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Abstract

Foster care child abuse cases are more prevalent in the United States. Evidence suggests a significant gap between self reports of abuse and reports by health professionals. 120 nurses will be selected to participate in formal training. A time series design will be used to test the participant's knowledge before, immediately after, and six months after the formal training. The data collected will be analyzed using descriptive statistics for demographic variables and an one-way ANOVA test will determine significant differences among group scores. Limitations to the study include accessibility to sample size, turnover of participants, the self reporting nature of the questionnaires, test taker anxiety, the ability of the training presenters, and the participants' knowledge they are being observed.

Background & Significance

- ❖ 2015: **427,910 children in foster care**
- ❖ **1,941 reported cases of abuse**
- ❖ Significant gaps between professional reporting and self reporting of foster care child abuse
- ❖ Inconclusive data due to differences in thresholds and recording methods
- ❖ Child Maltreatment Report (2015): three-fifths of the reports of child abuse and neglect were reported by professionals **other than nurses. Nurses are mandatory reporters.**

abuse (CSA) in residential and foster care homes

Workers report 3.5 incidences out of 1000 children

Foster Care Children Self Reporting cites 248 incidences out of 1000 children

Research Question: Would a formal training program improve nurses' ability to detect abuse in foster children?
Hypothesis: We propose that newly hired nurse who participate in formal training will reduce the gap between provider reporting and self reporting goals.

Methods and Materials

DESIGN: Time series design
SAMPLE: 120 nurses with less than 24 months experience from 7 Sentara Hospitals
PROCEDURE: A pretest to measure pre-existing knowledge; a posttest immediately after the training and another posttest 6 months after to evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching.
EXCLUSION CRITERIA: Nurses with more than 24 months of experience
INSTRUMENT: Research team developed case study. Recorded responses will reflect interval measurements, as the recorded responses will reflect a point-based system with a measured score of 80 or above denoted as "passing."

Data Analysis

- ❖ The data will be analyzed using inferential statistics.
- ❖ Demographic information will be analyzed utilizing measures of central tendency.
- ❖ A demographic profile will be procured to breakdown data from the participants, to include age, race, gender, work experience, and parental status.
- ❖ Data collected from the initial questionnaire will be analyzed to render nominal data.
- ❖ One-way **Analysis of variance (ANOVA)** test will be used to determine if there is a significant difference amongst group scores on **knowledge** and **identification** of signs and symptoms of abuse.
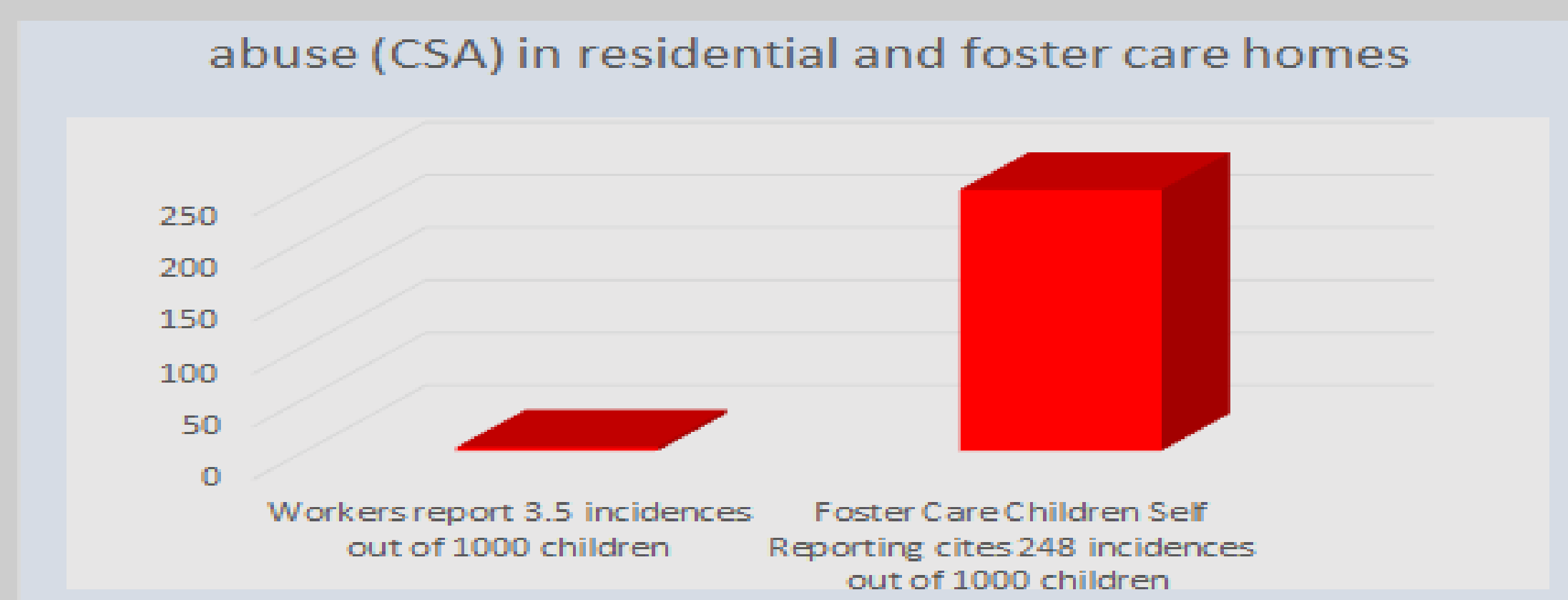
Expected Findings

- ❖ Improvements in nurses' ability to properly identify, assess, and report child abuse in foster care
- ❖ Encouragement of nurses to reason beyond their personal bias and question any signs they find suspicious
- ❖ Increased awareness of child abuse and a baseline for further research studies on the importance and efficacy of formal, focused training
- ❖ **Overall goal**: Understand the effectiveness of formal, focused training and the influence that it has on the newly hired nurses' ability to identify child abuse.

Interprofessional Roles and Responsibilities

- ❖ Interprofessional collaborative practice promotes a highly specialized, team-based approach that increases the odds of detection and early intervention in cases of foster care child abuse.
- ❖ Counselors will assist nurses in increasing confidence through identifying and restructuring cognitive distortions.
- ❖ Counselors can provide further effectiveness in identifying and understanding characteristics of child abuse in foster care settings.
- ❖ Training and experience do not provide professionals with immunity from experiencing discomfort associated with assessing for child abuse.
- ❖ Professionals are responsible for continuing education to enhance awareness and remove biases that affect the assessment and documentation of suspected abuse.

KNOW CHILD ABUSE

Acknowledgements