



Advocacy: Civic Engagement Among Nurses

A Civic Engagement Survey at the 2018 Great New York State (NYS) Fair

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Purpose

To answer to the following questions: (a) What are the frequencies of types of civic engagement activities in which nurses and non-nurses participate, and (b) what is the relationship between being a registered nurse and level of civic engagement?

Background

The ANA declared 2018 the Year of Advocacy

- Advocacy: the act or process of pleading for, supporting, or recommending a cause or course of action.
- Civic engagement: working to make a difference in the life of communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference.
- Voting and volunteering are ways to advocate for health-related issues and are measurements of civic engagement.
- There is sparse evidence of frequency and types of activities in which nurses civically engage.

Methods

The current cross-sectional study collected data with a 17-item ad hoc electronic survey administered by nurse volunteers to a convenience sample of adults (n = 727) who visited the NYS Action Coalition Future of Nursing informational booth at the 2018 NY State Fair. The sample included both nurses (n = 232) and non-nurses (n = 495).

Measures

Demographics

For all respondents:

- Status as Registered Nurse
- Age

For nurses only:

- Level of education
- Field of employment

Civic engagement activities asked respondents to answer either 'yes' or 'no' about participating in the following activities for a health related issue:

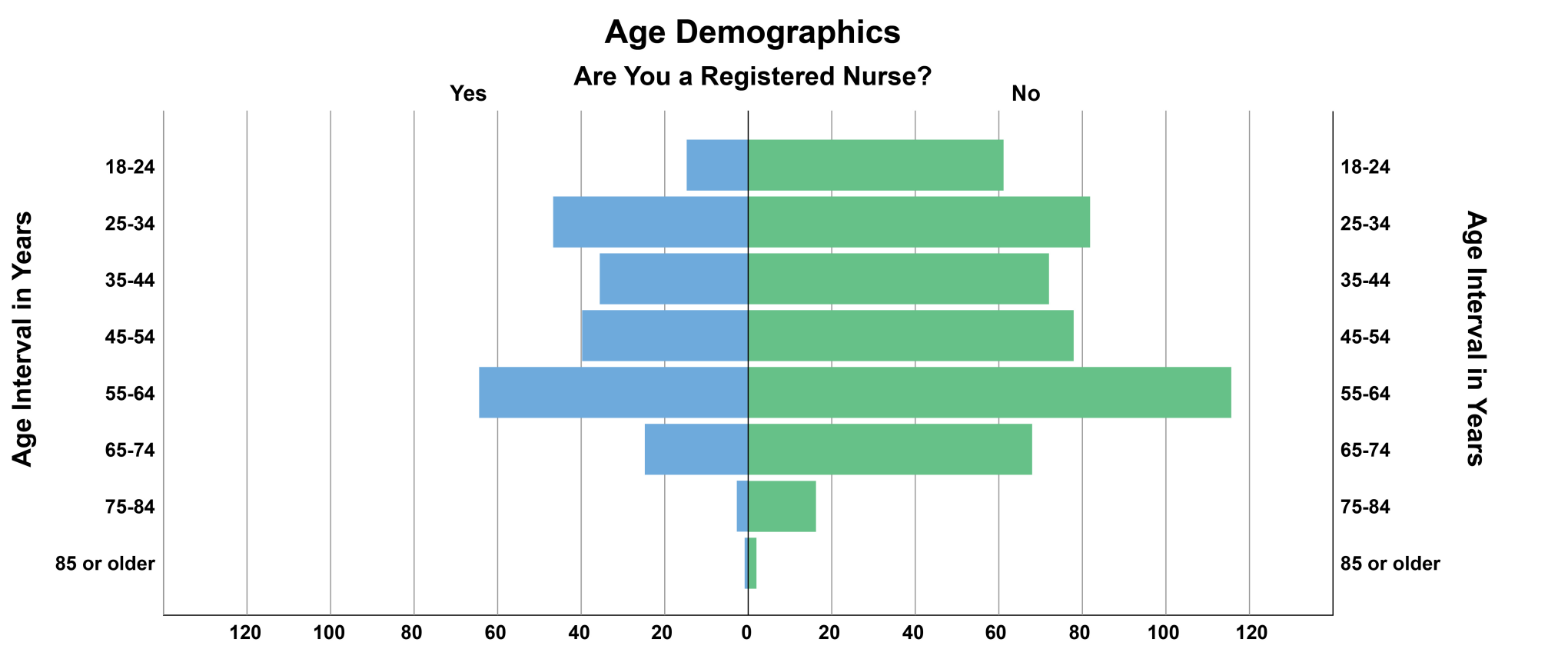
- Written an email, letter, or signed a petition
- Volunteered for a group, board, committee, or council,
- Contributed time or money to make community healthier
- Contributed time or money to prevent/cure a specific disease
- Voted for or against candidate because of position on health issue
- Voted in last Presidential election

Composite Civic Engagement Score (CCES): reflects the sum of positive responses for the six engagement activities within prior year by each respondent. Possible score range is 0-6.

