



Statistics on CRNE Writers for Calendar Year 2007

This bulletin is the eleventh of a series about the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE). It provides statistical information about the candidates who wrote the CRNE in the calendar year 2007 (French and English versions combined), as well as comparisons with previous years' data.

Number 11 – May 2008

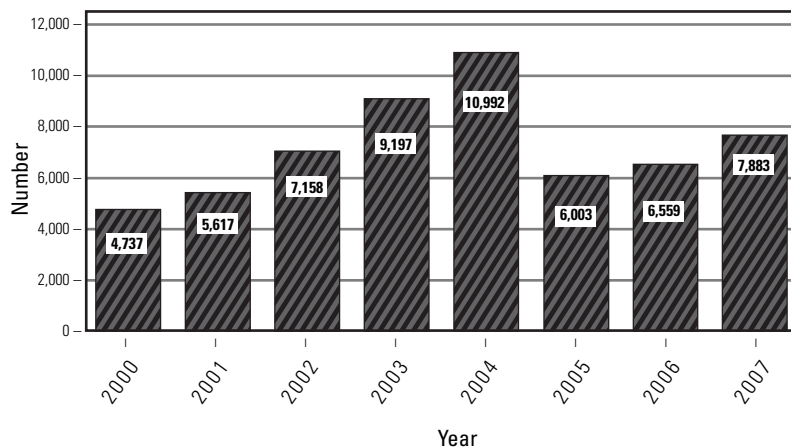
Statistics on CRNE writers provide not only useful information about the candidates' performances, but also a snapshot of new nurses ready to enter the Canadian nursing workforce. The CRNE is required for all nurses registering in Canada, except in Quebec, and it is usually the last requirement nurses meet before achieving licensure. The CRNE is owned by CNA, developed and maintained for CNA by Assessment Strategies Inc. and administered by the provincial and territorial regulatory authorities.

The purpose of the CRNE is to protect the public by ensuring that the entry-level registered nurse possesses the competencies required to practice safely in Canada.

NUMBERS AND DEMOGRAPHICS: FIRST-TIME WRITERS

Candidates writing the CRNE consist of Canadian-educated new graduates and internationally educated nurses seeking to be registered in Canada for the first time. In 2007, there were 8,408 writers who wrote the exam in English and 326 who wrote the exam in French, for a total of 8,734 first-time and repeat writers. Of these, 7,883 candidates wrote the CRNE for the first time at one of the three sittings, with the majority (65%) writing at the June 2007 sitting. Approximately 85% of first-time CRNE writers were Canadian-educated and 15% were internationally educated. Over the last eight years, the number of first-time writers has fluctuated from a low of 4,737 in 2000 to a high of 10,992 in 2004.

All First-time CRNE & EAIC Writers



Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy.



SEX

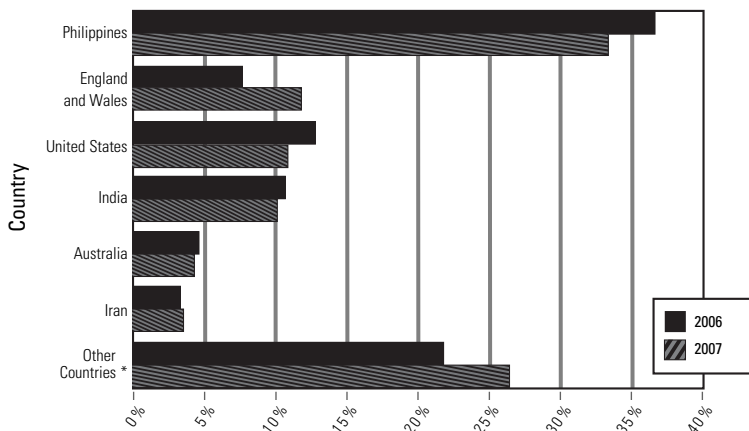
Women made up 93% of Canadian-educated, first-time CRNE writers; 7% were men. The percentage of men among internationally educated candidates was 14%, higher than among Canadian-educated candidates.

