

# Determining Oncology Nurses' Knowledge, Perceptions, and Needs about Palliative and Spiritual Care at Hamad Medical Corporation

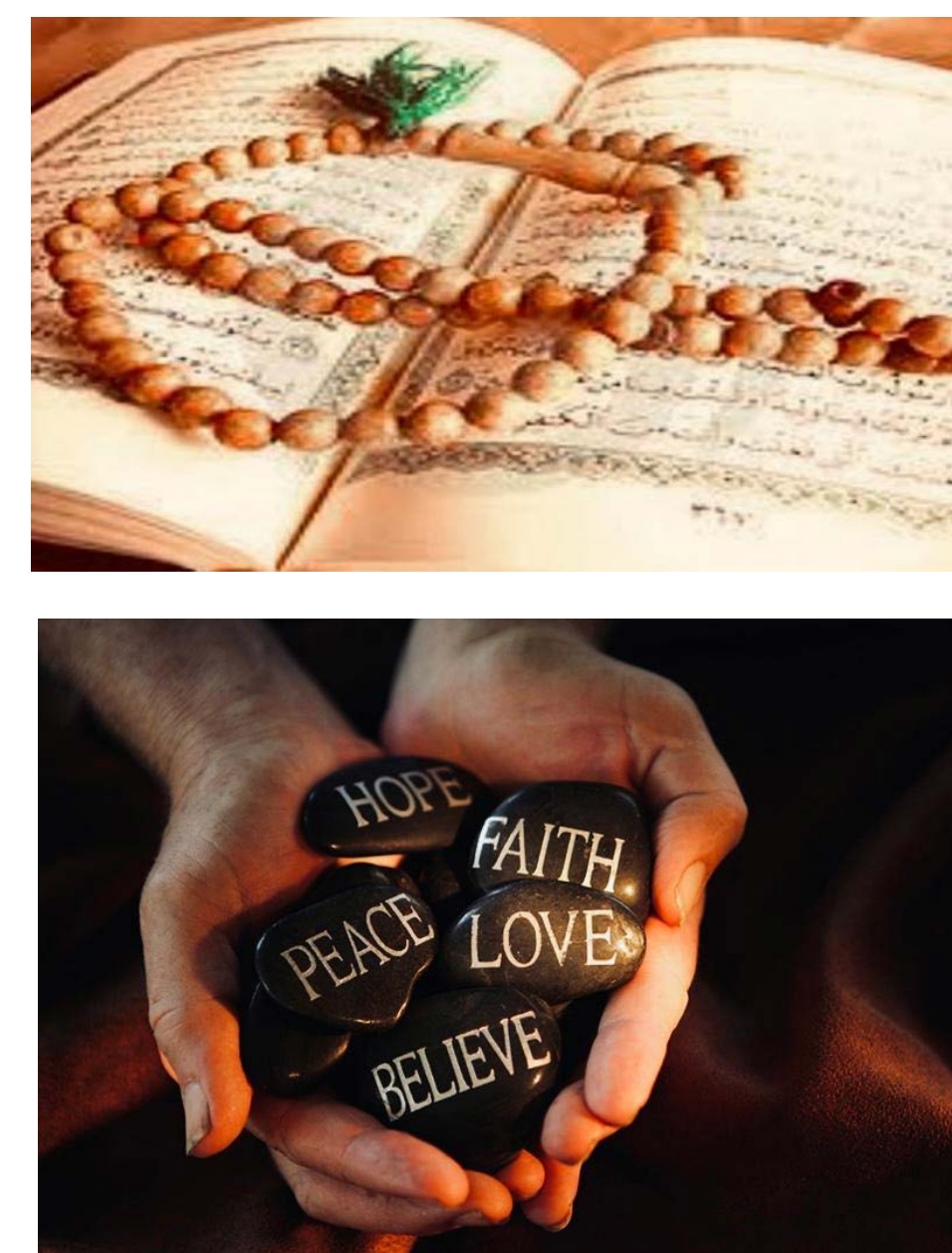
Nezha Hamid, MA; Azza Hassan, MD  
Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar



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## Statement of the Problem

Oncology nurses strive to care for the whole person. Spirituality is a key aspect of quality palliative care. It is important to determine what oncology nurses currently know and perceive about spiritual care to ascertain learning needs.

