Sex

In 2018, there were 16,284 newly enrolled students in professional nursing programs. This population was predominantly female: 83.5% in AY 2017-2018, which was a slightly smaller proportion of females than in AY 2016-2017 (84.0%). Gender data were missing for 0.1% of newly enrolled RN students.

Age

Figure 1 illustrates the AY 2017-2018 newly enrolled student breakdown by age. Age data were missing for 0.01% of newly enrolled RN students.

- The largest proportion of newly enrolled students was 21-25 years old (38.3%).
- The second and third largest age groups were students aged 26-30 (19.0%) and 31-40 years old (18.9%).
- Only 8.0% of newly enrolled students were 41 years or older.
- BSN programs had the largest proportion of students under 25 years of age (70.0% of BSN students). LVN to ADN stand-alone programs reported the greatest proportion of students 41 years of age or older (15.5% 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 for 4.5% of newly enrolled students.

- The percentage of newly enrolled RN students who were Hispanic/Latino (30.8%) continued to grow to almost double the percentage in the 2018 RN workforce (15.8%), but was still lower than the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in the Texas population (41.5%).
- The percentage of newly enrolled RN students who were white/Caucasian (43.6%) was less than that...
of the RN workforce (58.4%), but still greater than the Texas population (40.3%).

- Newly enrolled black/African American RN students (14.5%) more closely mirrored the proportion who were black/African American in the RN workforce (12.9%) and Texas population (11.4%).
- The other race category includes Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaskan Native among others.

Since 2012 the proportion of white/Caucasian newly enrolled students has decreased while the proportion of Hispanic/Latino students has increased (Figure 3).

International Students

Programs reported a total of 220 newly enrolled students who were international students (1.4% of all newly enrolled RN students).³

Sex

In 2018, there were 12,284 graduates from professional nursing programs. This population was predominantly female: 85.1% in AY 2017-2018, which was a slightly smaller proportion of females than in AY 2016-2017 (85.8%). Gender data were missing for 0.02% of RN graduates.

Age

Figure 4 illustrates the AY 2017-2018 RN graduate breakdown by age. Age data were missing for 0.2% of RN graduates.

- The largest proportion of graduates was between 21 and 25 years of age (45.4%).
- The second largest age group was graduates aged 26-30 years old (22.5%), followed by 31-40 years old (14.5%).

Graduates from Professional Nursing Programs

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Newly Enrolled RN Students, Texas RN Workforce,¹ and Texas Population,² 2018

Figure 3. Race/Ethnicity of Newly Enrolled RN Students, 2010-2018

Figure 4. Age of RN Graduates

¹RN workforce data come from the 2018 BON Licensure Renewal file of actively practicing Texas nurses.
²Texas population data come from the 2018 Texas State Data Center population projections (https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/popdat/ST2018.shtm).
³International 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.
(21.1%). Graduates aged 41 and older made up 9.4% of the RN graduate population.

- BSN programs had the largest proportion of graduates who were 25 or younger (64.3% of BSN graduates). LVN to ADN graduates were much more likely to be 31 years of age or older (61.1% of LVN to ADN graduates).

**Race/Ethnicity**

Figure 5 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 3.8% of RN graduates.

Though the percentage of RN graduates who were white/Caucasian has decreased from 49.2% to 48.5% in the past year, the proportion is still greater than that of the Texas population (40.3%). The proportion of white/Caucasian RN graduates was lower than the proportion in the RN workforce (58.4%).

- The proportion of RN graduates who were Hispanic/Latino (28.2%) was much lower than the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in the Texas population (41.5%), but was almost double the proportion of Hispanic/Latino nurses in the RN workforce (15.8%).

The percentage of black/African American RN graduates (12.4%) mirrored the percentage of black/African American persons in the Texas population (11.4%) and the percentage within the RN workforce (12.9%).

- There were greater percentages of RN graduates (10.9%) and RNs in the workforce (12.9%) who reported as other race than the proportion within the Texas population (6.8%).

- Figure 6 shows that the RN student population continues to diversify. The proportion of RN graduates who were white/Caucasian has dropped while the proportion of students who were Hispanic/Latino increased from 27.9% in 2017 to 28.2% in 2018. The RN workforce should begin to reflect this increasing diversity in the coming years.

**International Students**

Programs reported a total of 138 graduates who were international students (1.1% of all RN graduates).  

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1RN workforce data come from the 2018 BON Licensure Renewal file of actively practicing Texas nurses.

2Texas population data come from the 2018 Texas State Data Center population projections (https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/popdat/ST2018.shtm).

3International 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.