

# Assessment for Change in Clinical Practice following Post-Masters' Doctor of Nursing Practice Education for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

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## Background:

The 2011 Institute of Medicine Report *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* and the 2006 AACN's DNP Task Force goals prompted expansion of DNP programs in the United States for APRNs and identification of evidence-based competencies for DNP-prepared APRNs in the clinical setting. Published literature to date describes what the DNP-prepared APRN should accomplish within the health care environment, yet there is a paucity of evidence that depicts *how or which* changes have taken place or the impact DNP education has had on APRN practice *outcomes* in the clinical practice setting.



**Objective:** Assess perceived role and clinical practice changes for master's prepared APRNs involved in direct patient care settings following completion of post-Master's DNP education.

## Demographics:

Variable	Frequency	%
<b>Gender:</b>		
male	14	11.8
female	105	88.2
<b>Age:</b>		
21-29	1	0.8
30-39	23	19.3
40-49	34	28.6
50-59	36	30.3
60-69	25	21.0
<b>Ethnicity:</b>		
Caucasian	95	79.8
Hispanic	8	6.7
African American	11	9.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	3	2.5
Other	2	1.7
<b>Advanced Practice Role:</b>		
Nurse Practitioner	112	94.1
Clinical Nurse Specialist	6	5.0
Nurse Midwife	1	0.8
<b>State Practice Authority:</b>		
Full practice	27	22.7
Reduced practice	34	28.6
Restricted practice	58	48.7

