

2017 NEBRASKA LPN WORKFORCE SURVEY REPORT

NEBRASKA CENTER FOR NURSING

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – LICENSURE UNIT – JUNE 2018

The Nebraska Center for Nursing

https://center4nursing.nebraska.gov

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BACKGROUND

Since November 2000, the Licensed Practical Nurse Workforce Survey has been included with the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) renewal application. In 2000, the Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Center for Nursing to address the nursing shortage. In August of 2017, Nebraska Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) were surveyed in conjunction with LPN renewal notices.

A total of 5,671 Workforce Surveys were collected and entered for data analysis. From this total, 5,429 were completed on-line, and 242 on paper. In order to merge the Workforce Survey responses with the database information, the license number, which was stamped on the survey prior to mailing or typed by an online survey participant, was used to merge the survey responses with information from the database. This information was used to calculate demographic characteristics of the sample, such as age and gender. Of the 5,671 surveys collected, 5,004 identified themselves as being principally employed in Nebraska (88.2%). A copy of the survey form can be found in the **Appendix**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LPN demographics in Nebraska indicate that 88% are White (%) and 97% female. Similar results were found with the 2015 LPN Renewal Survey. Race/ethnicity among LPNs are more diverse at the national level, where only 63.2 are White, and the percentage of males is higher compared to the state level in Nebraska (7.6% vs. 3.2%, respectively). The average age of LPNs in Nebraska has not changed when compared to 2015 (in both years the average age for LPNs was 46.1). Average age of LPNs in Nebraska is higher compared to the national average age of 43.6 years (U.S. DHHS, 2013).

In considering the geographic distribution of LPNs in Nebraska, there are 0.5 more LPNs per 1,000 people working in rural areas than in urban areas (3.0 vs. 2.5, respectively). Almost one-quarter of all LPNs (23 percent) work in rural counties in Nebraska. Similar results are found at the national level (U.S. DHHS, 2013).

Currently, nine percent of LPNs are enrolled in a nursing education program, mostly for Associate Degree Programs, followed by Baccalaureate Degree Programs.

Thirty four percent of LPNs work in a Nursing Home/Extended Care/Assisted Living Facility. That percentage is similar compared to national statistics (U.S. DHHS, 2013). Over 30 percent of LPNs are specialized in Geriatrics/Gerontology as part of their nursing practice position. One-third of LPNs earned a salary between \$35,000 and \$45,000.

The most liked aspect of nursing was "patients" and the least liked aspect was "salary". The large majority of LPNs who would choose nursing again, were very unlikely to leave nursing as their principal employment, and would encourage others to choose nursing as a career.

CONTENTS

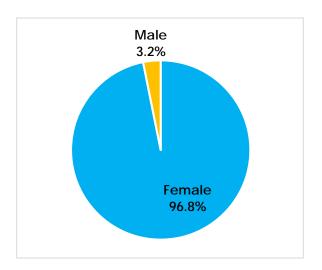
BACKGROUND	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
DEMOGRAPHICS	5
Gender	5
Age	5
Racial/Ethnic Background	6
Education	8
Enrolled in a nursing education program	8
Salary	9
WORK ENVIRONMENT	10
Hours Worked per Week	10
Work Situation	11
Employers of Nurses	11
Setting	12
Employment Specialty	13
Satisfaction levels with employment	14
Leaving Principal Employment	18
Reasons for leaving	18
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF LPNS IN NEBRASKA	19
REFERENCES:	22
APPENDIX	23
Practical Nursing Workforce Survey 2017	2/

DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER

In Nebraska, 3.2% of LPNs identified themselves as male and 96.8% as female, which shows an increment of 0.1% in male nursing participation in comparison to the 2015 report. **Figure 1** shows the percentage of male and female nurses in Nebraska for the current 2017 LPN survey.

Figure 1: Distribution of Nebraska Licensed Practical Nurses by Gender in 2017



National level: **7.6%** of LPNs are male.

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, & US Department of Health and Human Services. (2013). The US nursing workforce: Trends in supply and education. Health Resources and Services Administration, Washington, DC, USA.

AGE

Figure 2 depicts the distribution of Nebraska LPNs by age. In Nebraska the average age of LPNs is 46.1 (max = 79; min = 20; s.d. = 12.4; median = 46). The average age for male LPNs is 44.0 and for female LPNs is 46.2. One-third of the LPN workforce are baby-boomers (currently 54 years and older). See **Figure 2**. On average, LPNs are four years older than ten years ago. A similar trend has occurred at the national level.

