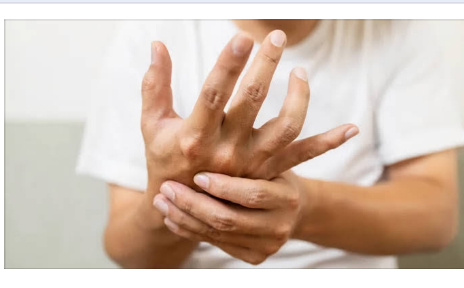

Parkinson's Signs & Symptoms
Parkinson's is Often Misunderstood - Learn the Common & Overlooked Symptoms. Search Now.
Parkinson's Information
Open

Just In...

Why should we be so afraid of Iran?
NATIONAL SECURITY - 15 MINUTES AGO

Toobin implies Trump remarks after court may hurt him if played for jury
COURT BATTLES - 16 MINUTES AGO

The eclipse gave us something increasingly rare — shared experience
CAMPAIGN - 30 MINUTES AGO

Mulvaney: Trump is correct, authority over abortion should be returned to the states
OPINION - 45 MINUTES AGO

How Biden should respond to the Iranian attack against Israel
INTERNATIONAL - 1 HOUR AGO

These 5 US airports ranked among 2023's busiest worldwide: report
TRANSPORTATION - 1 HOUR AGO

Morning Report — Amid threats to his job, Johnson goes all in
MORNING REPORT - 1 HOUR AGO

Lobbying World: Nikki Haley heads to the Hudson Institute
LOBBYING - 2 HOURS AGO

VIEW ALL

OPINION > HEALTHCARE

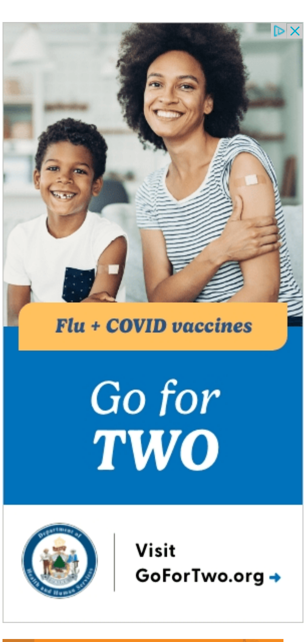
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

Let's give thanks to nurses

BY MALLORY BEJSTER AND JANICE PHILLIPS, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS - 11/22/18 4:00 PM ET

SHARE POST

Getty Images



Opinion
How to submit an op-ed.

When most people think of a nurse, they likely envision someone in a hospital with a stethoscope around her neck wearing scrubs.

That image is well-founded. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the more than 2.9 million registered nurses (RNs) in the U.S., 58 percent are employed in hospitals. Just over 20 percent are employed in home health, physician offices and outpatient center settings.

{mosads}The 2014 book "Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nurses Puts Us all At Risk" by Sandy Summers and Harry Jacobs Summers describe the portrayal of nursing in mainstream media and how this limited, often times inaccurate, view of nurses can be detrimental to both nursing and the public.

Consider the nursing stereotypes depicted in the media such as an angel, wannabe physician and handmaiden. Nursing is rarely portrayed as a scientific field on favorite TV shows, such as Grey's Anatomy, which recently aired its final episode of its 15th season.

In many current popular or recent medical shows such as "Chicago Med," "The Good Doctor," or "9-1-1," nurses may not be present at all or may portray nurses as background characters that are tied to lead physician characters.

Rarely are nurses portrayed in a manner that highlights their specific knowledge and skill set as valuable professionals in the health-care field. The current show, "The Resident" features a nurse as a main character. Yet, traditionally, nurses as main characters, such as Nurse Jackie appear to be exceptions to the rule, not the norm.

Even with limited primetime representation, the public reportedly has a positive view of the nursing profession, which has been recognized as the most ethical and honest profession for 16 consecutive years in an annual Gallup survey.

This image of nursing for the public implies nurses must be regularly sought out by the news media to contribute to important conversations on health care such as the childhood obesity epidemic or the upcoming flu season. However, this is not the case.

A recent study published in the Journal of Nursing Scholarship titled The Woodhull Study Revisited: Nurse's Representation in Health News , a follow-up on the original 1997 Woodhull Study, highlights the underrepresentation of nurses in the media.

Two decades ago the original research found that quotes from nurses were cited in only four percent of health news stories. Twenty years later, only 2 percent of health news stories cited quotes from nurses, showing no gain in the voice of nurses being included as experts in the health-care field.

One of the most interesting findings from the Woodhull Study Revisited was those health and health-care related sectors where nurses were not cited at all including health0care management, business, policy and research. This is while nurses with advanced education and skill sets are actively involved in all of these health -are sectors. Of the one out of every five nurses who are not in hospital, home health, office or outpatient settings, many are in sectors that are not as visible to the public.

Today's nurses are better educated than ever before and are seizing a wide variety of employment opportunities like never before. The Campaign for Nursing Action reveals that in 2017, 6,090 nurses received their Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) and 795 nurses received their PhD in Nursing as a means to enhance their knowledge and contributions to the profession and to improve the public's health.

Nurses with advanced degrees are often in leadership roles that may not involve direct patient care but nonetheless are still instrumental in influencing health outcomes for patients, families and communities at large.

Nurses across the country are working in roles such as Chief Nursing Officer, Chief Operations Officer in hospitals and community-based settings, Nurse Entrepreneurs, Assistant Surgeon General's, Legal Nurse Consultants, Researchers, Nurse Attorneys, Directors of Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies and Deans of Schools and Colleges of the Health Professions including Nursing.

