



What Do We Know About Illinois APRNs as We Move Towards Full Scope of Practice?

The Advanced Practice Registered Nursing Workforce Survey 2016 contains 2016 data on the characteristics, supply, and distribution of Illinois' Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). The results include data on the type of APRNs, the relative numbers of APRNs in each age group, their cultural diversity and education preparation. The data also quantifies the services APRNs provide, billing for services, and collaborative agreements with the Illinois physician(s). Survey results and reports are on the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) website, tab: Data/Reports:

<http://nursing.illinois.gov/ResearchData.asp>

The survey was developed by the INWC Board of Directors and is consistent with the 63 question Health Resources and Services (HRSA) National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners (NSSNP). The survey was conducted during the 2016 Illinois APRN license renewal period (3/14/16-5/31/16) and two additional email requests (7/29/16, 8/11/16) for participation post license renewal. Voluntary participation 26% Illinois APRNs.



Theresa Towle, DNP, FNP-BC, CNRN, Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Board member, poster presentation at the Illinois Society of Advanced Practice Nurses annual conference, October 2018.

Demographics:

Diversity: racial and ethnic diversity has increased in younger cohorts

- Hispanic/Latino APRNs – 44% are younger than 45 years
- Black or African American APRNs – 39% are younger than 45 years

Age: - Younger than 44 years: 29% CRNAs, 31% CNMs, 42% NPs

- Over 55 years of age: 67% CNSs

Gender: - Approximately 90% of respondents are female

Aging Workforce:

- 17% of respondents intend to retire in the next 10 years

Figure 9: Summary of Advanced Practice Nurse (APRN) Practice Focus Specialty

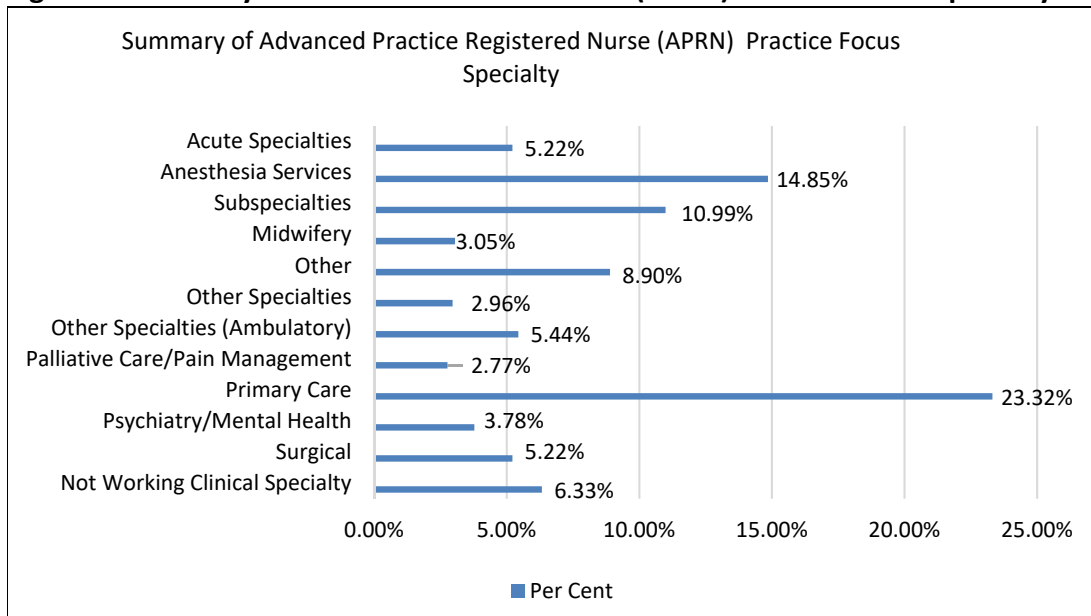


Figure 9: No response = 258

Job Characteristics

- **Services Provided (top four)**
 - Counsel and educate patients and families
 - Conduct physical exams and obtain medical histories
 - Order, perform and interpret tests, diagnostic studies
 - Prescribe drugs for acute and chronic illnesses
- **Employment Setting**
 - Majority (79%) of APRNs work one FT job, 31-40 hours per week, paid an annual salary
 - 30% work in a hospital setting
 - 23% work in an ambulatory setting
 - 19% work in private practice
- **Prescriptive Authority**
 - 77% do have prescriptive authority
 - 65% of these APRNs have a controlled substance license
 - 66% also have a DEA number
- **Professional Collaboration**
 - 53% responded that physicians are present 75-100% of the time
- **Billing, Reimbursement**
 - 92% have a NPI number (up from 73.5% in 2015)
 - 44% bill under own provider number
 - 25% receive reimbursement from Medicare,
 - 24% Medicaid 31.42% private insurance
- **Earnings**
 - The median income, full-time hours, \$90-95,000 range. The lowest 10% earned less than \$74,300, highest 10% earned more than \$175,170
 - Nearly 70% receive an annual salary rather than hourly rate or percent of billing

Limitations

- Data were self-reported
- A total of 3 requests were sent to accrue sufficient participants
- Survey data were compared to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) licensure database for validity

Discussion

- Illinois APRN workforce grew by approximately 26% since 2014. The majority of this increase can be attributed to the Certified Nurse Practitioner (NP) specialty group which increased by 30%.
- In 2008 there were 6,164 Illinois APRNs, as of January 23, 2018 there are 13,819 APRNs; a 44% increase in the total number of active APRN licenses including all APRN specialties.
- Density of Illinois NPs remain at approximately 60 per 100,000 population. APRN population over 55 years of age is 42%. The availability of APRNs to address the needs of Illinois citizens, particularly within Illinois' 229 Health Professional Shortage Areas is a concern (*Kaiser Family Foundation, 2017*). Specialty areas are of increased concern: Psychiatric Mental Health (PMH) NPs; Geriatric and Long Term Care NPs.
- APRNs provide direct care (82%) in a variety of ambulatory and inpatient services. Primary care, diagnosis/treatment/management, physical exams and prescribing medications and care coordination is provided.
- Most APRNs providing direct care see more than 50 patients per week and are APRN services are also providers to Medicare (35%) and Medicaid (23%) recipients, in high quality and less intensive use of costly health services (*DesRoches et al, 2017*).
- APRN collaboration and billing practices are anticipated to change with the impact of increased practice authority in the Illinois APRN practice laws. Only 43% of APRNs bill under their own NPI provider number even though most APRNs have an NPI number (92%).
- The Illinois APRN Survey 2016 results indicate low numbers of APRNs and primary care providers in the state.
- It is important to continue to recruit and train a diverse APRN workforce to address the human health care capital that will be needed in Illinois. This will be critical to low income and low access areas of the state.
- Continued data collection and focused workforce planning are vital to assure access to healthcare for all Illinois residents.

The survey report is on the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center website

<http://nursing.illinois.gov/ResearchData.asp>

Report References

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3. Kaiser Family Foundation (2016). Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas. Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/primary-care-health-professional-shortage-areas>
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