

New York Registered Nursing Graduations, 1996 - 2009

Center for Health Workforce Studies

School of Public Health, University at Albany, SUNY

(518) 402-0250

<http://chws.albany.edu>

March 2009

Overview

The Center for Health Workforce Studies (the Center) surveys registered nursing education programs in New York annually to better understand trends affecting the supply of registered nurses (RNs) in the state. The most recent survey for the 2007 academic year was conducted in the spring and fall of 2008.

RN graduations in New York increased in 2007, rising by more than 400 or 5% over 2006 graduations, the fifth consecutive annual increase. Additionally, RN graduations are expected to continue to rise in 2008 and 2009, with 2009 total graduations projected to be 24% higher than graduations in 1996, the previous high point for RN graduations in New York.

Despite the fact that nursing program deans report a strong job market for their graduates, anecdotal evidence suggests that new RNs are having a harder time finding jobs today than they have in recent years. In an effort to better understand the current job market for RNs, the Center conducted a sample survey of downstate nurse recruiters. Survey results suggest that newly-trained RNs may face a more competitive job market due to an increasing number of experienced RNs seeking direct care nursing positions, and part-time and per diem RNs increasing their hours or moving into permanent positions.

Key Findings

For the fifth consecutive year, the number of RN graduates in New York in 2007 increased over the number of RN graduations in 2006.

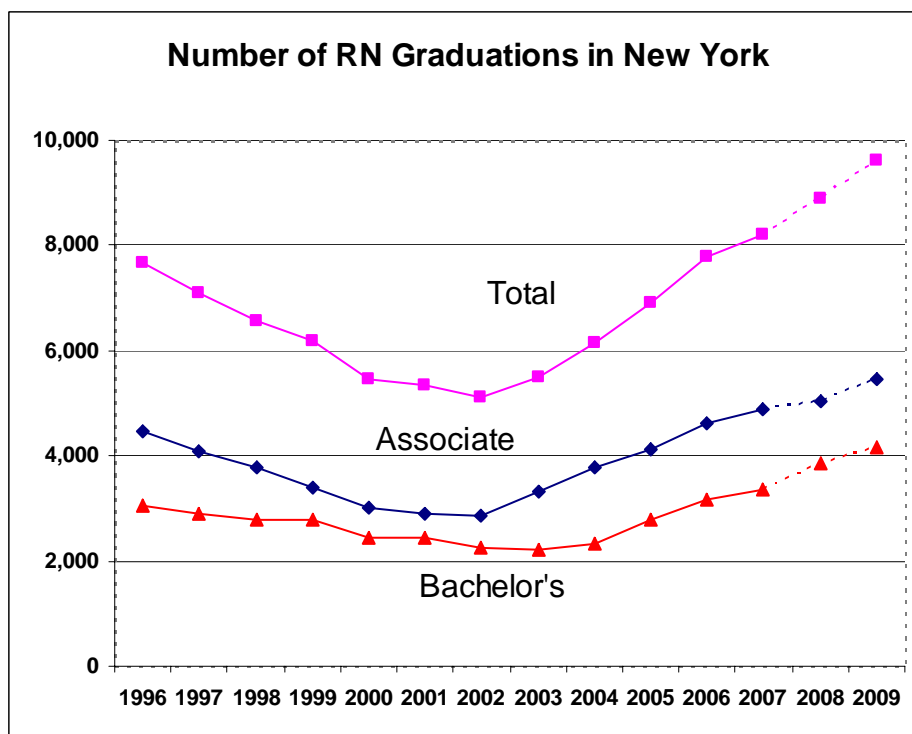
It is estimated that over 8,200 individuals graduated from RN education programs in New York in 2007. This was the fifth successive year that RN graduations have increased, following six consecutive years of declines.

RN graduations in New York are projected to rise in 2008 and 2009.

The number of RN graduations in New York in 2008 is expected to be nearly 74% higher than the number of RN graduations in 2002, and the number of RN graduations in 2009 is projected to be almost 88% higher than in 2002.

Graduations from both ADN and BSN programs in New York rose in 2007 and are projected to continue

In 2007, ADN and BSN graduations each increased by 5% over the number of graduations in 2006. Graduations from both ADN and BSN programs are expected to continue to rise in 2008 and 2009 and are projected to exceed the number of ADN and BSN graduations in 1996.



