

The value of the pediatric practicum experience from the perspective of BC undergraduate nursing students

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BACKGROUND

Nursing education programs in British Columbia educate students to be generalists.

Generalist nursing denotes the ability to care for patients across the lifespan.

There is an increasing risk in securing pediatric clinical placements to fulfill this education program requirement.

This study aimed to focus on exploring the value of the pediatric practicum experience in (community and acute settings) from the student's position.

GOALS / OBJECTIVES

This study hoped to answer two questions:

1. What are undergraduate nursing student experiences of pediatric practicum in BC baccalaureate nursing programs?
2. How do undergraduate nursing students, as adult learners, determine the 'value' in pediatric practicum?



METHODS

This study utilized a qualitative descriptive design to explore students' personal knowledge and experience.

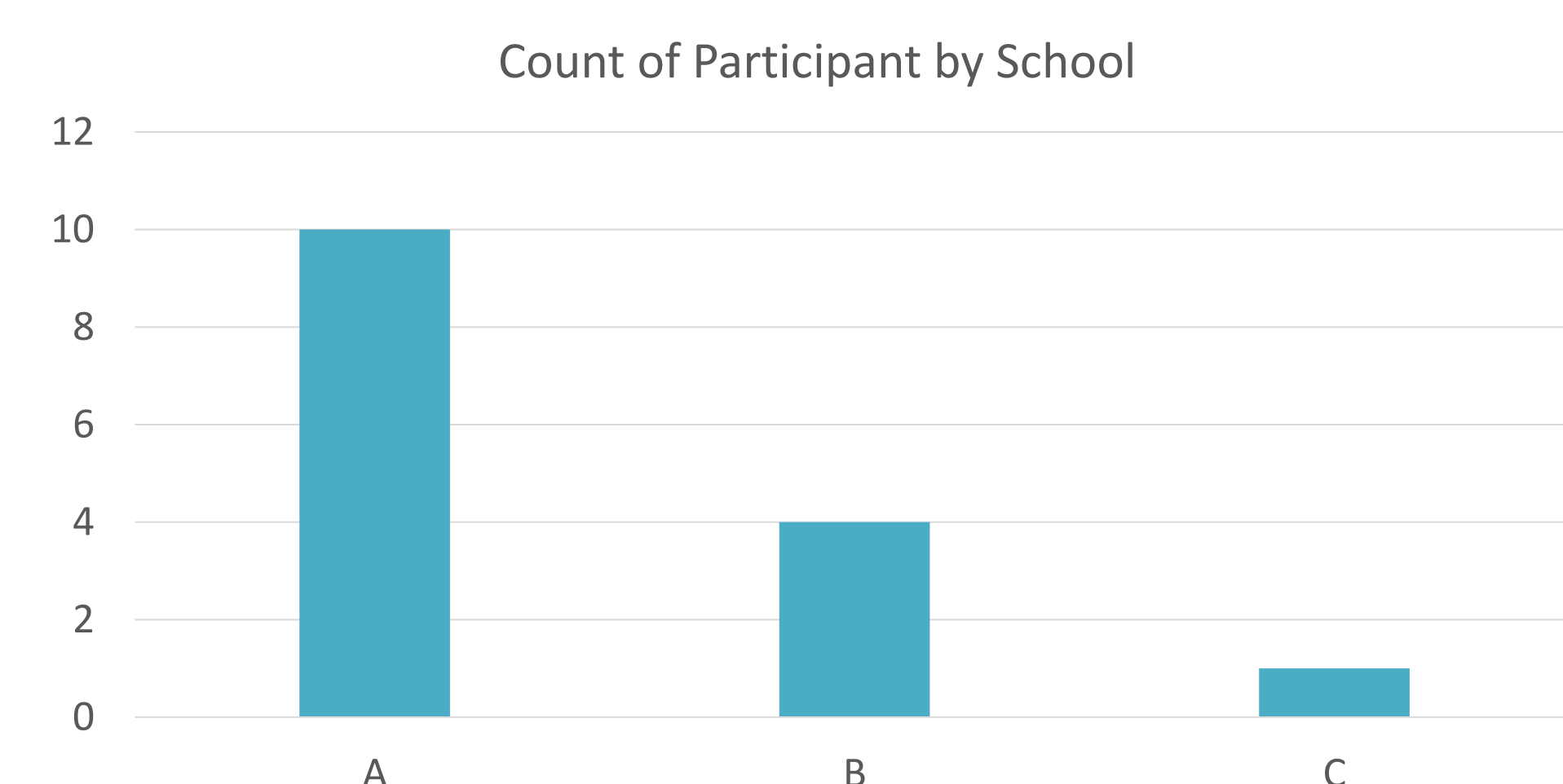
Post ethical approval for a multisite study [H21-00468], participants were virtually recruited from five different schools of nursing across BC via their email list system. Successful recruitment took place in three of the five Schools.

