



Progress on the Institute of Medicine Recommendations: Perspectives on the Evidence

NURSING EDUCATION

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### **Four Key Research Areas**





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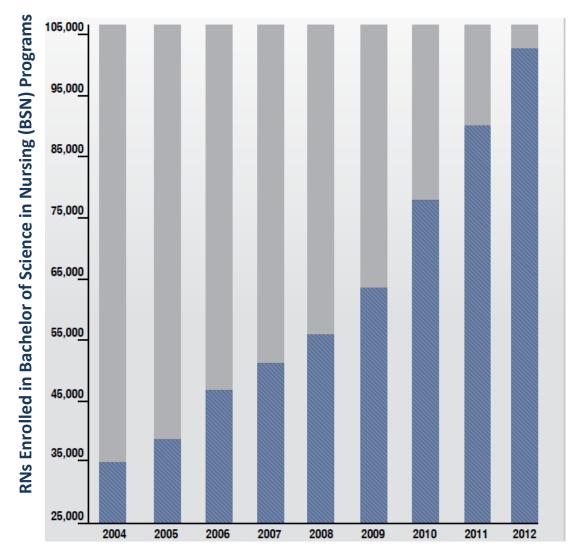


**50 percent:** In 2010, **half** of the nation's 3 million nurses held a baccalaureate or higher degree.

**80 percent:** The *Future of Nursing* report that year recommended that this proportion be increased, suggesting **80 percent** of nurses hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree by 2020.

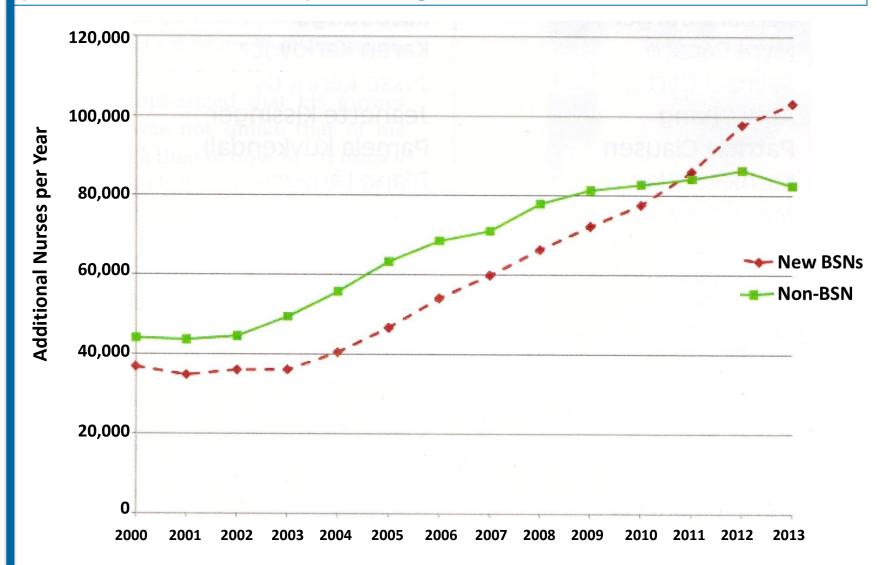
- Nurses have returned to school in large numbers to get BSNs
- The proportion of nurses nationally holding at least a bachelor's degree is at an all-time high
- Hospitals have substantially increased their employment of those with BSNs
- More research has been published to confirm earlier studies showing that more BSN care is associated with better patient outcomes

## More RNs are Returning to School to Get BSNs



Source: American Association of Colleges of Nursing

### Non-BSNs Versus Adjusted "New BSNs" (Generic + RN to BSNs) Entering Workforce



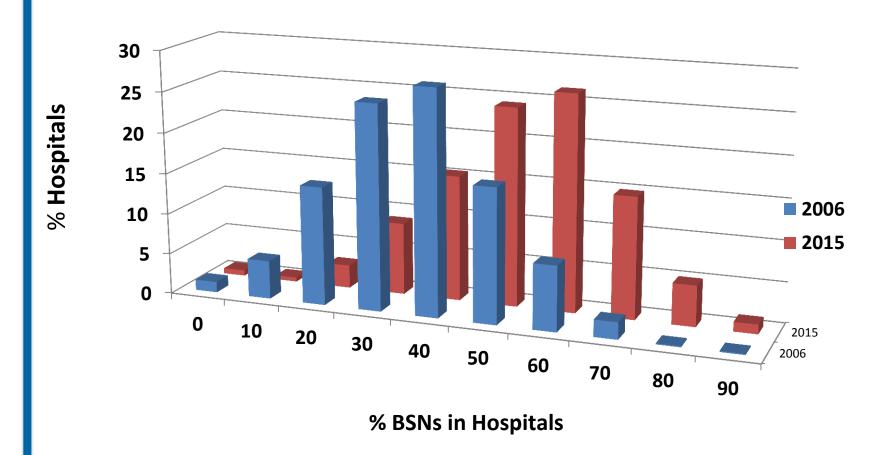
Source: P. McMenamin, ANA, 2015

#### **Increasing the Number of BSNs**

• 61% of RNs have at least a bachelor's degree (Budden et al., 2013, *J Nurs Reg*, from NCSBN survey)

