

Barriers and Determinants that Influence Membership in the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

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Problem

Membership percentage within the Nurse Anesthesia professional organization specifically the American Association of Nurse Anesthetist (AANA) has decline within the last 10 years (Farina et al., 2016). The national average for nonmember percentage in 2018 was around 12% (AANA, 2018). Percentage of nonmembers in Florida was 20.7% in 2016 & increased to 26% in 2018 (AANA, 2018; Farina et al., 2016).

Methods

The scholarly project design is a mixed methods design that uses descriptive statistics to describe qualitative & quantitative data. The sample methodology was a purposive sampling method directed to Florida's licensed nurse anesthetists. The project's data collection tool was a survey that will used Likert scale questions to capture quantitative data. The survey also has open-ended fill in the blank options to capture qualitative data.



Quantitative Results

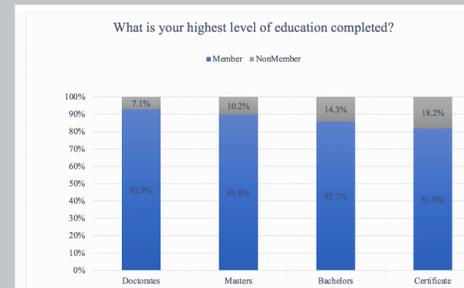


Figure 4. Level of education completed by Florida CRNAs.

Discussion & Implications

- The trend suggested that Florida CRNAs with < 10 years of experience were more likely to be nonmembers.
- The data suggested that as education level increases, membership percentages increase & non-membership percentages decrease.
- “Promotion of the Profession” was the most frequent choice selected by member as a factor that influenced their decision to join the AANA.
- For nonmembers, “Cost of Membership” was the most frequent response.

Literature Review

Benefits of Professional Membership:

- Development of the professional, encourage leadership, advocacy, influence policy, provide CEUs, networking, & provide members a sense of belonging & identity.

Methods Used to Collect Data: an online survey.

Reasons why professionals do or do not join their professional organization:

- Reasons for joining: Networking, support from their organization, personal professional development, a sense of belonging to an organization, & getting free CEUs.
- Reasons for NOT joining: Cost of membership, lack of time, lack of benefits, poor service, inconvenience, & poor value for the cost involved.

Results

213 responses that was used as a sample size. Out of the 213 respondents, 88.7% (n = 189) were members, 10.3% (n = 22) were nonmember, & 0.09% (n = 2) did not answer the question.

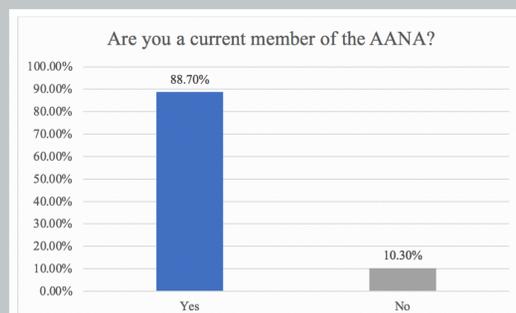


Figure 1. Percentage of Florida CRNA memberships.

More Results

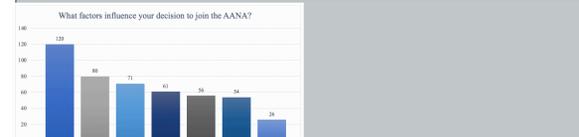


Figure 5. Factors that influenced Florida CRNAs decision to join the AANA.

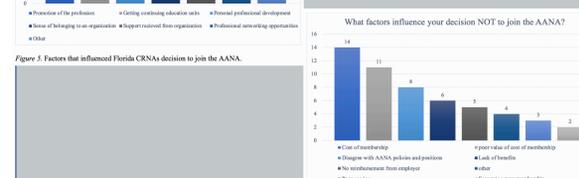


Figure 6. Factors that influence Florida CRNAs NOT to join the AANA.

Qualitative Results

Qualitative results revealed the following factors impact membership decision making:

- Issues with NBCRNA
- CEUs tracking
- Political advocacy

Conclusions

The outcome of this scholarly project revealed several key findings of influencing factors related to membership in the AANA. The major determinants that influence membership that were identified include benefits of CEUs, political advocacy, and professional development. The major barriers to membership that were identified include the cost of membership, issues surrounding NBCRNA CPC requirements, and overall lack of education about the AANA. Although future research is needed, the results of this scholarly project can be very impactful for anyone invested in the profession.

Acknowledgements

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