Fewer BSN nursing education programs reported an increase in program acceptances between 2006 and 2007.

Overall, the percent of nursing education programs reporting an increase in acceptances declined in 2007, compared to 2006. While a slightly higher percent of ADN programs reported an increase in acceptances between 2006 and 2007, there was a significant decrease in the percent of BSN programs that reported more acceptances during the same period.

Compared to 2006, fewer nursing education programs reported turning away qualified applicants in 2007.

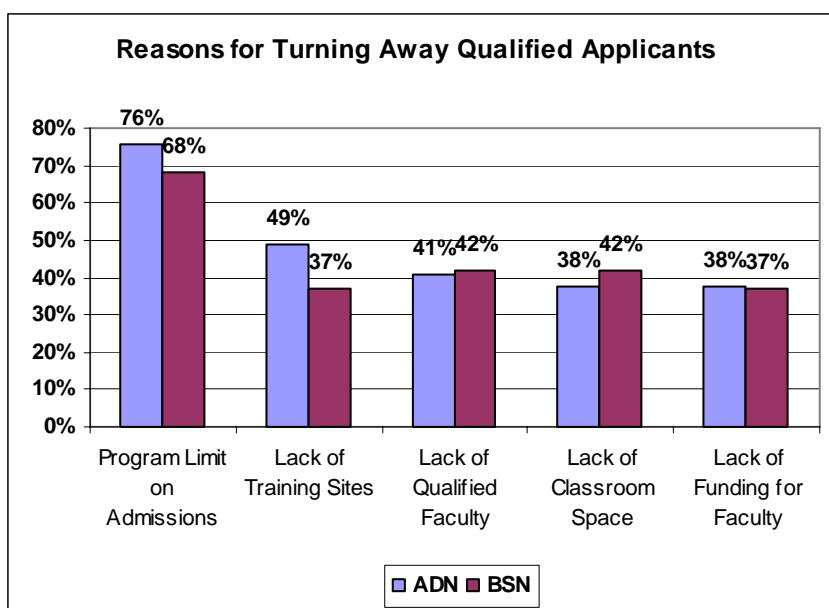
Fifty-four percent of nursing education programs reported turning away qualified applicants in 2007, compared to 59% in 2006 and 67% in 2005. ADN programs were more likely to turn away qualified applicants than BSN programs. Based on survey responses, it was estimated that about 2,000 qualified applicants were turned away from New York's registered nursing education programs in 2007, down from 2,200 in 2006.

The primary reason nursing education programs reported turning away qualified applicants was a limit on program admissions.

The majority of ADN and BSN programs that denied admission to qualified applicants cited limits on program admissions as the primary reason for doing so. Other reasons included a lack of clinical training sites and lack of qualified faculty.

In 2008, nurse recruiters reported more applications for open positions and an increase in the number of experienced RNs in the job market.

More than two-thirds of nurse recruiters surveyed reported an increase in the number of new RN graduates applying for direct care nursing positions and over one-third cited an increase in the number of experienced RNs applying for these positions. Over 42% of respondents saw an increase in the number of experienced RNs hired for direct care nursing positions. About 60% of respondents reported an increase in the number of per diem and traveler RNs hired for permanent nursing positions.



Methodology

The survey of deans of education programs in New York included questions on applications, acceptances, and graduations for 2007 as well as projected graduations through 2009. The survey also asked about barriers to admitting more students and perceptions about the local job market for new RNs. Of the 114 nursing programs in New York, 104 responded to the survey for a 91% response rate. It is important to note that not all RN graduations represent new RNs since many RNs who have completed an associate degree or diploma program return to school to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. Based on the survey, the Center estimates that approximately 30% of 2007 bachelor's degree graduates were already licensed as RNs, which means that approximately 12% of all RN program graduates in the state were previously licensed RNs.

A convenience sample of 38 nurse recruiters, primarily representing hospitals, responded to a survey about the job market for direct care nursing positions, conducted in December 2008.

The Center acknowledges and greatly appreciates the assistance of the RN education programs in New York that respond to this survey each year. The full report is available at <http://chws.albany.edu>.