

From the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (2000):

Report on Minority Nursing Statistics

- There are 2,694,540 licensed registered nurses in the United States.
- Approximately 146,902 RNs are men – only 5.4% of the total nursing population.
- Only 9.1% of all RNs are under the age of 30. The average age of the RN population in the United States is 45.2 years.
- 38% of male RNs are under 40 compared with 31% of female RNs. Twenty-one percent of male RNs are 50 years of age or older, compared with 34% of female RNs.
- Approximately 87% of all RNs are Caucasian; 4.9% are African American; 3.7% are Asian or Pacific Islander; 2% are Hispanic; 0.5% are American Indian or Alaska Native; and 1.2% categorize themselves as "multiracial" (two or more races).
- There are approximately 133,041 black (non-Hispanic) nurses.
- There are approximately 54,861 Hispanic/Latino nurses.
- There are approximately 93,415 Asian/Pacific Islander nurses.
- There are approximately 13,040 American Indian/Alaska Native nurses.
- Between 1996 and 2000, the number of minority RNs increased at a faster rate (about 35%) than the number of non-minority RNs (2%).
- More than three-quarters of all licensed RNs (81.7%) are employed in the nursing field.
- 86% of minority nurses are currently employed in nursing, compared to 81% of non-minority nurses.
- Minority nurses employed in nursing are more likely than non-minority nurses to be employed full time: 77% of Hispanic/Latino RNs and 86% of African-American and Asian/Pacific Islander RNs are working full time, compared to about 70% of Caucasian RNs.
- Hospitals are the primary practice setting for 59% of all nurses.
- 18.2% of all nurses work in public/community health settings.
- The Pacific area of the United States has the highest percentage of minority nurses (21%).
- Black nurses are more likely to be found in the southern areas of the United States.
- Higher proportions of the nurses in the West South Central, Pacific and Mountain areas are from Hispanic backgrounds than in other parts of the country.
- Asian/Pacific Islander nurses are more likely to be found in the Pacific, Middle Atlantic and West South Central areas of the country.
- Black and Asian/Pacific Islander nurses are more likely than all other nurses to have at least baccalaureate preparation.
- 11% of black nurses have master's or doctoral degrees, compared to 10.4% of Caucasian nurses and 8.4% of Hispanic nurses.
- Nearly 10% of advanced practice nurses are from racial/ethnic minority backgrounds. Approximately 11% of nurse practitioners are minority nurses.

Source: The Registered Nurse Population: Findings from the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses, March 2000, <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/reports/rnsurvey/rnss1.htm>. This survey is published approximately every four years by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Nursing. The next edition of the survey is expected to be available in Spring 2005.