

Presenter: Reyna Magtanong

Session & Time: Poster I

Room/Time: GLH / 1:00-2:00

Discipline: Nursing

Faculty Mentor: Michaela George

Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: The Impact of Mandated Nurse-to-Patient Ratios on Patient Outcomes and Satisfaction in Hospitalized Adults

Abstract:

Nurse staffing levels are widely recognized as an important determinant of patient safety and quality of care in hospital settings. Differences in state-level staffing policies provide an opportunity to evaluate whether mandated nurse-to-patient ratios influence patient outcomes and satisfaction. The purpose of this study is to examine whether states with mandated nurse-to-patient ratios demonstrate improved patient outcomes and patient satisfaction among hospitalized adults compared with states without mandated ratios. This study uses an ecologic comparative analysis of publicly reported hospital outcome and patient experience data from hospitals in states with mandated nurse-to-patient ratios and states without mandated ratios. Key outcome measures include patient mortality, adverse safety events, and patient satisfaction scores. Data was obtained from publicly available hospital quality and patient experience reporting

systems. Hospital data were organized by state and were then grouped according to whether they were located in states with mandated nurse-to-patient ratios or states without such mandates. The patient outcome and satisfaction were then compared and analyzed to evaluate the differences between the two groups. Initial findings are expected to demonstrate that hospitals located in states with mandated nurse-to-patient ratios show improved patient outcomes compared with hospitals in states without mandated ratios. Specifically, lower mortality rates, shorter lengths of stay, and reduced rates of adverse safety events are anticipated in states with mandated staffing policies. In addition, patient satisfaction scores are expected to be higher in hospitals operating under mandated nurse staffing ratios. These findings suggest that mandated nurse-to-patient ratios may contribute to improved patient safety and patient experiences in hospital settings. By increasing the availability of nurses and reducing workload demands, mandated staffing policies may enhance patient monitoring, timely intervention, and communication with patients. The results of this study may help guide healthcare policy and future discussions about safe nurse staffing laws aimed at improving patient outcomes and satisfaction in hospitals.