

Canadian Nurses Association 2002 Workforce Profile of Registered Nurses

Demographic Profile

- In 2002, there were 254,752 registered nurses (RNs) in Canada, an increase of 0.7% from 2001. From this number of nurses, 90.7% (230,957) were employed in nursing, down by 0.8% from 2001; 2.1% (5,392) were employed outside of nursing; 3.1% (7,803) were not employed and 4.2% (10,600) did not state their employment status.
- The ratio of practising registered nurses to the Canadian population in 2002 was one nurse to every 136 persons.*
- RNs employed in nursing in 2002 by province/territories compared to the Canadian population as follows:

Province/Territory	RNs	Canadian Population*	Ratio of RNs to Pop
Canada	230,957	31,414,000	1:136
Newfoundland/Labrador	5,442	531,600	1:98
Prince Edward Island	1,293	139,900	1:108
Nova Scotia	8,419	944,800	1:112
New Brunswick	7,364	756,700	1:103
Québec	59,193	7,455,200	1:126
Ontario	78,737	12,068,300	1:153
Manitoba	9,942	1,150,800	1:116
Saskatchewan	8,257	1,011,800	1:122
Alberta	23,377	3,113,600	1:133
British Columbia	27,901	4,141,300	1:148
Yukon	272	29,900	1:110
NWT	487	41,400	1:85
Nunavut	273	28,700	1:105

- Males represent 5.1% (11,796) of nurses employed in nursing, with 44.7% of practising in Québec, 24.8% in Ontario, 10.7% in British Columbia, 6.5% in Alberta, 4.0% in Manitoba and 9.3% distributed throughout the remaining provinces/territories.

Number of RNs employed in nursing as follows:

	2002			1998		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Canada	219,161	11,796	230,957	217,718	10,096	227,814
Newfoundland	5,220	222	5,442	5,155	185	5,340
Prince Edward Island	1,267	26	1,293	1,257	20	1,277
Nova Scotia	8,188	231	8,419	8,326	199	8,525
New Brunswick	7,077	287	7,364	7,160	244	7,404
Québec	53,921	5,272	59,193	51,973	4,852	56,825
Ontario	75,812	2,925	78,737	76,510	2,315	78,825
Manitoba	9,474	468	9,942	9,747	415	10,162
Saskatchewan	8,016	241	8,257	8,268	187	8,455
Alberta	22,612	765	23,377	21,443	533	21,976
British Columbia	26,636	1,265	27,901	26,918	1,083	28,001
Yukon	250	22	272	273	13	286
NWT	441	46	487	688	50	738
Nunavut	247	26	273			

- Age of registered nurses employed in nursing in Canada are in the following age groups:

Age of RNs in 2002		Age of Canadian Population - 2002	
<25	3,731 (1.6%)	<25	10,052,000 (32.0%)
25-29	17,071 (7.4%)	25-29	2,138,900 (6.8%)
30-34	23,697 (10.3%)	30-34	2,274,600 (7.2%)
35-39	32,151 (13.9%)	35-39	2,595,300 (8.3%)
40-44	35,882 (15.5%)	40-44	2,687,100 (8.6%)
45-49	42,335 (18.3%)	45-49	2,458,700 (7.8%)
50-54	38,636 (16.7%)	50-54	2,137,900 (6.8%)
55+	37,345 (16.2%)	55+	7,072,400 (22.5%)
Not stated	109 (0.0%)		

- The average age of an RN employed in nursing in 2002 was 44.2; the average age in 1998 was 42.6. Average age by province is as follows:

Province/Territories	Average age – 2002	Difference from Canada
Canada	44.2	-
Newfoundland	40.6	-3.6
Prince Edward Island	45.0	+0.8
Nova Scotia	44.4	+0.8
New Brunswick	43.0	-1.2
Québec	43.3	-0.9
Ontario	44.7	+0.5
Manitoba	44.5	+0.3
Saskatchewan	44.8	+0.6
Alberta	44.3	+0.1
British Columbia	45.2	+1.0
Yukon	43.9	-0.3
Northwest Territories	43.3	-0.9
Nunavut	45.1	+0.9

