





**NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF  
STATE BOARDS OF NURSING, INC.**

**1990**

**Licensure and Examination Statistics**

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**National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., is committed to maintaining itself as a clearinghouse of information on the activities of its sixty-one Member Boards of Nursing. This publication represents a continuation of the National Council's efforts to be responsive to the information needs of its Member Boards of Nursing and the public whom they protect through the regulation of nursing practice at the state level.

Provided in this publication are the 1990 statistics on the licensing activities of the National Council's Member Boards and on the National Council's two licensure examinations, the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) and the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). These examinations are each administered twice a year by Member Boards to test licensure candidates' capabilities to provide minimally safe and effective nursing care.



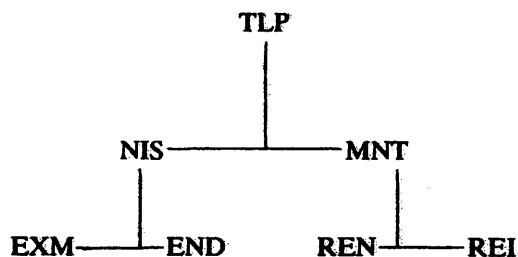
**PART I**

**1990 LICENSURE STATISTICS**

**INTRODUCTION TO PART I: 1990 LICENSURE STATISTICS**

The data reported in this section were obtained from the 61 Member Boards of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. They were requested to provide data that indicated licensure processing activity during 1990 and data on the total number of individuals licensed to practice within the jurisdiction during 1990.

The varied licensure procedures and methods which exist among the Member Boards of Nursing have been classified according to the common licensure practices in which each Member Board engages to fulfill its mission. Processing activity is the focal point about which the data are organized. As the figure below illustrates, four basic processing activities (Examination, Endorsement, Renewal, and Reinstatement), within two functional areas (New in State Functions and Maintenance Functions) represent the sources which contribute to the measure of the Total Number of Licenses Processed.



**TLP:** Total Licenses Processed  
**NIS:** New in State Functions  
**MNT:** Maintenance Functions  
**EXM:** Examination  
**END:** Endorsement  
**REN:** Renewal  
**REI:** Reinstatement

Member Boards of Nursing were asked to provide estimates based upon knowledge and experience whenever the exact figure requested for this collection of data was unknown. In this manner the National Council of State Boards of Nursing attempts to provide the best information available from informed sources in each jurisdiction.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**REINSTATEMENT** is defined as the reactivation of revoked, suspended, or lapsed licenses and is not considered part of routine renewal.

**ACTIVE LICENSE** figures are based upon the reported actual or estimated total number of individuals holding an active license within a jurisdiction. Whereas the processing figures provide a measure of the magnitude of board operation, the active license figures represent the nurses available for employment. Due to an unknown number of individuals holding active licenses in more than one jurisdiction, the total number of active licenses does not represent the total number of licensees.

**REPORTING CONVENTIONS:**

For easy reading and speedy reference, all tables which display individual Member Board figures contain two columns headed ID (Identification Number) and JD (Jurisdiction). TABLE I lists the National Council's Member Boards, their identification number (ID), the geographic locality within which a board has responsibility for regulating nursing practice (JD), the types of licenses for which a board has licensure authority, and whether they are empowered to issue licenses or certificates to practice in a specialty area of nursing.

Unless noted otherwise, all percentages are calculated in terms of column totals.

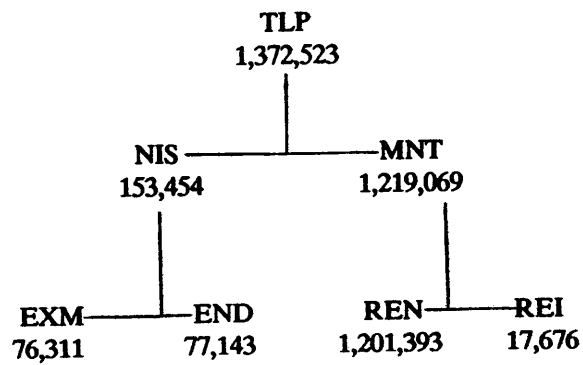
Table 1. Boards of Nursing Empowered to License Registered Nurses, Practical/Vocational Nurses, or Other Categories of Nursing Personnel

ID	JD	Board of Nursing	RN	PN/VN	Other Specialty Groups
1	AL	Alabama Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
2	AK	Alaska Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
3	AZ	Arizona State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
4	AR	Arkansas State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
5	CARN	California Board of Registered Nursing	YES	NO	YES
6	CAVN	California Board of Vocational Nursing	NO	YES	NO
7	CO	Colorado Board of Nursing	YES	YES	NO
8	CT	Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing	YES	YES	NO
9	DE	Delaware Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
10	DC	District of Columbia Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
11	FL	Florida Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
12	GARN	Georgia Board of Nursing	YES	NO	YES
13	GAPN	Georgia State Board of Licensed Practical Nurses	NO	YES	NO
14	GU	Guam Board of Nurse Examiners	YES	YES	NO
15	HI	Hawaii Board of Nursing	YES	YES	NO
16	ID	Idaho Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
17	IL	Illinois Department of Professional Regulation	YES	YES	NO
18	IN	Indiana State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
19	IA	Iowa Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
20	KS	Kansas Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
21	KY	Kentucky Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
22	LARN	Louisiana State Board of Nursing	YES	NO	NO
23	LAPN	Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners	NO	YES	NO
24	ME	Maine State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
25	MD	Maryland Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
26	MA	Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing	YES	YES	YES
27	MI	Michigan Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
28	MN	Minnesota Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
29	MS	Mississippi Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
30	MO	Missouri State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	NO
31	MT	Montana State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	NO
32	NE	Nebraska Bureau of Examining Boards	YES	YES	YES
33	NV	Nevada State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	NO
34	NH	New Hampshire Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
35	NJ	New Jersey Board of Nursing	YES	YES	NO
36	NM	New Mexico Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
37	NY	New York State Board for Nursing	YES	YES	YES
38	NC	North Carolina Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
39	ND	North Dakota Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
40	OH	Ohio Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
41	OK	Oklahoma Board of Nurse Registration & Nursing Education	YES	YES	NO
42	OR	Oregon State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
43	PA	Pennsylvania Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
44	RI	Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration & Nursing Education	YES	YES	NO

**Table 1. Boards of Nursing Empowered to License Registered Nurses, Practical/Vocational Nurses, or Other Categories of Nursing Personnel**

ID	JD	Board of Nursing	RN	PN/VN	Other Specialty Groups
45	SC	South Carolina State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	NO
46	SD	South Dakota Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
47	TN	Tennessee State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	NO
48	TXRN	Texas Board of Nursing Examiners	YES	NO	YES
49	TXVN	Texas Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners	NO	YES	NO
50	UT	Utah State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
51	VT	Vermont State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
52	VA	Virginia State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
53	VI	Virgin Islands Board of Nursing			
54	WARN	Washington State Board of Nursing	YES	NO	YES
55	WAPN	Washington State Board of Practical Nursing	NO	YES	NO
56	WVRN	West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Nurses	YES	NO	YES
57	WVPN	West Virginia State Board of Examiners for Practical Nurses	NO	YES	NO
58	WI	Wisconsin Bureau of Health Professions	YES	YES	YES
59	WY	Wyoming State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
60	AS	American Samoa Health Service Regulatory Board			
61	CM	Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners	YES	YES	YES

**Summary**  
**Registered Nurse Licenses Processed**



**KEY:**

**TPL:** Total Licenses Processed  
**NIS:** New in State Functions  
**MNT:** Maintenance Functions  
**EXM:** Examination  
**END:** Endorsement  
**REN:** Renewal  
**REI:** Reinstatement