Traditionalists or Millennials Generation X **Baby Boomers** Silent Generation [1982-2000] [1965-1981] [1946-1964] [1927-1945] 43% of Nebraska LPNs are 50 years or older Average age: 46.1 Median: 46 Min age: 20 Max age: 79 LPN national level average age: 43.6

Figure 2: Distribution of Nebraska Licensed Practical Nurses by Age

RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND

Figure 3 shows the distribution of LPNs in Nebraska according to self-reported racial/ethnic categories. The preponderance of nurses were Caucasian, 88.3%. Minorities represented 11.7% of the total LPN population, which is 3% higher when compared to 2015. The highest percentage of minorities is represented by African Americans (5.2%), followed by Hispanic/Latinos (3.9%). At the national level, 37% of LPNs are minorities (U.S. DHHS, 2013). In the general population of Nebraska (2016 estimates), 80.3% are Caucasian, 4.6% are African American, 0.7% are American Indian/Alaska Native, 2.1% are Asian, and 10.2% are Hispanic/Latino (2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table DP05). See **Figure 4**.

Figure 3: Distribution of Nebraska LPNs by Racial/Ethnic Background

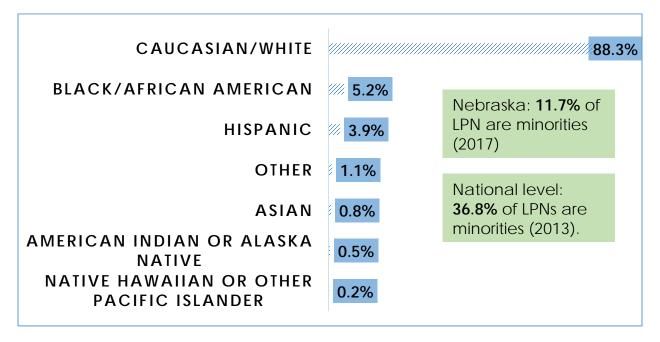
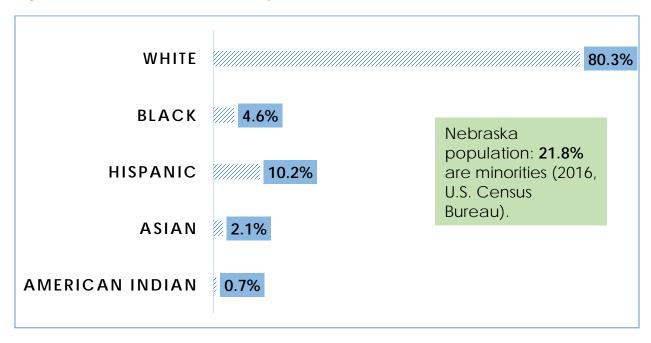


Figure 4: Nebraska Race/Ethnicity



EDUCATION

Most LPNs (88.4%) graduated from a Nebraska LPN program, 11.4% were educated in other states, and 0.2% were foreign educated. This information is depicted in **Figure 5**.

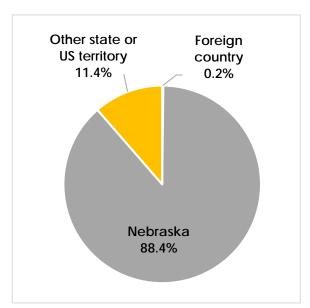
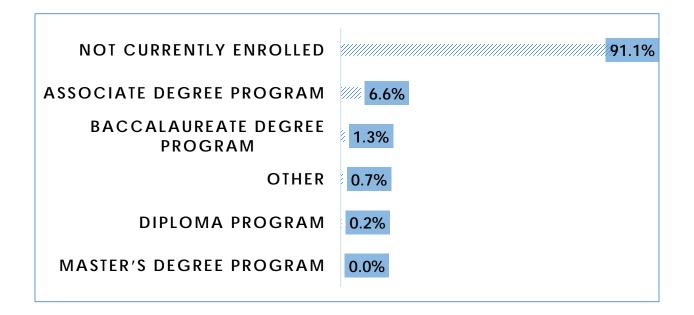


Figure 5: Geographic Location of Education

ENROLLED IN A NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM

LPNs were asked if they were currently enrolled in a nursing education program leading to a degree or certificate. Nearly 9 out of ten LPNs responded that they were not enrolled in a nursing education program, followed by those who mentioned being enrolled in an Associate Degree Program (6.6%), then followed by a Baccalaureate Degree Program (1.3%). See **Figure 6**. LPNs reporting that they had a non-nursing degree before they entered the LPN program were 10.6%.