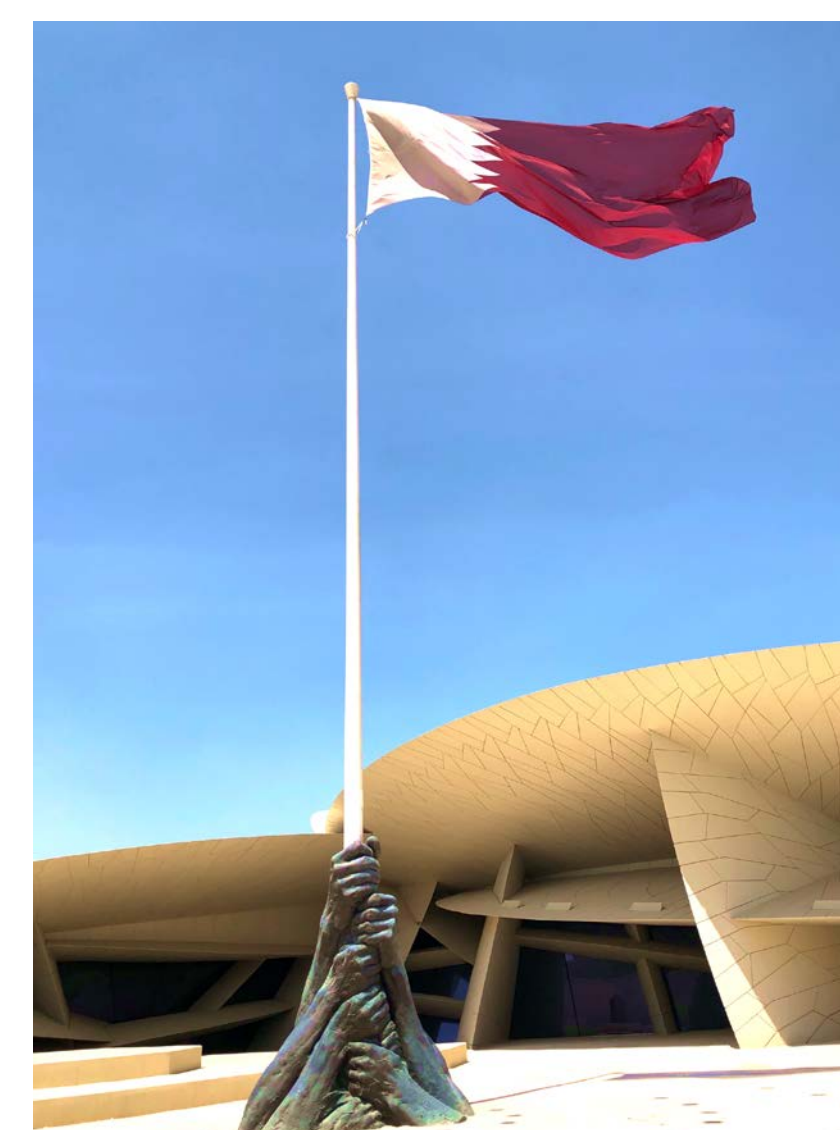


## Background/Literature Review

- Many nurses lack training and educational opportunities in palliative and spiritual care.
- Most palliative and spiritual care practice today is centered around Western values.
- In Qatar, there is a scarcity of local palliative care research (Ghaly, Diamond, El-Hakoum, & Hassan, 2018).

