The Perceived Effectiveness of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training for Rural Nurses

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The aim is to determine the effectiveness of a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) didactic course in a southern rural setting in Indiana. Every 98 seconds a person is sexually assaulted in the United States, with one out of six women a victim of attempted or completed rape (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network, 2018). The Federal Bureau of Investigation (2017) mentioned there were 41.2 reported rapes per 100,000 people. Violent crimes, which include sexual assault, occur to 155 per 100,000 people in Bartholomew County and 244 per 100,000 people in Jackson County (County Health Rankings, 2017). The Human Resources & Service Administration (2017) deemed both of these Indiana counties medically underserved. Trained SANEs provide optimal care for the victims, collect medicolegal evidence correctly while providing appropriate resources (International Association of Forensic Nurses, 2015). This training also decreases the risk of vicarious trauma (Nielson, Strong, & Stewart, 2015). The literature review revealed minimal information on the effectiveness of this training on nurses. Training begins with the didactic course followed by a clinical course. This course is the first part leading to full SANE training, which improves sexual assault patient care in the southern rural area of this midwestern state. This didactic course accommodates rural hospital staffing by holding classes every Thursday for six weeks in early Fall 2017. The design is an experimental quantitative study held in a rural area of a midwestern state. The method uses aggregated data collected through pre- and post-course tests and surveys. The expected results are increased number of nurses completing didactic training, more nurses ready to take clinical training to become SANEs, and positive course satisfaction. Additional results include more nurses completing didactic course and ready for clinical course, along with positive course satisfaction. Anticipated implications for nursing practice include an increased number of rural nurses taking the course and being prepared to take the clinical portion of the SANE training.

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Keywords:
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References:


**Abstract Summary:**
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are specially trained nurses caring for sexual assault victims, properly collecting medicolegal evidence, and providing resources. They are also in high demand in rural areas. This presentation provides information why SANE training is important.

**Content Outline:**

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Content Outline

1. A SANE’s role
   1. Provides optimal care to patient
   2. Collects evidence
   3. Provides resources
2. Patient care
   1. Providing optimal care to patient
      1. Communication
         1. What not to say
         2. Patient is not at fault
      2. Individualize care
         1. Empower patient by allowing choices
         2. Take care of only that patient
   2. Collecting evidence
      1. Provide information about procedures
         1. Knowledge allows informed consent
         2. Patient has the right to refuse any procedure at any time
      2. Collect evidence in a medicolegal manner
         1. Proper technique increases chance of collecting specimens
         2. Proper storage of collected collection aids in increasing chance of evidence holding up in a legal system
   3. Providing resources
      1. Acute
         1. Offering someone to be with patient
         2. Victim’s advocate
      2. Chronic
         1. Counseling centers
         2. Social services

III. Conclusion

1. A SANE may collect specimens in a medicolegal manner without revictimizing the patient more than an untrained nurse can
2. A SANE is specialized in evidence collection, which increases the chance of the proper collection, storage, and transportation of evidence. This increases the chance of the evidence holding up in a court of law
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Organizer for Adult/Adolescent Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) didactic course at Indiana University Purdue University Columbus (2017-present) Instrumental in receiving approval for SANE course at Indiana University Purdue University Columbus from the International Association of Forensic Nurses (2017-present)  

**Author Summary:** Karen East received her MSN from the University of Indianapolis and is pursuing her DNP at Indiana State University. She teaches at the Indiana University School of Nursing at the Indiana University Purdue University Columbus as a Clinical Assistant Professor. She is the organizer and a presenter for the didactic Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) course at IUPUC. She received approval for this course through the International Association of Forensic Nurses in 2017.