

2010 Workforce Profile of Nurse Practitioners in Canada

November 2012



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Message from our Chief Executive Officer

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) is pleased to present its *2010 Workforce Profile of Nurse Practitioners in Canada* report, which contains demographic, educational and employment data specific to Canadian nurse practitioners.

This report enables CNA and its members to provide sound workforce information to governments and stakeholders for health human resources planning. It also serves to complement the information found in the nurse practitioner sections of *Regulated Nurses: Canadian Trends, 2006 to 2010*, the annual report from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), from which it directly draws data. To provide additional workforce information, CNA also extracts data from the CIHI registered nurses database.

We look forward to hearing your comments about the report.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Bard, RN, M.A.Ed.
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Nurses Association

Demographic Profile

In 2010, there were 2,554 **nurse practitioners** (NPs) in Canada, representing 0.9% of the total number of registered nurses (287,344). Given such a small number of NPs, the percentages that follow must be interpreted with caution. Of this number of NPs:

- **97.3%** (2,486) were **employed in nursing**, an increase of 85% since 2007;
- **0.6%** (14) were **employed outside of nursing**;
- **0.9%** (23) were **not employed**; and
- **1.2%** (31) **did not state** their employment status.

Men represented 5.1% (128) of NPs employed in nursing in 2010.

Women represented 94.9 % (2,358) of NPs employed in nursing in 2010.

The ratio of NPs employed in nursing to the Canadian population in 2010 was one NP for every 13,727 persons.

Sources:

Canadian Institute for Health Information (2010). Registered nurses database.

Canadian Institute for Health Information (2012). *Regulated Nurses: Canadian Trends, 2006 to 2010*.

Note:

Eleven jurisdictions submitted NP data in 2010.

The ratio of **NPs employed in nursing** by jurisdiction to the jurisdiction population in 2010 was as follows:

Jurisdiction	Number of NPs employed in nursing ¹	Population ²	Ratio of NPs to population ³
Canada	2,486	34,126,200	1:13,727
Newfoundland and Labrador	96	511,300	1:5,326
Prince Edward Island	†	143,400	‡
Nova Scotia	106	944,800	1:8,913
New Brunswick	69	752,800	1:10,910
Quebec	64	7,905,700	1:123,527
Ontario	1,482	13,227,800	1:8,925
Manitoba	9††	1,234,500	‡
Saskatchewan	122	1,044,000	1:8,557
Alberta	263	3,720,900	1:14,148
British Columbia	129	4,529,700	1:35,114
N.W.T. and Nunavut*	56	75,800	1:1,354

Source:

¹ Canadian Institute for Health Information (2012). *Regulated Nurses: Canadian Trends, 2006 to 2010*.

² Population estimates from Statistics Canada: [<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/demo02a-eng.htm>].

³ Data produced by CNA.

Notes:

† Data suppressed, in accordance with CIHI's privacy policy, for digits less than 5.

‡ Data are not applicable or do not exist.

†† Digit suppressed to ensure confidentiality.

* Northwest Territories and Nunavut data were combined for 2010.

Canadian NPs employed in nursing in 2010 reported their **employment status** as follows:

- **77.5%** (1,980) worked **full time**;
- **14.0%** (357) worked **part time**; and
- **5.6%** (144) worked on a **casual** basis.

In 2010, 16.9% of NPs employed in nursing were 55 years of age or older. More specifically, the **distribution of NPs** employed in nursing in Canada **by age and employment status** in 2010 was as follows:

