



**THE NEW JERSEY COLLABORATING
CENTER FOR NURSING**

Rutgers University, College of Nursing

Workforce Development • Health Policy • Quality Care

**THE EDUCATIONAL CAPACITY AND EDUCATIONAL TRENDS IN RN-
ENHANCING EDUCATION IN NEW JERSEY – 2005 DATA**

I. INTRODUCTION

Several sources of reports that predict nurse shortages all concur that New Jersey is very likely to have a massive shortage by 2020. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services forecasts a 49% vacancy rate of RN full-time equivalent positions or a shortfall of 42,400 RNs, which means that almost one out of two New Jerseyans may not have a nurse to care for them when they need care. The Center's forecasts, as well as those of the NJ Department of Labor are less severe, but never-the-less represents a cause for grave concern.

Part of the solution to a shortage is more students entering nursing schools. Although interest in nursing has lagged, since 2002 there has been a major increase in interest in nursing. However, we now find New Jersey schools of nursing turning away qualified students. Lack of faculty is currently a major concern: a lack of resources to hire additional faculty and a shortage of qualified faculty candidates. Today, faculty tend to be even older than direct care nurses (mean faculty age = 55; mean direct care nurse age = 48). Therefore, it is important that data related to the faculty pipeline, including enrollments in RN-BSN, MSN, and PhD programs be collected and reported.

The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing (NJCCN) was created in 2003 through a public/private partnership between the State and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Its mission is to serve as a future-oriented research and development center for nursing workforce innovations by developing and disseminating objective information that provides the bases for recommendations for the allocation of resources directed toward nursing.

Toward that end, one of the Center's initiatives has been to conduct an annual survey of all the RN schools in New Jersey in order to monitor and evaluate enrollment and graduation trends, as well as the capacity of the schools to recruit, admit, and educate nursing students in all levels of RN education, including RN-enhancing programs such as RN-BSN, MSN, and PHD education. Data collection was conducted in the fall of academic year 2005-2006, in cooperation with the National League of Nursing. Tabular summaries of findings are found in this report.

II. RN-ENHANCING PROGRAMS in New Jersey: RN to BSN, MSN, & PhD Program

A. RN-BSN Enrollments and Graduates

As of 10/15/05 there are 16 New Jersey BSN educational programs, all of whom admit RN to BSN students. Nine of the 16 admit generic students as well. The other seven have only admitted RN students, but as of AY06 three of those seven schools have been approved or opened generic BSN programs. The total number of RN enrollees in New Jersey programs as of 10/15/05 was 1,277.

Some schools do not report separately the number of applications and demographic information for their generic students in contradistinction to their RN-BSN students. Consequently, at this time, the data base only facilitates accurate reporting for the total number of RN-BSN enrollments and graduates. It is recommended that future surveys require schools to report data separately for each of their educational programs.

The 16 schools produced 240 graduates from 10/15/04 to 10/14/05.

Table 2. Mean Tuition Rates for In-State RN-BSN Students/Year

<i>Program</i>	<i>Average</i>
RN-BSN State Schools	\$4,925
RN-BSN Private Schools	\$13,921

B. GRADUATE-LEVEL Applications, Admissions, & Enrollments

As of 10/15/05 there are a total of 11 MSN educational programs and 2 PhD programs located in New Jersey. Of the 2 PhD programs, only 1 offers a PhD in Nursing.

Table 3. TOTAL Enrollments in Graduate Level RN-Enhancing Programs as of 10/15/05

<i>Program</i>	<i>Full time</i>	<i>Part time</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Asian/PI</i>	<i>Native American</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total Enrollments</i>
MSN	161	1041	1066	136	129	3	221	68	647	134	1,202
PhD	0	36	32	4	5	0	5	0	25	1	36

Table 4. Graduate-Level Applications and NEW Enrollments for Fall 2005

<i>Program</i>	<i>Open seats</i>	<i>Total Applications</i>	<i>Not Qualified</i>	<i>Qualified</i>	<i>Qualified Accepted</i>	<i>Qualified Waitlisted</i>	<i>Transfer students accepted</i>	<i>Qualified not WL & Not Accepted</i>	<i>Accepted & Enrolled</i>
MSN	No current limitations reported	696	121	575	504	No Waiting Lists Maintained	18	71	390
PhD		10	6	4	4		0	0	1*

- *Of the 2 PhD programs, 1 school reported no new admissions for AY 2005, and 1 school only reported 1 new admission. The school that reported 1 new admission was in process of transitioning to a new, on-line PhD program. It is important to note, as a postscript, that for AY 2006, the on-line PhD program accepted 15 new applicants and had 15 new enrollees. In addition, a second PhD in nursing also has opened as of AY2006.

Table 5. Demographic Characteristics of New Graduate-Level Enrollees Fall, 2005

<i>Program</i>	<i># of Admissions</i>	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Part Time</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Native American</i>	<i>Asian/PI</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
MSN	390	66	324	349	41	0	47	73	22	205	43
PhD	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

- It is important to note that a total of 48% of all new MSN enrollees in New Jersey are minority students. Minority enrollments will facilitate a more diverse faculty pipeline.

C. RN TO BSN, MSN, AND PHD New Jersey Graduates

Table 6. Graduates 10/16/04 – 10/15/05

<i>Program</i>	<i>Total Graduates</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Native American</i>	<i>Asian/PI</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Other</i>
RN-BSN	240								
MSN	225	205	20	0	25	35	18	123	24
PhD	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0

- Similarly, 45% of MSN graduates in New Jersey are minority students. MSN-prepared minority nurses will facilitate diversity of the faculty pipeline.

III. Data Highlights and Recommendations Regarding RN-Enhancing Programs in New Jersey:

- The average tuition for private schools offering an RN-BSN program is almost 3 higher than that of State schools
- Two large State universities, Rutgers Newark, and Kean, have a limited number of spaces for new admissions to the RN-BSN. In total, **139 qualified applicants to the RN-BSN programs were denied admission** in 2005 to Rutgers and Kean due to lack of educational capacity.
- Considering that tuition is most affordable in State universities, it is recommended that the capacity to educate RN-BSN students be increased in State universities in order to enhance the adequacy of the faculty pipeline.
- It is recommended that future surveys or data collection efforts require ALL schools to report data separately for each of their educational programs, so that accurate data specific to RN-BSN students and applicants can be obtained.
- It is recommended that future surveys or data collection efforts require ALL schools to report the prior educational preparation of their RN-BSN enrollees and graduates.



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