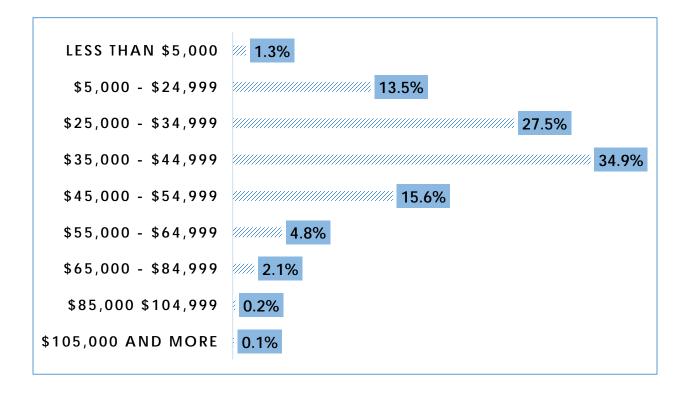
Figure 6: LPNs Currently Enrolled in Nursing Education Programs



SALARY

LPNs were asked to describe their salary ranges. **Figure 7** displays the reported salary information. The highest percentage (34.9%) of LPNs earned \$35,000 - \$44,999 followed by 27.5% earning \$25,000 - \$34,999. Nearly one-fourth (22.9%) LPNs reported earning more than \$45,000. According to the Nebraska Department of Labor, the estimated mean annual wage for LPNs is \$42,516 (https://neworks.nebraska.gov).

Figure 7: Salaries of Nebraska LPNs

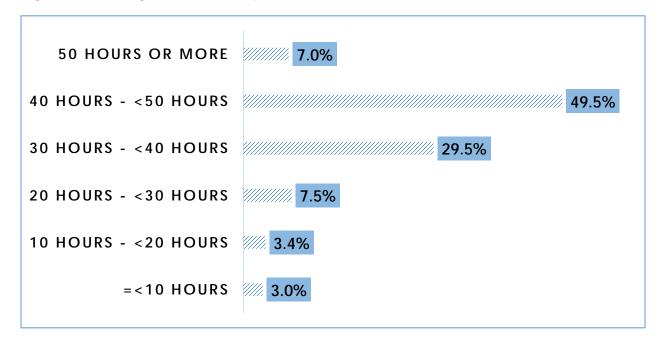


WORK ENVIRONMENT

HOURS WORKED PER WEEK

Figure 8 shows the amount of time Nebraska LPNs work each week. In 2017, 93.5% of Nebraska LPNs were working over 20 hours per week. Overall, 56.5% of LPNs work 40 hours a week or more. The highest percentage of LPNs reported working at least 40 but less than 50 hours per week (49.5%), followed by 29.5% working at least 30 but less than 40 hours per week. Seven percent of LPNs work more than 50 hours per week.

Figure 8: Average Work Hours per Week for Nebraska LPNs



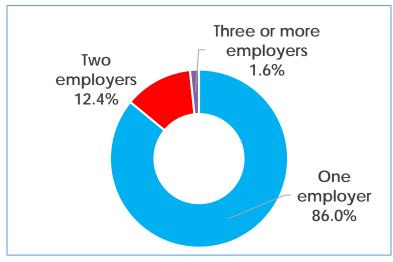
WORK SITUATION

The majority of LPNs (99.0%) were actively employed in nursing positions (full-time, part-time, or per-diem). The percentage of LPNs working in non-nursing positions was 0.7%. Only 0.1% were not employed, and 0.1% were working as nurse volunteers.

EMPLOYERS OF NURSES

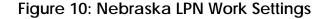
Nebraska LPNs identified how many employers they worked for at the time of the survey. In 2017, 86.0% of LPNS worked for one employer, 12.4 % for two, and 1.6 % for three or more. **Figure 9** is based on these percentages.

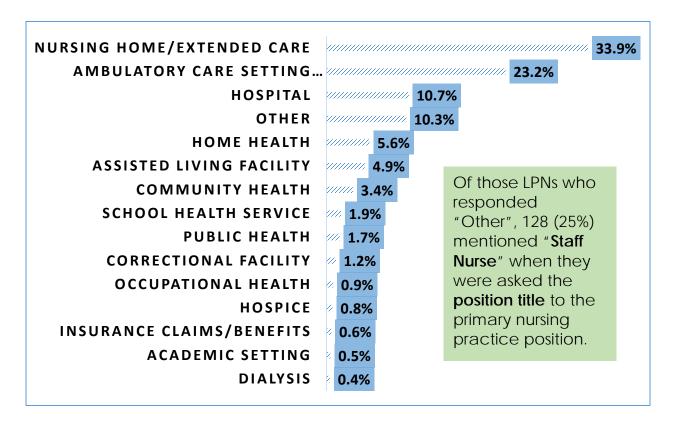
Figure 9: Number of Employers



SETTING

The 2017 Renewal Survey lists 16 working nurse practice positions (for details see Appendix). Nursing Home/Extended Care is the major employer of LPNs with 33.9% of LPNs, followed by "Ambulatory Care Setting (Clinic)" (23.2%), Hospital (10.7%), "Other" (10.3%), "Home Health" (5.6%), and "Assisted Living Facility" (4.9%). See **Figure 10**.

