



RESEARCH BRIEF

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# 2022 NCLEX<sup>®</sup> Examination Statistics

# 2022 NCLEX® Examination Statistics

National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. (NCSBN®)

Mission Statement

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## Introduction

In 1982, NCSBN substantially revised the State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE). NCSBN changed the examination from a norm-referenced test to a criterion-referenced test, implemented a new test plan and

- 
2. A historical record of the passing standard and annual

If a candidate runs out of time before reaching the maximum number of items and the computer has not determined with 95% certainty whether the candidate has passed or failed, alternate criteria are used. If the candidate has not answered the minimum number of required items, the candidate automatically fails. If at least the minimum number of required items were answered, the candidate's score is based on all responses given before the exam time expired. If the score is above the passing standard, the candidate will pass; otherwise, the candidate will fail.



## 2022

Table 1. Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® for U.S. Licensure, by Type of Candidate

Type of Candidate	Jan. – March			April – June			July – Sept.			Oct. – Dec.			Total (2022)		
	# Testing	# Passing	% Passing	# Testing	# Passing	% Passing	# Testing	# Passing	% Passing	# Testing	# Passing	% Passing	# Testing	# Passing	% Passing
First-time, U.S.-educated															
RN Diploma	547	437	79.9%	661	537	81.2%	628	481	76.6%	355	262	73.8%	2,191	1,717	78.4%
RN Baccalaureate	26,141	22,378	85.6%	28,749	24,196	84.2%	32,476	25,900	79.8%	11,543	8,951	77.5%	98,909	81,425	82.3%
RN Associate Degree	24,280	19,244	79.3%	26,872	21,601	80.4%	25,463	19,636	77.1%	9,145	6,351	69.4%	85,760	66,832	77.9%
Special Program Codes	83	35	42.2%	132	34	25.8%	311	56	18.0%	604	117	19.4%	1,130	242	21.4%
<b>Total First-time, U.S.-educated</b>	<b>51,051</b>	<b>42,094</b>	<b>82.5%</b>	<b>56,414</b>	<b>46,368</b>	<b>82.2%</b>	<b>58,878</b>	<b>46,073</b>	<b>78.3%</b>	<b>21,647</b>	<b>15,681</b>	<b>72.4%</b>	<b>187,990</b>	<b>150,216</b>	<b>79.9%</b>
Repeat, U.S.-educated	12,778	5,394	42.2%	15,798	6,262	39.6%	20,197	9,632	47.7%	20,945	9,209	44.0%	69,718	30,497	43.7%
First-time, Internationally Educated	6,578	3,073	46.7%	8,034	3,614	45.0%	8,524	3,680	43.2%	11,954	4,814	40.3%	35,090	15,181	43.3%
Repeat, Internationally Educated	5,255	1,451	27.6%	6,690	1,841	27.5%	7,274	2,038	28.0%	9,594	2,678	27.9%	28,813	8,008	27.8%
<b>All Candidates</b>	<b>75,662</b>	<b>52,012</b>	<b>68.7%</b>	<b>86,936</b>	<b>58,085</b>	<b>66.8%</b>	<b>94,873</b>	<b>61,423</b>	<b>64.7%</b>	<b>64,140</b>	<b>32,382</b>	<b>50.5%</b>	<b>321,611</b>	<b>203,902</b>	<b>63.4%</b>

**Table 3. Summary Statistics for First-time NCLEX-RN® Candidates for U.S. Licensure and Canadian Licensure/Registration**

NCLEX-RN®	January–December 2022
Passing Standard <sup>1</sup>	0.00 logits
Estimated Decision Consistency <sup>2</sup>	0.87
Average Test Length <sup>3</sup>	101
Percent of Candidates Taking the Minimum Number of Items	47.3%
Percent of Candidates Taking the Maximum Number of Items	28.2%
Average Testing Time <sup>4</sup>	2 hours
Percent of Candidates Taking the Maximum Amount of Time	0.3%

<sup>1</sup> The NCLEX-RN passing standard scale uses logits as the unit of measurement. Logits is short for log-odds-units. These units have no inherent meaning with regard to nursing content and in

<sup>2</sup> Estimated Decision Consistency is an indicator of reliability. Conceptually, it is the proportion of pass-fail decisions that would remain the same if the same population were retested immediately

<sup>3</sup> NCLEX-RN examinations consist of 75 to 145 items.







**Table 5. First-time, U.S.-educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® for U.S. Licensure, by Degree Type (April 1– June 30, 2022)<sup>1</sup>**

Jurisdiction	RN-Diploma			RN-Associate Degree			RN-Baccalaureate			Total April 1 – June 30, 2022		
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
Ohio	177	122	68.9%	1,206	902	74.8%	1,906	1,597	83.8%	3,289	2,621	79.7%
Oklahoma				465	387	83.2%	391	304	77.7%	856	691	80.7%
Oregon				115	101	87.8%	308	257	83.4%	423	358	84.6%
Pennsylvania	249	224	90.0%	372	295	79.3%	1,135	993	87.5%	1,756	1,512	86.1%
Rhode Island				109	91	83.5%	92	77	83.7%	201	168	83.6%
South Carolina				459	387	84.3%	550	492	89.5%	1,009	879	87.1%
South Dakota				20	13	65.0%	268	249	92.9%	288	262	91.0%
Tennessee				296	256	86.5%	594	523	88.0%	890	779	87.5%
Texas	71	61	85.9%	2,178	1,856	85.2%	2,827	2,472	87.4%	5,076	4,389	86.5%
Utah				564	457	81.0%	459	368	80.2%	1,023	825	80.6%
Vermont				115	89	77.4%	109	93	85.3%	224	182	81.3%
Virgin Islands							6	-	0.0%	6	0	0.0%
Virginia				528	438	83.0%	444	378	85.1%	972	816	84.0%
Washington				337	295	87.5%	265	226	85.3%	602	521	86.5%
West Virginia				360	312	86.7%	147	134	91.2%	507	446	88.0%
Wisconsin				396	338	85.4%	814	672	82.6%	1,210	1,010	83.5%
Wyoming				156	131	84.0%	17	15	88.2%	173	146	84.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>81.2%</b>	<b>26,872</b>	<b>21,601</b>	<b>80.4%</b>	<b>28,749</b>	<b>24,196</b>	<b>84.2%</b>	<b>56,282</b>	<b>46,334</b>	<b>82.3%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data do not include Special Program Codes.

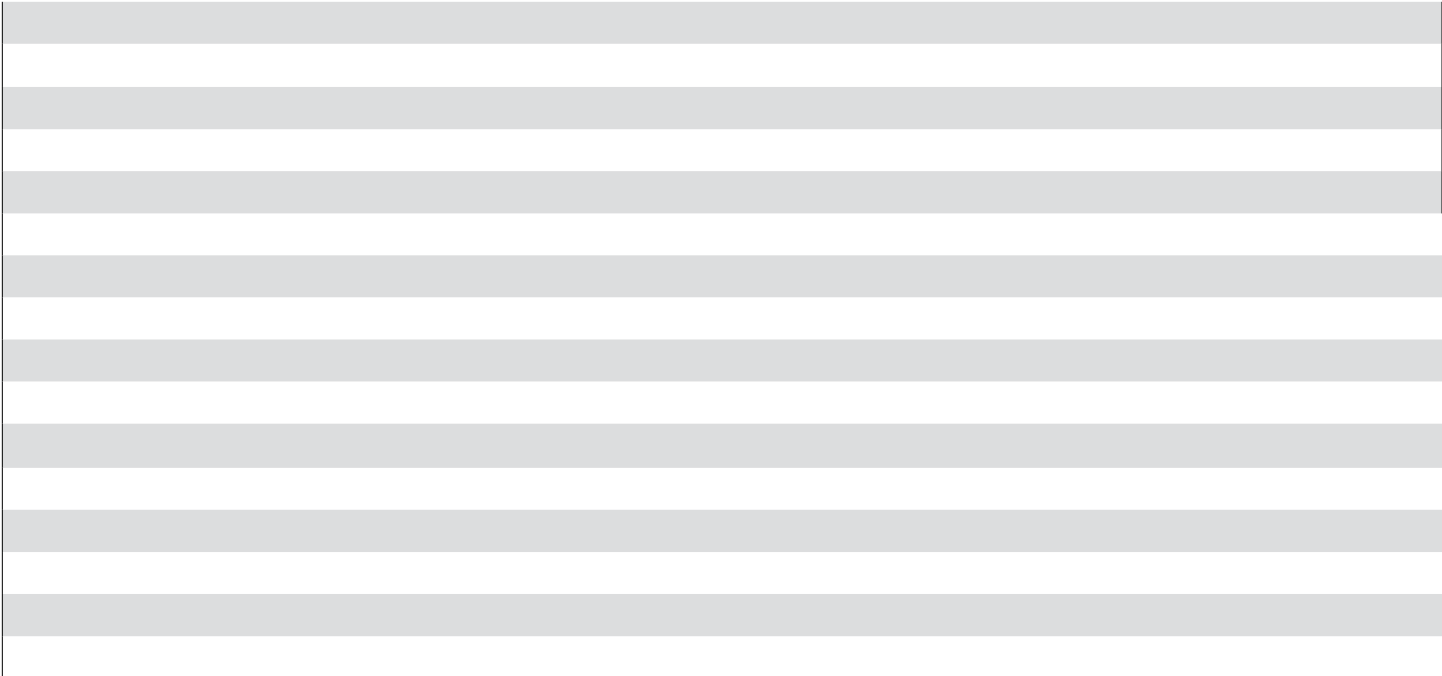


**Table 6. First-time, U.S.-educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® for U.S. Licensure, by Degree Type (July 1– Sept. 30, 2022)<sup>1</sup>**

Jurisdiction	RN-Diploma			RN-Associate Degree			RN-Baccalaureate			Total July 1 – Sept. 30, 2022		
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
Northern Mariana Islands				10	3	30.0%				10	3	30.0%
Ohio	97	71	73.2%	1,310	924	70.5%	1,459	1,114	76.4%	2,866	2,109	73.6%
Oklahoma				240	175	72.9%						









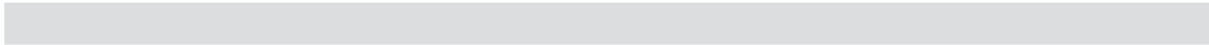








Table 9. First-time, Internationally Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® for U.S. Licensure, by Country of Education (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022)

Country of Education	Jan. 1 – March 31, 2022			April 1 – June 30, 2022			July 1 – Sept. 30, 2022			Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022			Total Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022		
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
Indonesia	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%
Iran	15	11	73.3%	26	17	65.4%	33	22	66.7%	89	70	78.7%	163	120	73.6%
Iraq				1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%
Ireland	1	1	100.0%	6	6	100.0%	2	2	100.0%	4	3	75.0%	13	12	92.3%
Israel	6	6	100.0%	4	3	75.0%	12	9	75.0%	14	10	71.4%	36	28	77.8%
Italy	2	1	50.0%	1	0	0.0%	2	1	50.0%	6	3	50.0%	11	5	45.5%
Jamaica	111	65	58.6%	104	53	51.0%	120	65	54.2%	99	53	53.5%	434	236	54.4%
Japan	7	3	42.9%	9	4	44.4%	13	8	61.5%	21	12	57.1%	50	27	54.0%
Jordan	54	38	70.4%	68	42	61.8%	96	56	58.3%	147	97	66.0%	365	233	63.8%
\ Á Á ó Á	2	0	0.0%				1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%
Kenya	253	154	60.9%	287	191	66.6%	285	167	58.6%	338	193	57.1%	1,163	705	60.6%
Korea, North				1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%				2	2	100.0%
Korea, South	241	162	67.2%	388	215	55.4%	514	266	51.8%	674	318	47.2%	1,817	961	52.9%
Kuwait							1	0	0.0%				1	0	0.0%
\ í Á										1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%
Lebanon	24	19	79.2%	15	11	73.3%	28	22	78.6%	31	17	54.8%	98	69	70.4%
Liberia	10	2	20.0%	5	0	0.0%	9	2	22.2%	10	1	10.0%	34	5	14.7%
Lithuania										1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%
Macedonia							1	1	100.0%				1	1	100.0%
Malawi	2	1	50.0%	2	1	50.0%	2	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	8	2	25.0%
Malaysia	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	3	2	66.7%	2	0	0.0%	7	2	28.6%
Mali				1	0	0.0%							1	0	0.0%
Mexico	20	8	40.0%	18	6	33.3%	32	9	28.1%	55	14	25.5%	125	37	29.6%
Moldova										1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Mongolia							1	1	100.0%				1	1	100.0%
Morocco	1	0	0.0%	1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0.0%	4	2	50.0%
Namibia	2	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%
Nepal	190	103	54.2%	276	144	52.2%	225	131	58.2%	314	150	47.8%	1,005	528	52.5%



Table 9. First-time, Internationally Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® for U.S. Licensure, by Country of Education (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022)

Country of Education	Jan. 1 – March 31, 2022			April 1 – June 30, 2022			July 1 – Sept. 30, 2022			Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022			Total Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022		
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
Netherlands	1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%	4	4	100.0%
New Zealand	3	2	66.7%	3	3	100.0%	5	4	80.0%	2	1	50.0%	13	10	76.9%
Nicaragua				1	0	0.0%							1	0	0.0%
Niger				1	0	0.0%							1	0	0.0%
Nigeria	161	85	52.8%	255	145	56.9%	403	196	48.6%	430	235	54.7%	1,249	661	52.9%
Oman							1	0	0.0%				1	0	0.0%
Pakistan	9	3	33.3%	9	3	33.3%	23	7	30.4%	31	10	32.3%	72	23	31.9%
Palestinian Territory	2	1	50.0%	5	3	60.0%	6	2	33.3%	13	5	38.5%	26	11	42.3%
Panama	14	4	28.6%	13	5	38.5%	18	4	22.2%	12	3	25.0%	57	16	28.1%
Peru	2	0	0.0%				3	0	0.0%	4	1	25.0%	9	1	11.1%
Philippines	3,664	1,645	44.9%	4,384	1,878	42.8%	4,228	1,747	41.3%	6,170	2,416	39.2%	18,446	7,686	41.7%
Poland	3	1	33.3%	1	1	100.0%	2	0	0.0%	4	3	75.0%	10	5	50.0%
Portugal							1	1	100.0%	1	0	0.0%	2	1	50.0%
Puerto Rico	285	84	29.5%	311	78	25.1%	311	73	23.5%	411	100	24.3%	1,318	335	25.4%
Qatar				1	1	100.0%				1	0	0.0%	2	1	50.0%
Romania	4	1	25.0%	1	1	100.0%	3	2	66.7%	3	2	66.7%	11	6	54.5%
Russian Federation	12	4	33.3%	13	3	23.1%	11	3	27.3%	15	2	13.3%	51	12	23.5%
Rwanda	1	0	0.0%							2	1	50.0%	3	1	33.3%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	0	0.0%										1	0	0.0%
Saint Lucia	6	3	50.0%	5	0	0.0%	11	5	45.5%	18	8	44.4%	40	16	40.0%
Saint Vincent and The Grenadines	3	0	0.0%	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0.0%	4	3	75.0%	9	4	44.4%
Samoa										1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Saudi Arabia	3	2	66.7%	6	0	0.0%	3	2	66.7%	8	5	62.5%	20	9	45.0%
Serbia	1	0	0.0%				1	0	0.0%				2	0	0.0%
Sierra Leone	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	3	1	33.3%	10	1	10.0%
Singapore	1	0	0.0%	1	1	100.0%	5	3	60.0%	2	2	100.0%	9	6	66.7%
Slovakia				1	0	0.0%				1	1	100.0%	2	1	50.0%
Somalia							1	0	0.0%				1	0	0.0%

