

BSN and APRN Clinical Education in Michigan

Survey Summary Report

Survey Administration: February 2015 through June 2015

**Office of Nursing Policy
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

**Assisted by the
Michigan Public Health Institute**

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BSN and APRN Clinical Education in Michigan: Survey Summary Report

The Office of Nursing Policy of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, with the assistance of the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), conducted two online surveys to gather information regarding: 1) the degree of difficulty in obtaining clinical placements for nursing students; 2) high-demand geographical and specialty areas; and 3) the role of clinical placement scarcity in limiting acceptance of qualified applicants to nursing education programs. One of the surveys was specific to BSN programs and the other survey was targeted toward APRN programs. If a particular school offered more than one BSN and/or APRN program, the school was asked to fill out the applicable survey one time for each program offered. This means that a particular school may have filled out the BSN and/or APRN survey multiple times. Some schools do not offer APRN programs; therefore, those schools were only asked to complete the survey for BSN programs. Both surveys were administered between February 2015 and June 2015.

Twenty-five schools were invited to complete the survey for BSN programs and 13 schools were invited to complete the survey for APRN programs. A total of 30 responses were received to the two surveys (15 nursing education programs representing 13 schools responded to the survey for BSN programs and 15 programs representing 6 schools responded to the survey for APRN programs). Some schools did not participate in the survey as their nursing education program(s) were very new, the school primarily used clinical placement sites in other states, and/or they stated that they were not experiencing any difficulty in obtaining clinical placements for nursing students.

The following survey summary is divided into two parts: 1) a summary of the responses received from the BSN programs in Michigan and 2) a summary of the responses received from the APRN programs in Michigan.

Survey of BSN Programs in Michigan

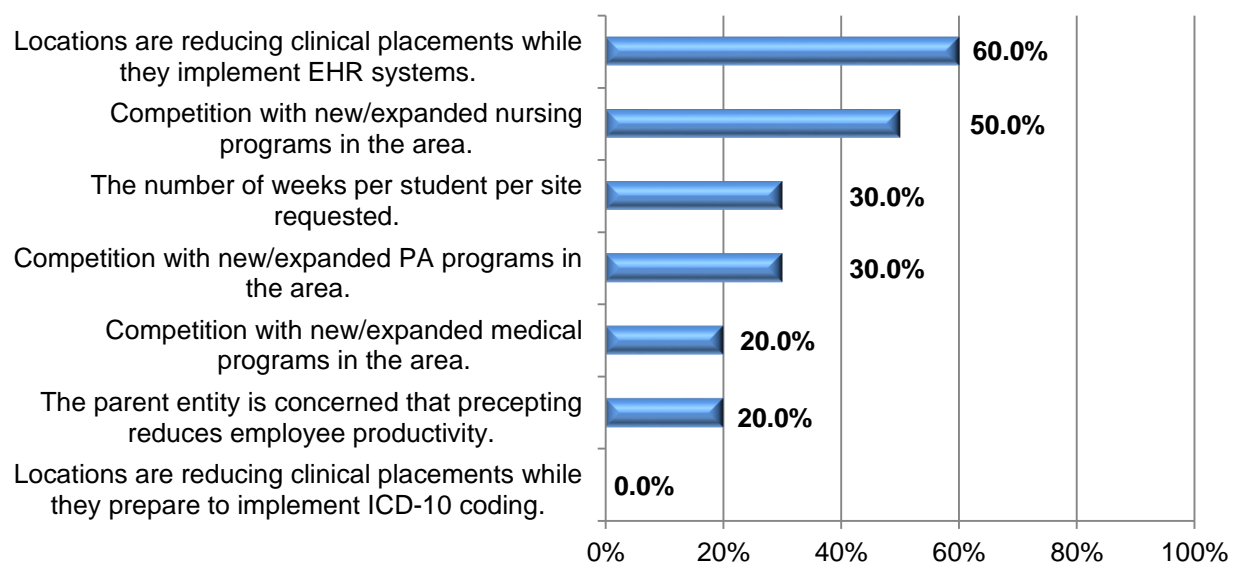
A total of 15 nursing education programs representing 13 schools responded to the survey for BSN programs in Michigan. Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not clinical placements were scarce during the 2013/2014 academic year (Table 1). Twelve programs responded to the question about scarcity of ambulatory care clinical placements. Of these programs, half (n=6) indicated that ambulatory care clinical placements were scarce for BSNs during the 2013/2014 academic year. Thirteen programs responded to the question about scarcity of acute care clinical placements. Of these programs, 53.8% (n=7) indicated that acute care clinical placements were scarce for BSNs during the 2013/2014 academic year.

