

The Impact of COVID-19 on Registered Nurse Education Programs in New York and Utah

David Armstrong, PhD

Jean Moore, DrPH, FAAN

Health Workforce Technical Assistance Center

School of Public Health | University at Albany, SUNY

June 20, 2022

National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers



Health Workforce Technical Assistance Center (HWTAC)

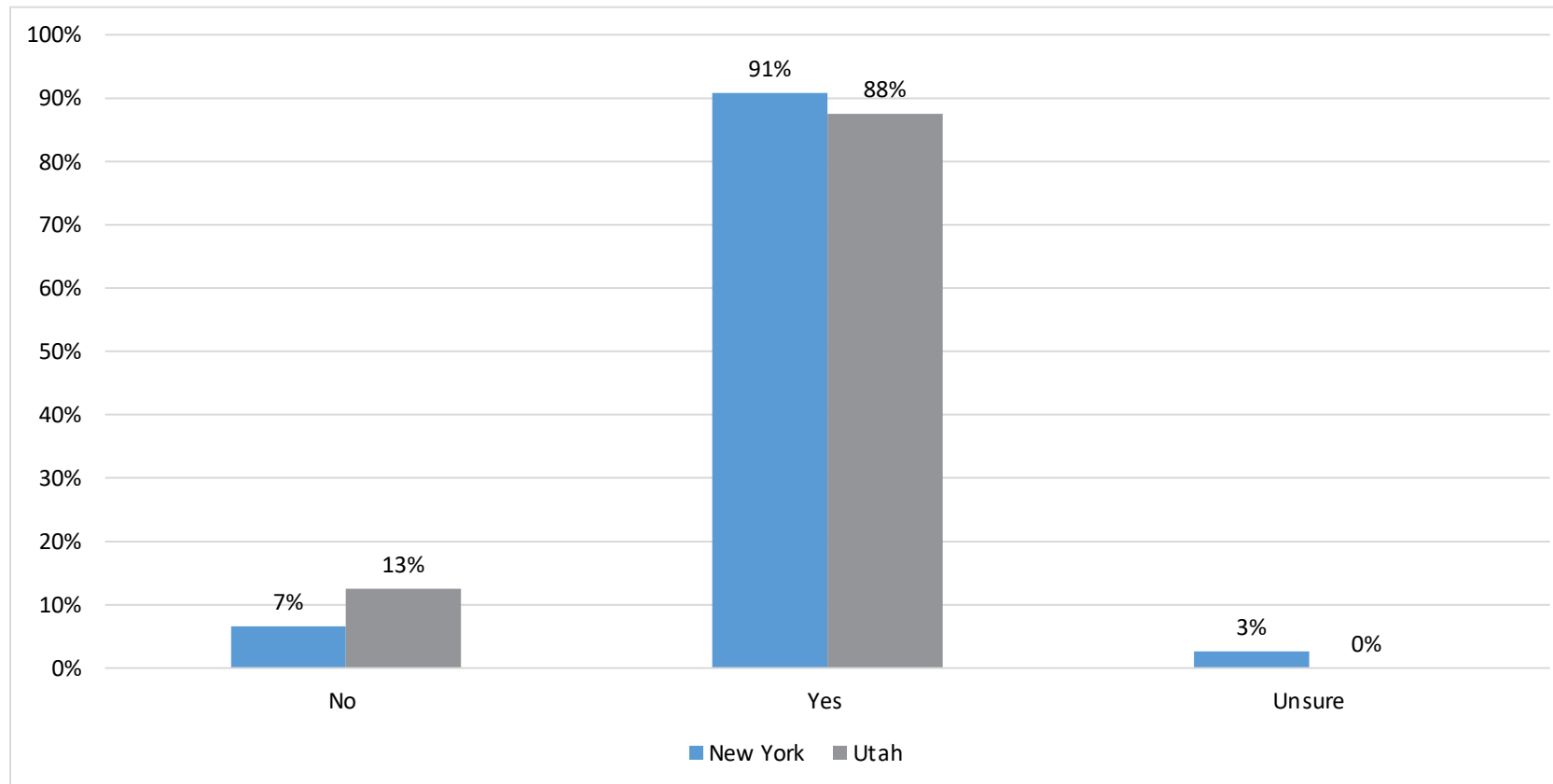
- Based at the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) at the School of Public Health, University at Albany, State University of New York
- Provides technical assistance to states and organizations that engage in health workforce planning
- Conducts projects designed to provide expert assistance on health workforce data collection, analysis, and dissemination
- HWTAC website has extensive resources, including a webinar library, videos, reports, briefs, and an inventory of state health workforce data collection strategies
- Visit us at healthworkforceTA.org

