

SANE Role in Caring for Victims of Sexual Assault

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Objectives

Describe the history and evolution of SANE nursing

Describe the role of the SANE in caring for adult/adolescent victims of SA

Describe the role of SANEs in sexual violence education and prevention

Objectives

Describe the role of the International Association of Forensic nurses (IAFN)

Discuss key aspects of *Forensic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*

Discuss professional/ethical responsibilities in caring for adult/adolescent SA pt. populations

Objectives

Identify resources that contribute to SANE practice and the use of evidence based practice
Discuss importance of preventing vicarious trauma

Costs of Sexual Assault in MN

In 2005, 77,000 sexual assaults occurred in MN
Almost \$8 billion cost, \$1540 per resident
3.3 times the cost of alcohol impaired driving in MN

CDC Study: Lifetime cost of rape \$122,461

Criminal justice costs
Property loss or damage
Lost work productivity
Short and long-term physical and mental health treatment

Forensic nursing

“Forensic nursing is the practice of nursing globally when health and legal systems intersect” IAFN, 2008

Virginia Lynch’s 1991 Master’s thesis conceptualized forensic nursing

1992 IAFN established

1995 Forensic nursing recognized as a specialty by ANA



What is a SANE?

A SANE is a registered nurse who has been specially educated to provide comprehensive care to patients who report being sexually assaulted, who demonstrates competency in conducting a forensic exam

The first SANE programs

Memphis, TN, 1976

Mpls, MN, 1977

Amarillo, TX, 1979

Currently- 904 programs in the US

A rose by any other name...

- SANE
- SAFE
- SARS nurse
- FNE

Why is there a need for SANE programs?

- Needs of sexual assault victims regarded as less urgent
- Long wait times in hospital waiting rooms
- Victims often blamed for the assault
- Lack of sensitivity towards victims
- “Re-victimization” because of these factors

Why there is a need...

- Physicians doing exams not trained or experienced in forensics
- Concerns about testifying in court
- Difficult to maintain proficiency
- Failure to collect all available evidence
- Inconsistent medical care
- Pregnancy prevention not always offered
- Infection/HIV risks not consistently explained

ER challenges of providing care

- Difficult for ER staff to maintain proficiency with few victims for each staff member
- Difficult to find block of uninterrupted time to provide care for victim of sexual assault
 - Once evidence collection begins the process should not be interrupted
 - Chain of custody of the evidence must be maintained

Benefits of a SANE program

- Advantages to the hospital and ER
 - Care is assumed by one nurse (SANE)
 - Frees up ER physician/nursing staff
 - Better evidence collection
 - Extensive training for care of sexual assault patients is not necessary for the ER staff

Victim benefits

- Cared for by compassionate, trauma informed nurses with an interest in this work
 - Promotes psychological recovery
- More consistent, comprehensive medical care
- Faster treatment with fewer interruptions
- Skilled documentation and collection of forensic evidence

Victim benefits

- Increased collaboration among agencies serving sexual assault victims
 - Advocacy
 - LE/prosecution
- Higher conviction rate with SANE involvement

Hospital based SANE programs

- Open 24 hours
 - Often more secure
- Often more financially stable
- Ancillary services available
- Challenges

Community based SANE programs

- Many different models
 - Clinics
 - Public health
 - Advocacy centers
 - Prosecutor's office
 - LE
- Challenges

Role of the SANE

Mitigate the impact of sexual violence on individuals, families, communities and society

Humane and legally objective approach that integrates advocacy

Provides community resources to support the victim

Specialized knowledge

Legal systems

Evidence and ethical parameters

Pathophysiology of injury

Reproductive health

Psychology associated with sexual assault

SANE role

History taking

Assessment

Treatment of trauma response and injury

Documentation and collection of evidence

Emotional and psychosocial support

Documentation of injury

Testimony as needed

Sexual violence education and prevention

- Community partners
- Public
- Schools, colleges
- Colleagues
 - Hospital staff
 - Clinic staff

International Association of Forensic Nursing

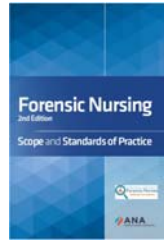
- Provides support for forensic nurses and forensic programs
- Education guidelines
- Education opportunities
- Certification
- Resource for program and protocol development

Forensic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice

- Identifies expectations for forensic nurse practice
- Defines and directs forensic nursing practice in all settings and across all roles
- Co-published by IAFN and ANA
- Buy it, read it, become familiar with it

Forensic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice

- Assessment
- Diagnosis
- Outcome identification
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation



Professional/ethical responsibilities

- Autonomy (pt. choices)
- Beneficence (for the benefit or well-being)
- Non-maleficence (do not cause harm)
- Veracity (truthfulness)
- Confidentiality
- Justice

Evidence based practice

- Standard #13: The forensic nurse integrates research findings into practice
- May participate in research
 - Identifying clinical problems
 - Data collection
 - Participate in committees
 - Share research findings with colleagues

Vicarious trauma

Compassion fatigue, burnout

We will put a lot of focus on self care during this course

Care for ourselves with the same commitment we have in caring for others

Nursing Diagnoses

We will suggest nursing diagnoses for the topics we discuss

Our presentations and discussions will incorporate the nursing process
