Professional Nursing Values: A Comparison of Populations

Dr. Taralyn McMullan, RN, CNS-BC & Dr. Jaclyn Bunch, PhD
University of South Alabama
Objectives

At the end of this presentation, the learner will:

- Summarize the different values student nurses rate in comparison to the community related to nursing professional values and health care policy.
- Integrate how this information can shape curriculum development in the hospital and clinical settings for career path development.
- Analyze how differences in values clarification among students and patients influence health care.
- No disclosures, conflict of interest or support received for project.
Generation of Ideas

► Mentor/Mentee relationship
  ► Political Science dept.
  ► Health care policy
  ► Future projects
    ► Values of nurses against other students across multiple schools regionally
► Current project
Background information

- Literature was lacking on values among nurses and consumers
  - Nurses are trusted profession, so values should show congruency among consumers of health care
  - Should be parallels among nurses, administrators, consumers and governing bodies, but is there?
- Compared findings of other health care policy items to see any similarities
- Embed findings into curriculum, clinical organizations, governing bodies in healthcare
Our Study

- Survey using the Nurses Professional Values Scale Survey
- Quantitative
- Likert Scale based survey
- Recruitment:
  - Currently enrolled students
    - Extra credit
  - Random Digit Dialing Poll; AL residents
Original Nurses Professional Values Scale (NPVS)

- 1985 American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements; originally 11 provisions (code of ethics)
- Darlene Weis and Mary Jane Schank
- Revision by 4 judges w/expertise in Code of Ethics for Nurses expertise for content validity established 100% agreement with minor revisions needed.
  - 11 items remain unchanged, 11 revised, 4 new and 18 eliminated as needed due to the revised Code of Ethics for Nurses
Nurses Professional Values Scale-Revised (NPVS-R)

- provides short, descriptive phrases to reflect a specific code provision
- 26 items Likert scale format
- Tested on 782 subjects (BSN/MSN students and practicing nurses)
- Internal consistency reliability of five factors with alpha coefficients from .70 to .85 and total scale alpha coefficient of .92
- Construct validity .46 to .79 across the five factors (Caring, Activism, Trust, Professionalism and Justice)
- Permission from developers
- Consent for participation
- IRB
Our study involved 2 cohorts:

Graduate students in EBP & QI in HCS
- Students/nurses received all 26 questions AND additional questions related to demographics, political party affiliation, ideology, SES, etc.

AL residents-part of a random digit dialing survey thru USA Polling Group/Survey Research Ctr

Public/patients received 12 of the 26 questions from scale
- Consultation & collaboration
  Culturally diverse care
- Accountability
- Ethical issues
- Lifestyle differences
- Right to privacy
- Fidelity and respect
- Public safety
- Resources
- Standards guiding practice
- Seeking education
- Equitable health care
Our study involved....

**Students Cohort**
- 217 students (191 F; 26 M)
- Age range 23-57 years
- Majority Caucasian
- 37% seeking MSN; 7% DNP; 28% BSN-DNP
- Majority in Adult r/t NP track

**AL residents**
- 475 residents (70% F)
- Age range 19-97 yrs
- Majority Caucasian
- Edu average reported some college or technical school
Example Questions

Very Unimportant to Very Important

Indicate the importance of the following value statements relative to nursing practice. Please check the degree of importance.

- Protect health and safety of the public.
- Participate in public policy decisions affecting distribution of resources.
- Establish standards as a guide for practice.
- Seek additional education to update knowledge and skills.
- Refuse to participate in care if in ethical opposition to own professional values.
- Provide care without prejudice to patients of varying lifestyles.
Additional Questions

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Degree seeking: RN-BSN, RN-MSN, Accelerated-MSN/DNP, BSN-MSN or DNP
- Track specialty
- Political Party affiliation
- Party Ideology
- Rating as conservative or liberal
- SES
Results and Findings

- Most report independent but closer to republican
- RN students SES: $50,000-99,999 range
- Public average: $35,000-49,999
- Surveys conducted in Spring
Results and Findings

- Goal: is there anything unique about the nursing population in comparison to general population in the way values are held.
- Does nursing education socialize students to see the medical profession and HC values in a unique way.
  - Factor Analysis done on the selected 12 health care values
  - T-tests done
Results and Findings

- Patients or the public seem to put more emphasis on access to care, continued or renewed education for professionals and meeting the needs of a culturally diverse population.

- Students/Nurses favor values of respect, privacy and providing care without prejudice to patients of varying lifestyles

- Limited evidence to demonstrate the public values consultation
Implications

**Academically**

- Serve as a basis for re-training or revisions to nursing curricula to emphasize different values in assignments
- Other factors such as political party affiliation and ideology may impact values in our health care system
  - E.g. If conservative, more supportive of refusing to participate in care that is unethical according to your own beliefs; liberals are more in favor of providers participating in policy to distribute resources more uniformly
- Assignments may need to reflect these themes for better understanding/appreciation
Implications

Clinically

- Continuing education may seek to make nurses/HCP aware of how care is influenced by a person’s beliefs, political party, SES, etc.
- Nurses/students should feel empowered to educate others on their role in nursing to improve overall satisfaction of health care.
- Even governing bodies may use this knowledge to see how to improve value recognition in the field of nursing and the responsibility of public awareness.


