

## Identifying the impact of practice environment on nurse burnout using conventional and multilevel regression models

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## Abstract (300 word limit)

This study aimed to identify the impact of unit-level nursing practice environments on dimensions of occupational burnout among Chinese nurses and to demonstrate the superiority of multilevel logistic regression models over conventional models in analyzing sample data. A proportionate stratified sampling method was applied in this crosssectional study that included 1,178 registered nurses (RNs) from nine clinical units of West China Hospital. Nurse-reported information was obtained using the Practice Environment Scale of the Nursing Work Index and the Maslach Burnout Inventory. RNs working in the emergency room and the psychiatric unit rated their practice environments as relatively inferior to others' practice environments. Approximately 40% of the respondents reported experiencing emotional exhaustion and depersonalization. The multivariate logistic regression models indicated that the unit-level dynamics of the practice environment significantly influenced the dimensions of nurse burnout. In addition, our results illustrated the advantage of multilevel modeling over the conventional modeling for handling hierarchical data in terms of the accuracy of the estimates and the goodness-of-fit of the model. These findings underscore the importance of measures aimed at enhancing nursing practice environments to prevent RNs from experiencing feelings of burnout and of considering multilevel analysis in future nursing research.

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