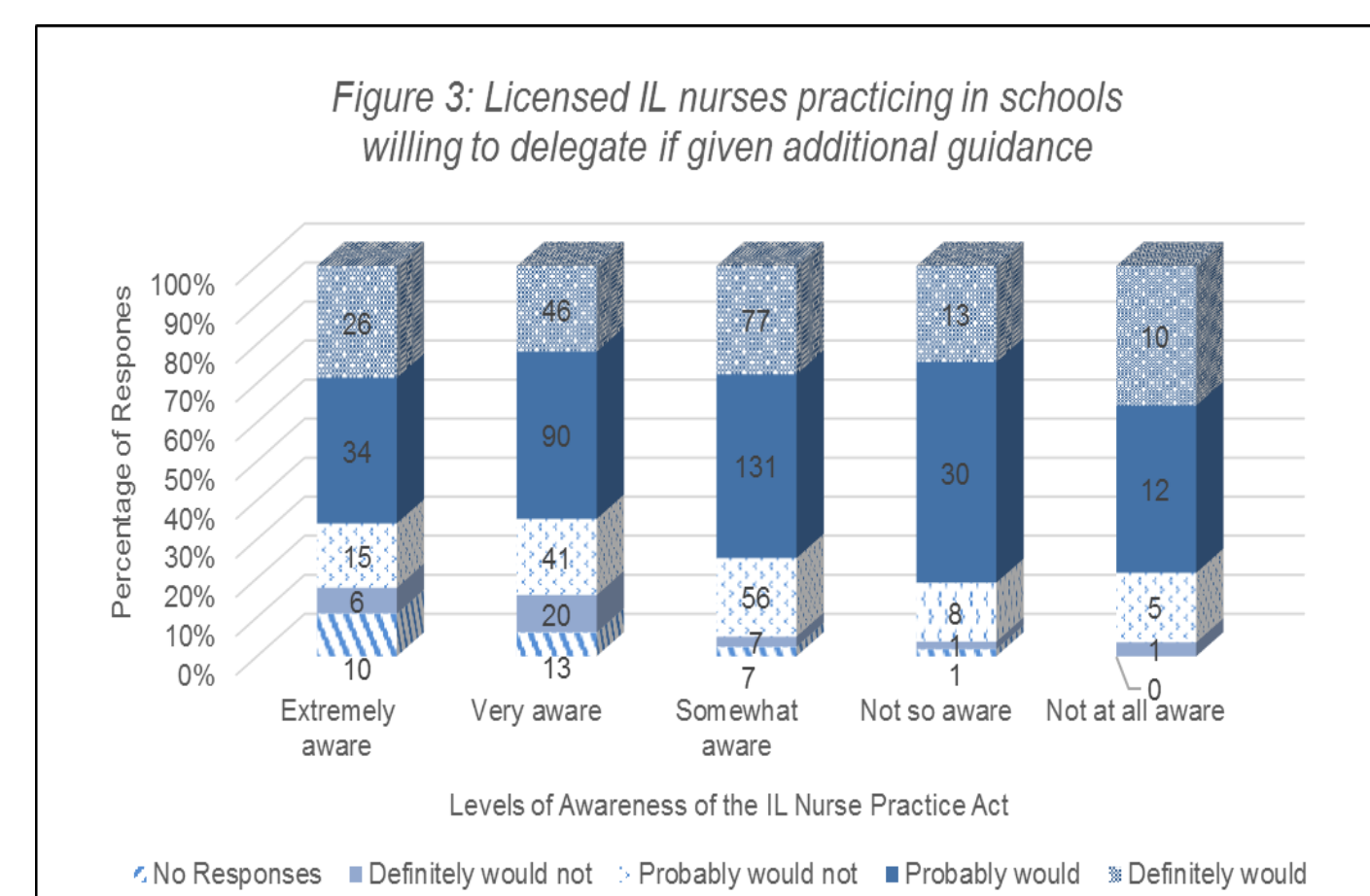
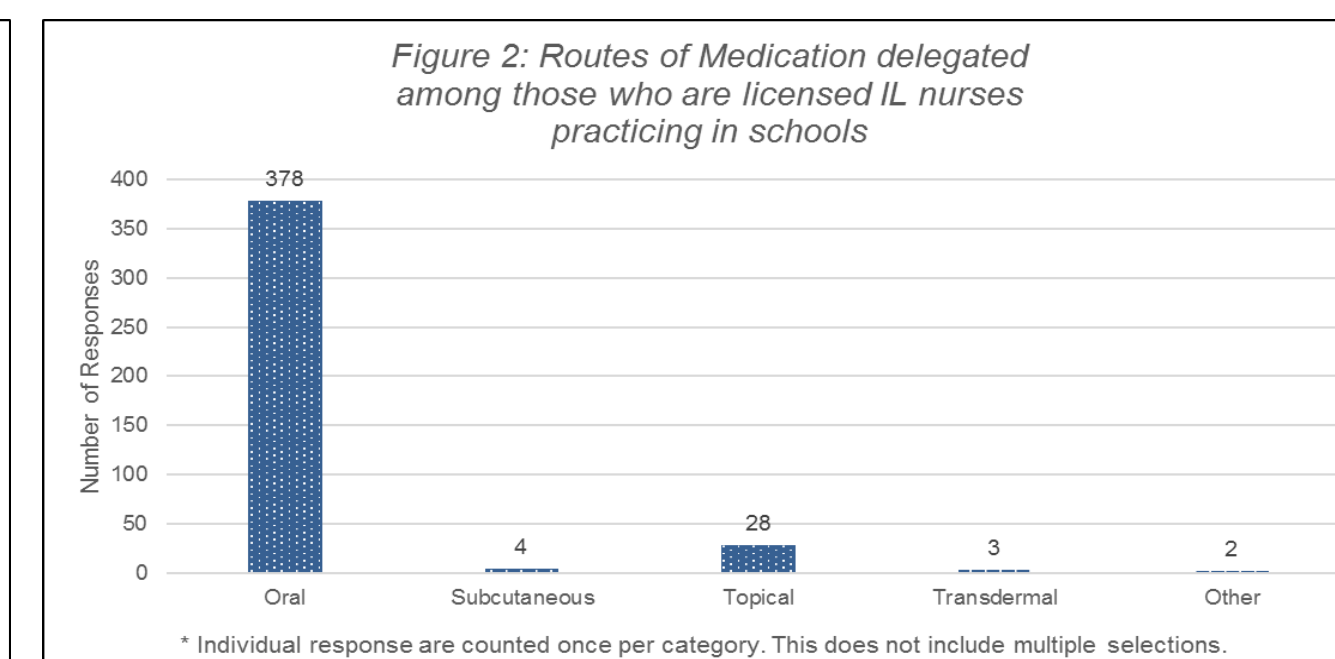
