

Executive Summary

Report of Findings from the 2005 RN Practice Analysis:
Linking the NCLEX-RN®

A number of steps were necessary for the completion of this practice analysis: a panel of subject matter experts was assembled, a questionnaire was developed, a sample of newly licensed nurses was selected, and data were collected and analyzed.

Panel of Subject Matter Experts

A panel of ten registered nurses was assembled to assist with the practice analysis. The Panel members all worked with and/or supervised the practice of registered nurses within their first six months of practice, represented all geographic areas of the country and all major nursing specialties.

The panel members approved a category structure describing the types of activities performed by new nurses and identified the new nurse activities performed within each category of the structure.

Questionnaire Development

One hundred and fifty activity statements were incorporated into a practice analysis

Survey Process

A stratified random sample of 6,000 RNs was selected from lists of candidates successful on the NCLEX-RN[®] examinations from January 1, 2005 through May 31, 2005. The sample was stratified by area of the country, with processes being used to include representative numbers of subjects from each NCSBN jurisdiction.

The sample selected for this study was proportionally equivalent to the population from which the sample was drawn in terms of area of the country, type of basic nursing education program, subject ethnicity, and subject gender.

A five stage mailing process was used to engage participants in the study. All potential participants were promised confidentiality with regard to their participation and their responses. The survey was conducted from June through July 2005.

Fifty-three surveys were returned due to incorrect addresses, and 253 respondents did not qualify for survey ratings. The 253 who did not qualify met one of the following criteria: a) not currently working in the United States; b) working less than 20 hours per week as an RN; c) failed to answer the previous two demographic questions. This resulted in a sample of 5,694, a response number of 1,666, and an adjusted return rate of over 29% for the surveys. This was an increase of more than 300 respondents when compared to the previous study. The resulting statistics should be more stable (contain less measurement error) due to the larger number of responses.

Demographics, Experiences and Practice Environments of Participants

Demographics/Past Experiences

The majority of survey respondents were female (91.9%). The mean age of respondent d%02 Tc 0.05

Orientat ion. Most of the respondents to the current study reported receiving some type

Activity Performance Findings

Represent ativeness of Activity Statements.