



### **About the Annual Board of Nursing Survey and Program Evaluation Report**

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Board of Nursing (BON) collects information on an annual basis from all Illinois pre-licensure nursing education programs. Disclosure of this annual mandatory report is required to maintain BON pre-licensure nursing education program approval, which is required for a nursing student to be eligible to take the nursing license examination. Therefore, the response rate for this annual survey is 100%.

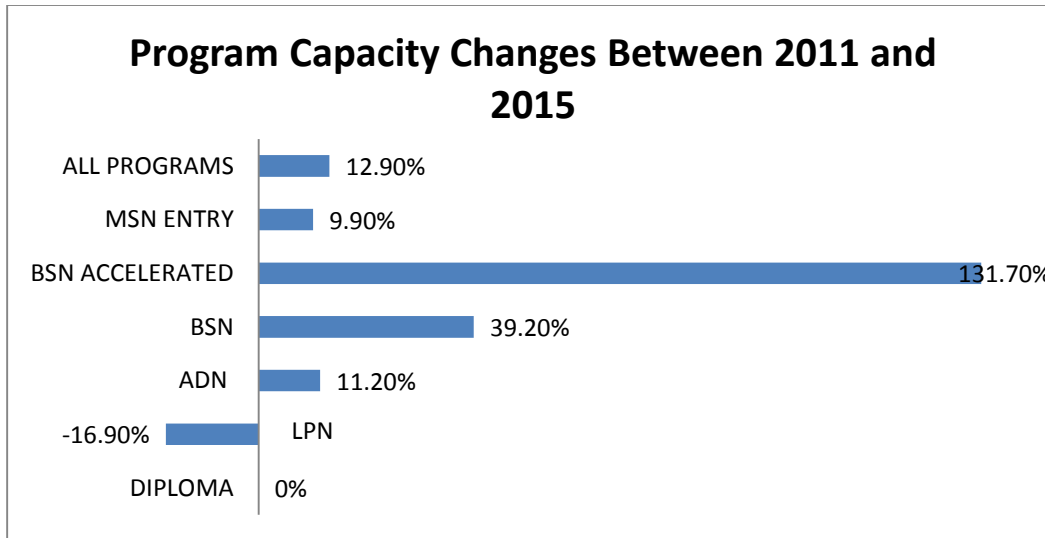
[The Rules for the Administration of the Illinois Nurse Practice Act, Sections 1300.230 \(LPN\) Approval of Programs, b\) Continued Program Approval and 1300.340 \(RN\) Approval of Programs, b\) Continued Program Approval](#) states: *“Nursing education programs shall submit annual evaluation reports to the Division on forms provided by the Division. These reports shall contain information regarding curriculum, faculty and students and other information deemed appropriate by the Division”*. Completion of this annual BON survey form is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined in 225 ILCS 65/5-1, et al. For a current copy of the IDFPR Nurse Practice Act, go to <http://www.idfpr.com/profs/nursing.asp>

The BON survey is conducted with the intent to capture data on the demographics of both nursing students and faculty; faculty education levels and employment status; and enrollment and graduation figures for pre-licensure nursing education programs. The data collected is based on fiscal year, with a fiscal year-end date of June 30. This retrospective survey includes definitions of terms, request for three years of faculty and student data, verification of school name, address, chief administrator and minor curriculum revisions. All surveys are required to be signed by the dean or director of the nursing education program prior to acceptance by the Illinois Board of Nursing. Surveys may be returned to IDFPR by United States mail or by e-mail. A comprehensive record of the questions contained in the annual survey is provided in Appendix A.

After review of other state board of nursing surveys and past Illinois Board of Nursing annual surveys, the survey process and its content was standardized, beginning in 2008. The standardizations include definitions, time of year data is collected, collection based on fiscal year (similar to other state agencies) and only requesting three years of data. In 2011, IDFPR began the inclusion process of National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers Minimum Dataset for Education (<http://nursingworkforcecenters.org/>) items, with all items included by 2012. This standardization occurred under the direction of Michele Bromberg, MSN, RN (IDFPR Nursing Coordinator) with the assistance of Linda B. Roberts, MSN, RN (Illinois Center for Nursing Manager).

This report provides an analysis of trends in Illinois pre-licensure nursing education, in regards to both faculty and students, from the years 2011-2015 (unless otherwise noted). A special thanks to Stephanie Gedzyk-Nieman, MSN, RNC-MNN, Lewis University DNP student on data analysis and compiling these reports. Additional copies of this report may be found on the Illinois Center for Nursing website, <http://nursing.illinois.gov/ResearchData.asp>.

Nurses are the largest group of healthcare providers in both acute-care and community settings in Illinois. An adequate, well-prepared and diverse nursing workforce depends upon academically rigorous education programs and adequate resources to prepare the next generation of high quality professional nurses.

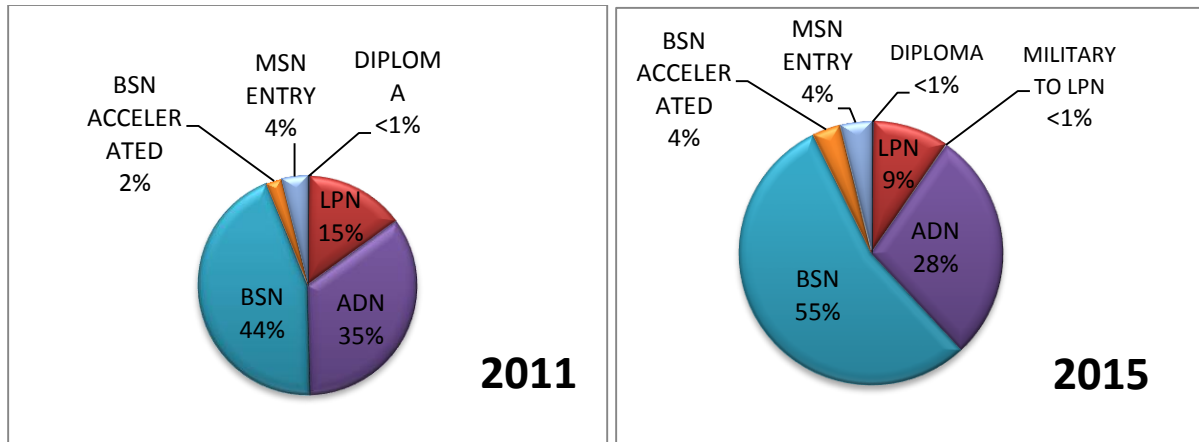


*Includes both full-time and part-time students; LPN Ladder program students are included in the ADN Program calculations.*

**Programs:** There are 146 pre-licensure programs in Illinois-113 for RNs and 33 for LPNs; in 2011, there were 142. This growth aligns with the *Illinois Board of Higher Education's (IBHE) Report of the Higher Education Commission on the Future of the Workforce's* goal to have 60% of the adult population in Illinois obtaining a high-quality post-secondary credential or degree by 2025. The report also concurs with the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) (2011) recommendation to increase the proportion of nurses with a BSN to 80% by 2020.

The number of graduates from all Illinois programs combined saw a steady increase until 2013, after which the number of graduates began to decline; however, the number of graduates in 2015 was still 9.1% greater than in 2011. Until 2014, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) programs produced the largest percentage of graduates in Illinois. However, by 2015, BSN programs produced the largest percentage of graduates in Illinois (39%). The number of graduates from BSN Accelerated programs grew from 2% to 6% of all pre-licensure graduates in Illinois while MSN Entry programs' graduates grew from 3% to 4% of all pre-licensure graduates in Illinois.

Illinois' nursing schools are the critical supplier of the nursing workforce and these educational programs prepare excellent nurses. To enter practice, nursing students must not only successfully graduate with their nursing degree, but they must also pass their respective National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®) prior to obtaining a nursing license. The first-time pass rate for Illinois students taking the NCLEX-RN® exam has met or exceeded the national total pass rate annually while the first-time pass rate for Illinois students taking the NCLEX-PN® exam to become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) has exceeded the national total pass rate annually.



*Includes both full-time and part-time students; LPN Ladder program students are included in the ADN program percentages.*

**Students:** In order to plan for both future nursing workforce and healthcare needs in Illinois, it is important to explore the demographics of the nursing student population in addition to program enrollment figures.

Over the period of this report, enrollment in pre-licensure nursing programs has increased almost 19% with approximately 23,000 students enrolled in a pre-licensure nursing program in 2015. The largest growth in enrollment has been in the University setting among bachelor's degree (including accelerated programs) and master's degree programs. Associate degree (ADN) programs' enrollment experienced a downward trend after a large growth period in 2012; however, this is a modest decline (-2.4%) considering the closure of four ADN programs by 2015.

The pre-licensure nursing student body in Illinois essentially emulates that of the general population in Illinois, except for having slightly less Hispanic and non-Hispanic/Black than the Illinois population (United States Census Bureau, 2015). Although still predominately Caucasian, the percentage of pre-licensure nursing students in Illinois belonging to a racial or ethnic minority has grown 2.6% since 2012. The largest minority group among all pre-licensure programs in Illinois is non-Hispanic Black, except for the MSN Entry program where the largest group is Asian (11.4% in 2015) and the BSN program where the largest group is Hispanic (12.3% in 2015).

Compared to 2014 national data reported by NLN (2014b), there were more non-Hispanic/Black, Hispanic and Asian/Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander pre-licensure students in Illinois than the national average. Male student enrollment in pre-licensure nursing programs in Illinois has remained essentially the same at 12.9%, which is slightly less than the 2014 national average of 15% (NLN, 2014e).

**Faculty:** A critical resource affecting the ability of schools of nursing to educate the future nurses needed for Illinois is having readily available, highly-educated faculty.

The age distribution among pre-licensure nursing faculty has essentially remained unchanged since 2011 and the largest age group among faculty continues to be 41-50 years old. In 2015, 18.6% of pre-licensure nursing faculty were 61 years or older, up from 14.6% in 2011. The percentage of full-time pre-licensure faculty in Illinois aged 61 or older is also higher than national rates (IL-22%; US-20%) (NLN, 2016a). Faculty aged 61 years or older are eligible for retirement and if this occurs, without the ability or a plan to replace them, program capacities and student admissions could be negatively impacted (IOM, 2011).

Diversity among Illinois nursing faculty has slightly increased, with the percentage of pre-licensure nursing faculty belonging to a racial or ethnic minority increasing 1.3% since 2012. 73% of faculty is non-Hispanic/White, a 5% decrease from 2012. The largest minority group represented among all pre-licensure nursing faculty remains non-Hispanic/Black (12% in 2015). The ethnic diversity of Illinois' pre-licensure nursing faculty essentially emulates that of national figures. The only difference was among the number of Hispanic full-time pre-licensure faculty, which was 1% in Illinois but 3.7% nationally (NLN, 2016a). The percent of male pre-licensure nursing faculty has increased by 1.3%, to 6.0% in 2015, yet male faculty still remain the minority. Of all of the programs in Illinois, LPN program faculty are the most diverse and BSN program faculty experienced the largest growth in diversity.

A key component in meeting nursing workforce supply is Illinois' ability to produce new nurses through the pre-licensure nursing education system. To evaluate this system, it is important to examine the type, demand and outcomes of the programs provided, in addition to student and faculty characteristics, which was the intent of this report. A copy of the full report is available on the IDFPR/Illinois Center for Nursing website: <http://nursing.illinois.gov/ResearchData.asp>.