



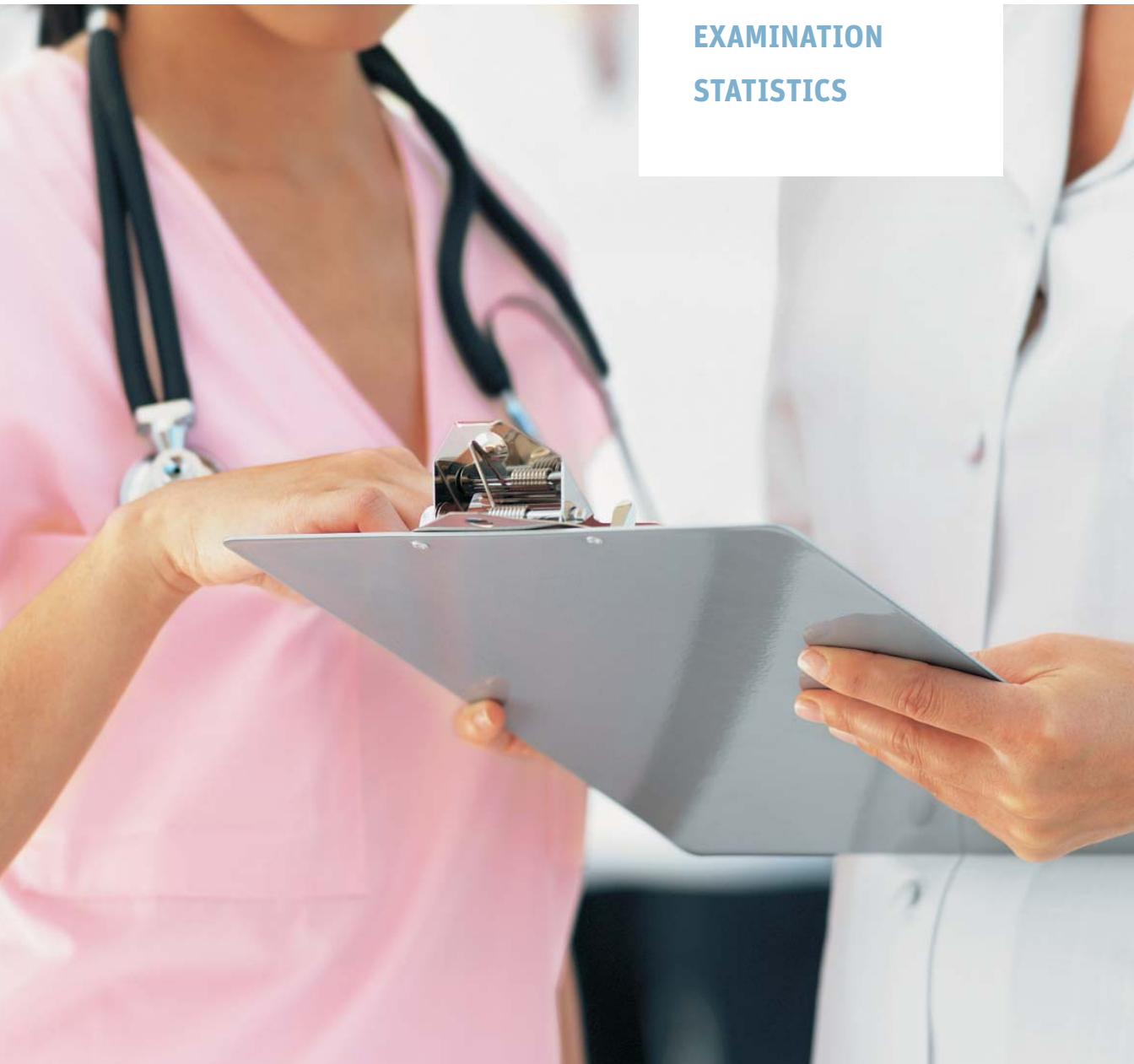
NCSBN

National Council of State Boards of Nursing

NCSBN RESEARCH BRIEF

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**2003 NURSE
LICENSEE VOLUME
AND NCLEX®
EXAMINATION
STATISTICS**



2003 Nurse Licensee Volume and NCLEX[®] Examination Statistics

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Mission Statement

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing, composed of member boards, provides leadership to advance regulatory excellence for public protection.

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Introduction

The mission of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is to lead in nursing regulation by assisting its member boards, collectively and individually, to promote safe and effective nursing practice in the interest of protecting public health and welfare.

NCSBN serves as a consultant, liaison, advocate and researcher to its members, and as an education and information resource to policymakers and the general public. This publication provides statistics, for the year 2003, on the licensing activities of NCSBN's member boards and its two licensure examinations, the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN® examination) and the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN® examination).

Part I

The data reported in Part I of this document include licensing statistics of the 60 state and territorial boards of nursing. The numbers of new licenses by endorsement and examination, as well as the total number of active licenses, are provided for each jurisdiction.

The data included in this publication provide licensing statistics for the period July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003.

Part II

On April 1, 1994, NCSBN began administering the NCLEX examination via computerized adaptive testing (CAT) for both the NCLEX-RN examination and NCLEX-PN examination. Because the examinations are now available on a year-round basis, candidate performance is summarized and reported for each quarter, representing a three-month period of time.

This publication provides the examination statistics for a one-year period, January - December 2003. It also provides summary statistics for April 1994-2003.

Part I

2003 Licensure Statistics

The data reported in this section indicate licensure processing activity and data on the total number of individuals licensed to practice within each jurisdiction during NCSBN's fiscal year 2003. All data was obtained from state and territorial boards of nursing.

Estimates were provided where the exact figure requested for this collection of data was unknown.

Data are presented in a series of tables. Table 1 lists the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) member boards, the geographic locality within which a board has responsibility for regulating nursing practice (JD), the types of licenses for which a board has licensing authority, and whether or not the board is empowered to issue licenses or certificates to practice in a specialty area of nursing. Tables 2-5 provide data related to new licenses issued by endorsement or examination, total numbers of active licenses (both RN and LPN/VN) by jurisdiction, and graduates of foreign nursing programs licensed, by jurisdiction. Table 6 provides a summary of licensing activities by examination and endorsement for RNs, LPN/VNs and graduates of foreign nursing programs. Tables 7 and 8 provide the numbers of active specialty licenses, issued within each jurisdiction, by specialty license category. Figure 1 provides a review of the numbers of active licenses for the years 1993-2003. Unless noted otherwise, all percentages are calculated in terms of column totals.

Note that nurses in Puerto Rico are licensed by virtue of passing Puerto

Rico's Spanish-language examination. In addition to taking this examination, some nurses also take the NCLEX-RN® and/or NCLEX-PN® examination. The Puerto Rican examination only allows nurses to practice in Puerto Rico; if they would like to practice elsewhere, they must take the NCLEX examination.

Key Terms

Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical or Vocational Nurses (LPN/VNs) obtain licensure by endorsement (if licensed in another jurisdiction) or by examination (if the applicant has never taken the appropriate NCLEX examination).

ACTIVE LICENSE figures are based on the reported actual or estimated total number of individuals holding an active license within a jurisdiction and 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 nationwide may be higher than the total number of nurses.

ADVANCED PRACTICE LICENSES/AUTHORITY TO PRACTICE figures and tables contain data for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) groups: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Nurse Specialist (CNS), CNS-PSYCH/Mental Health and Nurse Practitioner (NP).

ABBREVIATIONS are followed by the category of advanced practice/authority to practice license:

- CNM – Certified Nurse Midwife
- CRNA – Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
- CNS-PSYCH – Clinical Nurse Specialist-Psychiatry and/or Mental Health (including all its subspecialties)
- CNS – Clinical Nurse Specialist (all others)

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

JD	Board of Nursing	RN	LPN/LVN	Other Specialty Groups
AK	Alaska Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
AL	Alabama Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
AR	Arkansas State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
AS	American Samoa Health Services Regulatory Board	YES	YES	YES
AZ	Arizona State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
CARN	California Board of Registered Nursing	YES	NO	YES
CAVN	California Board of Vocational Nurse and Psychiatric Technician Examiners	NO	YES	NO
CO	Colorado Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
CT	Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing	YES	YES	YES
DC	District of Columbia Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
DE	Delaware Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
FL	Florida Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
GAPN	Georgia State Board of Licensed Practical Nurses	NO	YES	NO
GARN	Georgia Board of Nursing	YES	NO	YES
GU	Guam Board of Nurse Examiners	YES	YES	YES
HI	Hawaii Board of Nursing Professional and Vocational Licensing Division	YES	YES	YES
IA	Iowa Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
ID	Idaho Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
IL	Illinois Department of Professional Regulation	YES	YES	YES
IN	Indiana State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
KS	Kansas State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
KY	Kentucky Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
LAPN	Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners	NO	YES	NO
LARN	Louisiana State Board of Nursing	YES	NO	YES
MA	Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MD	Maryland Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
ME	Maine State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MI	Michigan CIS/Bureau of Health Services	YES	YES	YES
MN	Minnesota Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MO	Missouri State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MP	Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners	YES	YES	YES
MS	Mississippi Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MT	Montana State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NC	North Carolina Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
ND	North Dakota Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NE	Nebraska Health and Human Services System	YES	YES	YES
NH	New Hampshire Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES

Table 1, continued

JD	Board of Nursing	RN	LPN/LVN	Other Specialty Groups
NJ	New Jersey Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NM	New Mexico Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NV	Nevada State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NY	New York State Board for Nursing	YES	YES	YES
OH	Ohio Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
OK	Oklahoma Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
OR	Oregon State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
PA	Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
PR	Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Board of Nurse Examiners	YES	YES	YES
RI	Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education	YES	YES	YES
SC	South Carolina State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
SD	South Dakota Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
TN	Tennessee State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
TXRN	Texas Board of Nurse Examiners	YES	NO	YES
TXVN	Texas Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners	NO	YES	NO
UT	Utah State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
VA	Virginia Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
VI	Virgin Islands Board of Nurse Licensure	YES	YES	YES
VT	Vermont State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
WA	Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission	YES	YES	YES
WI	Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing	YES	YES	YES
WVPN	West Virginia State Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses	NO	YES	NO
WVRN	West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses	YES	NO	YES
WY	Wyoming State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES

Table 2. Registered Nurses: New-in-State Functions, by Jurisdiction

JD	Examination		Endorsement		Total New-in-State	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
AK	511	0.72	711	0.87	1,222	0.78
AL	1,494	2.09	949	1.16	2,443	1.56
AR	988	1.38	490	0.60	1,478	0.95
AZ	1,403	1.97	2,601	3.18	4,004	2.56
CARN	9,197	12.88	10,220	12.51	19,417	12.42
CT	871	1.22	1,740	2.13	2,611	1.67
DC	112	0.16	648	0.79	760	0.49
FL	4,677	6.55	8,690	10.64	13,367	8.55
HI	321	0.45	2,200	2.69	2,521	1.61
IA	1,095	1.53	599	0.73	1,694	1.08
ID	446	0.62	520	0.64	966	0.62
IN	1,958	2.74	1,496	1.83	3,454	2.21
KS	1,124	1.57	961	1.18	2,085	1.33
KY	1,430	2.00	1,012	1.24	2,442	1.56
LARN	1,616	2.26	711	0.87	2,327	1.49
MA	2,108	2.95	2,178	2.67	4,286	2.74
MD	2,123	2.97	2,145	2.63	4,268	2.73
ME	561	0.79	812	0.99	1,373	0.88
MI	2,939	4.12	2,380	2.91	5,319	3.40
MN	3,076	4.31	1,206	1.48	4,282	2.74
MO	1,874	2.63	1,934	2.37	3,808	2.44
MP	215	0.30	9	0.01	224	0.14
MS	1,141	1.60	763	0.93	1,904	1.22
NC	2,882	4.04	3,241	3.97	6,123	3.92
ND	257	0.36	3,241	3.97	3,498	2.24
NE	775	1.09	346	0.42	1,121	0.72
NJ	1,927	2.70	3,976	4.87	5,903	3.78
NM	411	0.58	1,282	1.57	1,693	1.08
OH	3,684	5.16	1,322	1.62	5,006	3.20
OK	1,133	1.59	637	0.78	1,770	2.06
OR	1,053	1.48	1,643	2.01	2,696	1.72
PA	3,158	4.42	4,394	5.38	7,552	4.83
RI	376	0.53	1,039	1.27	1,415	0.91
SC	1,371	1.92	2,051	2.51	3,422	2.19
SD	411	0.58	290	0.35	701	0.45
TN	2,113	2.96	2,196	2.69	4,309	2.76
TX	5,746	8.05	4,158	5.09	9,904	6.34

Table 2, continued

JD	Examination		Endorsement		Total New-in-State	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
VA	1,906	2.67	3,134	3.84	5,040	3.22
VT	508	0.71	586	0.72	1,094	0.70
WA	1,418	1.99	2,140	2.62	3,558	2.28
WI		0.00		0.00	3,214	2.06
WVRN	780	1.09	770	0.94	1,550	0.99
WY	194	0.27	285	0.35	479	0.31
Total	71,383	100.00	81,706	100.00	156,303¹	100.00

¹Total new-in-state processing includes 3,214 licenses for Wisconsin not available by specific function category.