COUNTRY OF EDUCATION OF INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED, FIRST-TIME WRITERS

The top countries of education for internationally educated, first-time writers were the Philippines, England and Wales (counted together), the United States, India, Australia and Iran. The remaining writers, representing about 26% percent of the total, were educated in 69 different countries.

Between 2000 and 2007, four countries have consistently appeared among the top countries of education for internationally educated, first-time CRNE writers: the Philippines, India, the United States and, counted together, England and Wales.

Country of Education of First-Time Internationally Educated CRNE Writers



Percentage of All First-Time Internationally Educated CRNE Writers

* Other countries represent 53 countries in 2006, and 69 in 2007, each with less than 2% of the total number of first-time internationally educated candidates for that year.
Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy.

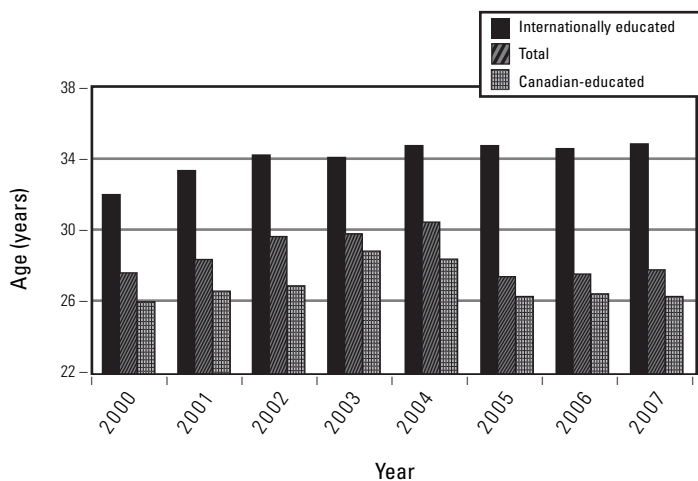
AVERAGE AGE

Between 2000 and 2007, the average age of first-time CRNE writers averaged around 28.8 years, rising only slightly during the 2001 to 2004 period. The rise in average age during this particular period coincided with the overall increase in the number of first-time writers – especially those that were internationally educated, who accounted for 30% of the total in 2004.

While the average age of Canadian-educated first-time writers has returned to a level in 2007 similar to that of 2000, the same cannot be said for internationally educated first-time writers. Rather, the average age for

this group has levelled off somewhat since 2004 rather than declined. As a result, the age gap between Canadian-educated and internationally educated first-time writers is now at its largest – roughly 9 years.

Average Age of First-Time CRNE Writers



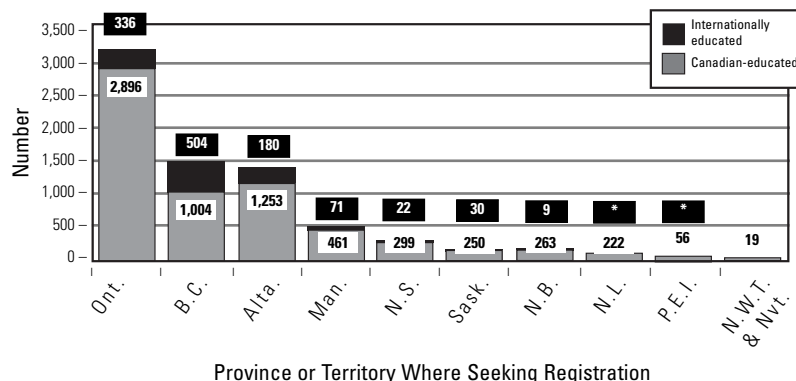
Age data is not available for all candidates. The data shown above represents those for whom valid date of birth data was provided.
Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy.

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL BREAKDOWN

Among Canadian-educated candidates, Ontario had the highest overall number of first-time writers with 2,896, representing 44% of the national total, and an increase of 8% since 2006. This was followed by Alberta with 1,253 writers (19% of total) and British Columbia with 1,004 writers (15% of total).

In British Columbia, 33% of first-time writers were internationally educated. This proportion was the highest among the provinces and territories, and represents a provincial increase of 6% since 2006.

Canadian-Educated and Internationally Educated First-Time CRNE Writers by Jurisdiction, 2007



Province or Territory Where Seeking Registration

* Data suppressed (1 to 4 cases) to protect privacy.
Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy.

