Forensic Care Education: Lessons Learned from International Experiences

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• Associate Professor, College of Nursing,
• University of Saskatchewan
• Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
• An RN for 44 years
• 1971 graduated from a 3 year hospital program
• 1990 baccalaureate degree; 1993 master’s; 2008 PhD
• Dissertation on forensic nursing education in North America

• 30 years of clinical experience in emergency, addictions, correctional and forensic psychiatric nursing.
• 1997 developed and taught first online courses in forensic nursing globally
• Recognized provincially, nationally and internationally for forensic nursing education
• 2012, PI on province-wide needs assessment of programs and services for mentally disordered offenders in Saskatchewan
• 2013, PI on International Study Abroad Survey of nursing students
• See url for Recent Publications
• http://www.usask.ca/nursing/people/details.php?details=kent-wilkinson_a
Forensic Care Education:
Lessons Learned from International Experiences

Nursing Career in Canada

1971
- Nursing: Low Image/Wages/Education

2015
- Nursing: High Image/Wages/Education

Patterns in Nursing Development Globally
- Similarities and differences in the developed/emerging countries
- Historical, social, economic, and political influences

Nursing in Germany
- Major recent growth in Nursing Education
- Forensic Psychiatric Nursing is a leading specialty of nursing
Overview of Presentation

- History of Forensic specialties
- Subspecialties of Forensic Nursing
- Forensic Psychiatric/Correctional Nursing
- Need for a Medico-legal Role
- Forensic Nursing Education
- Influences of Social Movements
- Forensic Nursing different from General Nursing
- Forensic Nursing different from other Forensic Disciplines
- Nursing Education in Canada
- Inequities of Nursing Globally (Wages & Education)
- Future of Forensic Psychiatric Nursing
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Saskatoon
222,000

Saskatchewan
1,057,884

Canada
35.16 million

-30 to +30
University of Saskatchewan
Peter McKinnon Building (College Building) (spring)
U of S College Bowl
(fall)
University of Saskatchewan
Peter McKinnon Building (College Building)
(winter)
University of Saskatchewan Gates
Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon SK
Forensic Discipline Specialties

- forensic medical examiners
- forensic nursing
- forensic occupational therapists
- forensic psychiatry
- forensic psychology
- forensic social work
- forensic toxicologists
- forensic recreational therapists

* evolved with the need for a medico legal role
Forensic Nursing: Relevance to Nursing Practice

Forensic nursing is:

Nursing practice at the intersection of law and health care (dual roles)

Forensic nursing cares for or serves the populations of victims and perpetrators, living and deceased, and the families of both.
Forensic Disciplines

1100’s | late 1800s | 1700-1800 | late 1700s
--- | --- | --- | ---
![Forensic Medicine](image1.png) | ![Forensic Emergency](image2.png) | ![Forensic Corrections](image3.png) | ![Forensic Psychiatry](image4.png)

Forensic Nursing History

Mid 1970s
- Nurse Death Investigators
- Sexual Assault Nurse examiners
- 1980s Interpersonal Violence Nurses

1950s
- Correctional Nurses

1970s
- Forensic Psychiatric Nurses
Germany - Forensic Psychiatry – HISTORICAL Timeline

1797
- Ernst Platner, a physician in Leipzig, Germany
- “Amentia occulta” a disease characterized by a defect of feeling
- Impelled the sufferer to commit acts of violence/crime
- Allowed physicians to presume authority in courts of justice (Miller, 1998).

Late 1700s
- Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)
- For the question of knowing whether the accused at the time of the crime was in possession of his natural understanding and capable of judgment, lies entirely in the domain of psychology” (Miller, 1998).
- The concept of evil had been challenged now not only in disease and insanity but also in criminal intent”
1800
- The Trial of Hadfield set a legal precedent for the “insanity defence”

- Public reaction to the results of high profile cases shaped the law. After Hadfield was acquitted on grounds of insanity of attempting to assassinate King George III, provision was made to detain such persons at the pleasure of His Majesty

- Hadfield definition of insanity; that any act committed as a result of a delusion was by definition an act of insanity.
Forensic Nursing Sub-Specialties

