

2007 Indiana RN survey report now available online

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The registered nurse re-licensure survey is implemented through a collaboration of the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA). This report summarizes the responses to the 2007 Indiana registered nurse re-licensure survey and compares them to the results of the prior registered nurse re-licensure surveys reported in the *Indiana Registered Nurse Survey Databook, 1997 and 2001* and the *2005 Indiana Registered Nurse Re-Licensure Survey Report*.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an in-depth examination of the registered nurse (RN) resources in Indiana so that state agencies and other interested parties have current data to facilitate decision-making. It is the goal of the report to provide accurate, timely and relevant data for legislators, medical educators, nurses, community leaders, and health care executives and planners in their discussion of the health care needs of the citizens of the state of Indiana.

Methods

Survey items included demographic characteristics of registered nurses, their current work status, positions, activities they perform in their principal positions and work settings, principal location of their work sites, level of educational achievement and their plans to obtain higher degrees in the future. A total of 81,526 registered nurses renewed their Indiana licenses in 2007. The total response rate for the registered nurse re-licensure survey was 81.6%.

Results: All Nurses

The percent of registered nurses who reported being active showed an increasing trend from 77.4% (in 1997) to 84.4% (in 2007). There has also been an increasing trend from 80.4% (in 1997) to 86.4% in 2007. Almost one-half (48.7%) of the nurses who responded to the 2007 survey were under 45 years of age. About one-third (32.2%) were in the 45-54 age group and less than one-fifth (19.0%) were in the 55 or older age group. The question on gender, race and ethnicity was not asked in 2007. Over one-tenth of the respondents (13.7%) indicated having more than one paid position as a registered nurse. The number of respondents who worked 40 or more hours declined from 51.4% in 2001 to 45.8% in 2007. Over one-third of the respondents (36.8%) had been licensed to practice in Indiana for less than ten years; over one-half (54.5%) for less than fifteen years; and, about one-third (32.5%) had been licensed in Indiana for more than twenty years. When asked about the age of patients the respondents most frequently served, most were serving adults (75.1%) and the elderly (62.8%) population. Only 9.4% percent of respondents reported they were actively practicing with a nursing diploma and 45.1% of respondents had a bachelor's or master's degree. A majority of the respondents (64.9%) worked

in a hospital setting; only 14.8% reported working in a clinic or office setting. Only 6.3% reported working in long-term care facilities and 5.9% were working in home care/hospice settings. Two-thirds (64.0%) indicated that their principal job was “direct patient care.” Other tasks included “patient education/counseling” (28.9%), critical care nursing (18.5%), medication management (17.9%), discharge planning (14.5%), staff supervision or management (14.1%), case management or care coordination (13.7%), continuing education or staff development (11.9%), consulting with other professionals or agencies (10.9%), surgical nursing (10.8%), infection control (10.4%), and administration (10.0%). The most common prior work experience reported was that of a “nursing assistant” followed by “certified nurse aide” and “licensed practical nurse.” Almost one-half (49.4%) reported prior work experience in one or more of these health care professions.

Results: Nursing Faculty

Over three-fourths of the nursing faculty (76.3%) were 45 years of age or older. Less than onetenth of the respondents (5.3%) were under 35 years of age. Three-fourths of the nursing faculty (73.0%) indicated having a masters’ degree or doctorate. Over one-half of the faculty respondents (57.1%) indicated they had twenty or more years of registered nurse licensure.

Results: Advanced Practice Nurses (APN)

Among the APN respondents, *nurse practitioners* were more often younger (less than 35); *certified nurse midwives* were more likely to be in the middle age group (35-54); and, *clinical nurse specialists* were more likely to be in the older age group (55 and older). A master’s degree or doctorate was more often held by *nurse practitioners* (91.6%) compared to the other groups. A bachelor’s degree was more often held by *clinical nurse specialists* (19.5%) compared to other groups. A diploma (7.4%), an associate (27.8%), and a bachelor’s degree (19.5%) were more often held by the *clinical nurse specialists* compared to the other groups. Almost all APNs worked in patient care, with 60.8% being in “non-hospital patient care” and 30.2% in “hospital patient care” setting. When asked about their nursing activities, *certified nurse midwives* were more likely to be involved in “direct patient care” (72.5%) and “women’s health related” (84.1%) activities; *nurse practitioners* were more likely to be involved in “patient education and counseling” (47.8%) and “medication management” (32.1%) activities; and, the *clinical nurse specialists* were more likely to be involved in “consulting with other agencies/professionals” (24.0%) and “other” (36.2%) activities. Lastly, *clinical nurse specialists* were more likely to have **over** ten years (80.1%), fifteen years (63.0%) and twenty years (49.8%) of licensure followed closely by *nurse practitioners*. *Certified nurse midwives* were more likely to have **less** than ten years (36.2%), fifteen years (49.2%) and twenty years (65.1%) of registered nurse licensure.

Results: Location of Registered Nurses in Indiana

The number of *registered nurses* was highly distributed in Marion followed by Allen and Lake Counties. The number of *nurse practitioners* was noted to be highly distributed in Marion followed by Allen and LaPorte counties. And there was a zero distribution of *nurse practitioners* in Blackford, Fountain, Franklin, Jefferson, Posey, Tipton, Union, and Warren counties. There was a high distribution of the number of *psychiatric nurses* in Marion followed by Allen, LaPorte, St. Joseph and Vanderburgh counties. And there was a zero distribution of *psychiatric*

nurses in almost one-half of the state.

Results: Time Trends in the Registered Nurse Workforce

There was a trend showing that the total number of registered nurses actively practicing in Indiana increased from 43,507 in 1997 to 59,477 in 2007. In addition, the number of registered nurses active in Indiana has almost doubled in the 55 and older age group and among those 30 years or younger. The number of registered nurses in the 31-54 year age group also showed an increase in 2007. The number of nurses with a master's degree or doctorate has almost doubled since 1997, from 2,234 to 4,545 in 2007. Also, there has been a steady increase noted among those with an associate's degree from 18,245 (in 1997) to 24,903 (in 2007) and a bachelor's degree from 17,597 (in 1997) to 20,667 (in 2007). The largest *group* of nurses reported working 40 or more hours per week (26,654), but those reporting 30-39 hours per week had a larger *growth*, from 14,876 (in 2001) to 19,373 (in 2007). In the past decade, the number of APNs has almost doubled from 1,172 (in 1997) to 2,618 (in 2007), with the maximum growth seen among *nurse practitioners* from 1,008 (in 1997) to 1,901 (in 2007).

Conclusions

There has been an increase in the number of licensed nurses actively practicing in Indiana. Over one-half of the respondents were 45 years or older. There was an increase in the percentage of respondents who worked 30 to 39 hours per week as well as an increase in the percentage of respondents with a bachelor's and master's degree. An increase was also noted among respondents desiring a higher nursing degree than what they currently held. Those serving the adults and the elderly age groups also showed an increase. A majority of the respondents worked in a hospital setting. A decline was noted among those working in "long-term care" and the "home care/hospice" settings. There was an increase noted among those who indicated their principal position was in "direct patient care" and "advanced practice nursing." The most commonly performed activities were "direct patient care" and "patient education/counseling." The most common prior work experience noted was that of a "nursing assistant."