

## **Improved safety culture and teamwork climate are associated with decreases in patient harm and hospital mortality across a hospital system.**

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Berry JC, Davis JT, Bartman T, et al. Improved Safety Culture and Teamwork Climate Are Associated With Decreases in Patient Harm and Hospital Mortality Across a Hospital System. *J Patient Saf.* 2020;16(2):130-136. doi:10.1097/pts.0000000000000251.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/improved-safety-culture-and-teamwork-climate-are-associated-decreases-patient-harm-and>

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A [culture of safety](#) is a fundamental component of patient safety. Several validated survey tools are available to measure hospital safety and teamwork climates, including the [AHRQ Surveys on Patient Safety Culture](#) and the [Safety Attitudes Questionnaire](#) (SAQ). Improvements in SAQ scores have been previously linked to reductions in specific safety outcomes, such as maternal and fetal adverse events in an [obstetric ward](#). This study explored SAQ results and outcomes across all inpatient and outpatient care units in a large academic health system. Beginning in 2009, Nationwide Children's Hospital in Ohio introduced a comprehensive patient safety and [high reliability](#) program that included numerous quality improvement activities and extensive training in error prevention for each of their approximately 10,000 employees. Over the course of 4 years, SAQ scores improved while all-hospital harm, serious safety events, and severity-adjusted hospital mortality all decreased significantly. A prior [WebM&M interview](#) with J. Bryan Sexton, the primary author of the SAQ instrument, discussed the relationship between culture and safety.