



2003 NURSING STATISTICS: A Snapshot

- In 2003 there were 258,393 registered nurses in Canada. Of these, 241,342 (93.4%) were practising registered nurses.
- Of the 258,393 registered nurses:
 - 93.4% were employed in nursing;
 - 1.9% were employed outside of nursing;
 - 3.3% were not employed; and,
 - 1.4% did not give their employment status.
- The ratio of practising registered nurses to the Canadian population in 2003 was one nurse for every 131 persons*.
- The average age of an RN employed in nursing is 44.5; the average age in 1999 was 42.8.
- The highest level of education in nursing reported by nurses employed in nursing was:
 - 69.1% (166,824) - Diploma
 - 28.6% (69,093) - Baccalaureate
 - 2.1% (5,150) - Master's
 - 0.1% (275) - Doctorate
- The majority of practising registered nurses worked in Ontario (35.3%) and Québec (25.9%). The distribution in the remaining provinces was: British Columbia (11.5%), Alberta (9.9%), Manitoba (4.2%), Nova Scotia (3.5%), Saskatchewan (3.5%), New Brunswick (3.0%), Newfoundland (2.2%), Prince Edward Island (0.6%), Yukon (0.1%), Northwest Territories (0.2%) and Nunavut (0.1%).
- Most practising registered nurses were employed in hospitals (59.9%). Other major places of employment included nursing homes (10.5%), community health centres (9.7%), home care agencies (2.9%), educational institutions (2.7%) and physicians' offices/clinics (2.1%), other (10.8%) and not stated (1.4%).
- Of the 241,342 registered nurses employed in nursing in 2003, 51.4% worked full-time, 32.8% worked part-time; 10.6% worked casual; and 5.9% was unknown.
- Of the 241,342 registered nurses employed in nursing in 2003, 94.7% were female (228,597) and 5.3% were male (12,745). Of these male nurses, 44.6% practised in the province of Québec, 25.7% in Ontario, 10.1% in British Columbia, 6.4% in Alberta, 3.9% in Manitoba, and 9.3% were distributed throughout the remaining provinces/territories.

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Source: Workforce Trends of Registered Nurses in Canada, 2003, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

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