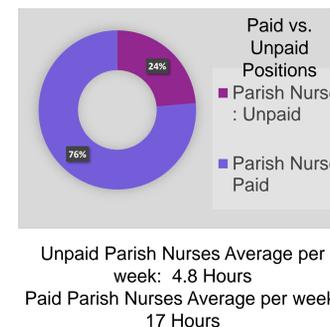
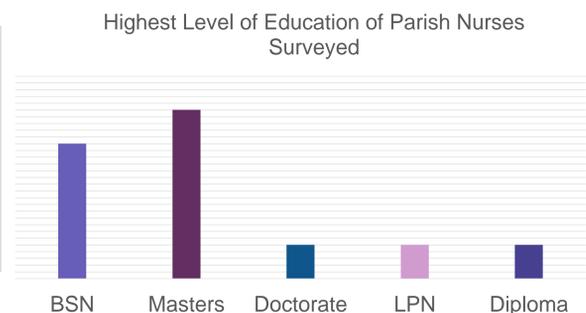
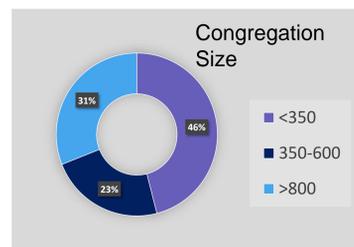




### Background:

- Skilled Nursing Providers are under financial pressure to boost their census and support residents post-discharge due to new financial penalties for rehospitalizations.
- One out of every 5 discharged Medicare patients get readmitted to the hospital within a month.
- Establishing partnerships with Community-Based Parish nurses may be beneficial.

### Results:



### Discussion:

- Congregations in the Chippewa Valley serve a large population of elderly.
- A primary activity of Parish Nurses is making home visits to the elderly.
- Parish Nurses:
  - Have a wealth of knowledge about community resources and serve as advocates to the parishioners they work with and visit.
  - Able to assist with both prevention and chronic illness management.
  - Promote health education about advance directives and death and dying.
- Congregations have a desire to expand parish nursing.
- Parish Nursing programs would benefit from financial support.

### Rationale:

- Parish nurses focus on health promotion and disease prevention integrated with religious beliefs (Brudenell, 2003).
- Skilled nursing providers and parish nurses serve similar clientele.
- Parish nurses could potentially be referral informants, help provide people with appropriate care resources, and provide support to residents' post-discharge that could reduce rehospitalization rates.

### Top 85 Parish Nursing Activities:

- Home Visitation
- Displaying health information at the parish
- Individual advocacy and acting as a liaison or referral source to community health services
- Placing health-related articles in church newsletter
- Organizing health education programs
- Coordinating blood pressure screenings

### Methods:

Survey's were sent to all pastors in an 8-county area in Western Wisconsin (n=170) to identify any current parish nursing programs.

A subsequent was then sent to be completed by the Parish Nurse identified in the first survey (n=12).

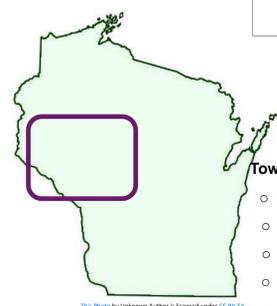
Questions asked included demographics, characteristics of their position, activities they felt were essential to their ministry, and factors that supported or were barriers to their programs.

Forty-one pastors returned the survey, with a response rate of 24%. Twelve Parish Nurses completed the second survey, which was a 100% response rate.

Researchers then performed descriptive statistical analysis of the quantitative data using SPSS.

### Common Health Education Programs:

- Advance Directives
- Death & Dying
- Fitness/Exercise
- CPR/First Aid Training



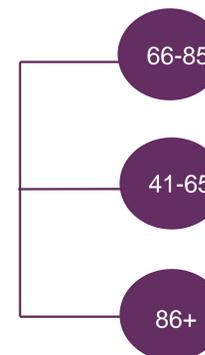
Town Size Demographics:

<5,000	33.4%
5-10,000	8.3%
10,15,000	8.3%
15-25,000	8.3%
>25,000	41.7%

### Pastors Interested in Starting a Parish nurse Program

Very Interested	21.2%
Somewhat Interested	66.7%
Not Interested	12.1%

### Top Ranked Age Groups Served:



### Conclusion:

- It may be worthwhile for nursing homes to cultivate mutually beneficial relationships and potential partnerships with local parish nurses or parish nurse programs.
- Parish Nurses could serve as referral sources and help connect seniors with needed care, services, or supports, pre- or post- recovery.
- Parish Nurses are health professionals who offer an additional layer of support during the discharge from inpatient care to critical transition home, potentially helping to decrease re-hospitalization and associated financial penalties.
- Nursing homes would explore whether they could offer support to help grow such programs by offering meeting space for parish nurses to network together, education, supplies, or small grants to assist congregations in establishing and growing these programs.

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  - Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
  - Learning and Technology Services

### Top 5 Factors Associated with Successful Parish Nursing:

- Clergy Support
- Congregational Support
- Personal Spiritual Development
- Financial Support
- Networking with other Parish Nurses

### Top 5 Barriers Associated with Parish Nursing:

- Time/Scheduling constraints
- Lack of financial support
- Lack of Networking with Parish Nurses
- Maintaining balanced personal/family life
- Lack of congregational support