Table 2. Registered Nurses: Total Licenses Processed, by Jurisdiction

ID	JD	New in State		Maintenance		Total Processed	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
1	AL	2197	1.43	24921	2.04	27118	1.98
2	AK	672	0.44	3626	0.30	4298	0.31
3	AZ	2963	1.93	30711	2.52	33674	2.45
4	AR	1599	1.04	9543	0.78	11142	0.81
5	CARN	12565	8.19	116283	9.54	128848	9.39
6	CAVN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
7	CO	2965	1.93	15723	1.29	18688	1.36
8	CT	2028	1.32	47963	3.93	49991	3.64
9	DE	770	0.50	129	0.01	899	0.07
10	DC						
11	FL	9903	6.45	0	0.00	9903	0.72
12	GARN	4270	2.78	46948	3.85	51218	3.73
13	GAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
14	GU	59	0.04	2	0.00	61	0.00
15	HI	1680	1.09	0	0.00	1680	0.12
16	ID	701	0.46	7021	0.58	7722	0.56
17	IL	5055	3.29	15341	1.26	20396	1.49
18	IN	3540	2.31	54306	4.45	57846	4.21
19	IA	1739	1.13	9108	0.75	10847	0.79
20	KS	1968	1.28	11265	0.92	13233	0.96
21	KY	2529	1.65	30903	2.53	33432	2.44
22	LARN	2480	1.62	28554	2.34	31034	2.26
23	LAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
24	ME	840	0.55	13017	1.07	13857	1.01
25	MD	3705	2.41	52659	4.32	56364	4.11
26	MA	3453	2.25	80272	6.58	83725	6.10
27	MI	4495	2.93	0	0.00	4495	0.33
28	MN	2411	1.57	22196	1.82	24607	1.79
29	MS	1332	0.87	17534	1.44	18866	1.37
30	MO	3403	2.22	53851	4.42	57254	4.17
31	MT	661	0.43	8580	0.70	9241	0.67
32	NE	804	0.52	15749	1.29	16553	1.21
33	NV	1318	0.86	2877	0.24	4195	0.31
34	NH	1090	0.71	8729	0.72	9819	0.72
35	NJ	7253	4.73	46575	3.82	53828	3.92
36	NM	1241	0.81	1634	0.13	2875	0.21
37	NY	9140	5.96	0	0.00	9140	0.67
38	NC	4678	3.05	29149	2.39	33827	2.46
39	ND	320	0.21	6736	0.55	7056	0.51
40	OH	5923	3.86	1194	0.10	7117	0.52
41	OK	1608	1.05	20188	1.66	21796	1.59
42	OR	2574	1.68	13761	1.13	16335	1.19
43	PA	6522	4.25	95698	7.85	102220	7.45
44	RI	894	0.58	7287	0.60	8181	0.60
45	SC	2788	1.82	23290	1.91	26078	1.90
46	SD	611	0.40	3519	0.29	4130	0.30
47	TN	3190	2.08	32038	2.63	35228	2.57
48	TXRN	8906	5.80	55305	4.54	64211	4.68
49	TXVN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
50	UT	858	0.56	2	0.00	860	0.06
51	VT	563	0.37	0	0.00	563	0.04
52	VA	4443	2.90	27900	2.29	32343	2.36
53	VI	122	0.08	4	0.00	126	0.01
54	WARN	3766	2.45	56300	4.62	60066	4.38
55	WAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
56	WVRN	1364	0.89	17969	1.47	19333	1.41
57	WVPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
58	WI	3095	2.02	49318	4.05	52413	3.82
59	WY	393	0.26	3364	0.28	3757	0.27
60	AS	2	0.00	20	0.00	22	0.00
61	CM	5	0.00	7	0.00	12	0.00
		153454	100.00	1219069	100.00	1372523	100.00

a no information available

Table 3. Registered Nurses: New in State Functions, by Jurisdiction

ID	JD	Examination		Endorsement		New in State	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
1	AL	1293	1.69	904	1.17	2197	1.43
2	AK	92	0.12	580	0.75	672	0.44
3	AZ	869	1.14	2094	2.71	2963	1.93
4	AR	751	0.98	848	1.10	1599	1.04
5	CARN	6939	9.09	5626	7.29	12565	8.19
6	CAVN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
7	CO	766	1.00	2199	2.85	2965	1.93
8	CT	946	1.24	1082	1.40	2028	1.32
9	DE	223	0.29	547	0.71	770	0.50
10	DC						<sup>a</sup>
11	FL	3588	4.70	6315	8.19	9903	6.45
12	GARN	1722	2.26	2548	3.30	4270	2.78
13	GAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
14	GJ	18	0.02	41	0.05	59	0.04
15	HI	289	0.38	1391	1.80	1680	1.09
16	ID	261	0.34	440	0.57	701	0.46
17	IL	3106	4.07	1949	2.53	5055	3.29
18	IN	1894	2.48	1646	2.13	3540	2.31
19	IA	1061	1.39	678	0.88	1739	1.13
20	KS	924	1.21	1044	1.35	1968	1.28
21	KY	1292	1.69	1237	1.60	2529	1.65
22	LARN	1126	1.48	1354	1.76	2480	1.62
23	LAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
24	ME	271	0.36	569	0.74	840	0.55
25	MD	1428	1.87	2277	2.95	3705	2.41
26	MA	2146	2.81	1307	1.69	3453	2.25
27	MI	2993	3.92	1502	1.95	4495	2.93
28	MN	1394	1.83	1017	1.32	2411	1.57
29	MS	802	1.05	530	0.69	1332	0.87
30	MO	1790	2.35	1613	2.09	3403	2.22
31	MT	225	0.29	436	0.57	661	0.43
32	NE	386	0.51	418	0.54	804	0.52
33	NV	196	0.26	1122	1.45	1318	0.86
34	NH	297	0.39	793	1.03	1090	0.71
35	NJ	4247	5.57	3006	3.90	7253	4.73
36	NM	487	0.64	754	0.98	1241	0.81
37	NY	6713	8.80	2427	3.15	9140	5.96
38	NC	2005	2.63	2673	3.46	4678	3.05
39	ND	152	0.20	168	0.22	320	0.21
40	OH	3938	5.16	1985	2.57	5923	3.86
41	OK	899	1.18	709	0.92	1608	1.05
42	OR	875	1.15	1699	2.20	2574	1.68
43	PA	4400	5.77	2122	2.75	6522	4.25
44	RI	444	0.58	450	0.58	894	0.58
45	SC	918	1.20	1870	2.42	2788	1.82
46	SD	332	0.44	279	0.36	611	0.40
47	TN	1619	2.12	1571	2.04	3190	2.08
48	TXRN	4648	6.09	4258	5.52	8906	5.80
49	TXVN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
50	UT	505	0.66	353	0.46	858	0.56
51	VT	138	0.18	425	0.55	563	0.37
52	VA	1367	1.79	3076	3.99	4443	2.90
53	VI	60	0.08	62	0.08	122	0.08
54	WARN	1208	1.58	2558	3.32	3766	2.45
55	WAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
56	WVRN	692	0.91	672	0.87	1364	0.89
57	WVPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
58	WI	1388	1.82	1707	2.21	3095	2.02
59	WY	186	0.24	207	0.27	393	0.26
60	AS	1	0.00	1	0.00	2	0.00
61	CM	1	0.00	4	0.01	5	0.00
		76311	100.00	77143	100.00	153454	100.00

<sup>a</sup> no information available

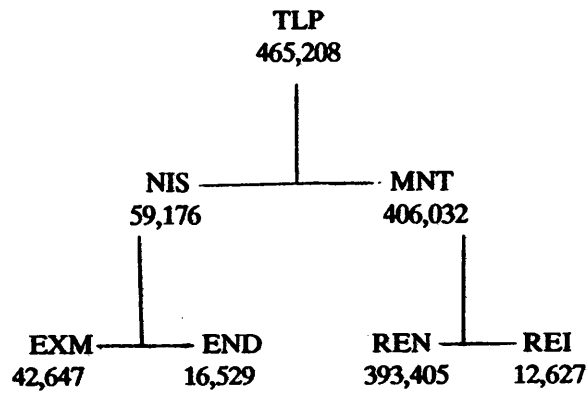
Table 4. Registered Nurses: Maintenance Function, by Jurisdiction

ID	JD	Renewal		Reinstatement		Total Maintenance	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
1	AL	24489	2.04	432	2.44	24921	2.04
2	AK	3626	0.30	0	0.00	3626	0.30
3	AZ	30707	2.56	4	0.02	30711	2.52
4	AR	9530	0.79	13	0.07	9543	0.78
5	CARN	116272	9.68	11	0.06	116283	9.54
6	CAVN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
7	CO	15395	1.28	328	1.86	15723	1.29
8	CT	47819	3.98	144	0.81	47963	3.93
9	DE	0	0.00	129	0.73	129	0.01
10	DC						<sup>a</sup>
11	FL	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
12	GARN	46600	3.88	348	1.97	46948	3.85
13	GAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
14	GU	0	0.00	2	0.01	2	0.00
15	HI	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
16	ID	6883	0.57	138	0.78	7021	0.58
17	IL	12230	1.02	3111	17.60	15341	1.26
18	IN	54306	4.52	0	0.00	54306	4.45
19	IA	8986	0.75	122	0.69	9108	0.75
20	KS	10691	0.89	574	3.25	11265	0.92
21	KY	30514	2.54	389	2.20	30903	2.53
22	LARN	27683	2.30	871	4.93	28554	2.34
23	LAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
24	ME	12561	1.05	456	2.58	13017	1.07
25	MD	52659	4.38	0	0.00	52659	4.32
26	MA	80264	6.68	8	0.05	80272	6.58
27	MI	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
28	MN	21354	1.78	842	4.76	22196	1.82
29	MS	17337	1.44	197	1.11	17534	1.44
30	MO	53851	4.48	0	0.00	53851	4.42
31	MT	8305	0.69	275	1.56	8580	0.70
32	NE	15518	1.29	231	1.31	15749	1.29
33	NV	2798	0.23	79	0.45	2877	0.24
34	NH	8349	0.69	380	2.15	8729	0.72
35	NJ	46568	3.88	7	0.04	46575	3.82
36	NM	0	0.00	1634	9.24	1634	0.13
37	NY	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
38	NC	27769	2.31	1380	7.81	29149	2.39
39	ND	6736	0.56	0	0.00	6736	0.55
40	OH	0	0.00	1194	6.75	1194	0.10
41	OK	19854	1.65	334	1.89	20188	1.66
42	OR	13314	1.11	447	2.53	13761	1.13
43	PA	95074	7.91	624	3.53	95698	7.85
44	RI	7281	0.61	6	0.03	7287	0.60
45	SC	22872	1.90	418	2.36	23290	1.91
46	SD	3419	0.28	100	0.57	3519	0.29
47	TN	32038	2.67	0	0.00	32038	2.63
48	TXRN	55305	4.60	0	0.00	55305	4.54
49	TXVN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
50	UT	0	0.00	2	0.01	2	0.00
51	VT	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
52	VA	26696	2.22	1204	6.81	27900	2.29
53	VI	0	0.00	4	0.02	4	0.00
54	WARN	56300	4.69	0	0.00	56300	4.62
55	WAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
56	WVRN	17286	1.44	683	3.86	17969	1.47
57	WVPN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
58	WI	48824	4.06	494	2.79	49318	4.05
59	WY	3304	0.28	60	0.34	3364	0.28
60	AS	20	0.00	0	0.00	20	0.00
61	CM	6	0.00	1	0.01	7	0.00
		1201393	100.00	17676	100.00	1219069	100.00

