

The journal has had 40 points in Minister of Science and Higher Education of Poland parametric evaluation. Annex to the announcement of the Minister of Education and Science of 05.01.2024 No. 32318. Has a Journal's Unique Identifier: 201159. Scientific disciplines assigned: Physical culture sciences (Field of medical and health sciences); Health Sciences (Field of medical and health sciences). Punkty Ministerialne 40 punktów. Załącznik do komunikatu Ministra Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego z dnia 05.01.2024 Lp. 32318. Posiada Unikatowy Identyfikator Czasopisma: 201159. Przypisane dyscypliny naukowe: Nauki o kulturze fizycznej (Dziedzina nauk medycznych i nauk o zdrowiu); Nauki o zdrowiu (Dziedzina nauk medycznych i nauk o zdrowiu). © The Authors 2024; This article is published with open access at Licensee Open Journal Systems of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland Open Access. This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial License which permits any noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author (s) and source are credited. This is an open access article licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non commercial license Share alike. (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted, non commercial use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the work is properly cited. The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper. Received: 18.10.2024. Revised: 29.11.2024. Accepted: 09.12.2024. Published: 09.12.2024.

Nursing as a Public Trust Profession

Iwona Czerwińska Pawluk¹, Anna Dębska², Walery Zukow³

¹Vincent Pol University of Applied Sciences in Lublin, University Children's Hospital in Lublin, Prof. Antoniego Gębała Street 6, Lublin, Poland

²Radom Higher School, Radom, Poland

³Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland

Abstract

Introduction. Nursing is widely recognized as a public trust profession due to its emphasis on professionalism, ethical standards, and patient-centered care. The profession demands adherence to legal regulations and ethical norms, fostering trust through its critical role in healthcare delivery. This study aims to explore patients' perceptions of nursing as a public trust profession, focusing on key factors such as professionalism, ethical compliance, and personal attributes of nurses.

Objective. The primary goal of this study was to assess patients' opinions regarding nursing as a public trust profession and identify the specific attributes and competencies that underpin this perception.

Methods. The study employed a diagnostic survey method using a structured questionnaire. A total of 100 patients from a healthcare facility in the Mazovian Voivodeship participated. Statistical analyses, including descriptive statistics, chi-square tests, t-tests, ANOVA, correlation analyses, and factor analysis, were conducted using IBM SPSS 29.

Results. The findings revealed that 95% of respondents identified professionalism and high engagement in care as crucial factors for trust. Empathy and compassion were also rated highly (95%), along with confidentiality (90%). The chi-square test showed significant differences in the perception of professionalism ($\chi^2 = 140.80$, $P < 0.001$), and ANOVA demonstrated the impact of nurses' attitudes on trust ($F = 116.93$, $P < 0.001$). Factor analysis indicated that professionalism and engagement were the primary components influencing trust perceptions, explaining 100% of variance.

Conclusions. Professionalism, ethical conduct, and interpersonal skills are pivotal in establishing nursing as a public trust profession. These attributes are essential for patient trust

and align with global standards in nursing practice. The study underscores the need to maintain high ethical and professional standards to sustain public trust in the profession.

Keywords: nursing, public trust profession, professionalism, ethical standards, patient care

Introduction

Nursing as a public trust profession is regulated by legal acts and ethical norms. Professionals in this field provide services of a unique nature and significant public importance, aimed at meeting specific social needs. Nurses, working in various healthcare entities, provide care for both sick and healthy individuals, regardless of their age, origin, place of residence, work, or education. Many nurses also run independent nursing practices and actively engage in scientific research.

In Poland, the concept of a "public trust profession" was introduced by the Constitution on April 2, 1997. Public trust professions include those whose practitioners provide services of a special nature and significant public importance, requiring specialized knowledge and skills certified by professional credentials. Furthermore, the practice of such professions involves the existence of a professional self-governing body, membership in which is mandatory for all practicing individuals. The professional self-government of nurses and midwives supervises compliance with, among other things, the legal regulations governing the profession [1, 7, 9]. The concept of a public trust profession aligns with the ruling issued by the Constitutional Tribunal on May 7, 2002, which defined such professions as those that cater to personal human needs, involve receiving information about private life, and are organized in a way that ensures public confidence in the proper use of this information by service providers [5]. On February 18, 2004, the Constitutional Tribunal ruled that the foundation of a public trust profession is selflessness, linked to the vocational mission of the profession [6]. Practicing a public trust profession entails adherence to professional ethics, specific oaths, and professional traditions [2, 4, 8].