Data collection was through a semi-structured Zoom interview which was recorded at participants' consent.

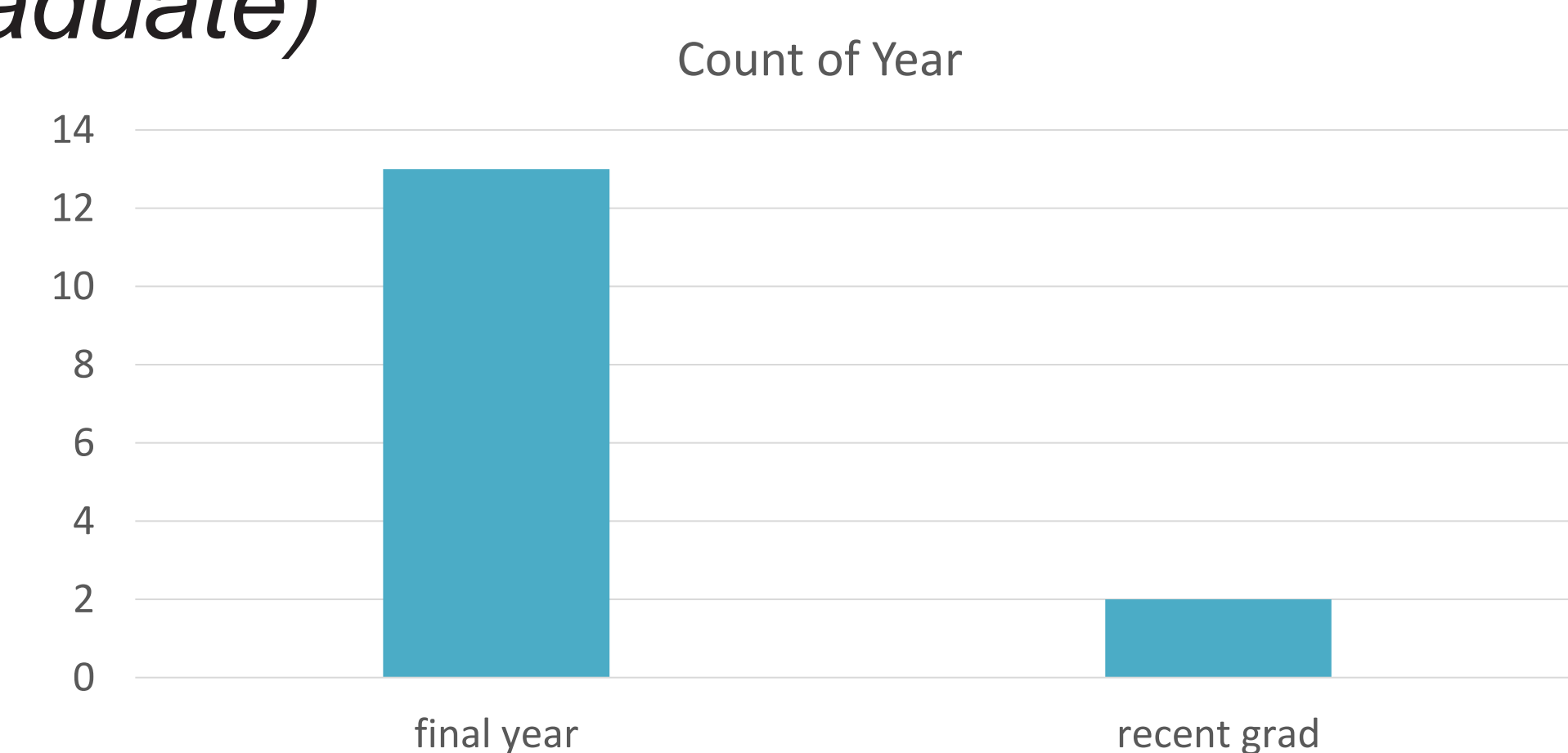
RESULTS