<sup>a</sup> no information available

**Summary**

**Practical/Vocational Nurse Licenses Processed**



**KEY:**

- TPL:** Total Licenses Processed
- NIS:** New in State Functions
- MNT:** Maintenance Functions
- EXM:** Examination
- END:** Endorsement
- REN:** Renewal
- REI:** Reinstatement

Table 5. Practical/Vocational Nurses: Total Licenses Processed, by Jurisdiction

ID	JD	New in State		Maintenance		Total Processed	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
1	AL	1315	2.22	2802	0.69	4117	0.88
2	AK	107	0.18	551	0.14	658	0.14
3	AZ	907	1.53	951	0.23	1858	0.40
4	AR	1044	1.76	7644	1.88	8688	1.87
5	CARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
6	CAVN	4330	7.32	24758	6.10	29088	6.25
7	CO	870	1.47	7494	1.85	8364	1.80
8	CT	573	0.97	11709	2.88	12282	2.64
9	DE	448	0.76	2093	0.52	2541	0.55
10	DC						<sup>a</sup>
11	FL	3430	5.80	0	0.00	3430	0.74
12	GARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
13	GAPN	1296	2.19	113	0.03	1409	0.30
14	GU	18	0.03	0	0.00	18	0.00
15	HI	462	0.78	0	0.00	462	0.10
16	ID	237	0.40	3400	0.84	3637	0.78
17	IL	1953	3.30	15573	3.84	17526	3.77
18	IN	1347	2.28	16190	3.99	17537	3.77
19	IA	418	0.71	2263	0.56	2681	0.58
20	KS	926	1.56	3291	0.81	4217	0.91
21	KY	983	1.66	207	0.05	1190	0.26
22	LARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
23	LAPN	1231	2.08	18422	4.54	19653	4.22
24	ME	322	0.54	4198	1.03	4520	0.97
25	MD	808	1.37	11047	2.72	11855	2.55
26	MA	981	1.66	2147	0.53	3128	0.67
27	MI	1452	2.45	0	0.00	1452	0.31
28	MN	1229	2.08	9620	2.37	10849	2.33
29	MS	718	1.21	590	0.15	1308	0.28
30	MO	1345	2.27	19606	4.83	20951	4.50
31	MT	204	0.34	3109	0.77	3313	0.71
32	NE	475	0.80	354	0.09	829	0.18
33	NV	358	0.60	705	0.17	1063	0.23
34	NH	364	0.62	1897	0.47	2261	0.49
35	NJ	2421	4.09	12204	3.01	14625	3.14
36	NM	355	0.60	3081	0.76	3436	0.74
37	NY	6333	10.70	0	0.00	6333	1.36
38	NC	1749	2.96	9013	2.22	10762	2.31
39	ND	101	0.17	2826	0.70	2927	0.63
40	OH	2153	3.64	41101	10.12	43254	9.30
41	OK	1235	2.09	196	0.05	1431	0.31
42	OR	659	1.11	2451	0.60	3110	0.67
43	PA	2039	3.45	56604	13.94	58643	12.61
44	RI	123	0.21	1914	0.47	2037	0.44
45	SC	937	1.58	9741	2.40	10678	2.30
46	SD	122	0.21	1127	0.28	1249	0.27
47	TN	1624	2.74	23029	5.67	24653	5.30
48	TXRN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
49	TXVN	4200	7.10	33687	8.30	37887	8.14
50	UT	803	1.36	4000	0.99	4803	1.03
51	VT	126	0.21	0	0.00	126	0.03
52	VA	1512	2.56	10661	2.63	12173	2.62
53	VI	2	0.00	182	0.04	184	0.04
54	WARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
55	WAPN	1246	2.11	15117	3.72	16363	3.52
56	WVRN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
57	WVPN	646	1.09	6908	1.70	7554	1.62
58	WI	468	0.79	287	0.07	755	0.16
59	WY	166	0.28	1093	0.27	1259	0.27
60	AS	0	0.00	70	0.02	70	0.02
61	CM	5	0.01	6	0.00	11	0.00
		59176	100.00	406032	100.00	465208	100.00

<sup>a</sup> no information available

Table 6. Practical/Vocational Nurses: New in State Function, by Jurisdiction

ID	JD	Examination		Endorsement		New in State	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
1	AL	1002	2.35	313	1.89	1315	2.22
2	AK	16	0.04	91	0.55	107	0.18
3	AZ	457	1.07	450	2.72	907	1.53
4	AR	706	1.66	338	2.04	1044	1.76
5	CARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
6	CAVN	3321	7.79	1009	6.10	4330	7.32
7	CO	513	1.20	357	2.16	870	1.47
8	CT	385	0.90	188	1.14	573	0.97
9	DE	174	0.41	274	1.66	448	0.76
10	DC						<sup>a</sup>
11	FL	2276	5.34	1154	6.98	3430	5.80
12	GARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
13	GAPN	774	1.81	522	3.16	1296	2.19
14	GU	16	0.04	2	0.01	18	0.03
15	HI	333	0.78	129	0.78	462	0.78
16	ID	115	0.27	122	0.74	237	0.40
17	IL	1655	3.88	298	1.80	1953	3.30
18	IN	899	2.11	448	2.71	1347	2.28
19	IA	292	0.68	126	0.76	418	0.71
20	KS	612	1.44	314	1.90	926	1.56
21	KY	652	1.53	331	2.00	983	1.66
22	LARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
23	LAPN	873	2.05	358	2.17	1231	2.08
24	ME	208	0.49	114	0.69	322	0.54
25	MD	308	0.72	500	3.02	808	1.37
26	MA	762	1.79	219	1.32	981	1.66
27	MI	1110	2.60	342	2.07	1452	2.45
28	MN	1048	2.46	181	1.10	1229	2.08
29	MS	507	1.19	211	1.28	718	1.21
30	MO	932	2.19	413	2.50	1345	2.27
31	MT	110	0.26	94	0.57	204	0.34
32	NE	374	0.88	101	0.61	475	0.80
33	NV	124	0.29	234	1.42	358	0.60
34	NH	201	0.47	163	0.99	364	0.62
35	NJ	1992	4.67	429	2.60	2421	4.09
36	NM	184	0.43	171	1.03	355	0.60
37	NY	5991	14.05	342	2.07	6333	10.70
38	NC	1031	2.42	718	4.34	1749	2.96
39	ND	63	0.15	38	0.23	101	0.17
40	OH	1689	3.96	464	2.81	2153	3.64
41	OK	940	2.20	295	1.78	1235	2.09
42	OR	388	0.91	271	1.64	659	1.11
43	PA	1715	4.02	324	1.96	2039	3.45
44	RI	64	0.15	59	0.36	123	0.21
45	SC	489	1.15	448	2.71	937	1.58
46	SD	57	0.13	65	0.39	122	0.21
47	TN	1035	2.43	589	3.56	1624	2.74
48	TXRN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
49	TXVN	3149	7.38	1051	6.36	4200	7.10
50	UT	628	1.47	175	1.06	803	1.36
51	VT	64	0.15	62	0.38	126	0.21
52	VA	752	1.76	760	4.60	1512	2.56
53	VI	1	0.00	1	0.01	2	0.00
54	WARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
55	WAPN	896	2.10	350	2.12	1246	2.11
56	WVRN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
57	WVPN	457	1.07	189	1.14	646	1.09
58	WI	200	0.47	268	1.62	468	0.79
59	WY	102	0.24	64	0.39	166	0.28
60	AS	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
61	CM	5	0.01	0	0.00	5	0.01
		42647	100.00	16529	100.00	59176	100.00

