This update presents information for the 116 pre-licensure registered nursing (RN) programs that reported data for the 2016 reporting year, including:

- 1 Diploma program,
- 67 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs, including 59 generic ADN programs and 8 Licensed Vocational Nurse to Associate Degree in Nursing (LVN to ADN) stand-alone programs,
- 47 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs, and
- 1 Master of Science in Nursing Alternate Entry (MSN AE) program.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the 2016 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 3, 2016. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2015-2016 (September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

Newly Enrolled Students in Professional Nursing Programs

Sex and Age

In 2016, there were 14,696 newly enrolled students in professional nursing programs. This population was predominantly female: 82.9% in AY 2015-2016, which was a slightly smaller proportion of females than in AY 2014-2015 (83.7%). Gender data were missing for 0.2% of newly enrolled RN students.

Figure 1 illustrates the AY 2015-2016 newly enrolled student breakdown by age. Age data were missing for 0.3% of newly enrolled RN students.

- The largest proportion of newly enrolled students was between 21 and 25 years of age (39.4%).
- The second largest age group was students aged 31-40 years (19.3%), followed closely by 26-30 year olds (18.8%).
- Only 9.1% of newly enrolled students were 41 years or older.
- BSN programs had the largest proportion of students under 25 years of age (69.1% of BSN students). LVN to ADN stand-alone programs reported the greatest proportion of students 41 years of age or older (16.9% of LVN to ADN students).

Race/Ethnicity

As shown in Figure 2 (page 2), the race/ethnicity distribution of RN students more closely mirrored that of the Texas population than the race/ethnicity distribution of the RN workforce. Race/ethnicity data were missing

Figure 1. Age of Newly Enrolled Students

- 51+ years 1.8%
- 41-50 years 7.3%
- 31-40 years 19.3%
- ≤20 years 13.4%
- 26-30 years 18.8%
- 21-25 years 39.4%
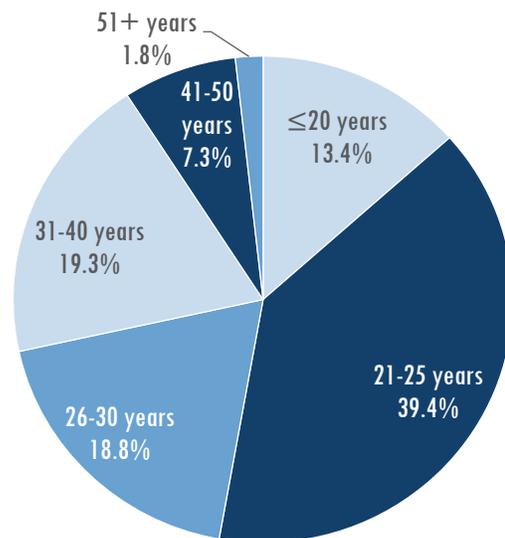
for 3.4% of newly enrolled students.

- The percentage of newly enrolled RN students who were Hispanic/Latino (29.0%) continued to grow to almost double the percentage in the 2016 RN workforce (14.8%), but was still lower than the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in the Texas population (40.5%).
- The percentage of newly enrolled RN students who were white/Caucasian (46.1%) was less than that of the RN workforce (60.0%), but still greater than the Texas population (41.5%).
- Newly enrolled black/African American RN

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Newly Enrolled RN Students, Texas RN Workforce,[1] and Texas Population,[2] 2016
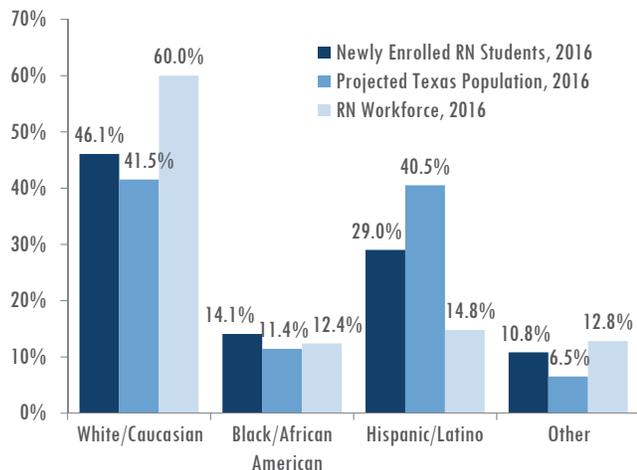
students (14.1%) more closely mirrored the proportion who were black/African American in the RN workforce (12.4%) and Texas population (11.4%).

■ The other race category includes Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaskan Native among others.