Age cohort (years)	Numbers of NPs and percentage	Full time	Part time	Casual
25 - 29	43 (1.7%)	33 (1.7%)	††	†
30 - 34	277 (11.1%)	213 (10.8%)	38 (10.6)	25 (17.4%)
35 - 39	325 (13.1%)	261 (13.2%)	49 (13.7%)	15 (10.4%)
40 - 44	416 (16.7%)	327 (16.5%)	69 (19.3%)	20 (13.9%)
45 - 49	527 (21.2%)	437 (22.1%)	72 (20.2%)	16 (11.1%)
50 - 54	393 (15.8%)	341 (17.2%)	37 (10.4%)	14 (9.7%)
55 - 59	301 (12.1%)	247 (12.5%)	34 (9.5%)	20 (13.9%)
60 - 64	86 (3.5%)	54 (2.7%)	17 (4.8%)	15 (10.4%)
65 +	23 (0.9%)	13 (0.7%)	†	††
Total	2486	1980	357	144

Source:

Canadian Institute for Health Information (2010). Registered nurses database.

Notes:

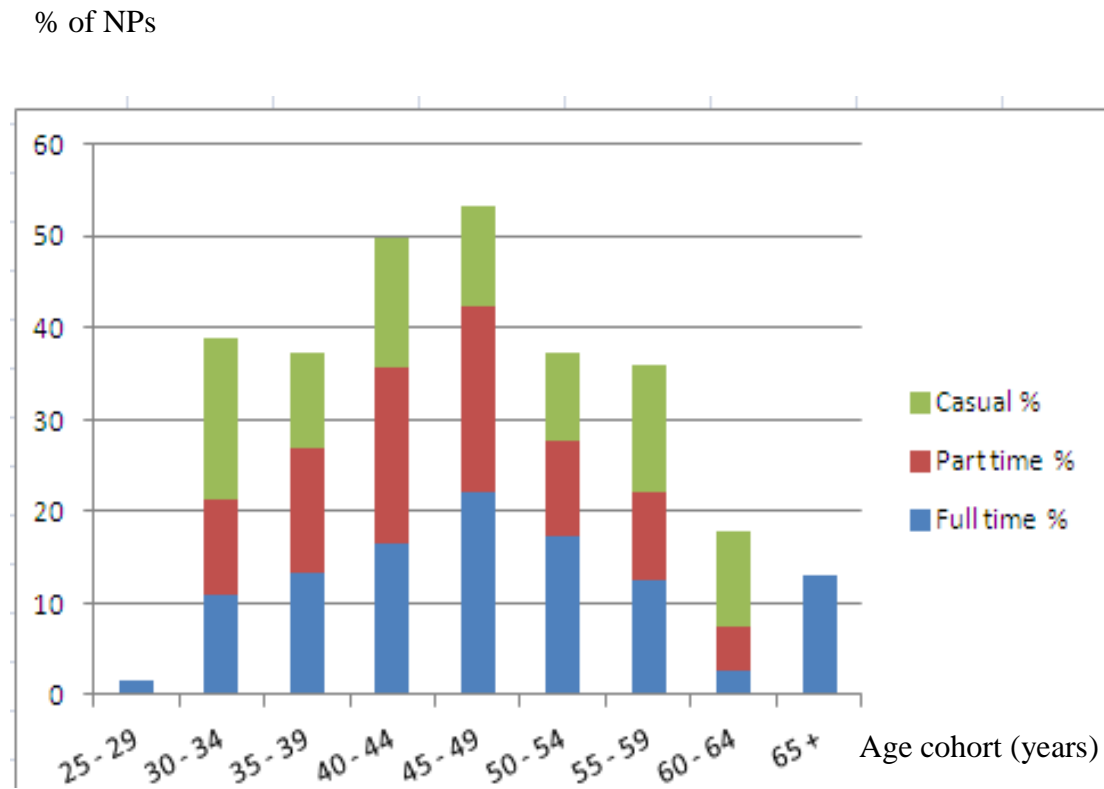
Total may not add up to 10 due to rounding and data suppression.

In 2010, age data for all NPs registered in Manitoba were not provided to CNA.

† Data suppressed, in accordance with CIHI's privacy policy, for digits less than 5.

†† Digit suppressed to ensure confidentiality.

