

ABSTRACT

Purpose Statement: The purpose of this study was to document trends in registered nurse (RN) graduations and understand how these trends may affect the supply of RNs in New York.

Key Findings: The number of RN graduations in New York State slightly declined from both associates degree (ADN) and baccalaureate degree (BSN) programs between 2016 and 2017. RN graduations in the Long Island and New York City regions declined the most between 2016 and 2017. BSN completers as a percentage of total graduations and of BSN graduations have also declined between 2016 and 2017. The Western New York and Hudson Valley regions had the largest increase in RN graduations between 2016 and 2017.

Nearly three-quarters of nursing program deans and directors reported no change in the number of students accepted to their programs in 2017 and 2016. The job market for newly trained RNs has improved over the last few years, with some variation by degree type and region.

Conclusion: RNs educated in New York represent the greatest source of active RNs in the state. RN educational requirements for licensure in the state are increasing. Given these issues, it is important to monitor trends in RN production to assure that a sufficient supply of newly trained RNs meet the continuing demand for services.

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INTRODUCTION

Registered nurses (RNs) educated in New York are the primary source of RNs in the state.

- Most RNs practicing in the state have associate degrees in nursing (ADN), especially in rural areas.
- New York's educational requirements for licensure are increasing. Recently enacted legislation requires that new registered nurses obtain a baccalaureate degree (BSN) or higher in nursing within 10 years of initial licensure.

The state may be challenged in its efforts to assure access to BSN completer programs statewide, especially in regions of the state where there is limited access to BSN education programs.

Over the past 10 years, BSN completers have comprised a growing share of RN graduations in the state. By contrast, the number of newly trained RNs, with RN diplomas, associates degrees, or 4-year baccalaureate degrees, has shown little growth since 2011.

It is important to assess the impact of the new law on the production of RNs in the state as well as changes in the health care delivery system that could impact how RNs are utilized.

METHODS

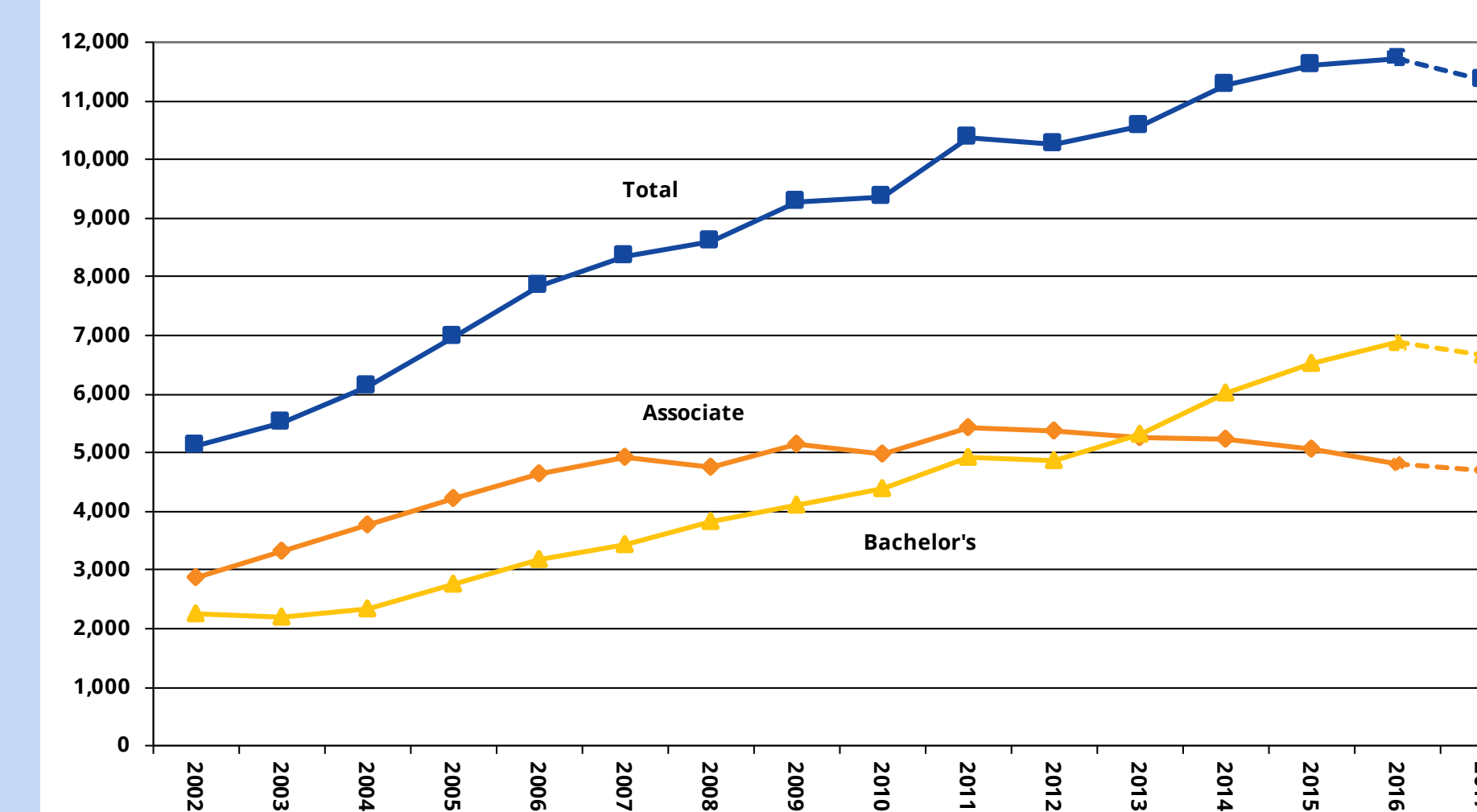
CHWS surveys the state's RN education program deans and directors annually to monitor the production of RNs in the state as well as to assess the job market for newly trained RNs.

