

Kansas Registered Nurse Workforce Survey Executive Summary, June 2014

The Kansas Registered Nurse (RN) Workforce Survey link was sent via email to 44,568 Kansas RNs in November 2013, and other announcements followed to advertise study availability. The link closed on January 31, 2014. The survey response rate was 15.6%, representing 6,948 RNs. The Workforce Survey sample is representative of the KS RN population, based on gender, age, and race/ethnicity.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Most respondents were female (92.1%) and Caucasian (91.9%). The mean age was 48 years with 53.3% between 41-60 years. Some participants (n=371, 5.5%) were U.S. military veterans, with 58 RNs currently in the military, 19 RNs serving as reserves/guards and 23 RNs serving as active duty.

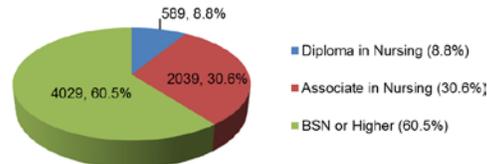
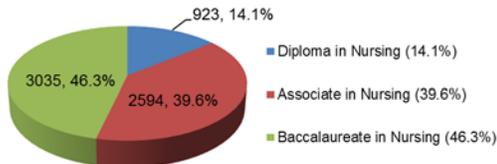
NURSING EDUCATION

Initial Nursing Education:

Many RNs (46.3%) completed their initial nursing education at the baccalaureate degree level. More than one third (39.6%) started with an associate degree and the remainder (14.1%) started with a diploma. Almost 40% of RNs (38.6%) completed their initial nursing education since 2000.

Current Nursing Education Level:

Many RNs have obtained additional nursing education since their initial RN licensure. More than 60% of survey participants currently hold a BSN or higher, compared to 46.3% baccalaureate-prepared at initial licensure. This reflects a 14% increase in baccalaureate preparation following initial licensure. One third of RNs (35.7%) planned to advance their education.



Education Level at Initial RN Licensure (n = 6,552)

Current RN Nursing Education Level in Kansas (n = 6,657)

LICENSURE

Most RNs had an active license in Kansas (99.6%) and were initially licensed in the United States (99.1%). A total of 548 RNs held advanced practice RN licenses.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment Status: About 80% of RNs were actively employed in a nursing position that requires a Kansas RN license. Most RNs worked full-time (84.0%) and held 1 position (81.7%). There were 3% of RNs who were unemployed at the time of the survey; the primary reasons (34%) were taking care of family and home. About 7.5% of RNs reported that they planned to retire in the next 2 years.

Employment Settings, Positions, and Clinical Areas: Most RNs were employed in hospitals (48.1%) as staff nurses (49.4%). About 13.4% of RNs worked in medical/surgical (including progressive care/telemetry) clinical areas. Almost 35% of RNs had been working in their current principal nursing positions for 1-5 years. The primary reasons for selecting current RN employment included ability to work shift desired/work more convenient hours (48.8%) and desire to work in this particular setting (49.0%).

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

A total of 522 RNs provided comments. The comments varied, ranging from positive perspectives of nursing as a profession to concerns about role strain and costs to further education.