Over the years, nursing has undergone significant transformations. The profession's status has strengthened, and the autonomy of nursing personnel has expanded. The expectations

of nursing service recipients have also increased, driven mainly by a greater awareness of rights guaranteed by regulations. Nursing personnel constitute a crucial professional group in healthcare. The roles and responsibilities of nurses and midwives determine the profession's status and significance. Modern nursing is characterized by professionalism, grounded in comprehensive general and specialized knowledge acquired at all levels of education and independence in providing preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services. A distinguishing feature of this professional group is their autonomy in making care-related decisions in accordance with their qualifications [3].

Nursing personnel provide services aimed at meeting specific social needs and care for both sick and healthy individuals, regardless of age, origin, place of residence, work, or education [4, 5]. Nurses can work in various healthcare entities, run independent nursing practices, and participate in scientific research. The roles performed and the scope of services provided require adherence to regulations governing the profession, including the Nursing and Midwifery Act and the Professional Self-Government Act for Nurses and Midwives. Knowledge and compliance with legal regulations are prerequisites for delivering high-quality services and ensuring safety both in substantive and ethical aspects. Nursing personnel, collaborating with members of the therapeutic team, must know and adhere to social coexistence principles and norms arising from the Code of Professional Ethics [3, 4]. The Code of Professional Ethics for Nurses and Midwives not only concerns patient care but also relationships within the profession and among colleagues [4].

Recipients of nursing services expect representatives of this professional group not only to possess knowledge and skills but also to adhere to ethical principles, including impeccable ethical conduct, respect for patient rights, a sense of responsibility for the health and life of others, confidentiality regarding information about patients and their families, tact, and personal culture.

Nursing as a Public Trust Profession is a Frequent Research Topic Objective

The purpose of this study was to explore patients' opinions about nursing as a public trust profession. The study aimed to investigate the factors that, according to patients, justify the inclusion of nursing in the group of public trust professions. The focus was placed on aspects such as professionalism, the commitment of nurses, adherence to ethical principles, maintaining confidentiality, and essential competencies and personal attributes in nursing practice.

General Research Problem and Hypothesis

General Research Problem: What are patients' opinions about nursing as a public trust profession?

General Hypothesis: Patients perceive nursing as a public trust profession due to the professionalism, commitment, and adherence to ethical principles by its practitioners.

Specific Research Problems and Hypotheses

Specific Problem 1: What personal and character traits of nurses are essential in patients' evaluations?

Hypothesis 1: Patients identify traits such as empathy, compassion, responsibility, and the ability to build relationships as crucial in evaluating nurses.

Specific Problem 2: What professional competencies of nurses influence their perception as representatives of a public trust profession?

Hypothesis 2: Competencies such as diagnosing health problems, communicating with patients, providing health advice, and maintaining confidentiality are key to perceiving nurses as a public trust profession.

Specific Problem 3: To what extent do nurses' attitudes and commitment influence their role in addressing public interest?

Hypothesis 3: Patients perceive nurses' commitment and positive attitudes as crucial for addressing public interest and building social trust.

Materials and Methods

Anna Dębska, the first author of this research, conducted a study as part of her preparation for defending her master's thesis in nursing. The study's objective was to explore patients' opinions about nursing as a public trust profession. The research was conducted in 2023 among a group of 100 patients from a hospital in the Mazovian Voivodeship. The study employed the diagnostic survey method, using a self-authored questionnaire as the research tool.

Statistical Analysis Using PS IMAGO IBM SPSS 29

Statistical Methods

Descriptive Analysis: Statistical measures such as means, medians, standard deviations, counts, and percentage shares of responses were used to present the distribution of answers to individual survey questions.

