

## SURVEY OF PHYSICIANS ABOUT NURSING

### Instructions for completing the survey:

- Please read each of the questions carefully. Using a blue or black pen, place an “X” in the box next to the appropriate response as indicated:
- In general, you should select only one response for each question. If more than one response is allowed, the questions will specifically indicate that option.
- Please answer every question except those that you are instructed to skip. Please follow the “skip instructions” carefully.

Please direct any questions or concerns that you may have about this survey to Sandra Applebaum, at [sapplebaum@harrisinteractive.com](mailto:sapplebaum@harrisinteractive.com) or 800-575-4749, ext. 6746.

### Section A – Nursing Overview

**A1.** Overall, would you say that the number of registered nurses available to work in patient care **in the US** is...? <sup>(9)</sup>

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Much greater than the demand     | <b>1%</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> Somewhat greater than the demand | <b>1%</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> About equal to the demand        | <b>6%</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> Somewhat less than the demand    | <b>50%</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> Much less than the demand        | <b>42%</b> |

**A2.** Overall, **in the community in which you practice**, would you say that the supply of registered nurses who are working in patient care is...? <sup>(10)</sup>

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Much greater than the demand     | <b>1%</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> Somewhat greater than the demand | <b>1%</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> About equal to the demand        | <b>13%</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> Somewhat less than the demand    | <b>51%</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> Much less than the demand        | <b>34%</b> |

**IF YOU ANSWERED “SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE DEMAND” OR “MUCH LESS THAN THE DEMAND” IN QUESTIONS A1 OR A2, PLEASE ANSWER QUESTION A3. OTHERWISE SKIP TO A5.**

**A3.** If you believe that supply is **LESS THAN DEMAND** in the US or your community, what do you think are the main reasons there is a nursing shortage? *Please choose up to two answers.* <sup>(11)</sup>

- |  |
|--|
| <b>6%</b> <sub>1</sub> Lack of qualified students                            |
| <b>35%</b> <sub>2</sub> Emotional and physical challenge of work             |
| <b>34%</b> <sub>3</sub> More career options for women                        |
| <b>38%</b> <sub>4</sub> Salary and benefits                                  |
| <b>51%</b> <sub>5</sub> Difficult work schedules                             |
| <b>15%</b> <sub>6</sub> Negative perceptions of healthcare work environments |
| <b>5%</b> <sub>7</sub> Other (please specify below)                          |

(12-13) z

**A4.** If you believe that supply is **LESS THAN DEMAND** in the US or your community, do you think the shortage has been a problem for...?

	Major Problem <small>(1)</small>	Minor Problem <small>(2)</small>	Not a Problem <small>(3)</small>	
The amount of time nurses have to complete physician orders for patients	30%	53%	16%	(14)
The amount of time nurses have to devote to each of their patients	79%	17%	3%	(15)
The early detection of patient complications by nurses	44%	44%	12%	(16)
The amount of time nurses have to collaborate with other team members	33%	57%	9%	(17)
The quality of work life of nurses	59%	36%	6%	(18)
The overall quality of patient care	61%	34%	5%	(19)

**A5.** Do you mostly agree or mostly disagree with the following statements about nursing?

Nursing is...	Agree <small>(1)</small>	Disagree <small>(2)</small>	
A good career for men	77%	23%	(20)
A good career for students who rank in top 20% of high school class	70%	30%	(21)
A good career for people who want a secure job	93%	7%	(22)
A good career for people who are good at science	79%	21%	(23)
A good career for people who want respect in their jobs	75%	25%	(24)

**A6.** Given what you know about the state of healthcare, how likely would you be to advise a qualified high school or college student to pursue a career in medicine or in nursing?

