

Got Vaccine? Education Might Change That

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Purpose

The purpose of this project was to provide education to sophomore nursing students on COVID-19 and the vaccines. We provided education on the COVID-19 vaccine to determine how knowledgeable Longwood sophomore nursing students were concerning the virus and vaccines. This education was provided in March of 2021 to the sophomore level nursing students. The education included general vaccination knowledge, specific information regarding the COVID-19 vaccines, the positives and negatives of the vaccines, and nurses' perceptions of the vaccines in Virginia.

Research Question

Does education increase understanding of COVID-19 vaccination in sophomore nursing students?

Background

As of April 11, 2021, Virginia had 635,552 reported cases of COVID-19 which resulted in 10,472 deaths. Prince Edward County had a total of 2,044 cases as of April 11, 2021. As of April 10, 2021, Longwood University had a reported total of 218 confirmed positive cases since January 4, 2021. Vaccination helps to provide immunity against infectious diseases, which is achieved through the presence of antibodies. COVID-19 is caused by SARS-CoV2. Ingredients in the vaccines include mRNA, lipids, salts, sugars, and buffers. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the Moderna vaccine are both given as two injections but the time between doses is different. These vaccines give instructions to our cells to make a harmless piece of spike protein. These vaccines have shown to be a highly effective and safe way to prevent COVID-19 and build protection. There are many myths about the vaccines that may affect an individual's perception of the vaccines. These relate to state and local regulations, fertility, safety, interactions with one's DNA, and getting sick with COVID-19.

Benefits of getting the vaccine includes lowering the risk of contracting COVID-19. Furthermore, COVID-19 can cause life-threatening complications and the vaccine is a safe way to help build protection. Masks and social distancing help to reduce your chance of spreading COVID to others, however, vaccination works with your immune system so that if you are exposed you can fight the virus.

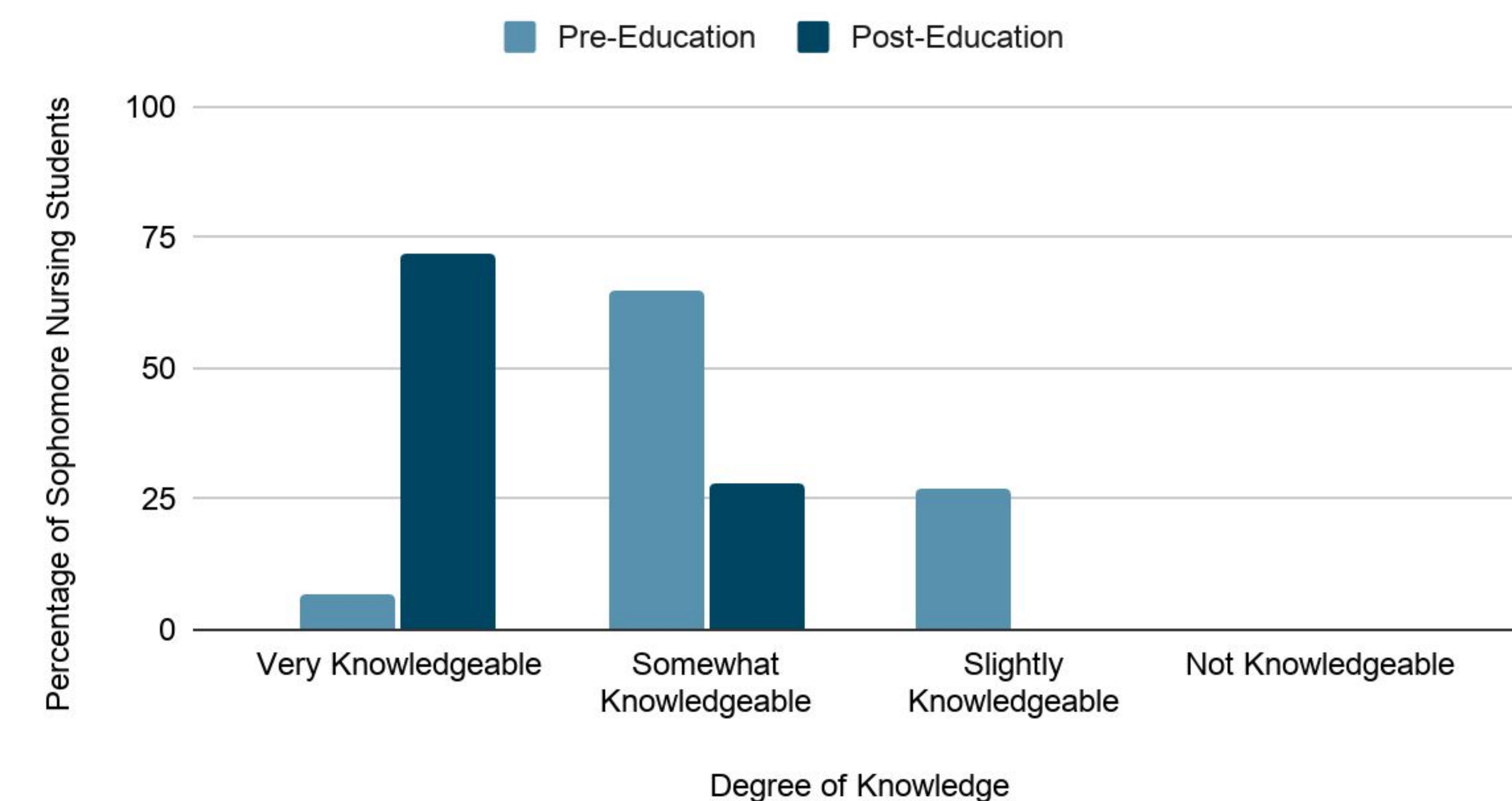
Methods

IRB approval was obtained prior to providing any education or collecting any data. A presentation was created and presented in the sophomore level nursing classes. 50 students received a pre-test prior to the education and post-test after education with 5 questions each using a likert scale (very knowledgeable to not knowledgeable). The presentation provided information about COVID-19, the COVID-19 vaccines, and professional nurses perceptions of the vaccines. After collecting our data, we analyzed it to determine the sophomore level nursing students knowledge of the COVID-19 and the vaccines. Participation was voluntary, individuals were not at risk, and no identifiable information was obtained from the participants.

Results

The researchers analyzed the data and reported the findings in an aggregate manner for each question. Our results showed that knowledge of COVID-19 and the vaccine increased from 7% to 72% after education. It is also necessary to note that 76% of the participants had received the vaccine prior to education.

Vaccine Knowledge



Discussion/Conclusion

This research aimed to educate nursing students about the coronavirus and its respective vaccines, correct the mistaken myths related to the vaccines, acknowledge how professional nurses view the vaccine, and seeks to encourage nursing students to protect themselves. Nurses play a prominent role in the vaccine uptake process. Health care professionals who are vaccinated themselves—or who intend to be vaccinated—are more likely to recommend vaccination to their patients.

Education did show an improvement in understanding among sophomore nursing students. Limitations of the project included that some students had already received the vaccine prior to education. Furthermore, we only provided the education to sophomore level students. We believe that the results may have been different if we had been able to provide this to all nursing students at Longwood University. We could further our research by providing education to a larger group of nursing students to get a more conclusive representation of the student nursing population.

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