Table 9. First-time, Internationally Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® for U.S. Licensure, by Country of Education (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022)

Country of Education	Jan. 1 – March 31, 2022			April 1 – June 30, 2022			July 1 – Sept. 30, 2022			Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022			Total Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022		
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
South Africa	9	6	66.7%	17	10	58.8%	18	7	38.9%	16	9	56.3%	60	32	53.3%
Spain	3	0	0.0%	10	9	90.0%	9	6	66.7%	14	11	78.6%	36	26	72.2%
Sri Lanka	3	1	33.3%	1	0	0.0%	3	2	66.7%	6	4	66.7%	13	7	53.8%
Sudan	4	1	25.0%				1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	6	1	16.7%
Sweden	2	1	50.0%				1	1	100.0%				3	2	66.7%
Sweden	1	1	100.0%	2	1	50.0%	5	4	80.0%	6	3	50.0%	14	9	64.3%
Taiwan	19	7	36.8%	23	11	47.8%	28	13	46.4%	51	27	52.9%	121	58	47.9%
Tajikistan				1	0	0.0%				1	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%
Tanzania	6	2	33.3%				2	1	50.0%	2	1	50.0%	10	4	40.0%
Thailand	16	13	81.3%	36	20	55.6%	61	20	32.8%	125	43	34.4%	238	96	40.3%
Trinidad and Tobago	11	9	81.8%	23	12	52.2%	24	15	62.5%	20	12	60.0%	78	48	61.5%
Tunisia	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%				3	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%
Turkey	4	4	100.0%	7	2	28.6%	15	3	20.0%	17	6	35.3%	43	15	34.9%
Uganda	8	4	50.0%	15	6	40.0%	25	14	56.0%	18	10	55.6%	66	34	51.5%
Ukraine	11	4	36.4%	11	6	54.5%	8	1	12.5%	15	5	33.3%	45	16	35.6%
United Arab Emirates	3	1	33.3%	3	1	33.3%	6	2	33.3%	3	1	33.3%	15	5	33.3%
United Kingdom	14	5	35.7%	14	8	57.1%	21	7	33.3%	33	8	24.2%	82	28	34.1%
United States Minor Outlying Islands							1	1	100.0%				1	1	100.0%
Uzbekistan	8	0	0.0%	9	1	11.1%	7	0	0.0%	26	2	7.7%	50	3	6.0%
Venezuela	5	1	20.0%	4	2	50.0%	8	4	50.0%	15	4	26.7%	32	11	34.4%
Zambia	6	4	66.7%	12	5	41.7%	13	8	61.5%	12	3	25.0%	43	20	46.5%
Zimbabwe	59	29	49.2%	98	53	54.1%	69	33	47.8%	38	13	34.2%	264	128	48.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,578</b>	<b>3,073</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>8,034</b>	<b>3,614</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>8,524</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>11,954</b>	<b>4,814</b>	<b>40.3%</b>	<b>35,090</b>	<b>15,181</b>	<b>43.3%</b>

**Table 10. First-time, Canadian-educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® for Canadian Licensure/Registration, by Degree Type (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022)\***

	RN-Baccalaureate			RN-Special Program Codes			Total Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022		



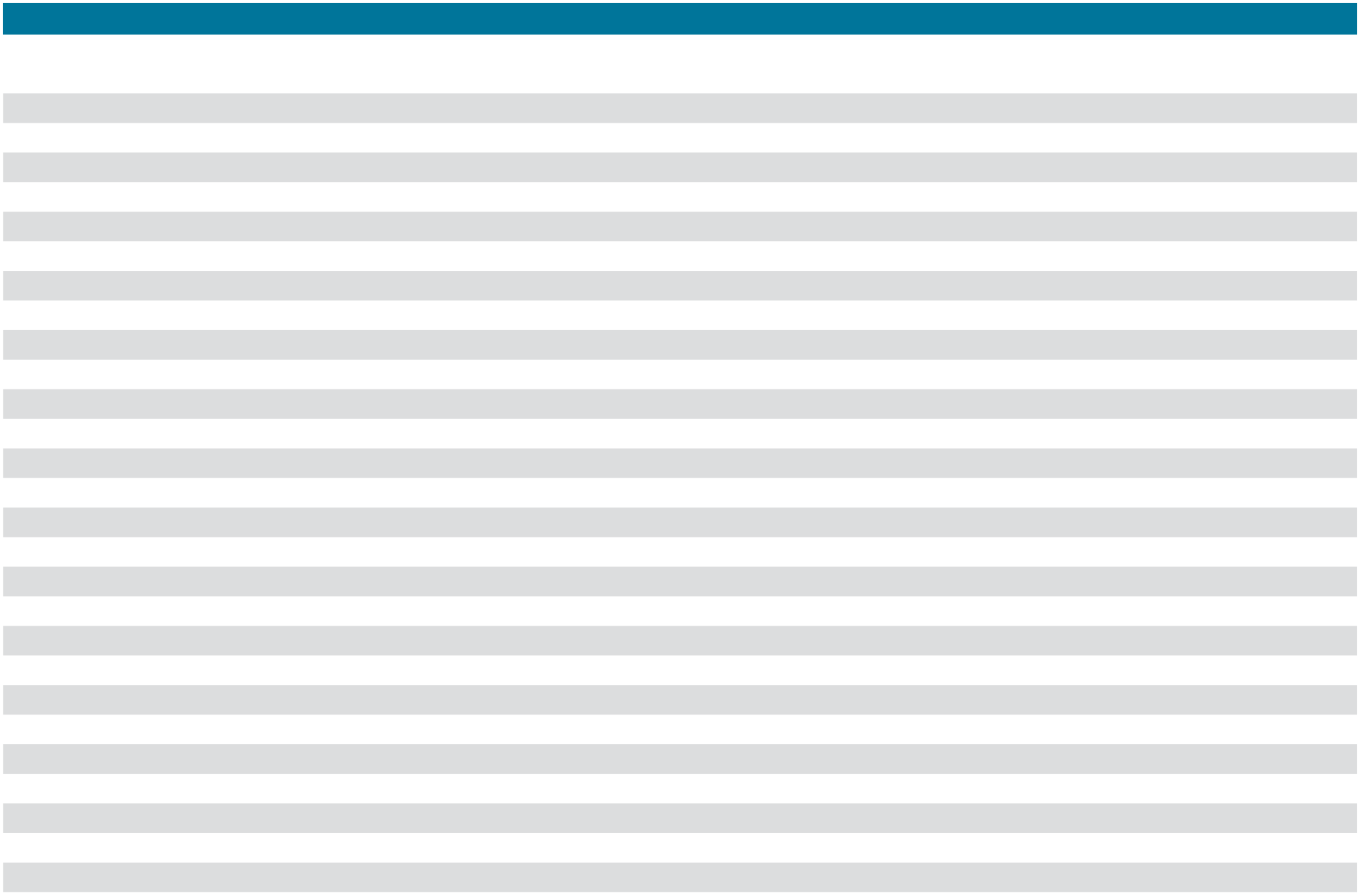
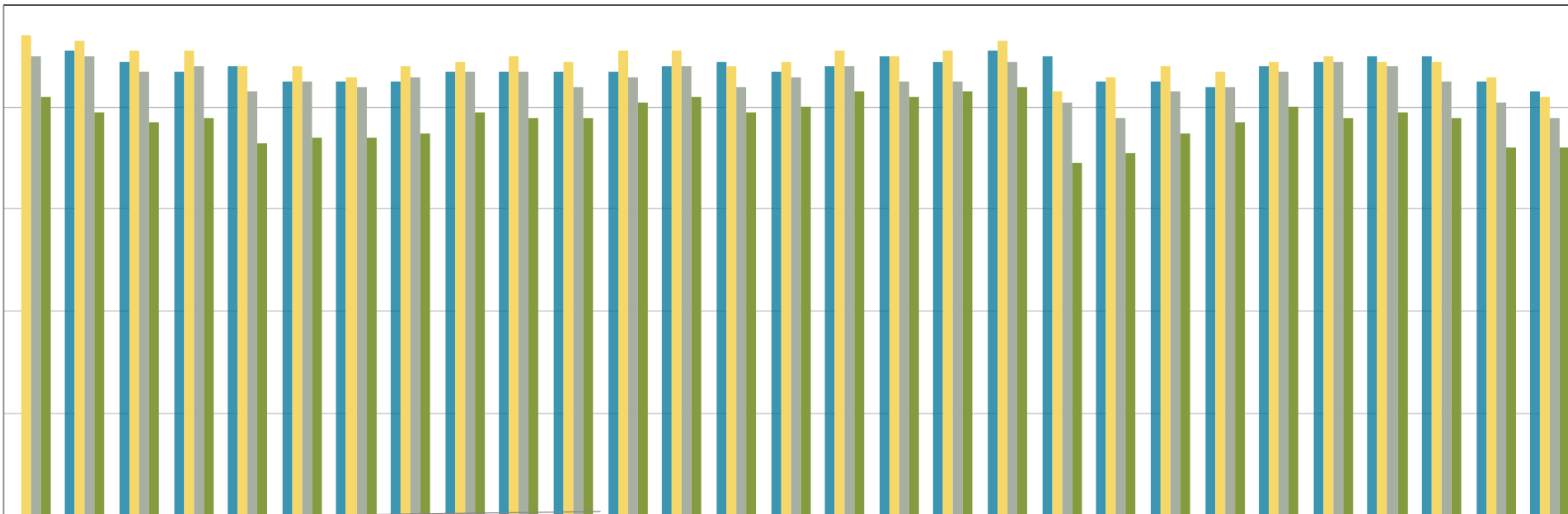




