

# IL Nursing Workforce Center Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Survey 2020

## Executive Summary

**General overview:** Data on the characteristics, supply, and distribution of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in the State of Illinois is essential to expanding access to care and planning for provision of essential primary and other health care services. The survey was conducted through an email direct request for participation post license renewal. Participation was voluntary, 12% or 1,962 of the 16,548 Illinois APRNs completed the survey. This report contains data on the demographics of Illinois' current APRN workforce, including type of APRN, the relative numbers of APRNs in each age group, their racial, ethnic and gender diversity, and educational preparation. The data quantifies the services APRNs provide, the process that is used to bill for these services, and reimbursement for services. Finally, the survey captures the diversity of APRN specialty expertise and settings where patients receive these specialized services.

**Aging workforce:** The report presents important information about the aging of the Illinois APRN workforce, overall, 52% of respondents are over the age of 55 years. However, the average age varies based on type of APRN. There are four types of APRNs: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) and Certified Nurse Practitioner (NP). For example, 54% of Certified Nurse Practitioners (NPs), 33% of CNMs, and 35% CRNAs are less than 45 years of age. Sixty four percent of CNSs are 56 years of age or older. Interestingly, years of experience as an APRN does not closely correlate with the age of the APRN -- suggesting the diverse career trajectories of APRNs.

**Increasing diversity:** In contrast to the increase in ethnic and racial diversity in the state of Illinois, data indicate a less ethnic and racially diverse Advanced Practice Registered Nursing workforce. Though the majority, 83% of APRNs are White, a higher percent of APRNs under the age of 55 years are from ethnic and racially diverse backgrounds compared to APRNs in the older age range. For example, approximately half of Hispanic/Latino and Asian APRNs are under the age of 45 years, while approximately 40% of Black or African American APRNs are younger than 45 years of age. The results are similar to, but slightly higher than data reported in the 2018 APRN survey.

**Specialty/Workplace Characteristics:** The survey respondents reported on their nursing specialty, and workplace setting. The respondents were provided a choice amongst job settings as well as the option to write in settings that were not listed. Approximately 50% of respondents practice in ambulatory settings; approximately 30% practice in a hospital/inpatient setting. Some APRNs indicated time was split between hospital and outpatient settings. In line with Illinois

regulation, APRNs maintain collaborative agreements, but within a range, of physician-collaborator relationships.

**Billing/Reimbursement:** Approximately 44% of APRN respondents indicated they manage a panel of patients; this is up from the 2016 survey which indicated that 30% of Illinois APRNs manage a panel of patents. Seventy-nine percent of APRNs indicate that with most of their patients, they counsel and educate both patients and families; in addition, approximately forty percent of respondents note they provide preventive care. Forty-six percent of respondents bill exclusively under their National Provider Identifier (NPI) number; this was followed by 13% billing under the clinic/facility number. With full practice authority, the numbers of APRNs managing a panel of patients in addition to providing education, counseling, and preventive care it is anticipated to increase. It is also anticipated that the responses to the billing questions may change.

**Summary:** The 2020 Illinois APRN survey data will be extremely valuable as health care planners project the human health care capital that will be needed in Illinois. These data will be of great use in estimating the current APRN supply, their demographics, and practice specialties. The anticipated shortage of primary care providers is particularly acute in Illinois. Focused workforce planning is urgently needed to assure access to healthcare for Illinois residents. The full report is available on the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center website <http://nursing.illinois.gov/ResearchData.asp>