

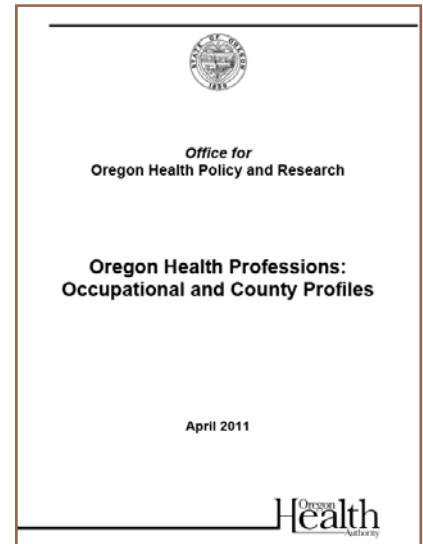


# OREGON HEALTH PROFESSIONS REPORT: FOCUS ON NURSING

## BACKGROUND

In 2007 the Oregon State Legislature formally acknowledged a health care workforce crisis in Oregon. Crucial to understanding this crisis is data collection which captures information including the number of healthcare workers, specialty areas and practice locations.

In 2010, the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR) collaborated with seven licensing boards to collect workforce data. This data, analyzed by the **Oregon Center for Nursing** and **Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute** is helping target finite resources, inform educational capacity expansion and employment training programs, evaluate programs and policies, identify gaps in geographic distribution and prepare for emergency situations in Oregon.



## IMPACT



Portland VA Medical Center

An adequate supply of nurses is fundamental to the delivery of high quality health care. Quantifying the nurse workforce is essential to determining if there are enough nurses throughout Oregon.

The “Oregon Health Professions” report highlights several important facts regarding the nursing workforce. Nurses continue to be the largest professional group by far, outnumbering physicians more than 3 to 1. It also continues to be one of the older workforces, with 65 percent of nurses reported as being 45 years of age or older. Twenty-five percent of nurses report plans to retire from practice within the next 10 years. Policy makers, health care providers, and consumers must recognize how changing nursing workforce will impact our ability to provide quality care to Oregonians. **Now is the time to begin preparing the next generation of nurse leaders for the roles they will shortly assume.**

To download a complete copy of the Oregon Health Professions Report,  
visit the Publications page of

[www.oregoncenterfornursing.org](http://www.oregoncenterfornursing.org)

# OREGON'S NURSING WORKFORCE: FACTS TO KNOW

**Registered Nurses (RN):** RNs provide highly specialized care to patients in a variety of settings; educate patients, families, and other nursing professionals; and manage personnel and activities of the health care system.

RNs can pursue graduate education to prepare them for the following advanced practice roles:

**Nurse Practitioners (NP):** NPs provide primary health care to families, children, women, and geriatric and psychiatric patients. Many NPs can prescribe and dispense medications.

**Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA):** CRNAs provide anesthetic management for patients. They select, order, obtain and administer anesthesia medications.

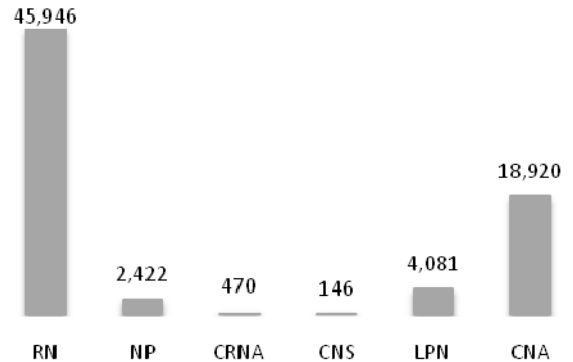
**Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS):** CNSs provide specialized care to clients and populations. Their use of evidence-based decision making and leadership skills also benefit other nurses and organizations.

Other members of the nursing team represented in these graphs include:

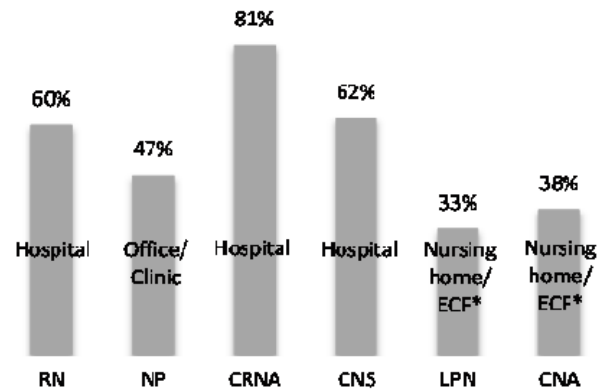
**Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN):** LPNs provide general nursing care, and work under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed physician or dentist.

**Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA):** CNAs provide hands-on care, and perform routine tasks under the supervision of nursing and medical staff.

Number of licensed/certified professionals in OR

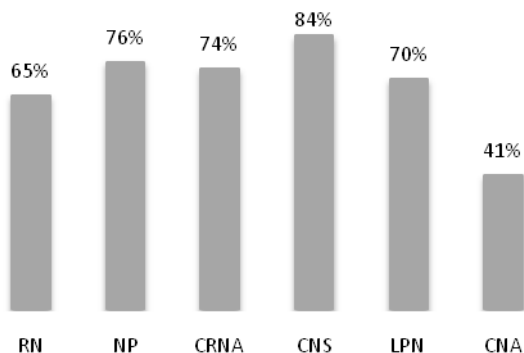


Settings where most RNs, LPNs, CNAs work



\*ECF: Extended care facility

RNs/LPNs/CNAs 45 years of age or older



RNs/LPNs/CNAs planning to retire within ten years

