

Discover Nurse Practitioner History

The following key sources are frequently cited by those researching nurse practitioner history and impact. The AANP History Committee has collated this list to help in beginning a search for evidence for those researching nurse practitioner history.

Foundational History of the Nurse Practitioner Role

Articles

Bates, B., (1970). Doctor and nurse: Changing roles and relations. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 283(3), 129-134.

Bullough B. Barriers to the Nurse Practitioner Movement: Problems of Women in a Woman's Field. *International Journal of Health Services*. 1975,5(2):225-233.

Bullough, B. (1976). Influences on Role Expansion. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 76(9), 1476–81.

Connelly, J. P., Stoeckle, J. D., Lepper, E. S. & Farrissey, R. M. (1966). The physician and nurse-their interprofessional work in office and hospital ambulatory settings. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 275 (14), 765-769.

Ford L. & Silver H. (1967). The expanded role of the nurse in child care. *Nursing Outlook*, 15 (Sep) p. 43.

Freeman, Ruth. (1975). Nurse practitioners in the community health agency. *The Journal of Nursing Administration*, vol. 4, (6): 21–24. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26805448>. Accessed 19 Jan. 2026.

Silver, H., Ford, L., & Stearly, S. (1967). A program to increase healthcare for children: the pediatric nurse practitioner. *Pediatrics*, 39(5):756-60.

Silver, H., Ford, L. & Day, L. (1968). The pediatric nurse-practitioner program: expanding the role of the nurse to provide increased health care for children. *JAMA*, 204(4):298-302. doi: 10.1001/jama.204.4.298.

Yankauer, A., and Connelly, J. P. (1970). Changing the. patterns of pediatric care-taking. An action-oriented training program for nurses, *Am. J. Pub. Health* 60(5): 870-879.

The Massachusetts Nurse Practitioner History Project:
<https://massnphistoryprojectorgdomainonly.wpcomstaging.com/>

Books

Fairman, J. (2008). *Making Room at the Clinic: Nurse practitioners and the evolution of modern healthcare*. Rutgers University Press.

Judd, D., Sitzman, K., & Davis, G.M. (2010). *A History of American Nursing: Trends and Eras*. Jones and Bartlett.

Sullivan-Marx, E., McGivern, D., Fairman, J., & Greenberg, S. (Eds.) (2010). *Nurse Practitioners: The Evolution and Future of Advanced Practice*. Springer.

Patient Care Outcomes

Mundinger, M. O., Kane, R. L., Lenz, E. R., Totten, A. M., Tsai, W.-Y., Cleary, P. D., Friedewald, W. T., Siu, A. L., & Shelanski, M. L. (2000). Primary care outcomes in patients treated by nurse practitioners or physicians. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 283(1), 59–68. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.283.1.59>

Newhouse, R. P., Stanik-Hutt, J., White, K. M., Johantgen, M., Bass, E. B., Zangaro, G., Wilson, R. F., Fountain, L., Steinwachs, D. M., Heindel, L., & Weiner, J. P. (2011). Advanced practice nurse outcomes 1990–2008: A systematic review. *Nursing Economics*, 29(5), 230–250.

Legal Aspects of the NP Role

Publications

Safriet, B. (1992). Healthcare dollars and regulatory sense: the role of advanced practice nursing. *Yale Journal of Regulation*, 9(2); 417 – 488.

O’Neil, E. (1984). A gavel falls for nursing: Sermchief V. Gonzales. *Nurs Econ*, 2(2):102-4.

Videos

The fight for prescriptive authority in New Jersey:

Torre, C. & Curry, K. Battles Hard Fought. (2019). Bjoring History Center, University of Virginia School of Nursing. <https://history.nursing.virginia.edu/collections-cnhi/archives/individuals/by-subject/nurse-practitioners/>

The fight to advance practice authority in Florida:

Curry, K. & Torre, C. Battles Ongoing (2021). Bjoring History Center, University of Virginia School of Nursing. <https://history.nursing.virginia.edu/collections-cnhi/archives/individuals/by-subject/nurse-practitioners/>

The early history of NPs in New York State:

Koslap-Petraco, M. & DeSimone, E. (2025). The New York State History of Nurse Practitioners: The first ten years. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cROCIRHBA0>

Interview with Dr. Loretta Ford: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1056565931585450>

Nurse Practitioner Education

Pulcini, J. & Wagner, M. (2002). Nurse practitioner education in the United States: A success story. *Clinical Excellence for Nurse Practitioners*, Vol. 6. <https://storage.aanp.org/www/documents/pulciniarticle0305.pdf>

Munding, M. & Carter, M. (2019). Potential crisis in nurse practitioner preparation in the United States. *Policy Politics and Nursing Practice*, 20(2), 57-63.

Federal Workforce and Health Policy Reports

The Health Resources and Services Administration publishes reports on the healthcare workforce and training programs. Reports include workforce projections and analyses relevant to nurse practitioners and primary care access.

National Center for Health Workforce Analysis reports
<https://bhw.hrsa.gov/data-research/review-health-workforce-research>

Historical Archives

The National Library of Medicine maintains extensive historical collections relevant to healthcare professions. Collections include historical publications, reports, and archival materials related to health workforce development.
<https://collections.nlm.nih.gov>

Nursing History Centers

Bates Center at the University of Pennsylvania <https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/history/>

Bjoring Center at the University of Virginia <https://history.nursing.virginia.edu/>

Resources from AANP

AANP NP Infographic: https://storage.aanp.org/www/documents/NP_Infographic.pdf

AANP History Timeline: <https://www.aanp.org/about/about-the-american-association-of-nurse-practitioners-aanp/historical-timeline>

Berg, Judith (2020). The perils of not knowing the history of the nurse practitioner role. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 32(9).<https://doi.org/10.1097/JXX.0000000000000441>

Research Tip

When writing about the nurse practitioner profession, consider combining historical sources, clinical outcome studies, and workforce reports to build a strong foundation for your work.

Compiled by the AANP History Committee, April 2026.