



# Center Point

January 2015

Welcome to the January issue and first installment of our monthly newsletter! We will share new research, announcements, events and the latest community news.

## New Publications & Research

Recent publications by Center faculty include:

[Primary Care Workforce Shortages and Career Recommendations From Practicing Clinicians - Catherine M. DesRoches, DrPH, Peter Buerhaus, PhD, Robert S. Dittus, MD, MPH, and Karen Donelan, ScD, EdM, \*Academic Medicine\*](#)

[Practice Characteristics of Primary Care Nurse Practitioners and Physicians- Peter I. Buerhaus, PhD, RN, FAANA,\\* , Catherine M.](#)



# **Data on Characteristics of the Registered Nurse Workforce Now Available on a Quarterly Basis**

For many years, key national data on the registered nurse (RN) workforce has only been made available yearly, and was often a year out of date when it was released.

That has now changed. Quarterly data on trends in employment-related and certain demographic characteristics of RNs is now available at

The newly-available data is an initiative of Vanderbilt University's Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies. The data originates from the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted monthly by the federal government. Peter Buerhaus, PhD, RN, Valere Potter Professor of Nursing and professor, Department of Health Policy, said that the Center previously collected the CPS data on a yearly basis. However, the Center found that combining monthly data into three-month intervals provides useful quarterly estimates of changes in the RN workforce.

"We are now able to provide employment data and other information about what has happened to the nursing workforce in just the past few months rather than on 'what happened last year,'" Buerhaus said. "We're excited to be able to provide this information for the health workforce community, employers and government entities to better inform their decision making and strategic planning. It will be very useful to have more current information on RNs given all the changes that are occurring in the nation's rapidly evolving health care delivery system."

For example, the Center reports that changes in net employment of RNs in hospital settings over the past 39 quarters has increased by 492,000 full-time employees (28 percent), with most of that growth occurring in two waves: the first during the great recession in 2007 and 2008, and the second during the past five quarters. "We're seeing recent employment momentum and will watch this trend closely in 2015," Buerhaus said.

[Read More](#)

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## **Save the Date: Spring Webinars Begin Jan. 21**

We will kick off our Spring webinars on January 21, 2015 at 2pm EST featuring:

## **Recent Trends in the Education and Employment of the RN Workforce**

### *Education Trends in Nursing: Implications for the Near- and Long-term Future*

Peter Buerhaus, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor of Nursing, Professor of Health Policy, and Director of Vanderbilt's Center for Interdisciplinary Workforce Studies will present data on education trends in nursing since the early 2000s. Using data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDs), Dr. Buerhaus will describe changes in the number of graduates from associate and baccalaureate degree nursing education programs, examine trends in the number of nursing education programs (public, private, proprietary), provide information on the number of graduate level nurses, and discuss the implications of these trends for the near-term labor market and for the long-term supply of RNs.

### *How are Registered Nurses Prepared with an Associate Degree Faring in the Labor Market Compared to RNs Educated with a Baccalaureate Degree?*

David Auerbach, PhD, will begin by first reviewing recent data on employment, wage and work settings of RNs over the past 10 years. Following this, Dr. Auerbach will present key results of a new study that examines employment outcomes of RNs educated with an associate degree compared to RNs prepared with a baccalaureate degree in nursing using data from the American Community Survey. Dr. Auerbach will also describe the implications of this research with respect to future employment opportunities for RNs educated with an associate degree.

[Register](#)



## **Putting It All Together: A Summary of the Center's Fall Webinar Series**

This past fall we hosted a webinar series focused on the rural health workforce. Each month the webinars focused on a different discipline and highlighted challenges and opportunities to improve the rural workforce. In this blog, we've organized the main points of each presentation and offered a few thoughts in relation to "the big picture" of the rural health workforce.

[Read More](#)

## **Fall Webinar Participant**

# Survey

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to complete this very brief online survey to provide feedback on our 2014 Fall Rural Health Workforce Webinar Series. Your opinion is very important to us and we welcome your input as we move forward with 2015 events. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to "seeing" you again at our 2015 events!

Click below to begin the survey or you can also find the link on our website, [www.healthworkforcestudies.com](http://www.healthworkforcestudies.com).

[Start Survey](#)



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