No information available for American Samoa, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Guam, Illinois, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Puerto Rico, Utah and the Virgin Islands.

Table 3. Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses: New-in-State Functions, by Jurisdiction

JD	Examination		Endorsement		Total New-in-State	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
AK	38	0.11	75	0.63	113	0.24
AL	788	2.32	210	1.78	998	2.15
AR	714	2.10	207	1.75	921	1.98
AZ	600	1.76	334	2.83	934	2.01
CAVN	4,259	12.53	556	4.70	4,815	10.36
CT	321	0.94	317	2.68	638	1.37
DC	28	0.08	168	1.42	196	0.42
FL	2,401	7.06	1,675	14.17	4,076	8.77
HI	169	0.50	127	1.07	296	0.64
IA	877	2.58	107	0.91	984	2.12
ID	170	0.50	79	0.67	249	0.54
IN	1,256	3.69	296	2.50	1,552	3.34
KS	622	1.83	232	1.96	854	1.84
KY	655	1.93	274	2.32	929	2.00
LAPN	973	2.86	224	1.90	1,197	2.57
MA	612	1.80	230	1.95	842	1.81
MD	461	1.36	666	5.63	1,127	2.42
ME	15	0.04	92	0.78	107	0.23
MI	1,133	3.33	202	1.71	1,335	2.87
MN	1,093	3.21	151	1.28	1,244	2.68
MO	991	2.91	347	2.94	1,338	2.88
MP	7	0.02	0	0.00	7	0.02
MS	570	1.68	179	1.51	749	1.61
NC	903	2.66	622	5.26	1,525	3.28
ND	196	0.58	51	0.43	247	0.53
NE	325	0.96	54	0.46	379	0.82
NJ	584	1.72	211	1.79	795	1.71
NM	150	0.44	181	1.53	331	0.71
OH	1,896	5.58	343	2.90	2,239	4.82
OK	1,006	2.96	146	1.24	1,152	2.48
OR	297	0.87	154	1.30	451	0.97
PA	1,461	4.30	475	4.02	1,936	4.16
RI	30	0.09	82	0.69	112	0.24
SC	534	1.57	362	3.06	896	1.93
SD	89	0.26	55	0.47	144	0.31
TN	1,235	3.63	466	3.94	1,701	3.66

Table 3, continued

JD	Examination		Endorsement		Total New-in-State	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
TX	3,674	10.81	831	7.03	4,505	9.69
VA	1,504	4.42	480	4.06	1,984	4.27
VT	79	0.23	54	0.46	133	0.29
WA	818	2.41	238	2.01	1,056	2.27
WI		0.00		0.00	679	1.46
WV	352	1.04	210	1.78	562	1.21
WY	112	0.33	57	0.48	169	0.36
Total	33,998	100.00	11,820	100.00	46,497¹	100.00

¹Total new-in-state processing includes 679 licenses for Wisconsin not available by specific function category.

No information available for American Samoa, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Guam, Illinois, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Puerto Rico, Utah and the Virgin Islands.

Table 4. Total Number of Active Licenses: Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses, by Jurisdiction

JD	Registered Nurses		Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses		Total Number	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
AK	7,215	0.22	729	0.08	7,944	0.19
AL	45,445	1.42	17,474	1.97	62,919	1.54
AR	29,069	0.91	15,134	1.71	44,203	1.08
AS	46	0.00	104	0.01	150	0.00
AZ	52,338	1.63	10,161	1.15	62,499	1.53
CARN	280,653	8.74			280,653	6.85
CAVN			67,310	7.60	67,310	1.64
CO	51,282	1.60	10,264	1.16	61,546	1.50
CT	52,840	1.65	11,427	1.29	64,267	1.57
DC	18,944	0.59	2,258	0.25	21,202	0.52
FL	181,497	5.65	57,038	6.44	238,535	5.82
GAPN			30,144	3.40	30,144	0.74
GARN	90,000	2.80			90,000	2.20
HI	15,698	0.49	2,982	0.34	18,680	0.46
IA	38,901	1.21	9,772	1.10	48,673	1.19
ID	13,374	0.42	3,658	0.41	17,032	0.42
IL	142,644	4.44	26,626	3.01	169,270	4.13
IN	72,643	2.26	26,690	3.01	99,333	2.43
KS	33,650	1.05	8,350	0.94	42,000	1.03
KY	48,206	1.50	13,720	1.55	61,926	1.51
LAPN			21,020	2.37	21,020	0.51
LARN	43,866	1.37			43,866	1.07
MA	102,792	3.20	19,751	2.23	122,543	2.99
MD	55,625	1.73	9,437	1.07	65,062	1.59
ME	19,396	0.60	3,242	0.37	22,638	0.55
MI	116,657	3.63	27,165	3.07	143,822	3.51
MN	66,520	2.07	22,520	2.54	89,040	2.17
MO	71,947	2.24	22,424	2.53	94,371	2.30
MP	495	0.02	49	0.01	544	0.01
MS	30,157	0.94	12,223	1.38	42,380	1.03
MT	10,407	0.32	3,188	0.36	13,595	0.33
NC	96,954	3.02	21,210	2.40	118,164	2.88
ND	8,382	0.26	3,174	0.36	11,556	0.28
NE	19,337	0.60	6,497	0.73	25,834	0.63
NH	18,510	0.58	3,063	0.35	21,573	0.53
NJ	100,419	3.13	18,935	2.14	119,354	2.91
NM	17,003	0.53	3,273	0.37	20,276	0.50
NV	17,243	0.54	2,691	0.30	19,934	0.49
NY	231,137	7.20	68,836	7.77	299,973	7.32
OH	147,166	4.58	40,877	4.62	188,043	4.59

Table 4, continued

JD	Registered Nurses		Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses		Total Number	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
OK	32,485	1.01	16,629	1.88	49,114	1.20
OR	38,042	1.18	4,053	0.46	42,095	1.03
PA	200,102	6.23	54,184	6.12	254,286	6.21
RI	17,359	0.54	2,610	0.29	19,969	0.49
SC	41,165	1.28	11,261	1.27	52,426	1.28
SD	10,802	0.34	2,157	0.24	12,959	0.32
TN	69,149	2.15	26,647	3.01	95,796	2.34
TXRN	173,695	5.41			173,695	4.24
TXVN			75,233	8.50	75,233	1.84
UT	19,278	0.60	3,518	0.40	22,796	0.56
VA	88,920	2.77	27,635	3.12	116,555	2.85
VT	8,987	0.28	1,848	0.21	10,835	0.26
WA	64,444	2.01	14,017	1.58	78,461	1.92
WI	69,950	2.18	14,547	1.64	84,497	2.06
WVPN			6,731	0.76	6,731	0.16
WVRN	22,516	0.70			22,516	0.55
WY	5,104	0.16	1,073	0.12	6,177	0.15
Total	3,210,456	100.00	885,559	100.00	4,096,015¹	100.00

¹Includes 792,786 total number of active licenses reported in 2002 for American Samoa, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia PN and RN, Montana, New Hampshire, Nevada, New York, Utah and in 2001 for Illinois.

No information available for Delaware, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Table 5. Number of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Programs Licensed, by Jurisdiction*

JD	RN Graduates of Foreign Nursing Programs	LPN/VN Graduates of Foreign Nursing Programs
CARN	4,355	
MA	143	16
MD	198	20
ME	18	
MO	112	2
MP	217	7
NJ	1,967	7
NM	136	
TX	1,258	
WY	1	0
Total	8,405	52

*Information provided by 10 boards.

Table 6. Summary of Licensing Activities

New-in-State	
Registered Nurses	156,303
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	46,497
Total	202,800
Active Licenses	
Registered Nurses	3,210,456
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	885,559
Total	4,096,015¹
Graduates of Foreign Nursing Programs	
Registered Nurses	8,405
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	52
Total	8,457*

¹Includes 871,247 total number of active licenses reported in 2002 for American Samoa, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia PN and RN, Montana, New Hampshire, Nevada, New York, Utah, Washington and in 2001 for Illinois.

*Information provided by 10 boards.

Figure 1. Total Number of Active Licenses: Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses – 1993-2003

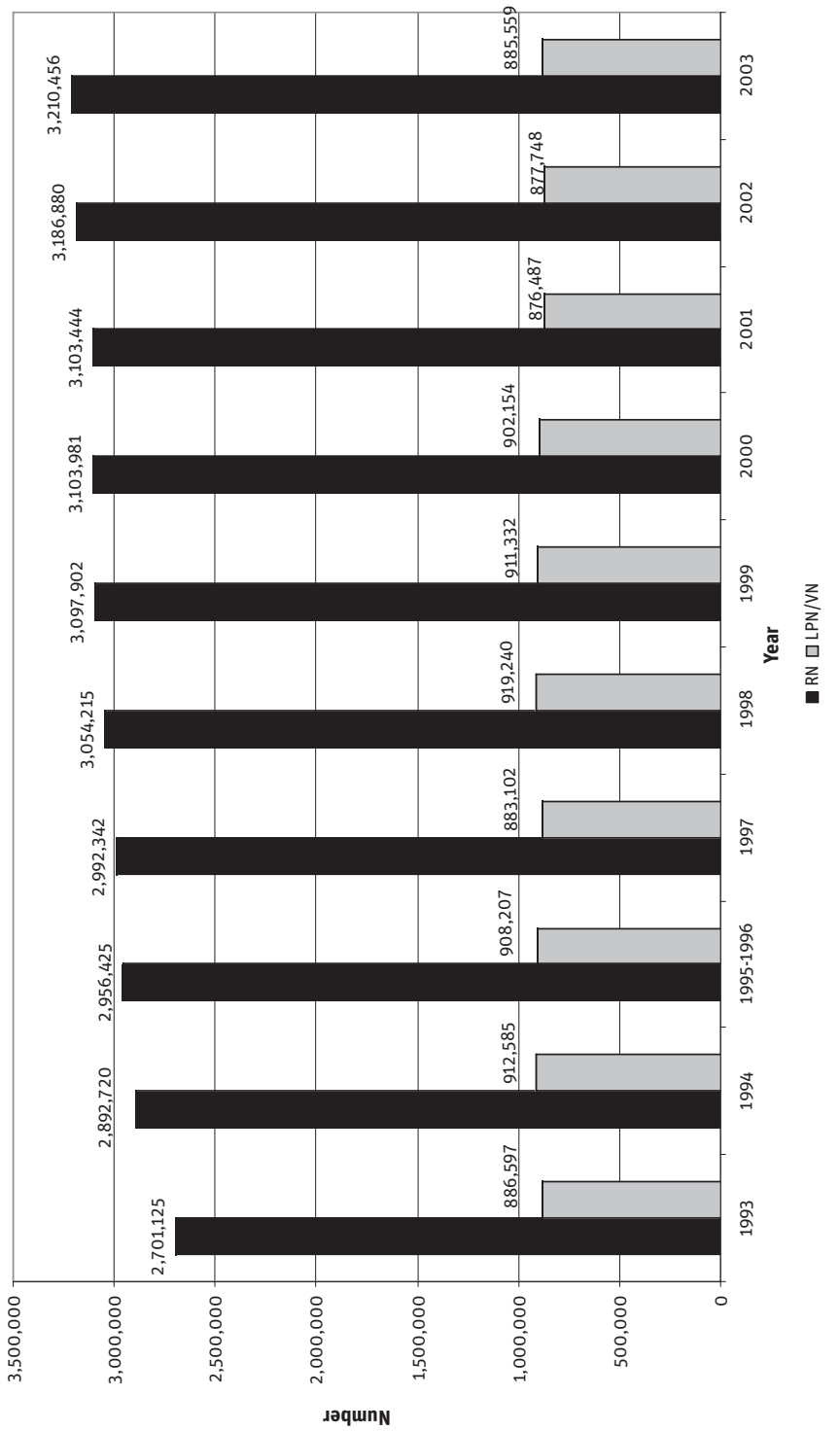


Table 7. Distribution of Active Advanced Practice/Authority to Practice Licenses Within Each Specialty Category, by Jurisdiction