- The most recent survey was conducted in the fall of 2017 and the spring of 2018.
- The survey included questions about applications and acceptances to the nursing program, graduations over the last 3 years, and perspectives on the local job market for new RN graduates.
- Of the 122 programs eligible to participate in the survey, 112 responded (92% response rate). This included 95% of ADN programs and 88% of BSN programs.
- Data for non-respondents were imputed based on responses to previous surveys. As a result, the report presents estimated total graduations for all RN programs in the state.

RESULTS

Graduations in New York have declined by 3% from both ADN and BSN between 2016 and 2017.

Figure 1. New York RN Graduations by Degree Type, 2002-2017



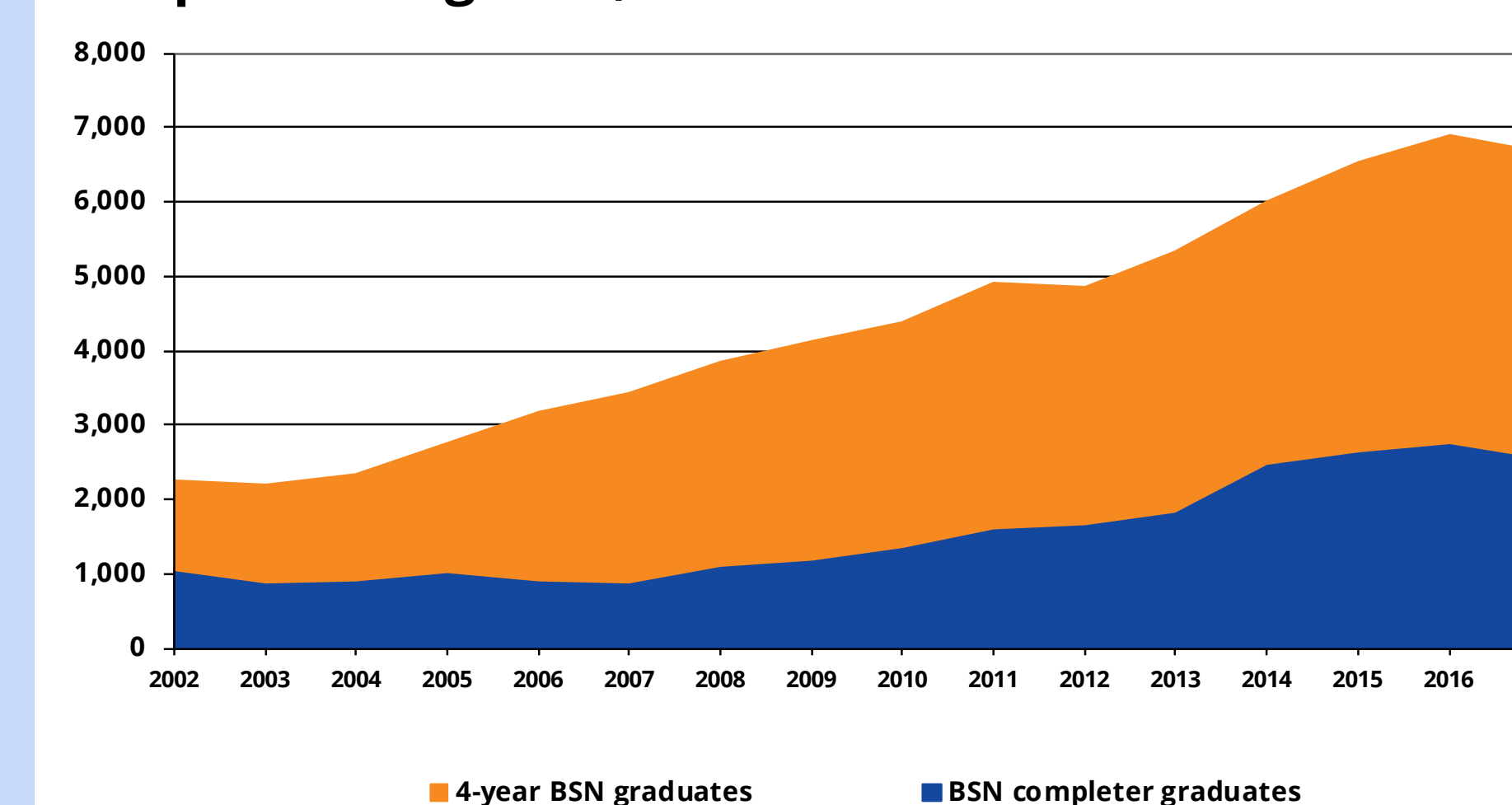
RN graduations in the Long Island and New York City regions declined the most between 2016 and 2017.