PERFORMANCE

SUCCESS RATES: FIRST-TIME WRITERS

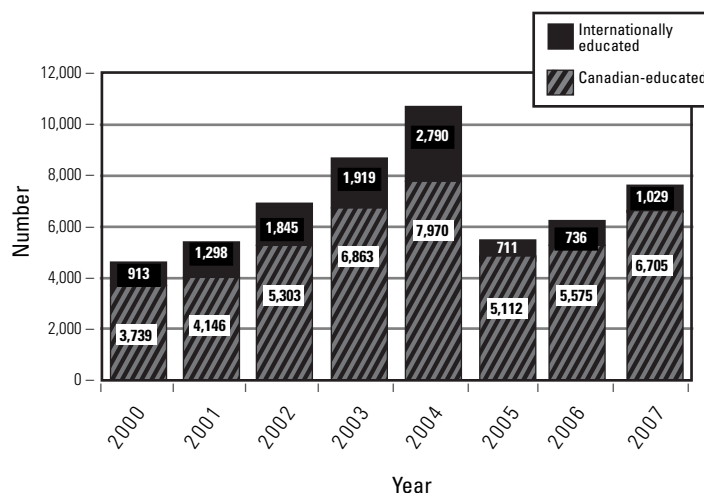
The pass rate for the 6,723 Canadian-educated, first-time CRNE writers in 2007 was 95%. In 2007, the 1,160 internationally educated, first-time CRNE writers showed the best performance by internationally educated writers in the last eight years with a 71% pass rate. Between 2000 and 2006, internationally educated candidates had pass rates ranging from a low of 49% in 2004 to a high of 68% in 2006. In the same period, the lowest pass rate among Canadian-educated writers was 93% in 2003, and the highest was 96% in 2005.

The data in the preceding sections included only information on first-time writers to avoid counting the same candidate more than once. Candidates who are unsuccessful on the CRNE may write the exam up to three times, with the possibility of writing more than once in the same calendar year.

However, in this section on successful candidates, the data include both first-time and repeat writers. The total number of successful CRNE writers provides an indication of how many new nurses are available to enter the Canadian workforce, with the recognition that the data do not include Quebec licensure examination writers. As well, some candidates may still need to meet other requirements to be registered.

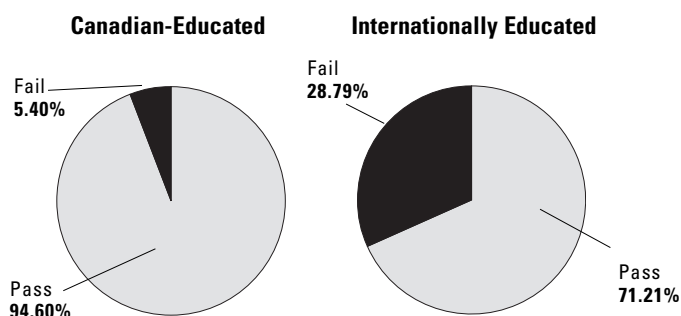
Out of the 8,734 first-time and repeat writers, 7,734 passed the CRNE in 2007. Among the successful candidates, 87% were educated in Canada and 13% were educated internationally. Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta had the highest numbers of successful candidates, not surprising given that these three provinces had the highest numbers of CRNE writers overall. A total of 56,654 candidates passed the CRNE between 2000 and 2007. Of that number, 11,241 were internationally educated, representing 20% of the total.

All Successful CRNE & EAIC Writers by Calendar Year



Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy.

Pass/Fail Results by Location of Education for First-Time CRNE Writers, 2007



Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy.

This document has been prepared by CNA to provide information and support CNA in the pursuit of its mission, vision and goals, as established by the CNA Board of Directors.

The CRNE Bulletin is published by the Regulatory Policy department of the Canadian Nurses Association.

For more information mail, fax or e-mail:
 Canadian Nurses Association
 50 Driveway
 Ottawa, ON Canada K2P 1E2
 Telephone: 1-800-361-8404 or 613-237-2133
 Fax: 613-237-3520
 E-mail: info@cna-aiic.ca
 Website: www.cna-aiic.ca