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American Medical Student Association
House of Delegates 2022
Resolution:

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Subject: Principles Regarding Violence and Hate Crimes

Type: Addition to Principles

WHEREAS there is a national shortage of sexual assault (SA) forensic nurses that can perform rape kits for sexual assault survivors.[1]

WHEREAS the current shortage of SA forensic nurses, especially nurses of color, has especially posed ramifications for survivors from underrepresented communities. For instance, Native Americans are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault in their lifetime, yet there is a severe shortage of SA forensic nurses in tribal communities. [2]

WHEREAS in New York City alone, over 50% of sexual assault survivors were African American and 20% were LatinX in 2013. In interviews, these survivors stated that they would be more active in seeking treatment if they were seen by SA forensic nurses who are also people of color. [3]

WHEREAS stated in the National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, 40 hours of coursework is required for SA forensics certification. [4]

WHEREAS 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. The frequent occurrence of sexual violence highlights the urgency for increased SA forensics training in medical school curriculum. [4]

WHEREAS there are currently only 600 SA forensic nurse training programs in the U.S. out of 2,600 nursing programs. Furthermore, there are very few medical school curricula dedicated to teaching trauma-informed care. [5]

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PRINCIPLES REGARDING VIOLENCE AND HATE CRIMES (pg. 135-138) be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to state:

The American Medical Student Association

1. **SUPPORTS** the implementation of sexual assault medical forensics training in the medical school curriculum.
2. **SUPPORTS** increase in sexual assault medical forensics training in the nursing school curriculum.

Fiscal Note: None

Citations:

1. National shortage of forensic nurses frustrates rape victims. (2020, February 19). *ABC News*. Retrieved from abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/national-shortage-forensic-nurses-frustrates-rape-victims-69075114.
2. A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations Adults/Adolescents. (2021, April 8). *National Institute of Corrections*. Retrieved from [nicic.gov/national-protocol-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-examinations-adultsadolescents](https://www.nicic.gov/national-protocol-sexual-assault-medical-forensic-examinations-adultsadolescents)
3. From Forensics to Advocacy: The Importance of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. (2019, September 21). *Georgetown University School of Nursing and Health Studies* . Retrieved from <https://online.nursing.georgetown.edu/blog/sane-nurse-guide/>
4. Gore, D. J. (2021, January 1). Creation of a Medical Student Training to Improve Comfort Providing Trauma-Informed Care to Sexual Assault Survivors. *PubMed Central (PMC)*. Retrieved from [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8366721/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8366721/)
5. Pearsall, B. (2013, February 26). Evaluating Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Programs. *National Institute of Justice*. Retrieved from [nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/evaluating-sexual-assault-nurse-examiner-programs](https://www.nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/evaluating-sexual-assault-nurse-examiner-programs)