



# A Temporal Analysis Of Trends In Forensic Nursing Publications

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## ABSTRACT

Using information taken from PubMed, this study provides a thorough examination of forensic nursing articles from 1997 to 2024. Recent years have seen a notable increase in interest in the discipline of forensic nursing, which combines clinical nursing practice with legal investigations. This analysis looks at annual publication counts spanning almost thirty years to find patterns, trends, and variations in the output of scholarly research in this field. The results show a consistent rise in publications throughout time, with noticeable highs and lows associated with different time periods. The field may be influenced by external causes and dynamic shifts in research focus, as evidenced by the peak in 2023 and subsequent minor fall in 2024. This temporal analysis provides valuable insights into the development and evolving priorities in forensic nursing, emphasizing the field's growing importance and the need for ongoing research to address emerging challenges and advancements in forensic practice.

## KEYWORDS

Forensic, Nursing, Publications, Trends

## INTRODUCTION

The field of forensic nursing is essential because it integrates clinical nursing practice with the judicial system to address trauma-related issues like sexual assault and domestic abuse. Lynch, one of the pioneers in the development of the specialty in the United States of America, defines forensic nursing as the application of forensic health care in scientific research on trauma and/or abuse related to death, violence, crime, responsibility, and accidents, as well as the application of the nursing process to public and legal aspects.<sup>10</sup>

Gaining knowledge about the patterns in forensic nursing research will help one better understand how the discipline is developing and what its goals are changing. This study examines trends in forensic nursing research over the previous few decades using publication data from PubMed.

Considerable progress has been made in the field of forensic nursing during the last ten years, as evidenced by the wide and expanding corpus of literature. Publications in the subject of forensic nursing show how

the discipline is evolving towards a more technologically advanced, multidisciplinary, research-driven practice. Maintaining attention to these areas will let forensic nurses play a more significant role in the legal system and in healthcare, which will eventually improve the care given to criminals and their victims.<sup>11</sup> The aim of this study is to recognise and evaluate new developments, themes, and trends in the area of forensic nursing as they have been documented in scholarly and professional journals during the last few years.

**METHODS**

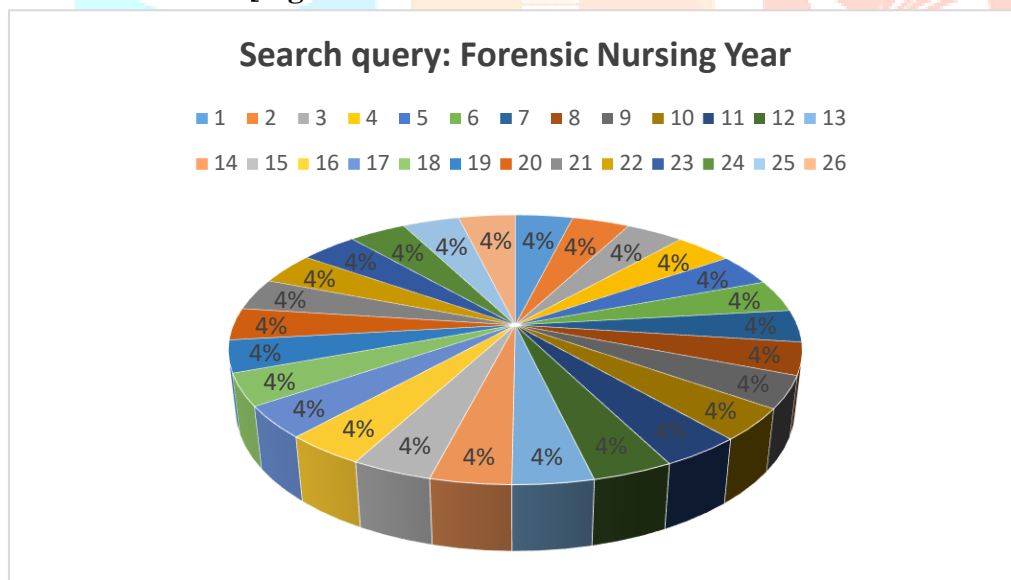
A review study was conducted for a period 27 years. For this analysis, information was taken from PubMed with a particular emphasis on the search term "Forensic Nursing." From 1997 to 2024, the number of publication years were included in the dataset and found to be 2913 articles in total. In order to find trends and patterns in publication counts over time, the data was processed and examined through excel variation of 2016 for data generalization.

**RESULTS**

**PUBLICATION TRENDS**

According to the data, there has been a noticeable rise in forensic nursing publications throughout time. The annual publication counts from 1997 to 2024 are shown in Figure 1.

[Figure 1: Trend of Over Time Publications in Forensic Nursing]



There has been a discernible increase trend from the early years with relatively low publication numbers, particularly in the last ten years. According to the data, the number of publications peaked in 2023 and then slightly decreased in 2024.

**KEY OBSERVATIONS**

1. Early Years (1997-2005): There was little research done in the field of forensic nursing, with yearly publication counts typically falling below 100.
2. Growth Phase (2006-2015): Research output increased steadily, indicating a rise in interest in and understanding of the significance of forensic nursing.
3. Recent Years (2016–2024): There was a notable publication boom in this sector, reaching a peak of 285 publications in 2023 and a little decline to 169 publications in 2024.

## DISCUSSION

The increase in forensic nursing publications points to a growing understanding of the field's significance and a wider interest in its areas of study. The peak in 2023 might be ascribed to increased consciousness and developments in forensic procedures. Further research is needed to determine the possible causes of the minor fall in 2024, which could include financing changes, changes in research priorities, or effects of world events on research activity.

A study conducted by Lawrence Whyte e MA, BA(Hons), RMN, is Head of Training and Development, Rampton Hospital Authority, Retford showed that there was very little literature in the endorsement of the existence of a forensic nurse or a sub-speciality of a forensic nurse in the year 1997.<sup>12</sup>

Another study conducted by Suresh Sharma and Jaison Joseph on the paradigm of forensic nursing for the aspirants of Nursing in India showed that even though forensic nursing is still in its blooming stage in India, it has a lot of promise to close the gap between the legal and healthcare systems. Although its incorporation into nursing courses is a significant advancement, issues with practicality, morality, and legality still need to be resolved. Forensic nursing has the potential to significantly influence the legal and healthcare systems, improving public health safety and professionalism, with careful thought and development.<sup>13</sup>

With emerging time and awareness regarding forensic nursing practices, there were developments in the field of Forensic Nursing and hence there were significant increase in the publications as well.

## CONCLUSION

The discipline of forensic nursing has grown significantly over the last few decades, as seen by this historical analysis of published research. The growing pattern in research output highlights how important it is for forensic nurses to address pressing problems at the nexus of the legal system and healthcare. A sustained observation of publication trends can yield important information about how the field of forensic nursing is changing.

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