



# 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 **865 member schools** throughout the country.



AACN member schools educate more than **530,000 students** and employ more than **54,000 faculty**.

## CONTACT


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## The Impact of Nursing Education on Patient Outcomes

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).

**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 the research highlighted in this piece, see [AACN's Fact Sheet on the Impact of Education on Nursing Practice](#).