

Nursing Supply

❖ In 2002, North Dakota had 8,392 RNs and 3,179 LPNs. Ninety-four percent of RNs and 97% of LPNs were female and are primarily white. Ninety-six percent of RNs and 95% of LPNs were employed (either part- or full-time). Most RNs work in hospitals and most LPNs work in extended care and hospital settings¹. Fifty-nine percent of RNs nationwide work in hospitals². In North Dakota, the average age of RNs is 44 and LPNs is 42³. The national average age for RNs is 45 years².

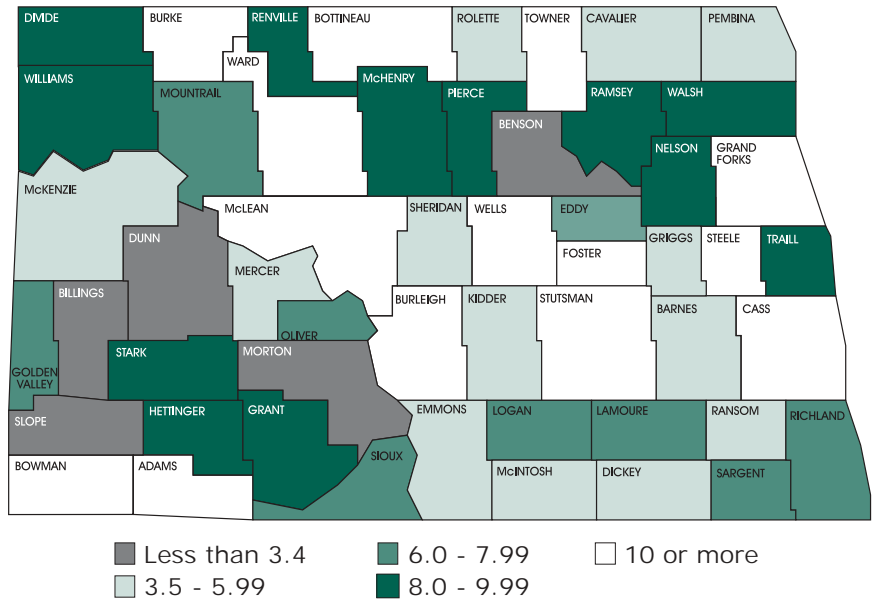
❖ Nationally, about 23% of nurses work part-time. In North Dakota, 44% work part-time³.

❖ In 2002, 14 counties in North Dakota had over 10 RNs per 1,000 people (see Figure 1). Twenty-seven counties had less than 8 RNs per 1,000 people including five counties with less than 3.4 RNs per 1,000 people. National data indicate an average 7.82 RNs per 1,000 people⁵.

❖ In 2002, eight counties had six or more LPNs per 1,000 people (see Figure 2). Five counties had less than 2.50 LPNs per 1,000 people.

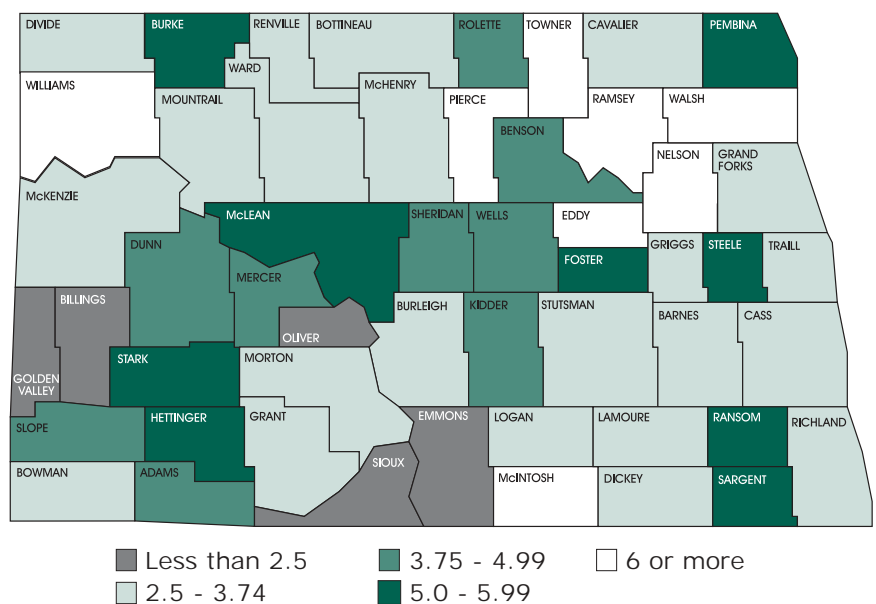
❖ In North Dakota, LPNs are paid an average salary of \$26,540 which is less than the U.S. average of \$31,490. RNs are paid an average salary of \$41,760 which is also less than the U.S. average of \$48,240⁶.

