

*Yes We Can!*

Trauma Nurses' Knowledge and  
Perceived Impact on  
Health-Related Quality of Life

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# Conflicts of Interest

- The authors have no conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise, to disclose.

# Background & Gap

- Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) is a person's self-assessed mental and physical health state over time
- Following traumatic injury, HRQOL is severely and persistently decreased, though HRQoL may potentially be modified by targeted intervention
- NASEM has advocated for the adoption of HRQoL as a quality marker for trauma care
- Barriers to implementation of HRQoL-directed care in the US have been identified
  - Lack of data regarding long-term HRQoL;
  - Lack of continuity of care from hospital to community; and
  - Stigma of seeking mental or behavioral healthcare

# Background & Gap

- Research investigating clinician knowledge of HRQoL or integration of HRQoL into practice is scarce
  - Primarily relates to physicians
- Nursing research in this area is even more limited
  - Focused on oncology nursing
- Investigation of trauma clinicians' familiarity with HRQoL is conspicuously absent from the literature
- **To systematically incorporate HRQoL metrics into trauma care, trauma clinicians, including nurses, must have knowledge and understanding of HRQoL as a concept**

# Purpose

- To assess trauma nurses' knowledge and perceptions of HRQoL, and
- To examine factors that contribute to trauma nurses' agreement that clinical care can impact HRQoL

# Methods

## *Design*

- Correlational study utilizing a cross-sectional electronic survey (Qualtrics)

## *Sample*

- Two purposive samples:
  - RNs employed on the trauma-surgical service line at UK HealthCare who could read and write in English (n = 73)
  - Nursing professional (RN or APRN) who self-identify as a trauma care provider who receive emails and/or engage in social media with STN/JTN who could read and write in English (n = 402)

# Methods

## *Survey Development*

- Based on search of existing literature which surveyed clinician knowledge and perceptions of HRQoL in acute care setting
- Drew from authors' previously published systematic review of literature of HRQoL after polytrauma
- 26-items, approximately 10 minutes to complete
  - Three blocks: Professional Demographic, Knowledge of HRQoL, Perceptions of HRQoL

# Methods

## *Data Collection*

- eIRB # 62017 (University of Kentucky)
- Anonymous link (Qualtrics)
  - Local listserv distribution: October 2020 – December 2020, three invitations
  - STN/JTN distribution: May 2021 – July 2021, three invitations
  - Closed July 31, 2021

## *Analysis*

- Descriptive statistics
- Multivariate, hierarchical regression to assess professional demographic, knowledge, and perceptive contributions towards trauma nurse agreement that clinical care can impact HRQoL

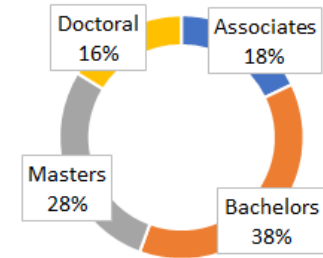


## Descriptive Results:

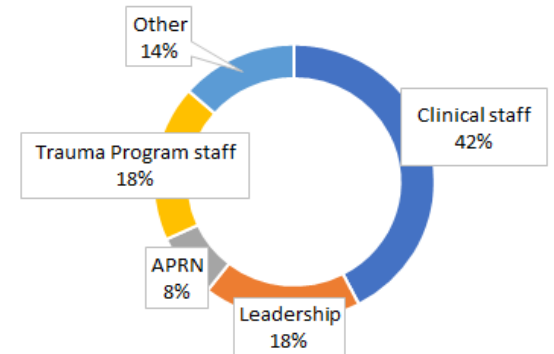
### *Professional & Demographic characteristics*

- Most (66%) of the respondents identified as female
- Mean years of nursing experience =  $21.7 \pm 13.8$
- Most (38%) were employed at a verified Level I institution
- Most were in an urban (51%) setting in the southern US (39%)
- 42% were unsure if their institution collected HRQoL data about trauma patients

