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Men in Nursing: Implications for the Profession and Broader Workforce Trends

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Submission to Mountain Plains Business Conference: Healthcare Track

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Men in Nursing: Implications for the Profession and Broader Workforce Trends

Abstract

Typically, nursing has been considered a gendered profession dominated by women. As traditionally blue-collar, male-dominated occupations such as assembly-line work have declined, the percentage of men in the nursing profession has increased to 12%. This is not a recent phenomenon; a significant percentage of men served as nurses up through the 1800's. In this analysis of men serving in the nursing workforce, we begin with a historical review and then discuss implications for the nursing profession, e.g., recruitment, education, practice, retention, and culture, as well as implications for the broader labor market, e.g., compensation trends by industry and gender.