Figure 1. NCLEX-RN® Pass Rates for First-time, U.S.-educated Candidates for U.S. Licensure



\* April 1994 Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins. Passing Standard -0.4766 logits.

\*\* Oct. 1995 Passing Standard changed from -0.4766 to -0.42 logits.

\*\*\* April 1998 Passing Standard changed from -0.42 to -0.35 logits.

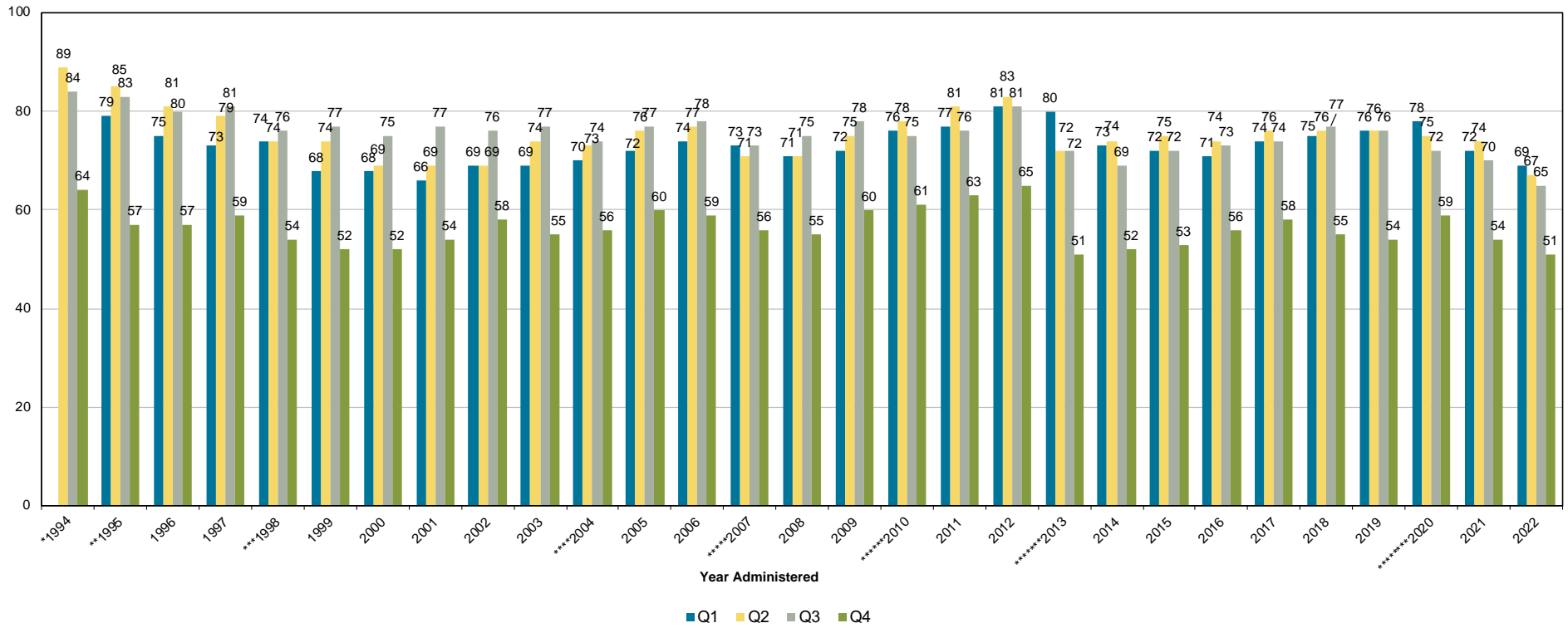
\*\*\*\* April 2004 Passing Standard changed from -0.35 to -0.28 logits.

\*\*\*\*\* April 2007 Passing Standard changed from -0.28 to -0.21 logits.

\*\*\*\*\* April 2010 Passing Standard changed from -0.21 to -0.16 logits.

\*\*\*\*\* April 2013 Passing Standard changed from -0.16 to 0.00 logits.

Figure 2. NCLEX-RN® Pass Rates for All Candidates for U.S. Licensure



\* April 1994 Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins. Passing Standard -0.4766 logits.  
 \*\* Oct. 1995 Passing Standard changed from -0.4766 to -0.42 logits.  
 \*\*\* April 1998 Passing Standard changed from -0.42 to -0.35 logits.  
 \*\*\*\* April 2004 Passing Standard changed from -0.35 to -0.28 logits.  
 \*\*\*\*\* April 2007 Passing Standard changed from -0.28 to -0.21 logits.  
 \*\*\*\*\* April 2010 Passing Standard changed from -0.21 to -0.16 logits.  
 \*\*\*\*\* April 2013 Passing Standard changed from -0.16 to 0.00 logits.

