



DATA, DETAIL, & DECISIONS

Setting Admissions Standards for Nursing Programs

To address a policy question on admission standards, we visited more than 10 nursing programs and captured information on student performance in the nursing program (including licensure), high school grades and the results of other admissions testing and interviews. A rigorous and sophisticated analysis demonstrated that an "open admission policy" would have disastrous consequences for the cost and attrition in these programs, while doing little to improve total production of new graduates. As an alternative, we identified the impact of various grade standards and how they would affect the yield of qualified graduates from nursing programs.

Societal Cost of Motor Vehicle Accident Injuries

The study sponsored by a provincial government provided anonymous information on accident victims from records of the Ministry of Transportation. This information was joined with Ministry of Health records describing their treatment. Using this anonymous data, we were able to identify the direct costs of medical treatment and infer days of absence from work. Based on other research studies, we could also infer lost time for working family members. All together, we were able to make reasonable estimates of the societal cost of motor vehicle accident injuries at several distinct levels of severity.