


	Current Number of Workers 2006	Projected Number of Workers 2016	% Change to 2016	Average Annual Openings	 Registered Nurses SOC # 29-1111	
Regional	2950	4000	35.60%	155		
Texas	157,850	217,450	37.80%	8565		
Education/ Training Time	Is License Required?	Wage Rate \$/Hr. 2008 Regionally	Percent Female	Average Age	Job Turnover	Why Most Job Openings Occur
Associate Degree (ADN), Bachelors (BSN)	Yes	\$29.11	93.2%	41.1	Low	Growth

JOB DESCRIPTION

Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. May advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Licensing or registration required. Include advance practice nurses such as: nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Advanced practice nursing is practiced by RNs who have specialized formal, post-basic education and who function in highly autonomous and specialized roles.

WHERE DO WORKERS FIND JOBS?

General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
Offices of Physicians
Home Health Care Services
Elementary and Secondary Schools
Nursing Care Facilities

RELATED COLLEGE PROGRAMS

CIP 511601 Nursing/Registered Nurse
CIP 511603 Adult Health Nurse/Nursing
CIP 511604 Nurse Anesthetist
CIP 511605 Family Practice Nurse/Nurse Practitioner
CIP 511607 Nurse Midwife/Nursing Midwifery
CIP 511608 Nursing Science (MS, PhD)
CIP 511611 Public Health/Community Nurse/Nursing

IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

* English Language

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

* Customer and Personal Service

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

* Education and Training

HEALTH SERVICES

* Medicine and Dentistry

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

* Psychology

IMPORTANT SKILLS

CONTENT

* Active Listening
* Reading Comprehension
* Speaking

PROCESS

* Critical Thinking
* Monitoring

SOCIAL SKILLS

* Service Orientation
* Social Perceptiveness

IMPORTANT ABILITIES

AUDITORY AND SPEECH ABILITIES

* Speech Clarity

IDEA GENERATION AND REASONING ABILITIES

* Deductive Reasoning
* Inductive Reasoning
* Information Ordering

* Problem Sensitivity

VERBAL ABILITIES

* Oral Comprehension
* Oral Expression
* Written Comprehension
* Written Expression

NATURE OF THE WORK: Registered Nurses

Registered nurses (RNs), regardless of specialty or work setting, perform basic duties that include treating patients, educating patients and the public about various medical conditions, and providing advice and emotional support to patients' family members. RNs record patients' medical histories and symptoms, help to perform diagnostic tests and analyze results, operate medical machinery, administer treatment and medications, and help with patient follow-up and rehabilitation.

RNs teach patients and their families how to manage their illness or injury, including post-treatment home care needs, diet and exercise programs, and self-administration of medication and physical therapy. Some RNs also are trained to provide grief counseling to family members of critically ill patients. RNs work to promote general health by educating the public on various warning signs and symptoms of disease and where to go for help. RNs also might run general health screening or immunization clinics, blood drives, and public seminars on various conditions.

RNs can specialize in one or more patient care specialties. The most common specialties can be divided into roughly four categories--by work setting or type of treatment; disease, ailment, or condition; organ or body system type; or population. RNs may combine specialties from more than one area--for example, pediatric oncology or cardiac emergency--depending on personal interest and employer needs.

RNs may specialize by work setting or by type of care provided.

RNs specializing in a particular disease, ailment, or condition are employed in virtually all work settings, including physicians' offices, outpatient treatment facilities, home health care agencies, and hospitals. For instance, addictions nurses treat patients seeking help with alcohol, drug, and tobacco addictions.

RNs specializing in treatment of a particular organ or body system usually are employed in specialty physicians' offices or outpatient care facilities, although some are employed in hospital specialty or critical care units.

Finally, RNs may specialize by providing preventive and acute care in all health care settings to various segments of the population, including newborns (neonatology), children and adolescents (pediatrics), adults, and the elderly (gerontology or geriatrics). RNs also may provide basic health care to patients outside of health care settings in such venues as including correctional facilities, schools, summer camps, and the military. Some RNs travel around the United States and abroad providing care to patients in areas with shortages of medical professionals.

Most RNs work as staff nurses, providing critical health care services along with physicians, surgeons, and other health care practitioners. However, some RNs choose to become advanced practice nurses, who often are considered primary health care practitioners and work independently or in collaboration with physicians. For example, clinical nurse specialists provide direct patient care and expert consultations in one of many of the nursing specialties listed above. Nurse anesthetists administer anesthesia, monitor patient's vital signs during surgery, and provide post-anesthesia care. Nurse midwives provide primary care to women, including gynecological exams, family planning advice, prenatal care, assistance in labor and delivery, and neonatal care. Nurse practitioners provide basic preventive health care to patients, and increasingly serve as primary and specialty care providers in mainly medically underserved areas. The most common areas of specialty for nurse practitioners are family practice, adult practice, women's health, pediatrics, acute care, and gerontology; however, there are many other specialties. In most States, advanced practice nurses can prescribe medications.

Some nurses have jobs that require little or no direct patient contact. Most of these positions still require an active RN license. Nurse administrators supervise nursing staff, establish work schedules and budgets, and maintain medical supply inventories. Nurse educators teach student nurses and also provide continuing education for RNs. RNs also may work as health care consultants, public policy advisors, pharmaceutical and medical supply researchers and salespersons, and medical writers and editors.