## Purpose

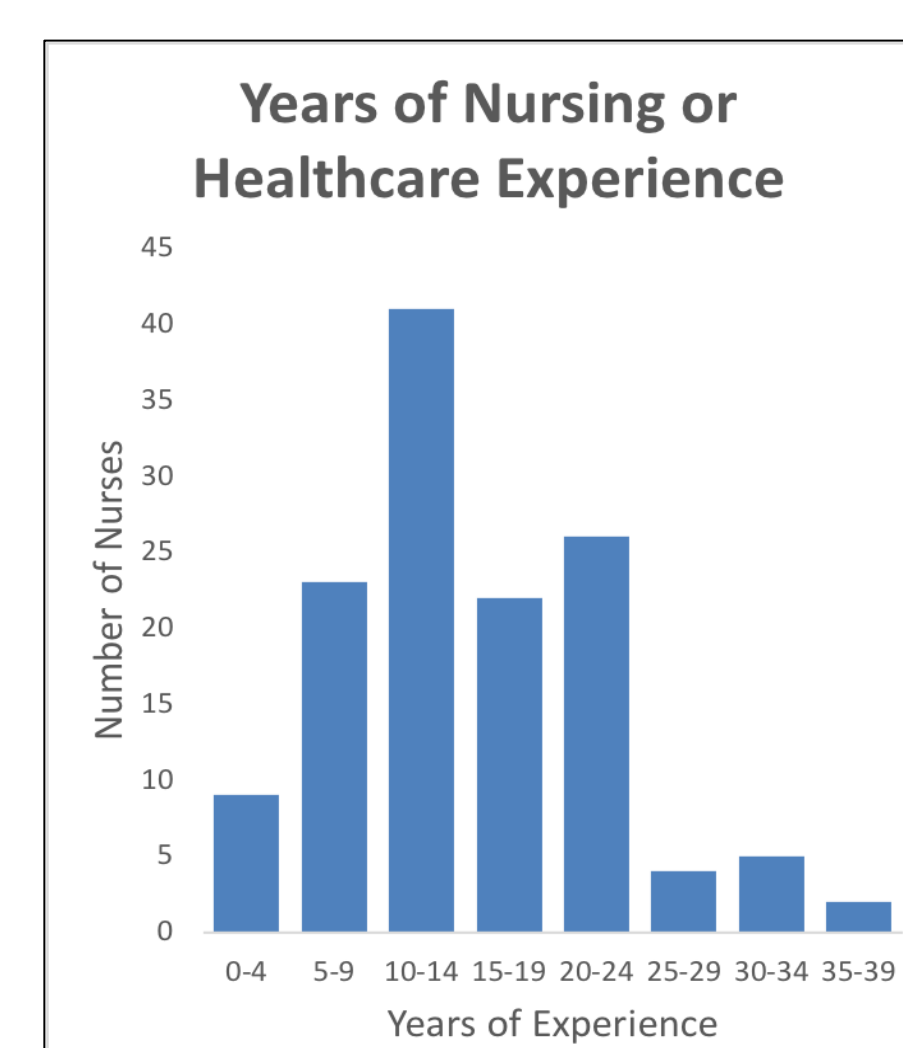
This needs assessment determined oncology nurses' knowledge, perceptions, and educational needs related to spiritual care for seriously ill cancer patients at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) in Doha, Qatar.