JD	Types of Nurse Practitioners*											NP No Specialty	Other Types	Total Active Licenses			
	CNM	CRNA	CNS – PSYCH	CNS – No Designation	AC	AH	CHP	COL	EMR	FAM	FPN				GER	NEO	WOM
AK	44	98			4	31	34		268		6	13	63	52	3		616
AL	34	34	1,332	108	48	79	61		411		7	30	52	1	478		2,675
AR	25	615	35	49	51	61	6	0	410	0	73	0	5	6	0	0	2,256
AS	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
AZ	194	254	104		11	404	210		943		49	151	317	124	9		2,770
CARN	1,111	1,656	0	1,771	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,758	16,296
CO	268	382	880												2,296		3,826
DC	90	209	28		778												1,105
FL	467	1,056			107	933	344	31	1,273		177	133	180	274		4,411	9,386
GARN	350	1,375	325	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,600	4,650
HI	33	139	66	65	3	43	31		193		24	11	44	10			662
IA	62	369	114		4	49	165		416		35	6	155	21	4	1	1,401
ID	26	318	21													393	758
IN	67			114												1,607	1,788
KS	51	629	193	453	31	104	58	6	685	2	9	90	90	10	0	26	2,466
KY	105	967	141													1,464	2,677
LARN	34	1,042	70	121	44	62	50		570		14	106	72		35		2,220
MA	436	856	966	0	150	736	668		1,084		220	432	222	10	0	4,791	7,049
MD	210	408	347														4,487
ME	79	430	165	19	5	164	83	2	425	6	17	20	71	32	2	17	1,537
MI	275	1,973														2,667	4,915
MN	173	1,071	226	186	28	334	162	0	609	0	211	74	175	7	0	0	3,258
MO	97	1,324	169	285	40	399	345	0	1,276	0	93	127	261	18	0	0	4,436
MP	13								1				2				16
MS	27	459			37	48	28		743	6	13	27	49	34			1,471
MT	38	142	26													335	541

NC	198	2,285	1,179		44	321	204		2	1,156	6	65	154	167	13	1		4	5,799
ND	7	238	21		0	8	11	0	1	204	0	16	2	19	1	0	0	0	537
NE	21	380															441		842
NH	94	229			11	176	85	0	1	397	0	26	18	75	120	2	0	0	1,234
NJ	0	0	337	0	120	802	348	0	21	534	12	151	71	239	0	12	0	365	3,012
NM		220	137														600		957
NV		90															361		451
NY					151	3,217	1,330	1		3,460		480	207	921	690	28		77	10,562
OH	24	101		33														248	406
OK	38	434	45	134	12	19	89			313	2	2	39	139	0	1	4		1,269
OR	205	362	132		22	311	145	2		711		37	30	136	290				2,383
PA					260	945	678		2	2,127	39	222	180	471	67	37	0	746	5,774
RI	68	195	86														488		837
SD	13	338			87												256		694
TXRN	353	2,610	322	1,052	155	442	657	0	57	2,203	0	216	285	924	74	45		38	9,433
UT	106	175	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	908	0	1,189
VA	214	1,458	461		103	526	442		24	1,661	2	58	114	161	16	1		1	5,242
VT	58	55	53	1	5	79	25	0	0	163	0	10	5	32	0	1	0	0	488
WA	294	598	427		22	443	214			1,203		96	52	270	1				3,620
WI	135																1,990		2,125
WVRN	60	557	0	86	7	43	31	0	0	426	0	9	20	51	0	2	0	16	1,308
WY	7	89	5	6	0	8	7	0	0	83	0	1	0	21	0	0	0	0	227
Total	6,206	26,220	6,824	6,049	120	2,253	10,787	6,511	5	23,948	77	2,337	2,397	5,384	1,870	149	38,511	1,865	141,658¹

*See Table 8 for abbreviation definitions, page 16.

¹ Total includes 22,295 active licenses reported in 2002 for American Samoa, Colorado, Georgia, Montana, New Hampshire, Nevada, New York and Utah.

Table 8. Total Number of Active Advanced Practice/Authority to Practice Licenses Within the Member Board Jurisdictions

Abbreviation	Category	Active Licenses	
		n	%
CNM	Certified Nurse Midwife	6,206	4.4
CRNA	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	26,220	18.5
CNS-PSYCH	Clinical Nurse Specialist – Psychiatry and/or Mental Health (including all its subspecialties)	6,824	4.8
CNS	Clinical Nurse Specialist (all others)	6,049	4.3
CNS – no designation	Clinical Nurse Specialist (no designation)	120	0.1
Nurse Practitioners			
AC	Acute Care	2,253	1.6
AH	Adult Health	10,787	7.6
CHP	Child Health/Pediatric	6,511	4.6
COL	College Health	5	0.0
EMR	Emergency	145	0.1
FAM	Family	23,948	16.9
FPN	Family Planning	77	0.1
GER	Geriatric	2,337	1.6
NEO	Neonatal	2,397	1.7
WOM	Obstetrical and/or Gynecological and/or Women's Health	5,384	3.8
PSY	Psychiatric and/or Mental Health	1,870	1.3
SCH	School Health	149	0.1
NP	Nurse Practitioner – no specialty designation	38,511	27.2
OTS	Other Specialty (unspecified)	1,865	1.3
Total		141,658¹	100.0

¹Includes 25,915 active licenses reported in 2002 for American Samoa, Colorado, Georgia RN, Montana, New Hampshire, Nevada, New York, Utah and Washington.

Part II

2003 NCLEX® Examination Statistics

In 1982, NCSBN significantly revised the State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE). NCSBN changed the examination from a norm-referenced test to a criterion-referenced test, implemented a new test plan and used Rasch's (1960) one parameter logistic model to calibrate items and measure candidates' abilities. At this time, NCSBN renamed the examinations to the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®) and the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN®). However, these NCLEX examinations were very different than the NCLEX examinations taken by candidates today; they were administered only twice a year in pencil and paper format and each administration lasted two days.

In 1986, the NCSBN Board of Directors funded an initial investigation on the feasibility of using Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) procedures. CAT held the promise to make tests available year round, make tests shorter by only giving candidates items that were appropriate for their ability and provide greater security for the content of the items. On April 1, 1994, NCSBN began administering the NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN examinations exclusively via CAT. Candidate performance is summarized and reported by quarter and year. This publication provides a detailed breakdown of candidate performance for 2003, as well as historical data.

CAT

CAT is a method of administering examinations that combines the power and speed of current computer technology with modern measurement theory. With CAT, each candidate's test is unique; it is assembled interactively as the individual is tested. As the candidate answers each question, the computer calculates an ability estimate based on all earlier answers. The test administration software then identifies the content area for the next item. Because the test could end at any time after the minimum number of items has been answered, it is important that the test meet the test plan specifications throughout the entire test. All tests must meet the test plan specifications. Next, the software scans through the available items within the identified content area for an item that has a degree of difficulty sufficient to give the candidate approximately a 50% chance of answering it correctly. This item is selected and presented to the candidate on the computer screen. This process is repeated for each item, creating an examination tailored to the individual's ability level while fulfilling all NCLEX test plan requirements. The examination continues in this way until a pass/fail decision can be determined.

Setting the Passing Standard

To ensure a consistent standard of competence in nursing practice, NCSBN uses a criterion-referenced

standard, which means that passing or failing depends solely upon a candidate's level of performance in relation to that standard. There is no fixed percentage of candidates that pass or fail each examination. Because the practice of nursing changes over time, it is necessary to periodically reevaluate the appropriateness of the passing standard. To ensure that the passing standards for the NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN examinations accurately reflect the amount of nursing ability currently required to practice competently at the entry level, NCSBN's Board of Directors reevaluates the passing standard every three years or when the test plan changes. In evaluating the passing standard, the Board considers information from a variety of sources. Although there is no limit on the information that may be considered, the following information is typically presented:

1. The results of a standard setting exercise undertaken by the Panel of Judges. Currently, this exercise consists of a modified Angoff procedure, with additional statistical compromise procedures. A list of the members on the Panel of Judges and their qualifications is included.
2. A historical record of the passing standard and annual summaries of candidate performance on the NCLEX examination since the implementation of CAT in 1994.
3. The results from the annual Standard Setting Survey, which solicits the opinions of employers and educators regarding the competence of the current cohort of entry-level nurses.

4. Information detailing the educational readiness of high school graduates who expressed an interest in nursing.

In April 1998, the passing standard for the NCLEX-RN examination was increased from -0.42 logits to -0.35 logits. In April 2001, this standard was retained for another three years. However, in April 2004, the standard was increased to -0.28 logits. The passing standard for the NCLEX-PN examination has experienced a similar increase over time. In April 1999, the passing standard for the NCLEX-PN examination was increased from -0.51 logits to -0.47 logits. In April 2002, this standard was retained for another three years. The passing standard will soon be reviewed again and the results of that review will become effective in April 2005. It is important to note that the RN and PN standards are not directly comparable because they are based on different item pools and different scopes of practice.

Pass/Fail Decisions

Candidate performance on the NCLEX examinations is reported only as a pass/fail decision. Scores are never reported. As a result, almost all the statistics presented here are pass rates or statistics based upon a pass/fail decision.

To make pass/fail decisions, the computer seeks to determine with 95% certainty whether the candidate's true ability is above or below the passing standard. To do this, three pieces of information must be known: the current person ability estimate, the

precision of that estimate and the passing standard. After the minimum number of items has been answered, the computer compares the candidate's ability level to the standard required for passing. Candidates clearly above the passing standard pass. Candidates clearly below the passing standard fail.

If the candidate's ability level is close enough to the passing standard that it is not clear which side of the passing standard his or her ability falls, the computer continues asking items. As more items are answered, the candidate's ability estimate becomes more precise. After each item, the candidate's ability level is recomputed, using all of the information (answers to all the items asked) available at that point. When it becomes clear on which side of the passing standard the candidate's ability falls, the examination ends.

Some candidates' abilities, of course, are very close to the passing standard. For these candidates, all items in the item pool might not provide enough information to be certain their ability is truly above or below the passing standard. These are the candidates

who take the maximum number of items. Once the maximum number of items has been administered, the computer waives the 95% certainty requirement and makes a pass or fail decision based upon the candidate's final ability estimate. If the candidate's ability estimate is above the passing standard, the candidate passes. If not, the candidate fails.

If an NCLEX examination ends because time expires, then the computer did not have enough information to make a clear pass/fail decision. If it did, it already would have stopped administering items. However, when the response patterns of people who ran out of time were investigated, it was found that some had been performing consistently above the passing standard, and their "true" ability level appeared to be above passing, although close to it. A mechanism is provided for these candidates to pass. The key word here is "consistently." If a candidate's ability estimate has been consistently above the passing standard over the last 60 items, then he or she will pass, despite having run out of time.

Table 1. Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® Examination, by Type of Candidate

Type of Candidate	NCLEX-RN® Examination: January 1 - December 31, 2003								
	Jan 1-Mar 31, 2003	Apr 1-Jun 30, 2003	Jul 1-Sep 30, 2003	Oct 1-Dec 31, 2003	Total: Jan 1-Dec 31, 2003	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%
First-Time, U.S.-Educated									
Diploma	591	466	1,276	232	2,565	532	93.8	190	81.9
Associate Degree	9,011	13,281	21,829	3,294	47,415	7,849	87.1	2,556	77.6
Baccalaureate Degree	5,277	6,426	13,142	1,787	26,632	4,593	87.0	1,413	79.1
Special Program Codes	16	22	26	12	76	8	50.0	7	58.3
Total First-Time, U.S.-Educated	14,895	20,195	36,273	5,325	76,688	12,982	87.2	4,166	78.2
Repeat, U.S.-Educated	4,037	3,941	3,697	5,802	17,477	2,039	50.5	3,141	54.1
First-Time, Internationally Educated	3,838	3,908	4,268	4,475	16,489	2,165	56.4	2,408	53.8
Repeat, Internationally Educated	3,316	3,395	3,648	3,727	14,086	834	25.2	898	24.1
All Candidates	26,086	31,439	47,886	19,329	124,740	18,020	69.1	10,613	54.9
									71.1

Table 2. Summary Statistics for First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates

NCLEX-RN®	
January-December 2003	
Passing Standard	-0.35 logits ¹
Estimated Decision Consistency ²	0.91
Average Test Length ³	119 items
Percent of Candidates Taking the Minimum Number of Items	51.2%
Percent of Candidates Taking the Maximum Number of Items	12.7%
Average Testing Time	2 hours, 1 minute
Percent of Candidates Taking the Maximum Amount of Time	1.8%

¹The NCLEX-RN® scale uses logits as the unit of measurement. Logits is short for log-odds-units. These units have no inherent meaning with regard to nursing content and, in fact, have an arbitrary zero point. Logits are practical because the probability of a correct response can easily be computed when the person's ability and the item's difficulty are known. Typically, the logit range on the NCLEX-RN scale is from -2.00 (easy items or low-ability people) to 2.00 (difficult items or high-ability people).

²Estimated Decision Consistency is an indicator of reliability. Conceptually, it is the proportion of pass/fail decisions that would remain the same if the same population were retested immediately after their first test (assuming no learning or fatigue effects) using a different set of items.

³NCLEX-RN® examinations consist of 75 to 265 items. The standard amount of allotted testing time is five hours.

Table 3. First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® Examination, by Degree Type (January 1 - March 31, 2003)¹

Jurisdiction	NCLEX-RN® Examination: January 1 - March 31, 2003											
	RN-Diploma			RN-Associate Degree			RN-Baccalaureate			Total Jan 1-Mar 31, 2003		
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
Alabama	0			145	112	77.2	130	111	85.4	275	223	81.1
Alaska	0			3	2	66.7	21	20	95.2	24	22	91.7
American Samoa	0			0			0			0		
Arizona	0			196	181	92.3	150	136	90.7	346	317	91.6
Arkansas	123	112	91.1	117	108	92.3	24	21	87.5	264	241	91.3
California	0			1,206	1,038	86.1	342	290	84.8	1,548	1,328	85.8
Colorado	0			109	92	84.4	88	77	87.5	197	169	85.8
Connecticut	0			0			44	41	93.2	44	41	93.2
Delaware	0			46	38	82.6	3	3	100.0	49	41	83.7
District of Columbia	0			2	0	0.0	15	13	86.7	17	13	76.5
Florida	0			695	571	82.2	99	76	76.8	794	647	81.5
Georgia	0			130	118	90.8	136	109	80.1	266	227	85.3
Guam	0			1	1	100.0	0			1	1	100.0
Hawaii	0			28	25	89.3	60	47	78.3	88	72	81.8
Idaho	0			22	21	95.5	13	13	100.0	35	34	97.1
Illinois	3	2	66.7	274	239	87.2	218	198	90.8	495	439	88.7
Indiana	14	14	100.0	213	191	89.7	151	124	82.1	378	329	87.0
Iowa	0			220	182	82.7	98	88	89.8	318	270	84.9
Kansas	0			99	90	90.9	101	89	88.1	200	179	89.5
Kentucky	0			207	196	94.7	93	83	89.2	300	279	93.0
Louisiana	22	22	100.0	219	203	92.7	267	242	90.6	508	467	91.9
Maine	0			2	2	100.0	56	46	82.1	58	48	82.8
Maryland	0			168	151	89.9	145	127	87.6	313	278	88.8
Massachusetts	1	0	0.0	147	129	87.8	137	128	93.4	285	257	90.2
Michigan	0			345	301	87.2	236	205	86.9	581	506	87.1
Minnesota	0			126	106	84.1	41	35	85.4	167	141	84.4
Mississippi	0			180	153	85.0	60	52	86.7	240	205	85.4

Missouri	5	5	100.0	254	221	87.0	157	143	91.1	416	369	88.7
Montana	0	0	100.0	1	1	100.0	59	53	89.8	60	54	90.0
Nebraska	40	39	97.5	8	6	75.0	169	153	90.5	217	198	91.2
Nevada	0	0	83.3	30	25	83.3	50	35	70.0	80	60	75.0
New Hampshire	0	0	71.4	7	5	71.4	0	0		7	5	71.4
New Jersey	110	97	88.2	169	149	88.2	8	2	25.0	287	248	86.4
New Mexico	0	0	90.8	65	59	90.8	46	35	76.1	111	94	84.7
New York	1	0	0.0	740	625	84.5	116	86	74.1	857	711	83.0
North Carolina	25	21	84.0	77	70	90.9	77	64	83.1	179	155	86.6
North Dakota	0	0		0	0		58	45	77.6	58	45	77.6
Northern Mariana Islands	0	0	0.0	1	0	0.0	0	0		1	0	0.0
Ohio	54	52	96.3	392	361	92.1	102	85	83.3	548	498	90.9
Oklahoma	0	0	87.2	211	184	87.2	17	14	82.4	228	198	86.8
Oregon	0	0	50.0	2	1	50.0	26	24	92.3	28	25	89.3
Pennsylvania	94	80	85.1	110	88	80.0	125	106	84.8	329	274	83.3
Puerto Rico	0	0	0.0	18	0	0.0	23	3	13.0	41	3	7.3
Rhode Island	0	0	73.7	38	28	73.7	59	52	88.1	97	80	82.5
South Carolina	0	0	92.7	220	204	92.7	101	93	92.1	321	297	92.5
South Dakota	0	0	42.9	7	3	42.9	42	39	92.9	49	42	85.7
Tennessee	20	20	100.0	103	97	94.2	243	228	93.8	366	345	94.3
Texas	47	41	87.2	913	805	88.2	629	577	91.7	1,589	1,423	89.6
Utah	0	0	89.6	115	103	89.6	31	29	93.5	146	132	90.4
Vermont	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
Virgin Islands	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
Virginia	32	27	84.4	131	111	84.7	57	46	80.7	220	184	83.6
Washington	0	0	93.6	156	146	93.6	141	125	88.7	297	271	91.2
West Virginia	0	0	100.0	10	10	100.0	20	15	75.0	30	25	83.3
Wisconsin	0	0	89.1	331	295	89.1	192	166	86.5	523	461	88.1
Wyoming	0	0	100.0	2	2	100.0	1	1	100.0	3	3	100.0
Totals	591	532	90.0	9,011	7,849	87.1	5,277	4,593	87.0	14,879	12,974	87.2

¹ Data does not include Special Program Codes.

Table 4. First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® Examination, by Degree Type (April 1 - June 30, 2003)¹

Jurisdiction	NCLEX-RN® Examination: April 1 - June 30, 2003											
	RN-Diploma		RN-Associate Degree		RN-Baccalaureate		Total Apr 1-Jun 30, 2003					
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
Alabama	0			198	173	87.4	146	138	94.5	344	311	90.4
Alaska	0			2	2	100.0	18	16	88.9	20	18	90.0
American Samoa	0			0			0			0		
Arizona	0			248	237	95.6	73	66	90.4	321	303	94.4
Arkansas	36	27	75.0	126	117	92.9	124	120	96.8	286	264	92.3
California	0			693	593	85.6	296	255	86.1	989	848	85.7
Colorado	0			140	125	89.3	102	90	88.2	242	215	88.8
Connecticut	51	48	94.1	21	21	100.0	47	46	97.9	119	115	96.6
Delaware	4	4	100.0	21	18	85.7	31	23	74.2	56	45	80.4
District of Columbia	0			2	2	100.0	14	11	78.6	16	13	81.3
Florida	0			837	688	82.2	182	160	87.9	1,019	848	83.2
Georgia	0			378	347	91.8	300	274	91.3	678	621	91.6
Guam	0			0			1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Hawaii	0			13	10	76.9	23	21	91.3	36	31	86.1
Idaho	0			91	85	93.4	25	25	100.0	116	110	94.8
Illinois	4	4	100.0	397	356	89.7	233	222	95.3	634	582	91.8
Indiana	3	3	100.0	400	368	92.0	227	205	90.3	630	576	91.4
Iowa	0			226	212	93.8	103	88	85.4	329	300	91.2
Kansas	0			165	151	91.5	75	71	94.7	240	222	92.5
Kentucky	0			525	482	91.8	150	140	93.3	675	622	92.1
Louisiana	0			87	81	93.1	65	62	95.4	152	143	94.1
Maine	0			146	136	93.2	58	53	91.4	204	189	92.6
Maryland	0			244	228	93.4	68	60	88.2	312	288	92.3
Massachusetts	14	14	100.0	272	252	92.6	114	105	92.1	400	371	92.8
Michigan	0			403	350	86.8	210	190	90.5	613	540	88.1
Minnesota	0			568	518	91.2	176	167	94.9	744	685	92.1
Mississippi	0			390	351	90.0	167	148	88.6	557	499	89.6

Missouri	3	3	100.0	111	102	91.9	87	84	96.6	201	189	94.0
Montana	0			31	25	80.6	32	26	81.3	63	51	81.0
Nebraska	1	1	100.0	133	119	89.5	173	158	91.3	307	278	90.6
Nevada	0			64	61	95.3	11	11	100.0	75	72	96.0
New Hampshire	0			88	81	92.0	40	37	92.5	128	118	92.2
New Jersey	46	42	91.3	107	91	85.0	29	26	89.7	182	159	87.4
New Mexico	0			75	67	89.3	21	16	76.2	96	83	86.5
New York	1	1	100.0	832	708	85.1	159	128	80.5	992	837	84.4
North Carolina	42	41	97.6	1,008	927	92.0	345	311	90.1	1,395	1,279	91.7
North Dakota	0			0			103	97	94.2	103	97	94.2
Northern Mariana Islands	0			1	0	0.0	0			1	0	0.0
Ohio	57	57	100.0	505	472	93.5	321	295	91.9	883	824	93.3
Oklahoma	0			355	327	92.1	173	145	83.8	528	472	89.4
Oregon	0			173	166	96.0	202	190	94.1	375	356	94.9
Pennsylvania	120	112	93.3	166	130	78.3	128	108	84.4	414	350	84.5
Puerto Rico	0			22	9	40.9	30	6	20.0	52	15	28.8
Rhode Island	5	5	100.0	21	13	61.9	19	18	94.7	45	36	80.0
South Carolina	0			426	391	91.8	185	166	89.7	611	557	91.2
South Dakota	0			44	40	90.9	57	53	93.0	101	93	92.1
Tennessee	0			546	505	92.5	279	259	92.8	825	764	92.6
Texas	19	19	100.0	965	897	93.0	488	458	93.9	1,472	1,374	93.3
Utah	0			59	51	86.4	45	42	93.3	104	93	89.4
Vermont	0			35	34	97.1	19	18	94.7	54	52	96.3
Virgin Islands	0			0	0		1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Virginia	60	56	93.3	302	270	89.4	131	109	83.2	493	435	88.2
Washington	0			149	140	94.0	73	66	90.4	222	206	92.8
West Virginia	0			198	179	90.4	91	86	94.5	289	265	91.7
Wisconsin	0			226	198	87.6	149	135	90.6	375	333	88.8
Wyoming	0			46	42	91.3	7	5	71.4	53	47	88.7
Totals	466	437	93.8	13,281	11,948	90.0	6,426	5,809	90.4	20,173	18,194	90.2

¹ Data does not include Special Program Codes.

Table 5. First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® Examination, by Degree Type (July 1 - September 30, 2003)¹

Jurisdiction	NCLEX-RN® Examination: July 1 - September 30, 2003											
	RN-Diploma		RN-Associate Degree		RN-Baccalaureate		Total Jul 1-Sept 30, 2003					
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
Alabama	0	0		692	587	84.8	299	271	90.6	991	858	86.6
Alaska	0	0		24	22	91.7	19	17	89.5	43	39	90.7
American Samoa	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
Arizona	0	0		215	188	87.4	85	73	85.9	300	261	87.0
Arkansas	13	9	69.2	194	161	83.0	165	140	84.8	372	310	83.3
California	0	0		1,903	1,616	84.9	720	620	86.1	2,623	2,236	85.2
Colorado	0	0		175	147	84.0	201	176	87.6	376	323	85.9
Connecticut	10	8	80.0	231	212	91.8	236	211	89.4	477	431	90.4
Delaware	11	11	100.0	76	60	78.9	99	80	80.8	186	151	81.2
District of Columbia	0	0		25	21	84.0	82	75	91.5	107	96	89.7
Florida	0	0		1,328	1,097	82.6	608	538	88.5	1,936	1,635	84.5
Georgia	0	0		221	194	87.8	322	271	84.2	543	465	85.6
Guam	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
Hawaii	0	0		75	59	78.7	99	74	74.7	174	133	76.4
Idaho	0	0		102	92	90.2	83	74	89.2	185	166	89.7
Illinois	21	19	90.5	1,052	914	86.9	576	501	87.0	1,649	1,434	87.0
Indiana	8	7	87.5	483	411	85.1	297	255	85.9	788	673	85.4
Iowa	0	0		467	396	84.8	126	103	81.7	593	499	84.1
Kansas	0	0		299	256	85.6	304	258	84.9	603	514	85.2
Kentucky	0	0		265	246	92.8	92	75	81.5	357	321	89.9
Louisiana	0	0		264	244	92.4	339	301	88.8	603	545	90.4
Maine	0	0		127	107	84.3	74	59	79.7	201	166	82.6
Maryland	0	0		389	341	87.7	366	326	89.1	755	667	88.3
Massachusetts	55	43	78.2	521	458	87.9	467	388	83.1	1,043	889	85.2
Michigan	0	0		959	845	88.1	443	380	85.8	1,402	1,225	87.4
Minnesota	0	0		517	439	84.9	305	270	88.5	822	709	86.3
Mississippi	0	0		190	155	81.6	75	64	85.3	265	219	82.6

