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A Survey of Foreign Educated Nurses: Workforce Experience

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Oral Presentation O7.1

A SURVEY OF FOREIGN EDUCATED NURSES: WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE

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It is well known that the United States (US) is currently undergoing a nursing shortage. It is less known, however, that the nursing shortage is actually a global problem. Many health care agencies in the US and around the world are turning to nurses educated in other countries to fill vacant positions. Despite the increased utilization of foreign-educated nurses, there is a lack of understanding of how these nurses transition into the US workforce. This study will describe foreign-educated nurses who work in Illinois and describe the factors that affected their transition into the US professional nursing workforce. By focusing on nurses that were educated abroad and work in Illinois, the results of this study will bring the results to regional level that will help Illinois educated nurses and Illinois nursing employers to better understand the transition process foreign educated nurses undergo. An original questionnaire, entitled "A Survey of Workforce Experiences of Foreign-educated Registered Nurses," was adapted from two related studies to evaluate the demographics and work experiences of these nurses. Approximately 50 nurses educated outside the US were recruited to fill out the questionnaire through two agencies. The data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics and the results and implications of this study will be presented.