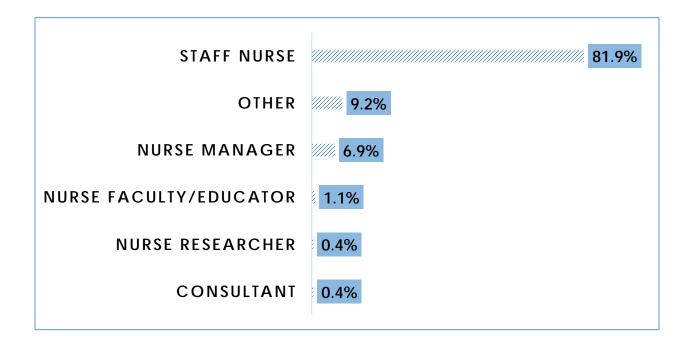




PRIMARY LPN PRACTICE POSITION

Eight out of ten LPNs work as "Staff Nurse" (81.9%), followed by "Other" (9.2%), and then by "Nurse Manager" position (6.9%). See **Figure 11**. Over one-third of Staff Nurses work in "Nursing Home/Extended Care" facilities.

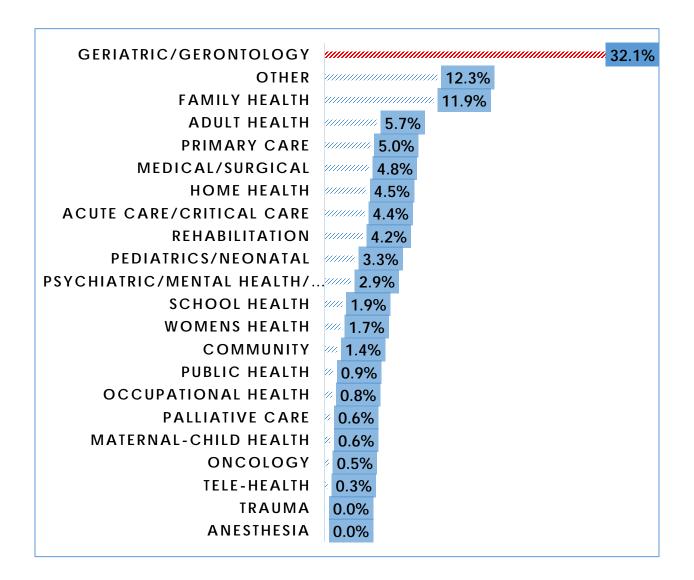
Figure 11: Nebraska Primary LPN Practice Position



EMPLOYMENT SPECIALTY

Twenty-two different specialties were listed for LPNs to choose from. Geriatric/Gerontology was the primary specialty chosen by LPNs (34.8%), followed by "Other" (12.3%), and then by "Family Health" (11.9%). Of those who selected "Other" as specialty, 64% work as "Staff Nurse". See **Figure 12** for a complete list of specialties.

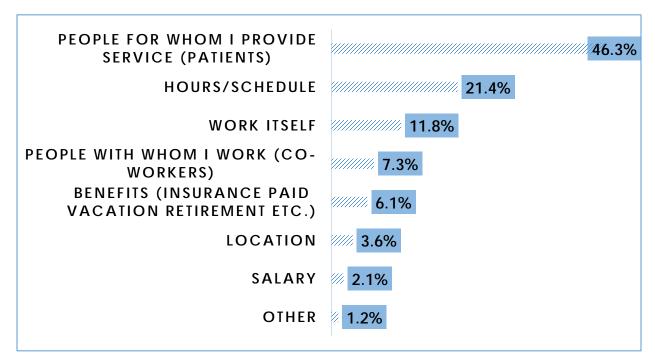
Figure 12: Nebraska LPN Specialties



SATISFACTION LEVELS WITH EMPLOYMENT

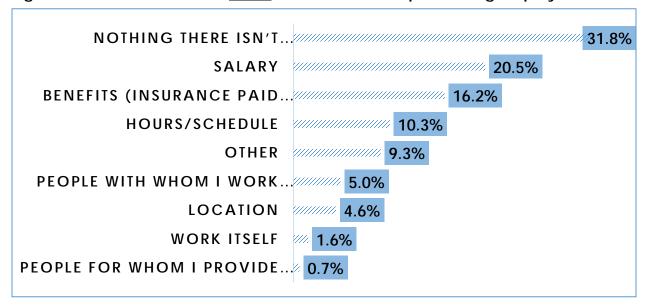
Nearly half of LPNs indicated that what they like the most about their job is to provide services to patients (46.3%), followed by Hours/schedule (21.4%), and then by the Work itself (11.8%). See **Figure 13**.