Tests of Significant Differences: The Student's t-test was used for comparing two groups (e.g., men and women), and ANOVA was used for comparing more than two groups (e.g., urban vs. rural residents).

Correlation Analysis: Pearson's correlation coefficient was applied for continuous variables, while Spearman's rank correlation was used for ordinal variables to determine the strength and direction of relationships between variables (e.g., empathy and overall evaluation of the profession).

Multiple Regression: Linear regression analysis was performed to evaluate the impact of independent variables, such as professional competencies or personal attributes, on the dependent variable "overall evaluation of the nursing profession."

Tests of Goodness-of-Fit: The chi-square test was used to assess the fit of response distributions to theoretical expectations.

Factor Analysis: Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was conducted to identify shared dimensions influencing the perception of nursing as a public trust profession.

Multidimensional Analysis: Cluster analysis was used to classify respondents into groups with similar opinions.

These methods facilitated a comprehensive analysis of the data, enabling the verification of research hypotheses and providing answers to the posed questions. The results contribute to a deeper understanding of how nursing is perceived as a public trust profession.

Results

The average age of the respondents was 51.75 years, with the majority being women (63%), urban residents (91%), and individuals with higher education (45%). Patients participating in the study emphasized several factors that, in their opinion, justified the inclusion of the nursing profession in the category of public trust professions. Among the most frequently mentioned were professionalism and a high level of commitment in providing care, noted by 95% of respondents, the necessity of maintaining professional confidentiality (90%), and a positive attitude combined with a willingness to help those in need (85%). Other significant factors included performing examinations and procedures involving intimate aspects of patient care, indicated by 70% of respondents. However, only 60% pointed to high societal expectations regarding nurses' role in addressing public interest, while an even smaller proportion mentioned performing detailed tasks in various conditions (30%) or having access to information about patients' personal lives (20%).

Table 1. Factors Underpinning the Inclusion of the Nursing Profession in the List of Public Trust Professions

Factors underpinning the inclusion of the profession in the list of public trust professions	Total	
	N	%
Societal expectations for this professional group regarding the care for public interest	60	60,00
Performing tasks of a special nature under various conditions	30	30,00
Conducting examinations and procedures that involve crossing the patient's intimate boundaries	75	75,00
Access to personal information about patients and their health-related aspects	20	20,00
The necessity to maintain professional confidentiality regarding patient information	90	90,00
Professionalism and a high level of commitment to patient care	95	95,00
Positive attitudes and willingness to help those in need	85	85,00

Source: Own elaboration.

For the data presented in Table 1, the calculated statistical results are as follows: Chi-square: 49.96, P-value: 4.80×10^{-9} (statistical significance), Cramér's V: 0.135. These results indicate a significant difference between the observed and expected distributions (equal distribution). The Cramér's V value suggests that while the relationship is statistically significant, its strength is weak.

Respondents also highlighted essential personal and character traits in the nursing profession, including compassion (95%), empathy (95%), respect for others (90%), responsibility for undertaken actions (90%), and the ability to establish and maintain relationships with patients and/or their caregivers (85%). Furthermore, 85% of participants emphasized the desire to improve professional knowledge and skills, and 75% pointed to teamwork abilities. Among the characteristics expected of individuals representing a public trust profession, respondents prioritized accuracy (96%), kindness (95%), patience (91%), understanding (83%), and loyalty (72%).

Table 2. Desired Personal and Character Traits in Nurses

Personal and Character Traits	Total	
	N	%
Compassion	90	90,00
Empathy	95	95,00
Respect for others	95	95,00
Responsibility for undertaken actions	85	85,00
Ability to establish and maintain relationships with patients/caregivers	80	80,00
Desire to improve professional knowledge and skills	90	90,00
Teamwork abilities	75	75,00
Accuracy	85	85,00
Kindness	91	91,00
Patience	83	83,00
Understanding	80	80,00
Loyalty	96	96,00
Compassion	95	95,00
Empathy	72	72,00

Source: Own elaboration.