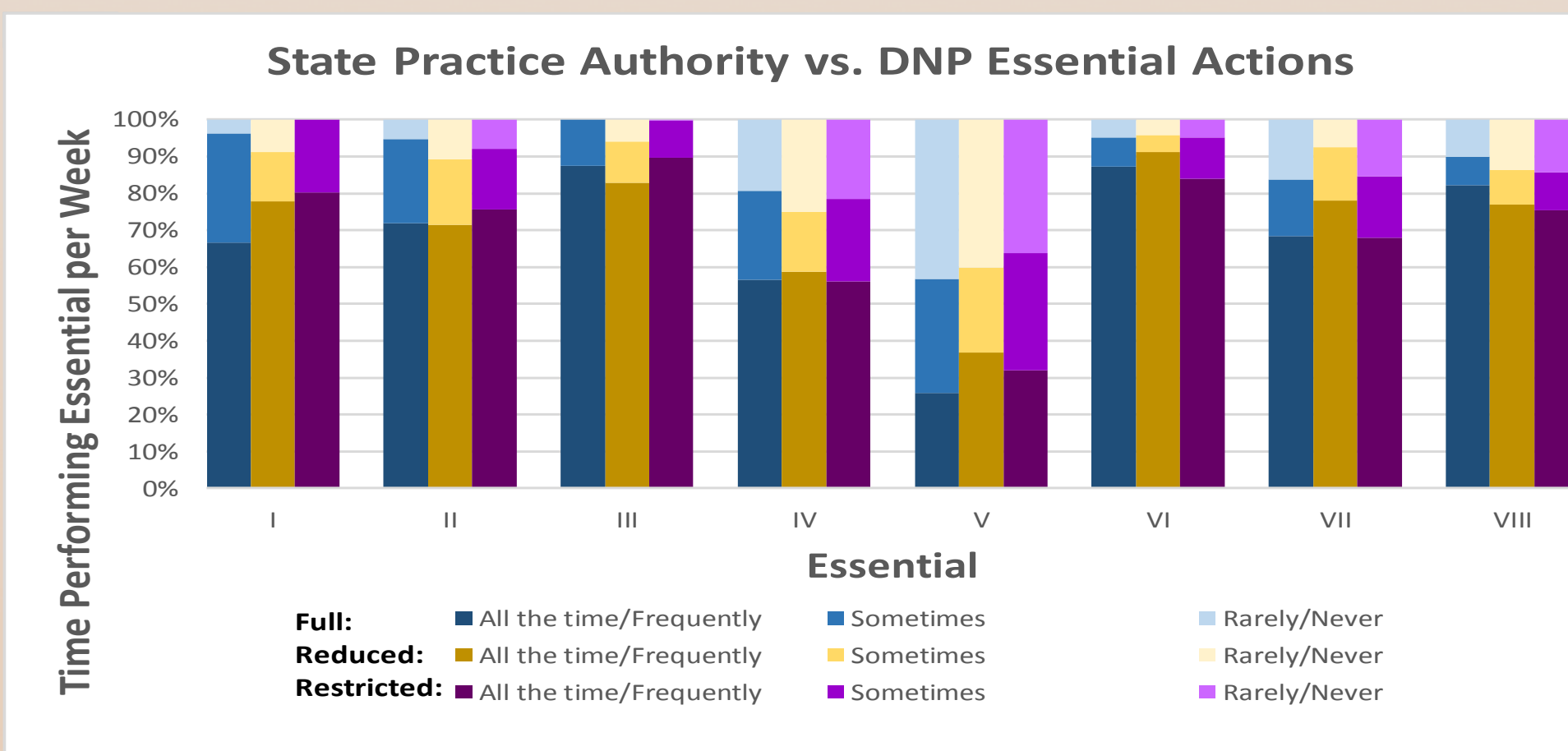
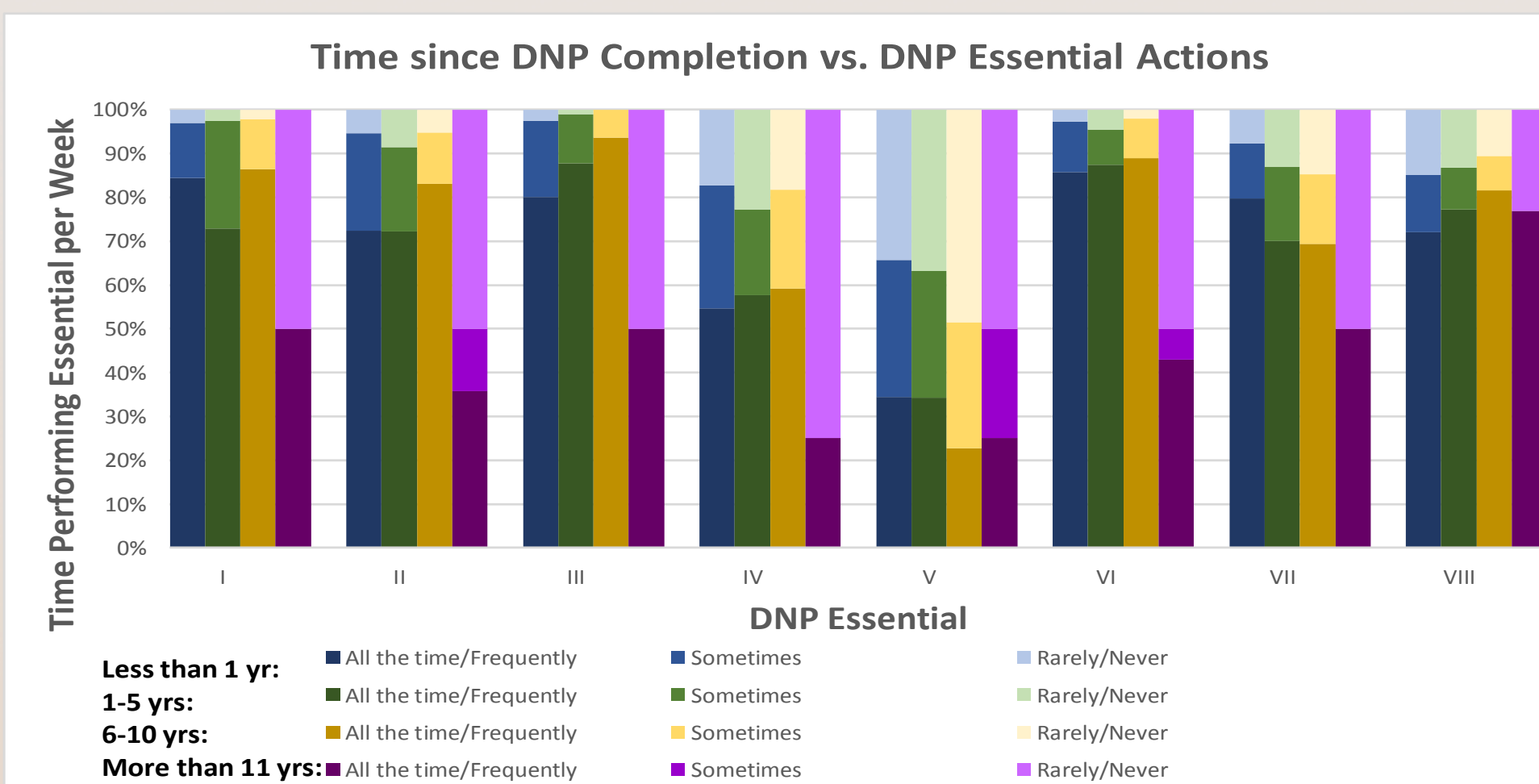
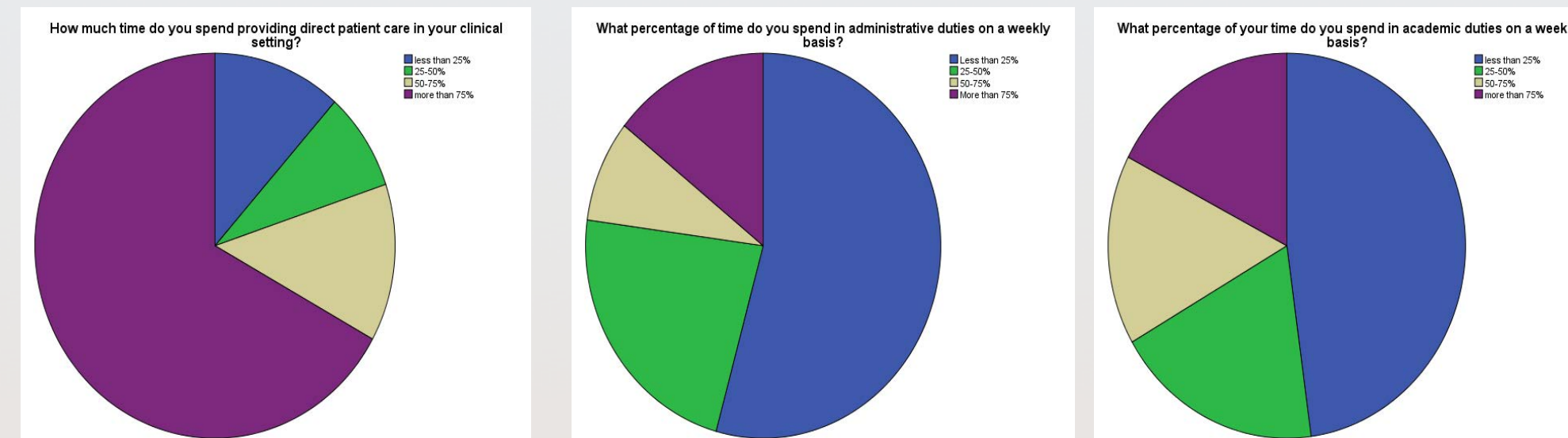
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## References:

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Institute of Medicine (2011). *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. Retrieved from [http://www.thefutureofnursing.org/sites/default/files/Future%20of%20Nursing%20Report\\_0.pdf](http://www.thefutureofnursing.org/sites/default/files/Future%20of%20Nursing%20Report_0.pdf)

## Results:



## Method:

A survey was created based upon the AACN DNP Essentials and published competencies. The survey was distributed nationally via Qualtrics to members of professional advanced practice nursing organizations for voluntary participation. Advanced practice nursing organizations included in the distribution were the Doctors of Nursing Practice, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Texas Nurse Practitioners, The Texas Austin Chapter of NAPNAP, Austin APNs, DNP Discussion Group Facebook group, Nurse Practitioners in Texas Facebook group, and Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Facebook group. Only surveys completed by APRNs who completed post-Masters DNP Education were included in analyses.

## Implication in Practice:

In the current increasingly complex healthcare system, educated leaders with clinical expertise are needed to identify areas for improvement, implement changes using evidence-based practices, and evaluate outcomes. These survey findings provide important considerations to potential and current DNP students, APRNs, healthcare administrators, legislators, patients, and healthcare system organizations for DNP-APRN program development.



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