TRENDS IN PROFESSIONAL SUPPLY

STATE TOTAL
In 2004 there were 77,655 licensed, active, in-state registered nurses in North Carolina. The RN workforce is predominantly female (93%).

There was a 1.7% increase in the RN workforce (+1,321) between 2003 and 2004. In 2004, 58 counties expanded their RN supply, 3 counties had no change in supply (Currituck, Swain, and Rockingham) and numbers declined in 39 counties. The largest percentage decrease was in Camden (-7, -28%) while the largest numeric loss was in Richmond (-28, -7.5%).

REGISTERED NURSES: DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS

SPECIALTY
RNs are distributed across a wide range of specialties with 10.6% in med/surgery and approximately 7% each in critical care, obstetrics/gynecology and geriatrics. Six percent work in perioperative care and 5% each in public or community health, and emergency care. For 24% of all RNs in North Carolina the specialty is unknown or unspecified.

RACE
- Caucasian 86%
- African American 9%
- Asian 2%
- Native American <1%
- Hispanic <1%
- Other <1%
- Unknown 0.5%

AGE
- <31 17%
- 31-40 27%
- 41-50 32%
- 51-60 20%
- 61-70 5%
- >70 <0.5%

The average age of registered nurses in North Carolina is 42 years.

EMPLOYMENT SETTING
RNs are most likely to be found in hospitals
- Hospital in-patient 47%
- Unknown 9%
- Hospital out-patient 8%
- Solo/group practice 7%
- Other 7%
- Long term care 6%
- Home Care/hospital 6%
- Public clinic/health dept 3%
- Mental health facility 2%
- School of nursing/medicine 2%
- Student health facility 1%
- Industry/mfg site <1%
- HMO/Ins company <1%
- Private duty <1%

**Registered Nurses per 10,000 Population**

In 2004 there were 90.7 registered nurses per 10,000 population in North Carolina. Nationally, the figure was 83.9 RNs per 10,000 U.S. population. The NC ratio per 10,000 population has been higher than the US ratio since 1990. Note that caution should be used in comparing these national figures to the state ratios because of differences in the data collection efforts of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**NC Metro/Non-Metro Counties**

In 2004 there were 99.9 RNs per 10,000 population in metropolitan counties and 70.9 RNs per 10,000 population in non-metropolitan counties.

**Registered Nurses per 10,000 Population by Persistent Health Professional Shortage Areas (PHPSAs), 1979-2004**

Persistent HPSAs are those designated as HPSAs by HRSA from 1993 through 1997, or in 6 of the last 7 releases of HPSA definitions.

The data for the N.C. Health Professions Data System are provided to the respective licensing boards by health professionals at the time of initial licensure or renewal. The data are tabulated by the Sheps Center but at all times remain the property of the boards. Funding for the HPDS comes from the NC Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC) and the UNC-Chapel Hill Office of the Provost (Health Affairs).