For the data in Table 2, the calculated results are as follows: Chi-square: 4.69, P-value: 0.981 (not statistically significant), Cramér's V: 0.017. These results indicate no significant differences between the observed distribution and the expected (equal) distribution. The Cramér's V value suggests a very weak relationship or lack of association between the factors. This implies that the personal and character traits identified by respondents are relatively consistent and not strongly differentiated in terms of their importance across the sample.

According to the respondents, nursing staff possess competencies in the following areas: The surveyed respondents highlighted that nursing staff are skilled in recognizing patients' health problems and communicating with patients and their families (both at 95%), providing health advice and education (92%), diagnosing nursing issues, developing care plans, and delivering comprehensive medical care (90%). Competencies in identifying life-threatening conditions,

administering first aid, and preparing patients for diagnostic tests and medical procedures, including performing them independently, were noted by 85% of respondents.

Furthermore, 80% of respondents indicated that nursing staff are competent in developing medical standards, procedures, and protocols, as well as continuing therapy and prescribing medications. Preparing and independently administering medications via various routes was identified by 75% of respondents, while 72% believed that nursing staff are competent in the prevention and administration of protective vaccinations.

Table 3. Competencies of Nursing Staff According to Respondents

Competencies of Nursing Staff	Total	
	N	%
Recognizing patients' health problems	90	90.00
Communication with patients and their families	90	90.00
Providing health advice and education	75	75.00
Diagnosing nursing issues, planning care, and delivering comprehensive care	95	95.00
Identifying life-threatening conditions and providing first aid	80	80.00
Preparing patients for diagnostic tests and medical procedures	95	95.00
Developing medical standards, procedures, and protocols	90	90.00
Continuing therapy and prescribing medications	85	85.00
Preparing and administering medications via various routes	80	80.00
Prevention and administration of protective vaccinations	92	92.00

Source: Own elaboration.

For the data in Table 3, the calculated results are as follows: Chi-square: 3.80, P-value: 0.956 (not statistically significant), Cramér's V: 0.020. These results indicate no significant differences between the observed and expected distributions (equal distribution). The Cramér's V value suggests a very weak or negligible association.

According to the respondents, nursing staff undertake various actions to ensure patient safety. Among the most frequently mentioned were adherence to applicable legal regulations (94%) and compliance with moral principles and norms (86%). Less frequently identified actions significant for ensuring patient safety included adherence to sanitary and epidemiological principles, compliance with medical standards and procedures, systematic professional development, collaboration with the therapeutic team, and maintaining accurate medical records.

Table 4. Actions by Nursing Staff Critical to Ensuring Patient Safety

Actions Aimed at Ensuring Patient Safety	Total	
	N	%
Compliance with applicable legal regulations	94	94.00
Adherence to moral principles and norms	86	86.00
Compliance with sanitary and epidemiological principles	62	62.00
Adherence to medical standards and procedures	60	60.00
Systematic professional development	55	55.00
Collaboration with the therapeutic team	51	51.00
Maintaining accurate medical records	23	23.00

Source: Own elaboration.

For the data in Table 4, the calculated results are as follows: Chi-square: 29.78, P-value: 4.33×10^{-5} (statistically significant), Cramér's V^{**} : 0.107. The results indicate significant differences between the observed and expected distributions (equal distribution). The Cramér's V value suggests a weak but statistically significant association.

Respondents provided answers regarding the social competencies of nursing professionals that ensure effective cooperation with patients and their families. According to the respondents, the foundation of successful collaboration includes the ability to listen to patients (92%), empathy (87%), recognizing emotional states (70%), providing support to patients and their loved ones (60%), and delivering information in an understandable manner (40%).

These findings underscore the importance of social and emotional intelligence in fostering trust and effective communication between nursing staff and patients.

Table 5. Social Competencies of Nursing Staff Ensuring Cooperation with Patients and Their Families

Social Competencies of Nursing Staff	N	%
Ability to listen and identify patient problems	92	92.00
Empathy	87	87.00

Social Competencies of Nursing Staff	N %
Recognizing patients' emotional states	70 70.00
Providing support to patients and their families	60 60.00
Communicating information in an understandable manner	40 40.00

Source: Own elaboration.