<sup>a</sup> no information available

Table 7. Practical/Vocational Nurses: Maintenance Functions, by Jurisdiction

ID	JD	Renewal n	%	Reinstatement n	%	Total Maintenance n	%
1	AL	1956	0.50	846	6.70	2802	0.69
2	AK	551	0.14	0	0.00	551	0.14
3	AZ	951	0.24	0	0.00	951	0.23
4	AR	7633	1.94	11	0.09	7644	1.88
5	CARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
6	CAVN	24749	6.29	9	0.07	24758	6.10
7	CO	7282	1.85	212	1.68	7494	1.85
8	CT	11659	2.96	50	0.40	11709	2.88
9	DE	2066	0.53	27	0.21	2093	0.52
10	DC						<sup>a</sup>
11	FL	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
12	GARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
13	GAPN	0	0.00	113	0.89	113	0.03
14	GU	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
15	HI	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
16	ID	3379	0.86	21	0.17	3400	0.84
17	IL	14924	3.79	649	5.14	15573	3.84
18	IN	16190	4.12	0	0.00	16190	3.99
19	IA	2211	0.56	52	0.41	2263	0.56
20	KS	2999	0.76	292	2.31	3291	0.81
21	KY	0	0.00	207	1.64	207	0.05
22	LARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
23	LAPN	17422	4.43	1000	7.92	18422	4.54
24	ME	3974	1.01	224	1.77	4198	1.03
25	MD	11047	2.81	0	0.00	11047	2.72
26	MA	2141	0.54	6	0.05	2147	0.53
27	MI	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
28	MN	9200	2.34	420	3.33	9620	2.37
29	MS	0	0.00	590	4.67	590	0.15
30	MO	19606	4.98	0	0.00	19606	4.83
31	MT	3084	0.78	25	0.20	3109	0.77
32	NE	213	0.05	141	1.12	354	0.09
33	NV	655	0.17	50	0.40	705	0.17
34	NH	1791	0.46	106	0.84	1897	0.47
35	NJ	12200	3.10	4	0.03	12204	3.01
36	NM	0	0.00	3081	24.40	3081	0.76
37	NY	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
38	NC	8074	2.05	939	7.44	9013	2.22
39	ND	2826	0.72	0	0.00	2826	0.70
40	OH	39755	10.11	1346	10.66	41101	10.12
41	OK	1	0.00	195	1.54	196	0.05
42	OR	2300	0.58	151	1.20	2451	0.60
43	PA	56292	14.31	312	2.47	56604	13.94
44	RI	1912	0.49	2	0.02	1914	0.47
45	SC	9449	2.40	292	2.31	9741	2.40
46	SD	1072	0.27	55	0.44	1127	0.28
47	TN	23029	5.85	0	0.00	23029	5.67
48	TXRN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
49	TXVN	33660	8.56	27	0.21	33687	8.30
50	UT	4000	1.02	0	0.00	4000	0.99
51	VT	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
52	VA	10068	2.56	593	4.70	10661	2.63
53	VI	182	0.05	0	0.00	182	0.04
54	WARN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
55	WAPN	15117	3.84	0	0.00	15117	3.72
56	WVRN	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
57	WVPN	6633	1.69	275	2.18	6908	1.70
58	WI	0	0.00	287	2.27	287	0.07
59	WY	1076	0.27	17	0.13	1093	0.27
60	AS	70	0.02	0	0.00	70	0.02
61	CM	6	0.00	0	0.00	6	0.00
		393405	100.00	12627	100.00	406032	100.00

a no information available

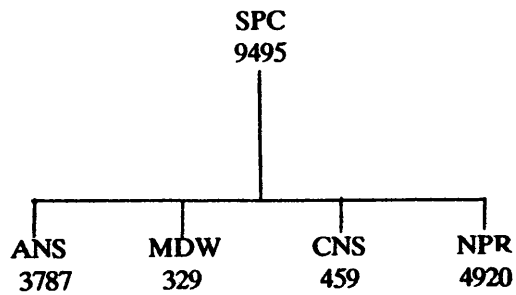
Table 8. Total Number of Active Licenses: Registered Nurses and Practical/Vocational Nurses, by Jurisdiction

ID	JD	Registered Nurses		Practical Nurses		Total Number	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
1	AL	30885	1.23	17245	2.04	48130	1.44
2	AK	4005	0.16	624	0.07	4629	0.14
3	AZ	31850	1.27	8308	0.98	40158	1.20
4	AR	18992	0.76	15140	1.79	34132	1.02
5	CARN	249183	9.96	0	0.00	249183	7.45
6	CAVN	0	0.00	53857	6.38	53857	1.61
7	CO	31680	1.27	7318	0.87	38998	1.17
8	CT	47815	1.91	11659	1.38	59474	1.78
9	DE	9088	0.36	2846	0.34	11934	0.36
10	DC	16000	0.64	2500	0.30	18500	0.55
11	FL	127443	5.09	46678	5.53	174121	5.20
12	GARN	52424	2.10	0	0.00	52424	1.57
13	GAPN	0	0.00	24970	2.96	24970	0.75
14	GU	439	0.02	104	0.01	543	0.02
15	HI	11732	0.47	3102	0.37	14834	0.44
16	ID	8923	0.36	3398	0.40	12321	0.37
17	IL	116920	4.67	30051	3.56	146971	4.39
18	IN	57846	2.31	17537	2.08	75383	2.25
19	IA	27611	1.10	8989	1.06	36600	1.09
20	KS	26731	1.07	8878	1.05	35609	1.06
21	KY	28214	1.13	11074	1.31	39288	1.17
22	LARN	31003	1.24	0	0.00	31003	0.93
23	LAPN	0	0.00	19653	2.33	19653	0.59
24	ME	14460	0.58	4731	0.56	19191	0.57
25	MD	56364	2.25	11855	1.40	68219	2.04
26	MA	80272	3.21	2147	0.25	82419	2.46
27	MI	100290	4.01	35424	4.20	135714	4.06
28	MN	49055	1.96	22010	2.61	71065	2.12
29	MS	18007	0.72	9657	1.14	27664	0.83
30	MO	57254	2.29	20951	2.48	78205	2.34
31	MT	8494	0.34	2986	0.35	11480	0.34
32	NE	16772	0.67	6600	0.78	23372	0.70
33	NV	8269	0.33	2223	0.26	10492	0.31
34	NH	16162	0.65	3951	0.47	20113	0.60
35	NJ	93136	3.72	24400	2.89	117536	3.51
36	NM	8978	0.36	4743	0.56	13721	0.41
37	NY	222990	8.91	77310	9.16	300300	8.97
38	NC	60292	2.41	20556	2.44	80848	2.42
39	ND	6532	0.26	2645	0.31	9177	0.27
40	OH	125083	5.00	42834	5.07	167917	5.02
41	OK	20213	0.81	13310	1.58	33523	1.00
42	OR	30155	1.21	5794	0.69	35949	1.07
43	PA	178134	7.12	53158	6.30	231292	6.91
44	RI	14347	0.57	3775	0.45	18122	0.54
45	SC	24638	0.98	9959	1.18	34597	1.03
46	SD	7992	0.32	2449	0.29	10441	0.31
47	TN	30650	1.23	22240	2.63	52890	1.58
48	TXRN	120119	4.80	0	0.00	120119	3.59
49	TXVN	0	0.00	74595	8.84	74595	2.23
50	UT	10448	0.42	4857	0.58	15305	0.46
51	VT	7967	0.32	2346	0.28	10313	0.31
52	VA	62995	2.52	23275	2.76	86270	2.58
53	VI	337	0.01	129	0.02	466	0.01
54	WARN	47230	1.89	0	0.00	47230	1.41
55	WAPN	0	0.00	13617	1.61	13617	0.41
56	WVRN	19367	0.77	0	0.00	19367	0.58
57	WVPN	0	0.00	7554	0.89	7554	0.23
58	WI	52413	2.09	16579	1.96	68992	2.06
59	WY	3757	0.15	1259	0.15	5016	0.15
60	AS	40	0.00	150	0.02	190	0.01
61	CH	0	0.00	44	0.01	44	0.00
		2501996	100.00	844044	100.00	3346040	100.00



Table 9. Number of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Programs Licensed by Jurisdiction