Missouri	8	7	87.5	498	426	85.5	444	398	89.6	950	831	87.5
Montana	0			76	65	85.5	42	35	83.3	118	100	84.7
Nebraska	46	43	93.5	40	29	72.5	81	72	88.9	167	144	86.2
Nevada	0			56	49	87.5	45	38	84.4	101	87	86.1
New Hampshire	0			168	136	81.0	69	59	85.5	237	195	82.3
New Jersey	243	229	94.2	407	379	93.1	287	248	86.4	937	856	91.4
New Mexico	0			198	178	89.9	66	57	86.4	264	235	89.0
New York	4	4	100.0	2,239	1,959	87.5	767	631	82.3	3,010	2,594	86.2
North Carolina	59	52	88.1	643	578	89.9	282	234	83.0	984	864	87.8
North Dakota	0			0			154	141	91.6	154	141	91.6
Northern Mariana Islands	0			0			0			0		
Ohio	158	144	91.1	990	867	87.6	591	531	89.8	1,739	1,542	88.7
Oklahoma	0	0		162	133	82.1	187	153	81.8	349	286	81.9
Oregon	0	0		312	278	89.1	146	120	82.2	458	398	86.9
Pennsylvania	422	371	87.9	1,096	915	83.5	786	659	83.8	2,304	1,945	84.4
Puerto Rico	0			11	1	9.1	27	4	14.8	38	5	13.2
Rhode Island	6	6	100.0	128	113	88.3	66	57	86.4	200	176	88.0
South Carolina	0			212	193	91.0	69	47	68.1	281	240	85.4
South Dakota	0			155	132	85.2	101	94	93.1	256	226	88.3
Tennessee	0			207	178	86.0	277	247	89.2	484	425	87.8
Texas	65	63	96.9	1,238	1,104	89.2	713	647	90.7	2,016	1,814	90.0
Utah	0			298	256	85.9	114	101	88.6	412	357	86.7
Vermont	0			51	44	86.3	20	17	85.0	71	61	85.9
Virgin Islands	0			2	2	100.0	3	0	0.0	5	2	40.0
Virginia	147	129	87.8	527	449	85.2	417	352	84.4	1,091	930	85.2
Washington	0			622	545	87.6	273	247	90.5	895	792	88.5
West Virginia	0			223	193	86.5	163	134	82.2	386	327	84.7
Wisconsin	0			381	340	89.2	424	367	86.6	805	707	87.8
Wyoming	0			95	81	85.3	46	33	71.7	141	114	80.9
Totals	1,276	1,145	89.7	21,829	18,891	86.5	13,142	11,323	86.2	36,247	31,359	86.5

¹ Data does not include Special Program Codes.

Table 6. First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® Examination, by Degree Type (October 1 - December 31, 2003)¹

Jurisdiction	NCLEX-RN® Examination: October 1 - December 31, 2003						RN-Diploma		RN-Associate Degree		RN-Baccalaureate		Total Oct 1-Dec 31, 2003		
	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%	Candidates	Passed	%
Alabama	0			43	29	67.4	56	47	83.9	99	76	76.8			
Alaska	0			1	1	100.0	22	19	86.4	23	20	87.0			
American Samoa	0			0			0			0					
Arizona	0			23	20	87.0	15	11	73.3	38	31	81.6			
Arkansas	10	7	70.0	12	9	75.0	5	3	60.0	27	19	70.4			
California	0			364	265	72.8	104	73	70.2	468	338	72.2			
Colorado	0			61	45	73.8	57	42	73.7	118	87	73.7			
Connecticut	0			5	5	100.0	19	16	84.2	24	21	87.5			
Delaware	0			6	4	66.7	5	2	40.0	11	6	54.5			
District of Columbia	0			13	6	46.2	8	6	75.0	21	12	57.1			
Florida	0			491	373	76.0	127	88	69.3	618	461	74.6			
Georgia	0			15	11	73.3	23	15	65.2	38	26	68.4			
Guam	0			1	0	0.0	13	13	100.0	14	13	92.9			
Hawaii	0			8	6	75.0	15	11	73.3	23	17	73.9			
Idaho	0			2	1	50.0	6	6	100.0	8	7	87.5			
Illinois	0			121	83	68.6	46	37	80.4	167	120	71.9			
Indiana	0			45	35	77.8	27	24	88.9	72	59	81.9			
Iowa	0			51	38	74.5	8	7	87.5	59	45	76.3			
Kansas	0			10	8	80.0	3	3	100.0	13	11	84.6			
Kentucky	0			78	63	80.8	7	4	57.1	85	67	78.8			
Louisiana	0			63	44	69.8	21	14	66.7	84	58	69.0			
Maine	0			0			38	32	84.2	38	32	84.2			
Maryland	0			27	21	77.8	36	31	86.1	63	52	82.5			
Massachusetts	2	2	100.0	25	19	76.0	13	9	69.2	40	30	75.0			
Michigan	0			118	92	78.0	68	50	73.5	186	142	76.3			
Minnesota	0			44	34	77.3	19	16	84.2	63	50	79.4			
Mississippi	0			23	20	87.0	5	3	60.0	28	23	82.1			

Missouri	1	1	100.0	56	43	76.8	72	67	93.1	129	111	86.0
Montana	0			15	11	73.3	2	2	100.0	17	13	76.5
Nebraska	4	4	100.0	36	30	83.3	23	19	82.6	63	53	84.1
Nevada	0			3	3	100.0	5	4	80.0	8	7	87.5
New Hampshire	0			16	11	68.8	2	2	100.0	18	13	72.2
New Jersey	23	14	60.9	20	14	70.0	29	25	86.2	72	53	73.6
New Mexico	0			11	8	72.7	6	4	66.7	17	12	70.6
New York	2	2	100.0	686	560	81.6	196	155	79.1	884	717	81.1
North Carolina	10	9	90.0	15	11	73.3	32	29	90.6	57	49	86.0
North Dakota	0			0			6	4	66.7	6	4	66.7
Northern Mariana Islands	0			1	1	100.0	0			1	1	100.0
Ohio	8	7	87.5	116	98	84.5	107	92	86.0	231	197	85.3
Oklahoma	0			7	4	57.1	9	8	88.9	16	12	75.0
Oregon	0			14	12	85.7	17	17	100.0	31	29	93.5
Pennsylvania	112	98	87.5	209	166	79.4	137	115	83.9	458	379	82.8
Puerto Rico	0			10	0	0.0	28	5	17.9	38	5	13.2
Rhode Island	0			3	2	66.7	7	6	85.7	10	8	80.0
South Carolina	0			66	55	83.3	25	21	84.0	91	76	83.5
South Dakota	0			42	36	85.7	26	22	84.6	68	58	85.3
Tennessee	10	10	100.0	12	11	91.7	12	10	83.3	34	31	91.2
Texas	2	2	100.0	112	94	83.9	62	50	80.6	176	146	83.0
Utah	0			53	37	69.8	68	58	85.3	121	95	78.5
Vermont	0			2	2	100.0	0			2	2	100.0
Virgin Islands	0			4	4	100.0	8	5	62.5	12	9	75.0
Virginia	48	34	70.8	55	44	80.0	52	41	78.8	155	119	76.8
Washington	0			52	41	78.8	12	9	75.0	64	50	78.1
West Virginia	0			3	3	100.0	6	1	16.7	9	4	44.4
Wisconsin	0			21	19	90.5	70	58	82.9	91	77	84.6
Wyoming	0			4	4	100.0	2	2	100.0	6	6	100.0
Totals	232	190	81.9	3,294	2,556	77.6	1,787	1,413	79.1	5,313	4,159	78.3

¹ Data does not include Special Program Codes.

Table 7. First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® Examination, by Degree Type (January 1 - December 31, 2003)

Jurisdiction	NCLEX-RN® Examination: January 1 - December 31, 2003													
	RN-Diploma		RN-Associate Degree		RN-Baccalaureate		RN-Special Program Codes		Total Jan 1-Dec 31, 2003					
	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%		
Alabama	0		1,078	901	83.6	631	567	89.9	11	8	72.7	1,720	1,476	85.8
Alaska	0		30	27	90.0	80	72	90.0	3	1	33.3	113	100	88.5
American Samoa	0		0			0			0			0		
Arizona	0	0	682	626	91.8	323	286	88.5	0			1,005	912	90.7
Arkansas	182	155	449	395	88.0	318	284	89.3	0			949	834	87.9
California	0		4,166	3,512	84.3	1,462	1,238	84.7	4	1	25.0	5,632	4,751	84.4
Colorado	0		485	409	84.3	448	385	85.9	2	2	100.0	935	796	85.1
Connecticut	61	56	257	238	92.6	346	314	90.8	4	3	75.0	668	611	91.5
Delaware	15	15	149	120	80.5	138	108	78.3	0			302	243	80.5
District of Columbia	0		42	29	69.0	119	105	88.2	1	0	0.0	162	134	82.7
Florida	0		3,351	2,729	81.4	1,016	862	84.8	6	4	66.7	4,373	3,595	82.2
Georgia	0		744	670	90.1	781	669	85.7	1	1	100.0	1,526	1,340	87.8
Guam	0		2	1	50.0	14	13	92.9	0			16	14	87.5
Hawaii	0		124	100	80.6	197	153	77.7	1	1	100.0	322	254	78.9
Idaho	0		217	199	91.7	127	118	92.9	0			344	317	92.2
Illinois	28	25	1,844	1,592	86.3	1,073	958	89.3	0			2,945	2,575	87.4
Indiana	25	24	1,141	1,005	88.1	702	608	86.6	0			1,868	1,637	87.6
Iowa	0		964	828	85.9	335	286	85.4	1			1,300	1,114	85.7
Kansas	0		573	505	88.1	483	421	87.2	1	1	100.0	1,057	927	87.7
Kentucky	0		1,075	987	91.8	342	302	88.3	1	0	0.0	1,418	1,289	90.9
Louisiana	22	22	633	572	90.4	692	619	89.5	0			1,347	1,213	90.1
Maine	0		275	245	89.1	226	190	84.1	0			501	435	86.8
Maryland	0		828	741	89.5	615	544	88.5	0	0		1,443	1,285	89.1
Massachusetts	72	59	965	858	88.9	731	630	86.2	0			1,768	1,547	87.5
Michigan	0		1,825	1,588	87.0	957	825	86.2	5	5	100.0	2,787	2,418	86.8
Minnesota	0		1,255	1,097	87.4	541	488	90.2	0			1,796	1,585	88.3
Mississippi	0		783	679	86.7	307	267	87.0	2	0	0.0	1,092	946	86.6

Missouri	17	16	94.1	919	792	86.2	760	692	91.1	0	1,696	1,500	88.4
Montana	0			123	102	82.9	135	116	85.9	0	258	218	84.5
Nebraska	91	87	95.6	217	184	84.8	446	402	90.1	0	754	673	89.3
Nevada	0			153	138	90.2	111	88	79.3	0	264	226	85.6
New Hampshire	0			279	233	83.5	111	98	88.3	1	391	331	84.7
New Jersey	422	382	90.5	703	633	90.0	353	301	85.3	1	1,479	1,317	89.0
New Mexico	0			349	312	89.4	139	112	80.6	1	489	424	86.7
New York	8	7	87.5	4,497	3,852	85.7	1,238	1,000	80.8	5	5,748	4,861	84.6
North Carolina	136	123	90.4	1,743	1,586	91.0	736	638	86.7	1	2,616	2,348	89.8
North Dakota	0			0			321	287	89.4	0	321	287	89.4
Northern Mariana Islands	0			3	1	33.3	0			0	3	1	33.3
Ohio	277	260	93.9	2,003	1,798	89.8	1,121	1,003	89.5	0	3,401	3,061	90.0
Oklahoma	0			735	648	88.2	386	320	82.9	1	1,122	969	86.4
Oregon	0			501	457	91.2	391	351	89.8	0	892	808	90.6
Pennsylvania	748	661	88.4	1,581	1,299	82.2	1,176	988	84.0	4	3,509	2,950	84.1
Puerto Rico	0			61	10	16.4	108	18	16.7	4	173	28	16.2
Rhode Island	11	11	100.0	190	156	82.1	151	133	88.1	0	352	300	85.2
South Carolina	0			924	843	91.2	380	327	86.1	5	1,309	1,173	89.6
South Dakota	0			248	211	85.1	226	208	92.0	0	474	419	88.4
Tennessee	30	30	100.0	868	791	91.1	811	744	91.7	0	1,709	1,565	91.6
Texas	133	125	94.0	3,228	2,900	89.8	1,892	1,732	91.5	1	5,254	4,758	90.6
Utah	0			525	447	85.1	258	230	89.1	4	787	680	86.4
Vermont	0			88	80	90.9	39	35	89.7	0	127	115	90.6
Virgin Islands	0			6	6	100.0	12	5	41.7	0	18	11	61.1
Virginia	287	246	85.7	1,015	874	86.1	657	548	83.4	0	1,959	1,668	85.1
Washington	0			979	872	89.1	499	447	89.6	0	1,478	1,319	89.2
West Virginia	0			434	385	88.7	280	236	84.3	2	716	622	86.9
Wisconsin	0			959	852	88.8	835	726	86.9	3	1,797	1,581	88.0
Wyoming	0			147	129	87.8	56	41	73.2	0	203	170	83.7
Totals	2,565	2,304	89.8	47,415	41,244	87.0	26,632	23,138	86.9	76	76,688	66,731	87.0