Table 1: Scarcity of BSN Clinical Placements

Placement Type	Number of Programs Indicating There Was Scarcity	Percentage of Respondents
Ambulatory Care	6	50%
Acute Care	7	53.8%

Next, the responding BSN programs were asked to indicate reasons why their requests for clinical placements had been rejected (Graph 1). Five programs indicated that none of their requests for clinical placements had been rejected. The most selected reason for rejection of clinical placement requests among the remaining ten programs was “locations are reducing clinical placements while they implement EHR systems.”

Graph 1: Reasons for Rejection of BSN Clinical Placement Requests (n=10)

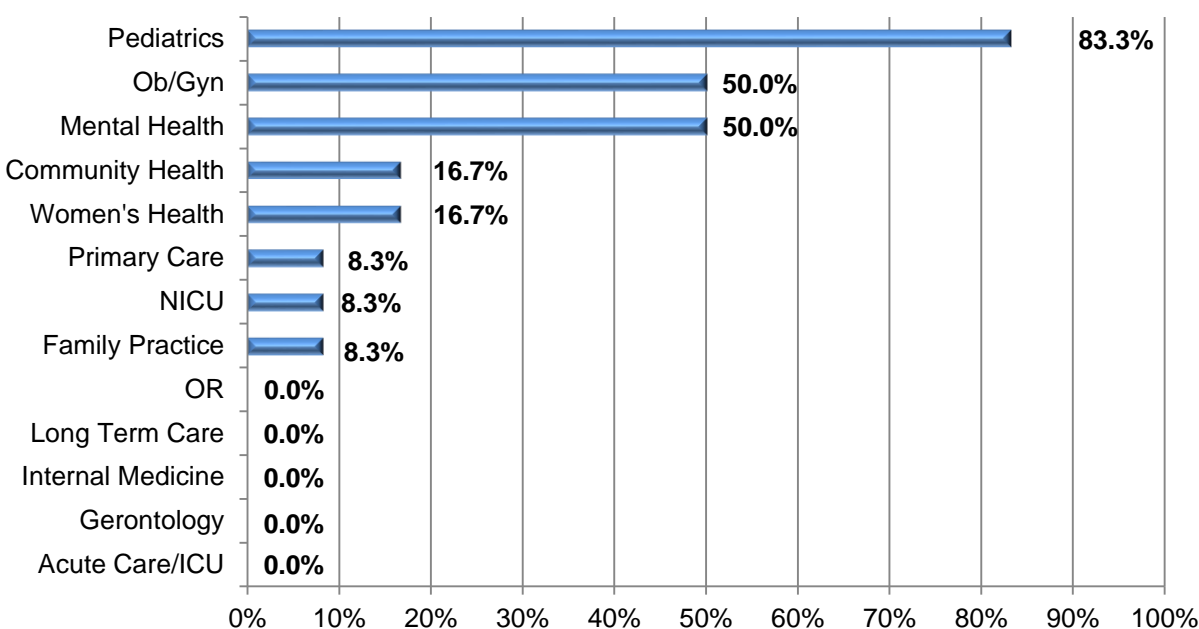


Seven respondents indicated additional reasons why their requests for clinical placements had been rejected. These reasons included:

- Employees left
- Exhausting for staff to host students 24 hours a day for seven days.
- New grads in orientation, not enough preceptors
- Occasionally original requests were rejected due to the day/time
- Preceptor burn out
- The preceptors are burning out as they have students each semester.
- Type of patient not available

Respondents were also asked to identify the specific specialty areas for which BSN clinical placements are more difficult to find (Graph 2). The greatest number of respondents indicated that clinical placements are more difficult to find in pediatrics. Three programs indicated that they did not have any difficulty finding clinical placements in specialty areas. One program provided another response: “leadership.”