Table 1. Total Nursing Graduations by New York State Department of Labor Regions

	Capital District	Central New York	Finger Lakes	Hudson Valley	Long Island	Mohawk Valley	New York City	North Country	Southern Tier	Western New York
2002	358	325	385	616	677	210	1,544	170	236	535
2003	395	331	431	689	795	226	1,607	166	335	473
2004	416	387	451	836	837	254	1,745	192	348	605
2005	414	412	575	908	1,074	266	2,023	171	407	646
2006	458	398	657	1,045	1,302	305	2,274	227	462	644
2007	456	388	698	1,005	1,606	284	2,461	208	490	679
2008	449	387	790	1,081	1,467	332	2,641	178	469	713
2009	458	367	878	1,169	1,546	329	2,799	205	501	919
2010	497	455	922	1,175	1,447	332	2,840	194	506	879
2011	549	463	1,115	1,208	1,539	394	3,158	297	560	943
2012	527	476	1,047	1,069	1,431	471	3,362	280	494	972
2013	524	461	1,104	1,166	1,539	462	3,425	289	542	899
2014	611	513	1,229	1,178	1,508	399	3,641	332	542	1,046
2015	636	514	1,369	1,104	1,559	482	3,607	328	608	1,059
2016	624	559	1,257	1,226	1,567	510	3,604	349	618	1,024
2017	608	531	1,264	1,269	1,399	461	3,451	352	634	1,070
% Difference, 2002 - 2017	69.8%	63.4%	228.3%	106.0%	106.6%	119.5%	123.5%	107.1%	168.6%	100.0%
# Difference, 2016 - 2017	-16	-28	7	43	-168	-49	-153	3	16	46
% Difference, 2016 - 2017	-2.6%	-5.0%	0.6%	3.5%	-10.7%	-9.6%	-4.2%	0.9%	2.6%	4.5%

BSN completer graduates and 4-year BSN graduates declined between 2016 and 2017 with about 200 fewer BSN completer graduations in 2017 compared to 2016.