ID	JD	RN Graduates of Foreign Nursing Programs		PN/VN Graduates of Foreign Nursing Programs	
		n	%	n	%
1	AL	7	0.12	0	0.00
2	AK	0	0.00	0	0.00
3	AZ	61	1.08	0	0.00
4	AR	219	3.88	0	0.00
5	CARN	1636	29.00	2	0.05
6	CAVM	0	0.00	0	0.00
7	CO	0	0.00	0	0.00
8	CT	0	0.00	0	0.00
9	DE	3	0.05	0	0.00
10	DC	0	0.00	0	0.00
11	FL	0	0.00	0	0.00
12	GARN	0	0.00	0	0.00
13	GAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00
14	GU	0	0.00	0	0.00
15	HI	190	3.37	10	0.24
16	ID	5	0.09	210	4.94
17	IL	137	2.43	0	0.00
18	IN	11	0.20	1954	45.98
19	IA	7	0.12	0	0.00
20	KS	3	0.05	0	0.00
21	KY	20	0.35	1	0.02
22	LARN	91	1.61	1	0.02
23	LAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00
24	ME	18	0.32	0	0.00
25	MD	275	4.88	3	0.07
26	MA	30	0.53	3	0.07
27	MI	0	0.00	0	0.00
28	MN	110	1.95	0	0.00
29	MS	6	0.11	2	0.05
30	MO	25	0.44	0	0.00
31	MT	2	0.04	2	0.05
32	NE	4	0.07	1	0.02
33	NV	88	1.56	0	0.00
34	NH	0	0.00	13	0.31
35	NJ	0	0.00	0	0.00
36	NM	14	0.25	0	0.00
37	NY	2191	38.84	0	0.00
38	NC	189	3.35	1801	42.38
39	ND	1	0.02	5	0.12
40	OH	126	2.23	0	0.00
41	OK	15	0.27	1	0.02
42	OR	26	0.46	0	0.00
43	PA	31	0.55	8	0.19
44	RI	0	0.00	5	0.12
45	SC	27	0.48	0	0.00
46	SD	1	0.02	5	0.12
47	TN	10	0.18	1	0.02
48	TXRN	0	0.00	0	0.00
49	TXVN	0	0.00	0	0.00
50	UT	10	0.18	200	4.71
51	VT	0	0.00	10	0.24
52	VA	0	0.00	0	0.00
53	VI	0	0.00	0	0.00
54	WARN	0	0.00	0	0.00
55	WAPN	0	0.00	0	0.00
56	WVRN	3	0.05	6	0.14
57	WVPN	0	0.00	0	0.00
58	WI	45	0.80	0	0.00
59	WY	0	0.00	3	0.07
60	AS	0	0.00	0	0.00
61	CM	4	0.07	0	0.00
				3	0.07
		5641	100.00	4250	100.00

**Summary****Specialty Licenses Processed****KEY:**

**SPC:** Total Specialty Licenses Processed

**ANS:** Nurse Anesthetist

**MDW:** Nurse Midwife

**CNS:** Clinical Nurse Specialist

**NPR:** All categories of nurse practitioners

Table 10. Distribution of Licensing Boards Empowered to Grant Specialty Licenses, by Specialty Category.

Abbreviation	Category	Number of Boards Empowered to Issue	
		n	#
ANS	nurse anesthetist	26	66.7
MDW	nurse midwife	28	71.8
CNS	clinical nurse specialist	10	25.6
<b>Nurse Practitioners</b>			
NEO	neonatal	14	35.9
FAM	family	18	46.2
FPN	family planning	6	15.4
GER	geriatric	15	38.5
EMR	emergency	6	15.4
SCH	school	15	38.5
COL	college	7	17.9
WOM	ob-gyn/women's health	16	41.0
PSY	psychiatric/mental health	13	33.3
PRI	primary care	5	12.8
AHP	adult health	17	43.6
CHP	child health	14	35.9
NPR	nurse practitioner (no designation)	16	41.0
OTS	other specialty	11	28.2
Total Number of Boards Empowered to Issue Specialty Licenses or Certificates.		39	

Table 11. Distribution of Specialty Licenses Processed Within Each specialty Category, by Jurisdiction.

ID	JD	ANS n	MDW n	CNS n	NEO n	FAM n	FPN n	GER n	EMR n	SCH n	COL n	WOM n	PSY n	PRI n	AHP n	CHP n	NPR n	OTS n	Total Processed n
1	AL	802	31		0	10		0	0			3	1		3	3	254		1087
2	AK	15	5					0							6	9			40
3	AZ	348	7		11	17				0		9							407
4	AR	111	1														350		462
5	CARM	142	61										26				330	146	705
9	DE	21																	21 <sup>a</sup>
10	DC																		21 <sup>a</sup>
11	FL	132	23														76		231
12	GARM	0	0	36													583		619
16	ID	33															8		41
18	IN																		41 <sup>a</sup>
19	IA	9	2			1				0		5	0				5		22
20	KS	357	5	34	6	108	5	2	9	0	0	22	1	5	14	9	27	2	579
21	KY	98	7	2														2	136
24	ME	71	5												3	5			95
25	MD	57	18		10	14		0		0		7			25	15			146
26	MA																		146 <sup>a</sup>
27	MI	997	43														329		1369
28	MN																	379	379
29	MS																30		30
32	NE	15	0														3		18
34	NH	84	3		1	8		1	0	0		6	6		7	4			120
36	NM	21		6	1	11		2		0	0	3			3	6	0		53
37	NY				28	145		36		9	0	85	4	0	175	153		7	642
38	NC		38		41	344	22	4	0	2		51			19			51	572
39	ND	145	5	13		60													223
40	OH		5																5
42	OR		12			27		0			0		20		15	8		10	92
43	PA		0	0	11	22	0	8	0	0	0	38	0	0	39	29		0	147
46	SD	24			2							1	1		1				29
48	TXRN	199	17	145	6	35		9		4		57			9	53			534
50	UT	5	2	24									0					25	56
51	VT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52	VA	0	0	193	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	193
54	WARN	50	20			0		24		1		13	27		11	26			172
56	WVRN		14																14
58	WI		3																3
59	WY	51	2	6	0	22	3	2	0	0	0	11	2	0	7	4	0	1	111
61	CM		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Total		3787	329	459	117	831	30	88	9	16	0	315	88	5	337	324	1995	623	9353

a no information available

Table 12. Total Number of Active Specialty Licenses within the 61 Member Board Jurisdiction.

Abbreviation	Category	Active Licenses	
		n	#
ANS	nurse anesthetist	7791	26.5
MDW	nurse midwife	1581	05.4
CNS	clinical nurse specialist	439	01.5
<b>Nurse Practitioners</b>			
NEO	neonatal	297	01.0
FAM	family	2651	09.0
FPN	family planning	102	00.3
GER	geriatric	359	01.2
EMR	emergency	14	00.0
SCH	school	113	00.3
COL	college	10	00.0
WOM	ob-gyn/women's health	1382	04.7
PSY	psychiatric/mental health	629	02.1
PRI	primary care	235	00.8
AHP	adult health	1733	05.9
CHP	child health	1349	04.6
NPR	nurse practitioner (no designation)	6416	22.0
OTS	other specialty	4258	14.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>29359</b>	

Table 13. Distribution of Active Specialty Licenses Within Each Specialty Category, by Jurisdiction.

ID	JD	ANS n	MDW n	CNS n	NEO n	FAM n	FPN n	GER n	EMR n	SCH n	COL n	WOM n	PSY n	PRI n	AHP n	CHP n	NPR n	OTS n	Total Active Licenses n
1	AL	802	31		12	87		3				93			24	34	0	1	1087
2	AK	a	a		a	a		a		a		a	a		a	a			a
3	AZ	348	75		68	200				11		88			83	82			955
4	AR	245	4														634		883
5	CARN	1648	747										386				5285	851	8917
9	DE	131																	131
10	DC																		a
11	FL	a	a														a		a
12	GARN	a	a	36	25	212						149			64	45	a	2	533
16	ID	188															120		308
18	IN																		a
19	IA	201	31			32				6		48	8			5			331
20	KS	357	5	34	6	108	5	2	9	a	a	22	1	5	14	9		957	1534
21	KY	590	33	10													212	11	856
24	ME	231	25			140	9	5	1	3	2	36		14	23	47	a	4	540
25	MD	511	134		21	112		9		1		68			357	192			1405
26	MA	50	14										51				132		247
27	MI	1137	54															389	1580
28	MN																	a	a
29	MS	277	18		3	43	6					27			6	17	a		397
32	NE	267	0														33		300
34	NH	84	37	0	1	73	0	13	1	6	0	50	28	0	64	47	0	0	404
36	NM	195		22	19	122		23		3	2	35			34	31	0		486
37	NY				32	527		107		34	0	337	12	a	606	375		36	2066
38	NC	0	38	0	41	344	22	4	0	2	0	51	0	0	19	0		51	572
39	ND	145	5	13		60													223
40	OH		81																81
42	OR		118			185		114			5	111	117		176	127		a	953
43	PA	a	a	a	50	300	57	76	3	41		233	0	216	219	308		7	1510
46	SD	189	4	0	19	31	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	5	3	0	0	257
48	TXRN	a	a	a	a	a		a		a		a			a	a			a
50	UT	85	40	125									a					200	450
51	VT	59	23	a	a	53	a	a	a	5	a	21	23	a	32	23	a	11	250
52	VA	0	0	193	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1737	1930
54	WARN	a	a			a		a		a		a	a		a	a			a
56	WVRN		14																14
58	WI		38																38
59	WY	51	2	6	a	22	3	2	a	a	a	11	2	a	7	4	a	1	111
61	CM		10		a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a			10
		7791	1581	439	297	2651	102	359	14	113	10	1382	629	235	1733	1349	6416	4258	29359

a no information available

**PART II**

**1990 LICENSURE EXAMINATION STATISTICS**

**INTRODUCTION TO PART II; 1990 Licensure Examination Statistics**

The National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) are each administered to licensure candidates by the National Council's Member Boards of Nursing two times every year. The purpose of the licensing examination is to determine if a licensure candidate possesses the minimum knowledge, skills and abilities to provide minimally safe and effective nursing care.