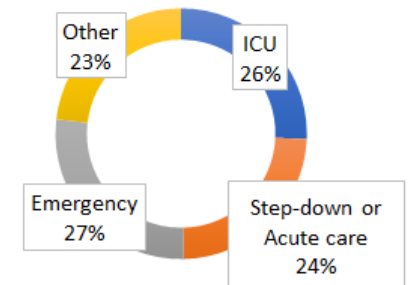
**Highest Nursing Degree (N = 475)**



**Primary Role (N = 475)**



**Area Typically Worked (N = 475)**



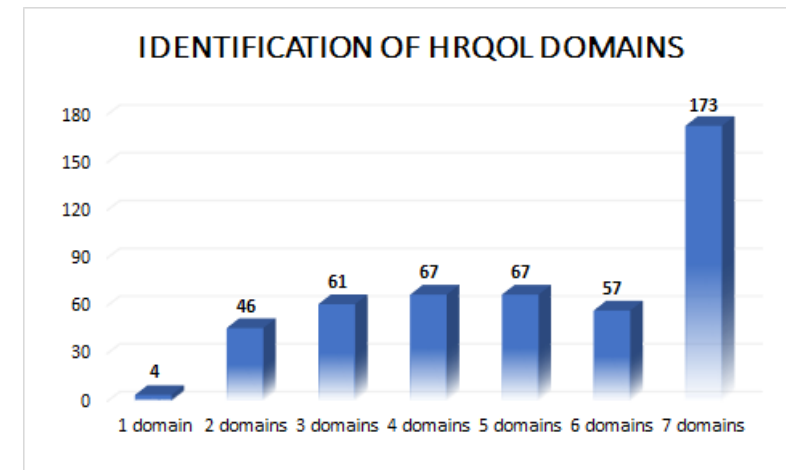
## Descriptive Results:

### *HRQoL Knowledge*

- Over half (54%) of respondents were **not** familiar with HRQoL
- Most (65%) respondents believed HRQoL to be different from QoL
- Almost half (48%) correctly identified who provides answers to HRQoL questions
- Just over half (51%) correctly identified how HRQoL is measured

The domains that make up HRQoL include which of the following? Select all that apply:

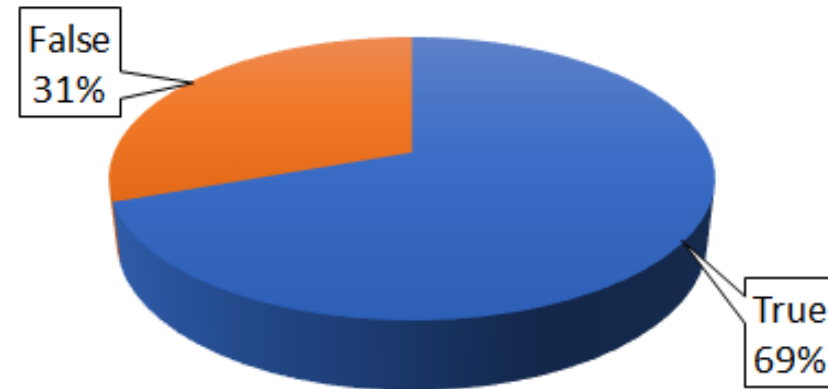
- Physical functioning
- Emotional functioning
- Social functioning
- Mental well-being
- Pain / discomfort
- Energy level
- Self-care and usual activities



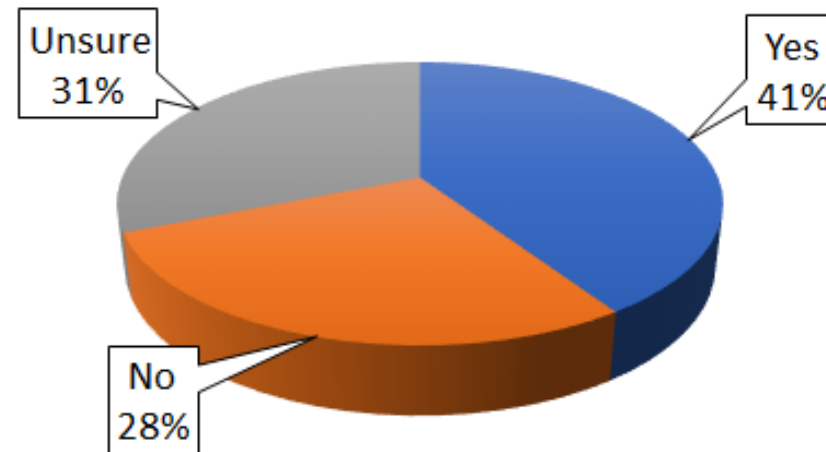
## Descriptive Results:

### *Perceptions of HRQoL*

**HRQoL can be affected for years following traumatic injury (N = 475)**



**HRQoL data are valuable and feasible to collect (N = 475)**

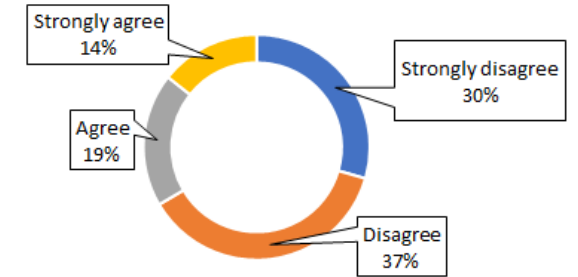


## Descriptive Results:

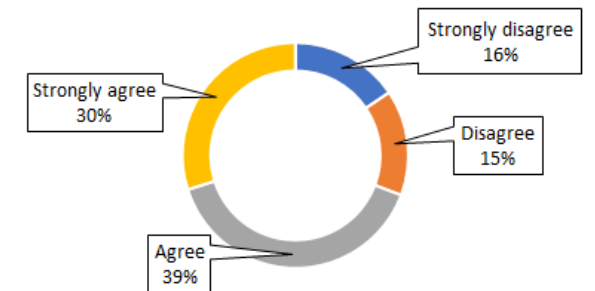
### Perceptions of HRQoL and hospitalization

- Majority of respondents agreed (35%) or strongly agreed (21%) with **"Preserving life is the primary responsibility of health care workers."**
- Majority of respondents disagreed (37%) or strongly disagreed (30%) with **"Preserving life regardless of the effect on HRQoL is a marker of successful health care delivery."**

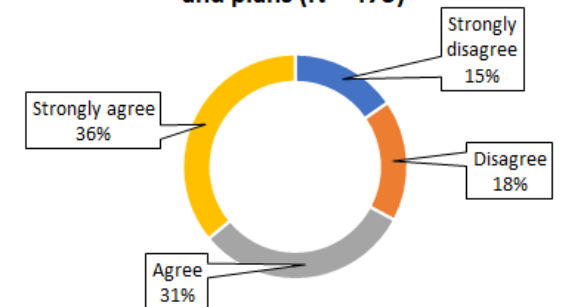
Alterations in HRQoL can only be addressed and corrected after discharge from the hospital (N = 475)



Discussions regarding HRQoL during hospitalization can have positive impacts on patient experience and outcomes (N = 475)



HRQoL domains and potential outcomes should be discussed congruently with treatment options and plans (N = 475)

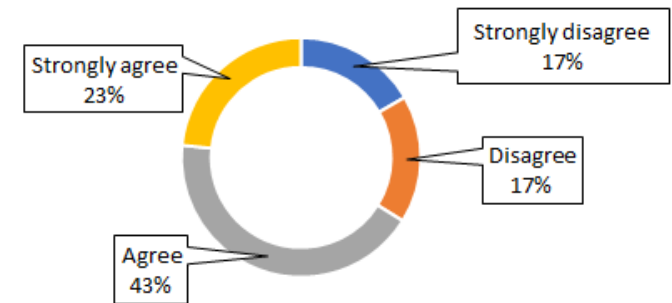


## Descriptive Results:

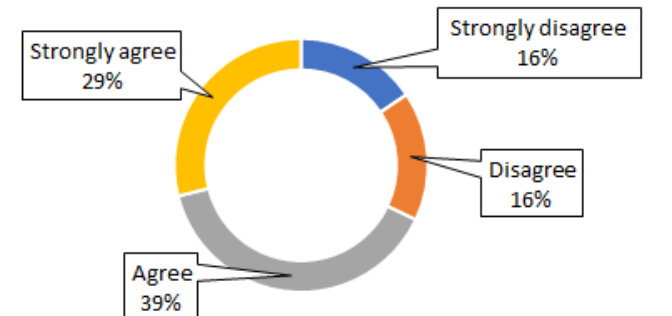
### *Perceptions of HRQoL and Nursing*

- There was **moderate** ( $63.7 \pm 29.8$ ) agreement with the statement “*Nursing care delivered during hospitalization for traumatic injury can affect HRQoL*” (Scale 0 – 100, 100 represents complete agreement)

**Nurses can have conversations with patients during hospitalization regarding HRQoL (N = 475)**



**Further education about HRQoL could impact nursing practice to improve patient outcomes (N = 475)**



# Regression Results Block 1: *Professional Demographic factors*

Predictors of agreement towards the statement: Nursing care, delivered during hospitalization for traumatic injury, can affect HRQoL.	B	$\beta$	p-value	95% CI
BSN (ADN/ASN referent)	9.33	0.15	0.01	[2.03, 16.63]
Trauma program staff (Management/leadership referent)	12.54	0.16	0.003	[4.16, 20.92]
Work at Level II (Level I referent)	-10.57	-0.14	0.009	[-18.48, -2.66]
Work at Level IV (Level I referent)	-15.75	-0.16	0.001	[-25.16, -6.34]
Work at Level V (Level I referent)	-19.39	-0.21	<0.001	[-28.81, -9.97]
Work at non-verified center (Level I referent)	-12.33	-0.13	0.008	[-21.43, -3.22]
Rural setting (Urban referent)	-6.99	-0.10	0.046	[-13.86, -0.13]
Institution does not collect HRQoL (Institution does collect referent)	8.82	0.14	0.01	[1.83, 16.05]
Unsure if institution collects HRQoL (Institution does collect referent)	8.94	0.15	0.1	[1.78, 15.86]
<p><b>Note:</b> HRQoL = health related quality of life; BSN = Bachelor of Science in Nursing; ADN = Associates Degree in Nursing  <b>Model statistics:</b> F(23, 448) = 4.95; p &lt; 0.001; Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> = 0.162</p>				