- 111,634 BSN graduates in 2014—highest ever
  - Higher for the first time than number of nurses without BSNs entering workforce
  - 68,857 were entry-level BSNs (62%)
  - 47,777 were BSN-completion RNs (38%)
- Enrollments in RN-to-BSN programs increased by 10% in 2013-14, marking 12<sup>th</sup> year of increases

## **Moving Toward 80% BSNs Hospital Workforce**



Source: Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, University of Pennsylvania

# Hospitals with higher proportion of BSNs have better patient outcomes:

- Lower mortality and failure to rescue (Aiken et al., 2011, *Medical Care;* Aiken et al., 2014, *Lancet*; Cho et al., 2014, *Int J Nurs Studies*)
- Lower rate of readmissions (Yakusheva et al., 2014, Medical Care)
- Fewer incidents of pressure ulcers, post-op deep vein thrombosis, and pulmonary embolisms (Blegen et al., 2013, JONA)
- **Higher patient satisfaction** (You et al., 2013, *Int J Nurs Studies*)

#### **Key Research Findings: Causality**



- Hospitals that increase proportion of BSNs experience greater quality of care improvements compared with hospitals not increasing BSNs (large panel study; Kutney-Lee et al., 2013, Health Affairs)
- International replications suggest "universality" of association of BSNs and better patient outcomes: U.S., Canada, Belgium, nine European countries, South Korea, China

**Key Findings: Value** 



#### More hours of care by those with BSNs means:

- Reduced readmissions
- Reduced length of stay

This suggests a business case for 80% BSN target (Yakusheva et al., 2014, *Medical Care*)

### Maintaining Momentum Toward a BSN Workforce



- Research continues to confirm better patient outcomes associated with BSN workforce
- Evident progress toward the goal of 80% BSNs
- Inefficiencies remain in rate of increase in BSNs— more than half of RNs still enter workforce without BSN
  - Substantial increase in generic BSN graduations needed; highly qualified applicants being turned away
  - Second degree programs may hold growth potential:
     11,000+ grads in 2014 in 293 programs (AACN)
  - Highest priority is to ensure that all nursing students receive a BSN before completion of initial education

#### Policy Agenda Suggested by Evidence



- "The Market" (preferential hiring influenced by research) rather than designed public policies explains the increase in BSNs
- Large numbers of nurses (over 70,000) enter the RN workforce each year without the minimum preferred education—the BSN
- Obtaining the BSN post-graduation is expensive to individual nurses, their employers, and the public
- Billions of federal dollars annually support associate degree nursing programs via U.S. Department of Education, contrary to evidence that a BSN workforce is in the public interest
- Modernizing and retargeting public funding to ensure that every student beginning nursing education completes with a BSN is essential for achieving the IOM target of 80% BSNs in the near future

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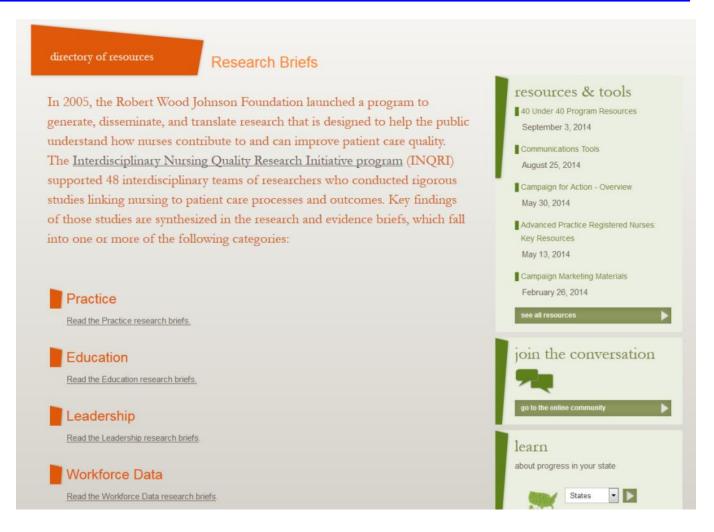
Press \*1 on your telephone keypad to ask a question OR
Use the "chat" feature to send "everyone" a question

You can find the webinar recording and a summary and additional resources at <a href="mailto:CampaignforAction.org/webinars">CampaignforAction.org/webinars</a>

#### Resources



#### http://campaignforaction.org/directory-resources/research-briefs



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2016	Topic	Research Manager
February 23	Scope of Practice	Joanne Spetz
3 to 4 p.m. ET		
March 22	Nursing Education	Linda Aiken
3 to 4 p.m. ET		
April 25	Partners in Redesigning Health Care	Olga Yakusheva
3 to 4 p.m. ET		
May 23	Workforce Planning	Erin Fraher
3 to 4 p.m. ET		

Save the dates!