Background and Methods

- Today's presentation focuses on the impact of COVID-19 on nursing education programs in New York and Utah
- CHWS has been conducting the NY RN Education Program Survey since 2002
 - Number of applicants, acceptances, and graduates
 - Perceptions of the regional job market
- The Health Workforce Information Center (on behalf of the Utah Organization of Nurse Leaders – Academic Leadership Committee) has been conducting a RN Education Program Survey since 2015
- A series of COVID-19 related questions were added to both surveys in 2020
- Response rates: NY 60%; Utah 40%

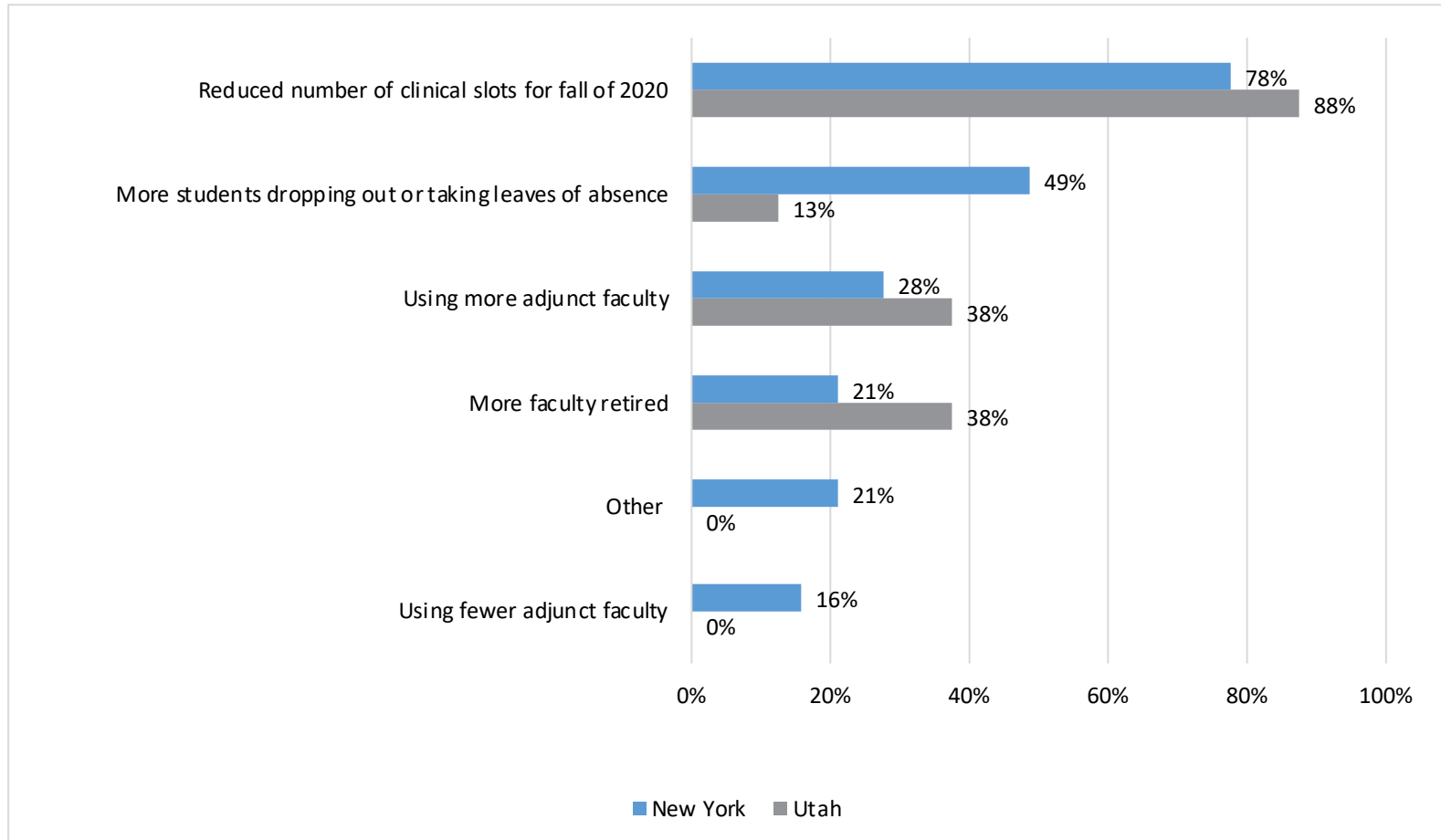
The Vast Majority of Nursing Deans in Both States Reported Pandemic-Related Disruptions in 2020