When LPNs were asked about what they like the least, three out of ten indicated that there is nothing they do not like (31.8%), followed by Salary (20.5%), and then by Benefits (16.2%). See **Figure 14**.

Figure 14: What Do You Like <u>LEAST</u> About Your Principal Nursing Employment?



LPNs were asked how satisfied they are with their current job. One out of two nurses indicate that they are "Very satisfied" with their jobs (53.8%). Only 0.7% of nurses indicated that they were "Very dissatisfied" with their current job. When merging positive remarks about their jobs (i.e., "Very satisfied" and "Somewhat satisfied"), a total of 96.3% of LPNs feel satisfied with their current jobs. See **Figure 15**.

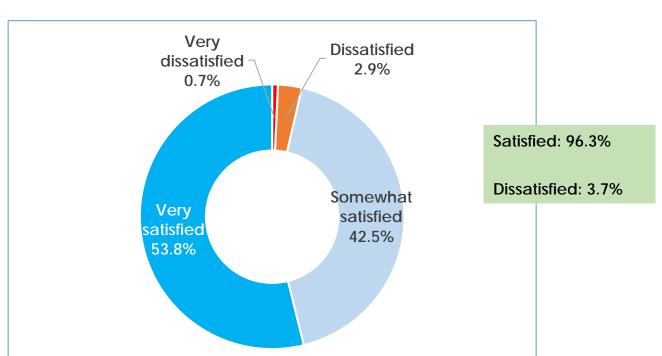
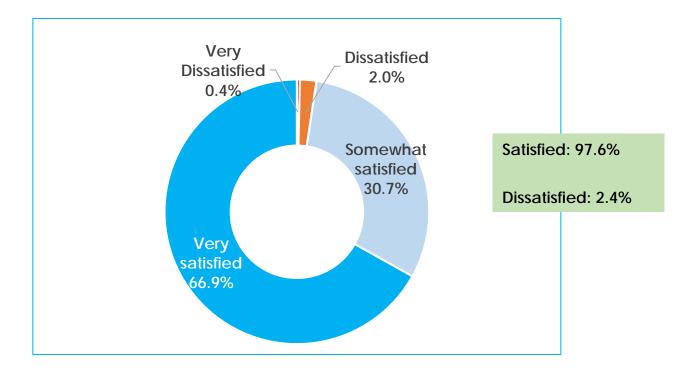


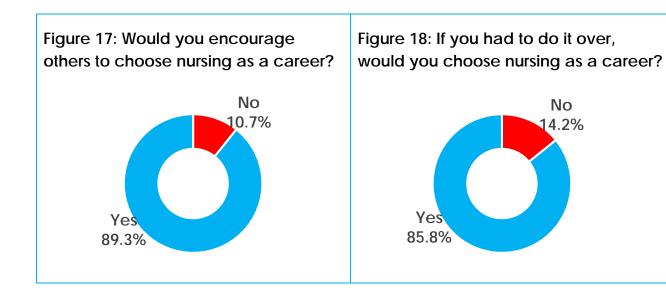
Figure 15: How Satisfied Are You With Your Current Job?

LPNs were also asked how satisfied they are with nursing as a career. Two thirds of LPNs answered that they were "Very satisfied" (66.9%), followed by "Somewhat satisfied" (30.7%). Overall, 2.4% of LPNs answered that they were not satisfied with their career. See **Figure 16**.

Figure 16: How Satisfied Are You With Nursing As A Career?



A high proportion of LPNs indicate that they would encourage others to choose nursing as a career (89.3%), and 85.8% of LPNs would do it over if they had the opportunity to choose nursing as a career again. These high levels of satisfaction with nursing jobs and the nursing career are consistent with previous years. See Figures 17 and 18.



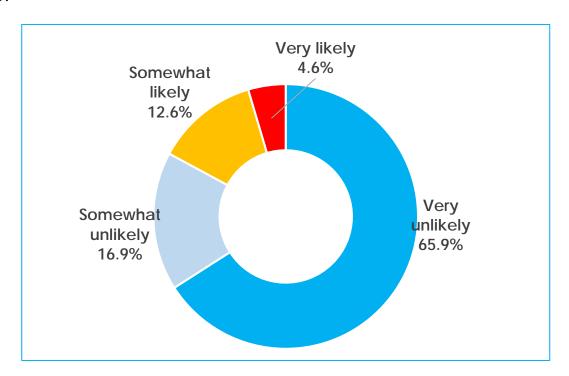
No

14.2%

LEAVING PRINCIPAL EMPLOYMENT

Two-thirds of LPNs (65.9%) found it very unlikely that they would leave nursing as their principal employment in the next twelve months. Only 4.6% of LPNs are considering leaving their employment. Overall, eight out of ten LPNs answered "Somewhat unlikely" or "Very unlikely" to the question of leaving the profession. See **Figure 19**.

