This update presents information for the 124 pre-licensure registered nursing (RN) programs in Texas during the 2019 reporting year, including:

- 1 diploma program;
- 68 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs, including 57 generic ADN programs and 11 licensed vocational nurse (LVN) to ADN stand-alone programs;
- 54 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 2019 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of September 30, 2019. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2018-2019 (September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

Qualified Applications to Professional Nursing Programs

Table 1 presents data on qualified applications and admissions to professional nursing programs from 2009 through 2019. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.[1]

- 3 programs did not admit new pre-licensure applicants in AY 2018-2019.
- Seats for new students increased by 2.5% from AY 2017-2018 to AY 2018-2019.[2]

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission (QANA), 2009-2019

	Seats for New Students[3]	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission
2009 (n=93)	12,391	21,137	12,403	8,734 (41.3%)
2010 (n=96)	14,048	26,053	14,836	11,217 (43.1%)
2011 (n=105)	15,680	26,633	15,700	10,933 (41.1%)
2012 (n=106)	15,937	26,839	15,687	11,152 (41.6%)
2013 (n=113)	16,652	29,265	17,265	12,000 (41.0%)
2014 (n=114)	15,756	25,434	16,031	9,403 (37.0%)
2015 (n=119)	16,253	24,082	16,827	7,255 (30.1%)
2016 (n=116)	16,901	24,497	17,057	7,440 (30.4%)
2017 (n=119)	17,878	28,409	18,056	10,353 (36.4%)
2018 (n=122)	18,426	31,440	18,524	12,916 (41.4%)
2019 (n=124)	18,889	33,489	19,795	13,694 (40.9%)

Note: n = number of programs

- The number of qualified applications increased by 2,049 (6.5% increase), between AY 2017-2018 and AY 2018-2019.
- 19,795 qualified applications were accepted in AY 2018-2019. This was a 6.9% increase from the previous academic year.
- 29 programs offered admission to all qualified applications, no change from 2018 and down from 32 programs in 2017 and 34 in 2016.

The 92 programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rate the importance of reasons why qualified applications were not accepted.

- 53 (57.6%) reported that lack of clinical space was the most or second most important reason why qualified applications were not accepted. Some of the specific problems cited regarding lack of clinical space included increased competition with other programs (25 programs), BSN programs receiving priority for space over ADN programs (9 programs), and facilities limiting number of clinical groups or students in a cohort (12 programs).

[1] Qualified applications refers to applications submitted, not necessarily individual applicants, since candidates for admission may apply to more than one nursing program.

[2] Per the survey operational definition, seats for new students refers to the maximum number of seats for new students that a program can enroll in any given admission period. Seats for new students may be limited by Board of Nursing rules or logistical concerns (faculty size, classroom space, etc.).

- Other first or second most important reasons why qualified applications were not accepted were a lack of budgeted faculty positions (41 programs or 44.6%), lack of qualified applicants for budgeted faculty positions (43 programs or 46.7%), and limited classroom space (32 programs or 34.8%).

Newly Enrolled Students in Professional Nursing Programs

Figure 1 illustrates the number of newly enrolled, first year students from 2009 to 2019. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- From AY 2017-2018 to AY 2018-2019, the number of newly enrolled students increased by 5.0%.
- The number of newly enrolled students has increased by 52.8% from 2009 to 2019.
- Despite increases in enrollment, 9.5% of seats for new students remained unfilled. 8 programs had more than 50 unfilled seats: 4 BSN and 4 ADN programs.

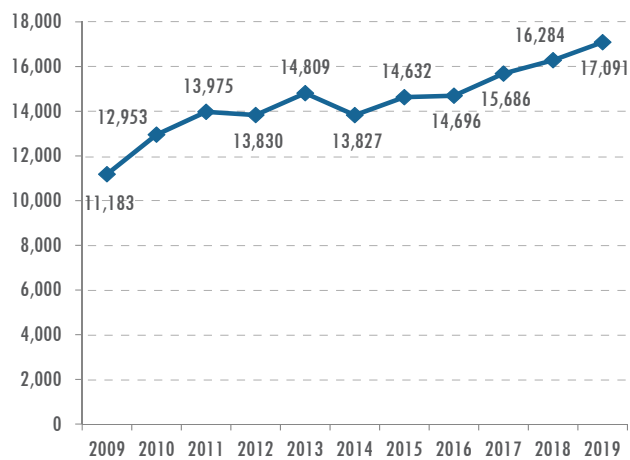**Figure 1. Newly Enrolled Students, 2009-2019**

Table 2 shows the number of newly enrolled students by program type.

- Newly enrolled students increased in BSN and LVN to ADN programs, while they decreased or stayed the same in other program types.

Table 2. Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students by Program Type, AY 2017-2018 and AY 2018-2019

	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2017-2018	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2018-2019	% Change from AY 2017-2018 to AY 2018-2019
ADN	6,858	6,849	-0.1%
BSN	8,037	8,808	9.6%
Diploma	174	169	-2.9%
LVN to ADN[3]	1,157	1,207	4.3%
MSN AE	58	58	0%

[3] LVN to ADN numbers are based on the 11 stand-alone programs designated by the BON as LVN to ADN programs. These are separate from the ADN programs that have LVN to ADN tracks.

Total Enrollment in Professional Nursing Programs

Enrollment in professional nursing programs by program type is shown in Table 3 and Figure 2.

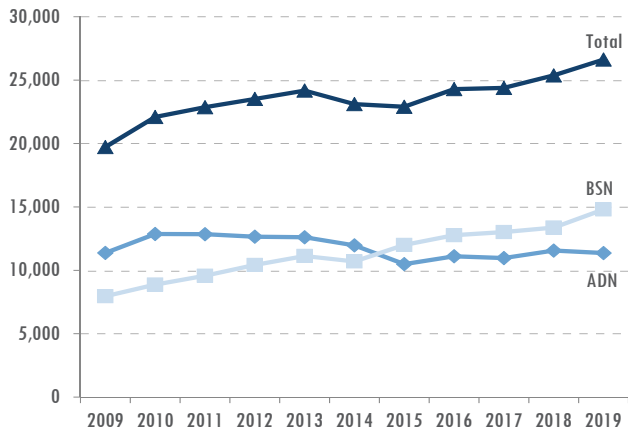- BSN enrollment increased by 10.7% from 2018 to 2019, while ADN[4] enrollment decreased by 1.7%.

Table 3. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2009-2019

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Diploma	261	280	270	281	281	277	248	256	241	280	281
ADN + LVN to ADN	11,371	12,867	12,850	12,651	12,610	11,970	10,488	11,108	10,968	11,558	11,364
BSN	7,957	8,874	9,571	10,422	11,130	10,701	12,001	12,769	13,018	13,370	14,803
MSN AE	132	160	175	161	157	161	163	158	159	167	176
Total	19,721	22,095	22,866	23,515	24,178	23,109	22,900	24,291	24,386	25,375	26,624

[4] ADN and LVN to ADN programs combined.

Figure 2. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2009-2019[5]

- Enrollment in ADN programs has decreased by 11.7% since its high in 2010.
- Diploma and MSN AE each represent 1 program and, therefore, made up a small percentage of enrolled students.

On September 30, 2019, as shown in Table 4, there were 26,624 students enrolled in professional nursing programs.

- Since 2007, professional nursing program enrollment has increased by 59.3% overall.
- From 2018 to 2019, total enrollment in professional nursing programs increased by 4.9%

- Of the 26,624 professional nursing students enrolled, 261 were transfer students from other professional nursing programs, and 1,228 were re-entry students.

Table 4. Professional Nursing Program Enrollment, 2009-2019

	Enrollment	Annual Enrollment Change	Enrollment Change from 2007
2009	19,721	-	-
2010	22,181	12.5%	32.7%
2011	22,866	3.1%	36.8%
2012	23,515	2.8%	40.7%
2013	24,178	2.8%	44.7%
2014	23,109	-4.4%	38.3%
2015	22,900	-0.9%	37.0%
2016	24,291	6.1%	45.4%
2017	24,386	0.4%	45.9%
2018	25,375	4.1%	51.8%
2019	26,624	4.9%	59.3%

[5] The "total" category in Figure 2 includes the diploma program, the MSN AE program, and all ADN, LVN to ADN, and BSN programs. The ADN enrollment includes LVN to ADN stand-alone program enrollment.
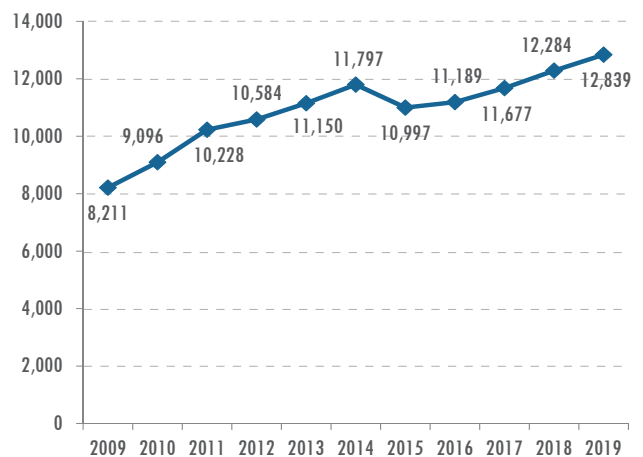
Graduates from Professional Nursing Programs

The number of graduates from professional nursing programs had been increasing steadily for 11 years before it decreased slightly in 2015, as shown in Figure 3.

A total of 12,839 students graduated from professional nursing programs during the reporting period,[6] a 4.5% increase since 2018 and a 56.4% increase since 2009. Seven recently opened programs reported having zero graduates.

- 64 of the 117 programs that reported graduates on both the 2018 NEPIS and 2019 NEPIS (54.7%) increased their number of professional nursing graduates during AY 2018-2019.
- Programs that increased their number of graduates included 31 ADN programs, 6 LVN to ADN programs, and 27 BSN programs.

Figure 3. Professional Nursing Graduates, 2009-2019

[6] The number of graduates reported is for AY 2018-2019 academic year (September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019). Most nursing curricula can be completed in 2 years following pre-requisite liberal arts and science courses; therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of the graduates reported for AY 2018-2019 enrolled in the professional nursing programs during AY 2017-2018.

Table 5 displays the number of professional nursing graduates by student type for the past 2 academic years.

- The majority of professional nursing graduates in 2019 were unlicensed students (79.3% of all graduates).
- LVNs who graduated from a professional nursing program made up 16.4% of the professional nursing graduates in 2019.
- The number of allied health professionals who graduated from a professional nursing program more than doubled, while the number of LVNs who graduated from a professional nursing program decreased by 1.7% between AY 2017-2018 and AY 2018-2019.

Table 5. Professional Nursing Graduates by Type

	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2017-2018	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2018-2019	% Change in Graduates
Unlicensed Students	9,841	10,177	3.4%
Paramedics/EMTs	145	179	23.4%
Allied Health	102	261	155.9%
Military[6]	-	48	-
LVNs	2,145	2,109	-1.7%
MSN AE	51	65	27.5%

[6] Military track graduates were not counted as a separate category of graduates prior to the 2019 NEPIS.

Barriers to Increasing Pre-Licensure RN Graduates

The 117 programs that reported graduates were asked to describe any barriers they faced in increasing pre-licensure RN graduates.

- Lack of available clinical sites was the number one cited reason programs were unable to increase the number of pre-licensure graduates (31 programs each or 26.5%), followed by lack of faculty (29 programs or 24.8%).
- 15 programs (12.8%) reported retention/attrition issues as a barrier to increasing pre-licensure RN graduates.

Level of Difficulty for Graduates to Find a Job in Nursing

All programs also reported the perceived level of difficulty that their pre-licensure RN graduates experienced in finding a job in nursing.

- The majority of programs reported that it was easy (51 programs or 41.1%) or very easy (41 programs or 33.1%) for graduates to find a job in nursing.
- 6 programs reported that it was difficult and no programs reported that it was very difficult for graduates to find a job in nursing.
- 26 programs (21.0%) reported being neutral about the level of difficulty of their graduates in finding a job in nursing.