

# 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 member schools throughout the country.

AACN member schools educate more than 520,000 students and employ more than 57,000 faculty.

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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).<sup>3</sup>

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).<sup>4</sup>

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.](#)

## CONTACT

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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/>