



NCLEX® DELAY PASS RATE STUDY  
 MICHELLE EICH, MS | THOMAS O'NEILL, PHD | NCSBN

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. (NCSBN®) conducted a study to examine the relationship between passing the NCLEX® examination and the amount of time elapsed between becoming eligible and actually taking the examination. The interval between graduation and examination dates was not used because the graduation date data is self-reported and therefore less likely to be reliable. Instead, the analyses were conducted on the elapsed time between the eligibility and examination dates.

quartiles based on the distribution for the overall testing population of both the RN and PN candidate populations.

### RN CANDIDATES

Table 1 indicates that longer lag times were associated with lower passing rates. However, the 50% quartile did see a jump, albeit small (1.2%), in the passing rate, from 79.7% in the 25% quartile to 80.9%. Similarly, the passing rates for individual subpopulations, first-time U.S.-educated, repeat U.S.-educated, first-time internationally educated, and repeat internationally educated, are shown

ing analysis. The lag times were divided into four

Quartile	Days	Overall	U.S.-Educated	First-time U.S.-educated	Repeat U.S.-educated	First-time Internationally Educated	Repeat Internationally Educated
1	0-30	79.7%	80.9%	79.7%	79.7%	79.7%	79.7%
2	31-60	79.8%	80.9%	79.8%	79.8%	79.8%	79.8%
3	61-90	79.9%	80.9%	79.9%	79.9%	79.9%	79.9%
4	91-180	80.9%	80.9%	80.9%	80.9%	80.9%	80.9%

based on the distribution of the overall testing population. The table below indicates that all subpopulations exhibit decreasing passing rates with increasing lag time.

It is also interesting to note the number of candidates in these subpopulations by quartiles (see Table 2). With increasing lag time, the volume of first-time U.S.-educated candidates decreased by

NCLEX

What kind of success do repeaters have in passing the NCLEX examination? In fact, that question spurred an analysis of NCLEX data from April 1994 to December 2005.

It was found that a large proportion of repeating candidates, both RN and PN, do in fact pass their respective examinations. Candidates are more likely to pass in fewer attempts, although a small number of candidates have passed at extreme number of administrations. It is also true that repeating candidates who are educated in the U.S. are far more likely to pass at any given

attempt, compared to candidates who are internationally educated. This relationship holds for both RN and PN examinees and can be seen in



NCLEX® D