Table 1. Hospital and Nursing Unit Characteristics by Rural/Urban Status

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| Variable  Hospitals (n, %)  Nursing units (n, %) | Overall  625 hospitals  4,496 nursing units | Rural  65 (10.4%)  222 (4.9%) | Urban  560 (89.6%)  4,274 (95.1%) |
| **GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION** |  |  |  |
| Region, n (%) |  |  |  |
| Northeast | 143 (22.9) | 8 (12.3) | 135 (24.1) |
| Midwest | 182 (29.1) | 28 (43.1) | 154 (27.5) |
| South | 215 (34.4) | 26 (40.0) | 189 (33.8) |
| West | 85 (13.6) | 3 (4.6) | 82 (14.6) |
| **HOSPITAL CHARACTERISTICS** |  |  |  |
| Number of beds, n (%) |  |  |  |
| <100 | 117 (18.7) | 33 (50.8) | 84 (15.0) |
| 100-199 | 174 (27.8) | 23 (35.4) | 151 (27.0) |
| >=200 | 334 (53.4) | 9 (13.8) | 325 (58.0) |
| **NURSING UNIT CHARACTERISTICS** |  |  |  |
| Unit type, n (%) |  |  |  |
| Critical care | 1,693 (37.7) | 78 (35.1) | 1,615 (37.8) |
| Medical/surgical | 2,595 (57.7) | 130 (58.6) | 2,465 (57.7) |
| Rehabilitation | 208 (4.6) | 14 (6.3) | 194 (4.5) |
| Staffing |  |  |  |
| All nursing staff hours per patient-day, mean (SD) | 10.95 (3.88) | 11.54 (4.02) | 10.91 (3.87) |
| RN hours per patient-day, mean (SD) | 8.26 (4.24) | 8.32 (4.63) | 8.26 (4.22) |
| Education |  |  |  |
| Unit percentage of RNs with BSN and above, mean (SD) | 51.3 (20.0) | 32.4 (20.1) | 50.2 (19.9) |
| Experience |  |  |  |
| Unit percentage of RNs in practice < 2 years, mean (SD) | 21.9 (10.5) | 20.5 (13.9) | 22.0 (15.4) |
| Unit percentage of RNs in practice >10 years, mean (SD) | 40.6 (18.8) | 41.0 (18.5) | 40.5 (18.8) |
| Practice Environment a , mean (SD) |  |  |  |
| Nurse participation in hospital affairs | 2.81 (.28) | 2.81 (.28) | 2.78 (.25) |
| Nursing foundations for quality of care | 3.08 (.20) | 3.08 (.20) | 3.04 (.19) |
| Nurse manager ability, leadership, and  support of nurses | 2.92 (.34) | 2.93 (.34) | 2.85 (.33 |
| Nurse staffing and resource adequacy | 2.63 (.35) | 2.63 (.35) | 2.58 (.34) |
| Collegial nurse-physician relations | 2.94 (.25) | 2.95 (.25) | 2.86 (.27) |
| Composite score | 2.90 (.24) | 2.90 (.24) | 2.85 (.21) |
| **NURSE OUTCOMES** |  |  |  |
| Job satisfaction, mean (SD) | 3.72 (0.51) | 3.64 (0.51) | 3.72 (0.51) |
| Unit percentage of RNs who had intent to stay, mean (SD) | 76.1 (14.9) | 78.5 (15.6) | 76.0 (14.8) |
| **QUALITY INDICATOR** |  |  |  |
| Unit-level fall rates (per 1000 patient-days), mean (SD) | 3.24 (2.55) | 3.3 (2.44) | 3.24 (2.56) |

a For practice environment results N=2,265 with 2162 urban and 94 rural nursing units respectively. SD= standard deviations, RN= Registered Nurses, BSN= Bachelor of Nursing