

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND:

Confidentiality and privacy are fundamental ethical principles in healthcare practice that are critical for establishing and maintaining patient trust. These principles mandate that healthcare professionals protect sensitive patient information from unauthorized disclosure, thereby ensuring respect for patient autonomy and fostering open communication necessary for effective care. The preservation of confidentiality is crucial in promoting patient compliance and maintaining the integrity of the healthcare relationship. ^[1]

OBJECTIVES:

Primary:

- To describe the perceptions of Allied Health students regarding confidentiality in adult health care data.
- To describe the perceptions of Nursing students regarding confidentiality in adult health care data.
- To describe the perceptions of Allied Health students regarding privacy in adult health care data.
- To describe the perceptions of Nursing students regarding privacy in adult health care data.

Secondary:

- To compare the descriptive patterns of perceptions on confidentiality and privacy between Allied Health and Nursing students.

METHODS:

A comparative study conducted among 100 under graduate nursing and allied health students, using a self – structured questionnaire and a Likert attitude scale was administered which evaluated the perception related to privacy and confidentiality during adult health data collection. Participants were selected through purposive sampling. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the distribution of knowledge level and attitudinal patterns.

RESULTS:

Among respondents, 100% exhibited excellent knowledge of perception on privacy and confidentiality. In terms of attitudes, 100% expressed a positive attitude toward the ethical practices.

CONCLUSION:

The present study concludes that both nursing students and allied health students demonstrate a generally positive attitude toward maintaining confidentiality and privacy in adult care data; however, significant differences exist in their levels of knowledge, clarity of concepts, and practical application. Nursing students showed relatively better awareness and

ethical orientation, likely due to greater clinical exposure, whereas allied health students exhibited comparatively limited understanding and inconsistent practice of data confidentiality principles.