Percentage of RN Programs Reporting Disruptions to Clinical Training, by State, 2020



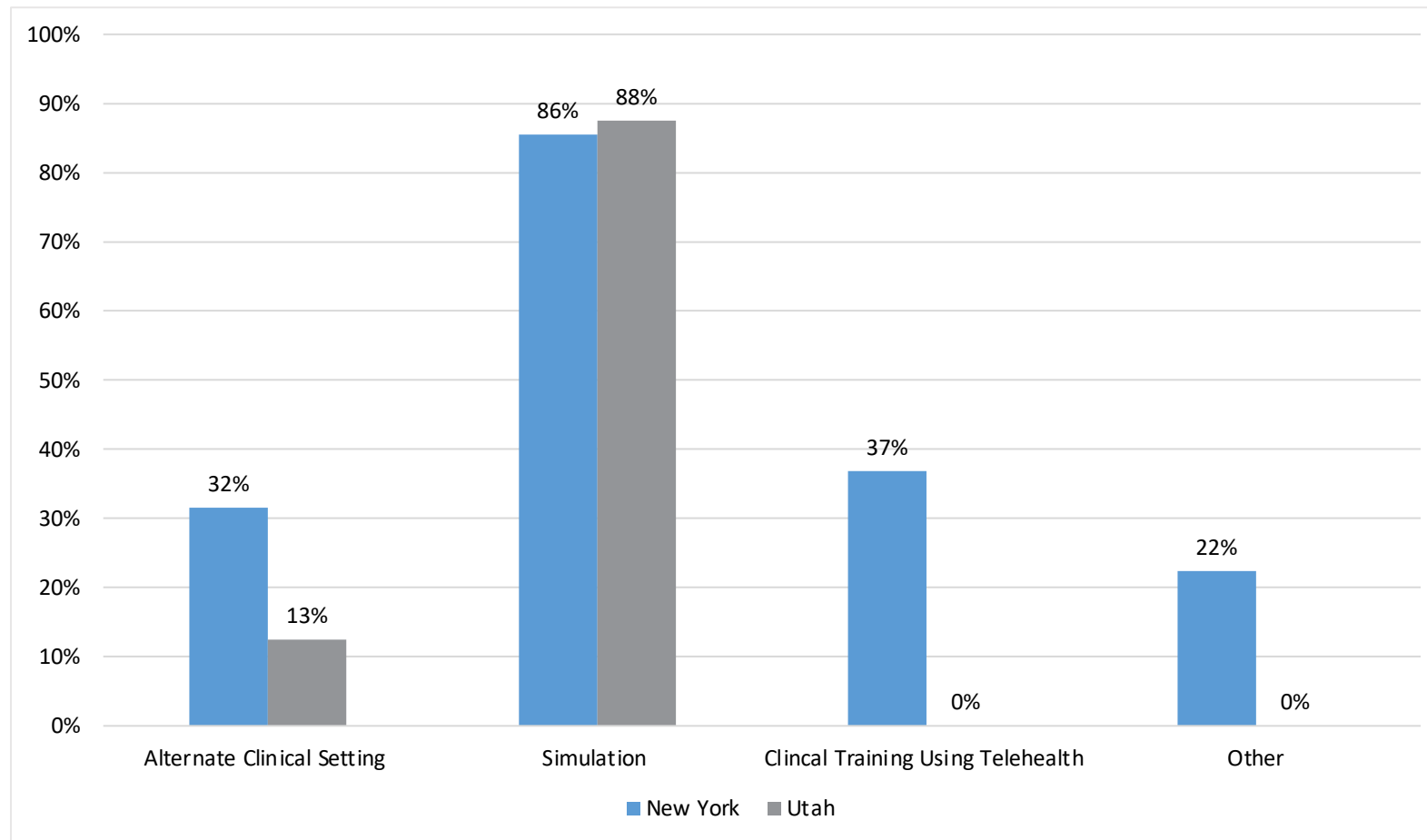
Fewer Clinical Training Slots Was the Most Frequently Cited Pandemic Disruption