References

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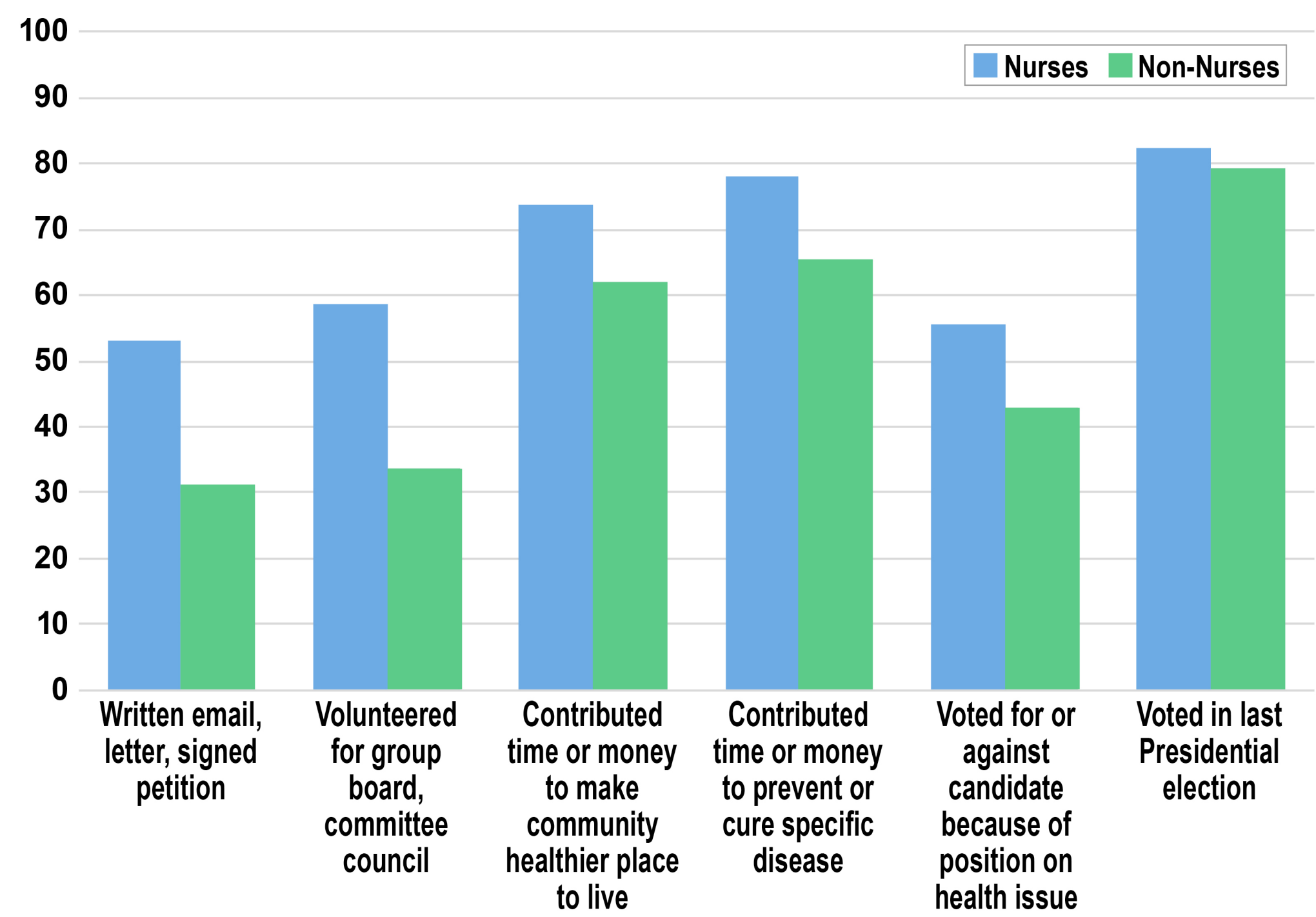
Demographics and Background Variables



Registered Nurses Only			
Degree	% Respondents	Field	% Respondent
Diploma	3.9	Acute Care	42.7
Associate	29.3	Comm. Health	19.0
Baccalaureate	36.6	Edu/Academia	10.8
Master's	25.4	For-Profit Entity	1.3
Doctorate	4.7	Long-Term Care	6.5
		Primary Care	9.1
		Retired	9.9
		Not Employed	0.9

