

Annual Survey of Schools of Nursing, Academic Year 2006-2007

APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY

Overview. In the spring of 2008, the deans, directors, or department chairs of all state-accredited prelicensure nursing programs in the United States* were contacted by email by the National League for Nursing and invited to participate in the 2008 Annual Survey of Schools of Nursing. Invitations were sent on June 2, 2008 followed by a series of follow-up emails sent to non-responding schools between June 9 and October 10, 2008. Electronic, web-based survey forms were made available to nursing school administrators and staff members.

Data reporting and estimation techniques. The estimation techniques used to generate the Annual Survey graphs and tables were devised to balance two key objectives: a) the evaluation of the 2006-07 dataset within the context of historical trends, and b) accurate statistical estimation of the size of the 2006-07 student body and its subpopulations. To fulfill these objectives we used two different techniques throughout this report. Figures and tables that present the proportional distribution of the 2006-07 nursing student population use only 2006-07 survey data. By contrast, tables and figures that trend numbers of students were generated using unweighted historical imputation, a technique in which a previous value of a non-respondent is used for the imputation of a current value. In this case the number of enrollments, admissions, or graduations of programs that did not complete a survey in 2006-07 were imputed from the data most recently reported by the program. These charts and tables are identified in footnotes.

Response Rate Analysis

	All Nursing Programs		Data Collection Year							
			Any data		2008		pre-2008		no data	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Program Type	1758	100.0	1518	86.3	938	53.4	580	33.0	240	13.7
Baccalaureate	683	100.0	567	83.0	303	44.4	264	38.7	116	17.0
Diploma	75	100.0	64	85.3	46	61.3	18	24.0	11	14.7
Associate Degree	1000	100.0	887	88.7	589	58.9	298	29.8	113	11.3

Response Rate Analysis. Of 1,758 programs, 1,518 reported survey data within the past four years yielding an overall cumulative response rate of 86.3 percent. The cumulative response rate varied slightly by program type, with 83 percent of baccalaureate programs, 85.3 percent of diploma programs, and 88.7 percent of associate degree programs submitting data in 2008 or a prior year. When reported data are combined with historical data to produce population estimates, the 2006-07 dataset is very similar to the universe of nursing schools with respect to program type and almost identical with respect to region (see table below).

Isolating only data reported in the most recent survey year, a total of 938 programs submitted data in 2008, producing an overall single-year response rate of 53.4 percent. The single year response rate varied considerably by program type, ranging from a rate of 61.3 percent among diploma programs to 44.4 percent among baccalaureate programs. Associate degree programs responded at a rate of 58.9 percent.

* US territories are not included in this publication.

Distribution of Responding Programs by Program Type

	All Nursing Programs		Data Collection Year							
			Any data		2008		pre-2008		no data	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Program Type	1758	100.0	1518	100.0	938	100.0	580	100.0	240	100.0
Baccalaureate	683	38.9	567	37.4	303	32.3	264	45.5	116	48.3
Diploma	75	4.3	64	4.2	46	4.9	18	3.1	11	4.6
Associate Degree	1000	56.9	887	58.4	589	62.8	298	51.4	113	47.1

Distribution of Responding Programs by Region

	All Nursing Programs		Data Collection Year							
			Any data		2008		pre-2008		no data	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Total	1758	100.0	1518	100.0	938	100.0	580	100.0	240	100.0
Midwest	489	27.8	413	27.2	264	28.1	149	25.7	76	31.7
North Atlantic	353	20.1	312	20.6	198	21.1	114	19.7	41	17.1
South	619	35.2	550	36.2	349	37.2	201	34.7	69	28.8
West	297	16.9	243	16.0	127	13.5	116	20.0	54	22.5