

Baccalaureate-Prepared Nurses are Essential to Quality Health Care

AACN Supports Nurses in Their Pursuit of Higher Education

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is the national voice for academic nursing representing more than 875 schools throughout the country.

AACN member schools educate more than 540,000 students and employ more than 53,500 faculty.

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The Impact of Nursing Education on Patient Outcomes

Higher levels of nursing education are linked to lower mortality rates and better patient outcomes. Nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree have demonstrated abilities that benefit patients and healthcare providers. BSN education focuses on knowledge development, critical thinking, leadership, case management, and health promotion.

Benefits of the BSN

24%

greater odds of surviving cardiac arrest

An increase in BSN-prepared nurses was associated with 24% greater odds of survival among patients who experienced in-hospital cardiac arrest.¹

24.6%

lower odds of mortality

Hospitals staffed with 80% BSN-prepared nurses compared to hospitals staffed with only 30% BSN-prepared nurses had 24.6% lower odds of inpatient mortality.²

10%

lower odds of death in patients with ADRD

A 10% increase in BSN-prepared nurses was associated with 10% lower odds of death in patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD).³

8%

decrease in length of stay

Hospitals that increased their proportion of BSN-prepared nurses over time had a decrease in length of stay from 5.1 days to 4.7 days (7.8% decrease).⁴

HAVING HIGHER RATES OF BSN-PREPARED NURSES IN HOSPITALS IS ASSOCIATED WITH

LOWER RATES OF HEART FAILURE, DECUBITUS ULCERS, FAILURE TO RESCUE, MEDICATION ERRORS, & PROCEDURAL ERRORS

To review additional research, see
[AACN's Fact Sheet on the Impact of Education on Nursing Practice.](#)

1. AACN's Fact Sheet on the Impact of Education on Nursing Practice, Retrieved from: <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Fact-Sheets/Education-Impact-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
2. Porat-Dahlerbruch, J., Aiken, L. H., Lasater, K. B., Sloane, D. M., & McHugh, M. D. (2022, March). Variations in nursing baccalaureate education and 30-day inpatient surgical mortality. *Nursing Outlook*, 70(2), 300-308. Retrieved from: [https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554\(21\)00232-3/abstract](https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554(21)00232-3/abstract)
3. White, E. M., Smith, J. G., Trotta, R. L., & McHugh, M. D., (2018). Lower post surgical mortality for individuals with dementia with better-educated hospital workforce. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 66(6), 1137-1143. Retrieved from: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29558568/>
4. Lasater, K. B., Sloane, D. M., McHugh, M. D., Porat-Dahlerbruch, J., & Aiken, L. H. (2021). Changes in proportion of bachelor's nurses associated with improvements in patients outcomes. *Research in Nursing & Health*, 44(5), 787-795. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8440404/>