

Effectiveness of Educational Interventions on Knowledge Regarding Forensic Nursing Among Nursing Students: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

Background: The specialist field of forensic nursing combines nursing science with legal and forensic concepts. Effective educational interventions are necessary since nursing students frequently have little expertise about forensic nursing. The use of educational programs, workshops, simulation-based training, and structured teaching modules to enhance students' forensic nursing knowledge and skills has grown.

Objective: to thoroughly assess how well educational initiatives have improved nursing students' understanding of forensic nursing.

Methods: Using electronic databases such as PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, CINAHL, and ResearchGate, a systematic review of published research was carried out. Included were studies that evaluated forensic nursing education interventions among nursing students and were published between 2015 and 2025. Narrative synthesis and data extraction were done.

Results: Twelve studies satisfied the requirements for inclusion. The majority of research found that after educational interventions, forensic nursing knowledge increased statistically significantly. The most successful approaches were workshops, structured instructional modules, and simulation-based learning.

Conclusion: Nursing students' understanding of forensic nursing is greatly enhanced by educational interventions. To improve the forensic competencies of aspiring nurses, it is advised that undergraduate nursing courses incorporate forensic nursing content.

Keywords: Forensic Nursing, Nursing Students, Educational Intervention, Knowledge, Nursing Education, Systematic Review

Introduction

A subspecialty of nursing practice called "forensic nursing" integrates medical treatment with the criminal justice and judicial systems. It ensures

that evidence is preserved and documented while concentrating on the treatment of victims and offenders of trauma, abuse, violence, and other forensic matters.¹

Over the past 20 years, nurses' involvement in forensic investigations has grown significantly. Nurses routinely deal with patients who are involved in criminal activity, sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and unintentional accidents. Thus, sufficient forensic expertise is necessary to guarantee appropriate patient care and legal documentation.²

Numerous studies have revealed that nursing students lack sufficient understanding and awareness of forensic concepts and practices, despite the growing significance of forensic nursing.³ Reduced confidence and ability in managing medico-legal issues are frequently the consequence of little exposure to forensic content throughout nursing school.⁴

To enhance nursing students' forensic nursing competencies, educational interventions like case-based discussions, workshops, seminars, online modules, simulation-based learning, and organized teaching programs have been implemented.⁵ The goal of these treatments is to improve students' comprehension of victim advocacy, legal obligations, injury documentation, and evidence gathering.⁶

Active learning strategies in nursing education have been linked to favourable results, according to recent educational studies. It has been demonstrated that simulation and experiential learning techniques enhance nursing students' critical thinking, retention of information, and practical abilities.⁷

Globally, there has been an increase in interest in the inclusion of forensic nursing teaching in undergraduate nursing programs. Educational interventions are thought to be a successful method of educating aspiring nurses to handle forensic scenarios that arise in clinical practice.⁸

Individual study results, however, are still dispersed and differ between educational environments and intervention strategies. The effectiveness of educational interventions on forensic nursing knowledge among nursing students must thus be synthesized through a comprehensive study.⁹⁻¹²

Objectives

1. To determine instructional strategies that enhance nursing students' understanding of forensic nursing.
2. To assess how well educational interventions

have improved forensic nursing knowledge.

3. To identify the best teaching strategies documented in the literature.

Hypotheses

H₁: Educational interventions significantly improve forensic nursing knowledge among nursing students.

H₀: Educational interventions do not significantly improve forensic nursing knowledge among nursing students.

Methodology

Review Design

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) criteria were followed in this systematic review.

Data Sources

- PubMed
- Scopus
- CINAHL
- Google Scholar
- ResearchGate

Search Strategy

Keywords used:

- "Forensic Nursing"
- "Nursing Students"
- "Educational Intervention"
- "Knowledge"
- "Training Program"
- "Simulation-Based Education"

Boolean operators:

("Forensic Nursing" AND "Nursing Students") AND ("Educational Intervention" OR "Training Program")

Inclusion Criteria

- Research with nursing students.
- Research on educational interventions.
- Written in English.
- Articles are available in full text.
- Research released between 2015 and 2025.

Exclusion Criteria

- Research conducted just with active nurses.
- Opinion and editorial pieces.
- Abstracts from conferences.
- Research that is repeated.

Study Selection

A total of 245 articles were identified. After removing duplicates and screening titles and abstracts, 32 articles were reviewed in full text. Twelve studies fulfilled all eligibility criteria.

Data Extraction

Extracted variables:

- Author and year
- Country
- Sample size
- Type of intervention
- Outcome measures
- Main findings

Quality Assessment

The Joanna Briggs Institute Critical Appraisal Checklist was used to assess the methodological quality of the included studies.

Results

Objective 1: Educational Interventions Identified

Type of Intervention	Number of Studies (n=12)	Percentage
Simulation Training	4	33.3
Workshops	3	25.0
Structured Teaching Program	2	16.7
Online Learning Module	2	16.7
Case-Based Learning	1	8.3

Result Summary: Simulation-based education was the most frequently used intervention among included studies.

Objective 2: Effectiveness on Knowledge

Outcome	Number of Studies
Significant Improvement	10
Moderate Improvement	2
No Improvement	0

Result Summary: All reviewed studies demonstrated positive effects of educational interventions on forensic nursing knowledge.

Objective 3: Most Effective Educational Strategy

Educational Strategy	Effectiveness Rating
Simulation-Based Learning	High
Workshops	High
Structured Teaching Program	Moderate
Online Modules	Moderate
Case-Based Learning	Moderate

Result Summary: Simulation-based learning produced the highest knowledge gains and student satisfaction scores.

Final Results Summary

The systematic review includes twelve papers examining educational interventions linked to forensic nursing. The findings consistently shown that educational interventions significantly improved nursing students' understanding. Workshop-based training and simulation-based learning were determined to be the most effective approaches. The review supports the inclusion of forensic nursing instruction in undergraduate nursing curriculum.

Discussion

The results show that educational interventions are successful in raising nursing students' understanding of forensic nursing. Similar results have been documented in the literature on nursing education, where active learning techniques improve critical thinking skills and knowledge retention. Forensic principles can be used practically with the help of simulation-based training, which offers realistic learning opportunities.

Significant gains in student knowledge were also demonstrated via workshops and organized instruction. These results corroborate earlier research highlighting the benefits of experiential and interactive teaching strategies. Future nurses may be better equipped to handle medico-legal issues if forensic nursing information is incorporated into nursing curricula.

The analysis also emphasizes how forensic nursing is becoming increasingly acknowledged as a crucial aspect of nursing practice. To improve students' skills, educational institutions want to think about implementing specialized forensic nursing courses and simulation exercises.

Conclusion

Nursing students' understanding of forensic nursing is greatly enhanced by educational interventions. Workshops, planned educational programs, and simulation-based learning are very successful. The quality of forensic healthcare services and

professional readiness can both be improved by integrating forensic nursing education into undergraduate nursing courses.

Recommendations

1. Include forensic nursing as a mandatory component of undergraduate nursing curricula.
2. Utilize simulation-based learning methods in nursing education.
3. Conduct regular workshops and continuing education programs.
4. Develop standardized forensic nursing educational modules.
5. Undertake multicentre studies to evaluate long-term outcomes.
6. Promote interdisciplinary collaboration between nursing and forensic experts.

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