Sample Characteristics

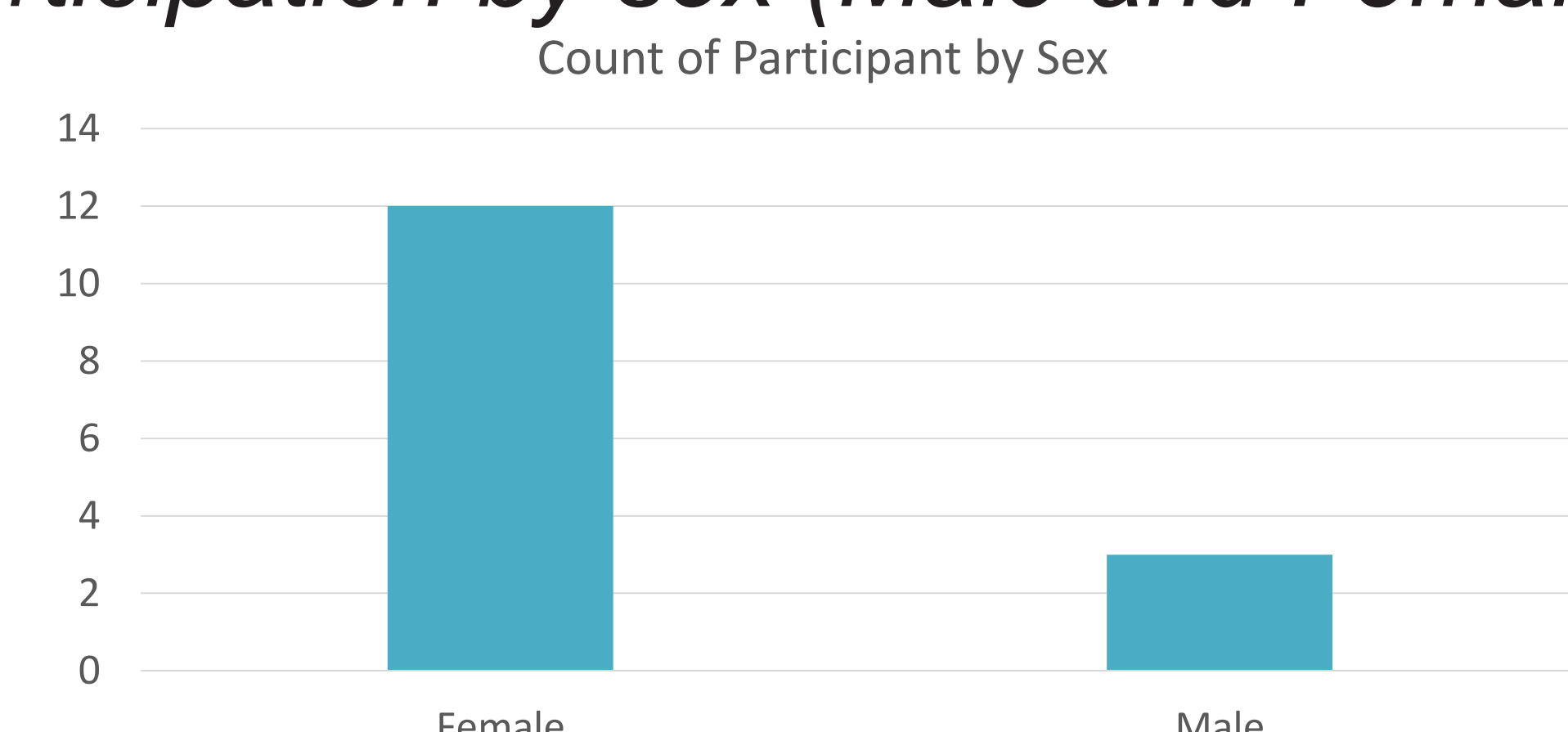
Participation by schools (A, B, and C)



Participation by year (Final year and New graduate)