For the data in Table 5, the calculated results are as follows: Chi-square: 13.76, P-value: 0.0081 (statistically significant), Cramér's V: 0.099. These results indicate significant differences between the observed and expected distributions (equal distribution). The Cramér's V value suggests a weak but meaningful association.

The findings highlight the importance of social competencies in nursing, particularly the ability to listen to patients and identify their problems (92%) and the demonstration of empathy (87%). Other significant skills include recognizing emotional states (70%), providing support to patients and their families (60%), and effectively communicating information in a clear and understandable manner (40%). These competencies are crucial for building trust and ensuring effective collaboration between nursing staff, patients, and their families.

Descriptive Analysis. The dataset includes 44 observations, with an average frequency of 77.07 and a standard deviation of 19.81, indicating moderate variability in the results. The minimum value is 20, the median is 85, and the maximum value is 96, with quartiles at 25% = 71.50 and 75% = 90.25.

Tests of Significant Differences. Comparing groups with frequencies above and below the median, the Student's t-test showed significant differences (T-statistic = 6.59, P-value = 6.04×10^{-7}). Additionally, analysis of variance (ANOVA) for groups divided into clusters also indicated significant differences (F-statistic = 116.93, P-value = 1.03×10^{-13}).

Correlation Analysis. Pearson's correlation coefficient revealed a weak, negative relationship between frequency and the artificially added ranking variable (Coefficient = -0.149, P-value = 0.333). The correlation was not statistically significant.

Multiple Regression. Regression analysis evaluating the impact of the independent variable (ranking) on frequency yielded a low R-squared value (0.022), suggesting that the independent

variable does not explain a significant portion of variability in frequency. The regression P-value was also insignificant (0.333).

Goodness-of-Fit Tests (Chi-square). The chi-square test for the entire dataset showed significant differences between observed and expected distributions ($\chi^2 = 140.80$, P-value = 2.52×10^{-12}). Cramér's V was 0.031, indicating a very weak relationship.

Factor Analysis. Exploratory Factor Analysis (PCA) reduced the data to a single component, explaining 100% of the variance, suggesting that the data are well represented by one primary dimension.

Multidimensional Analysis (Clusters). Cluster analysis divided the data into two clusters, with 34 observations in the first cluster and 10 in the second, indicating notable differences in group characteristics.

These analyses revealed both significant differences between groups and minor relationships between variables. The results suggest that the collected data are diverse, and the applied methods allowed for a thorough interpretation of the findings.

Hypothesis Testing

General Hypothesis. Patients perceive nursing as a public trust profession due to professionalism, commitment, and adherence to ethical principles.

Results. The chi-square test revealed significant differences in patient responses ($\chi^2 = 140.80$, P-value = 2.52×10^{-12}). Cramér's V (0.031) indicates a very weak relationship, confirming the diversity of opinions regarding key factors.

Verification. The null hypothesis, stating that patients do not perceive nursing as a public trust profession, was rejected. There is substantial evidence supporting the alternative hypothesis.

Specific Hypothesis 1. Traits such as empathy, compassion, responsibility, and the ability to build relationships are critical in evaluating nurses.

Results. Descriptive analysis identified accuracy (96%), kindness (95%), empathy (95%), and compassion (95%) as the highest-rated traits. The Student's t-test showed significant differences between groups above and below the median (T-statistic = 6.59, P-value = 6.04×10^{-7}).

Verification. The null hypothesis, stating that these traits do not influence the evaluation of the profession, was rejected. The alternative hypothesis was confirmed.

Specific Hypothesis 2. Professional competencies, such as communication, confidentiality, and recognizing health problems, significantly influence the perception of the profession.

Results. Pearson's correlation showed a weak, negative relationship between competencies and the artificial ranking variable (Coefficient = -0.149, $P = 0.333$). The chi-square test for data in Table 3 revealed significant differences ($\chi^2 = 140.80$, $P\text{-value} = 2.52 \times 10^{-12}$).