As is indicated in each of the following tables, each examination is labeled with the month and year it was administered. For NCLEX-RN, the designations are 290 for February and 790 for July; for NCLEX-PN, the designations are 490 for April and 090 for October. In keeping with the purpose of the licensure examinations, examination results throughout these tables are reported as the percent passing. The passing criterion is equivalent to the number of questions that a candidate must answer correctly in order to demonstrate that they possess the minimum ability (nursing knowledge) necessary to provide minimally safe and effective nursing care.

The statistics reported are derived from data provided to the National Council and its Member Boards of Nursing by CTB/MacMillan/McGraw-Hill, the National Council's test service, following each administration of an examination.



TABLE 1. Number of Candidates Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing, by Type of Candidate

NCLEX-PN		
April 18, 1990		
Type of Candidate	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
First-Time U.S. Educated	14663	89.8
Repeat U.S. Educated	4353	48.3
First-Time Foreign Educated	1318	51.7
Repeat Foreign Educated	1611	21.7
Total	21945	74.3
Invalid Jurisdiction Codes:	20	
Invalid Country Codes:	60	

TABLE 2. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions

NCLEX-PN 490

April 18, 1990

Jurisdiction Code	Number of Candidates Examined	Percent of Candidates Passing
AL	494	83.8
AK	0	0.0*
AS	1	100.0
AZ	124	97.6
AR	184	87.0
CA	1429	78.4
CO	55	92.7
CM	0	0.0*
CT	338	98.2
DE	78	91.0
DC	16	93.8
FL	863	92.1
GA	356	88.5
GU	0	0.0*
HI	22	68.2
ID	30	93.3
IL	266	87.2
IN	316	94.9
IA	195	94.4
KS	153	94.8
KY	225	90.2
LA	439	94.5
ME	56	100.0
MD	32	81.3
MA	39	92.3
MI	320	95.9
MN	316	92.4
MS	114	88.6
MO	121	90.9
MT	51	88.2
NE	210	97.1
NV	1	0.0
NH	77	97.4
NJ	344	88.1
NM	20	90.0
NY	2791	86.9
NC	109	95.4
ND	52	98.1
OH	440	95.9
OK	144	95.1
OR	33	97.0
PA	782	92.5

TABLE 2. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions (con't)

NCLEX-PN 490

April 18, 1990

Jurisdiction Code	Number of Candidates Examined	Percent of Candidates Passing
RI	2	100.0
SC	103	92.2
SD	1	100.0
TN	386	95.3
TX	1311	90.5
UT	191	96.9
VT	7	85.7
VI	1	00.0
VA	569	88.8
WA	297	97.0
WV	105	91.4
WI	53	90.6
WY	0	00.0*
Total:	14663	
Invalid Jurisdiction Codes:	1	

\* no candidates tested

**TABLE 3. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing**

NCLEX-PN 490

April 18, 1990

Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Argentina	1	0.0
Australia	2	50.0
Austria	1	0.0
Bahamas	1	100.0
Belize (Br. Honduras)	3	0.0
Brazil	2	50.0
Canada	10	90.0
Colombia	4	50.0
Costa Rica	1	0.0
Czechoslovakia	5	20.0
Egypt, Arab Republic of	1	100.0
El Salvador	6	16.7
England	57	59.6
Ethiopia	2	50.0
Fiji Islands	2	0.0
France	2	100.0
Germany (Western)	1	100.0
Ghana	10	30.0
Grenada and the Grenadines	1	100.0
Guayana	5	60.0
Haiti	3	33.3
Hong Kong	9	33.3
India	105	44.8
Indonesia	8	0.0
Iran	12	25.0
Ireland	2	100.0
Israel	6	66.7
Jamaica	23	82.6
Japan	4	0.0
Jordan	2	0.0
Korea	9	33.3
Lebanon	5	40.0
Leeward Islands	2	0.0
Liberia	2	0.0
Macao	1	0.0
Malawi	2	100.0
Mexico	13	7.7
Netherlands	2	50.0
New Zealand	1	100.0
Nicaragua	2	50.0
Nigeria	20	55.0

TABLE 3. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing (con't)

NCLEX-PN 490

April 18, 1990

Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Okinawa	1	100.0
Pakistan	6	33.3
Panama, Republic of	1	0.0
Peoples Republic of China	3	66.7
Peru	6	66.7
Philippines	798	54.3
Poland	3	33.3
Portugal	1	100.0
Puerto Rico	23	17.4
Rumania Romania	3	33.3
Scotland	3	100.0
Sierra Leone	3	0.0
Singapore	1	0.0
Somali Dem Republic Somalia	1	0.0
South Africa	1	0.0
St Lucia	1	100.0
Sweden	1	0.0
Taiwan (Repub. of China)	1	0.0
Tanzania, United Republic of	29	27.6
Thailand	1	0.0
Thailand	5	40.0
Tonga	2	0.0
Trinidad & Tobago	18	88.9
USSR	5	20.0
Wales	1	100.0
Yemen, Peoples Republic of	1	0.0
Yugoslavia	1	0.0
Total:	1318	
Invalid Country Codes:	49	

TABLE 4. Number of Candidates Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing, by Type of Candidate

NCLEX-PN			October 16, 1990		
Type of Candidate	Number of Candidate	Percent Passing			
First-Time U.S. Educated	27528	87.0			
Repeat U.S. Educated	3613	32.9			
First-Time Foreign Educated	1468	52.7			
Repeat Foreign Educated	1858	16.6			
Total	34467	76.1			
Invalid Jurisdiction Codes:	8				
Invalid Country Codes:	100				

TABLE 5. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions

NCLEX-PN 090		October 16, 1990
Jurisdiction Code	Number of Candidates Examined	Percent of Candidates Passing
AL	647	77.7
AK	1	100.0
AS	1	0.0
AZ	309	91.9
AR	521	85.2
CA	1593	72.3
CO	381	95.8
CT	32	100.0
DE	150	80.0
DC	50	82.0
FL	1175	85.2
GA	403	79.7
GU	5	80.0
HI	122	88.5
ID	101	96.0
IL	1134	86.3
IN	576	94.4
IA	901	93.2
KS	459	91.5
KY	482	87.6
LA	441	91.8
ME	165	90.9
MD	235	81.3
MA	728	93.1
MI	663	90.3
MN	828	88.5
MS	445	84.3
MO	792	91.9
MT	64	89.1
NE	166	91.6
NV	47	100.0
NH	82	95.1
NJ	709	84.3
NM	139	94.2
NY	3248	77.5
NC	835	95.8
ND	9	100.0
OH	1257	92.4
OK	599	87.5
OR	285	98.9
PA	995	89.1

**TABLE 5. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions (con't)**

	NCLEX-PN 090	October 16, 1990
Jurisdiction Code	Number of Candidates Examined	Percent of Candidates Passing
RI	60	85.0
SC	403	89.6
SD	52	96.2
TN	604	92.9
TX	2647	88.4
UT	480	92.3
VT	71	83.1
VI	2	50.0
VA	256	85.9
WA	554	94.9
WV	379	90.2
WI	140	85.7
WY	101	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27528</b>	

Invalid Jurisdiction Codes:

4



TABLE 6. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing

NCLEX-PN 090		October 16, 1990
Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Angola	1	100.0
Argentina	1	0.0
Australia	4	100.0
Belgium	1	100.0
Belize (Br. Honduras)	2	100.0
Brazil	3	33.3
Canada	19	63.2
Cayman	2	100.0
Costa Rica	1	0.0
Czechoslovakia	1	100.0
Dominican Republic	2	0.0
Ecuador	1	0.0
Egypt, Arab Republic of	1	0.0
El Salvador	3	0.0
England	40	47.5
Ethiopia	3	33.3
Fiji Islands	2	0.0
France	1	100.0
French Guiana	1	0.0
Germany (Eastern)	1	0.0
Germany (Western)	5	20.0
Ghana	4	50.0
Guatemala	2	0.0
Guayana	8	37.5
Haiti	6	50.0
Honduras	1	0.0
Hong Kong	6	66.7
Hungary	1	0.0
India	126	38.1
Indonesia	19	10.5
Iran	5	80.0
Ireland	3	100.0
Israel	9	44.4
Jamaica	9	44.4
Kenya	1	0.0
Korea	51	58.8
Lebanon	2	100.0
Liberia	1	100.0
Malaysia	1	0.0
Mexico	19	26.3
Netherlands	1	100.0