Figure A: Distribution of NPs by age and employment status



The **average age** of an NP employed in nursing in 2010 was **45.3 years**.

Jurisdiction	Average age (years)	Minimum age	Maximum age	Difference from Cdn. average (years)
Canada	45.3	26	73	†
Newfoundland and Labrador	45.7	30	72	0.4
Prince Edward Island	49.0	37	59	3.7
Nova Scotia	45.5	28	63	0.2
New Brunswick	43.4	27	67	-1.9
Quebec	37.7	26	57	-7.6
Ontario	45.7	27	73	0.4
Manitoba*				
Saskatchewan	48.5	27	70	3.2
Alberta	44.6	27	71	-0.7
British Columbia	44.6	30	65	-0.7
N.W.T. and Nunavut**	48.9	33	67	3.6

Source:

Canadian Institute for Health Information (2010). Registered nurses database.

Notes:

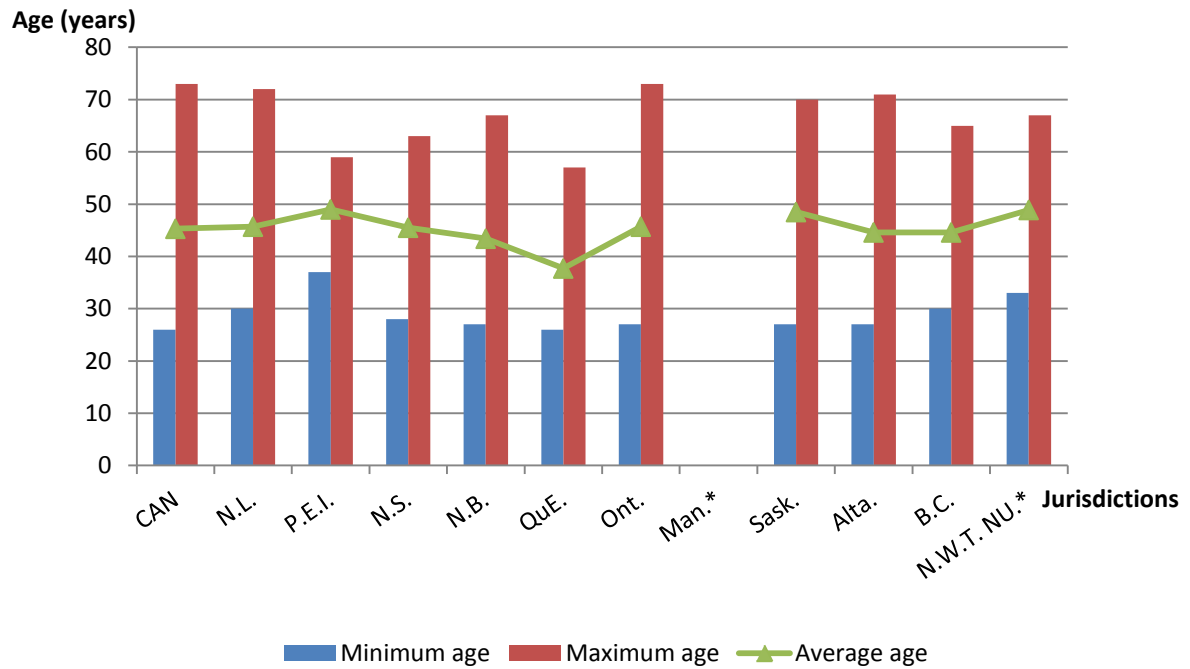
Numbers must be interpreted with caution given the small number of NPs.

† Data are not applicable or do not exist.

* Age data do not include Manitoba, as breakdown by age for Manitoba was not provided to CNA.

** Data for Northwest Territories and Nunavut were combined for 2010.

Figure B: Distribution of NPs according to their minimum, maximum and average age by jurisdiction in comparison to Canada



Note:

* Data for Northwest Territories and Nunavut were combined for 2010.

