

Nurses' and patients' appraisals show patient safety in hospitals remains a concern.

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Factors in the hospital work environment can affect nurses' ability to provide safe care. In this survey study, investigators examined trends in [nurse](#) ratings of their work environment and [patient ratings](#) of care quality at 535 hospitals between 2005 and 2016. Over this time frame, about 20% of hospitals showed significant improvements in work environment scores, while 7% of hospitals demonstrated declining scores. There was an association between an improving work environment and better patient satisfaction. The authors conclude that lack of improvement in work environments may worsen [safety culture](#) and impede efforts to enhance [patient safety](#). A [PSNet interview](#) with Linda Aiken discussed how nurse staffing and the work environment can affect patient safety and outcomes.