TABLE 6. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing (con't)

	NCLEX-PN 090	October 16, 1990
Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Netherlands Antilles	1	100.0
New Zealand	2	50.0
Nicaragua	1	100.0
Nigeria	22	45.5
Pakistan	7	71.4
Panama, Republic of	2	0.0
Peoples Republic of China	12	58.3
Peru	3	33.3
Philippines	892	57.3
Poland	10	30.0
Rumania Romania	2	0.0
Scotland	2	100.0
Sierra Leone	6	0.0
Spain	4	50.0
Surinam	1	100.0
Sweden	3	66.7
Switzerland	1	100.0
Taiwan (Repub. of China)	26	19.2
Thailand	11	45.5
Tonga	1	0.0
Trinidad & Tobago	25	76.0
Turkey	1	100.0
Uganda	2	50.0
USSR	5	40.0
Wales	1	100.0
Yugoslavia	1	0.0
Zambia	1	100.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1468</b>	

Invalid Country Codes:

51

TABLE 7. Summary Statistics for NCLEX-PN April 1990 and NCLEX-PN October 1990

	April 1990	October 1990
Number of Test Items <sup>a</sup>	204	204
Number of Items Omitted	0	0
KR-20	.88	.87
Mean Difficulty of Test	.72	.74
Mean Discrimination of Test	.17	.17
Mean Ability Estimate	-.14	-.17
Standard Error of Ability Estimate	.15	.17
Passing Score Ability Estimate	-.75	-.70
Mean Rasch Difficulty	-1.17	-1.23

<sup>a</sup> see Appendix A for definitions of terms

**TABLE 8. Number of Candidates Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing, by Type of Candidate**

NCLEX-RN 290		February 6-7, 1990
Type of Candidate	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
First-Time U.S. Educated	13711	86.4
Repeat U.S. Educated	9860	55.1
First-Time Foreign Educated	4986	45.3
Repeat Foreign Educated	8868	18.6
Total	37425	56.6
Invalid Jurisdiction Codes:	131	
Invalid Country Codes:	59	

TABLE 9. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions

NCLEX-RN 290

February 6-7, 1990

Jurisdiction Code	Number of Candidates Examined	Percent of Candidates Passing:			
		Total	Associate Degree	Diploma	Baccalaureate Degree
AL	327	88	86	0*	90
AK	18	100	0*	0*	17
AS	3	33	33	0*	0*
AZ	278	92	93	0*	90
AR	279	85	90	86	63
CA	1619	85	85	81	86
CO	83	81	81	0*	80
CM	3	33	0*	0*	0*
CT	27	89	93	88	75
DE	46	94	98	0*	50
DC	32	59	18	0*	81
FL	867	86	87	94	81
GA	85	86	87	100	75
GU	2	0	0	0*	0*
HI	22	55	14	0*	71
ID	12	100	100	0*	100
IL	546	83	84	100	80
IN	411	86	88	100	82
IA	263	91	92	68	90
KS	151	90	88	75	98
KY	181	86	88	0*	82
LA	383	95	94	97	95
ME	63	98	98	0*	100
MD	228	90	90	98	81
MA	229	79	87	88	68
MI	598	89	88	81	88
MN	100	95	96	0*	89
MS	152	88	89	0*	83
MO	282	88	88	88	87
MT	47	98	100	0*	98
NE	112	91	94	94	87
NV	34	91	89	0*	100
NH	5	60	100	0	50
NJ	323	86	87	88	80
NM	164	88	87	0*	100
NY	1492	79	82	84	61
NC	166	88	90	100	70
ND	31	81	100	0*	80
OH	809	88	86	91	87

**TABLE 9. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions (con't)**

NCLEX-RN 290

February 6-7, 1990

Jurisdiction Code	Number of Candidates Examined	Percent of Candidates Passing:			Baccalaureate Degree
		Total	Associate Degree	Diploma	
OK	64	94	95	0*	83
OR	38	68	82	0*	50
PA	640	87	87	90	81
RI	43	84	71	100	88
SC	212	92	96	0*	83
SD	59	92	88	100	93
TN	145	80	70	97	80
TX	950	92	91	91	92
UT	179	90	89	0*	91
VT	22	91	95	0*	0
VI	3	67	67	0*	0*
VA	197	79	83	93	66
WA	210	86	86	0*	87
WV	17	53	25	83	50
WI	391	92	90	0*	94
WY	17	94	94	0*	0*
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13068</b>				
<b>Invalid Jurisdiction Codes:</b>	<b>21</b>				

\* no candidates tested

TABLE 10. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing

	NCLEX-RN 290	February 6-7, 1990
Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Albania	1	0
Argentina	5	20
Australia	83	83
Bahamas	4	25
Barbados	3	67
Belgium	8	75
Brazil	10	30
Canada	308	83
Chile	7	29
Colombia	7	0
Costa Rica	1	0
Cyprus	1	100
Czechoslovakia	4	0
Denmark	11	91
Dominican Republic	3	33
Ecuador	3	0
Egypt, Arab Republic of	1	0
El Salvador	2	0
England	291	73
Ethiopia	6	33
Fiji Islands	1	0
Finland	7	86
France	6	67
Germany (Western)	34	74
Ghana	14	36
Grenada and the Grenadines	2	0
Guatemala	1	0
Guayana	19	32
Haiti	26	15
Hong Kong	89	67
Hungary	2	50
Iceland	3	100
India	349	22
Indonesia	29	7
Iran	22	32
Iraq	1	0
Ireland	125	74
Israel	41	49
Italy	4	50
Jamaica	120	62

TABLE 10. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing (con't)

NCLEX-RN 290

February 6-7, 1990

Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Japan	14	7
Jordan	4	0
Kenya	1	0
Korea	134	50
Korea (North)	5	60
Lebanon	30	57
Leeward Islands	7	57
Liberia	7	0
Malaysia	2	50
Mexico	26	15
Netherlands	18	72
Netherlands Antilles	2	100
New Zealand	56	91
Nicaragua	5	0
Niger	2	0
Nigeria	63	16
Northern Ireland	18	78
Norway	8	38
Okinawa	1	100
Pakistan	13	8
Panama, Republic of	3	0
Paraguay	1	0
Peoples Republic of China	10	10
Peru	5	0
Philippines	2408	39
Pitcairn Islands	1	100
Poland	10	20
Portugal	1	0
Puerto Rico	124	13
Rhodesia	1	0
Rumania Romania	8	13
Scotland	37	57
Sierra Leone	7	14
Singapore	1	100
South Africa	17	53
Spain	5	20
St Lucia	1	0
St Vincent	2	0
Sudan	1	100
Surinam	1	0
Sweden	17	71
Switzerland	5	40
Taiwan (Repub. of China)	82	39



**TABLE 10. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing (con't)**

NCLEX-RN 290

February 6-7, 1990

Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Thailand	28	36
Trinidad & Tobago	86	64
Turkey	1	0
United Arab Emirates	1	0
USSR	13	0
Vietnam	1	0
Wales	7	86
Windward Islands	12	33
Yugoslavia	1	100
Zambia	1	100
Total:	4986	
Invalid Country Codes:	17	

**TABLE 11. Number of Candidates Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing, by Type of Candidate**

<b>NCLEX-RN</b>		<b>July 11-12, 1990</b>
<b>Type of Candidate</b>	<b>Number of Candidates</b>	<b>Percent Passing</b>
<b>First-Time U.S. Educated</b>	<b>52286</b>	<b>91.9</b>
<b>Repeat U.S. Educated</b>	<b>6400</b>	<b>46.8</b>
<b>First-Time Foreign Educated</b>	<b>5846</b>	<b>34.3</b>
<b>Repeat Foreign Educated</b>	<b>9357</b>	<b>11.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>73889</b>	
<b>Invalid Jurisdiction Codes:</b>	<b>49</b>	
<b>Invalid Country Codes:</b>	<b>55</b>	