Pandemic-Related Disruptions that Impacted RN Programs, by State, 2020



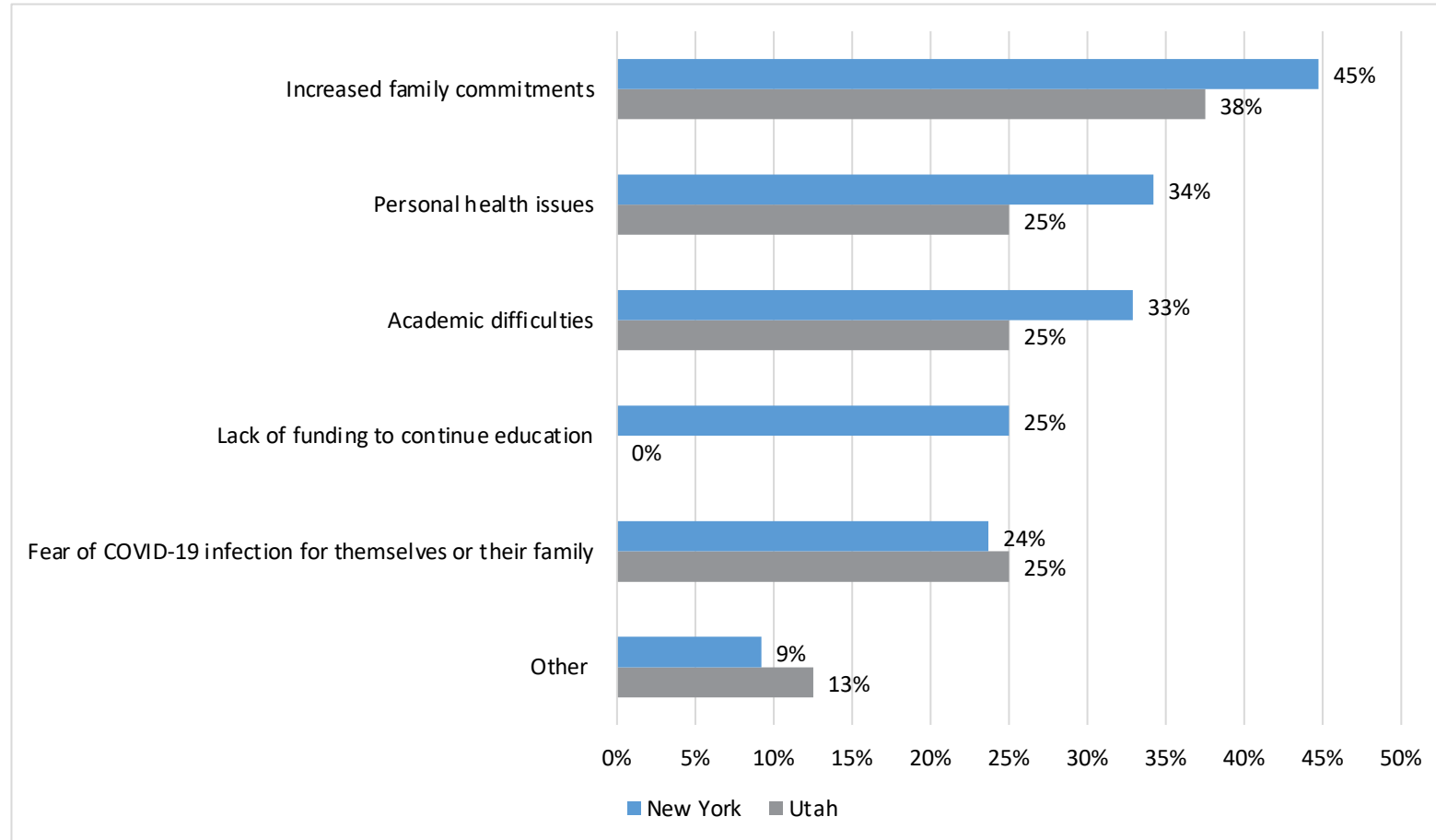
Simulation Was the Most Commonly Used Strategy to Help Students Meet Clinical Training Requirements

Strategies Used to Ensure Students Completed Clinical Training, by State, 2020



A Variety of Factors Contributed to Student Attrition, Including Increased Family Commitments

Reasons for Students Dropping Out or Taking a Leave Absence, by State, 2020



Not Much Change in Applications, Acceptances, and Graduations in 2020

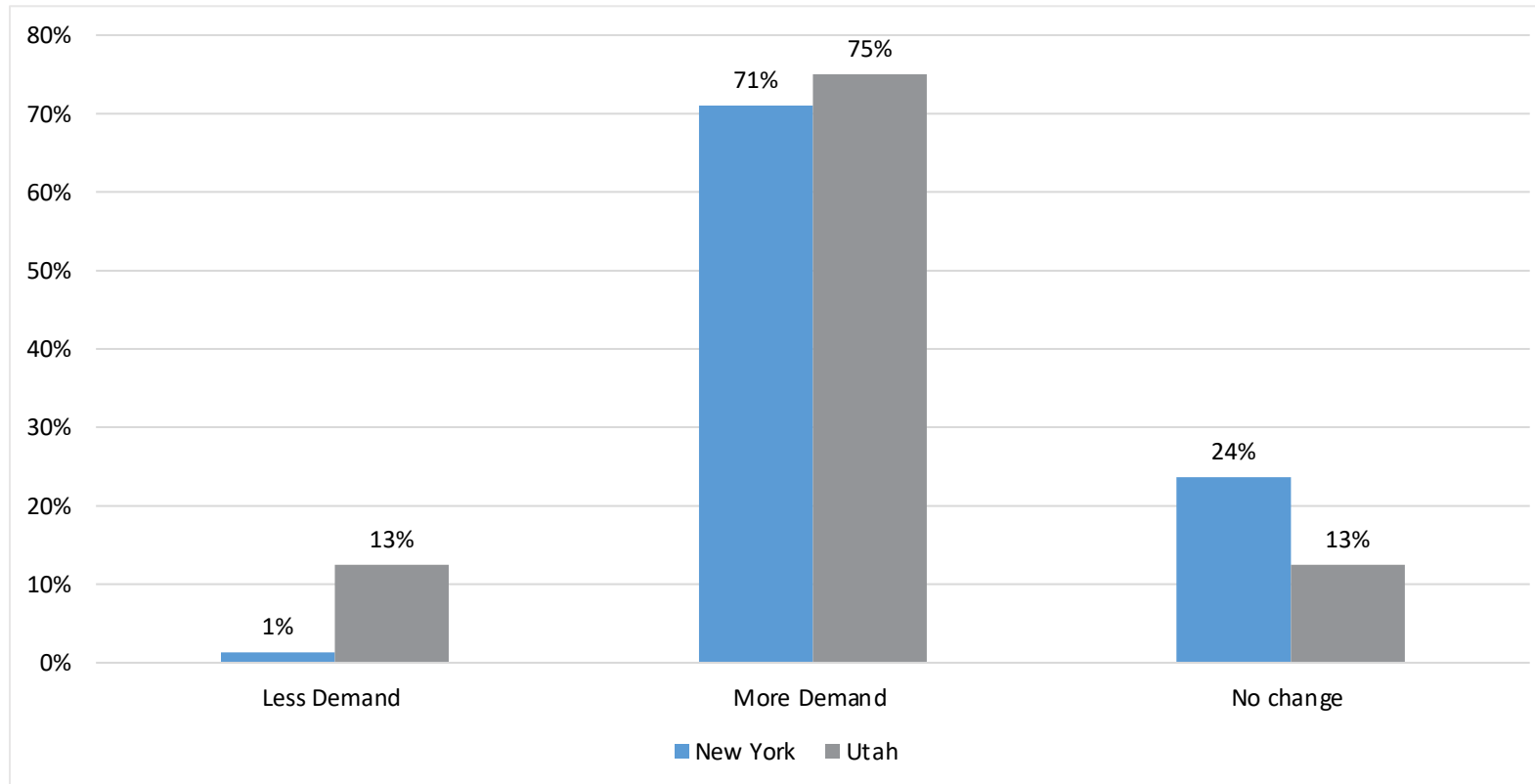
- Half of nursing deans in New York and Utah reported little change in applications to their programs in 2020
- The majority of nursing deans in New York and Utah (68% and 63%, respectively) reported little change in the number of 2020 acceptances to their programs
- Most nursing deans in New York and Utah (76% and 88%, respectively) reported no change in the number of graduations from their programs in 2020

Qualified Applicants Were Turned Away From Nursing Education Programs in Both States

- Over 60% of deans in Utah and 43% of deans in New York reported turning away qualified applicants
- Half of nursing deans in Utah and 32% of deans in New York cited program admission caps as the reason for turning away qualified applicants in 2020
- Nearly a quarter of nursing deans in New York reported lack of clinical training sites as the reason for turning away qualified applicants, while no Utah deans identified this as a problem

Most Deans in Both States Reported Greater Demand for New Graduates in 2020

Percentage of RN Programs Reporting More Demand for New RN Graduates, by State, 2020



Demand for New Graduates Varied by State and by Setting

- Most deans in both states reported greater demand for new graduates in 2020 compared to 2019 in all settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, home care, and ambulatory care
- The majority of New York deans (61%) reported hospitals as having the most jobs for new graduates
- Most Utah deans (63%) reported home care as the setting with the most jobs for their graduates

Closing Thoughts

- RN education programs in NY and Utah encountered similar pandemic-related pipeline impacts
- Clinical disruptions – reduction in training slots
- Simulation used to help students meet clinical training requirements
- Little change in program applications, acceptances, and graduations in 2020
- More demand for new graduates
- Need to monitor in the longer term to fully understand COVID-19 impacts

Acknowledgements

- The Health Workforce Technical Assistance Center (HWTAC) is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$447,164 with 0% financed with non-governmental sources.
- The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the US Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).

Contact Information

- For more information, please email me at: dparmstrong@albany.edu

- Follow us on social media:



@CHWS_NY



@Centerforhealthworkforcestudies



/company/center-for-health-workforce-studies