# Statistics Used in Scholarly Projects of Doctor of Nursing Practice Graduates 2009-2013

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## Background

Doctor of nursing practice (DNP) students' scholarly projects focus on practical application of knowledge. Most of the DNP programs provide only one Biostatistics course for the students, which means instructors have limited time to prepare DNP students in mastering the statistics skills they need to complete their scholarly project.

## Objectives

The goal of this study was to conduct content analysis and data coding to quantify the statistics methods used in DNP students' final projects. At the same time, other aspects of the research methods used, such as research settings, sample size, and research subjects, were also examined.

## Methods

A not for profit organization, Doctors of Nursing Practice, Inc., maintains a list of DNP scholarly projects submitted voluntarily by DNP graduates, which is open to the public. This list of scholarly projects served as the sampling frame of this study. A descriptive analysis was conducted to show the frequencies of various aspects of the research methods of the studies and the statistics used.

Fiture 1: Year of the study

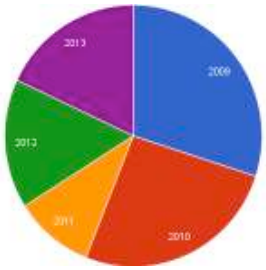



Figure 2: Study settings

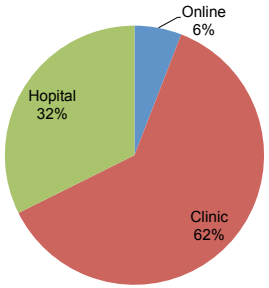



Figure 3: Sample size

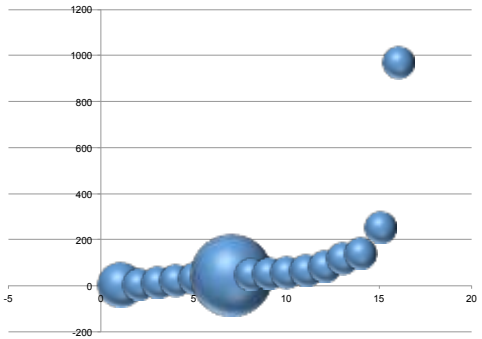



Figure 4: Subjects

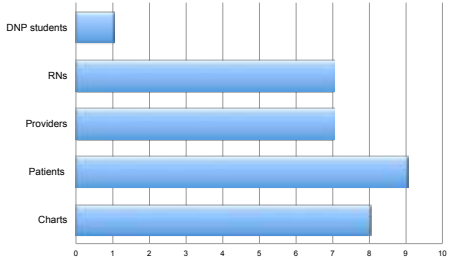
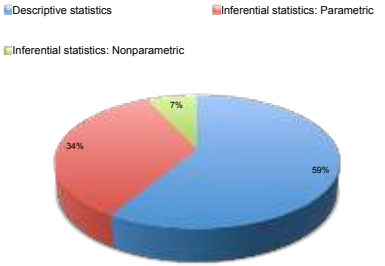



Figure 5: Statistics used




## Discussion

- Need centralized repository for all DNP projects
- Most sample sizes too small to conduct more sophisticated statistical analysis and to generalize study results
- Because majority of studies used descriptive statistics and t-score of inferential statistics, these should be the focus of the teaching of Biostatistics to DNP students