Graph 2: Specialty Areas in Which Clinical Placements Are More Difficult to Find (n=12)



Most of the responding programs (53.3%) anticipated that their BSN clinical placement needs would be about the same in the future as they were in the 2013/2014 academic year. Seven (46.7%) of the responding programs indicated that they thought their clinical placement needs would be greater in the future (Table 2). None of the responding programs indicated that their clinical placement needs would be less in the future.

Table 2: Future BSN Clinical Placement Needs

Clinical Placement Needs	Number of Programs	Percentage of Respondents
About the same in the future	8	53.3%
Greater in the future	7	46.7%

Six of the responding programs (40%) indicated that scarcity of BSN clinical placements affects the number of BSN student applicants accepted each year.

Survey of APRN Programs in Michigan

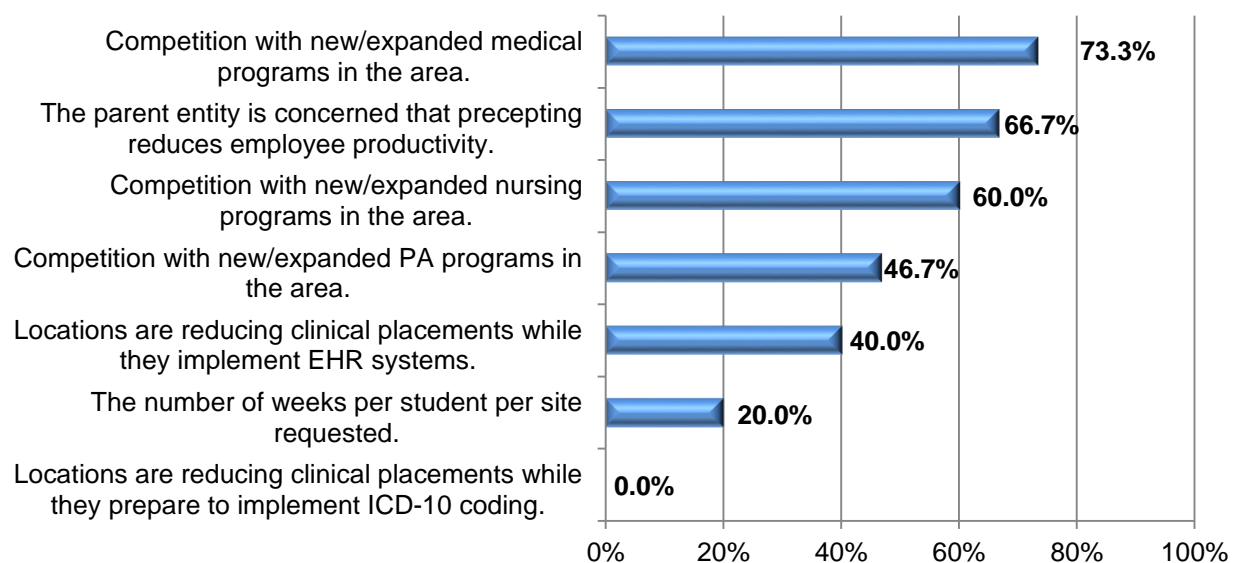
In total, 15 nursing education programs representing 6 schools responded to the survey for APRN programs. Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not clinical placements were scarce during the 2013/2014 academic year (Table 3). Ten programs responded to the question about scarcity of ambulatory care clinical placements. Of these programs, 80% (n=8) indicated that ambulatory care clinical placements were scarce for APRNs during the 2013/2014 academic year. Twelve programs responded to the question about scarcity of acute care clinical placements. Of these programs, 58.3% (n=7) indicated that acute care clinical placements were scarce for APRNs during the 2013/2014 academic year.

Table 3: Scarcity of APRN Clinical Placements

Placement Type	Number of Programs Indicating There Was Scarcity	Percentage of Respondents
Ambulatory Care	8	80%
Acute Care	7	58.3%

All of the responding APRN programs indicated reasons why their requests for clinical placements had been rejected (Graph 3). No program indicated that none of their requests for clinical placements had been rejected. The most selected reason for rejection of clinical placement requests was “competition with new/expanded medical programs in the area.”

