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Background

Nursing home (NH) residents have increasing palliative needs. Palliative care training is important to help NH nurses deliver good palliative care¹. However, palliative care training can be resource intensive for both the educators and the learners.

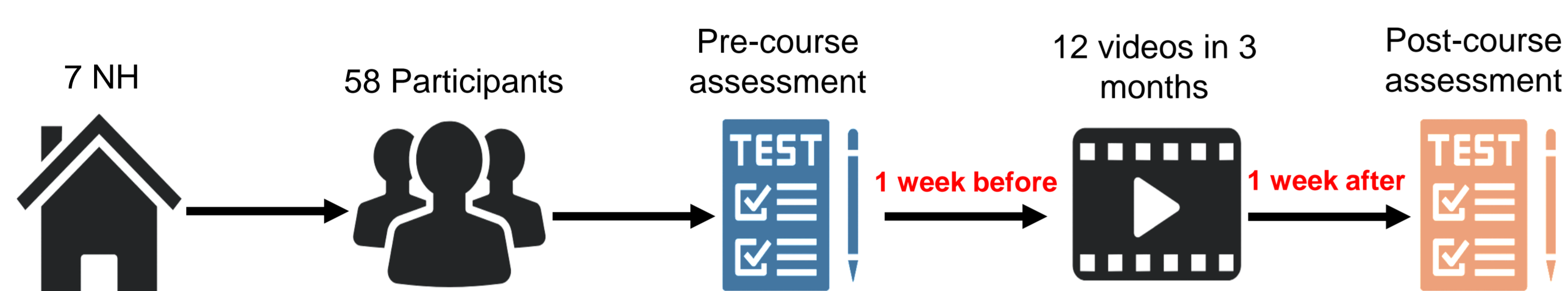
PowerFacts (PF), an innovative palliative medical animation, is a series of 12 medical animations created to teach basic palliative knowledge and concepts to NH staff.



Study objective

Examine the effectiveness of PF in improving the knowledge and attitudes towards palliative care in NH staff.

