

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF NURSES IN PATIENT SAFETY: FROM EVIDENCE TO POLICY WITH RN4CAST

The Registered Nurse Forecasting research platform was established in 2009 and gathers data from thousands of nurses and patients across whole Europe to illustrate the important role of nurses in providing safe patient care. A series of published and upcoming articles that exploit these unique data is presented.

Principle findings include the relationship between nurse staffing and quality of the work environment and patient experiences with care, and the relationship between nurse staffing and nurse education levels and patient mortality. In addition, findings published only last week on the link between nursing personnel skill mix and patient mortality are presented, as well as unpublished findings on the role of necessary nursing care that is left undone and its relationship to patient mortality. Also included in the presentation are several advances that RN4CAST made in methodological aspects of nursing and health services research.

RN4CAST maintains extensive strategic partnerships with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, World Health Organization, OECD, International Labour Organization, International Hospital Federation, and European Health Management Association in translating its research findings to policy. Several countries (England, Ireland and Wales) initiated specific improvement initiatives or laws based on the RN4CAST findings. Wales implemented the Nurse Staffing Levels Act and NICE based its Safe Staffing Evidence reviews on our findings of nurse staffing and care left undone.