

Men Nurses in the AJN: The First 100 Years

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Research Question

What topics related to men nurses have been published in the AJN during the last 100 years?

Methodology

Content Analysis – a procedure for analyzing written or verbal communications in a systematic and objective fashion

(Polit and Hungler, 1995, p. 638)

Content Analysis

Examines the artifacts of social communication (Berg, 1998, p. 223)

Purposes include: to reflect cultural patterns of groups, institutions, or societies (Weber, 1990, p. 9)

Unit of Analysis: Item

all articles, letters to the editor, and news items in the AJN that referred to men nurses from its inception in 1900 to the year 2000

Historical Research

social framework

to interpret content from a perspective that included the events that influenced society at that time.

cultural framework

to view the content in the broader context of the cultural norms of the various historical periods from 1900 to 2000.

American Journal of Nursing

Oldest active professional nursing journal in the United States

First national nursing publication in the US owned and edited by organized nurses

American Journal of Nursing

First editor: Sophia F. Palmer

First issue: October 1900

1912 – AJN became the property and
official organ of the American
Nurses Association

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SINGLE COPY, 20 CENTS

Early Organization

Departments edited by various nursing leaders

education – Isabel Robb

sanitation – Mary E. P. Davis

private duty nursing – Isabel McIsaac

foreign news – Lavinia Dock

hospital and training schools –

Linda Richards

Recent Developments

1996 – American Nurses Association sold AJN to Lippincott for \$24 million

2006 – American Nurses Association severed its official ties with the AJN

Circulation

Current circulation: 120,000 (print)
42,000 hits per month online

1900 – 550 cash subscriptions

Mid 1970s – 300,000 (estimated)

Men in the AJN

Source for articles: AJNonline.com

Key words:

men nurses

male nurses

male nursing

male students

Years reviewed: 1900 - 2000

Findings

Number of pertinent entries
total – 86

Types:

letters to the editor – 51

articles – 26

news items – 7

book review – 1

editorial – 1

Topics by Decade

Prior to 1920 – 3 letters to the editor

Focus:

where are male nurses needed?

the need for well trained male nurses

Can anyone tell me where there is a general hospital employing male nurses ... I should like to know of any hospital, anywhere , not only in this country. (1911)

Genito-urinary cases and certain types of mental excitements cannot be nursed by a woman yet they require skilled care.

There is not a single registered training school for male nurses in New York State, except the training schools of the state hospitals and these fail to supply the required general hospital experience.

(September 1916)

Topics by Decade

1920S

2 articles on schools of nursing for men

School of Nursing for Men at Pennsylvania Hospital
Pharmacist's Mates' School

1 article on the present day situation

1 letter to the editor

men excluded from nursing associations

The school [of Nursing for Men at the Pennsylvania Hospital] is accredited by the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners for Registration of Nurses, and the course covers the curriculum prescribed by that board, with the exception of obstetrics, gynecology and pediatrics , for which nursing in genito-urinary diseases and hydrotherapy are substituted. (Crummer, June 1924)

Topics by Decade

1930s

4 articles

Focus on men in psychiatric nursing, industrial nursing, urology, prisons, hospital administration
Opportunities in graduate education
Outlook for men nurses

6 letters to the editor

Need for well trained men nurses
Refusal of state nurses associations to admit men

The question is, therefore, not whether men shall be employed in the care of patients in these [psychiatric] hospitals, but whether these men shall be the relatively ignorant, unintelligent, and untrained attendants whom it was formerly necessary to depend upon, or intelligent, well-trained psychiatric nurses.

(Russell, January 1934)

I have written to 21 schools which offer [graduate] courses to the female nurse and have found that men may be admitted only to the courses given in physiotherapy, radiology, social service, mental nursing, and public health nursing.

(Witte, February 1934)

Because thirty-nine state nurses' associations refuse to admit men as members, I declare, registered nurses in those states enjoy no better status than that of used cars in the orphan class.