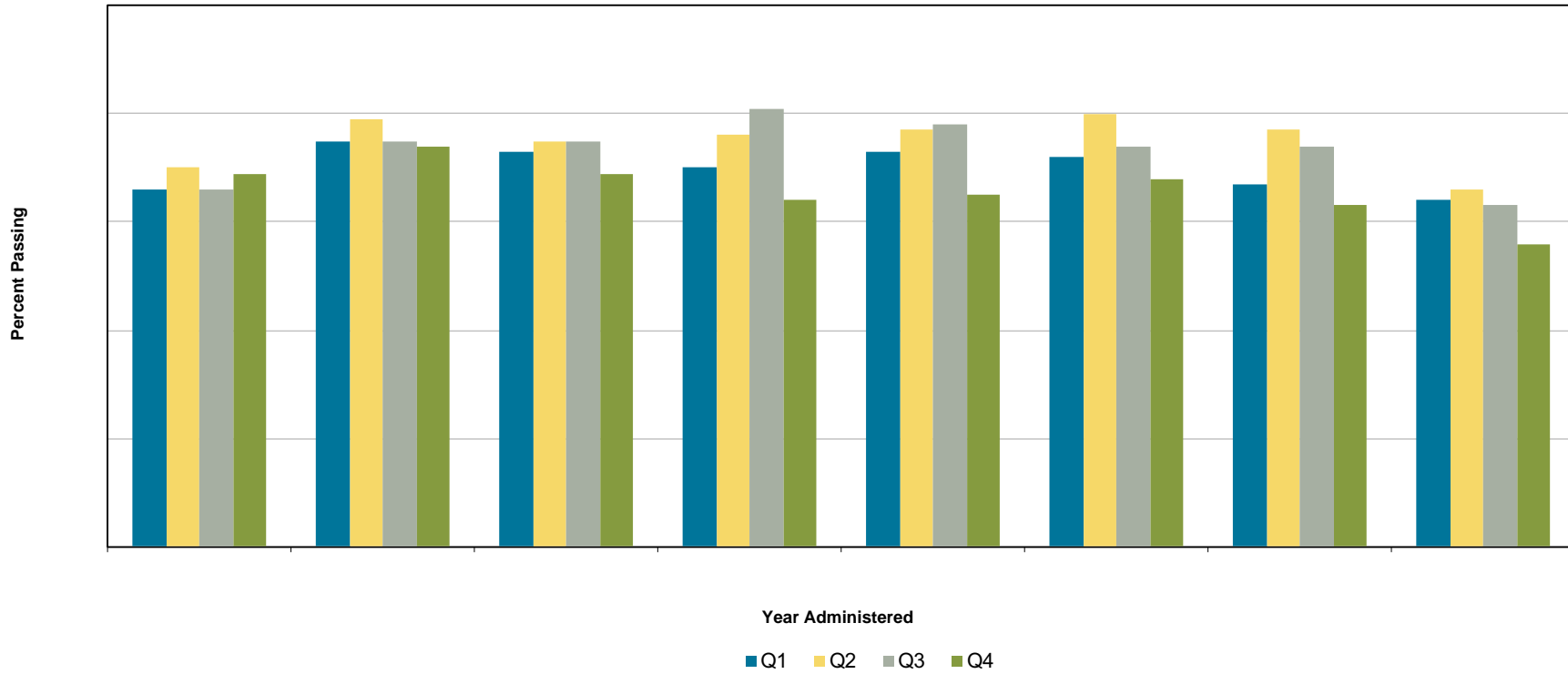


Figure 3. NCLEX-RN® Yearly Pass Rates for U.S. Licensure

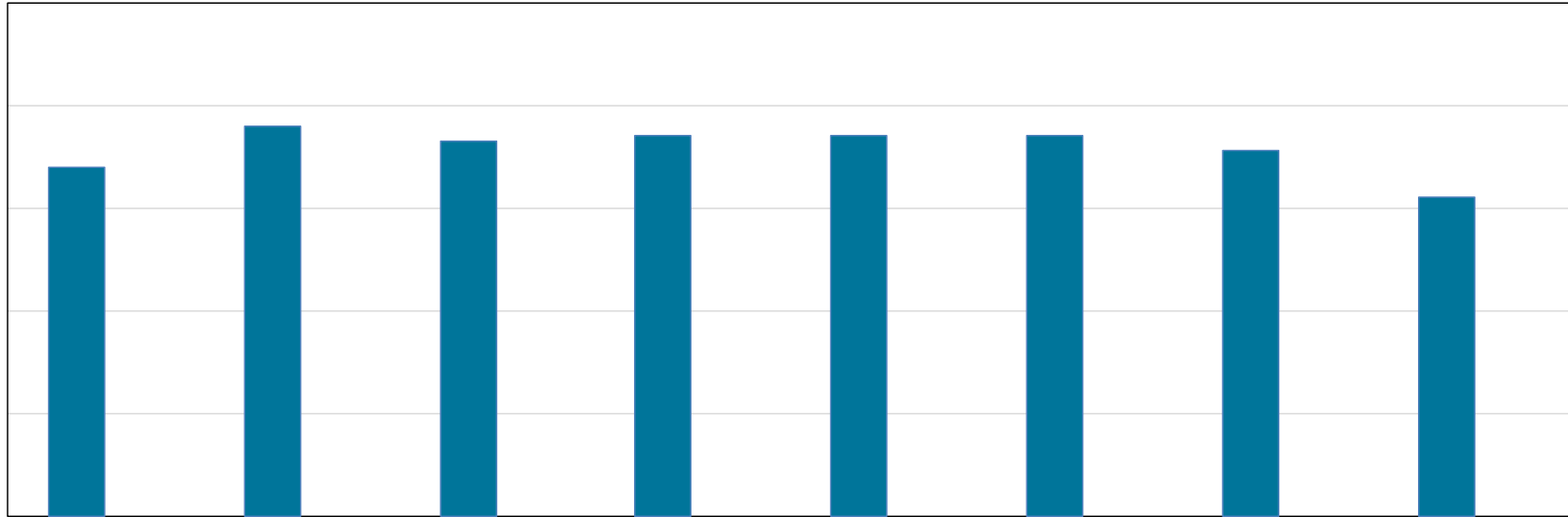
\* April 1994 Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins. Passing Standard -0.4766 logits.  
\*\* Oct. 1995 Passing Standard changed from -0.4766 to -0.42 logits.  
\*\*\* April 1998 Passing Standard changed from -0.42 to -0.35 logits.  
\*\*\*\* April 2004 Passing Standard changed from -0.35 to -0.28 logits.  
\*\*\*\*\* April 2007 Passing Standard changed from -0.28 to -0.21 logits.

**Figure 4. NCLEX-RN®**

Figure 5. NCLEX-RN® Pass Rates for All Candidates for Canadian Licensure/Registration



\* Due to COVID-19, 2020 Q1 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from Jan. 1 to March 24, 2020, and Q2 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from March 25 to June 30, 2020

**Figure 6. NCLEX-RN® Yearly Pass Rates for Canadian Licensure/Registration**

\* Due to COVID-19, 2020 Q1 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from Jan. 1 to March 24, 2020, and Q2 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from March 25 to June 30, 2020

Figure 7. NCLEX-RN® Volume for First-time, U.S.-educated Candidates for U.S. Licensure



\* P' \$p' L' 'óP' ' Á P 'xÁ Á1 ' N Á= 'g\$^3μ'P Á +Á+ 'Áx ++ P P×1 'ZÁ '' ' Á Nô' ' Á x'óP' PÑ x' Á P 'xÁ Á1 ' N Á= 'g\$^3μ'P Á +Á+ 'Áx ++ P P×1 ' Á Nô' ' Z' P' '

Figure 8. NCLEX-RN® Volume for All Candidates for U.S. Licensure





Figure 10. NCLEX-RN® Volume for First-time, Canada-educated Candidates for Canadian Licensure/Registration