TABLE 12. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction Code	Number of Candidates Examined	NCLEX-RN 790			
		July 11-12, 1990			
Jurisdiction Code	Number of Candidates Examined	Percent of Candidates Passing:			
		Total	Associate Degree	Diploma	Baccalaureate Degree
AL	1062	88	88.2	100.0	88.4
AK	46	96	93.1	0.0*	100.0
AS	0	0*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0
AZ	510	96	96.5	0.0*	93.5
AR	602	92	92.6	100.0	90.0
CA	3223	88	89.8	79.7	82.3
CO	547	95	94.5	100.0	94.5
CM	1	0	0.0	0.0*	0.0*
CT	699	94	91.4	95.3	95.8
DE	232	93	97.7	100.0	86.0
DC	171	77	45.0	0.0*	86.2
FL	1820	92	92.9	86.1	89.6
GA	1375	94	94.5	96.7	91.6
GU	22	50	50.0	0.0*	0.0*
HI	167	82	85.0	0.0*	66.7
ID	257	97	96.2	0.0*	97.8
IL	2336	88	89.6	89.8	83.0
IN	1384	94	94.5	94.9	94.1
IA	995	94	92.8	98.1	94.3
KS	833	93	93.9	88.2	92.7
KY	1067	96	96.8	0.0*	94.2
LA	587	95	97.0	96.7	93.6
ME	208	94	93.6	0.0*	94.9
MD	785	93	94.9	94.1	88.3
MA	1557	91	92.6	90.3	87.9
MI	2038	94	94.9	93.8	91.9
MN	1088	93	93.8	0.0*	90.8
MS	758	93	95.6	0.0*	84.5
MO	1215	95	93.8	94.6	95.8
MT	176	94	93.1	0.0*	95.5
NE	256	96	97.4	85.7	95.7
NV	144	92	92.1	0.0*	90.7
NH	314	95	94.1	0.0*	96.0
NJ	1342	91	92.8	82.4	94.6
NM	367	86	85.4	0.0*	93.0
NY	4042	85	87.5	91.0	76.7
NC	1615	94	94.3	93.5	94.0
ND	132	92	0.0*	0.0*	92.4
OH	2974	93	93.6	96.0	91.0
OK	825	94	93.7	0.0*	93.7
OR	681	97	98.1	0.0*	94.1
PA	3509	93	93.5	92.7	91.4

**TABLE 12. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions (con't)**

NCLEX-RN 790

July 11-12, 1990

Jurisdiction Code	Number of Candidates Examined	Percent of Candidates Passing:			Baccalaureate Degree
		Total	Associate Degree	Diploma	
RI	332	84	84.1	82.6	85.1
SC	690	94	95.3	0.0*	89.1
SD	297	94	92.4	100.0	97.5
TN	1265	94	94.2	96.4	94.3
TX	3074	94	93.8	97.3	95.5
UT	350	93	93.0	0.0*	93.8
VT	121	95	97.8	0.0*	87.1
VI	9	22	22.2	0.0*	0.0*
VA	1350	93	93.9	95.2	95.2
WA	968	95	94.6	0.0*	96.0
WV	708	89	88.9	96.0	87.2
WI	964	94	93.4	88.0	94.2
WY	177	96	96.9	0.0*	95.6
Total	52286				
Invalid Jurisdiction Codes:		19			
Invalid Program Codes:		26			

TABLE 13. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing

NCLEX-RN 790

July 14-15, 1990

Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Argentina	7	14.3
Australia	87	87.4
Austria	1	0.0
Bahamas	4	0.0
Bangladesh	2	0.0
Barbados	2	0.0
Belgium	12	25.0
Belize (Br. Honduras)	4	25.0
Bolivia	2	0.0
Brazil	11	9.1
Bulgaria	1	0.0
Cameroon, Free Republic of	1	0.0
Canada	440	91.1
Chile	1	100.0
Colombia	27	18.5
Costa Rica	3	0.0
Cuba	2	0.0
Czechoslovakia	3	0.0
Denmark	13	84.6
Dominica	4	50.0
Dominican Republic	4	0.0
Ecuador	3	33.3
Egypt, Arab Republic of	6	16.7
El Salvador	4	25.0
England	348	68.7
Ethiopia	14	14.3
Fiji Islands	5	0.0
Finland	6	33.3
France	11	45.5
Gambia	2	0.0
Germany (Eastern)	1	100.0
Germany (Western)	39	53.8
Ghana	23	30.4
Greece	2	50.0
Grenada and the Grenadines	2	0.0
Guatemala	1	0.0
Guayana	64	32.8
Haiti	78	1.3
Honduras	3	0.0
Hong Kong	178	41.0
Hungary	1	0.0
Iceland	2	0.0
India	747	9.4

TABLE 13. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing (con't)

NCLEX-RN 790

July 14-15, 1990

Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Indonesia	5	20.0
Iran	26	3.8
Iraq	2	0.0
Ireland	89	74.2
Israel	32	37.5
Italy	1	100.0
Jamaica	142	59.9
Japan	7	14.3
Jordan	3	33.3
Kenya	2	50.0
Korea	148	27.0
Korea (North)	5	40.0
Lebanon	24	45.8
Leeward Islands	3	0.0
Liberia	4	25.0
Malaysia	3	33.3
Mexico	43	20.9
Netherlands	12	58.3
Netherlands Antilles	2	50.0
New Zealand	46	80.4
Nicaragua	1	0.0
Niger	1	0.0
Nigeria	95	12.6
Northern Ireland	18	50.0
Norway	12	58.3
Oman, Sultanate of	1	0.0
Pakistan	26	19.2
Panama, Republic of	8	12.5
Peoples Republic of China	20	15.0
Peru	13	15.4
Philippines	2343	24.1
Poland	29	24.1
Portugal	1	0.0
Puerto Rico	90	10.0
Rhodesia	3	100.0
Rumania Romania	7	0.0
Scotland	38	78.9
Sierra Leone	7	14.3
Somali Dem Republic Somalia	1	100.0
South Africa	13	61.5
Spain	7	14.3
Srilanka (Ceylon)	1	100.0
St Lucia	1	0.0

TABLE 13. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX and Percent Passing (con't)

	NCLEX-RN 790	July 14-15, 1990
Country of Education	Number of Candidates	Percent Passing
Surinam	3	0.0
Sweden	16	62.5
Switzerland	3	66.7
Taiwan (Repub. of China)	100	15.0
Tanzania, United Republic of	2	50.0
Thailand	28	17.9
Tonga	1	0.0
Trinidad & Tobago	90	52.2
Turkey	2	0.0
Uganda	1	0.0
United Arab Emirates	2	0.0
Uruguay	1	0.0
USSR	21	14.3
Venezuela	2	0.0
Vietnam	1	0.0
Wales	4	100.0
Windward Islands	38	39.5
Yugoslavia	6	0.0
Zambia	2	0.0
Total:	5846	
Invalid Country Codes:	17	

TABLE 14. Summary Statistics for NCLEX-RN February 1990 and July 1990.

	February 1990	July 1990
Number of Test Items <sup>a</sup>	300	300
Number of Items Omitted	0	0
KR-20	.88	.88
Mean Difficulty of Test	.71	.71
Mean Discrimination of Test	.15	.15
Mean Ability Estimate	-.09	-.07
Standard Error of Ability Estimate	.14	.14
Passing Error of Ability Estimate	-.51	-.51
Mean Rasch Difficulty	-1.16	-1.12

<sup>a</sup> see Appendix A for definitions of terms



## APPENDIX A

## LICENSURE EXAMINATION SUMMARY STATISTICS DEFINITIONS

**Number of Test Items.** Actual number of items on which candidate performance is determined.

**Number of Items Omitted.** Items that have a negative point biserial correlation coefficient are eliminated prior to scoring. These items are a problem because less-able candidates perform better on them than do more-able candidates.

**KR-20.** This is a measure of the internal consistency of the items in a test, or in other words, the extent to which candidates who do well on one question also do well on the others. If the questions are highly related to each other in the sense that they measure the same trait, the reliability will be high. This statistic also depends in part on the number of questions in the examination.

**Mean Difficulty of Test.** The average (across items) of the proportion of candidates answering each item correctly. It is based on the performance of first-time, U.S.-educated candidates.

**Mean Discrimination of Test.** The average point-biserial correlation coefficient for all items on the examination. The purpose of the test is to distinguish (i.e., discriminate) between candidates who are competent to practice and those who are not. Each question in the test should help us to make that discrimination. If high-scoring candidates answer it correctly and low-scoring candidates answer it incorrectly, the item is helping to discriminate between competent and incompetent candidates. The statistic used to represent item discrimination is the point-biserial correlation coefficient.

**Mean Ability Estimate.** The average ability (entry-level nursing competence) of the candidates taking this examination. The ability estimate is obtained by applying the Rasch Item Response Model. These estimates generally range between -4.00 (very low ability) and +4.00 (very high ability).

**Standard Error of Ability Estimate.** This statistic provides an estimate of the amount of variation expected in the mean ability estimate, if the candidates were somehow retested again and again with the same instrument and with no learning or forgetting. Two-thirds of the scores would be expected to fall within a range of plus or minus one standard error of the original estimate.

**Passing Score Ability Estimate.** This ability estimate must be least -.52 for the RN examination and -.72 for the PN examination. The scale for each of these examinations is independent of the other, so the RN and PN passing scores are not directly comparable.

**Mean Rasch Difficulty.** Based on the assumptions of the Rasch model, this index provides an estimate of the average item difficulty. It is on the same scale as the Mean Ability Estimate (see above). The advantage of the Mean Rasch Difficulty over the Mean Difficulty (see above) is that its calculation is free from dependence on the abilities of the particular group of candidates taking the examination. The Rasch difficulty index for NCLEX items ranges between -3.00 (very easy) to +1.00 (quite difficult).