Educational Profile

The **highest level of nursing education** reported by NPs employed in nursing in Canada in 2010 was as follows:

Education level	Number	(%)
Diploma	218	8.8%
Baccalaureate	1,065	42.8%
Master's	1,182	47.6%
Doctorate	20	0.8%

Source:

Canadian Institute for Health Information (2010). Registered nurses database.

Notes:

Total may not add up to 100 due to rounding and data not stated.

The **location of graduation** reported by NPs employed in nursing in 2010 was:

- **95.8% (2,352) educated in Canada**
- **4.2% (102) educated internationally**

Source:

Canadian Institute for Health Information (2010). Registered nurses database.

Employment Profile

The **distribution of NPs** employed in nursing by **primary area of responsibility** in 2010 was as follows:

Area of responsibility	Number	(%)
Direct patient care	2,298	93.8%
Administration	67	2.7%
Education	79	3.2%
Research	7	0.3%
Total	2,451	100%

Source:

Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2012). *Regulated Nurses: Canadian Trends, 2006 to 2010*.

The **distribution of NPs** employed in direct care nursing **by area of responsibility in 2010** was as follows:

Direct care nursing area of responsibility	Number	(%)
Medical/Surgical	195	8.5%
Community Health	199	8.7%
Geriatric/Long-Term Care	133	5.8%
Ambulatory Care	14†	††
Emergency Room	94	4.1%
Pediatrics	127	5.5%
Nursing in Several Clinical Areas	101	4.4%
Critical Care	82	3.6%
Public Health	41	1.8%
Psychiatry/Mental Health	32	1.4%
Maternal/Newborn	41	1.8%
Oncology	20	0.9%
Occupational Health	14	0.6%
Rehabilitation	14	0.6%
Home Care	7	0.3%
Operating Room/Recovery Room	11	0.5%
Telehealth	††	††
Other Direct Care	1,041	45.3%
Total Direct Care	2,298	100%

Source:

Canadian Institute for Health Information (2010). Registered nurses database.

Notes:

† Digit suppressed to ensure confidentiality.

†† Data suppressed, in accordance with CIHI's privacy policy, for digits less than 5

The **distribution of NPs** employed in nursing **by employment status** in 2010 was as follows:

Jurisdiction	Total	Full time		Part time		Casual	
	Number	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Canada	2,486	1,980	79.6%	357	14.4%	144	5.8%
Newfoundland and Labrador	96	89	92.7%	†	*	†	*
Prince Edward Island	†		*	†	*	†	*
Nova Scotia	106	91	85.8%	13	12.3%	†	*
New Brunswick	69	59	85.5%	7	10.1%	†	*
Quebec	64	58	90.6%	5	7.8%	†	*
Ontario	1,482	1,232	83.1%	209	14.1%	41	2.8%
Manitoba	9††	*	*	*	*	*	*
Saskatchewan	122	99	81.1%	*	†	23	18.9%
Alberta	263	181	68.8%	67	25.5%	15	5.7%
British Columbia	129	75	58.1%	21	16.3%	29	22.5%
Yukon	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
N.W.T. and Nunavut**	56	39	69.6%	*	*	17	30.4%

Source:

Canadian Institute for Health Information (2010). Registered nurses database.

Notes:

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†† Digit suppressed to ensure confidentiality.

* Data are not applicable or do not exist.

** Northwest Territories and Nunavut data were combined for 2010.

Multiple Employers

The distribution of NPs by **multiple employment status** in Canada for 2010 was as follows:

Multiple employment status	Number	%
Single employer in registered nursing	1,781	71.6%
Multiple employers in registered nursing	569	22.9%
Not stated	136	5.5%
Total	2,486	100%

Source:

Canadian Institute for Health Information (2010). Registered nurses database.

Prepared by the Policy and Leadership Division,
Canadian Nurses Association



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