Career in Medicine		Career in Nursing	
26% <sub>1</sub>	Definitely would (25)	28% <sub>1</sub>	Definitely would (26)
44% <sub>2</sub>	Probably would	51% <sub>2</sub>	Probably would
26% <sub>3</sub>	Probably would not	18% <sub>3</sub>	Probably would not
4% <sub>4</sub>	Definitely would not	3% <sub>4</sub>	Definitely would not

**Section B – Hospital Working Environment**

**B1.** In an average month, approximately how many patients do you admit to the hospital? (27-30)

\_\_\_\_\_ patients

**IF YOU DO NOT ADMIT PATIENTS TO THE HOSPITAL, PLEASE SKIP TO SECTION C, PAGE 3.**

**IF YOU ADMIT PATIENTS TO MORE THAN ONE HOSPITAL, PLEASE ANSWER ABOUT THE HOSPITAL WHERE YOU ADMIT MOST PATIENTS.**

**B2.** In a typical week, how frequently do you interact with nurses at the hospital? (31)

<sub>1</sub> Never **1%**

<sub>2</sub> Only occasionally during each week **15%**

<sub>3</sub> At least once a day **28%**

<sub>4</sub> Multiple times each day **56%**

**B3.** Are you directly responsible for hiring nurses in the hospital? (32)

<sub>1</sub> Yes **1%**

<sub>2</sub> No **99%**

**B4.** In the past year, in the hospital where you admit most of your patients, has there been a shortage of registered nurses? (33)

<sub>1</sub> Yes, a very serious shortage **17%**

<sub>2</sub> Yes, a somewhat serious shortage **64%**

<sub>3</sub> Not a shortage → **SKIP TO B5** **19%**

**B4b.** Thinking about the criteria for quality of care established by the Institute of Medicine, how often would you say the shortage of nurses has had an adverse impact on the following aspects of patient care?

	Fre- quently (1)	Often (2)	Some- times (3)	Never (4)	
Safety	16%	20%	59%	6%	(34)
Timeliness	27%	45%	27%	*	(35)
Effectiveness	18%	40%	41%	1%	(36)
Efficiency, cost- effectiveness	13%	42%	42%	3%	(37)
Equity	9%	29%	52%	9%	(38)
Patient- centeredness	23%	38%	34%	5%	(39)

**B5.** In the past year, have you observed any of the following in the hospital? If you have observed it, indicate whether it has had a negative or positive impact on the quality of patient care. **Please select only one choice in each row.**

	Have Not Observed (1)	Have Observed and Has...		
		Had Negative Impact (2)	Had Positive Impact (3)	
Increased efforts to recognize and reward nurses for excellence	41%	1%	58%	(40)
Increases in overtime or double shifts for nurses	32%	52%	16%	(41)
Increases in use of agency nurses or traveling nurses	32%	55%	13%	(42)
Increases in internal floats or reassignment of nurses between departments	25%	65%	11%	(43)
Increases in efforts to encourage better teamwork between nurses and physicians	45%	6%	49%	(44)
A greater number of patients per nurse	21%	76%	3%	(45)
Increases in new graduates and less experienced nurses	37%	53%	10%	(46)
Increased efforts to retain experienced nurses	55%	3%	42%	(47)
The employment of nurses educated in other countries	66%	16%	17%	(48)
Replacement of registered nurses with unlicensed personnel	48%	47%	4%	(49)

**B6.** In the past year, have you observed any of the following as a result of nursing shortages in the hospital?

	Yes (1)	No (2)	
Increased patient wait time for surgery or tests	45%	55%	(50)
Nurses' delayed response to pages or calls	68%	37%	(51)
Reduced number of available beds	63%	73%	(52)
Delayed discharges	50%	50%	(53)
Discontinued/Closed patient care programs	49%	51%	(54)
Increased work load for physicians	55%	45%	(55)
Increased patients' complaints about nursing care	75%	25%	(56)
Increased staff communication problems	71%	29%	(57)

**B7.** In general, do you think the pay nurses receive in the hospital in which you work is...? (58)

<sub>1</sub> Much too high **1%**

<sub>2</sub> Somewhat high **4%**

<sub>3</sub> About right **39%**

<sub>4</sub> Somewhat low **43%**

<sub>5</sub> Much too low **13%**

<sub>6</sub> Don't know **7%**

**B8.** In the past year, to the best of your knowledge, has the hospital made any deliberate efforts to improve nursing recruitment? *Please check any activities you have seen.*

- <sub>1</sub> Increased advertising **70%**
- <sub>2</sub> Paid for continuing education **33%**
- <sub>3</sub> Increased salaries **36%**
- <sub>4</sub> Improved non-salary benefits **27%**
- <sub>5</sub> Career fairs or community outreach **47%**
- <sub>6</sub> Increased nurse recognition events **45%**

**B9.** In the hospital where you admit most of your patients, how would you rate the quality of work relationships ...?

	Excel- lent (1)	Very Good (2)	Good (3)	Fair (4)	Poor (5)
Among nurses	12%	42%	36%	11%	*
Between nurses and physicians	10%	40%	37%	12%	1%
Between nurses and management	2%	16%	34%	37%	11%
Between nurses and support staff	5%	25%	48%	21%	1%

**IF YOU ARE A HOSPITALIST (HOSPITAL BASED ONLY) AND/OR NEVER SEE PATIENTS IN AN OFFICE OR OUTPATIENT SETTING, PLEASE SKIP TO SECTION D.**

**Section C – Office Working Environment**

**C1.** Approximately how many patients do you personally see in your office each week?

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ patients

**C2.** Is your practice...?

- <sub>1</sub> A solo practice **29%**
- <sub>2</sub> A single specialty group practice **47%**
- <sub>3</sub> A multi-specialty group practice **24%**

**C3.** Is your practice...?

- <sub>1</sub> Located within, or on the campus of an academic medical center **12%**
- <sub>2</sub> Affiliated with an academic medical center, but located off-campus **15%**
- <sub>3</sub> Not affiliated with an academic center **74%**

**C4.** Does your practice employ nurses? *Please "X" all that apply and insert number where applicable.*

- <sub>1</sub> Nurse \_\_\_\_\_(71-72)
- <sub>2</sub> LPN \_\_\_\_\_(73-74)
- <sub>3</sub> Primary Care Advanced practice \_\_\_\_\_(75-76)
- <sub>4</sub> Specialized Advanced practice \_\_\_\_\_(77-78)

**NOTE: ADVANCED PRACTICE INCLUDES NURSE PRACTITIONER, CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST.**

**C5.** In the past year, has there been a shortage of nurses in your practice?

- <sub>1</sub> Yes, a very serious shortage **9%**
- <sub>2</sub> Yes, a somewhat serious shortage **25%**
- <sub>3</sub> Not a shortage **66%**

**C6.** In your practice is the nursing shortage a problem for your patients who need services such as home care, hospice, rehabilitation or skilled nursing?

- <sub>1</sub> Yes, it's a serious problem **7%**
- <sub>2</sub> Yes, but it's not a serious problem **17%**
- <sub>3</sub> No **42%**
- <sub>4</sub> Doesn't apply to my patients **34%**

**Section D - Nursing Shortage**

**D1.** Regardless of whether a shortage of nurses has impacted your practice, the problem has been highlighted in the nation in recent years. Do you think the current nursing shortage will lead to...?

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Higher pay for nurses	78%	22%
Need to have other staff perform some nursing patient care activities	92%	8%
Nurses leaving for non-nursing jobs	84%	16%
More respect for nurses	44%	56%
Lower quality care for patients	83%	17%
Improvements in workplace environment	34%	66%
Increased stress on physicians	86%	14%

**D2.** If there is a nursing shortage in the US, how much do you agree or disagree that the following should be responsible for solving the problem?

	Agree Strongly (1)	Agree Some- what (2)	Neu- tral (3)	Disagree Some- what (4)	Disagree Strongly (5)
Hospitals	57%	35%	7%	1	*
Nursing organizations	48%	39%	11%	1%	1%
Medical profession	28%	39%	26%	5%	3%
Federal government	26%	36%	22%	7%	9%
Private industry	30%	34%	27%	2%	4%

**D3.** In the past year have you seen or been told about any of the following?

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Brochures and videos encouraging people to "Be a Nurse"	23%	77%
National television commercials about nurses with the slogan "They Dare to Care"	28%	72%
A website <a href="http://www.discovernursing.com">www.discovernursing.com</a>	3%	97%
"The Promise of Nursing" fundraising events	2%	98%

**IF YOU ANSWERED "YES" TO ANY ITEM IN D3, PLEASE ANSWER D4. OTHERWISE SKIP TO D5.**

**D4.** Can you name the sponsor of these activities?

**D5.** In the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing commercials on television or radio about nursing careers sponsored by any of the following organizations?

	Yes (1)	No (2)	
A hospital in your community or region	34	66	(30)
A federal or state government agency	7	93	(31)
A pharmaceutical or medical products company	6	94	(32)
A college or nursing school	26	74	(33)

**D6.** How would you rank the importance of the RN shortage relative to other issues that impact you as a physician? Specifically, is the RN shortage more important, less important, or about the same degree of importance compared with...?

	RN issue More (1)	RN issue Less (2)	RN issue Same (3)	
Adequacy of Medicare payments	18%	48%	34%	(34)
Adequacy of Medicaid payments	23%	45%	32%	(35)
Medical malpractice	16%	62%	23%	(36)
Uninsured patients	25%	49%	26%	(37)
Medicare drug benefit	35%	34%	31%	(38)
Threat of terrorism, including bioterrorism	44%	38%	18%	(39)
Health plan regulation	30%	42%	28%	(40)

**Section E - Factuals**

**E1.** Are you...?

- <sub>1</sub> Male **73%**
- <sub>2</sub> Female **27%**

**E2.** Are you...?

- <sub>1</sub> Self-employed **53%**
- <sub>2</sub> Employed by a physician practice **26%**
- <sub>3</sub> Employed by a hospital **23%**
- <sub>4</sub> Other (please specify below) **10%**

**E3.** Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

- <sub>1</sub> Yes **95%**
- <sub>2</sub> No **5%**

**E4.** Do you consider yourself...?

- <sub>1</sub> White **76%**
- <sub>2</sub> Black or African American **4%**
- <sub>3</sub> Asian or Pacific Islander **13%**
- <sub>4</sub> Native American or Alaskan native **--**
- <sub>5</sub> Of mixed racial background **1%**
- <sub>6</sub> Some other race **6%**
- <sub>9</sub> Decline to answer **4%**

**E5.** Do you have children? Please "X" all that apply.

- <sub>1</sub> Yes, 10 and under → **PLEASE ANSWER E5b 37%**
- <sub>2</sub> Yes, 11-17 → **PLEASE ANSWER E5b 23%**
- <sub>3</sub> Yes, 18+ → **PLEASE ANSWER E5b 41%**
- <sub>4</sub> No → **SKIP TO E6 16%**

**E5b.** Given what you know about health care, how likely would you be to advise your child to pursue a career in medicine or in nursing?

Career in Medicine		Career in Nursing	
<b>30%</b> <sub>1</sub> Definitely would		<b>14%</b> <sub>1</sub> Definitely would	(49)
<b>33%</b> <sub>2</sub> Probably would		<b>30%</b> <sub>2</sub> Probably would	
<b>27%</b> <sub>3</sub> Probably would not		<b>39%</b> <sub>3</sub> Probably would not	
<b>11%</b> <sub>4</sub> Definitely would not		<b>18%</b> <sub>4</sub> Definitely would not	

**E6.** Are any family members employed as nurses?

- <sub>1</sub> Spouse or partner **9%**
- <sub>2</sub> Child **3%**
- <sub>3</sub> Parent **3%**
- <sub>4</sub> Sibling **6%**
- <sub>5</sub> Other relative **14%**
- <sub>6</sub> No family members are employed as nurses **69%**

**E7.** Which of the following income categories best describes your total professional income in the year 2003 before taxes?

- <sub>1</sub> Less than \$50,000 **3%**
- <sub>2</sub> \$51,000 to \$100,000 **12%**
- <sub>3</sub> \$101,000 to \$150,000 **28%**
- <sub>4</sub> \$151,000 to \$200,000 **19%**
- <sub>5</sub> \$201,000 to 250,000 **15%**
- <sub>6</sub> More than \$250,000 **24%**
- <sub>9</sub> Decline to answer **19%**

**E8.** Would you describe the area in which you work as a physician as...?

- <sub>1</sub> Urban **39%**
- <sub>2</sub> Suburban **43%**
- <sub>3</sub> Rural **18%**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage paid envelope to:

Harris Interactive  
Coding Department – 19510  
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Princeton, NJ 08540

**[ID #]**

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(59-80) z