Table 8. First-time, Internationally Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-RN® Examination, by Country of Education

Country of Education	NCLEX-RN® Examination: January 1 - December 31, 2003											
	Jan 1-Mar 31, 2003	Apr 1-Jun 30, 2003	Jul 1-Sep 30, 2003	Oct 1-Dec 31, 2003	Total Jan 1-Dec 31, 2003	% Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed
Afghanistan	0	0	1	0	1	0.0	100.0	0	1	100.0	1	100.0
Albania	0	2	2	0	2	0.0	100.0	0	4	50.0	4	50.0
Algeria	0	1	0	0	0	0.0		0	1	0.0	1	0.0
Antigua and Barbuda	2	1	0	0	0	50.0		0	4	50.0	4	50.0
Argentina	3	1	3	1	3	33.3	33.3	1	10	100.0	10	40.0
Armenia	1	0	2	0	2	0.0	50.0	4	9	22.2	9	22.2
Australia	22	18	26	22	21	81.8	84.6	22	91	73	73	80.2
Austria	0	0	2	0	2	100.0		0	2	100.0	2	100.0
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	3	0			3	3	0.0	3	0.0
Bahamas	6	3	5	3	3	60.0	100.0	1	15	100.0	15	66.7
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	1	0.0		0	1	0.0	1	0.0
Barbados	2	1	5	3	1	50.0	60.0	1	9	44.4	9	44.4
Belarus	2	0	2	1	1	0.0	50.0	5	10	30.0	10	30.0
Belgium	1	1	0	1	1	100.0		1	3	100.0	3	100.0
Belize	0	3	2	2	1	66.7	100.0	1	5	80.0	5	80.0
Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0			1	1	100.0	1	100.0
Bolivia	1	1	0	0	0	100.0		0	1	100.0	1	100.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	0	1	0	2	0.0	50.0	4	9	11.1	9	11.1
Brazil	8	5	4	4	9	62.5	66.7	4	25	68.0	25	68.0
British Indian Ocean Territory	4	2	1	0	0	50.0		0	5	40.0	5	40.0
Bulgaria	4	1	4	2	3	25.0	100.0	5	16	50.0	16	50.0
Cameroon, Free Republic of	2	0	6	1	3	0.0	0.0	5	16	12.5	16	12.5
Canada	278	210	355	275	420	75.5	74.0	372	1,425	75.2	1,425	75.2
Chile	1	1	4	3	6	100.0	66.7	0	11	72.7	11	72.7
China, Peoples Republic of	41	26	38	24	83	63.4	62.7	63	225	60.4	225	60.4
Colombia	5	2	17	11	17	40.0	64.7	10	49	44.9	49	44.9

Table 8, continued

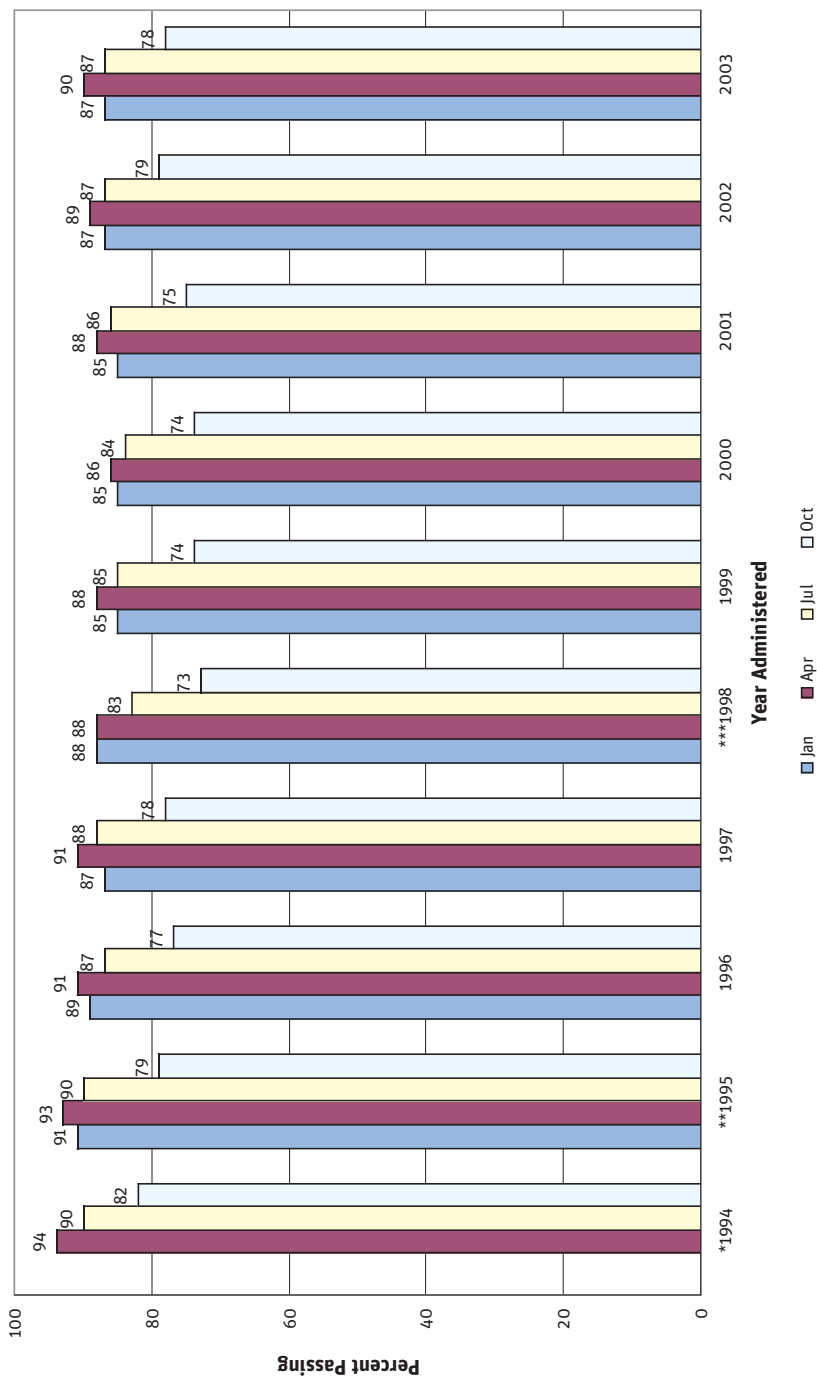
Country of Education	NCLEX-RN® Examination: January 1 - December 31, 2003														
	Jan 1-Mar 31, 2003		Apr 1-Jun 30, 2003		Jul 1-Sep 30, 2003		Oct 1-Dec 31, 2003		Total Jan 1-Dec 31, 2003						
	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%			
Iran	20	10	50.0	16	8	50.0	13	5	38.5	8	1	12.5	57	24	42.1
Ireland	4	2	50.0	11	10	90.9	7	6	85.7	9	7	77.8	31	25	80.6
Israel	16	12	75.0	6	4	66.7	15	11	73.3	0			37	27	73.0
Italy	3	2	66.7	2	1	50.0	5	3	60.0	17	13	76.5	27	19	70.4
Ivory Coast	1	0	0.0	0			0			0			1	0	0.0
Jamaica	39	33	84.6	37	26	70.3	59	41	69.5	30	15	50.0	165	115	69.7
Japan	15	11	73.3	17	10	58.8	19	14	73.7	16	8	50.0	67	43	64.2
Jordan	6	2	33.3	3	1	33.3	3	1	33.3	1	0	0.0	13	4	30.8
Kazakhstan	2	1	50.0	0			0			2	1	50.0	4	2	50.0
Kenya	12	6	50.0	25	11	44.0	22	11	50.0	22	12	54.5	81	40	49.4
Korea (North)	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	0			1	1	100.0	3	3	100.0
Korea (South)	217	148	68.2	260	182	70.0	277	191	69.0	293	172	58.7	1,047	693	66.2
Kuwait	4	2	50.0	0			0			1	0	0.0	5	2	40.0
Kyrgyzstan	0			1	0	0.0	0			2	0	0.0	3	0	0.0
Lebanon	1	0	0.0	4	4	100.0	5	2	40.0	8	5	62.5	18	11	61.1
Lesotho	0			1	0	0.0	1	1	100.0	0			2	1	50.0
Liberia	0			1	0	0.0	4	1	25.0	4	1	25.0	9	2	22.2
Lithuania	2	2	100.0	1	1	100.0	2	2	100.0	1	0	0.0	6	5	83.3
Macao	0			0			0			1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0
Malaysia	2	1	50.0	3	3	100.0	1	1	100.0	2	2	100.0	8	7	87.5
Malta	1	0	0.0	1	1	100.0	0			0			2	1	50.0
Mauritania	0			0			1	0	0.0	0			1	0	0.0
Mexico	16	2	12.5	17	3	17.6	22	3	13.6	22	5	22.7	77	13	16.9
Moldova	0			0			2	1	50.0	2	0	0.0	4	1	25.0
Morocco	0			0			1	0	0.0	0			1	0	0.0
Myanmar	0			0			0			2	0	0.0	2	0	0.0
Nepal	3	2	66.7	3	2	66.7	6	4	66.7	8	5	62.5	20	13	65.0

Netherlands	5	3	60.0	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	2	2	100.0	9	7	77.8
New Zealand	11	9	81.8	10	6	60.0	5	5	100.0	5	5	100.0	31	25	80.6
Nicaragua	1	1	100.0	4	1	25.0	0	0		1	0	0.0	6	2	33.3
Niger	1	0	0.0	0	0		0	0		0	0		1	0	0.0
Nigeria	66	26	39.4	76	26	34.2	91	34	37.4	95	24	25.3	328	110	33.5
Norway	1	1	100.0	3	3	100.0	0	0		5	1	20.0	9	5	55.6
Occupied Palestinian Territory	1	1	100.0	0	0		1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0	3	1	33.3
Pakistan	10	2	20.0	17	6	35.3	8	2	25.0	15	6	40.0	50	16	32.0
Panama, Republic of	3	1	33.3	1	0	0.0	2	1	50.0	1	0	0.0	7	2	28.6
Papua New Guinea	0	0		0	0		0	0		1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Peru	9	4	44.4	10	3	30.0	7	1	14.3	7	2	28.6	33	10	30.3
Philippines	2,301	1,242	54.0	2,185	1,170	53.5	2,294	1,263	55.1	2,634	1,377	52.3	9,414	5,052	53.7
Pitcairn Islands	0	0		0	0		1	1	100.0	0	0		1	1	100.0
Poland	24	11	45.8	16	8	50.0	15	6	40.0	15	4	26.7	70	29	41.4
Portugal	1	1	100.0	0	0		0	0		0	0		1	1	100.0
Romania	8	2	25.0	15	10	66.7	22	12	54.5	13	7	53.8	58	31	53.4
Russian Federation	31	7	22.6	45	23	51.1	47	18	38.3	34	6	17.6	157	54	34.4
Serbia and Montenegro	0	0		6	4	66.7	1	0	0.0	4	0	0.0	11	4	36.4
Sierra Leone	8	2	25.0	3	1	33.3	5	3	60.0	3	0	0.0	19	6	31.6
Singapore	8	6	75.0	5	4	80.0	5	5	100.0	7	5	71.4	25	20	80.0
Slovakia	4	3	75.0	3	2	66.7	2	2	100.0	1	0	0.0	10	7	70.0
Somalia, Democratic Republic	0	0		0	0		1	0	0.0	0	0		1	0	0.0
South Africa	28	22	78.6	31	23	74.2	30	22	73.3	23	17	73.9	112	84	75.0
Spain	3	3	100.0	2	1	50.0	7	5	71.4	1	1	100.0	13	10	76.9
Sri Lanka	0	0		1	0	0.0	2	1	50.0	0	0		3	1	33.3
St. Kitts and Nevis	0	0		0	0		1	1	100.0	0	0		1	1	100.0
St. Lucia	2	1	50.0	4	1	25.0	3	1	33.3	1	0	0.0	10	3	30.0
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	5	3	60.0	1	1	100.0	2	1	50.0	1	1	100.0	9	6	66.7