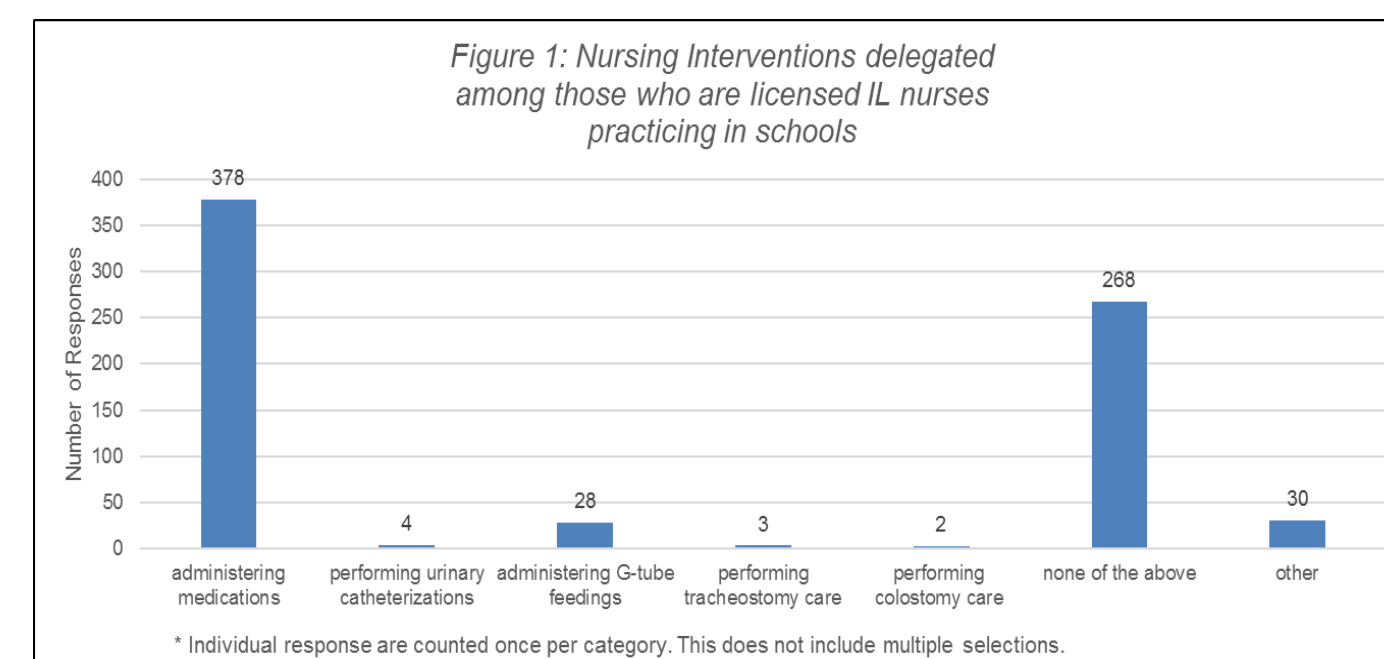
Purpose

