SWISS NURSES' KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO HEALTHCARE REFORMS :
AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

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Swiss Healthcare System I

- Main characteristics :
  - Liberalism and federalism
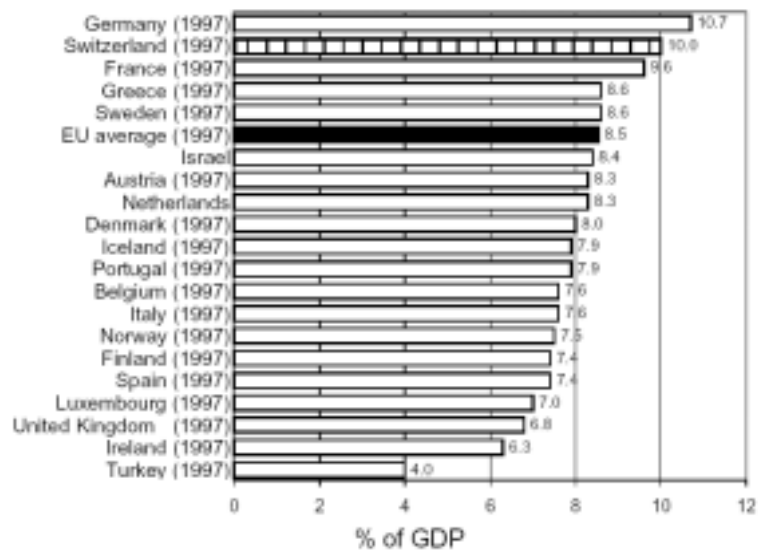 - System largely based on private enterprise

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Swiss Healthcare System II

- Decisions and responsibilities are shared between :
    - The federal government
    - The 26 cantons
    - The municipalities

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Total expenditure on health as a % of GDP in the WHO European Region, 1998 (or latest year)

Country	% of GDP
Germany (1997)	10.7
Switzerland (1997)	10.0
France (1997)	9.6
Greece (1997)	8.6
Sweden (1997)	8.6
EU average (1997)	8.5
Israel	8.4
Austria (1997)	8.3
Netherlands	8.3
Denmark (1997)	8.0
Iceland (1997)	7.9
Portugal (1997)	7.9
Belgium (1997)	7.6
Italy (1997)	7.6
Norway (1997)	7.5
Finland (1997)	7.4
Spain (1997)	7.4
Luxembourg (1997)	7.0
United Kingdom (1997)	6.8
Ireland (1997)	6.3
Turkey (1997)	4.0

% of GDP

Factors contributing to reforms

- Spiralling costs
- Demographic shift
- Economic recession
- Changing population needs
- Technological advancements

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Federal Healthcare Reform

- New Federal Health Insurance Law LAMal (1996)
  - Mandatory basic health insurance
  - Liberty of choice between insurance companies
  - Mandatory cantonal strategic planning of healthcare infrastructure
  - Encouragement of competition within the healthcare system

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Canton Vaud Healthcare Reform

- New Orientations of Health Policy NOPS (1997)
    - Five to eight networks of care
    - Service provision contracts between cantonal authorities and networks of care
    - Application of funding directives in accordance with the LAMal
    - Information provision to the population

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Nurses Involvement in Reforms Implementation Process

- Knowledge as a critical resource

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Research Questions

- What is the level of nurses' knowledge regarding the basic principles of LAMal ?
- What is the level of nurses' knowledge concerning the principles of healthcare reforms in Canton Vaud ?
- Are there knowledge differences relating to employment setting, nurses' roles and level of education ?
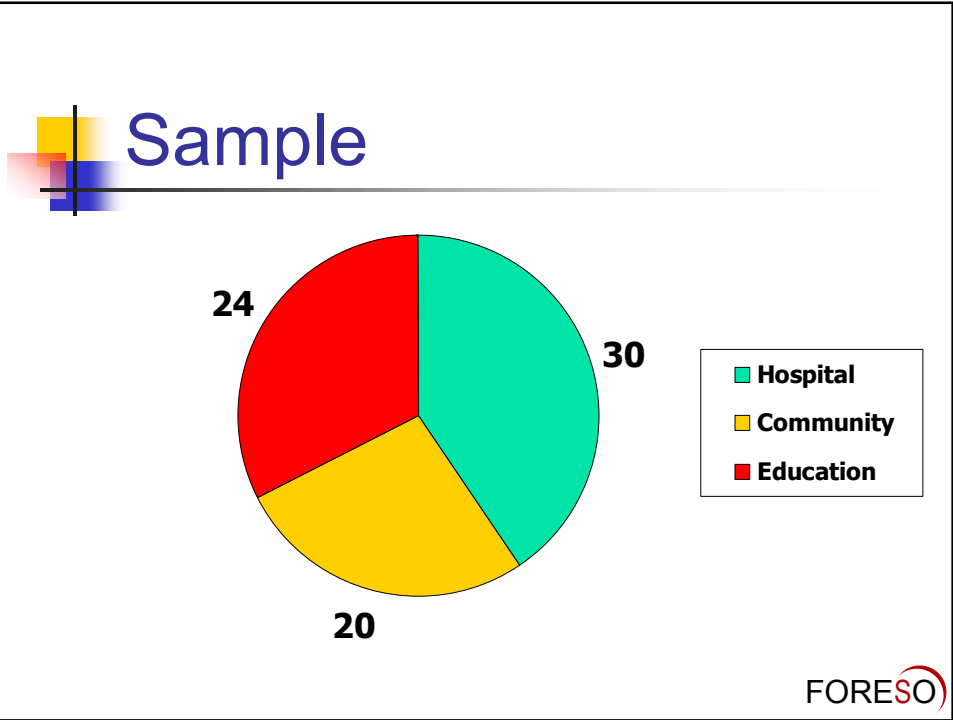
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Nurses' population in Canton Vaud

- 5000 nurses
    - Public hospitals : 50%
    - Private or specialized hospitals : 20%
    - Community : 11-12%
    - Nursing homes : 11-12%
    - Other : 6 - 8%

    - (Service Cantonal de Recherche et d'Information Statistiques)

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Sample

24
30
20

- Hospital
- Community
- Education

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Sample characteristics

- Mean age
  - 42.34, SD 7.8
- Mean work experience
  - 17.8, SD 7.7
- Position
  - 38 % nurses occupying managerial positions
- Education
  - 23 % nurses holding academic degree

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Measures I

- Nurses' knowledge questionnaire
  - 25 Items regarding LAMal
  - 15 Items regarding NOPS

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Measures II

- 4 Scales
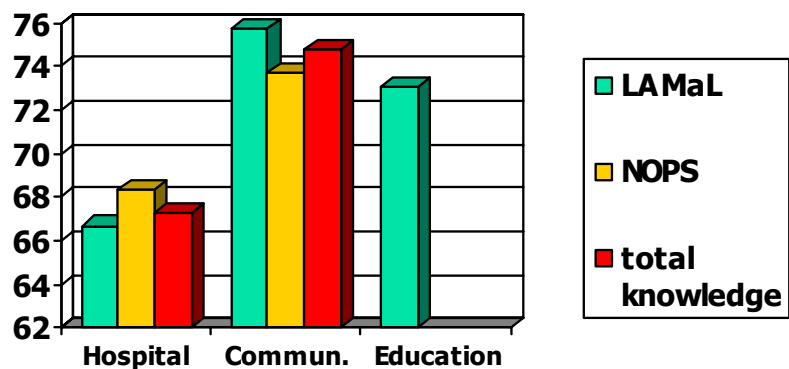 - Total knowledge
  - LAMal
  - NOPS
  - Certainty scale

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Level of Knowledge

- Proportion of correct answers :
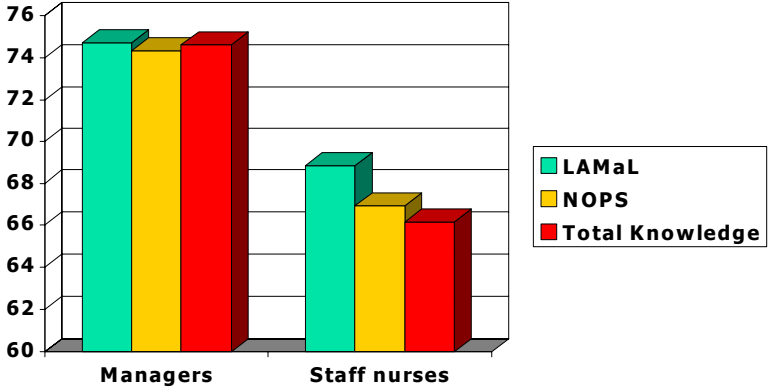 - LAMal 72 %
  - NOPS 71 %
  - Total knowledge 71.5 %

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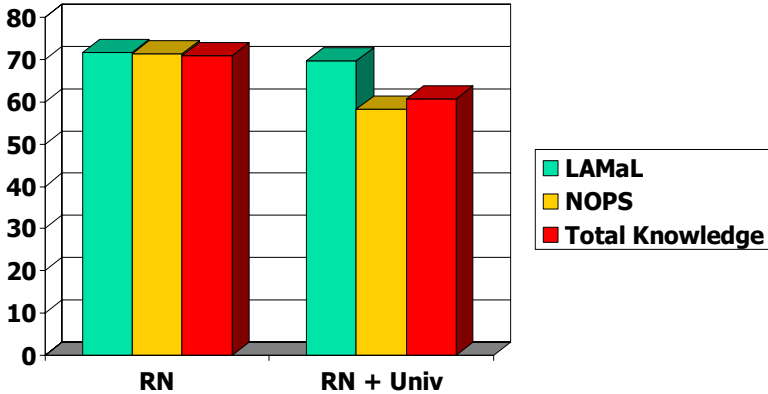# Percentage of Correct Responses by Employment Setting

Legend: LAMaL, NOPS, total knowledge

Chart categories: Hospital, Commun., Education

Y-axis: 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76

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Percentage of Correct Responses by Position

Percentage of Correct Responses by Education

Degree of Certainty

- LAMal 50 %
- NOPS 35 %

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Summary I

- Swiss nurses hold a moderate to high level of knowledge

- Higher levels of knowledge regarding LAMal and NOPS are held by :
  - Community nurses
  - Managers

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Summary II

- Lowest levels of knowledge are held by :
  - Nurses with an academic degree
  - Hospital Nurses

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