Methodology

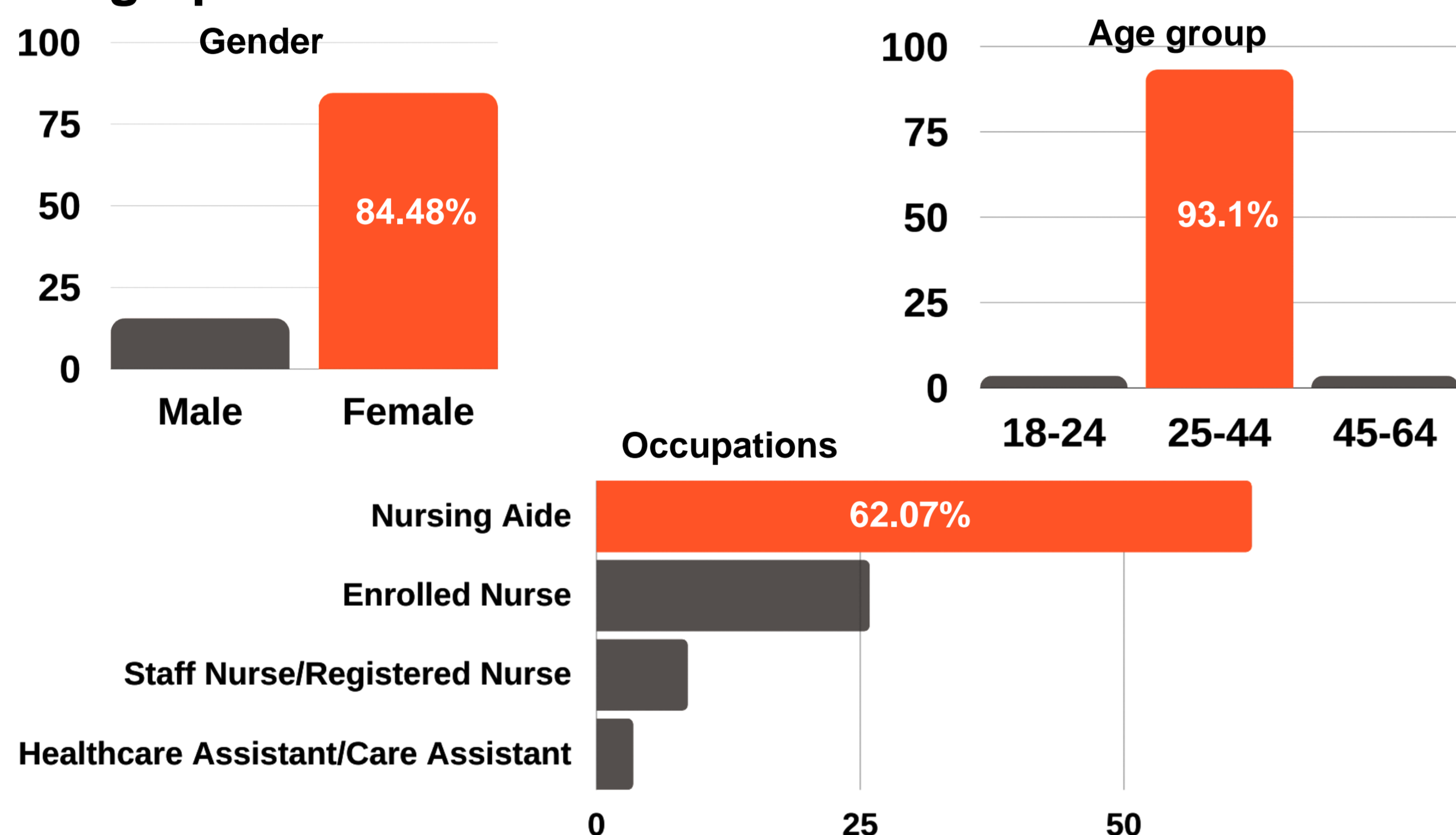


The pre and post course assessment each consisted of 20 knowledge multiple choice questions (MCQs) and attitudes were measured using the Frommelt Attitude towards the Care of Dying (FATCOD) scale.

Independent T-tests were performed to compare differences between groups and between the scores before and after the course.

Results

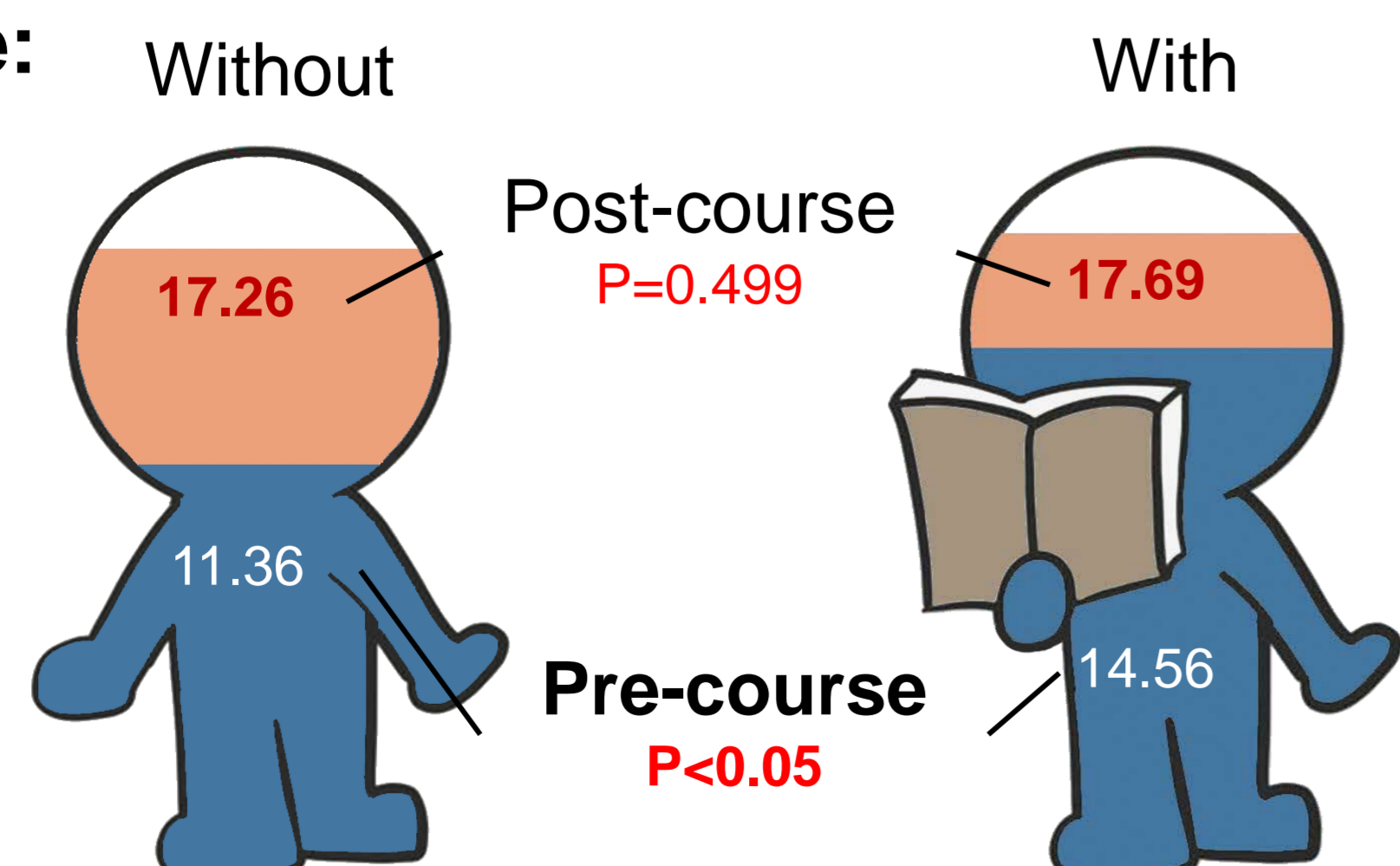
1. Demographics:



2. Knowledge improvement:

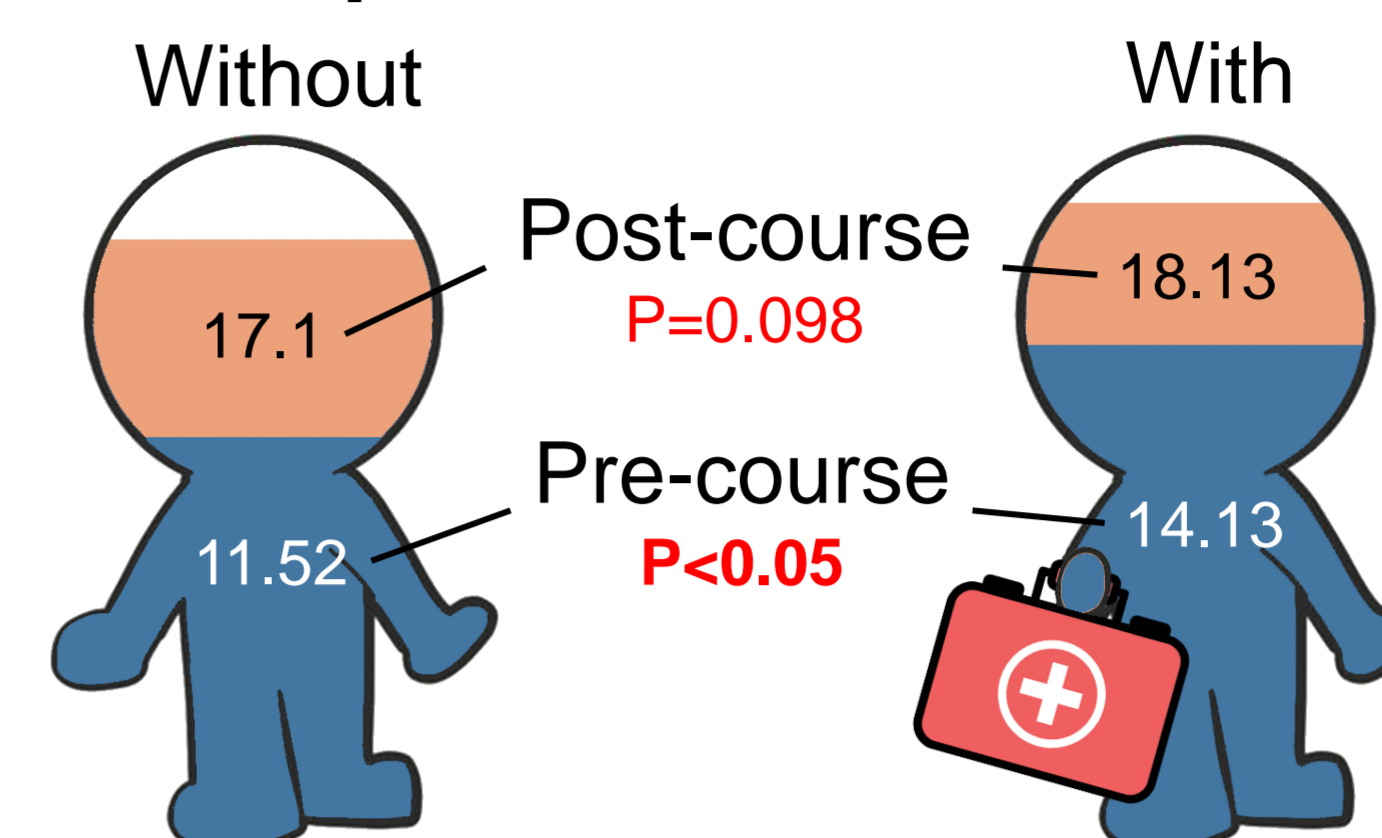


2a. Previous training affected pre-course score but not post-course score:

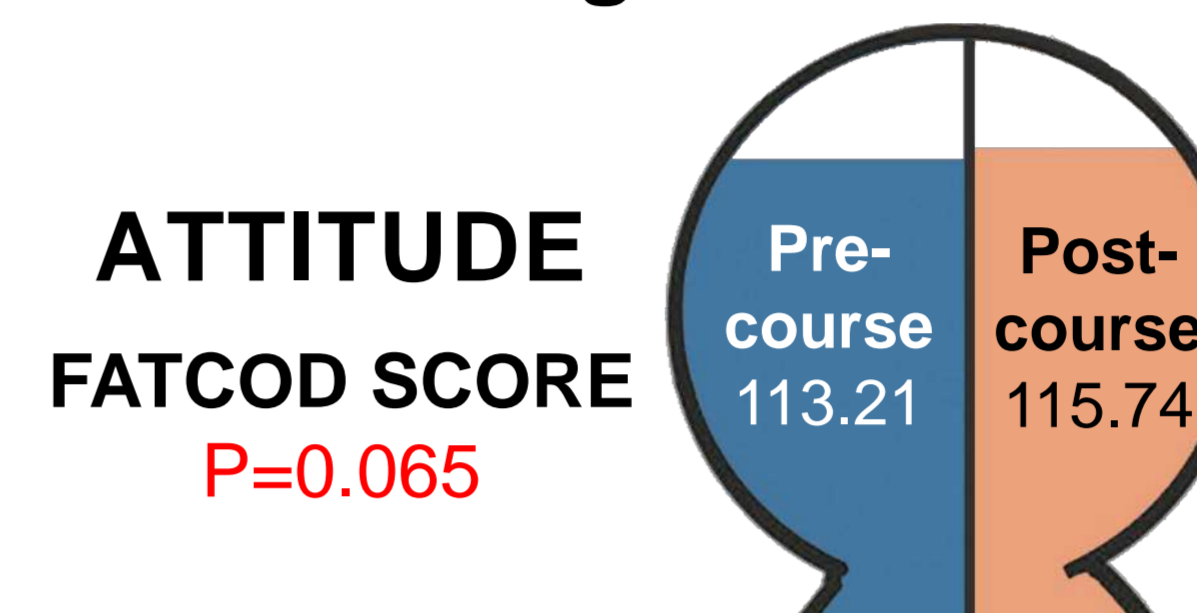


Results (Continued)

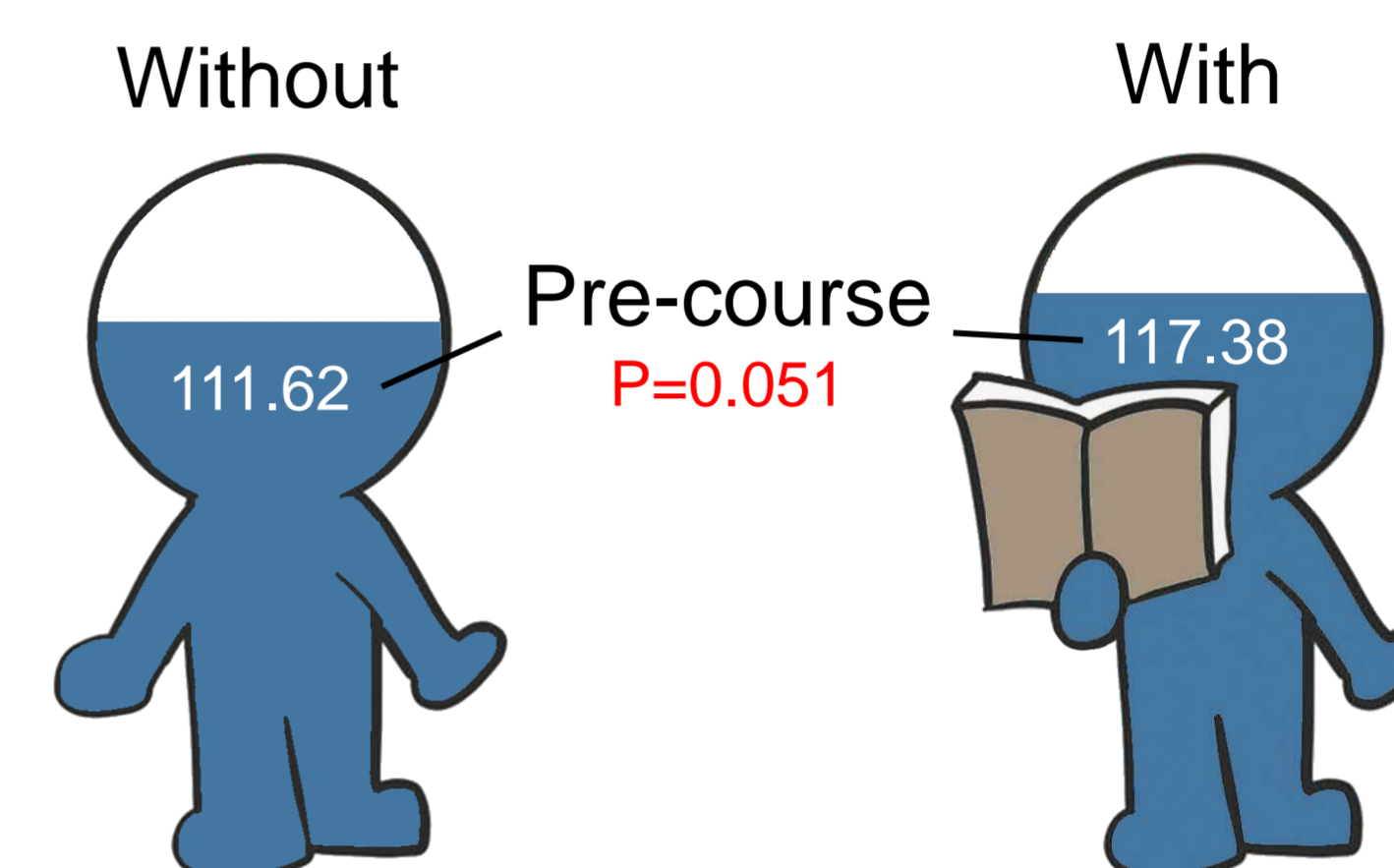
2b. Previous palliative care work experience affected pre-course score but not post-course score:



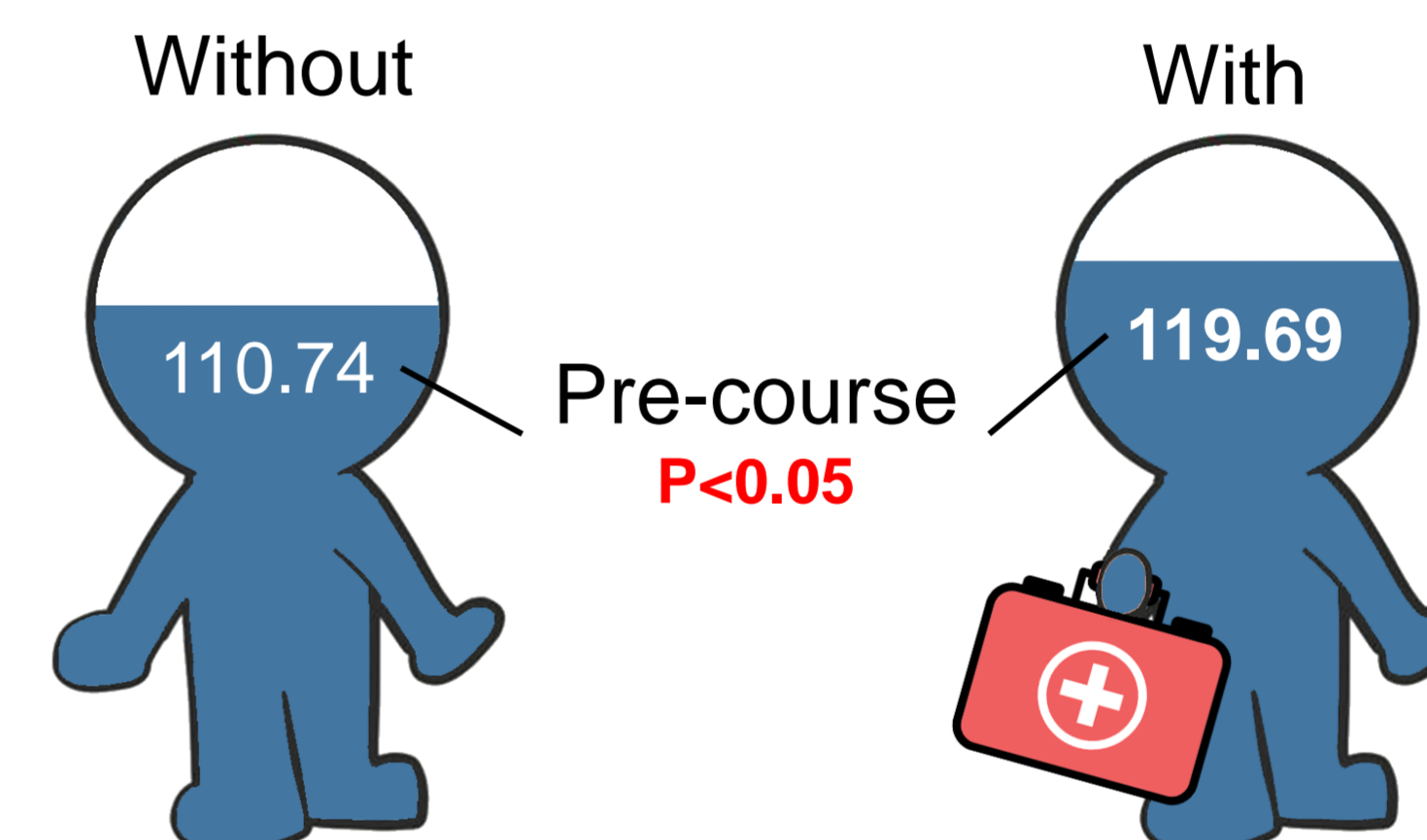
3. Attitude remained unchanged:



3a. Attitude of participants with previous training might be better



3b. Attitude of participants with previous palliative experience was better

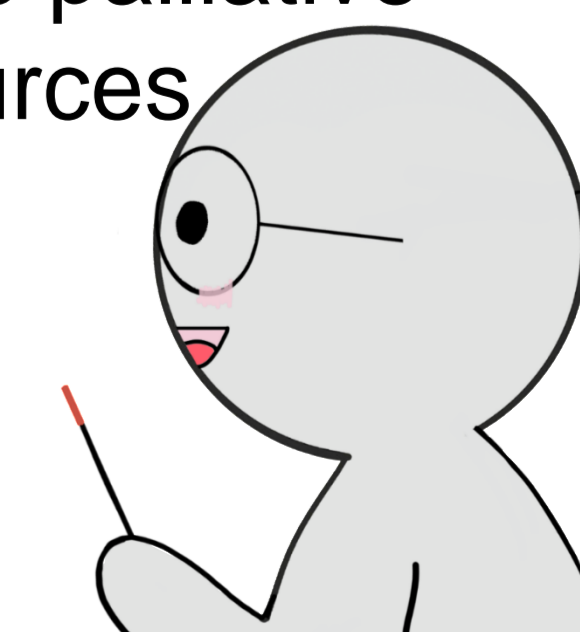


Discussion

- PF could be accessed repeatedly by multiple learners at the learners' own-time, own-target basis.
- Our study showed that the use of animations could improve NH staff's knowledge and serve as a tool to level the knowledge² between those with previous training and experience compared to those without.
- NH staff with previous palliative care training or working experience had better knowledge and attitudes, signifying the importance of palliative care training for NH staff.
- PF did not improve attitude of NH staff. This is in line with current literature that short courses are more likely to improve knowledge rather than attitudes.

Conclusion

- PF is effective in improving palliative knowledge but not attitudes.
- PF might be a game changer in improving equity to palliative training for NH staff without overstraining the resources of the educators and the NHs.



References

1. Hanson LC, Reynolds KS, Henderson M, Pickard CG. A quality improvement intervention to increase palliative care in nursing homes. Journal of palliative medicine. 2005 Jun 1;8(3):576-84.
2. George S, Moran E, Duran N, Jenders RA. Using animation as an information tool to advance health research literacy among minority participants. InAMIA Annual Symposium Proceedings 2013 (Vol. 2013, p. 475). American Medical Informatics Association.