



Survey of Advanced Practice Nurses 2010

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

In 2010, the Michigan Center for Nursing and Office of the Chief Nurse Executive asked Public Sector Consultants Inc. to conduct a survey of advanced practice nurses in Michigan. The survey collected data on the practice area, work setting, education and years of experience, employment status, changes in employment, plans to continue practicing, geographic distribution, age, gender, and racial/ethnic background of advanced practice nurses.

The survey was mailed to 4,185 registered nurses who hold a State of Michigan specialty certification as a nurse practitioner or nurse midwife. Nurses were offered the option to return the paper copy of the survey or complete the survey online. A total of 1,298 responses were received. Of these, 1,099 nurses said they are currently practicing as an advanced practice nurse *and* they identified their principal advanced practice capacity. In this sample, 986 nurses identified nurse practitioner as their principal advanced practice capacity, 72 identified themselves as a nurse midwife, and 41 identified themselves as a clinical nurse specialist.

The findings for this report are focused on the largest group of respondents—registered nurses who identified nurse practitioner as their principal practice capacity. The margin of error for this population is ± 2.8 . Complete responses to survey questions are provided in the attachment to this report. The responses from nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialists also are included in the attached frequency report, but the samples are too small to permit conclusions.

CHARACTERISTICS OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

- Approximately 4 percent of nurse practitioners hold a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, 3 percent hold a Doctor of Philosophy degree, and less than 1 percent hold a Doctor of Nursing degree, Doctor of Nursing Science degree, or doctorate in another field.
- About 96 percent of nurse practitioners hold a national certification as a nurse practitioner, 7 percent hold a national certification as a clinical nurse specialist, and 1 percent hold a national certification as a nurse midwife.
- The length of time that nurse practitioners have practiced *as a nurse practitioner* ranges from less than one year to more than 35 years, with the bulk of nurse practitioners (49 percent) having 6 to 15 years of practice experience in their principal advanced practice capacity.

- Almost all nurse practitioners (99 percent) are involved in providing direct patient care services in their advanced practice capacity. This compares to 83 percent of all active RNs licensed in Michigan who provide direct patient care services in their main nursing position.¹
- About 50 percent of nurse practitioners spend more than 35 hours per week providing direct patient care. Another 13 percent spend 31–35 hours per week providing direct patient care.
- About 39 percent of nurse practitioners report that their main practice area is in a category that could be considered primary care, that is, family practice (19.0 percent), internal medicine (10.4 percent), and pediatrics (9.5 percent). An additional 8.7 percent report their main practice area is women’s health.
- Four percent of nurse practitioners said they had made a change from a primary care position to a specialty care position within the past three years. This is offset by 3 percent of nurse practitioners who made a change from a specialty position to a primary care position.
- One-third (about 34 percent) of nurse practitioners are employed in a physician’s office; another third (about 31 percent) are employed in a hospital inpatient setting; another 22 percent are employed in a hospital outpatient setting. In contrast, only 7 percent of active registered nurses overall are employed in a physician’s office; about 54 percent are employed in the hospital inpatient setting; and 16 percent work in the hospital outpatient setting.
- About 5 percent of nurse practitioners said they had made a change in employment from an inpatient position to an outpatient position within the past three years. This is offset by 3 percent of nurse practitioners who made a change from an outpatient position to an inpatient position.
- About 26 percent of nurse practitioners made a change in employment within the past three years, but it was not to move between an inpatient and outpatient position or between a primary care and specialty position.
- About 36 percent of nurse practitioners reported that they are aged 55 or older, the same proportion as for all active registered nurses in 2010. Another 35 percent of nurse practitioners are aged 45–54.
- About 39 percent of nurse practitioners say they plan to practice nursing for only one to ten more years.
- About 4 percent of nurse practitioners are male, compared to 6 percent of active RNs.
- About 93 percent of nurse practitioners are white, about 2 percent are African American, about 1 percent are American Indian/Alaskan Native, and about 1 percent are Asian.
- About 3 percent of nurse practitioners are Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

¹ All references to registered nurses in general are drawn from the *Michigan Center for Nursing Survey of Nurses, 2010* (Lansing, Mich.: Public Sector Consultants Inc., December 2010).

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Instrument and Response Frequencies¹

For 2010 survey results, N=1,298

1. If you have a doctorate, please indicate the type of doctorate degree (Mark **all** that apply)

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Doctor of Nursing (ND)	—	—	0.5%
Doctor of Nursing Practice	—	—	3.7
Doctor of Nursing Science (DNSc)	—	—	0.1
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	14.6%	5.6%	3.0
Doctorate in other field	2.4	2.8	0.5

2. Which national certification do you hold? (Mark **all** that apply)

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Clinical Nurse Specialist Certification	75.6%	1.4%	7.4%
Nurse Midwife Certification	4.9	100.0	1.1
Nurse Practitioner Certification	95.1	15.3	95.5

3. Are you currently practicing as a nurse midwife, clinical nurse specialist or nurse practitioner?
4. What is your principal advanced practice capacity? (Mark **one**) (Only if answer to question 3 =“yes.”)

Note: The responses to questions 3 and 4 were used to classify the respondents by their principal advanced practice capacity as a clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, or nurse practitioner.

¹ Frequencies reported may not equal 100 percent due to rounding. Percentages may total more than 100 percent if the question asked respondents to “mark all that apply.”

