



THE NURSING SHORTAGE CRISIS

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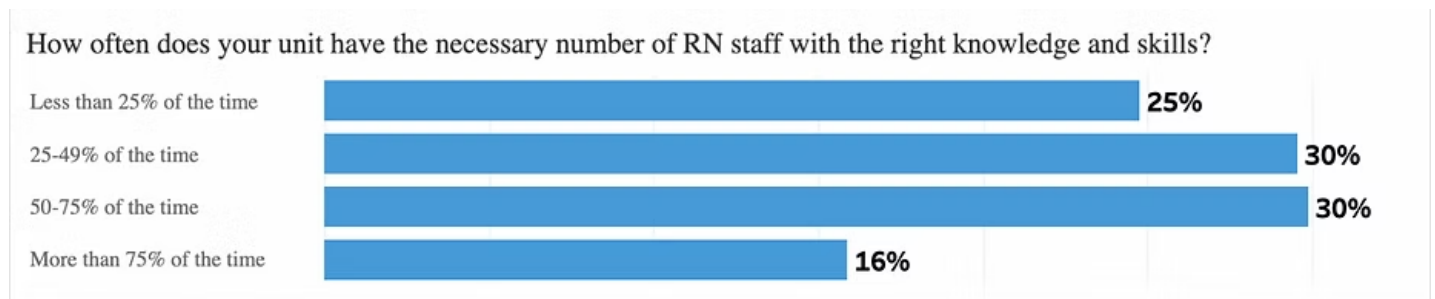
Source: Nurse.com

The nursing shortage in the United States is a complex issue with many contributing factors. One of the primary reasons for the shortage is the growing demand for healthcare services due to the aging population and the prevalence of chronic illnesses. As the population ages, there will be an increased need for healthcare services, exacerbating the nursing shortage even further.

Factors contributing to the shortage include an aging population, chronic illness management, and a growing number of nurses nearing retirement age (U.S. News). The COVID-19 pandemic is also a major contributing factor, with states like New York experiencing large-scale staffing shortages (Yahoo Entertainment). Additionally, a lack of resources for nursing schools and insufficient funding for nursing programs contribute to the shortage. Many nursing schools struggle to offer the necessary training and resources to produce enough qualified nurses to meet the growing demand.

A 2022 survey showed nine out of ten nurses reported a staffing shortage in their organization. 90% of those surveyed believed that the nursing shortage was a serious problem, and 55% indicated that a patient looking for acute care

would not be received by enough nurses with the right knowledge and skills. 59% of nurses also report being asked to cover additional shifts at least every week (Nursing World). These working conditions are leading to increased mental health problems and a generally unhealthy working environment.



Source: American Nurses Foundation

Compounding this issue is the fact that many nurses are nearing retirement age, and there are not enough new nurses entering the profession to replace them. The nursing profession is projected to grow by 9% from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations, and The American Nurses Association estimates that the U.S. will need to produce over 1 million new registered nurses by 2022 to fulfill the nation's healthcare needs (Bureau of Labor Statistics, ANA). Unfortunately, nursing school enrollment is not keeping pace with this demand, with enrollment in nursing programs only increasing by 3.9% in 2020, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). As a result, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services projects a shortfall of more than 250,000 registered nurses by 2030, with certain states facing more significant shortages than others (HRSA).

These issues have led to large-scale nursing strikes that have rippled hospitals in several states. A New York nursing strike with around 7,000 participants spent three days protesting before an agreement was reached. Although the nurses succeeded in gaining a wage increase, many of those who went on strike believed that pay was never the main problem. Staffing shortages remain the central issue hospital workers are trying to address (CNN).





Source: AP News

Experts suggest increasing funding for nursing programs and schools, offering incentives to attract nurses to underserved areas, and promoting nursing as a viable and rewarding career choice (Nurse Journal). If adequate measures are not taken, the nursing shortage may continue to worsen and negatively impact the quality of care and access to healthcare for patients across the country (U.S. News).