

Brief Proposal for Presentation or Poster

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2004 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses

The National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN) is the most extensive and comprehensive source of statistics on registered nurses (RNs) with current licenses to practice in the United States, whether or not they are employed in nursing. The NSSRN has been conducted every four years since 1978; the 2004 Survey is the eighth survey. Government agencies, legislative bodies, health professionals, and researchers have used data from previous surveys to inform workforce policies and project surpluses and shortages of RNs. The NSSRN provides information on the estimated number of RNs (not only the number of licenses); the educational background and specialty areas, including Advanced Practice Nurse specialties; the employment settings, position level and salaries; geographic distribution, based on State weights; and personal characteristics such as gender, racial/ethnic background, country or State of basic nursing education, age, and family status.

The relative consistency of questions and survey methods allows comparisons between surveys even though each is cross-sectional in design. The survey design for the 2004 NSSRN follows that of previous surveys; it is a probability sample selected from a sampling frame compiled from files provided by the State Boards of Nursing in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The resulting database for the 2004 NSSRN is comprised of almost 36,000 unduplicated, licensed RNs, with weights established to take into consideration multiple licenses. The response rate for the 2004 NSSRN was over 70 percent.

Of particular interest to the International Medical Workforce Collaborative may be the data on foreign-educated nurses licensed and practicing in the United States. This presentation will provide an overview of findings concerning foreign-educated RNs from the 2004 NSSRN. This presentation will summarize findings concerning the countries of origin, the States estimated to have the largest number of foreign-educated RNs as their principal nursing position, the educational backgrounds of these RNs, including education beyond their basic nursing education (i.e. advanced degrees, certificates), language ability, racial/ethnic background, and employment setting.