

**THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF NURSING
AND COLLEAGUES IN CARING LPN SURVEY
Findings 2003**

This survey was conducted to provide comprehensive data about actively licensed New Jersey LPNs as of January 2002. The resulting database will enable the development of projections of the supply, distribution of, and requirements for, actively licensed LPNs in New Jersey. This report will be divided by personal, professional, and employment characteristics.

The LPN survey was distributed to 1,900 LPNs. The number of respondents was 1,213, for a return rate of 63.8%. A sampling plan based on a 50% response ensured that each cell had a sufficient response rate. However, not all questions were answered by all of the respondents.

Personal Characteristics

Age

The mean age of the actively licensed New Jersey LPNs was 47.8 years. The percentage of respondents in various age groups was determined and is noted below:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Respondents (%)</u>
0-19 years	0.8
20-29 years	4.3
30-39 years	16.7
40-49 years	33.2
50-59 years	30.9
60-69 years	11.6
70-79 years	2.4
80+ years	0.2

Gender

The overwhelming majority of the respondents were female (1125/1169 = 96.2%).

Marital Status

The LPNs were asked their current marital status. Of the 1168 who answered the question, 761 (65.1%) are married, 284 (24.3%) are single, divorced, or widowed, 95 (8.1%) have never been married, and 28 (2.5%) are living in a committed relationship.

Professional Characteristics

Education

The LPNs surveyed were asked what basic nursing education program prepared them to sit for the LPN licensing examination. Of the 1173 respondents, 841 (71.7%) graduated from a practical nurse program in a vo-tech setting, 227 (19.4%) from a practical nurse program in a hospital, 82 (7.0%) from a practical nurse program at a community college, and 23 (2.0%) held an associate's degree. The location of these programs were: New Jersey (86.7%), another US state or territory (11.5%), and a foreign country (1.8%).

When asked if they were currently enrolled in a nursing education program leading to a degree/diploma, 85.8% answered "no" and 14.2% answered "yes".

Employment Characteristics

The survey asked whether the LPN is currently working in a position for which the job description requires a current LPN licensure. Of the 1179 respondents, 837 (71%) answered in the affirmative. The mean number of hours worked per week was 36.7; 47.5% work 35-40 hours a week and 32.2% work less than 35 hours a week. The survey also asked how many positions the respondents were employed as a LPN. Table 1 below outlines the percentage of LPNs working in a primary position and a secondary position.

Table 1. Setting by Position

Setting	Primary Position (n=777)	Secondary Position (n=163)
Amb surg ctr, %	2.2	6.4
Assisted living, %	4.5	9.2
Community health ctr, %	1.3	0.6
HMO, %	0.9	1.8
Home health, %	8.2	14.7
Hospital, ambulatory care, %	2.3	1.2
Hospital, ER, %	0.6	1.2
Hospital, in-pt, %	12.0	3.1
Hospital, psych in-pt, %	2.1	1.8
LTC, %	11.7	10.4
Mental hlth ctr, %	1.5	2.5
Military/govt, %	0.8	0.6
Nursing home/extended care, %	23.3	19.6
Nursing, private practice, %	1.4	4.3
Physician, private practice, %	14.5	6.1
Public health, %	0.9	2.5
Other, %	11.7	14.1

The respondents were asked what was the minimum general nursing experience required for their principal position. Of the 517 LPNs who answered the question, 173 (33.5%) stated that no general experience was required. The requirements that the remainder of the LPNs had to meet were 1-2 years nursing experience (n = 228; 44.1%), 3-5 years nursing experience (66; 12.8%), and more than 5 years experience (n = 50; 9.7%).

The types of patients LPNs primarily care for in their principal positions are listed below (n=1218).

<u>Type of Patient</u>	<u>% of LPNs</u>
Adult health	15.6
Chronic care	11.2
Coronary care	3.6
Critical care	2.4
Emergency/trauma	2.2
Geriatric	23.0
Maternal/child	2.7
Medical/surgical	10.5
Pediatric	6.5
Perioperative	2.1
Psychiatric/mental health	6.0
Rehabilitation	8.2
Other	6.0

The responses of the LPNs when asked how likely they were to leave their principal position in the next 12 months were very likely (70; 13.4%), somewhat likely (104; 19.9%), somewhat unlikely (93; 17.8%), and very unlikely (255; 48.9%). Almost one-third of the LPNs were likely to leave their current position within one year.

Those LPNs who responded that they were somewhat likely or very likely to leave their principal position in the next 12 months gave the following reasons: dissatisfaction with salary (50; 25.9%), dissatisfaction with job assignment (36; 18.7%), retirement (28; 14.5%), family/personal leave (16; 8.3%), returning to school (15; 7.8%), and other reasons than those mentioned (48; 24.9%).

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