Educational Profile

- The highest levels of education in nursing reported by nurses employed in nursing in Canada are as follows:

Education in Nursing – 2002	Education in Nursing - 1998
72.7% (167,951) – Diploma	77.3% (176,037)
25.4% (58,649) – Baccalaureate	21.2% (48,216)
1.9% (4,123) – Master's	1.5% (3,375)
0.1% (234) – Doctoral	0.1% (186)

Employment Profile

- The place of employment for nurses (employed in nursing) is as follows:

2002	1998
59.7% (137,954) – Hospital	59.2% (134,966)
9.7% (22,410) – Community Health Centre/Agency	7.1% (16,203)
10.6% (24,372) – Nursing Home/Home for the Aged	11.8% (26,979)
3.1% (7,234) – Home Care Agency	4.4% (9,998)
2.6% (5,953) – Educational Institution	2.2% (5,011)
2.1% (4,948) – Physician's Office/Family Practice Unit	2.6% (5,878)
10.9% (25,065) – Other	11.3% (25,725)
1.3% (3,021) – Not stated	1.3% (3,054)

- The positions held by nurses employed in nursing are as follows:

2002	1998
80.9% (176,681) – General duty/Staff nurse	73.0% (166,367)
5.4% (12,540) – Supervisor/Assistant supervisor/Coordinator	3.7% (8,366)
2.4% (5,658) – Instructor/Professor	2.0% (4,506)
1.8% (4,257) – Director/Assistant director	0.4% (814)
10.0% (23,091) – Other	17.1% (38,594)
2.7% (6,331) – Not stated	4.0% (9,167)

- Nurses reported the following as primary areas of responsibility:

2002	1998
85.9% (198,323) – Direct patient care	76.7% (174,720)
5.6% (13,009) – Administration	5.3% (12,108)
4.2% (9,655) – Education	1.9% (4,351)
1.0% (2,301) – Research	0.3% (778)
3.3% (7,680) – Not stated	5.9% (13,372)

- Of the nurses employed in nursing in 2002, 54.1% (124,946) worked full-time; 33.8% (78,163) worked part-time; 11.8% (27, 249) worked casual; and 0.3% (599) was unknown.

Province/Territories – 2002	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Canada	230,957	124,946	78,163	27,249
Newfoundland	5,442	4,050	875	517
Prince Edward Island	1,293	650	528	115
Nova Scotia	8,419	5,008	2,255	1,156
New Brunswick	7,364	4,354	2,050	782
Québec	59,193	31,963	20,309	6,921
Ontario	78,737	44,803	26,185	7,749
Manitoba	9,942	4,563	4,734	645
Saskatchewan	8,257	4,177	2,832	860
Alberta	23,377	10,333	9,267	3,777
British Columbia	27,901	14,453	8,943	4,505
Yukon	272	123	95	54
NWT	487	299	65	100
Nunavut	273	170	25	68

- Of the nurses employed in nursing in 1998, 49.1% (111,856) worked full-time; 32.2% (73,271) worked part-time; 18.6% (42,359) worked casual; and 0.1% (328) was unknown.

Province/Territories – 1998	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Canada	227,814	111,856	73,271	42,359
Newfoundland	5,340	3,149	852	1,339
Prince Edward Island	1,277	543	497	237
Nova Scotia	8,525	4,616	2,060	1,849
New Brunswick	7,404	3,914	1,881	1,609
Québec	56,825	27,322	19,095	10,408
Ontario	78,825	39,478	27,999	11,348
Manitoba	10,162	4,359	4,745	1,058
Saskatchewan	8,455	3,913	2,997	1,545
Alberta	21,976	10,887	5,960	5,129
British Columbia	28,001	13,246	7,038	7,613
Yukon	286	148	88	50
NWT & Nunavut	738	281	59	174

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, Workforce Trends of Registered Nurses in Canada, 2002.
Prepared by: Heath Policy Division, Canadian Nurses Association, September, 2003.

* Statistics Canada, CANSIM II, TABLE 051-0001 as of July 1 of each year.