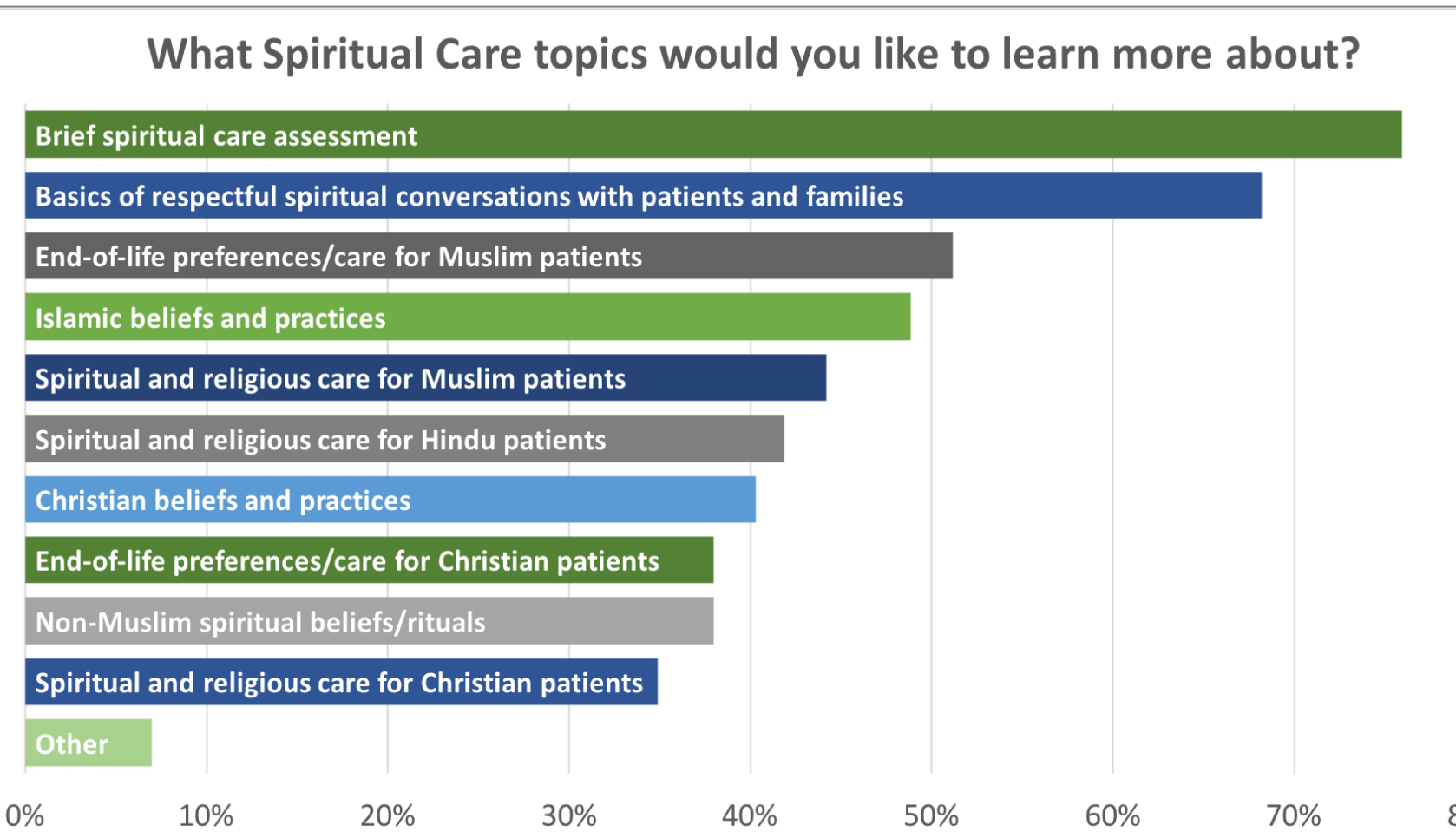
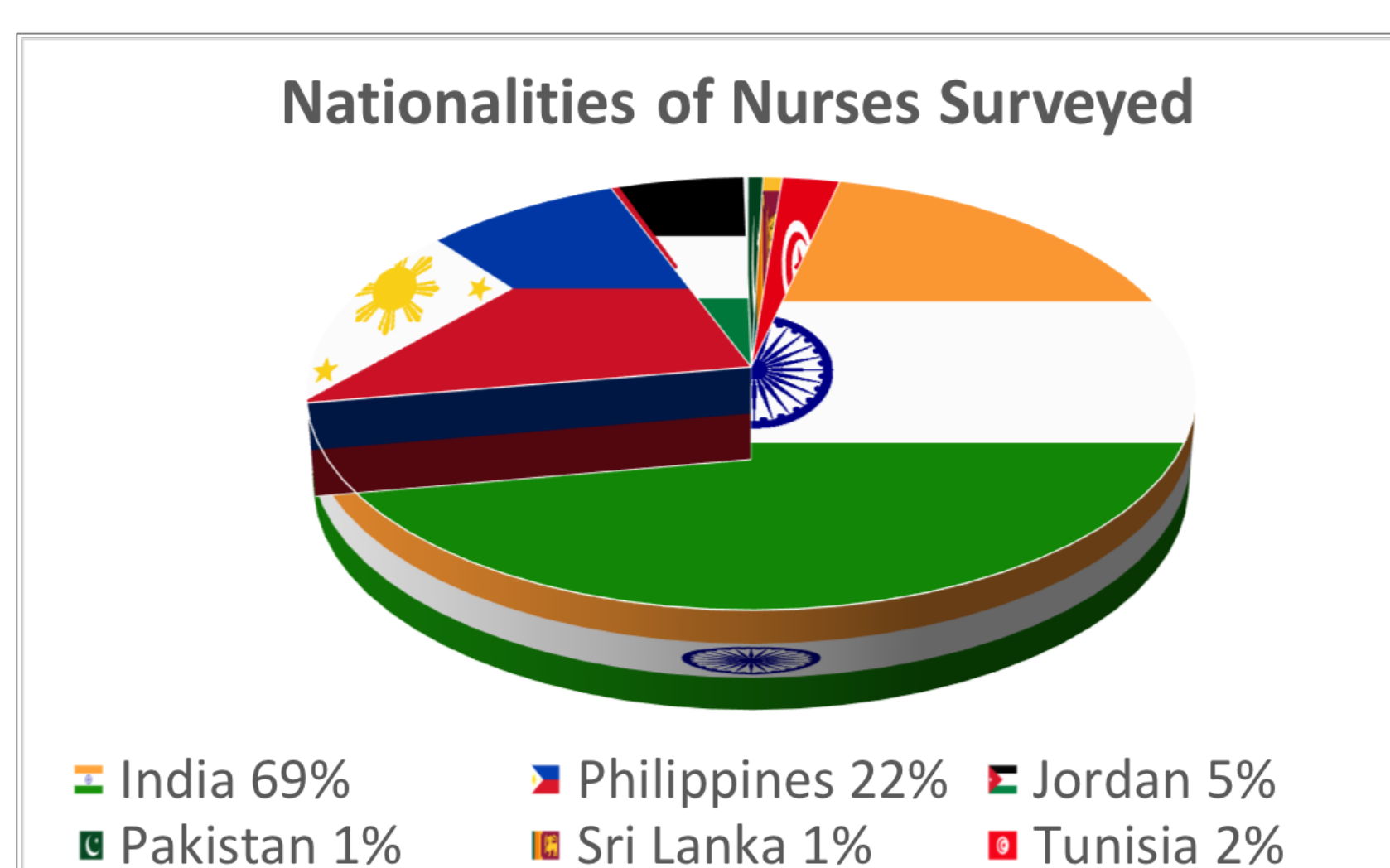
## Methods