## Regression Results Block 2: *Knowledge factors*

Predictors of agreement towards the statement: Nursing care, delivered during hospitalization for traumatic injury, can affect HRQoL.	B	$\beta$	p-value	95% CI
HRQoL measured by chart review (Patient report with valid instrument referent)	-11.55	-0.16	0.001	[-18.60, -4.50]
HRQoL measured by HCP observation (Patient report with valid instrument referent)	-10.54	-0.16	0.001	[-16.96, -4.13]
Identified 2 of 7 domains (Identified 7 of 7 referent)	-12.01	-0.12	0.014	[-21.55, -2.46]
Identified 3 of 7 domains (Identified 7 of 7 referent)	-10.86	-0.12	0.011	[-19.19, -2.52]
Identified 5 of 7 domains (Identified 7 of 7 referent)	-13.19	-0.16	0.001	[-21.05, -5.33]
Identified 6 of 7 domains (Identified 7 of 7 referent)	-14.62	-0.16	0.001	[-23.12, -6.12]
<p><b>Note:</b> HRQoL = health related quality of life; HCP = health care provider  <b>Model statistics:</b> F(14, 434) = 4.44; p &lt; 0.001; Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> = 0.243</p>				

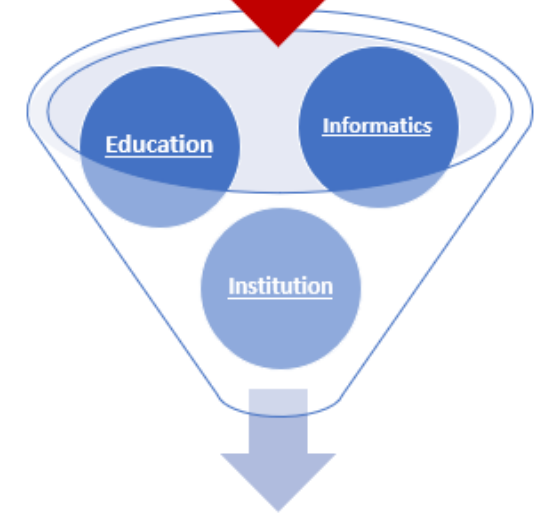
## Regression Results Block 3: *Perceptive factors*

Predictors of agreement towards the statement: Nursing care, delivered during hospitalization for traumatic injury, can affect HRQoL.	B	$\beta$	p-value	95% CI
Agree with statement “ <i>Discussions regarding HRQoL during hospitalization can have positive impact on patient experience and outcomes</i> ” (Strongly disagree referent)	13.86	0.23	0.001	[6.04, 21.67]
Strongly agree with statement “ <i>Discussions regarding HRQoL during hospitalization can have positive impact on patient experience and outcomes</i> ” (Strongly disagree referent)	10.01	0.16	0.012	[2.2, 18.0]
Agree with statement “ <i>If I received further education on HRQoL, I feel it could impact my nursing practice to improve patient outcomes</i> ” (Strongly disagree referent)	8.89	0.15	0.024	[1.16, 16.62]
Strongly agree with statement “ <i>If I received further education on HRQoL, I feel it could impact my nursing practice to improve patient outcomes</i> ” (Strongly disagree referent)	14.63	0.22	<0.001	[6.68, 22.59]
<p>Note: HRQoL = health related quality of life            Model statistics: <math>F(24, 410) = 2.98</math>; <math>p &lt; 0.001</math>; Adjusted <math>R^2 = 0.318</math></p>				



# Conclusions & Future Implications for Practice

- Trauma nurses perceived that nursing care can impact patient HRQoL
- The perceived impact is affected by components that can be grouped into education, informatics, and institution factors
- Leveraging feedback from each component of the trauma nurse's perception of impact to inform other components could assist in the development, implementation, and testing of holistic, nurse-led interventions that improve HRQoL of trauma patients



Nurse-led Interventions that improve HRQoL of Trauma Patients

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