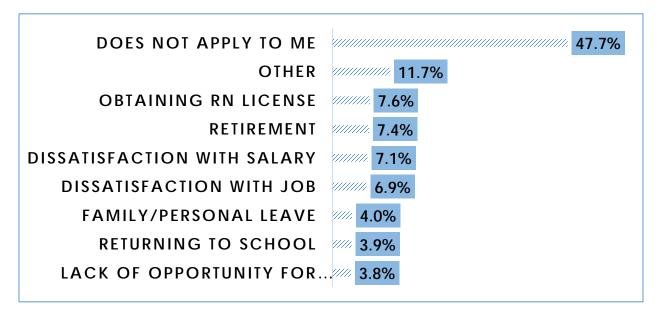
Figure 19: How Likely Are You To Leave Your Principal Employment In The Next 12 Months?



REASONS FOR LEAVING

LPNs who plan to leave their principal employment as nurses identified the following reasons: One out of ten LPNs (11.7%) selected "Other" as main reason. Another 7.6% chose "Obtaining RN License", followed by "Retirement" (7.4%)", and then by "Dissatisfaction with salary" (7.1%). **Figure 20**.





GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF LPNS IN NEBRASKA

Figure 21 shows the number of LPNs by County according to the 2015 LPN Renewal Survey. Twelve counties reported **zero** LPNs working in them: Sioux, Banner, Grand, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Thomas, Blaine, Hayes, Gosper, Keya Paha, and Wheeler. The highest number of LPNs was reported in Douglas County (n = 1,072), followed by Lancaster County (n = 787). Two counties reported having just one LPN working in them: Loup and Frontier.

When analyzing LPN geographic distribution by rural and urban counties, it was found that three-fourths of LPNs work in urban areas (77.0%) and one-fourth work in rural areas (23.0%). Similar geographic distributions are found at the national level (U.S. DHHS, 2013). See **Table 1**.

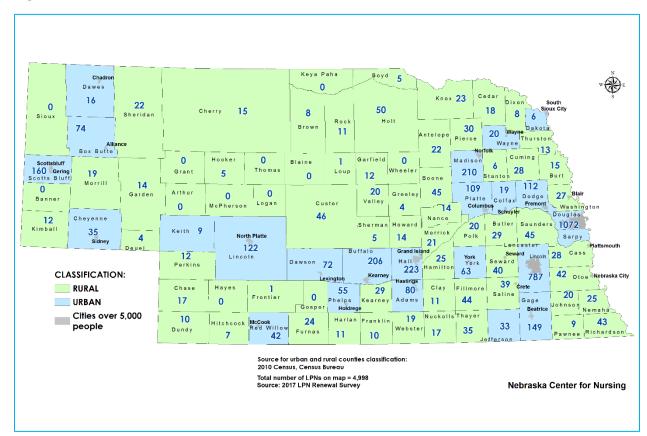


Figure 21: Urban and Rural Counties where LPNs Work

Table 1: Total Number & Percentage of LPNs by Geographic Location

Urban	Rural	Total (urban + rural)	Urban LPNs per capita	Rural LPNs per capita	Urban LPNs per 100,000	Rural LPNs per 100,000	Total LPNs per 100,000
3,849 (77.0%)	1,149 (23.0%)	4,998	400.3	330.2	250	303	260

National data shows that there are 225 LPNs per 100,000 people (U.S. DHHS, 2013). In Nebraska, there are 260 LPNs per 100,000 people. On average, there are 53 more LPNs per 100,000 people in rural Nebraska than in urban areas. See **Figure 22**.



