Registered Nurses in the U.S.  Nursing by the numbers

Total number of licensed registered nurses (RNs) in the U.S.  3.1 million
Total number of licensed RNs in the U.S. employed in nursing  2.6 million
Percentage of employed RNs working in hospitals  62.2 percent

U.S. nursing workforce, 1980-2008*

Average age of employed RNs  45.5 years
Percentage of RNs age 50 or older  45 percent
Largest age group of employed RNs (5-year increments)  50-54 years
Percentage of RNs from a racial/ethnic minority group  16.8 percent
Percentage of male RNs  6.6 percent
Average annual salary for RNs, 2008  $66,973

RN population by nurse employment status, 1980-2008*

* The totals of full-time and part-time employment may not add to the estimate of all RNs employed in nursing due to incomplete information provided by respondents on employment status and the effect of rounding.
Registered Nurses in the U.S.  ➤  Nursing by the numbers

Age distribution of the RN population, 1980-2008*

![Age distribution graph]

* The total numbers of nurses in each survey, across age groups may not equal the estimated total of all RNs due to incomplete information provided by respondents and the effect of rounding. Only those who provided age information are included in the calculations used for this chart.

Nursing job growth

- Projected job growth in nursing, 2008-2018 ➤ 581,500 jobs
- Projected percentage growth in nursing employment, 2008-2018 ➤ 22 percent
- Nursing jobs as percentage of projected job growth, all industries, 2008-2018 ➤ 3.8 percent

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)**

- Number of RNs prepared as APRNs ➤ 250,527
- Percentage of APRNs who are nurse practitioners ➤ 63.2 percent

** Nurses who have met advanced educational and clinical practice guidelines.

Nursing education

- Percentage of RNs with baccalaureate or higher degree ➤ 50 percent
- Percentage of RNs with a master's or doctoral degree ➤ 13.2 percent
- Enrollment increase in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs, 2008-2009 ➤ 3.5 percent

Nursing and nursing faculty shortages

- Projected shortage of nurses to meet health care demand by 2025 ➤ 260,000
- National nurse faculty vacancy rate, 2010 ➤ 6.9 percent
- Percentage of nurse educators age 50 or older ➤ 60 percent
- Number of qualified nursing school applications turned away, 2009 ➤ 54,991

Sources:
American Association of Colleges of Nursing

Charts courtesy of U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, 2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses.