Advance Practice Registered Nurses Working in Vermont 2019

2019 BOARD OF NURSING RELICENSEURE SURVEY
Summary prepared by: University of Vermont AHEC Nursing Workforce, Research, and Development

Background
This summary provides supply information for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) working in Vermont in 2019.

Methods
During February to March 2019, APRNs in Vermont were required to answer survey questions as part of their relicensure application. The data were prepared for analyses by the Vermont Department of Health; this analysis was done by UVM AHEC. The number of APRNs who completed a relicensure survey in spring 2019 was 912 (response rate 99.9%); this report analyzed only APRNs who reported that they were currently working in the state of Vermont (n=746).

Demographics

Gender
Female (657) 88%
Male (84) 11%
Unreported (4) 0.5%
Other (1) 0.1%

Age
Average age 49 years
Mode 35 years
Range 27-84 years

Race/Ethnicity
White 94.1%
Hispanic 1.4%

Education (Highest degree in nursing)
Undergraduate nursing degree Diploma (1) 0.1%
ADN (7) 1%
BSN (10) 1%
Graduate degrees in MS (609) 82%
DNP (63) 8%
PhD (7) 1%
Other degrees with certification: (43) 6%
Missing: (6) 1%

Currently enrolled (31) 4.2%
Post-Master’s certificate (5) 0.6%
DNP program (19) 2.5%
Other (7) 0.9%
Missing (7) 0.9%
Master’s, MBA, PhD (0) 0%

Type of APRN (dual certification is possible)
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist 7.4% (n=55)
Certified Nurse Midwife 7.5% (n=56)
Clinical Nurse Specialist 4.2% (n=31)
Nurse Practitioner 82.2% (n=613)

Area of Credentials (dual credentials are possible)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych/mental Health</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult/Gerontology</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery: Full Scope</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>OB/Gyn: Women’s Health</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute/Emergency Care</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical/Surgical</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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Discussion of These Findings

According to the Vermont Department of Labor’s projections for 2018-2020\(^1\), nurse practitioners are ranked 9th on the list of the top 50 occupations and will see an annual growth rate of 2.7% (42 annual openings per year). This projection matches well with the increase in the supply of APRNs that have been seen over the last decade: 24% (129) more than 2017 and a 207% (319) increase since 2009. In terms of serving Vermont’s primary care population, the AHEC Vermont Primary Care Workforce Snapshots from 2008 and 2019 found the MD workforce shrink (-9%) and the APRNs, Certified Nurse Midwives and Physician Assistants working in primary care settings increased by 29%.

In comparison to previous years, this analysis found an increased number of APRNs in their late 30s and early 40s. There is also an indication that the DNP degree holders are younger. Although the average age has not changed, this may indicate younger APRNs are entering the workforce rather than postponing further education in the child-bearing years. In keeping with the Future of Nursing recommendations\(^2\), the entire Vermont nursing workforce has experienced slow but steady educational progression; now 52% are prepared at BS or higher, and doctoral degree holders have doubled in recent years.

One curious finding is the increase in per diem (22%, up from 9%) and traveling APRNs (28%, up from 3%) compared to 2017. There is also an indication that the DNP degree holders are younger. Although the average age has not changed, this may indicate younger APRNs are entering the workforce rather than postponing further education in the child-bearing years. In keeping with the Future of Nursing recommendations\(^3\), the entire Vermont nursing workforce has experienced slow but steady educational progression; now 52% are prepared at BS or higher, and doctoral degree holders have doubled in recent years.

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