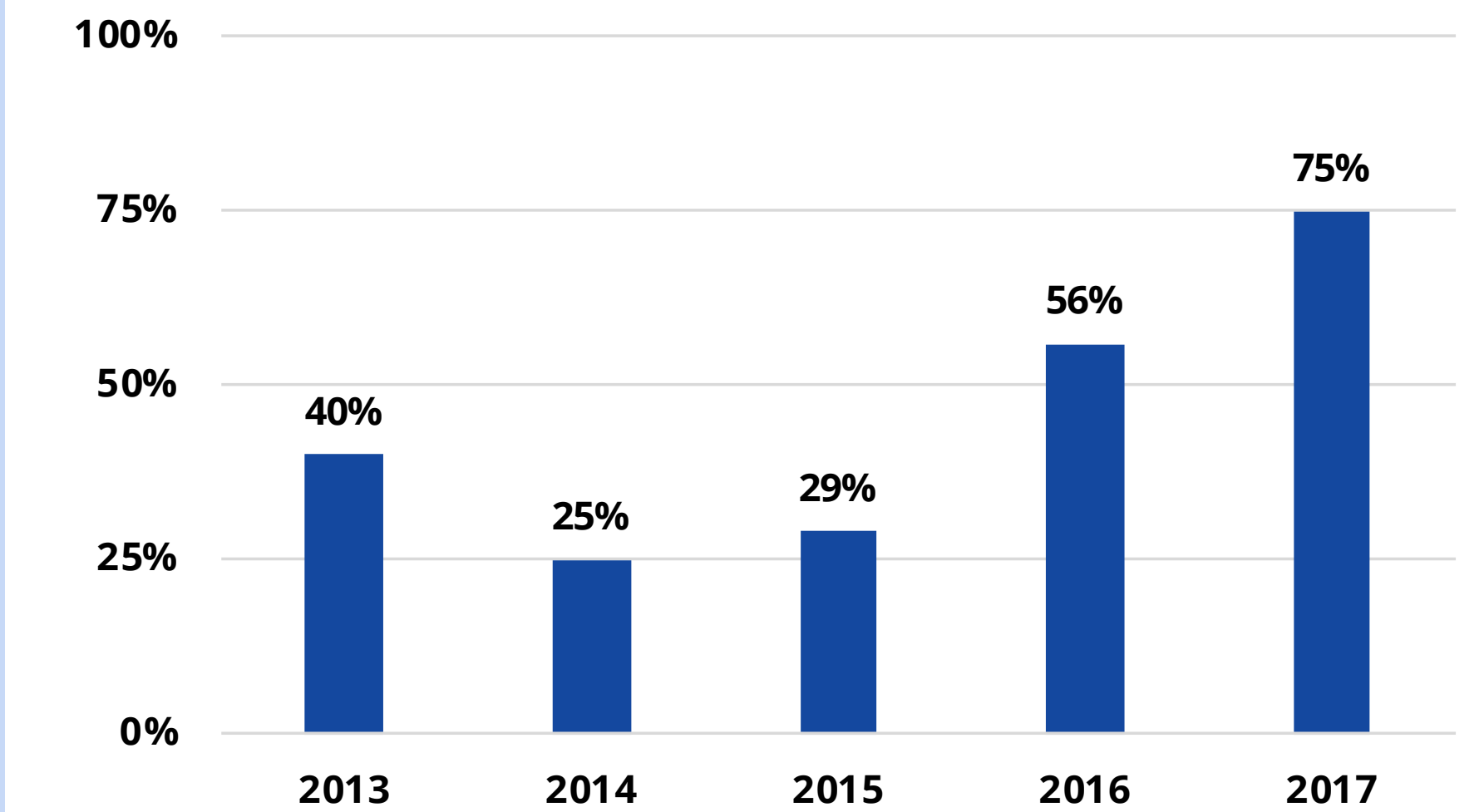
Figure 2. Graduations From BSN 4-Year and BSN Completer Programs, 2002-2017



RESULTS (Continued)

The job market has improved for newly trained RNs over the last few years.

Figure 3. Percentage of RN Program Deans and Directors Reporting "Many Jobs" in Health Care Sector



DISCUSSION

- RN graduations steadily increased between 2002 and 2016, with the exception of a small decline in 2012. Graduations in 2017 are estimated to be more than double the number of graduations in 2002.
- RN graduations have declined by 3% between 2016 and 2017. However, the majority of the decline in RN graduations occurred in Long Island and New York City regions accounting for 93% of the reduction.
- The job market for newly trained RNs is improving with 75% of deans and directors reporting "many jobs" for newly trained RNs in 2017.
- A higher percentage of deans and directors of BSN programs reported "many jobs" compared to deans and directors of ADN programs.
- The New York City region had the lowest percentages of deans and directors reporting "many jobs" for new graduates in 2017, especially for ADN graduates.

CONCLUSIONS

- RN graduations have declined by 3% between 2016 and 2017. The Long Island and New York City regions declined the most with the lowest percentages of deans and directors reporting "many jobs" for new graduates in the New York City region.
- It is important to monitor trends in RN production to assure that a sufficient supply of newly trained RNs meet the continuing demand for services.