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American Academy of Nursing Releases Policy Brief on Increasing Capacity of Public Health Nursing to Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure

*Academy Calls for Enlistment of Public Health Nurses as Leaders
in Population-Focused Health Improvement*

Washington, D.C. (December 13, 2017) — The American Academy of Nursing released a policy brief recommending that actions be taken to increase the capacity of public health nursing in order to strengthen the public health infrastructure as the nation faces several threats to the health of communities and populations.

Despite a century of public health advances, the US health system faces challenges that include an aging population increasingly burdened by chronic illness, declining life expectancy, and inferior health system performance. Challenges specific to public health infrastructure include increasing health care costs, limited resources, and a declining public health workforce.

The Academy's policy brief, "Increasing the capacity of public health nursing to strengthen the public health infrastructure and to promote and protect the health of communities and populations," was published in the Academy's journal, *Nursing Outlook*.

"The Academy supports the call to enlist public health nurses as leaders in population-focused health improvement as the key to a healthier future," said Academy President Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN. "We urge key stakeholders, including Congress, to take actions that improve the capacity of the public health workforce."

The Academy endorses two recent National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) reports: "Public health nursing: Key to our nation's health" and "Preparing nurses for new roles in population health management." Most importantly, the Academy supports these reports' call for increased training and education for nurses in the area of public health and population health management, under Title VIII of the Public Health Services Act.

Read the Academy's full policy brief: [http://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554\(17\)30408-6/fulltext](http://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554(17)30408-6/fulltext)

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