

## Beyond the Clinic: How Forensic Nursing Bridges Healthcare and Justice

Sara Ohue\*

Department of Nursing, University of Jaen, 23071 Jaen, Spain

### Mini Review

**Received:** 02 March, 2024, Manuscript No. jnhs-24-133307; **Editor Assigned:** 04 March, 2024, Pre QC No. P-133307; **Reviewed:** 16 March, 2024, QC No. Q-133307; **Revised:** 22 March, 2024, Manuscript No. R-133307; **Published:** 29 March, 2024, DOI: 10.4172/JNHS.2024.10.2.127

#### \*For Correspondence

Sara Ohue, Department of Nursing, University of Jaen, 23071 Jaen, Spain

**E-mail:** saraohueso@gmail.com

#### Abstract

In the complex tapestry of modern healthcare and justice systems, there exists a crucial intersection where compassionate care meets the pursuit of truth and justice. Forensic nursing stands at this crossroads, playing a vital role in bridging the gap between healthcare and justice. Beyond the confines of traditional clinical settings, forensic nurses serve as advocates, investigators and healers, offering comprehensive care to individuals affected by violence and trauma while also aiding in the pursuit of justice. Forensic nursing encompasses a diverse range of responsibilities that extend far beyond the walls of the clinic. While traditional nursing focuses primarily on patient care within healthcare settings, forensic nursing expands this scope to include the collection of evidence, collaboration with law enforcement agencies and support for survivors of violence and trauma. This specialized field requires a unique blend of medical expertise, investigative skills and compassion to address the complex needs of individuals affected by crime.

**Keywords:** Forensic nursing, Healthcare, Justice

### INTRODUCTION

Forensic nursing stands as a powerful bridge between two essential pillars of society: healthcare and justice. While the traditional role of nursing revolves around patient care and healing, forensic nursing expands this scope to encompass the collection of evidence, support for survivors of violence and collaboration with legal authorities. In this article, we explore how forensic nursing serves as a vital link between healthcare and justice, facilitating comprehensive care for individuals affected by crime and trauma. At its core, forensic nursing embodies the intersection of healthcare and justice. These specialized nurses possess a unique skill set that enables them to address both the medical and legal aspects of interpersonal violence, including sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse<sup>[1,2]</sup>. By seamlessly integrating medical expertise with forensic knowledge, forensic nurses play a pivotal role in ensuring that survivors receive the care they need while also contributing to the pursuit of justice.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Forensic nurses provide comprehensive care to individuals who have experienced violence or trauma, emphasizing a trauma-informed approach that prioritizes the physical, emotional and psychological well-being of survivors. From conducting thorough medical examinations to offering crisis intervention and counseling, forensic nurses are dedicated to supporting survivors through every stage of their healing journey. By addressing the immediate and long-term effects of trauma, these nurses help individuals regain a sense of control and empowerment in the aftermath of violence. In addition to providing care, forensic nurses are responsible for the collection and preservation of forensic evidence, which is crucial for legal proceedings and the prosecution of perpetrators. Through meticulous documentation of injuries, collection of specimens and preservation of physical evidence, forensic nurses play a vital role in ensuring that justice is served. Their expertise in evidence collection techniques helps strengthen cases against perpetrators while also minimizing re-traumatization for survivors during the examination process.

One of the primary responsibilities of forensic nurses is the collection of forensic evidence from individuals who have experienced violence or trauma. Whether it's documenting injuries, collecting specimens, or preserving physical evidence, forensic nurses play a crucial role in ensuring that vital information is gathered in a timely and sensitive manner. This evidence not only aids in the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators but also serves as a cornerstone of justice for survivors seeking closure and validation. Forensic nursing thrives on collaboration, bringing together professionals from diverse disciplines, including healthcare, law enforcement, legal and social services<sup>[3,4]</sup>. By working closely with these stakeholders, forensic nurses facilitate a comprehensive and coordinated response to incidents of violence and trauma. They provide expert testimony in court, assist in

# Research & Reviews: Journal of Nursing & Health Sciences

the development of multidisciplinary case plans and advocate for the rights and needs of survivors within the legal system.

## DISCUSSION

Beyond their roles in evidence collection and legal proceedings, forensic nurses play a crucial role in supporting the healing and recovery of survivors. Through trauma-informed care, advocacy and access to resources, they empower individuals to reclaim their lives in the aftermath of trauma. Forensic nurses serve as trusted allies, offering emotional support, guidance and validation to survivors as they navigate the often daunting journey towards healing and justice. While forensic nursing has made significant strides in recent years, it still faces numerous challenges, including limited resources, understaffing and systemic barriers within the healthcare and justice systems. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing investment in training, education and public awareness initiatives to elevate the visibility and recognition of forensic nursing as a critical component of both healthcare and justice.

Forensic nursing involves close collaboration with law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and other legal authorities to ensure a coordinated response to cases of violence and trauma. Forensic nurses provide expert testimony in court, assist in the development of case strategies and offer support to survivors throughout the legal process. By serving as liaisons between the healthcare and justice systems, forensic nurses help facilitate communication, enhance coordination and promote a victim-centered approach to justice. While forensic nursing has made significant strides in recent years, it still faces challenges such as limited resources, training gaps and systemic barriers within healthcare and legal systems. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing investment in education, training and interdisciplinary collaboration to elevate the role of forensic nursing within both healthcare and justice sectors<sup>[5,6]</sup>. By advocating for policy changes, expanding access to resources and raising awareness about the importance of forensic nursing, we can further strengthen this critical bridge between healthcare and justice.

## CONCLUSION

Forensic nursing represents a unique and indispensable bridge between healthcare and justice, offering holistic care to individuals affected by violence and trauma while also contributing to the pursuit of justice. Through their specialized expertise, compassion and unwavering commitment, forensic nurses serve as advocates for healing, empowerment and accountability in our communities. As we continue to navigate the complexities of a changing world, the role of forensic nursing will remain indispensable in promoting the well-being and rights of all individuals affected by crime. Forensic nursing serves as a vital bridge between healthcare and justice, providing compassionate care to survivors of violence while also contributing to the pursuit of justice. Through their specialized expertise, dedication and commitment to advocacy, forensic nurses play an indispensable role in our society, ensuring that individuals affected by crime and trauma receive the support they need to heal and rebuild their lives. As we continue to recognize the importance of forensic nursing, we must strive to further enhance its capabilities, expand its reach and elevate its status as a cornerstone of comprehensive care and justice for all.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

None.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

## REFERENCES

1. Stover MW and Davis JM. Opioids in pregnancy and neonatal abstinence syndrome. *Semin Perinatol*. 2015;39(7):561-565.
2. Colby JM. Comparison of umbilical cord tissue and meconium for the confirmation of in utero drug exposure. *Clin Biochem* 2017;50(13-14):784-790.
3. Barthwell AG, Allgaier J and Egli K. Definitive urine drug testing in office-based opioid treatment: A literature review. *Crit Rev Toxicol*. 2018;48(10):815-838.
4. Gray T and Huestis M. Bioanalytical procedures for monitoring in utero drug exposure. *Anal Bioanal Chem*. 2007;388:1455-1465.
5. Plotka J, et al. Effects of addictive substances during pregnancy and infancy and their analysis in biological materials. *Rev Environ Contam Toxicol*. 2014;227:55-77.
6. Gareri J, Klein J and Koren G. Drugs of abuse testing in meconium. *Clin Chim Acta*. 2006;366:101-111.