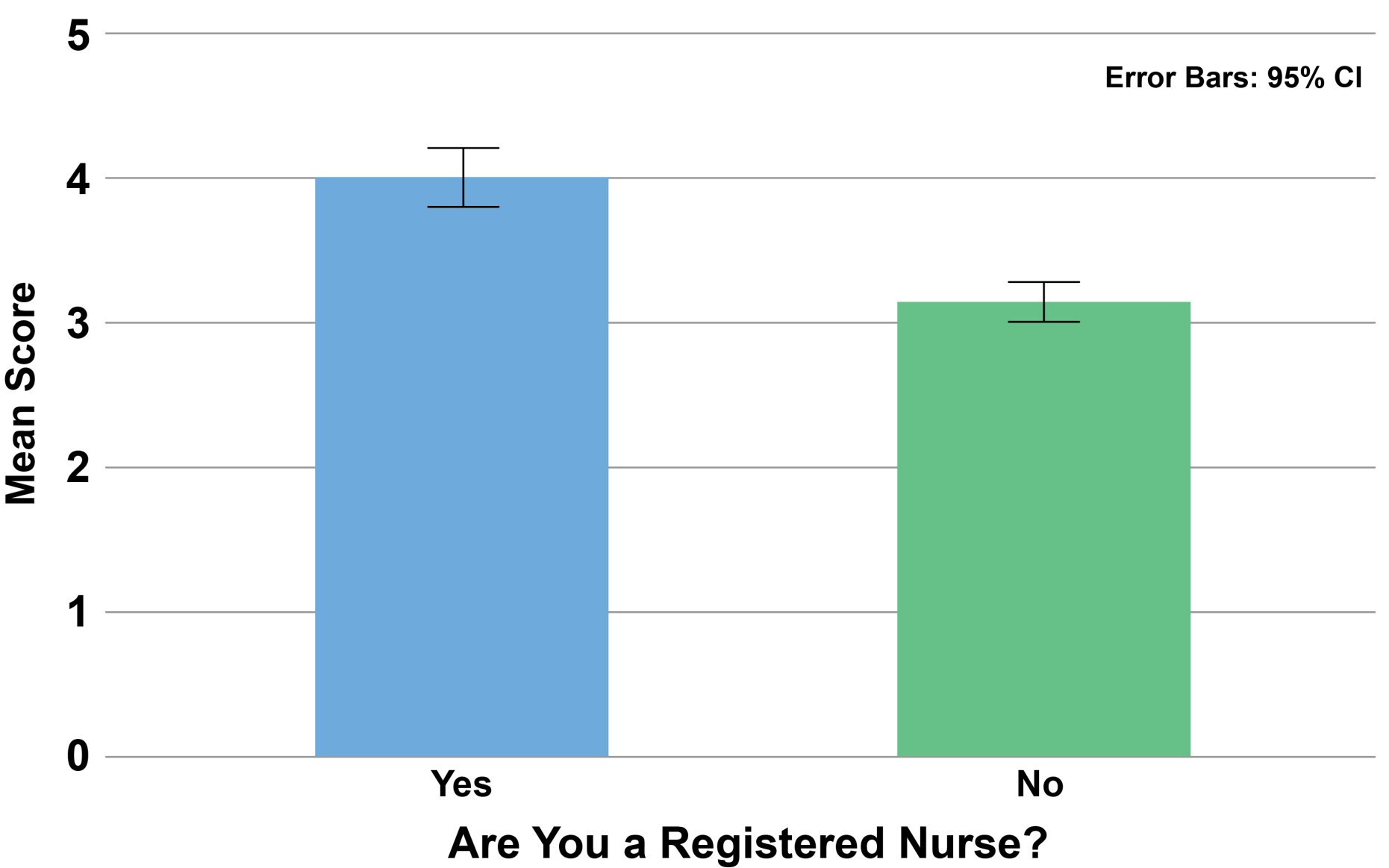
Results

Percent Participation Civic Activities in Past Year



Comparison and significance of CCES between nurses and non-nurses

Composite Civic Engagement Score (CCES)	Nurses	Non-nurses	t-test	p	95% CI	
	M (SD)	M (SD)			LL	UL
	4.01 (1.564)	3.15 (1.582)	6.901	.000	.619	1.112



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Conclusions

- These results address a gap in literature that answer the frequency and types of civic activities in which nurses engage.
- At least half of all nurses reported participating in each civic engagement activity.
- Nurses are significantly more likely to be civically engaged than non-nurses.
- Nurses are positioned and ready to answer the call to advocate for health-related issues that impact individuals, families, and communities.