Registered Nurse

2021 Ohio Workforce Data Summary Report

Ohio Board of Nursing
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Introduction

The mission of the Ohio Board of Nursing is to actively safeguard the health of the public through the effective regulation of nursing care. The Board’s top priorities are to efficiently license the nursing workforce and remove dangerous practitioners from practice in a timely manner to protect Ohio patients. The Board regulates more than 300,000 licenses and certificates, an increase from 223,000 in 2009.

Background

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health,” identifies data collection as a vital component for health care planning and policymaking. The Board is pleased that this data is used for health care planning and to grow Ohio’s health care workforce.

Data Collection and Reporting

The data questions are based on the nursing Minimum Data Set (Colleagues in Caring Project), core data questions developed by the HRSA National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, and the joint surveys conducted by the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). This report provides a general summary of the RN data collected by the Board during the 2021 RN renewal period. Because APRNs must be licensed as RNs, this report includes data reported by those RNs who are also certified as APRNs. There is a separate summary report that provides the same data for APRNs only.

- RN workforce data was collected from July 1 through October 31, 2021.
- 212,645 RNs completed the workforce questions and have an active license.

The Board is pleased to provide this report and make the raw data available to all interested parties to assist with the workforce planning initiatives of government and private industry.
Demographic Information

Age distribution of Active RNs

- 71% (150,377) of RNs with an active license are between the ages of 20 and 55 years old.
  - 137,761 are working in a position that requires a nursing license
- 19% (60,147) of RNs with an active license are over the age of 55.
  - 46,167 are working in a position that requires a nursing license.
Race and Ethnicity

- 88% reported their Race or Ethnicity as white or Caucasian. The next highest reported percentage was 7% who reported their Race or Ethnicity as Black or African American.

Gender

- 90% (192,159) of respondents reported their gender as female. 10% (20,486) of respondents reported their gender as male.
Military Service

- 22,326 (11%) of responses reported an association with U.S. Armed Forces.  
  - 3186 (14%) of this group are either veterans or the spouse of a veteran.

Board Service

- Fewer than 1% (1673) indicated that they serve on a board that influences health care policy.
Nursing Education

Initial Nursing Degree

- Associates degree in nursing – 40% (85,360)
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing – 38% (81,606)
- Diploma program in nursing – 11% (24,346)
- Masters in nursing degree – 2% (5,023)
- Practical nursing education program – 8% (16,050)

Other (<1%) – 265
Highest Earned Degree

- 60% (129,191) of all respondents hold a Baccalaureate or higher degree in Nursing.
- Of those with a degree in Nursing:
  - 71% (91,554) of respondents hold a Baccalaureate degree in Nursing.
  - 27% (34,438) of respondents hold a Master’s degree in Nursing.
  - 2.5% (3209) of respondents hold a PhD, DNP, or other Doctoral degree in Nursing.
- 8% (7,510) of respondents reported their highest level of education was an earned non-nursing Masters or Doctoral degree.
Plans to get a BSN

Those who responded to the question about plans to Obtain a BSN (79,379) reported:

- 10% (8114) are currently enrolled in a BSN program.
- 23% (18,527) plan to obtain their BSN at some point in the next 10 years.
- 58% (46,130) have no plans to obtain a BSN.
Reasons for Not Obtaining a BSN?

- **Age or Stage in Career** – 14% (11,403)
- **Cost/ No tuition assistance** – 7% (5,284)
- **Satisfied with current level of practice** – 12% (9366)
- **Personal or work schedules** – 5% (4108)
- **Planning to leave nursing, retired, not currently working in nursing** – 15% (11,996)
- **Out of school too long, too difficult to go back to school** – 5% (3792)
- **Other, no accessible program** – 7% (5,665)
Nursing Employment

Employment & Licensure Breakdown

- 180,929 (85%) are employed in a position where a nursing license is required.

Nursing Employment Type

- 81% of respondents work full time, 13% work part time, 6% work on a per diem basis
Concurrent Paid Nursing Positions

- 90% of respondents work in one position, 9% work in two positions and 1% work in three or more positions.

Hours Worked Per Week

- 68% of respondents work 31-40 hours per week, 12% work 41-50 hours per week, 4% work more than 50 hours per week.

Weeks Worked Per Year

- 68% of respondents report they worked 50-52 weeks last year, 15% worked 43-49 weeks last year, 17% reported working less than 43 weeks last year.
Employment Changes in the Last Year

- 16% of respondents indicated they had changed employers in the past year.

Nurses Reporting Unemployment

- Of the 10,656 RNs who are unemployed, 46% (4,866) are seeking employment in Nursing.
Reasons for Unemployment

- Primary reasons reported for unemployment
  - Home and family care obligations – 58% (6194)
  - Attending school – 9% (966)
  - Difficulty finding a position – 7% (726)
  - Not interested in a Nursing position – 7% (710)

Total: 10,656
Of the 180,929 respondents that reported they work in nursing, 56% (100,566) work in a hospital setting.
Of the 180,929 respondents who reported working in nursing, 48% (86,599) work as direct patient care staff.

Those selecting Advanced Practice Registered Nursing as their primary position were:
- Certified Nurse Midwife: >1% (349)
- Certified Nurse Practitioner: 9% (15,325)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist: >1% (537)
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists: 2% (3108)