



Summary of 2016 PHN Survey

At the ISDH PHN Conference in April 2016, the PHN Chapter of the Indiana State Nurses Association distributed a paper survey to attendees to garner information about Indiana’s Public Health Nurses working in local health departments. 87 district specific responses were obtained. Those without district identified were not included. Questions included:

- district location of health department
- primary responsibilities
- educational level
- salary range
- number of years of service at the health department
- number of years of experiences as a nurse
- number of years until anticipated retirement
- qualitative information regarding achievements and challenges in PHN nursing

Responses by District:

District 1	5
District 2	6
District 3	11
District 4	5
District 5	13

District 6	13
District 7	1
District 8	13
District 9	7
District 10	13

Responsibilities receiving high results include:

- Vaccine administration (100%)
- Communicable disease investigations (71%)
- Community health education (73)

- Case management (62)
- Work 2%2with nursing students (55%)
- Lead surveillance (49%)

We know PHN’s do much more!

Education levels: percent of District cluster (percent of State responses)

District cluster	ASN	BSN	MSN/MPH	LPN	other	Total cluster
District 1,2,3	59% (12%)	18%(4%)	0	12% (2%)	12% (2%)	17
District 4,5,6,7	32% (13%)	49% (20%)	3% (1%)	11% (5%)	3% (1%)	35
District 8,9,10	42% (16%)	39% (15%)	9% (4%)	3% (1%)	6% (2%)	33

N=85

Education levels identified that the BSN prepared nurse held the most positions across the state. 49% of Districts 4,5,6,7 held BSN degrees We congratulate the approximate 7 nurses working on advancing their degrees!

Our nurses represent a tremendous amount of experience, both working in the LHD as well as overall experience. 54% of our PHNs reported 21+ years of experience in nursing.

Years of experience: percent of District cluster (percent of State responses)

District cluster	LHD 1-3 years	4-9 years	10-19 years	20+
District 1,2,3	47% (9%)	47% (9%)	6%(1%)	0
District 4,5,6,7	29% (12%)	29% (12%)	26% (11%)	11% (5%)
District 8,9,10	42% (16%)	58% (22%)	33% (13%)	9% (11%)

Experience in LHD
1-3 years in LHD 37%
4-9 years in LHD 30%
10-19 years in LHD 28%
20+ years in LHD 8%

Anticipated retirement: This experience also reflects the age of our nurses. 31% plan to retire within the next 5 years. An additional 16% plan to retire within 10 years. This represents a 47% loss of knowledge among our PHN's.

Continuing education: This is important to Indiana's PHN's. 60% attend 1-3 educational opportunities annually. Most nurses prefer face to face presentations and most counties pay their nurses expenses to attend these conferences.

Attendance at ISNA annual meeting and IPHA annual meeting: 16% attend the ISNA meeting and 15% attend the IPHA meeting. Reasons cited for non attendance cited lack of finances and/or time constraints.

Nurses shared their insights regarding challenges and achievements in their position.

CHALLENGES	ACHIEVEMENTS
Reimbursement	Knowledge
Under paid	Prevention
Budget cuts	Travel
Insurance	Grants
Shortages	Multi-tasking
Silos	HPV
Time	collaboration
CDI	Advancement
Outbreaks	Access
Staffing	Practice
Lead	Immunization
Anti-vaxxers	clinics
No shows	UTD