

Demographics

The following table details the demographics of the nurse participants (n= 163; not all participants answered every question).

Variable	Emergency observation nurses (N=16)	Vascular and cardiac nurses (N=27)	Pediatric nurses (N=23)	Surgical nurses (N=65)	Medical nurses (N=32)
Age					
20-30 years	4 (25.0%)	15 (55.5%)	7 (30.4%)	27 (41.6%)	14 (43.8%)
31-40 years	6 (37.5%)	3 (11.1%)	6 (26.1%)	16 (24.6%)	11 (34.4%)
41-50 years	3 (18.75%)	3 (11.1%)	4 (17.4%)	8 (12.3%)	2 (3.1%)
51-60 years	2 (12.5%)	4 (14.8%)	5 (21.7%)	10 (15.4%)	5 (15.6%)
61 or older	1 (6.25%)	2 (7.4%)	1 (4.3%)	4 (6.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Participants					
Female	14 (87.5%)	25 (95.6%)	23 (100.0%)	58 (89.2%)	30 (93.8%)
Male	1 (6.25%)	2 (7.4%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (7.7%)	1 (3.1%)
Other	1 (6.25%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.5%)	1 (3.1%)
Highest educational degree					
Diploma	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (4.3%)	1 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Associate's	3 (18.75%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (4.3%)	1 (1.5%)	1 (3.1%)
Bachelor's	12 (75.0%)	24 (88.9%)	21 (91.3%)	52 (80.0%)	27 (84.4%)
Master's	1 (6.25%)	3 (11.1%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (12.3%)	4 (12.5%)
Doctoral	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Years' experience as a nurse					
0-4 years	1 (6.25%)	11 (40.7%)	2 (8.7%)	23 (35.4%)	11 (34.4%)
5-9 years	6 (37.5%)	6 (22.2%)	7 (30.4%)	12 (18.5%)	6 (18.8%)
10-20 years	5 (31.25%)	4 (14.8%)	7 (30.4%)	17 (26.2%)	11 (34.4%)
21-31 years	3 (18.75%)	1 (3.7%)	1 (4.3%)	5 (7.7%)	3 (9.4%)
> 31 years	1 (6.25%)	5 (18.5%)	6 (26.1%)	7 (10.8%)	1 (3.1%)
Years' experience at this institution					
0-9 years	8 (50.0%)	17 (63.0%)	9 (39.1%)	33 (50.8%)	16 (50.0%)
10-20 years	6 (37.5%)	5 (18.5%)	7 (30.4%)	19 (29.2%)	15 (23.1%)
21-30 years	2 (12.5%)	2 (7.4%)	3 (13.0%)	7 (10.8%)	1 (3.1%)
> 31 years	0 (0.0%)	3 (11.1%)	4 (17.4%)	6 (9.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Prior military or armed services involvement					
Yes	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (3.1%)	0 (0.0%)
No	16 (100.0%)	27 (100.0%)	23 (100.0%)	62 (96.9%)	32 (100.0%)
Prior employment in law enforcement					
Yes	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
No	16 (100.0%)	26 (100.0%)	23 (100.0%)	64 (100.0%)	32 (100.0%)
Prior gun use for hunting or sport					
Yes	2 (12.5%)	6 (23.1%)	2 (8.7%)	10 (15.4%)	6 (18.8%)
No	14 (87.5%)	20 (77.0%)	21 (91.3%)	55 (84.6%)	26 (81.3%)
Prior training course in how to use a gun					
Yes	1 (6.25%)	8 (19.6%)	1 (4.5%)	9 (14.1%)	6 (18.8%)
No	15 (93.8%)	19 (70.1%)	21 (95.5%)	55 (86.0%)	26 (81.3%)

Firearm knowledge

Nurses answered questions related to their knowledge of firearm-related death and state laws (n=163; not all participants answered every question).

