Sex and Age

In 2015, there were 14,642 newly enrolled students in professional nursing programs. This population was predominantly female: 83.7% in AY 2014-2015, which was a slightly larger proportion of females than in AY 2013-2014 (83.2%). Figure 1 illustrates the AY 2014-2015 newly enrolled student breakdown by age.

- The largest proportion of newly enrolled students were between 21 and 25 years of age (37.0%).
- The second largest age group was students aged 31-40 years (21.0%), followed closely by 26-30 year olds (19.7%).
- Only 10.1% of newly enrolled students were 41 years or older.
- BSN programs had the largest proportion of students under 25 years of age (68.2% of BSN students). LVN to ADN stand-alone programs reported the greatest proportion of students 41 years of age or older (25.3% of LVN to ADN students).

Race/Ethnicity

As shown in Figure 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.

- The percentage of newly enrolled RN students who were Hispanic/Latino (28.6%) continued to grow to more than double the percentage in the 2015 RN workforce (14.1%), but was still lower than the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in the Texas population (40.0%).
- The percentage of newly enrolled RN students who were white/Caucasian (46.6%) was less than that of the RN workforce (59.9%), but still greater than the Texas population (42.1%).
- Newly enrolled black/African American RN students (14.5%) more closely mirrored the proportion who were black/African American in the RN workforce (11.9%) and Texas population (11.5%).
Sex and Age

In 2015, there were 10,999 graduates from professional nursing programs. This population was predominantly female: 85.3% in AY 2014-2015, which was a slightly larger proportion of females than in AY 2013-2014 (84.9%). Figure 3 illustrates the AY 2014-2015 RN graduate breakdown by age.

- The largest proportion of graduates were between 21 and 25 years of age (40.6%).
- The second largest age group was graduates aged 31-40 years (23.6%), followed closely by 26-30 year olds (23.1%). Graduates aged 41 and older made up 11.1% of the RN graduate population.
- BSN programs had the largest proportion of graduates who were 25 or younger (59.0% of BSN graduates). MSN Alternate Entry graduates were most likely to be between 26 and 30 years of age (43.5% of MSN AE graduates). LVN to ADN graduates were much more likely to be 31 years of age or older (65.6% of LVN to ADN graduates).

Race/Ethnicity

Figure 4 displays the race/ethnicity distribution of RN graduates in comparison to the race/ethnicity distribution of the RN workforce and the Texas population.

- Though the percentage of RN graduates who were white/Caucasian has decreased from 52.9% to 52.7% in the past year, the proportion is still greater than that of the Texas population (42.1%). The proportion of white/Caucasian RN graduates was lower than the proportion in the RN workforce (59.9%).
- The proportion of RN graduates who were Hispanic/Latino (25.5%) was much lower than the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in the Texas population (40.0%), but was almost double the proportion of Hispanic/Latino nurses in the RN workforce (14.1%).
- The percentage of black/African American RN graduates (12.4%) mirrored the percentage of black/African American persons in the Texas population (11.5%) and the percentage within the RN workforce (11.9%).
There were greater percentages of RN graduates (9.4%) and RNs in the workforce (14.1%) who reported as other race than the proportion within the Texas population (6.4%).

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 24.7% in 2014 to 25.5% in 2015. The RN workforce should begin to reflect this increasing diversity in the coming years.

Programs reported a total of 156 graduates who were international students (1.4% of all RN graduates).