5. How many years have you practiced in your principal advanced practice capacity?

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Less than 1 year	—	2.8%	5.4%
1–5 years	9.8%	9.9	21.7
6–10 years	14.6	21.1	26.1
11–15 years	19.5	32.4	22.7
16–20 years	7.3	19.7	11.9
21–25 years	26.8	9.9	5.2
26–30 years	7.3	2.8	3.9
31–35 years	9.8	1.4	2.4
More than 35 years	4.9	—	0.6

6. Does your current principal advanced practice position involve providing direct care services to patients/families?

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Yes	92.1%	93.1%	99.1%
No	7.9	6.9	0.9

7. If you currently provide direct care services as a nurse midwife, clinical nurse specialist, or nurse practitioner, please select the category that best describes your main practice area. (Mark **one**)

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Cardiology/cardiac care	3.0%	—	5.7%
Case management	—	—	0.2
Critical care	3.0	—	2.4
Dialysis/hemodialysis	—	—	0.9
Emergency/urgent care	3.0	—	3.8
Endoscopy	—	—	0.2
Family practice	3.0	—	19.0
Geriatrics/elderly care	6.1	—	7.0
Internal medicine	—	—	10.4
Neonatal	—	—	3.6
Obstetrics	3.0	83.3%	0.1
Oncology	6.1	1.7	3.5
Palliative care	—	—	2.3
Patient education	3.0	—	—
Pediatrics	6.1	—	9.5
Psychiatric/mental health	48.5	—	5.7
Rehabilitation	—	—	0.3
Surgery	—	—	3.9
Women's health	6.1	15.0	8.7
Other	9.1	—	12.9

8. On average, how many hours per week do you provide direct patient care in your current principal advanced practice position? (Mark **one**)

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Less than 10 hours per week	40.0%	7.5%	5.9%
10–15 hours per week	11.4	3.0	5.9
16–20 hours per week	17.1	3.0	9.0
21–25 hours per week	17.1	4.5	8.8
26–30 hours per week	—	6.0	7.2
31–35 hours per week	8.6	4.5	12.7
More than 35 hours per week	5.7	71.6	50.4

9. Please identify your current employment setting(s) (Mark **all** that apply)

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Hospital inpatient	41.5%	69.4%	31.1%
Hospital outpatient	22.0	43.1	22.0
Non-hospital outpatient	12.2	22.2	7.3
Physician's office	7.3	31.9	33.7
Federally qualified health center	7.3	18.1	6.1
Retail clinic	2.4	—	1.8
Nurse managed clinic	4.9	5.6	3.7
Correctional system	—	—	0.8
Nursing home/long-term care facility	—	—	7.9
Home health care	—	1.4	2.2
Hospice	—	—	1.2
Public/community health	9.8	4.2	4.5
Elementary or secondary school health	2.4	—	1.4
College health center	—	—	1.4
Nursing education	19.5	13.9	4.8
Insurance company/health plan	—	—	0.3
Other	17.1	2.8	6.0
Not active in nursing	—	—	0.1

10. If you made a change in your employment position within the past 3 years, was it to (Mark **all** that apply)

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
change from an inpatient position to an outpatient position?	2.4%	4.2%	4.6%
change from an outpatient position to an inpatient position?	7.3	1.4	2.9
change from a primary care position (i.e., family practice, general medicine, internal medicine, or general pediatrics) to a specialty care position?	—	—	4.0
change from a specialty care position to a primary care position?	—	—	3.0
make some other employment change?	26.8	38.9	25.6

11. To help us project the supply of nurses in the future, please tell us how much longer you plan to practice nursing.

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
1–5 years	40.0%	11.1%	14.3%
6–10 years	27.5	26.4	24.6
11–15 years	20.0	27.8	21.3
16–20 years	7.5	18.1	17.9
21–30 years	5.0	11.1	14.3
More than 30 years	—	2.8	4.9
Don't know	—	2.8	2.6
No longer practicing	—	—	0.2

12. Where is your primary place of employment? (Mark **one**)

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Michigan	92.7%	83.3%	92.9%
Other state in the U.S.	7.3	15.3	6.9
Canada	—	—	—
Other nation	—	1.4	0.1
Not employed	—	—	0.1

13. Where do you live? (Mark **one**)

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Michigan	95.1%	87.3%	93.4%
Other state in the U.S.	4.9	11.3	6.5
Canada	—	—	—
Other nation	—	1.4	0.1

14. If you live in the U.S. or if your primary place of employment is in the U.S., what are the ZIP Codes of your residence and primary place of employment?

15. In what year were you born?

Age	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
<25	—	—	—
25–34	—	6.0%	9.9%
35–44	10.0%	13.4	19.9
45–54	22.5	47.8	34.5
55–64	60.0	32.8	31.4
65+	7.5	—	4.4

16. What is your gender?

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Female	95.0%	98.6%	96.1%
Male	5.0	1.4	3.9

17. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
Yes	2.4%	2.8%	2.6%
No	97.6	97.2	97.4

18. What is your race/ethnicity? (Mark **all** that apply)

	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Nurse Midwives	Nurse Practitioners
White	92.7%	94.4%	93.3%
Black or African American	2.4	1.4	2.3
American Indian or Alaska Native	—	1.4	1.3
Asian	—	1.4	1.4
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Middle Easterner (Arab/Chaldean/Other)	—	—	0.4
Some other race/ethnicity	—	—	1.2