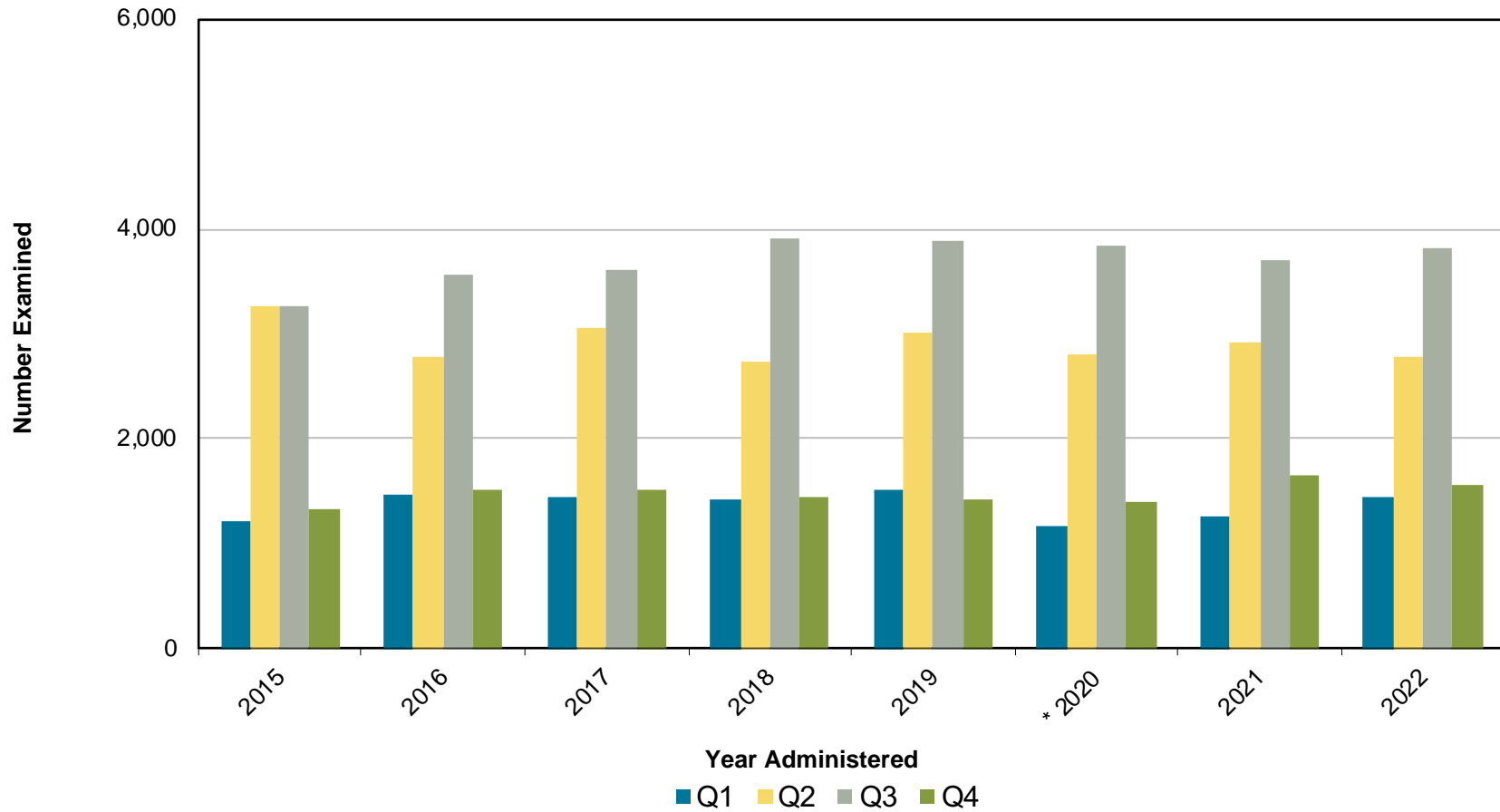
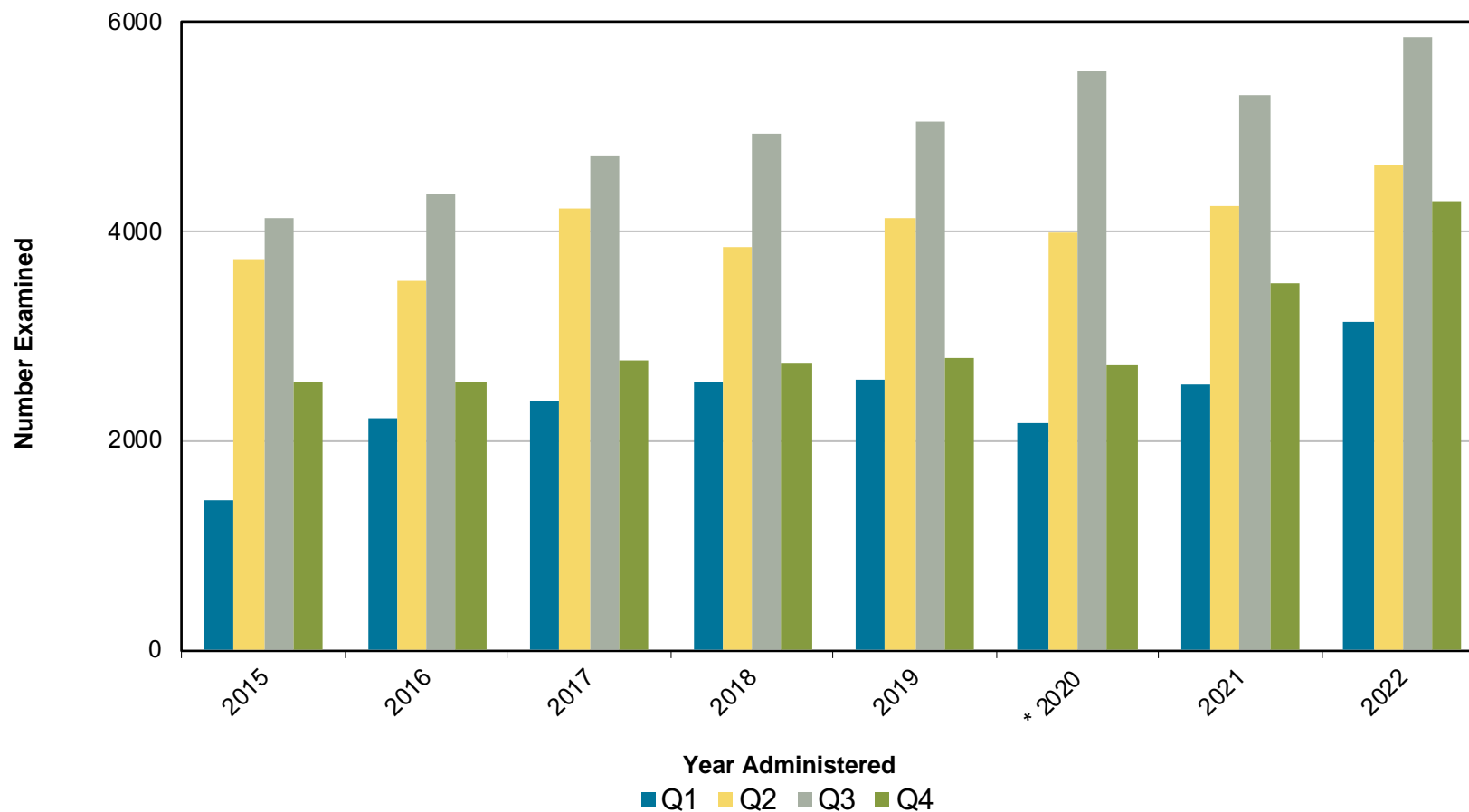
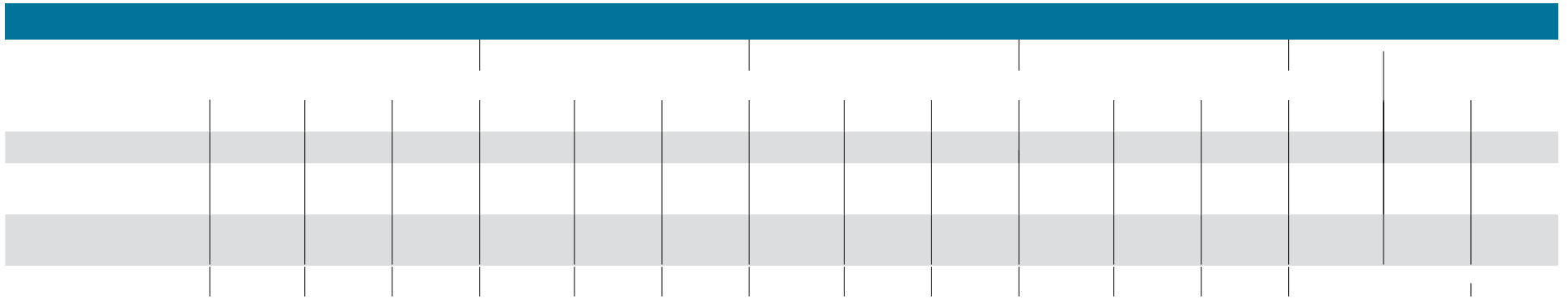




