

Purpose

- To propose the design and development of an emergency department-based role, the forensic nurse consultant
- Examine the forensic nurse shortage and challenges for emergency nurses
- Examine the benefit of the role of the forensic nurse consultant

Background

- Trauma has lasting effects on functional and psychosocial wellbeing (SAMHSA, 2019)
- ACE study, see fig. a
- 20% of acute care hospitals have a sexual assault nurse examiner program
- 27.6 million people were treated for violence-related injuries in 2015 (CDC, 2017)
- Up to 14% of women treated in the emergency department are there for intimate partner violence-related conditions
- between 5 and 38% of women seen in an emergency department report experiencing intimate partner violence in the past year (Davidov et al., 2015)
- Challenges for emergency nurses include emotional unpreparedness

Methods

- An extensive literature review was conducted
- When a patient with forensic needs is identified the forensic nurse consultant:
 - Consults/provides clinical leadership
 - Examines, collects evidence, coordinates care, liaise
 - Provides continuing education
- Follow patients if admitted



Framework

- The Forensic Nurse Hospitalist Model (Berishaj et al., 2020) See fig. b
 - Patients, Providers, Systems
- Diffusion of Innovation (Trahan, 2019)

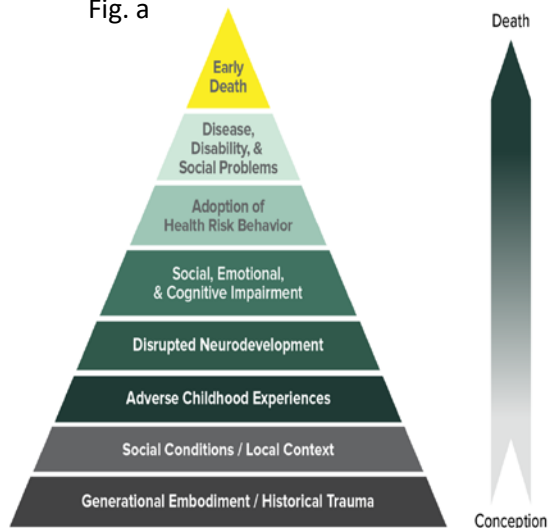
Outcomes/Conclusions

- Lack of forensic services results in uncoordinated care for patients
- Lack of support for staff unfamiliar with forensic guidelines
- Recommended feasibility and financial research
- Organizational analysis

Relevance to Nursing

- Further research is needed
- The forensic nurse consultant is meant to compliment the interdisciplinary team and decrease burden on staff
- To provide better coordinated care for patients to improve outcomes and promote healing

Fig. a



Mechanism by which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan (CDC, 2020)

Berishaj, K., Boyland, C. M., Reinink, K., & Lynch, V. (2020). Forensic nurse hospitalist: The comprehensive role of the forensic nurse in a hospital setting. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 46(3), 286-293. <https://doi.org.nocdbproxy.xavier.edu/10.1016/j.jen.2020.03.002>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2020). About the CDC-Kaiser ACE study. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/about.html>

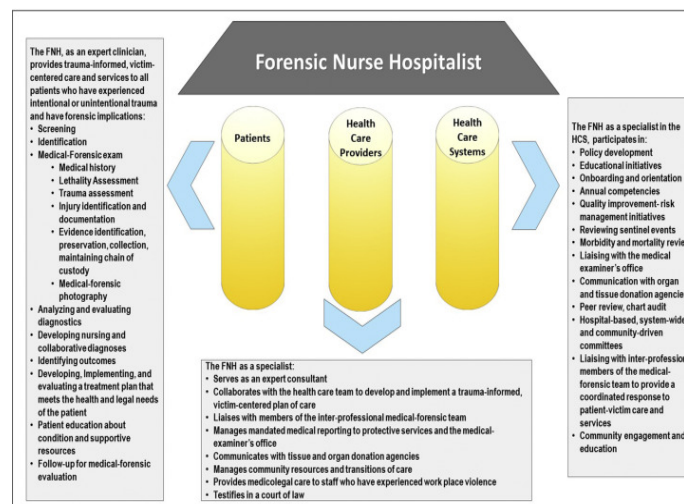
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017). Key injury and violence data. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/overview/key_data.html

Davidov, D. M., Larrabee, H., Davis, S. M. (2015). United States emergency department visits coded for intimate partner violence. *Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 48(1), 94-100. [10.1016/j.jemermed.2014.07.053](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jemermed.2014.07.053)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2019). Trauma and violence. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/trauma-violence>

Trahan, M. P. (2019). Diffusion of innovations. *Salem Press Encyclopedia*.

Fig. b



(Berishaj et al., 2020)