

Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses in North Dakota

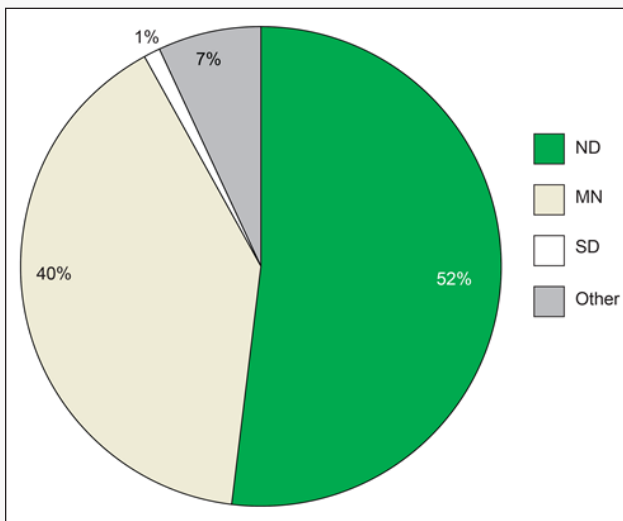
Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) work in various healthcare facilities, such as hospitals, clinics, and assisted living and nursing facilities. LPNs practice under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN), advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed practitioner. LPNs are not able to work in as many areas of clinical practice as RNs; however, they play important roles in clinics, ambulatory care settings, nursing facilities, and in rural communities. It is crucial that an adequate supply of LPNs exists to help alleviate the needs of the different facilities in our state.

There were 3,206 LPNs in North Dakota as of December 2019. In order to practice as an LPN, an individual must graduate from a practical nursing education program, pass the NCLEX-PN exam, and apply for state licensure.

North Dakota's LPN Education

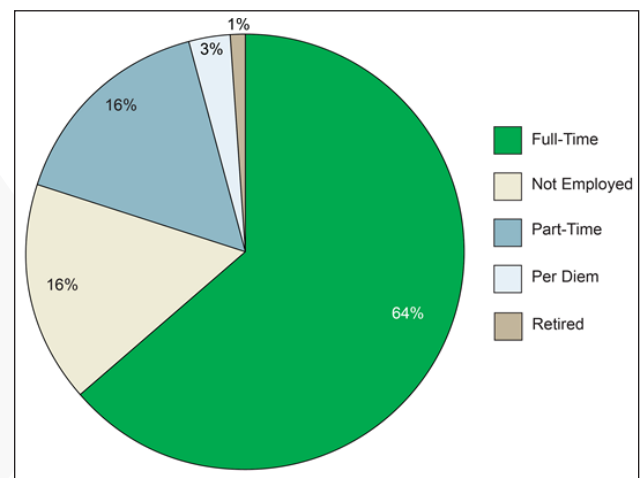
North Dakota has seven practical nurse education program sites approved by the state's Board of Nursing. Dickinson State University, North Dakota State College of Science, and Sitting Bull College each have their own programs. The Dakota Nursing Program is taught at four state colleges: Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, and Williston State College.

Figure 1: Location Where Licensed Practical Nurses Received Their Initial Education.



- The majority of LPNs in the state achieved their practical nursing education from North Dakota (52%) or Minnesota (40%) (Figure 1).
- Graduates that have completed one of these programs can apply to take the NCLEX-PN exam to become an LPN.
- The number of North Dakota LPNs has decreased from 3,351 reported in the 2019 Biennial Report.

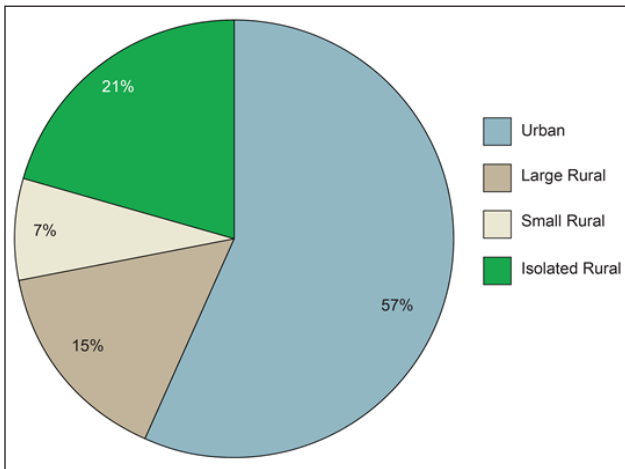
Figure 2. Employment Status of Licensed Practical Nurses in North Dakota



Employment Settings of Licensed Practical Nurses in North Dakota

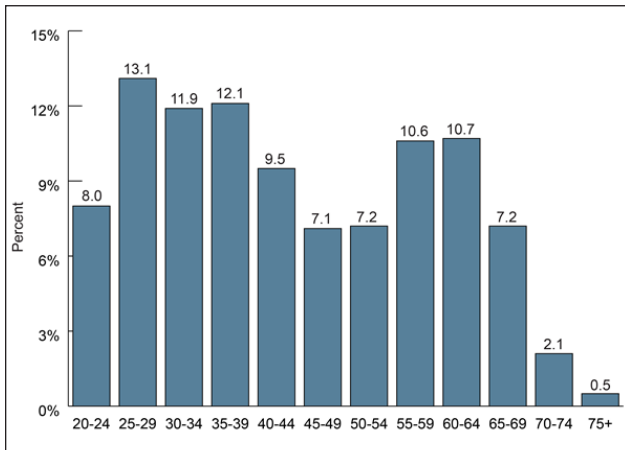
- While "other" was reported as the most common employment area for LPNs in the state (n = 1321), the second most common area was geriatrics (n = 733).
- There were 1,160 LPN FTEs employed at North Dakota inpatient facilities – nursing homes and hospitals. Nursing homes are the highest employer at 808 LPNs with the remaining 352 LPNs employed at hospitals.
- Outpatient facilities were second to inpatient facilities at 969 LPNs, followed by community settings at 169.
- Over half of the state's LPNs worked full-time (64.0%), an increase from the 2019 biennial report (60.2%).

Figure 3. Rural-Urban Desingation for Licensed Practical Nurses in North Dakota



- Most of North Dakota's LPNs worked in an urban county (57.0%).

Figure 4. Age Range for Licensed Practical Nurses in North Dakota



- LPNs may choose to have more than one license but the majority of the state's LPNs (94.36%) are licensed exclusively in North Dakota.
- Most of North Dakota's LPNs were between the ages of 25-29 (13.1%). However, the average age was 44 years old.
- Approximately 20.5% of LPNs were 60 years-old or older.

Conclusions

- There were more RNs in the state since many LPNs continued their education to become RNs.
- Most of North Dakota's LPNs came from within the state.
- High school students should be encouraged to remain in North Dakota and to pursue practical nursing education.
- North Dakota must implement more polices and measures to retain more LPNs in the state.

Data

North Dakota Board of Nursing. (2020). Licensure file. ndbon.org