The recent election of Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.) is a testament to how nurses are using their nursing knowledge and expertise beyond the traditional nursing roles to influence public policy on health care and beyond.

Underwood has been criticized perhaps because a large portion of her nursing career has included service in the private and governmental sector, venues outside of places where nurses deliver hands-on care. This is just one demonstration of the possible public misunderstanding of the breadth of nursing's contributions in shaping public health.

Regardless of the setting, nurses are well positioned to inform the public's perspective on health care in a variety of ways.

THE HILL Opinion
How to submit an op-ed.

It is time to re-examine the prevalent images of nurses in this country. Becoming aware of the variety of critical roles nurses play in the larger health-care sector is something everyone can be thankful for this season.

Mallory Bejster RN is the RN-BS coordinator and an instructor of nursing at the University of Central Missouri and, a community health nursing clinical instructor at Rush University. Janice Phillips, RN, Ph.D., is an associate professor at Rush University College of Nursing and the director of nursing research. Both are Public Voices Fellows through The OpEd Project.

TAGS NURSE NURSES

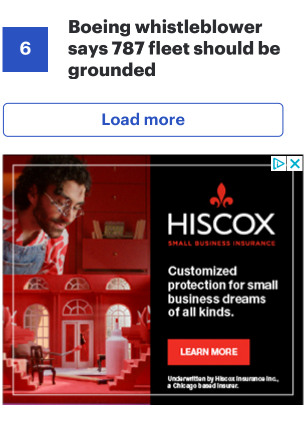
Copyright 2024 Nexstar Media Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

SHARE POST

Most Popular

1 Here's what new LED lightbulb standards mean for American…
2 New York judge says Trump can't attend Supreme Court…
3 Johnson takes plunge on Ukraine aid in face of ouster threat
4 DeSantis signs bill banning local heat protections for workers
5 'Something will have to give': IMF sounds alarm on US debt
6 Boeing whistleblower says 787 fleet should be grounded

Load more



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you wear glasses?
Yes, all the time
Yes, sometimes
No, but I wear contacts
No, I never wear glasses
Does not apply

* By clicking "NEXT" I submit my answers and consent to the use of cookies for research and advertising purposes; I have read and agree to the CivicScience Privacy Policy and Terms of Service

NEXT *

SPONSORED CONTENT

Powered by Taboola
Privacy Policy

MD: Building Muscle After 60 Comes Down To This 1…
primenutritionsecrets.com | Sponsored

Empty Alaska Cruises Departing From Maine Tha…
Favorite Searches | Sponsored

These Loaded Camper Vans Are Turning Heads
Frequent Searches | Sponsored

Edema Is Not From Salty Food! Meet The Main Ene…
Healthlabnews.com | Sponsored

Superhuman at 70? MIT Discovery Helps Seniors With Low Energy
Advanced Bionutritionals | Sponsored
Read More

Cardiologist Begs 60+ Males To Burn Fat With Thi…
primenutritionsecrets.com | Sponsored

Charleston: Abandoned Homes at Low Prices
Abandoned Ho… | Sponsored
Learn More

Here is the real cost of full mouth dental implants in…
Seekify | Sponsored

I'll No Longer Be Going to Casinos, Here's Why.
BuzzDaily Winners | Sponsored

Top Plastic Surgeon Has Wife Using THIS Household Item to Visibly Remove Years Off Her Face
Beverly Hills MD | Sponsored

Building And Keeping Muscle Mass After 60…
Advanced Bion… | Sponsored
Learn More

Seniors on SS Are Now Entitled To These 12…
YourPennySaver | Sponsored
Learn More

How Long Does $1 Million Last After 60?
Fisher Investm… | Sponsored
Learn More

This Is The Highest Rated Hearing Aid In The US
hear.com | Sponsored

Vet Begs Owners: Never Feed These 3 Ingredients To Your Dog
Dog Food Exposed | Sponsored
Learn More

Seniors on SS Are Now Entitled To These 12…
YourPennySaver | Sponsored
Learn More

The best walking shoes suitable for elderly people…
Grishay | Sponsored
Read More

More Healthcare News
SEE ALL

HEALTHCARE
How empathy is revolutionizing 21st century health care
BY DR. MARC SIEGEL, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR
2 days ago

HEALTHCARE
The mental health crisis requires real solutions
BY HEIDI HEITKAMP, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR
3 days ago

HEALTHCARE
Defending the Bayh-Dole Act, or why governments shouldn't dictate the cost of drugs
BY NIGEL RAWSON AND JOHN ADAMS, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS
4 days ago

HEALTHCARE
How kidney transplant reforms can save lives and reduce the deficit
BY MAX N. ROSE AND THOMAS REED II, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS
4 days ago

Video/Hill.TV
SEE ALL HILL.TV
SEE ALL VIDEO

RISING
Rising: April 16, 2024
BY THEHILL.COM
04/16/24 3:08 PM ET

RISING
Rising: April 15, 2024
BY THEHILL.COM
1 day ago

RISING
Rising: April 12, 2024
BY THEHILL.COM
4 days ago

Top Stories
SEE ALL

SENATE
GOP senators: Trump hush money trial won't move political needle
BY ALEXANDER BOLTON
2 hours ago

DON'T MISS A BRIEF. SIGN UP FOR OUR DAILY EMAIL.
Your Email

THE HILL 1625 K STREET, NW SUITE 900 WASHINGTON DC 20006 | 202 628 8500 TEL | 202 628 8503 FAX

SENIOR LIVING
Dental Implants For Seniors Paid By Medicare
TheWeeklyTip