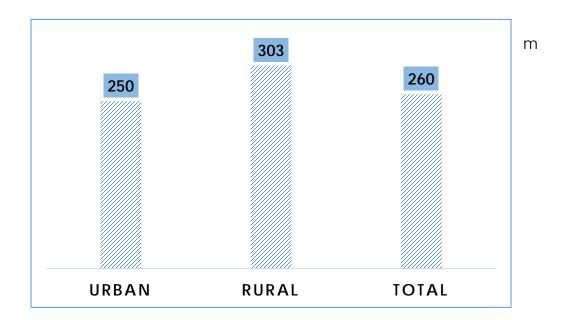
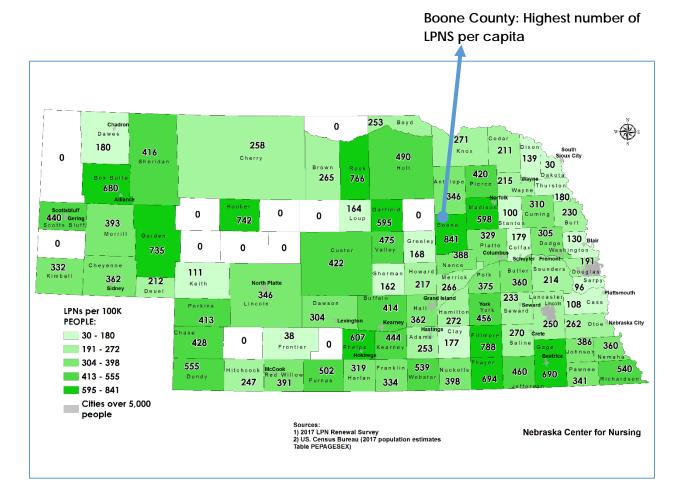


Figure 23 shows the number of LPNs per 100,000 people by county. Boone County shows the highest number of LPNs per 100,000 people (841 LPNs), followed by Fillmore County (788 LPNs), and then by Rock County (766 LPNs). Dakota County shows the lowest number of LPNs per 100,000 people (30 LPNs), followed by Frontier (38 LPNs), and then by Sarpy County (96 LPNs).

Figure 23: LPNs per 100,000 People by County



REFERENCES:

US Department of Health and Human Services, & US Department of Health and Human Services. (2013). The US nursing workforce: Trends in supply and education. Health Resources and Services Administration, Washington, DC, USA.

APPENDIX

PRACTICAL NURSING WORKFORCE SURVEY 2017

1. What is your license #?			
2. What is your race?		2. a. Hispanic origin or descent?	
White/Caucasian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	YesNo	
Black/African American	American Indian or Alaska		
Asian	Native Other		
2. b. If you speak another language other than English, please indicate.		2. c. Are you fluent in sign language? YesNo	
SpanishGermanFrenchOther			
3. Where was the location of the basic nursing education program that prepared you to take the LPN licensing examination?		Which nursing education programs have you completed? (Mark all that apply)	
NebraskaOther State or US territory		Practical Nursing Program Diploma	
Foreign country		Vocational/Practical Nursing Certificate	
5. Are you currently enrolled in a nursing education program leading to a degree/certificate?		6. If you have a non-nursing degree(s), did you earn this degree before entering your basic nursing education program that prepared you for LPN licensure?	
Not currently enrolled	Baccalaureate Degree		
Associate Degree Program	Program	YesNo	
Diploma Program	Master's Degree Program		
	Other		
7. Which of the following best describes your current primary work situation? (Select one).		8. If unemployed, please indicate the reasons:	
Actively employed in nursing:	Actively employed in a field other than nursing:	Taking care of home andDisabled familyInadequate SalarySchool	
Full-time	Full-time	Difficulty in finding aOther nursing position	
Part-time	Part-time	nursing position	
Per diem	Per diem		
	Unemployed:		
Working in nursing only as a volunteer	Seeking work as a nurse		
	Not seeking work as a		
	nurse		
	Retired		