- Forensic Nurse Death Investigators
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)
- Interpersonal Violence Nurse Clinicians
- Forensic Clinical ER Nurse Specialists
- Correctional or Prison Nurses
- Forensic Psychiatric Nurses
- Forensic Community Nurses
- Forensic Pediatric Nurses
- Forensic Geriatric Nurses
- Forensic/Legal Nurse Consultants
Factors Influencing Development of Forensic Specialty

- Need for a Medico-legal Role
- Human Rights movements (1960s)
- Legislation/Policy Changes
- Specialization evolvement (1980s)
- Social Awareness of Violence
- Science & Technology Advances
- Media Influence/Social Trends/
- Globalization
Factors Influencing Development of Forensic Nursing Specialty

- Need in Society/Medico-legal role
- Social Movements (1960s)
- Public Inquiries/Inmate Lawsuits
- Specialization evolvement in Nursing Education (1980s)
- Sanctioned Role of the Physician
- Health Care Reform
Forensic Nursing Roles in Canada

1960’s - forensic correctional nursing
1969-72 Separation of services for prison health physical and mental
1970s Forensic psychiatric services established federally and provincially
1970’s - forensic psychiatric nursing
1976’s - forensic nurse investigators (death)
1977 - forensic sexual assault nurse examiners (USA)
1989 - forensic sexual assault nurse examiners (CAN)
1980’s - forensic legal nurse consulting
   - forensic nurse researchers
1990’s - clinical forensic nursing
   (Emergency forensic nursing)
   (Interpersonal violence)
1990s - forensic nurse educators
Forensic Correctional Team

*Forensic Specialty in each DISCIPLINE*

- Prison Medical Officer
- Correctional Nurse
- Institutional Psychologist
- Correctional Officer
- Parole Officer
- Probation Officer
- Police
Forensic Psychiatric Team

*Forensic Specialty in each DISCIPLINE*

- Forensic Psychiatrist
- Forensic Psychiatric Nurse
- Forensic Psychologist
- Forensic Psychometrist
- Forensic Social Worker
- Forensic OT/RT
- Court/Judge/Police
Correctional/Prison Nurses:

Roles

- Care/custody role balance
- Admission Cursory Medicals
- Assessments: physical & mental status, suicide & addiction
- Medication management
- Referral, resource, educator, advocate
- Infection control (education, prevention, reporting)
- Crisis intervention (seizures, suicide attempts, cardiac arrest, choking, diabetic reaction/coma)
- 24 hour health care assessment/intervention
- Medical Records (documentation, health care transfers)

(Kent-Wilkinson, 2000)
Correctional/Prison Nurses: Responsibilities

- To provide for each offender a standard of health care comparable to that in the community.
- To provide health care services to incarcerated individuals.
- To assist the offender to achieve and maintain that level of physical and mental well being regarded as essential for the individual concerned.
- To implement the nursing care process for most health problems (everything from A to Z) (Kent-Wilkinson, 2000)
Forensic Psychiatric Nurses: Role & Responsibilities

- 24hr care (Care and Custody)
- Counseling/therapeutic skills
- Case Worker
- Crisis Intervention
- Stress Debriefing
- Milieu Management
- Medication Management
- Mental health focus as a correctional/prison nurse
- Assessment/intervention skills in psychiatric symptomatology
- Member of the multidisciplinary team

(Kent-Wilkinson, 2000)
Forensic Nursing Education

1970’s Historically schools of nursing have been less than responsive to the health needs of inmate population in their education of nurses.

1980’s Literature began to cite the use of correctional institutions for clinical learning experience in Canada and US.

1980’s Research studies on need for forensic nursing education.
Forensic Nursing Education

1980s Specializations in Nursing
- Nursing specialties (geriatrics, critical care, OR)

1995 Forensic Nursing (Classroom Course)
- 1 in Canada, 2 in US

1995
- First Web-based course in California (Bates & Poole, 2003)

1997 First Online Courses
- Forensic nursing educators, supported by progressive administrators, used the technology to offer the first online forensic course in January of 1997

2001
- By 2000-2001, there were a few classroom and online courses in the developed countries

2010
- Forensic nursing education in at least 14 countries
Implications for Interprofessional Education

- With the trend to interprofessional education, specialties that cross disciplinary borders like forensic nursing are well suited (Kent-Wilkinson, 2009).

- It is important that the different roles and focuses of the different disciplines be demarcated, and it is vital that nurses can articulate how we are different.

- Specialty areas that intersect many disciplines may more clearly distinguish the specific knowledge that is similar and different to each specialty and discipline (Kent-Wilkinson, 2009).
FORENSIC NURSING EDUCATION: RESEARCH

2008 Forensic Nursing Education Education Study

What Forensic Nursing Is... and Is Not

- Forensic nursing IS NOT a nursing specialty in forensics
- Forensic nursing IS a forensic specialty in nursing

Definition

- **Forensic nursing** is a recognized global specialty of nursing, integrating the application of nursing art and science at the clinical/legal interface serving the human health experience as a response to violence in society (Kent-Wilkinson, 2008).
Research In Forensic Nursing Education

Forensic nursing is different from nursing in general in that forensic nurses are:

- *more likely* to be caring for patients who are victims or offenders on a continual basis; therefore, our practice has a
- *high likelihood* of interfacing with one of the justice systems;
- *more likely* to rely on the knowledge from law and forensic science;
- *more likely* that the case and the documentation will end up in court.

Forensic nursing is different from other forensic disciplines in that forensic nursing is:

- **more likely** to have knowledge applied at the clinical/legal interface;
- **more likely** to provide care and services to both victims and offenders, living and deceased; and
- **more likely** to be responsible for medication administration, supervision, and evaluation of the impact of medication.

Different from other forensic disciplines that also lay claim to a caring paradigm, forensic nursing is:

- **more likely** to include not only therapeutic aspects of caring, but also a holistic and objective approach;
- **more likely** to have a social sense of responsibility for the continuous 24/7/365 care across the life span, where care and contact is maintained with the client, and care is extended to the family and to the community.

Barriers for Forensic Nursing Education

- Disciplinary Boundaries
- Level of Education
- Resources/Technology/Funding
- Unsupportive Administration
- Lack of role models or champions
Facilitators for Forensic Nursing Education

- Fluid disciplinary boundaries
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Advanced education or Equal to other Professional Disciplines
- Champions/ Pioneers/Role models
Nursing Education in Canada

1900s
- Hospital nursing educational programs

1970s
- Nursing education in Colleges and Universities

1980s
- Specialty Nursing Education

1990s
- First PhD nursing doctoral program Canada in 1992

2000s
- Degree as entry to nursing practice

2010
- 46 undergraduate degree nursing programs
- 13 doctoral programs
Nursing Globally

- Inequality of wages
- Inequality of education

Facilitators to Nursing Advancement

- Social movements of the 1960s
- Gender rights, human rights, civil rights, offender rights
- Professional Associations/Standards/Regulation
- Unions/Worklife Issues/Job satisfaction/Strikes/Higher Wages
Highest Paying Undergraduate Degree in Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Undergraduate Degree</th>
<th>Earnings Premium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>117%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Sciences</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational or Physical Therapist</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacist</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Teacher</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International – Lessons Learned

Germany (developed country)
- Status of Nursing in Germany
- Status of Nursing Education in Germany
- Inline with/ Leader of the European Union
- Developed country/high tech

Brazil (emerging country)
- 2011- Forensic nursing recognized specialty
- High rates of violence
- Need for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners

The Philippines (emerging country)
- Status of Nursing in the Philippines
- Psych/mental health nursing in the Philippines
- No forensic sexual assault nursing
- 24-26 Nursing programs in Manila alone
Global Society - Forensic mental health

- Mental health is a challenge for our global society with consequences for health internationally.
- New policies are needed for interventions and health services.
- Health care professionals, with advanced education can contribute.

Global Issues
- Treatment and/or Warehousing
- Care and/or Custody
- Restraint and/or Seclusion
Future Directions for the 21 Century

- Violence/Mental illness is a problem of global order, the improvement in educating skilled professionals to perform in this situation is essential and urgent.

- Forensic nursing education initiatives could create a new path

- Nurse Practitioners (NP) advanced practice nurses could provide forensic psychiatric assessment/evaluations/ interventions and in inpatient and outpatient services where there are limited forensic psychiatrists.
Questions?

Forensic Nursing
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Selected References


Selected References (cont.)


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