Graph 3: Reasons for Rejection of APRN Clinical Placement Requests (n=15)

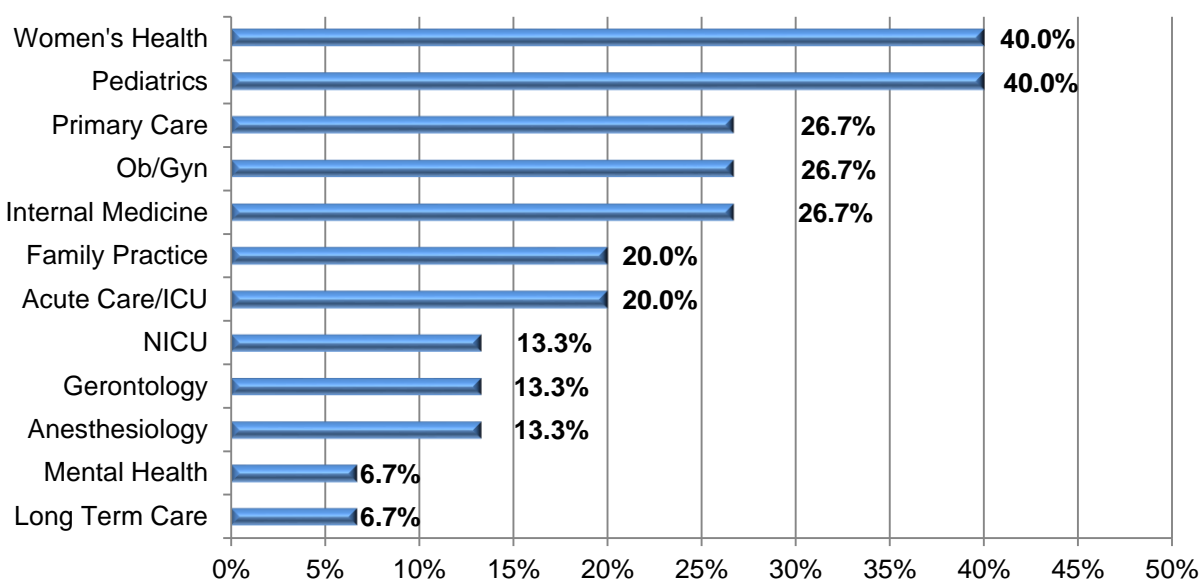


Eight respondents indicated additional reasons why their requests for clinical placements had been rejected. These reasons included:

- Preference for other providers.
- Liability concerns.
- Limited sites and potential preceptors in Michigan.
- Preceptor Burn-Out
- Hard to find all the specific learning experiences needed.
- Some sites only place their current employees

Respondents were also asked to identify the specific specialty areas for which APRN clinical placements are more difficult to find (Graph 4). The greatest number of respondents indicated that clinical placements are more difficult to find in the areas of women's health and pediatrics. Other responses provided included clinical experience working with adolescents, OB anesthesia, and the PICU.

Graph 4: Specialty Areas in Which Clinical Placements Are More Difficult to Find (n=15)



Most of the responding programs (53.3%) anticipated that their APRN clinical placement needs would be about the same in the future as they were in the 2013/2014 academic year. Only one-third (33.3%) of responding programs indicated that they thought their clinical placement needs would be greater in the future (Table 4).

Table 4: Future APRN Clinical Placement Needs

Clinical Placement Needs	Number of Programs	Percentage of Respondents
About the same in the future	8	53.3%
Greater in the future	5	33.3%
Less in the future	2	13.3%

Only two of the responding programs indicated that scarcity of APRN clinical placements affects the number of APRN graduate student applicants accepted each year.

Areas for Further Study

Due to the varying clinical education requirements across nursing programs (i.e. the number of hours required per week, weeks of clinical placement requested), one solution may not resolve all of the difficulties associated with obtaining clinical education placements for BSN and APRN students. These differences may make it more challenging to share clinical sites between educational programs or students. Schools and clinical sites should be surveyed to identify potential ways in which nursing students and available clinical placements could be linked.

In addition, the perspective of clinical education sites was not collected through the two surveys discussed above. Further information gathering efforts should aim to include the views and perceptions of the sites themselves.