(March, 1936)

Topics by Decade

1940s

10 articles

focus on military nursing

5 news items

ANA Men Nurses Section

number of men students in nursing school

14 letters to the editor

men in the military

1 book review

Textbook for Male Practical Nurses (\$2.00)

Unlike woman nurses who serve in the Army and the Navy, however, men nurses are not given the rank of officers upon going into either service. (December 1943)

Registered men nurses may enlist for the duration and six months in the Hospital Corps of the U.S. Naval Reserve, Class V-6, as pharmacist's mates, second class, at a monthly salary of \$72... For comparison, the beginning salary of the Navy nurse is \$70 per month. (Brown, May 1942)

I was a recent Bellevue graduate who requested nothing more than to apply my three years of training where the need was greatest. But it was nine months before I was assigned to a hospital – nine months while the armed forces shrieked for nurses in desperation, and the Army blithely went about its business teaching me to be an army “medic”. (Rose, March 1947)

Rose was inducted into the Army in August 1944.

The Survey of Men Nurses

27 states have a total of 43 schools which admit men to the basic course but thirteen have only one school each. New York tops the list with 22 schools. Eighteen of them are in state mental hospitals which admit both men and women.

The post-graduate courses for nurses offered by six universities in [New York] state are open to men nurses. (June 1948)

Topics by Decade

1950s

4 articles

First article about men students in obstetrics
A summary of Alexian Brothers graduates
Military nursing

9 letters to the editor

1 editorial

Bolton Bill signed into law in August 1955

Some of the state boards of nurse examiners have ruled that obstetric nursing experience as well as theory must be made available to men students. The National Test Pool Committee does not offer an alternative examination to men in place of obstetric nursing.

During the 1950 summer quarter, three men basic students who were affiliating at the Denver General Hospital Division of the University of Colorado School of Nursing from a school outside the state were assigned to the obstetric unit for clinical experience. (Perdelwitz, February 1953)

Letters to the editor

An orchid to Eleanore Perdelwitz for her article “Men Students in Obstetric Nursing”... (Althouse, 1953)

The article “Men Students in Obstetric Nursing” undoubtedly advanced the cause of men nurses by at least a hundred years. (Wood, 1953)

Topics by Decade

1960s

2 articles

Student Page – on obstetric nursing

Men Nurses are There – photo essay

1 letter to the editor

Men Nurses Are There

In the military

Men nurses make up a little less than 1 percent of the country's nurse population; the proportion of men in the military nursing services comes to a little over 10 percent.

In air evac

In refugee camps

(February 1969)

Topics by Decade

1970s

1 news item

First certified male midwife (certified in 1972; published April 1978)

10 letters to the editor

five related to a suggestion that the title 'nurse' should be changed to Health Care Practitioner

In 1972 Mr. [John] Collins entered the rolls of the American College of Nurse Midwives as the first certified male nurse-midwife in the U.S.

“...I was greeted with open arms by the [Yale University School of Nursing] faculty.”

(April 1978)

Topics by Decade

1980s

1 article

battling stereotypes

1 news item

male nurse ruled out of labor/delivery

2 letters to the editor

responses to the article

Little Rock , Arkansas: Baptist Medical Center's recent refusal to assign a male nurse to labor and delivery rooms was not illegally discriminatory, according to a federal district court decision...

Judge Roy concluded that “requiring labor and delivery nurses to be female is a bona fide occupational qualification.”

(July 1981)

Topics by Decade

1990s

2 articles

male nurses still face bias

men in nursing: some troubling data

5 letters to the editor

responses to the articles

Of the 442 nurses brought before the complaint committee of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing between 1985 and 1988, 82 (19%) were men. ...only 3% of that state's 171,000 nurses are male.

More than half the complaints the Massachusetts Board heard during the four-year study period were directly related to substance abuse. (August 1990)

The AJN's Missing Men

Nurses at the Bedside (Brown, 1997)

a photo essay that “conveys both compassion and a reassuring self-confidence” (p. 44)

15 pictures – no men

The AJN's Missing Men

The Centennial Publication
October 2000

100 Years in Pictures (Shorr and Kennedy)
9 pictures – no men

The Patient is Awake (Burke and Fairman)
8 pictures – no men

More Missing Men

Nursing History Review: Official Journal of
the American Association for the History of
Nursing

began publication in 1993
reviewed through 2009

Key words:

men nurses, male nurses, male nursing

Results: one article

Men in the AJN

The Future

What topics are important to men nurses today?

Who will write about them?

Will you?