The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recognizes that higher levels of education significantly improve 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.

- **25% 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.

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

- **32% decrease in surgical mortality cases**
  
  A cross-sectional study showed that hospitals that increased their proportion of BSN-prepared nurses over time had a 32% decrease in surgical mortality cases.

- **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).

To review the research highlighted in this piece, see AACN’s Fact Sheet on the Impact of Education on Nursing Practice.