Figure 1. North Dakota RNs per 1,000 Persons by County 2002



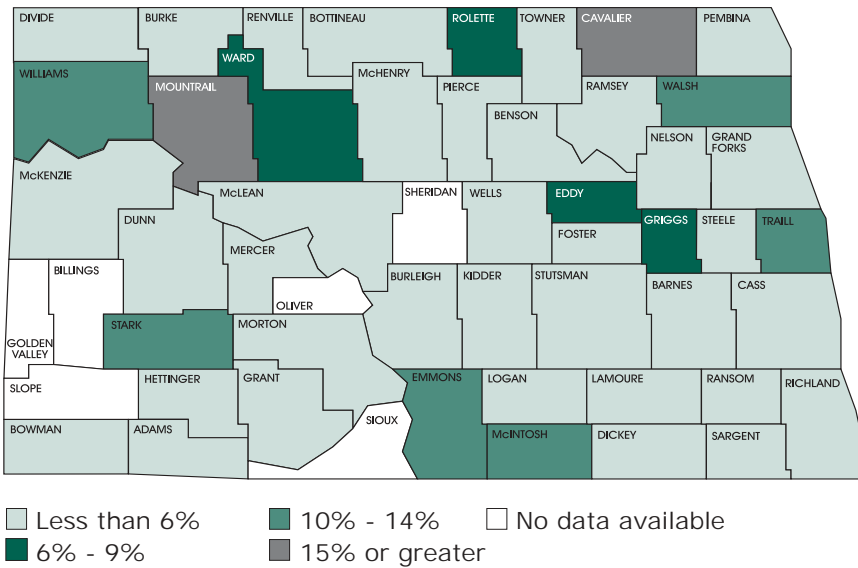
Source: North Dakota Board of Nursing Annual Report 2002 and U.S. Census 2000.

Figure 2. North Dakota LPNs per 1,000 Persons by County 2002



Source: North Dakota Board of Nursing Annual Report 2002 and U.S. Census 2000.

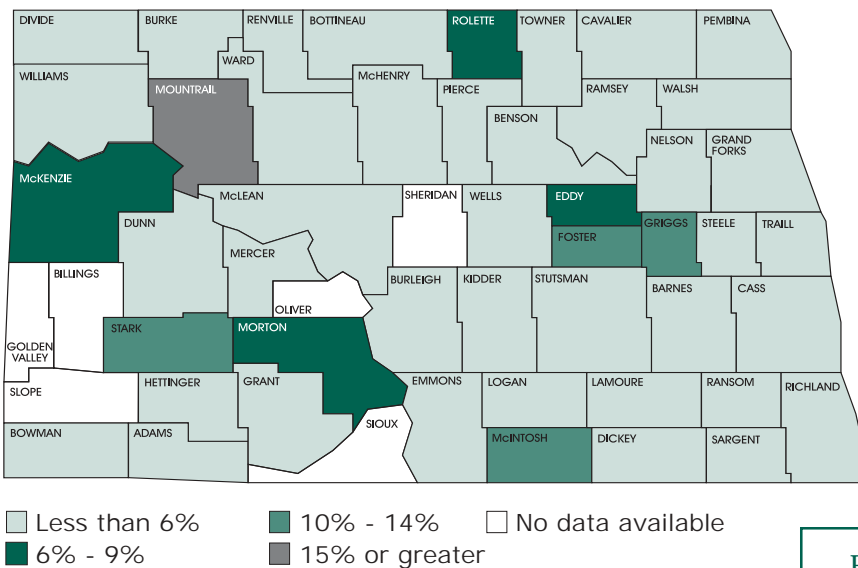
Figure 3. North Dakota RN Vacancy Rates by County 2002



Note. Vacancy rates include all responding health care facilities within each county (hospital, long-term care, clinic, home health and public health).

Source: North Dakota Nursing Needs Study: Facility Survey Results (2003).

Figure 4. North Dakota LPN Vacancy Rates by County 2002



Note. Vacancy rates include all responding health care facilities within each county (hospital, long-term care, clinic, home health and public health).

Source: North Dakota Nursing Needs Study: Facility Survey Results (2003).

Nursing Demand

Several counties in North Dakota have health care facility (hospital, long term care, clinic, home health and public health) vacancy rates above 6% (see Figures 3 and 4); a level which may indicate a shortage⁷. Two counties had RN vacancy rates above 15% (Cavalier and Mountrail) and one county had LPN vacancy rates above 15% (Mountrail). Nationally, current nurse vacancy rates in hospitals average about 15%⁸.

Footnotes:

- 1 North Dakota Board of Nursing Annual Report (2002). <http://www.ndbon.org/publications/>
- 2 Spratley, E., Johnson, A., Sochalski, J., Fritz, M. & Spencer, W. (2000). The Registered Nurse Population: Findings from the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses.
- 3 North Dakota Board of Nursing, North Dakota Data RN and LPN 2002 Update.
- 4 North Dakota Nursing Needs Study, Focus Groups, 2003.
- 5 Health Resources and Services Administration, 2000.
- 6 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (2001). National and State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. Web site: <http://stats.bls.gov/oes/2001/oesrcst.html>
- 7 North Dakota Nursing Needs Study, Facility Survey (2003). <http://medicine.nodak.edu/crh/rhw/nursing/facility.html>
- 8 American Hospital Association, 2002.

For more information, contact:
Patricia Moulton, PhD (701) 777-6781
pmoulton@medicine.nodak.edu

Center for Rural Health

University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences
PO Box 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037
Tel: (701) 777-3848
Fax: (701) 777-6779
<http://medicine.nodak.edu/crh>
<http://www.raconline.org>