- Descriptive study approved by HMC IRB
- Electronic survey comprised 17- items from the Nurse Spiritual Care Therapeutics Scale and a Middle Eastern healthcare survey, related to palliative and spiritual care educational needs
- In October 2020, 160 nurses employed on 4 units (oncology, hematology, BMT, palliative care) were invited to participate; 152 completed the survey (95% response rate).
- Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

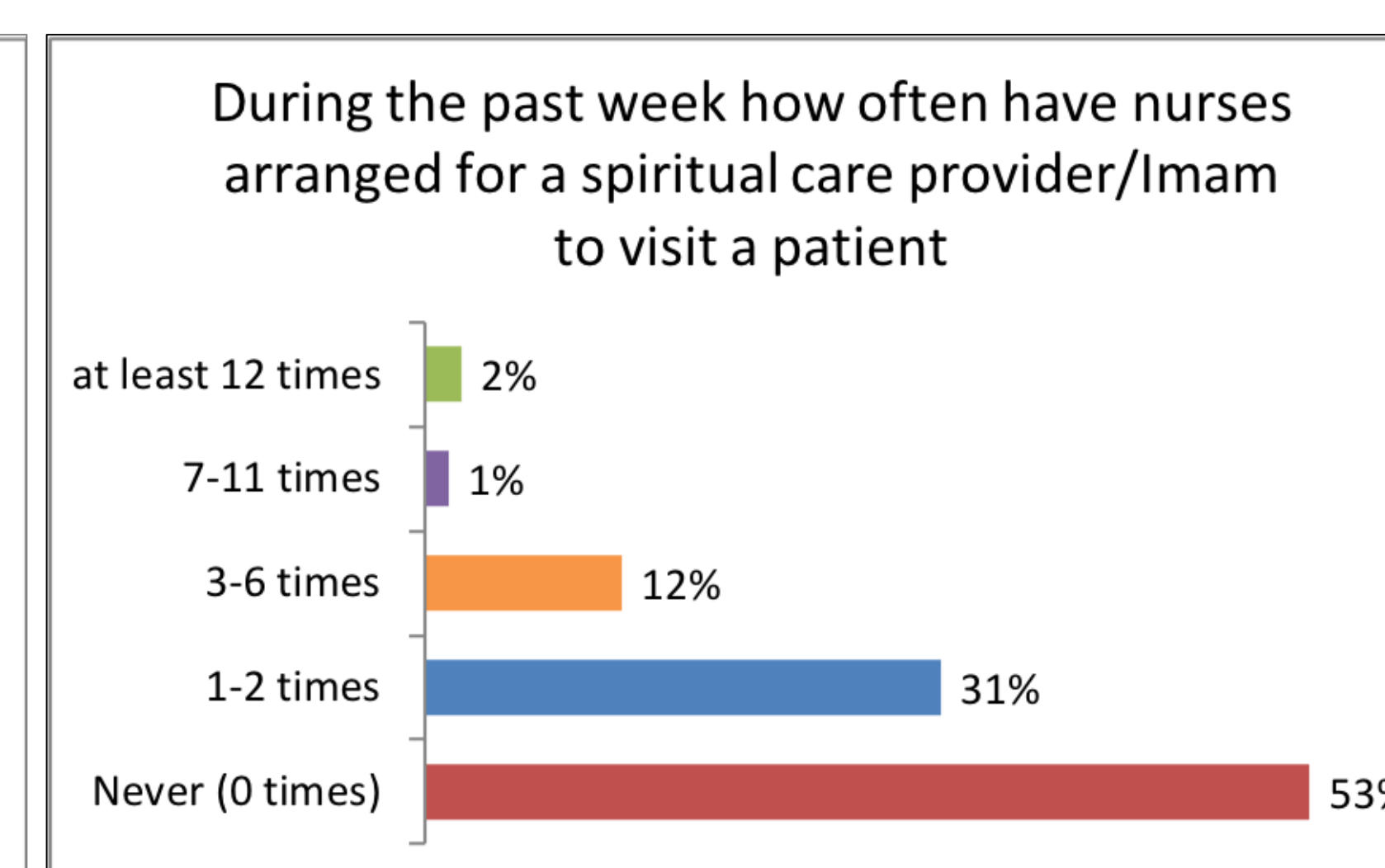
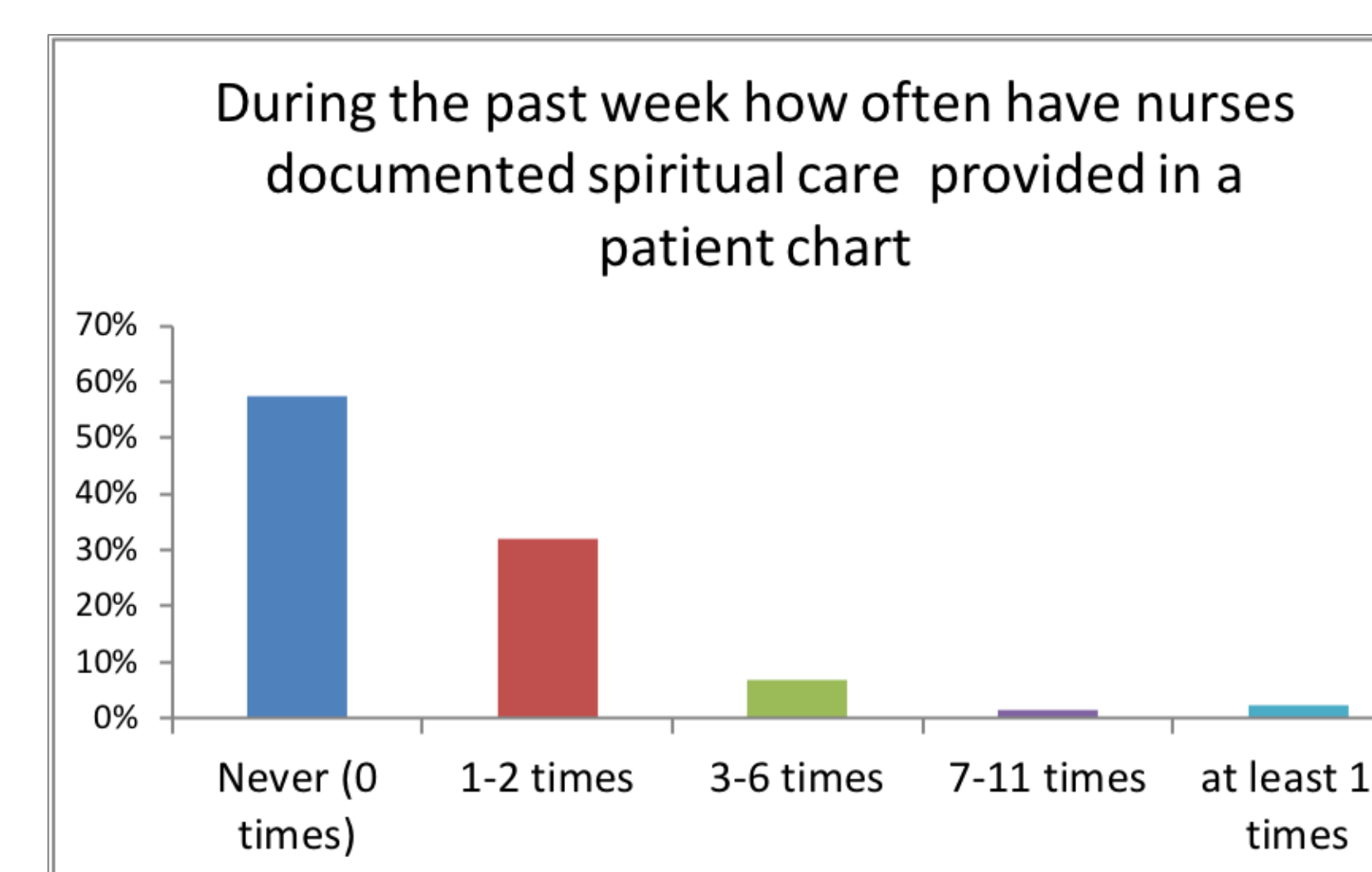
## Findings



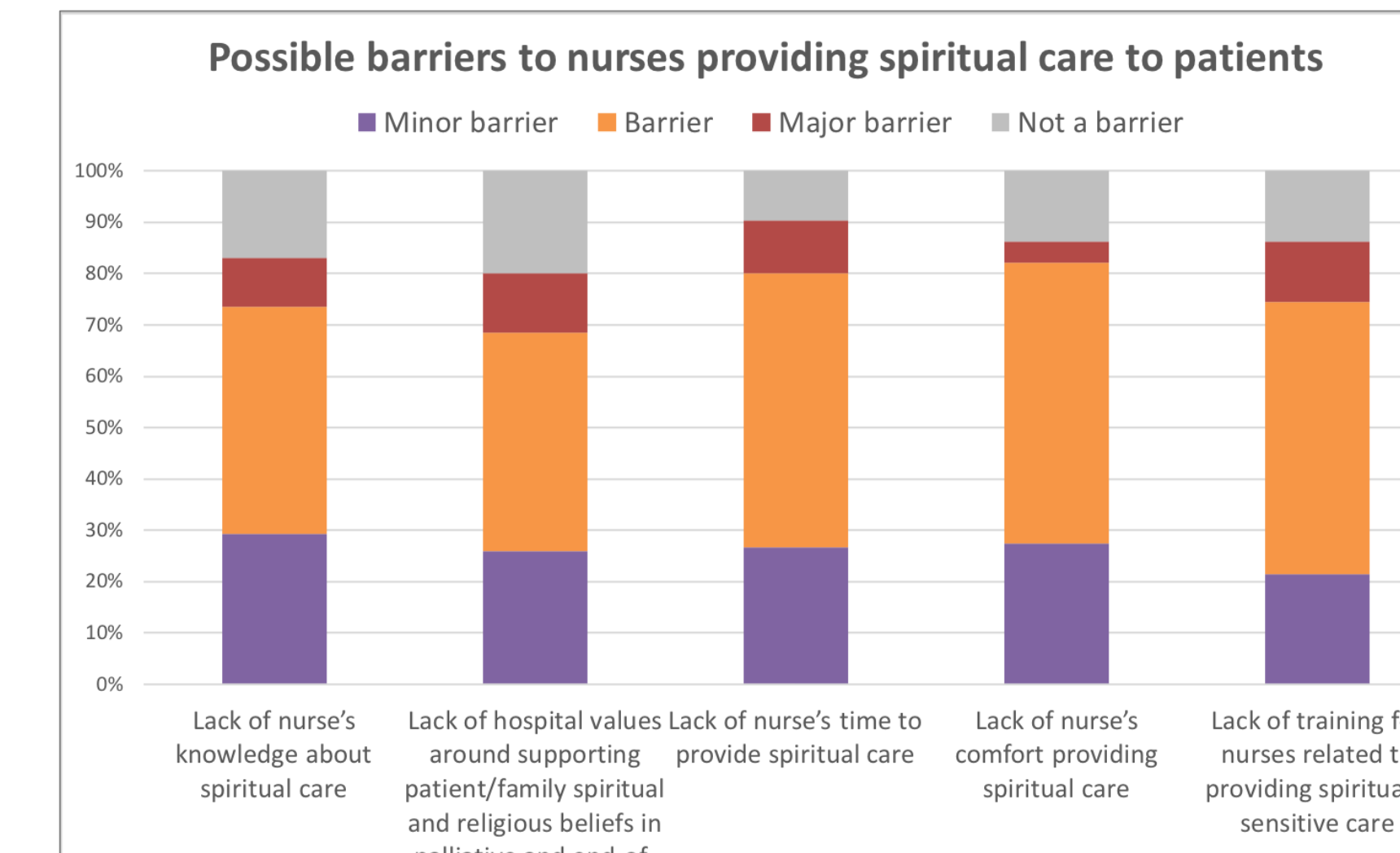
Years of Experience	
Mean	15
Median	14
Standard Deviation	7.39
Minimum	1
Maximum	38



The majority of nurses lack both time and training to support patient/family spiritual and religious beliefs as part of their whole person care to patients at the end of life.



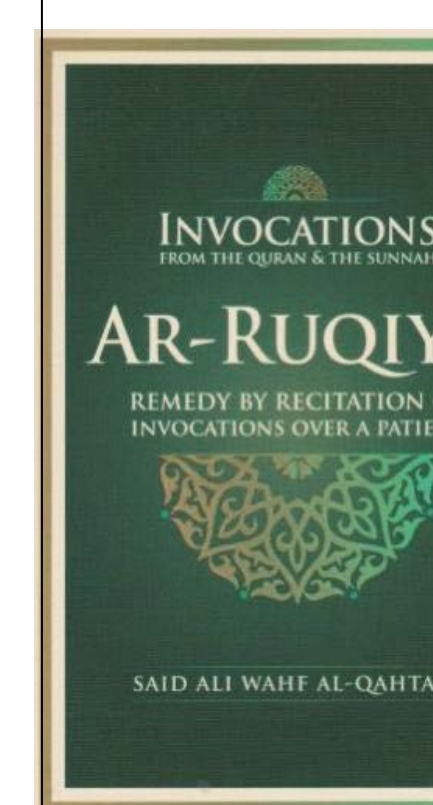
## Barriers



Main barriers to providing spiritual care to patients are nurses' lack of time (90%), training (86%), comfort (86%), and lack of hospital values supporting spiritual care at the end of life (80%). Despite these barriers, nurses desire to learn about spiritual care assessment (76%), communication (69%), Islamic beliefs and practices (49%), and how to have respectful, spiritual conversations with patients/families (68%).

## Knowledge Gained/Future Direction

- Placing a higher value on spiritual care by providing HMC oncology nurses with spiritual care learning opportunities would equip nurses' training, increase comfort, and demonstrate hospital commitment to treating the whole person.
- Nurses are eager to grow and develop improved communication skills and spiritual care understanding.
- Survey results will be presented to HMC oncology nursing staff and recommendations will be made about offering teaching/learning sessions in 2021.



## Acknowledgements/References

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