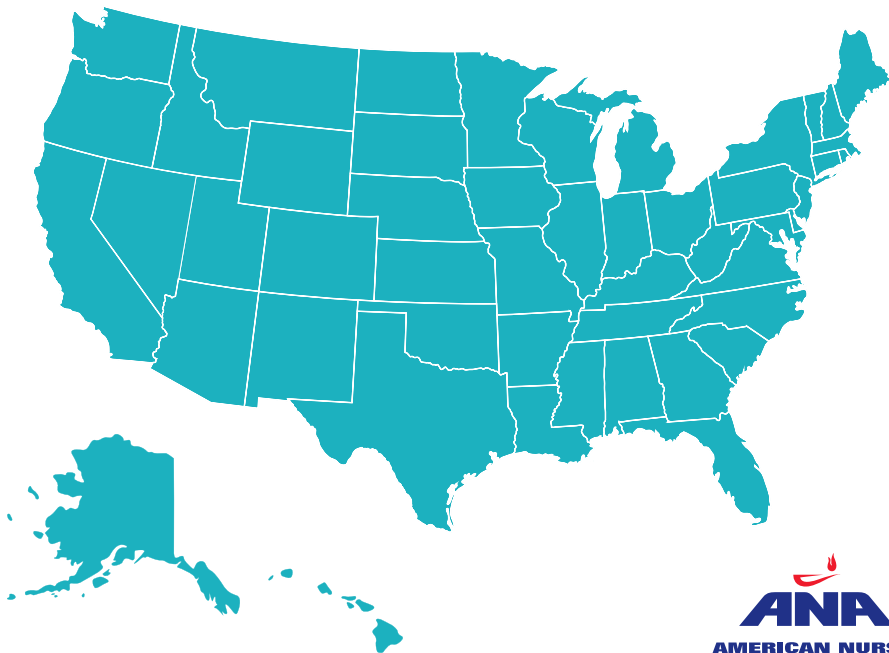


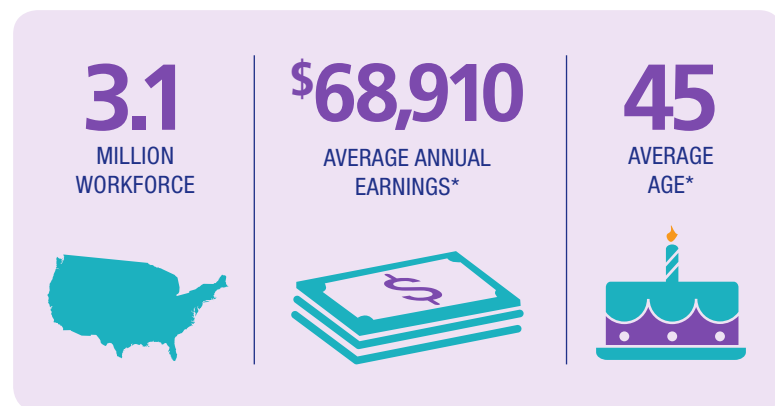
# IMAGINE A NATION WITHOUT NURSES

Learn more about the importance of  
RNs in health care at [RNaCTION.ORG](http://RNaCTION.ORG)



# REGISTERED NURSES MAKE A DIFFERENCE ACROSS THE HEALTH CARE SPECTRUM

Registered nurses (RNs) are the largest segment of the health care workforce—3.1 million and growing. In the United States, one out of every 45 potential voters is a nurse.<sup>1</sup> According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected employment growth for nurses over the next decade is 20.1 percent.<sup>2</sup> RNs meet America's health care needs on every level.



\*These demographics apply to direct care nurses only and salary averages do not include benefits.

## WHERE DO NURSES WORK? EVERYWHERE!



**58.3%**  
Work in hospitals



**20.6%**

Work in home health, outpatient settings, specialty hospitals, assisted living, skilled nursing facilities and nursing homes



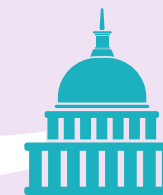
**9.7%**

Work in schools, insurance companies and other businesses



**6.9%**

Work in private practice, physician and health care offices



**5.4%**

Work in local, state and Federal Government

# PROFESSIONAL NURSING QUALIFICATIONS

## Licensure

To protect the public from harm, state Boards of Nursing:

- » Establish requirements for initial licensure and retention, including basic education for entry and continuing education and/or competency;
- » Interpret scope of practice parameters;
- » Investigate complaints against licensees and execute appropriate actions.

## Credentialing

### Specialty Certification – RNs

RNs may choose to achieve one or more certifications in clinical specialties from independent credentialing bodies, like the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Certification validates specialized knowledge, enhances professional credibility and indicates a level of clinical competence.<sup>3</sup>



### Advanced Practice Registered Nurses – APRNs

APRNs acquire specialized knowledge and skills through graduate or postgraduate education and certification in a specific role with a specific patient population, as defined by the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation.

#### APRNs INCLUDE:

##### CNPs

certified nurse practitioners

##### CNSs

clinical nurse specialists

##### CRNAs

certified registered nurse anesthetists

##### CNMs

certified nurse midwives

## RN Education

To be eligible for a state license, nurses must complete a degree from an accredited school of nursing and pass the standardized National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX)-RN.

**ADN:** The Associate Degree in Nursing is offered by community colleges and hospital-based schools of nursing. Diplomas in Nursing are in decline and only available through hospital-based schools.

**BS/BSN:** The Bachelor of Science in Nursing, offered at colleges and universities, prepares graduates to practice in all health care settings, and includes study of research, leadership, health care economics, informatics and health policy.




**MSN:** Master's degree programs offer a number of tracks designed to prepare nurses for roles in administration, nursing education, business, government and advanced clinical practice.

**PhD/DNP:** PhDs typically teach and/or conduct research, while doctors of nursing practice focus on clinical practice or leadership roles.



# REGISTERED NURSES DELIVER ESSENTIAL CARE

RNs	APRNs	HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS ROUTINELY:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Counsel and educate patients and families 
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conduct physical exams and obtain medical histories 
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administer medications, wound care and other direct patient care 
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provide preventive care such as screenings and immunizations 
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Interpret patient information and make critical decisions about care 
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coordinate care with other health professionals 
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conduct research and translate findings to evidence-based best practices 
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Direct and supervise health care personnel 

RNs	APRNs	HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS ROUTINELY:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Order and interpret lab tests and diagnostic studies 
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diagnose, treat, and manage acute and chronic illnesses 
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prescribe medication and treatments <sup>4</sup> 



## LPN vs. RN

**How do LPNs differ from RNs?** Licensed practical nurses (LPNs), also known as licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) in California and Texas, complement the health care team by providing basic, routine care under supervision. **An LPN scope of practice is not as broad as an RN.** Additional education would be needed to qualify for RN licensure.



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

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent and state nurses associations and its organizational affiliates.

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<sup>1</sup> Editor (2003, December 1). Nurses Vote! Johns Hopkins Nursing. Retrieved from <http://magazine.nursing.jhu.edu/2003/12/nurses-vote/>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections, Employment by Detailed Occupation, Table 1.2 Employment by detailed occupation, 2012 and projected 2022. Retrieved from [http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_table\\_102.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_102.htm)

<sup>3</sup> National Council of State Boards of Nursing. APRN Consensus Model Regulation (accessed 6/3/2014 at <https://www.ncsbn.org/4213.htm>)

<sup>4</sup> Data Sources: American Nurses Association and 2012 National Sample Survey of Nurse Practitioners