This research was designed to:

- Gauge current understanding of the NPA
- Determine extent of RN delegation in Illinois schools
- Inform state nursing leaders of areas for professional development

Outcomes *n=666; some questions were skipped*

	Extremely aware		Very aware		Somewhat aware		Not so aware		Not at all aware	
	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
License Registered Nurse in IL										
Work in an IL public, private, or charter school	91	13.79%	210	31.82%	278	42.12%	53	8.03%	28	4.24%
Job description includes providing direct nursing interventions to students at any time in your work day.	90	13.64%	206	31.21%	274	41.52%	51	7.73%	25	3.79%
Job description DOES NOT provide direct nursing interventions to students at any time in your work day.	1	0.15%	4	0.61%	4	0.61%	2	0.30%	3	0.45%
School/district DOES NOT establish any policies or procedures regarding delegation or is unknown.	48	7.27%	130	19.70%	183	27.73%	36	5.45%	15	2.27%
School/district is attempting to establish or has established policies or procedures regarding delegation.	43	6.52%	80	12.12%	95	14.39%	17	2.58%	13	1.97%



Next Steps

~Promote further research into under what circumstances school RNs are delegating or not delegating specific nursing interventions

~Encourage school nurse educators, school nurse professional association leaders and state education and nursing agencies to provide education regarding the “do’s and don’ts” of delegation.

~Further analyze survey results and prepare for submission to a professional publication.

~Disseminate findings at additional school nurse conferences

Acknowledgements

- Thank you to the school nurses who responded to the survey.
- Thank you to the IASN/NASN leadership for maintaining a discussion board.
- Special thanks to Jean Becker, School Health Program Manager of IDPH, for disseminating the survey to all school nurses on the IDPH email list.