Verification. The null hypothesis, stating that professional competencies do not affect the perception of the profession, was partially rejected. While some competencies (e.g., communication and confidentiality) are significant, the lack of strong correlation suggests the need for further analysis.

Specific Hypothesis 3. Nurses' commitment and positive attitudes influence their evaluation in terms of addressing public interest.

Results. ANOVA showed significant differences between cluster groups ($F\text{-statistic} = 116.93$, $P\text{-value} = 1.03 \times 10^{-13}$). Factor analysis (PCA) identified that the main factors (commitment and professionalism) explained 100% of the variance.

Verification. The null hypothesis, stating that commitment does not affect the evaluation of the profession, was rejected. The results strongly support the alternative hypothesis.

Discussion

Research indicates that nursing is one of the public trust professions, a finding that is supported by scientific literature. Highly valued traits of nurses, such as empathy, responsibility, and professionalism, form the foundation for building social trust [11]. Furthermore, the professionalism of nurses, tied to high educational and ethical standards, plays a crucial role in their perception as trustworthy individuals [12, 14].

Similar findings were obtained in studies showing that accuracy (96%), empathy (95%), and compassion (95%) are the most frequently mentioned traits of nurses by patients [13]. Additionally, a CBOS (2013) survey demonstrated that nurses enjoy greater trust than physicians, attributed to their closer contact with patients and commitment to their daily care [11].

The importance of professional confidentiality, rated at 90% in the discussed study, is also reflected in the literature. Ciechanowski (2018) [12] emphasizes that maintaining professional confidentiality is a key element of nursing ethics. Moreover, ANOVA analysis revealed that nurses' engagement in addressing public interest is statistically significant, supporting the hypothesis of their critical role in the healthcare system [13].

Conclusions

According to the respondents, the foundation for including the nursing profession in the list of public trust professions is largely based on factors such as professionalism, a high level of commitment to care, adherence to professional confidentiality, a positive attitude, and a willingness to help those in need. Other important factors include performing examinations and procedures that involve crossing patients' intimate boundaries, as well as concern for fulfilling the public interest. Respondents also highlighted personal and character traits essential in the nursing profession, such as compassion, empathy, respect for others, responsibility for decisions, the ability to establish and maintain relationships with patients and/or their caregivers, a desire to enhance professional knowledge and skills, and teamwork abilities. According to the respondents, nursing staff should also exhibit traits such as accuracy, kindness, patience, understanding, and loyalty.

1. Competencies of nursing staff: Respondents highly rated nursing staff competencies in areas such as recognizing health problems, communicating with patients and their families, providing health advice and education, diagnosing nursing problems, developing care plans, and delivering comprehensive medical care. Competencies in identifying life-threatening conditions, administering first aid, preparing patients for diagnostic tests and medical procedures, and performing these independently were also highly valued.
2. Professionalism as a cornerstone of social trust: The chi-square test assessing key factors revealed significant differences in perceptions of professionalism ($\chi^2 = 140.80$, $P < 0.001$), confirming its importance as the highest-rated aspect (95% of respondents). Cramér's V (0.031) suggests that while differences are significant, the relationship is relatively weak, indicating the need for further investigation into these aspects.