9a. I have successfully completed a Nebraska approved LPN-C course and will submit evidence of completing the course to	9b. I have completed an 8-hour IV therapy didactic course in Nebraska and will submit verification of completion to
dhhs.nursingrenewals@nebraska.gov (this includes LPN program	dhhs.nursingrenewals@nebraska.gov
graduates after May 1, 2016).	YesNo
YesNo	
On I have completed an IV therapy course in another state and	Od. If you answered NO to question to the or to you will be
9c. I have completed an IV therapy course in another state and have licensed in Nebraska by endorsement and will submit	9d. If you answered NO to question 9a, 9b or 9c, you will be required to complete an 8 hour IV theory course over the
verification of completion of an IV course to	next five years to maintain your LPN license. I acknowledge
dhhs.nursingrenewals@nebraska.gov	the new requirement.
YesNo	YesNA
Please answer questions 10 - 28 only if y	ou are actively employed in nursing.
10. In how many positions are you currently employed as a	11. What is the average number of hours worked during a
nurse?	typical week in nursing positions?
123 or more	THO SIKE
40 Plane in that the six and a country and at the six and	40 Have a second and the second and t
12. Please indicate the zip code, county and state of your PRIMARY EMPLOYER:	13. How many miles do you travel one way to get to work at your principal nursing employment?
ZIP CODE	0 – 5 miles21 – 30 miles
County State	6 - 10 miles31 - 50 miles
·	11 – 20 miles> 50 miles
14. a. What is your current annual salary for all nursing employment?	15.a. Please identify the type of setting that most closely corresponds to your <u>PRIMARY</u> nursing practice position:
Less than \$5,000At least \$45,000 but less than	Academic SettingHospital
\$55,000	Ambulatory Care SettingInsurance
5,000 - \$25,000	[clinic] Claims/BenefitsAssisted Living FacilityNursing Home/Extended
\$65,000	Community HealthOccupational Health
More than \$25,000 but lessAt least \$65,000, but less than	
than \$35,000 \$85,000 At least \$35,000 but less thanAt least \$85,000, but less than	Correctional FacilityOther
\$45,000 \$105,000 \$105,000	DialysisPolicy/Planning/Regulato
105,000 and more	Home HealthPublic Health
14. b. What is your average hourly wage for your primary	HospiceSchool Health Service
nursing position?	
15.b. Please identify the position title that most closely	15.c. Please identify the employment specialty that most
corresponds to your <u>PRIMARY</u> nursing practice position:	closely corresponds to your <u>PRIMARY</u> nursing practice position:
Staff NurseNurse Manager	Acute Care/Critical CareMedical SurgicalPublic Health
ConsultantNurse Faculty/ educator	Adult HealthOccupational HealthRehabilitation
	AnesthesiaOncologySchool Health
Nurse Researcher Other	CommunityOtherTele-health
	Family HealthPalliative CareTrauma
	Geriatric/GerontologyPediatrics/NeonatalWomen's Health
	-
	Home HealthPrimary Care
	Maternal-Child HealthPsychiatric/Mental Health/ Substance Abuse

16.a. Please identify the type of setting that most closely corresponds to your <u>SECONDARY</u> nursing practice position:		16.b. Please identify the position title that most closely corresponds to your <u>SECONDARY</u> nursing practice position:		
Academic Setting	Hospital	position.		
Ambulatory Care Setting [clinic]	Insurance Claims/ Benefits	Staff Nurse	_Nurse Manager	
Assisted Living Facility	Nursing Home/Extended	Consultant	_Nurse Faculty/ educator	
Community Health	Occupational Health	Nurse Researcher	_ Other	
Correctional Facility	Other			
Dialysis	Policy/Planning/Regulato			
Home Health	Public Health			
Hospice	School Health Service			
16.c. Please identify the employment specialty that most closely corresponds to your <u>SECONDARY</u> nursing practice position:				
Acute Care/Critical CareMedica	al SurgicalPublic Health			
Adult HealthOccup	ational HealthRehabilitation			
AnesthesiaOncolo	ogySchool Health	Quastians #17 through	sh #24 ack about your	
CommunityOther	Tele-health		gh #24 ask about your n your nursing career	
Family HealthPalliati	ve CareTrauma		. year marening career	
Geriatric/GerontologyPediat	rics/NeonatalWomen's Health			
Home HealthPrimar	y Care			
Maternal-Child HealthPsychia	atric/Mental Health/ Substance Abuse			
17. What do you like MOST about your principal nursing employment? (Select one)		18. What do you like LEAST about your principal nursing employment? (Select one)		
Benefits (insurance, paid	Hours/schedule	Benefits (insurance, paid vacation, retirement, etc.)	Hours/schedule	
vacation, retirement, etc.)Location	People for whom I provide	Location	People for whom I provide service (patients)	
People with whom I work	service (patients)	People with whom I work (co-workers)	Salary	
(co-workers)	Salary	Work itself	Nothing, there isn't	
Work itself	Other	VVOIR ROOM	anything I don't like	
			Other	
40.11		2011		
19. How likely are you to leave next 12 months?	your principal employment in the	20. If very likely or somewhat I principal employment in the no main reason? (Select one)		
Very unlikely Somewhat	Somewhat Very likely likely	Dissatisfaction with job	Retirement	
unlikely		Dissatisfaction with salary	Returning to school	
		Family/personal leave	Obtaining RN license	
		Lack of opportunity for upward mobility in the organization	Does not apply to me	
			Other	

21. How satisfied are you with your current job?	22. If you had to do it over, would you choose nursing as a career?		
Very Dissatisfied Very			
Satisfied Somewhat Dissatisfied Satisfied	YesNo		
23. Would you encourage others to choose nursing as a caree	r? 24. How satisfied are you with nursing as a career?		
YesNo	Very Dissatisfied Very Satisfied Somewhat Dissatisfied Satisfied		
25. Please list all states in which you hold an active license to practice as an LPN:	26. Please list all states in which you are currently practicing: ———————————————————————————————————		
27. Do you utilize tele-health in your primary or secondary positions?	28. If yes, when utilizing tele-health, are patients ever located in a different state?		
YesNo	YesNo		

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY!