



Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Licensed Practical Nurse Survey 2019

General Overview: This report details the results of the 2019 Illinois Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) workforce survey. The survey was structured to capture data on the demographics of the current LPN workforce, including their cultural diversity, relative numbers of LPNs in each age group, educational preparation, and workplace settings. Participation in the survey was voluntary and was conducted during the 2019 LPN license renewal period from 11/13/2018 to 1/31/2019. The survey was completed by 3,662 LPNs of the 28,109 LPNs licensed in Illinois.

The LPN survey data indicates a workforce that is aging with a diminishing LPN pipeline to replace these nurses. It is well known that aging of the U.S. population poses particular demands on health care services, one sector being long-term care needs. There is an urgent need for work force planning to meet future healthcare needs. LPNs traditional roles in nursing homes/extended care/assisted living environments and home care with the anticipated growth of the elderly population will increase the demand for LPNs.

Aging of the LPN Workforce

45% of LPNs are over the age of 55 years

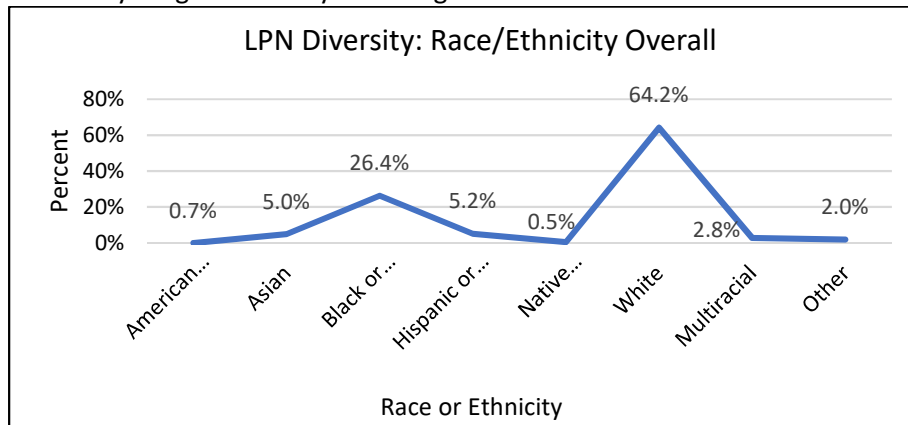
22% of LPNs who practice in nursing homes/extended care facilities plan on retiring in 1-5 years

Diversity

23% of Hispanic/Latino LPNs are less than 34 years of age

7% of LPNs are male, which is lower than national average, though 36% male LPNs are under 44 years of age

58% of Asian LPNs are younger than 45 years of age



26% of LPNs identify as Black/African American, the largest reporting minority; the percentage the same (approximately 25%) for three age ranges: 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64 years of age

LPN Workplace Settings

50% Practice in nursing home/extended care/assisted living – especially LPNs in the younger age cohorts

14% Practice in ambulatory care settings

9% Practice in the home health setting

LPN Position Title, Education

75% Provide direct patient care as staff nurses

55% of LPNs currently licensed obtained their education through a community college

Summary

There is an aging LPN workforce, one fifth are planning to retire within the next 5 years

Experience of the LPN is a more complex picture as data emerges for age groups 35-44 years, 45-54 years and even 55-64 years of age. In each of these age categories are individuals with varying levels of experience

There is a need to increase the diversity of LPN workforce to mirror the state population

Fifty-five percent of LPNs currently licensed received their education through a community college