■ Programs reported a total of 572 newly enrolled students who were international students (3.9% of all newly enrolled RN students).[3]

[1]RN workforce data come from the 2016 BON Licensure Renewal file of actively practicing Texas nurses.

[2]Texas population data come from the 2016 Texas State Data Center population projections (https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/popdat/ST2016.shtm).

[3]International was defined as a person who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and who is in this country on a temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

Graduates from Professional Nursing Programs

Sex and Age

In 2016, there were 11,189 graduates from professional nursing programs. This population was predominantly female: 82.0% in AY 2015-2016, which was a slightly smaller proportion of females than in AY 2014-2015 (85.3%). Gender data were available for all RN graduates.

Figure 3 illustrates the AY 2015-2016 RN graduate breakdown by age. Age data were available for all RN graduates.

■ The largest proportion of graduates was between 21 and 25 years of age (42.1%).

■ The second largest age groups were graduates aged 26-30 years old (23.0%) and 31-40 years (23.0%). Graduates aged 41 and older made up 10.1% of the RN graduate population.

■ BSN programs had the largest proportion of graduates who were 25 or younger (61.6% of BSN graduates). LVN to ADN graduates were much more likely to be 31 years of age or older (53.8% of LVN to ADN graduates).

Race/Ethnicity

Figure 4 (page 3) displays the race/ethnicity distribution of RN graduates in comparison to the race/ethnicity distribution of the RN workforce and the projected Texas population. Race/ethnicity data were missing for 2.2% of RN graduates.

■ Though the percentage of RN graduates who were white/Caucasian has decreased from 52.7% to 51.1% in the past year, the proportion is still

Figure 3. Age of RN Graduates
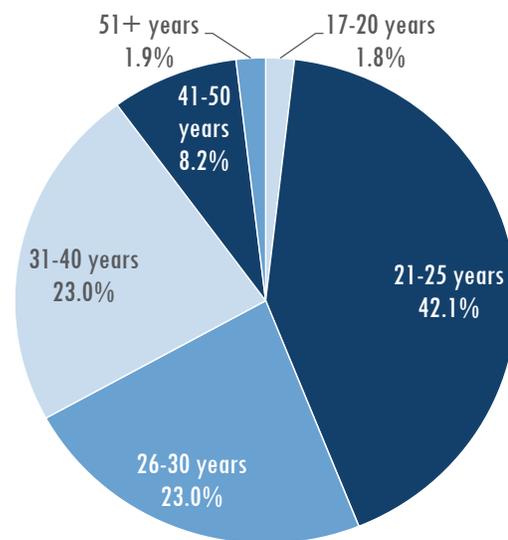
greater than that of the Texas population (41.5%). The proportion of white/Caucasian RN graduates was lower than the proportion in the RN workforce (60.0%).

■ The proportion of RN graduates who were Hispanic/Latino (27.0%) was much lower than the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in the Texas population (40.5%), but was almost double the proportion of Hispanic/Latino nurses in the RN workforce (14.8%).

■ The percentage of black/African American RN graduates (12.4%) mirrored the percentage of black/African American persons in the Texas

Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of RN Graduates, Texas RN Workforce,[1] and Texas Population,[2] 2016
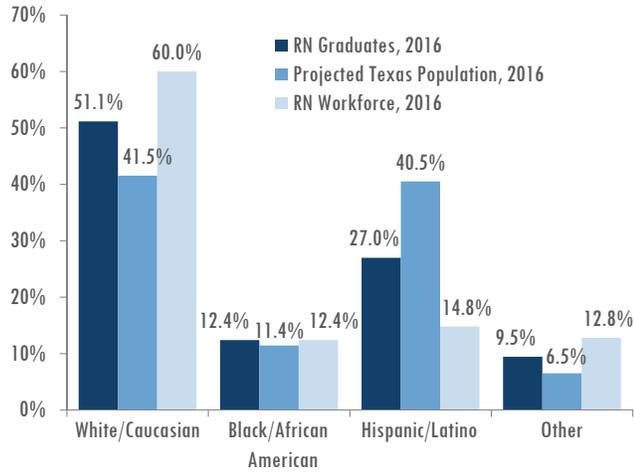
- population (11.4%) and the percentage within the RN workforce (12.4%).
- There were greater percentages of RN graduates (9.5%) and RNs in the workforce (12.8%) who reported as other race than the proportion within the Texas population (6.5%).
- The RN student population continues to diversify. The proportion of RN graduates who were white/Caucasian has dropped while the percentage of students who were Hispanic/Latino increased from 25.5% in 2015 to 27.0% in 2016. The RN workforce should begin to reflect this increasing diversity in the coming years.
- Programs reported a total of 118 graduates who were international students (1.1% of all RN graduates).[3]