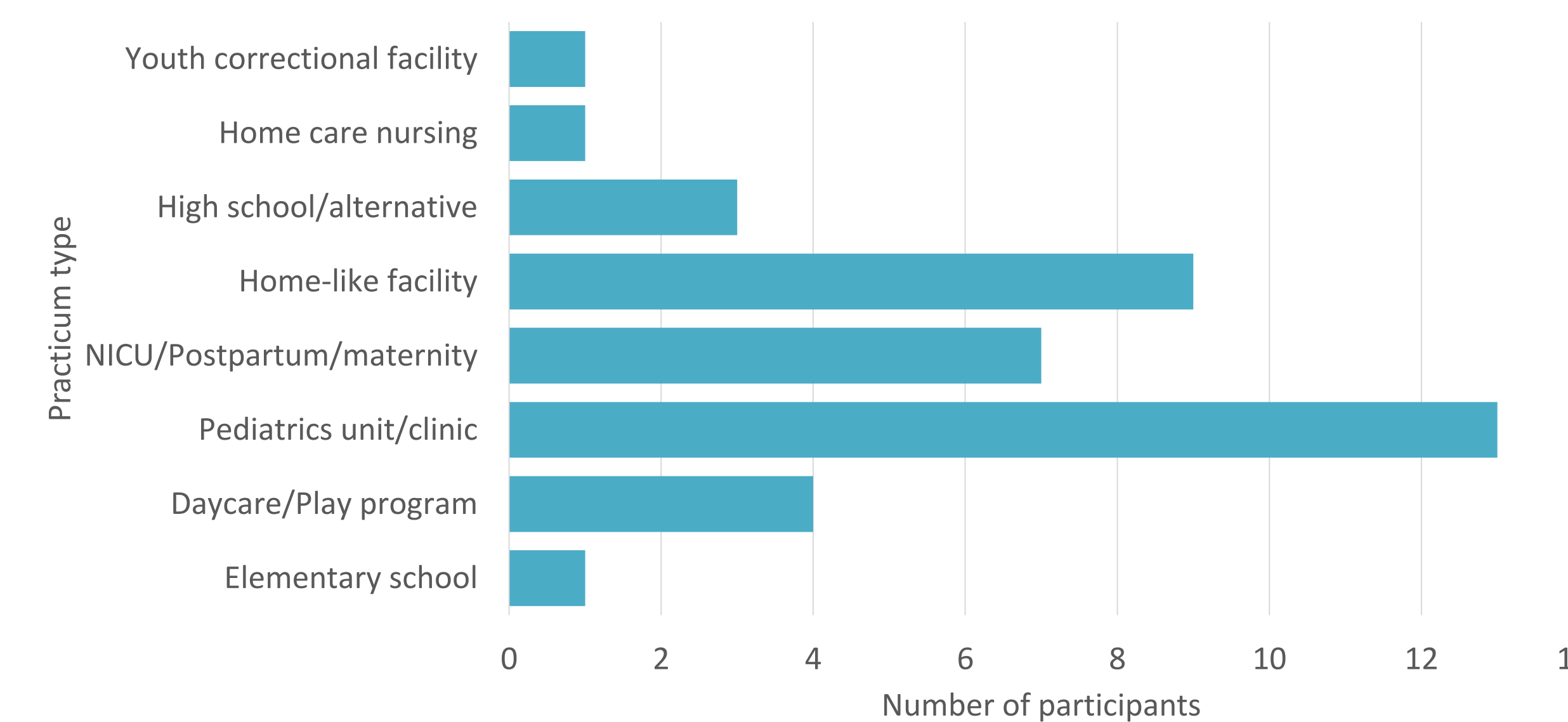


Participation by sex (Male and Female)



RESULTS

Practicum sites that informed the study



Themes	Subthemes
1. Relational practice Students valued the opportunity to interact with children, adolescents, and their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caring interactions with children and adolescents ▪ Caring interactions with families
2. Exposure to lived experiences Students appreciated the opportunity to develop insight into the lived experiences of health and illness from their patient's perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experiences as observed ▪ Experiences as conveyed

Exemplar quotes

"I think the children were very excited to see me. We did like a handwashing education day. It was like a little activity, and they were really excited to interact with me...I gave them a highlight in their day" - P12

"We had a toddler that had come in quite a few times... you'd go into their room, and they were so full of life... it really makes you understand how kids are so resilient" - P13

CONCLUSION

Students place high importance on pediatric experiences in both community and acute settings since pediatric placements offer a distinct perspective on nursing, fostering a deeper level of learning.

Pediatric practicum in clinical and community settings enriches learning.

Students improved their communication skills with children, adolescents, and families and learned to appreciate the significance of family-centered care.

RECOMMENDATION

Increased collaboration between education programs, health authorities, and community organizations that care for and/or support the development of children, adolescents, and their families is necessary to ensure the continued availability of pediatric placement opportunities for nursing students.

Reference

Onororemu, O. (2022). Exploring undergraduate nursing students' pediatric practicum experiences [Master's thesis, University of Northern British Columbia]. <https://doi.org/10.24124/2022/59429>

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following:

- Gatekeepers from the three Schools of Nursing who assisted in the participant recruitment process.
- Participants who lent their voices to make this study a reality.
- My supervisory committee (as part of my MScN program at UNBC) for their guidance and mentorship.