Figure 11. NCLEX-RN® Volume for All Candidates for Canadian Licensure/Registration









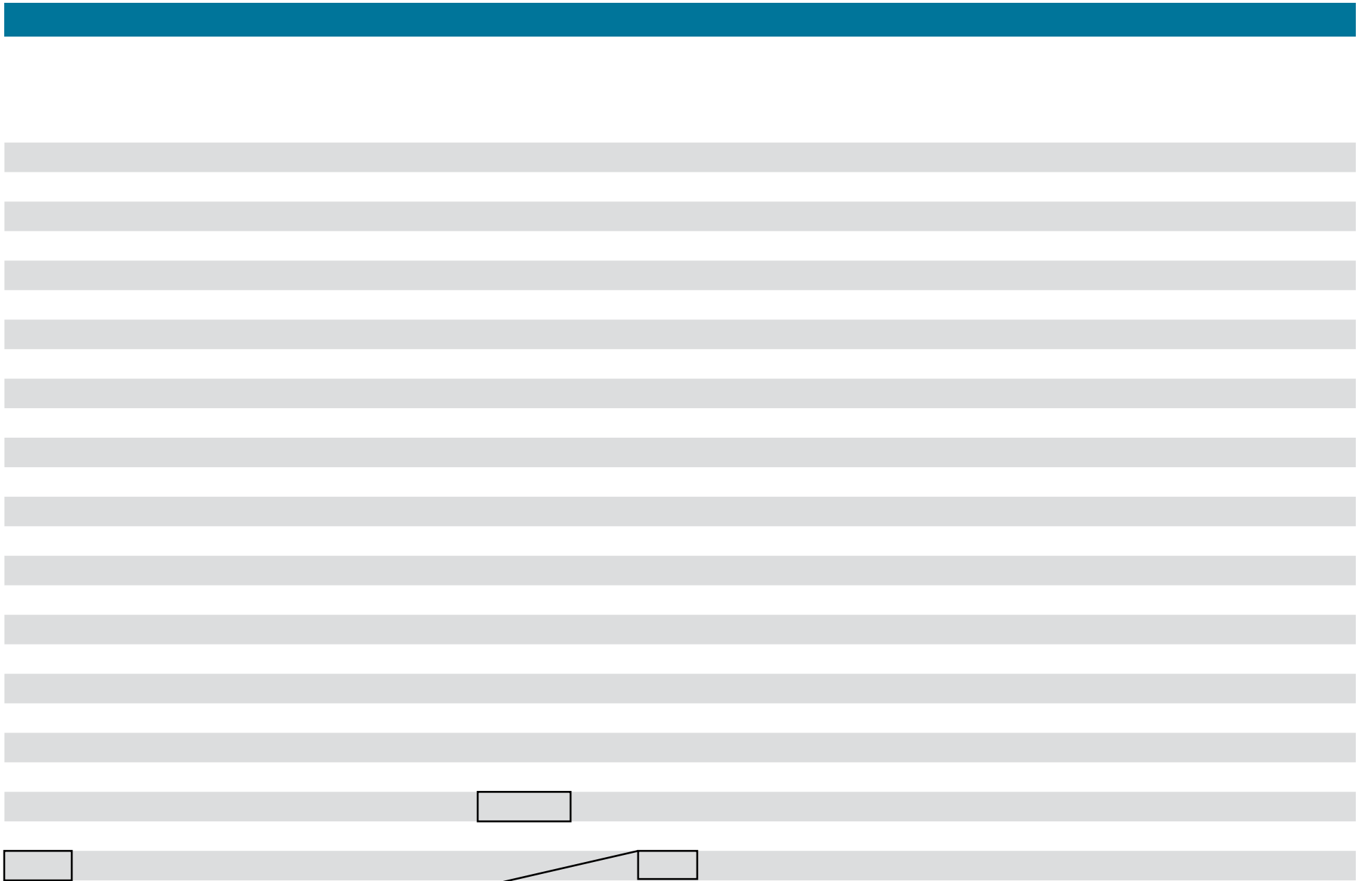




Table 15. First-time, Internationally Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-PN®, by Country of Education (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022)

Country of Education	Jan. 1 – March 31, 2022			April 1 – June 30, 2022			July 1 – Sept. 30, 2022			Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022			Total Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022		
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
Turkey				1	0	0.0%							1	0	0.0%
Ukraine										1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
United Arab Emirates				1	1	100.0%							1	1	100.0%
Other							1	0	0.0%				1	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47.5%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59.2%</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>50.4%</b>

Figure 13. NCLEX-PN® Pass Rates for First-time, U.S.-educated Candidates



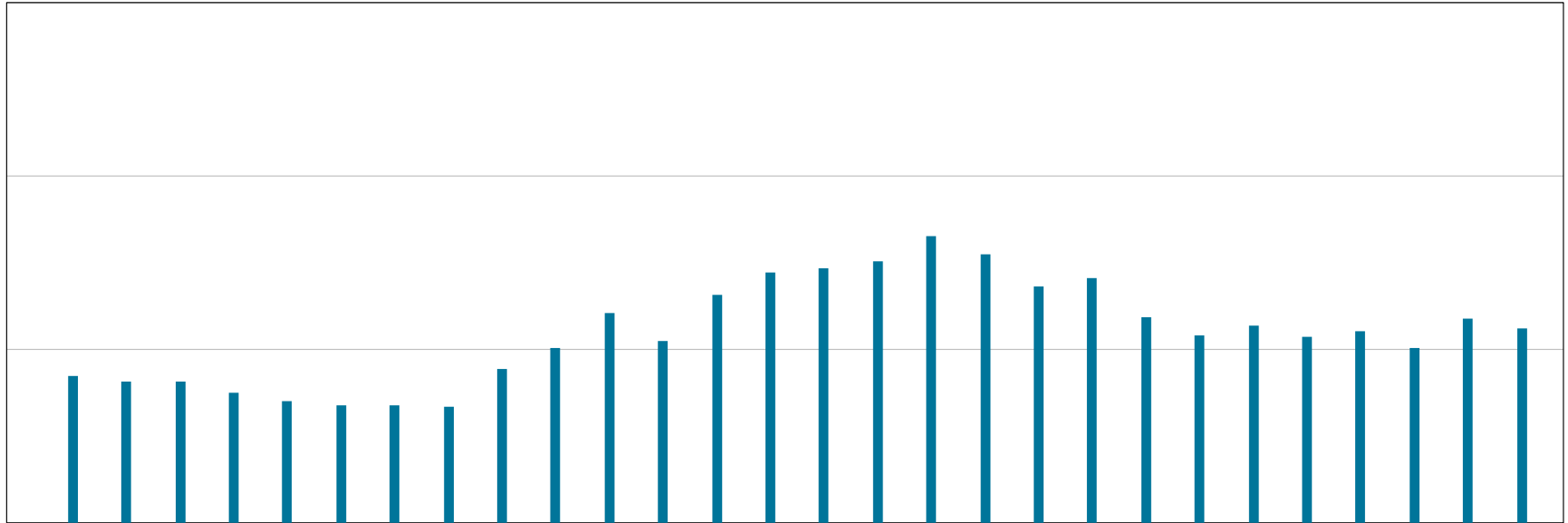




Figure 15. NCLEX-PN® Annual Pass Rates, April 1994 – December 2022

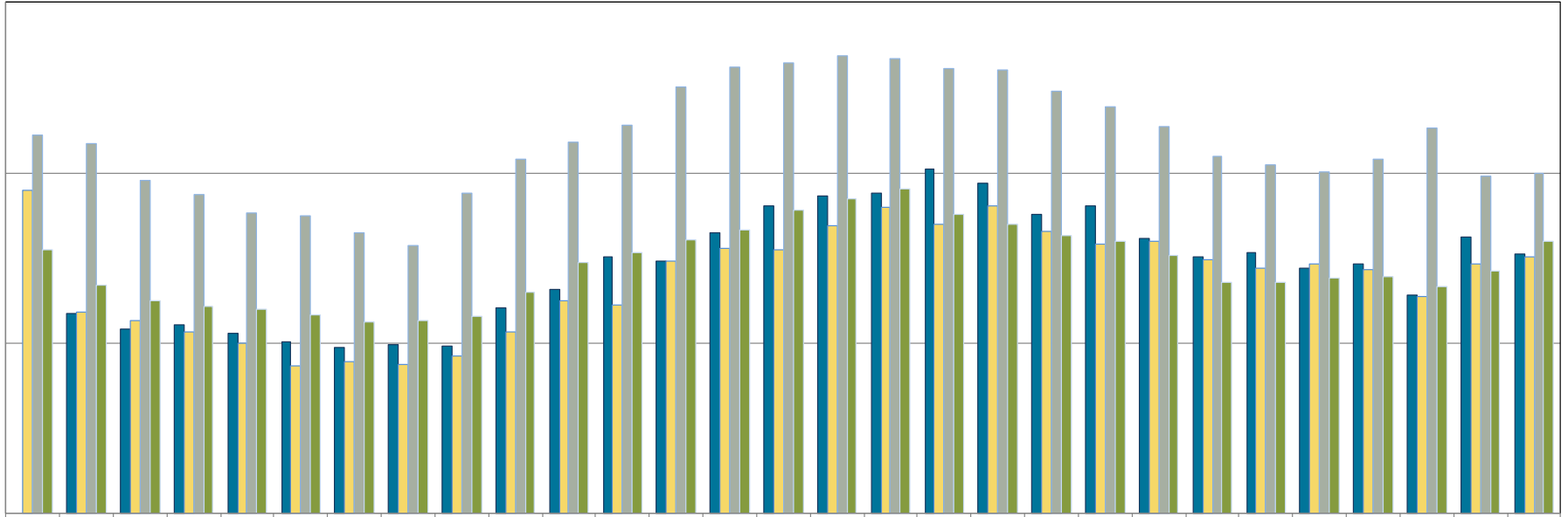
\*April 1994 Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins. Passing Standard -0.56 logits.  
\*\*Oct. 1996 Passing Standard changed from -0.56 to -0.51 logits.  
\*\*\*April 1999 Passing Standard changed from -0.51 to -0.47 logits.  
\*\*\*\*April 2005 Passing Standard changed from -0.47 to -0.42 logits.  
\*\*\*\*\*April 2008 Passing Standard changed from -0.42 to -0.37 logits.  
\*\*\*\*\*April 2011 Passing Standard changed from -0.37 to -0.27 logits.  
\*\*\*\*\*April 2014 Passing Standard changed from -0.27 to -0.21 logits

Figure 16. NCLEX-PN® Volume for First-time, U.S.-educated Candidates



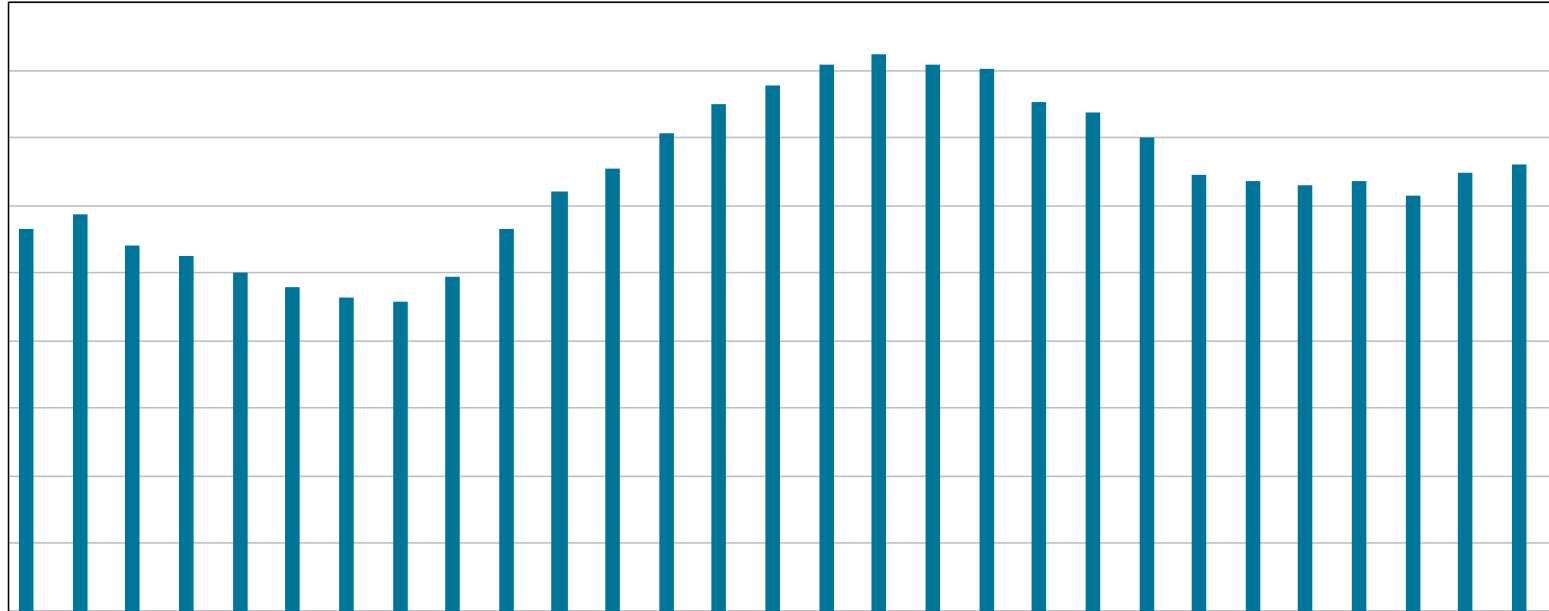
\*Due to COVID-19, Q1 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from Jan. 1 to March 24, 2020, and Q2 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from March 25 to June 30, 2020

Figure 17. NCLEX-PN® Volume for All Candidates



\*Due to COVID-19, Q1 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from Jan. 1 to March 24, 2020, and Q2 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from March 25 to June 30, 2020

Figure 18. NCLEX-PN® Annual Volume, April 1994 – December 2022



\*Due to COVID-19, Q1 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from Jan. 1 to March 24, 2020, and Q2 data contain NCLEX examinations administered from March 25 to June 30, 2020