Variable	Emergency observation nurses (N=16)	Vascular and cardiac nurses (N=27)	Pediatric nurses (N=23)	Surgical nurses (N=65)	Medical nurses (N=32)
Approximately 40,000 people in the US die every year from gun violence.					
True*	10 (62.5%)	18 (66.7%)	12 (52.2%)	31 (47.7%)	20 (62.5%)
False	1 (6.3%)	1 (3.7%)	1 (4.3%)	3 (4.6%)	1 (3.1%)
Not sure	5 (31.3%)	8 (29.6%)	10 (43.5%)	31 (47.7%)	11 (34.4%)
Massachusetts has the lowest rate of gun deaths in the US.					
True*	0 (0.0%)	5 (18.5%)	3 (13.0%)	12 (18.5%)	2 (6.25%)
False	6 (37.5%)	12 (44.4%)	12 (52.2%)	27 (41.5%)	18 (27.7%)
Not sure	10 (62.5%)	10 (37.0%)	8 (34.8%)	26 (40.0%)	12 (37.5%)
The majority of firearm-related deaths in the US each year are homicides.					
Diploma	8 (50.0%)	14 (51.9%)	5 (21.7%)	27 (42.2%)	9 (28.1%)
False*	2 (12.5%)	8 (29.6%)	10 (43.5%)	18 (28.1%)	17 (53.1%)
Not sure	6 (37.5%)	5 (18.5%)	8 (34.8%)	19 (29.7%)	6 (18.8%)
Massachusetts state law does not require guns to be securely locked in the home.					
Diploma	1 (6.3%)	3 (11.1%)	3 (13.0%)	8 (12.7%)	4 (12.5%)
False*	10 (62.5%)	15 (55.5%)	17 (74.0%)	38 (60.3%)	20 (62.5%)
Not sure	5 (31.3%)	9 (33.3%)	3 (13.0%)	17 (26.2%)	8 (25.0%)
Massachusetts state law prohibits clinicians from asking about guns in the home unless there is a safety concern.					
True	3 (18.8%)	6 (22.2%)	1 (4.3%)	8 (12.3%)	5 (15.6%)
False*	7 (43.8%)	15 (55.5%)	19 (83.0%)	31 (47.7%)	15 (46.9%)
Not sure	6 (37.5%)	6 (22.2%)	3 (13.0%)	26 (40.0%)	12 (37.5%)

* Indicates correct answer

Massachusetts state law: "It shall be unlawful to store or keep any firearm, rifle or shotgun including, but not limited to, large capacity weapons, or machine gun in any place unless such weapon is secured in a locked container or equipped with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock or other safety device, properly engaged so as to render such weapon inoperable by any person other than the owner or other lawfully authorized user." <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXX/Chapter140/Section131L>

Comfort

Nurses answered questions about their comfort level with assessing firearm access and providing education on safe gun storage (n=163; not all participants answered every question).

Variable	Emergency observation nurses (N=16)	Vascular and cardiac nurses (N=27)	Pediatric nurses (N=23)	Surgical nurses (N=65)	Medical nurses (N=32)
Comfort with asking patients about gun ownership or accessibility					
Uncomfortable	6 (37.5%)	4 (16.7%)	5 (21.7%)	14 (21.5%)	3 (9.4%)
Somewhat uncomfortable	4 (25.5%)	9 (33.3%)	5 (21.7%)	24 (36.9%)	15 (46.9%)
Somewhat comfortable	5 (31.3%)	8 (29.6%)	10 (43.5%)	16 (24.6%)	6 (18.8%)
Comfortable	1 (6.3%)	6 (22.2%)	3 (13.0%)	11 (16.9%)	8 (25.0%)
Comfort with asking patients about gun storage					
Uncomfortable	6 (37.5%)	4 (15.4%)	3 (13.0%)	12 (18.5%)	3 (9.4%)
Somewhat uncomfortable	3 (18.8%)	9 (34.6%)	6 (26.1%)	19 (29.2%)	11 (34.4%)
Somewhat comfortable	5 (31.3%)	7 (26.0%)	10 (43.5%)	23 (35.4%)	9 (13.8%)
Comfortable	2 (12.5%)	6 (23.1%)	4 (17.4%)	11 (16.9%)	9 (13.8%)
Comfort with providing education on safe gun storage to patients					
Uncomfortable	8 (50.0%)	6 (22.2%)	7 (30.4%)	22 (33.8%)	6 (18.8%)
Somewhat uncomfortable	3 (18.8%)	11 (40.7%)	11 (47.8%)	19 (29.2%)	11 (16.9%)
Somewhat comfortable	4 (25.5%)	3 (11.1%)	4 (17.4%)	15 (23.1%)	10 (15.4%)
Comfortable	1 (6.3%)	7 (26.2%)	1 (4.3%)	9 (13.8%)	5 (15.6%)
If you had safe gun storage education information for patients, would you feel comfortable providing this information to patients?					
Yes	14 (87.5%)	25 (92.6%)	22 (95.7%)	54 (83.1%)	30 (93.8%)
No	2 (12.5%)	2 (7.4%)	1 (4.3%)	11 (16.9%)	2 (6.3%)