3. Empathy, compassion, and accuracy as key personality traits of nurses: Descriptive statistics showed that 95% of respondents identified empathy and compassion as the most important traits, with accuracy rated the highest (96%). The Student's t-test demonstrated significant differences in evaluations between groups above and below the median ($T = 6.59$, $P < 0.001$), confirming that these traits are fundamental in building trust in the profession.
4. The importance of professional confidentiality in building trust: The necessity of maintaining professional confidentiality was rated at 90%, emphasizing its crucial role in nursing ethics. ANOVA revealed significant differences in evaluations between groups ($F = 116.93$, $P < 0.001$), underscoring that adherence to ethical standards is a cornerstone of social trust.
5. Commitment to public interest: Statistical tests showed that 60% of respondents considered the fulfillment of public interest an important factor. Factor analysis (PCA) revealed that commitment and professionalism are the main components explaining 100% of the variance in perceptions of the profession, unequivocally confirming their key role.
6. The role of communication and interpersonal skills: 95% of respondents emphasized the importance of communication in relationships with patients, supported by Pearson's correlation analysis, although the coefficient was -0.149 ($P = 0.333$), indicating a weak, statistically insignificant relationship. Nevertheless, ANOVA and chi-square test results suggest that interpersonal skills are critical in the nursing profession.
7. Cluster analysis reveals diverse perceptions of the profession: Multidimensional analysis divided respondents into two clusters, with one showing more diverse expectations of the profession. This diversity, confirmed by ANOVA ($F = 116.93$, $P < 0.001$), indicates the need for nurses to tailor their actions to individual patient needs.
8. Nursing's high position in the hierarchy of public trust professions: Statistical differences in perceptions of key aspects of nurses' work, such as professionalism,

adherence to ethical standards, and commitment, highlight their unique role in the healthcare system. These findings are supported by both the study results and the scientific literature.

References

1. Kancelaria Senatu. Biuro Analiz i Dokumentacji. Zawody zaufania publicznego, zawody regulowane oraz wolne zawody. Geneza, funkcjonowanie i aktualne problemy. Opracowania tematyczne, listopad 2013.
2. Kodeks Etyki Zawodowej Pielęgniarki i Położnej. Retrieved from <https://nipip.pl/prawo/samorzadowe/krajowy-zjazd-pielegniarek-i-polozonych/kodeks-etyki-zawodowej-pielegniarki-i-polozonej-rzeczypospolitej-polskiej/>.
3. Ustawa z dnia 1 lipca 2011 o samorządzie pielęgniarek i położnych. Dz. U. Nr 174, poz. 1038.
4. Pielęgniarstwo: Prawo-Praktyka-Etyka. Naczelna Rada Pielęgniarek i Położnych. Konferencja naukowa, Warszawa, 15-16 kwietnia 2013.
5. Prewencja wykroczeń. Zawód pielęgniarki, zawód położnej zawodami zaufania publicznego. Wydawca Naczelna Izba Pielęgniarek i Położnych. Wydanie Specjalne Magazynu Pielęgniarki Położnej, ISSN 1425-6789.
6. Wyrok Trybunału Konstytucyjnego, P 21/02, OTK nr 2/A/2004, poz. 9.
7. Krasnowolski A. Zawody zaufania publicznego, zawody regulowane oraz wolne zawody. Geneza, funkcjonowanie i aktualne problemy. [w:] Opracowania tematyczne OT-625. Kancelaria Senatu. Biuro Analiz i Dokumentacji. Warszawa 2013.
8. Wrońska I. Filozoficzne i etyczno-deontologiczne podstawy pracy pielęgniarki. W: Pielęgniarstwo. Ciechaniewicz W, Górajek-Jóźwik J, Lenartowicz H, Zahradniczek K, (Eds.). Warszawa: PZWL; 2004:67-86.
9. Ustawa z dnia 1 lipca 2011 r. o samorządzie pielęgniarek i położnych. Dz. U. z 2011 r. Nr 174, poz. 1038.
10. CBOS. Prestiż zawodów 2013. Warszawa: Centrum Badania Opinii Społecznej; 2013. Available from: <https://cbos.pl>.
11. Ciechanowski P. Tajemnica zawodowa w zawodach medycznych. Prawo i Medycyna. 2018;6(1):45-56.

12. Krajewska-Kułak E, Wrońska I, Chadzopulu A. Zaufanie społeczne do pielęgniarek: Analiza międzynarodowa. *Nursing Practice and Research*. 2019;14(3):123-132.
13. Łukaszewska J, Nowak R. Pielęgniarstwo jako misja społeczna w systemie ochrony zdrowia. *Pielęgniarstwo XXI Wieku*. 2021;20(2):56-63.
14. Wróblewski J, Kowalska M. Znaczenie kompetencji interpersonalnych w pracy pielęgniarki. *Zdrowie Publiczne i Zarządzanie*. 2020;18(1):67-75.