

South Carolina Nurse Supply Factsheet



Nursing Demographics

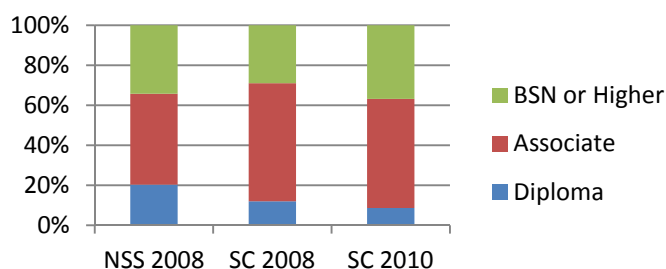
In 2010, South Carolina had 47,895 licensed nurses, including licensed practical nurses (LPNs-9,089), registered nurses (RNs-36,213) and Advanced Practice RNs (APRNs - 2,593). This is an increase of 6.4% from 2008. RN numbers grew by 7.5% (2,526) and APRNs increased by 12.8% (290). Contrary to the 2008 decline of LPNs by 76, 2010 data shows a slight increase of 51.

The majority of SC nurses are female (94%) and Caucasian (82%). The following table shows gender, race and age by classification.

| Classification | Gender (% Female) | Race | | | Majority Age (36-55) |
|----------------|-------------------------|------|-------|------|-------------------------|
| | | W | AA | O | |
| LPN | 96% | 68% | 30% | 2% | 54% |
| RN | 94% | 85% | 11.5% | 3.5% | 53% |
| APRN | 83% | 91% | 6% | 3% | 56% |

A comparison of HRSA 2008 National Sample Survey (NSS) and SC distribution of registered nurses according to initial nursing education indicates a higher percentage of SC RNs initially enter the workforce with an associate degree. However, that number decreased by 5.3% in 2010.

Thirty-four percent of RNs and 55% of APRNs in SC received their original nursing degrees outside of the state. Only 849 RNs received their original nursing degree outside of the continental U.S.



Employment

APRN

Eight-one percent of RNs and 80% APRNs reported working full time in 2010. The majority (58.8%) of APRNs are employed as Nurse Practitioners and 923 (35.6%) are Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Most are employed in hospitals (51%) or physician/other offices (26.9%).

RN

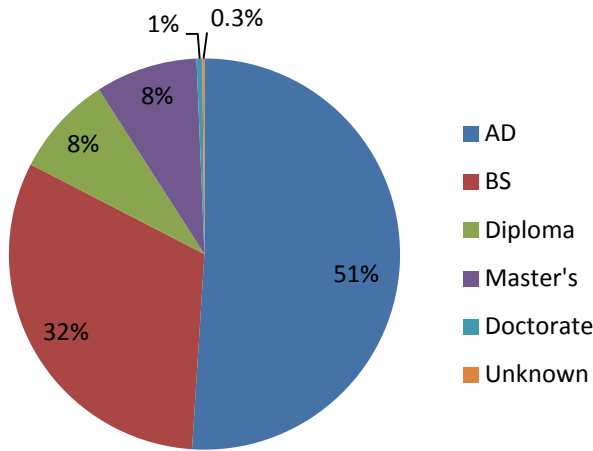
Seventy-seven percent of RNs reported employment as staff nurses and 65% reported working in hospitals, slightly higher than the national average of 62%. Overall, RN full time employment at 81.3% is much higher than the national average of 63.2%.¹

LPN

Eighty-two percent of LPNs reported full time employment. The top three employment settings for LPNs were nursing homes (38%), hospitals (16.8%) and physician's offices (17.8%). LPNs were more likely (29%) to hold primary employment in rural counties than RNs (17%) or APRNs (16%).

Nursing Education

Most SC RNs hold an associate degree as their highest degree. The graph to the left shows highest nursing degree held by all RNs, including APRNs. The percentage of RNs in SC who hold advanced degrees is 8.8%, 4% lower than the national average, while only 0.5% of the total RN population in SC hold doctorates.



Eighty-three percent of RNs who hold doctorates are 50 or older and 76% of RNs who hold NP certification are 50 or older.

Fifty percent of SC RNs take 6 to 15 years to move to graduate level education.

The South Carolina Board of Nursing website has listed as approved 19 PN programs, 15 ADN programs and 13 BSN programs. There are currently 4 graduate programs available with three of those offering doctorate education.

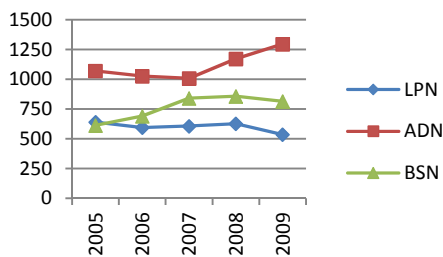
Highest Degree Held by All SC RNs

Geographic Distribution

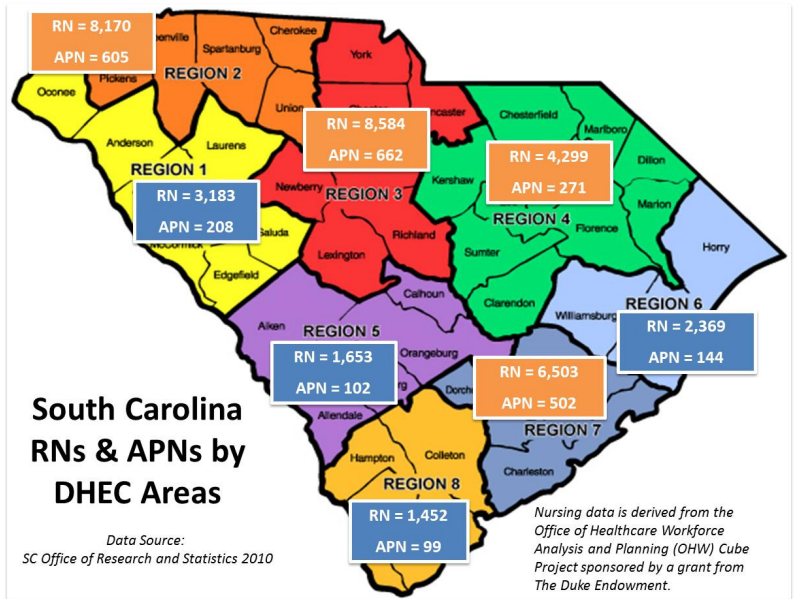
South Carolina nursing supply can be examined for maldistribution by aggregating data according to standard regions. It is also important to examine nursing supply within population. The map indicates that several regions have lower numbers of APRNs per capita than others.

Nursing Pipeline

Over the past 5 academic years, AD and BSN graduates have continued to increase (CHE).



However, according to the SC League for Nursing, schools are unable to continue to increase enrollments based on lack of faculty, clinical sites and space constraints. 52 nursing faculty vacancies were reported for 2009. Additionally, SC ranks 4th in the 16 state SREB region for anticipated faculty retirements.



Data is derived from the Office of Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning (OHW) Cube Project sponsored by a grant from [The Duke Endowment](#)

Additional References and Resources (hyperlinked):

- [The Registered Nurse Population: Initial Findings from the 2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses \(March, 2010\)](#), HRSA
- [U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates](#)
- [SC Office of Research and Statistics Health and Demographics Data](#)
- [SC Commission on Higher Education \(CHE\) Higher Education Data](#)
- [Southern Regional Education Board \(SREB\) Nursing Data](#)
- [SC Board of Nursing](#)
- [SC League for Nursing](#)