Table 8, continued

Country of Education	NCLEX-RN® Examination: January 1 - December 31, 2003											
	Jan 1-Mar 31, 2003		Apr 1-Jun 30, 2003		Jul 1-Sep 30, 2003		Oct 1-Dec 31, 2003		Total Jan 1-Dec 31, 2003			
	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%
Sudan	0		0		0		2	1	2	1	50.0	50.0
Surinam	1	100.0	0		2	0	0		3	1	33.3	33.3
Sweden	4	75.0	5	60.0	1	0	2	100.0	12	8	66.7	66.7
Switzerland	2	50.0	0		0		1	0	3	1	33.3	33.3
Taiwan (Republic of China)	29	51.7	24	37.5	42	61.9	51	29	146	79	54.1	54.1
Tajikistan	0		0		1	100.0	0		1	1	100.0	100.0
Tanzania, United Republic of	2	0	3	33.3	2	0	1	1	8	2	25.0	25.0
Thailand	10	40.0	7	57.1	15	8	11	5	43	21	48.8	48.8
Tonga	0		0		1	0	7	5	8	5	62.5	62.5
Trinidad and Tobago	8	62.5	7	28.6	5	2	0		20	9	45.0	45.0
Tunisia	0		0		1	0	0		1	0	0.0	0.0
Turkey	2	0	3	100.0	4	3	2	1	11	7	63.6	63.6
Turkmenistan	0		0		0		1	0	1	0	0.0	0.0
Uganda	1	0	2	50.0	3	2	1	0	7	3	42.9	42.9
Ukraine	8	50.0	8	62.5	6	5	19	4	41	18	43.9	43.9
United Arab Emirates	1	100.0	0		2	1	1	1	4	3	75.0	75.0
United Kingdom	85	67.1	74	67.6	78	59	96	58	333	224	67.3	67.3
Uzbekistan	1	0	1	0	6	1	13	3	21	4	19.0	19.0
Venezuela	1	0	0		1	1	1	0	3	1	33.3	33.3
Vietnam	1	0	1	100.0	0		0		2	1	50.0	50.0
Virgin Islands, British	0		0		1	0	0		1	0	0.0	0.0
Western Samoa	1	0	0		0		0		1	0	0.0	0.0
Zambia	4	50.0	3	100.0	3	0	0		10	5	50.0	50.0
Zimbabwe	2	100.0	3	66.7	5	3	6	5	16	12	75.0	75.0
Totals	3,838	2,165	3,908	2,230	4,268	2,461	4,475	2,408	16,489	9,264	53.8	56.2

Figure 1. NCLEX-RN® Pass Rates for First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates



*Apr 1994 Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins. Passing Standard -0.4766 logits.

**Oct 1995 Passing Standard change from -0.4766 to -0.42 logits.

***Apr 1998 Passing Standard change from -0.42 to -0.35 logits.

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Figure 2. NCLEX-RN® Pass Rates for All Candidates

The chart displays the percentage of candidates who passed the NCLEX-RN exam from 1994 to 2003. The y-axis represents the 'Percent Passing' from 0 to 100. The x-axis represents the 'Year Administered'. For each year, four bars represent the pass rates for January (blue), April (maroon), July (yellow), and October (light blue). The pass rates generally show a downward trend over the period, with a notable dip in 1998.

Year Administered	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
*1994	79	85	83	64
**1995	75	81	80	57
1996	73	79	81	59
**1998	74	74	76	54
1999	68	74	77	52
2000	68	69	75	52
2001	66	69	77	54
2002	68	69	76	58
2003	69	74	77	55

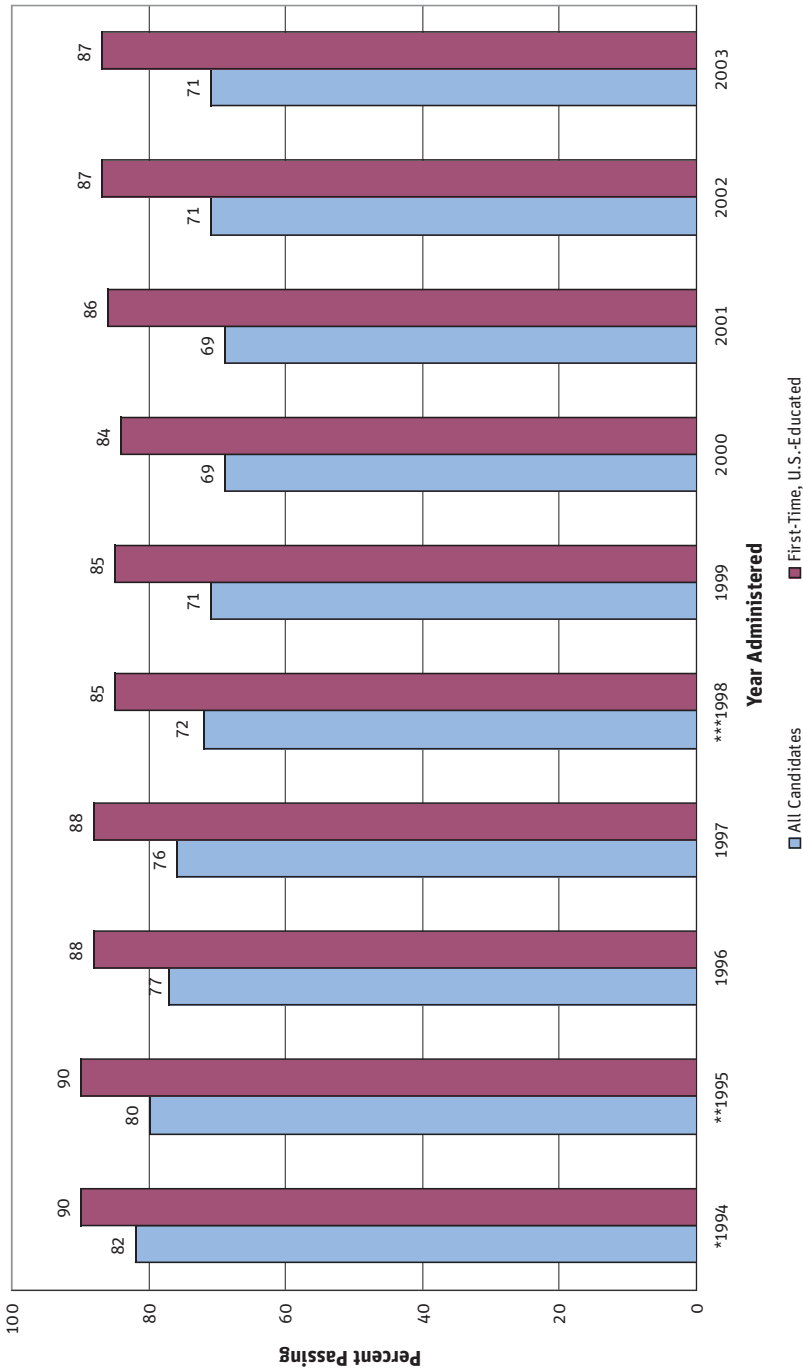
* Apr 1994 Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins. Passing Standard -0.4766 logits.

**Oct 1995 Passing Standard change from -0.4766 to -0.42 logits.

***Apr 1998 Passing Standard change from -0.42 to -0.35 logits.

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Figure 3. NCLEX-RN® Annual Pass Rates, April 1994 - December 2003



*Apr 1994 Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins. Passing Standard -0.4766 logits.

**Oct 1995 Passing Standard change from -0.4766 to -0.42 logits.

***Apr 1998 Passing Standard change from -0.42 to -0.35 logits.

Figure 4. NCLEX-RN® Volume for First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates

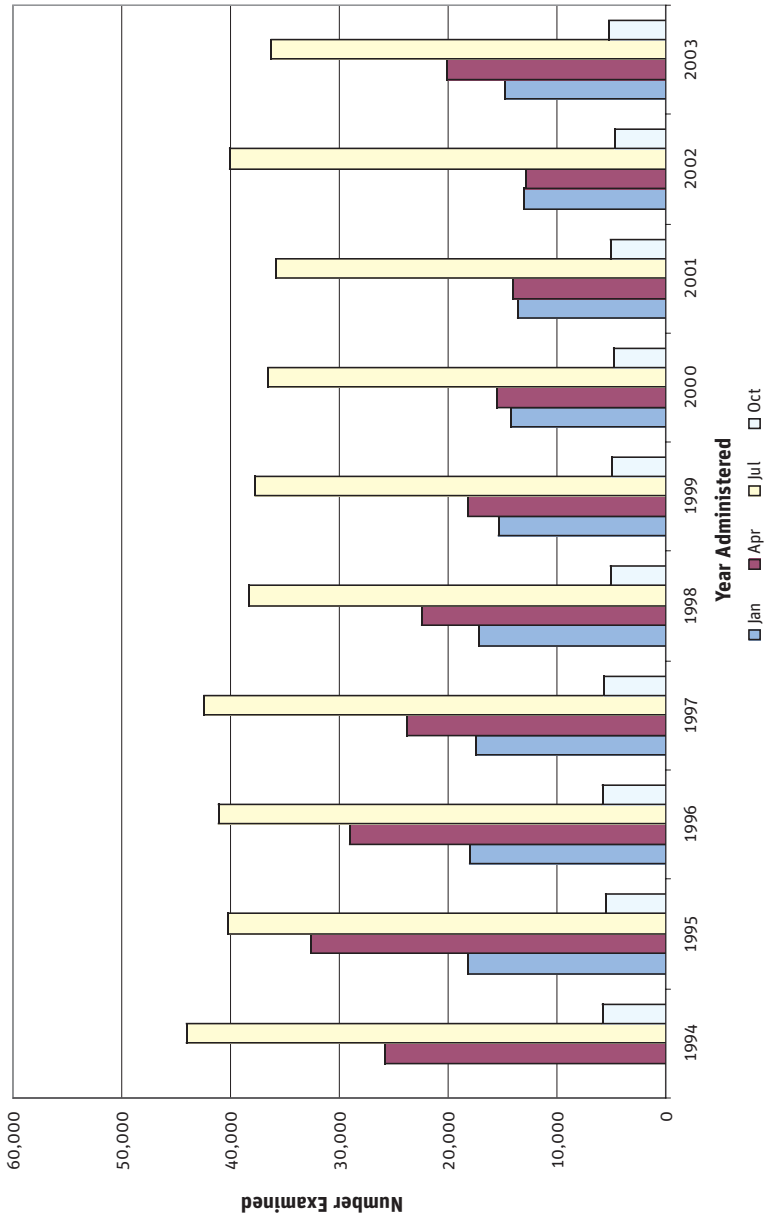


Figure 5. NCLEX-RN® Volume for All Candidates

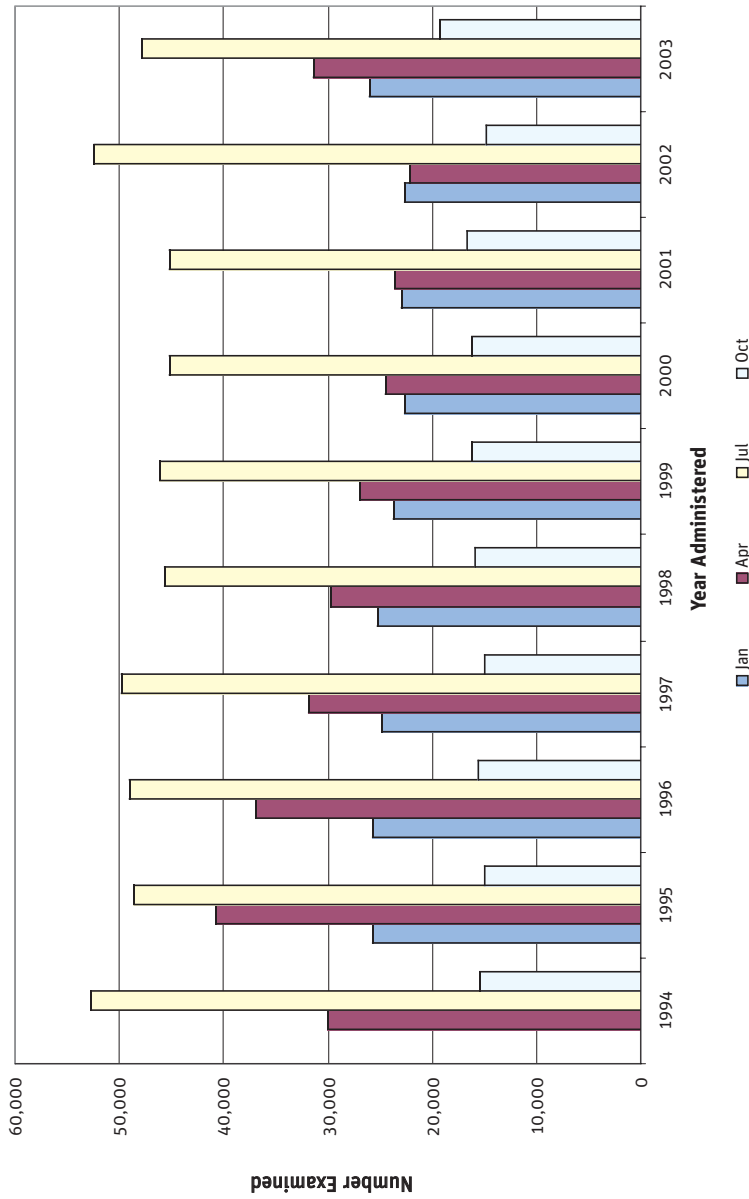


Figure 6. NCLEX-RN® Annual Volume, April 1994 - December 2003

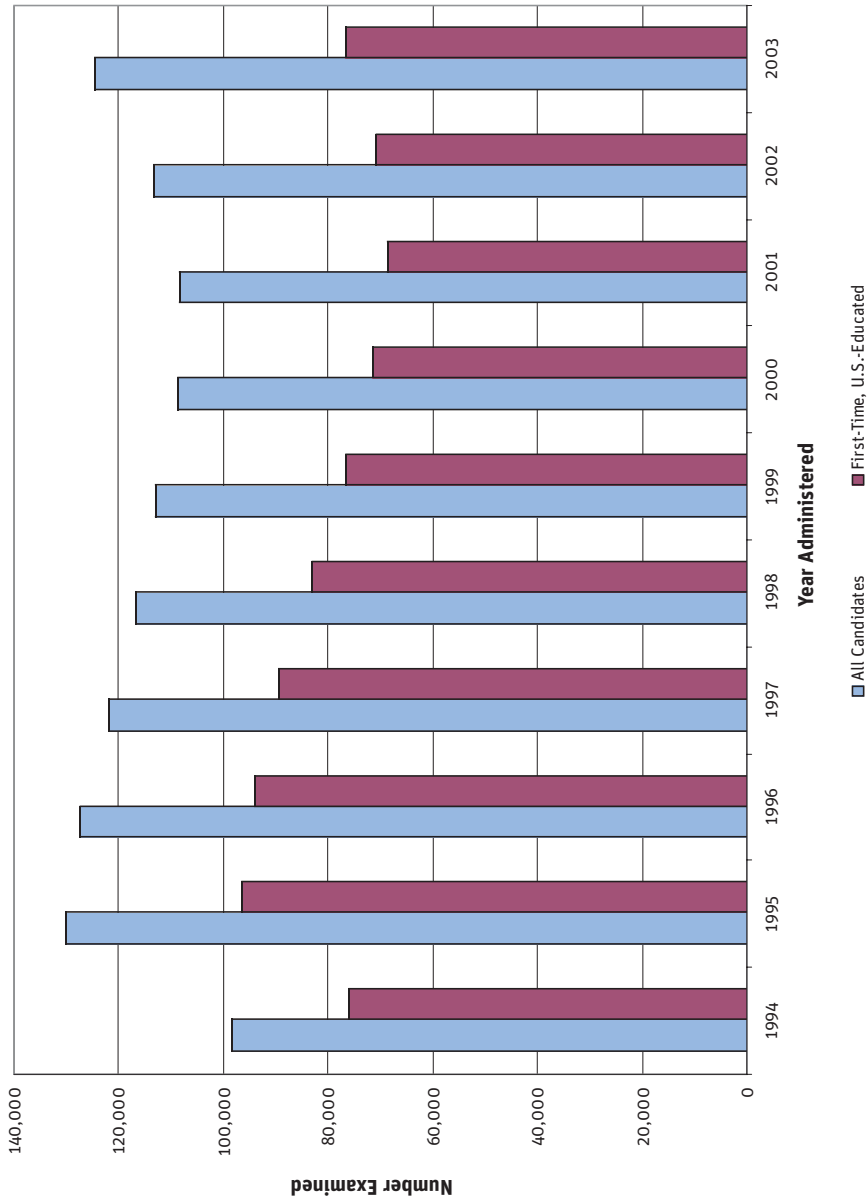


Table 9. Candidates Taking the NCLEX-PN® Examination, by Type of Candidate

Type of Candidate	NCLEX-PN® Examination: January 1 - December 31, 2003					
	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2003	Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2003	July 1 - Sep 30, 2003	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2003	Total Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2003	
	Candidates	Candidates	Candidates	Candidates	Candidates	%
	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	%
First-Time, U.S.-Educated	8,904	7,498	17,759	9,914	44,075	88.2
Repeat, U.S.-Educated	2,221	2,151	1,991	2,051	8,414	45.7
First-Time, Internationally Educated	549	521	566	562	2,198	52.8
Repeat, Internationally Educated	445	477	482	485	1,889	29.4
All Candidates	12,119	10,647	20,798	13,012	56,576	78.5

Table 10. Summary Statistics for First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates

	NCLEX-PN®	January-December 2003
Passing Standard		-0.47 logits ¹
Estimated Decision Consistency ²		0.92
Average Test Length ³		111 items
Percent of Candidates Taking the Minimum Number of Items		60.1%
Percent of Candidates Taking the Maximum Number of Items		14.0%
Average Testing Time		1 hour, 54 minutes
Percent of Candidates Taking the Maximum Amount of Time		0.7%

¹The NCLEX-PN scale uses logits as the unit of measurement. Logits is short for log-odds-units. These units have no inherent meaning with regard to nursing content and, in fact, have an arbitrary zero point. Logits are practical because the probability of a correct response can easily be computed when the person's ability and the item's difficulty are known. Typically, the logit range on the NCLEX-PN scale is from -2.00 (easy items or low ability people) to 2.00 (difficult items or high ability people).

²Estimated Decision Consistency is an indicator of reliability. Conceptually, it is the proportion of pass/fail decisions that would remain the same if the same population were retested immediately after their first test (assuming no learning or fatigue effects) using a different set of items.

³NCLEX-PN examinations consist of 85 to 205 items. The standard amount of allotted testing time is 5 hours.

Table 11. First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-PN® Examination

Jurisdiction	NCLEX-PN® Examination: January 1 - December 31, 2003						Total Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2003								
	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2003	Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2003	Jul 1 - Sep 30, 2003	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2003	% Candidates Passed	%	Candidates Passed	%							
Alabama	329	286	86.9	86	66	76.7	317	279	88.0	300	248	82.7	1,032	879	85.2
Alaska	6	6	100.0	7	7	100.0	2	2	100.0	4	4	100.0	19	19	100.0
American Samoa	0	0		3	2	66.7	2	0	0.0	2	1	50.0	7	3	42.9
Arizona	166	155	93.4	146	137	93.8	241	229	95.0	114	107	93.9	667	628	94.2
Arkansas	223	199	89.2	59	55	93.2	335	310	92.5	197	175	88.8	814	739	90.8
California	1,045	800	76.6	897	655	73.0	1,178	894	75.9	938	721	76.9	4,058	3,070	75.7
Colorado	128	120	93.8	160	155	96.9	333	318	95.5	74	65	87.8	695	658	94.7
Connecticut	4	4	100.0	52	52	100.0	5	4	80.0	9	9	100.0	70	69	98.6
Delaware	0	0		17	16	94.1	106	94	88.7	6	4	66.7	129	114	88.4
District of Columbia	206	121	58.7	279	148	53.0	195	107	54.9	354	225	63.6	1,034	601	58.1
Florida	636	557	87.6	594	492	82.8	814	716	88.0	592	473	79.9	2,636	2,238	84.9
Georgia	280	258	92.1	265	242	91.3	276	253	91.7	311	280	90.0	1,132	1,033	91.3
Guam	0	0		0	0		0	0		1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0
Hawaii	19	14	73.7	25	25	100.0	47	45	95.7	50	47	94.0	141	131	92.9
Idaho	68	65	95.6	15	13	86.7	79	71	89.9	11	11	100.0	173	160	92.5
Illinois	157	143	91.1	101	86	85.1	628	583	92.8	267	249	93.3	1,153	1,061	92.0
Indiana	337	314	93.2	133	124	93.2	462	439	95.0	264	240	90.9	1,196	1,117	93.4
Iowa	139	125	89.9	188	184	97.9	600	566	94.3	125	109	87.2	1,052	984	93.5
Kansas	110	100	90.9	95	90	94.7	395	360	91.1	42	34	81.0	642	584	91.0
Kentucky	196	175	89.3	228	202	88.6	165	141	85.5	114	89	78.1	703	607	86.3
Louisiana	353	303	85.8	215	195	90.7	224	200	89.3	159	133	83.6	951	831	87.4
Maine	1	1	100.0	0	0		13	13	100.0	0	0		14	14	100.0
Maryland	14	11	78.6	21	16	76.2	152	148	97.4	64	61	95.3	251	236	94.0
Massachusetts	22	20	90.9	7	6	85.7	598	544	91.0	34	29	85.3	661	599	90.6
Michigan	208	202	97.1	202	192	95.0	469	456	97.2	141	137	97.2	1,020	987	96.8
Minnesota	277	247	89.2	261	243	93.1	586	547	93.3	135	111	82.2	1,259	1,148	91.2
Mississippi	136	109	80.1	11	8	72.7	410	365	89.0	82	74	90.2	639	556	87.0

Missouri	165	150	90.9	63	52	82.5	599	561	93.7	248	223	89.9	1,075	986	91.7
Montana	23	22	95.7	16	15	93.8	73	67	91.8	8	8	100.0	120	112	93.3
Nebraska	53	42	79.2	69	61	88.4	162	153	94.4	50	47	94.0	334	303	90.7
Nevada	1	1	100.0	8	8	100.0	19	19	100.0	3	3	100.0	31	31	100.0
New Hampshire	7	6	85.7	63	60	95.2	55	51	92.7	14	12	85.7	139	129	92.8
New Jersey	93	85	91.4	48	41	85.4	278	267	96.0	212	198	93.4	631	591	93.7
New Mexico	16	16	100.0	24	24	100.0	89	87	97.8	19	19	100.0	148	146	98.6
New York	482	402	83.4	420	348	82.9	1,211	1,077	88.9	888	737	83.0	3,001	2,564	85.4
North Carolina	169	159	94.1	55	53	96.4	485	467	96.3	144	137	95.1	853	816	95.7
North Dakota	46	45	97.8	27	25	92.6	65	59	90.8	3	3	100.0	141	132	93.6
Northern Mariana Islands	0			0			0			0			0		
Ohio	387	343	88.6	295	269	91.2	1,132	1,063	93.9	569	529	93.0	2,383	2,204	92.5
Oklahoma	230	198	86.1	136	118	86.8	629	571	90.8	173	155	89.6	1,168	1,042	89.2
Oregon	16	16	100.0	63	63	100.0	173	171	98.8	47	46	97.9	299	296	99.0
Pennsylvania	347	312	89.9	297	251	84.5	451	418	92.7	573	527	92.0	1,668	1,508	90.4
Puerto Rico	10	3	30.0	11	1	9.1	15	3	20.0	9	0	0.0	45	7	15.6
Rhode Island	2	2	100.0	2	2	100.0	18	15	83.3	9	7	77.8	31	26	83.9
South Carolina	105	100	95.2	99	96	97.0	279	268	96.1	115	104	90.4	598	568	95.0
South Dakota	3	2	66.7	4	4	100.0	85	83	97.6	15	15	100.0	107	104	97.2
Tennessee	178	159	89.3	401	358	89.3	234	193	82.5	530	490	92.5	1,343	1,200	89.4
Texas	961	848	88.2	599	544	90.8	1,267	1,169	92.3	1,004	903	89.9	3,831	3,464	90.4
Utah	76	76	100.0	129	127	98.4	314	308	98.1	64	63	98.4	583	574	98.5
Vermont	4	4	100.0	3	3	100.0	105	105	100.0	9	8	88.9	121	120	99.2
Virgin Islands	2	1	50.0	0			3	2	66.7	2	2	100.0	7	5	71.4
Virginia	134	104	77.6	325	280	86.2	551	453	82.2	361	269	74.5	1,371	1,106	80.7
Washington	131	118	90.1	170	162	95.3	333	325	97.6	270	263	97.4	904	868	96.0
West Virginia	68	66	97.1	6	5	83.3	264	245	92.8	98	90	91.8	436	406	93.1
Wisconsin	117	104	88.9	77	64	83.1	184	169	91.8	83	75	90.4	461	412	89.4
Wyoming	18	17	94.4	21	19	90.5	54	52	96.3	4	4	100.0	97	92	94.8
Totals	8,904	7,736	86.9	7,498	6,464	86.2	17,759	16,105	90.7	9,914	8,574	86.5	44,075	38,879	88.2

Table 12. First-Time, Internationally Educated Candidates Taking the NCLEX-PN® Examination, by Country of Education

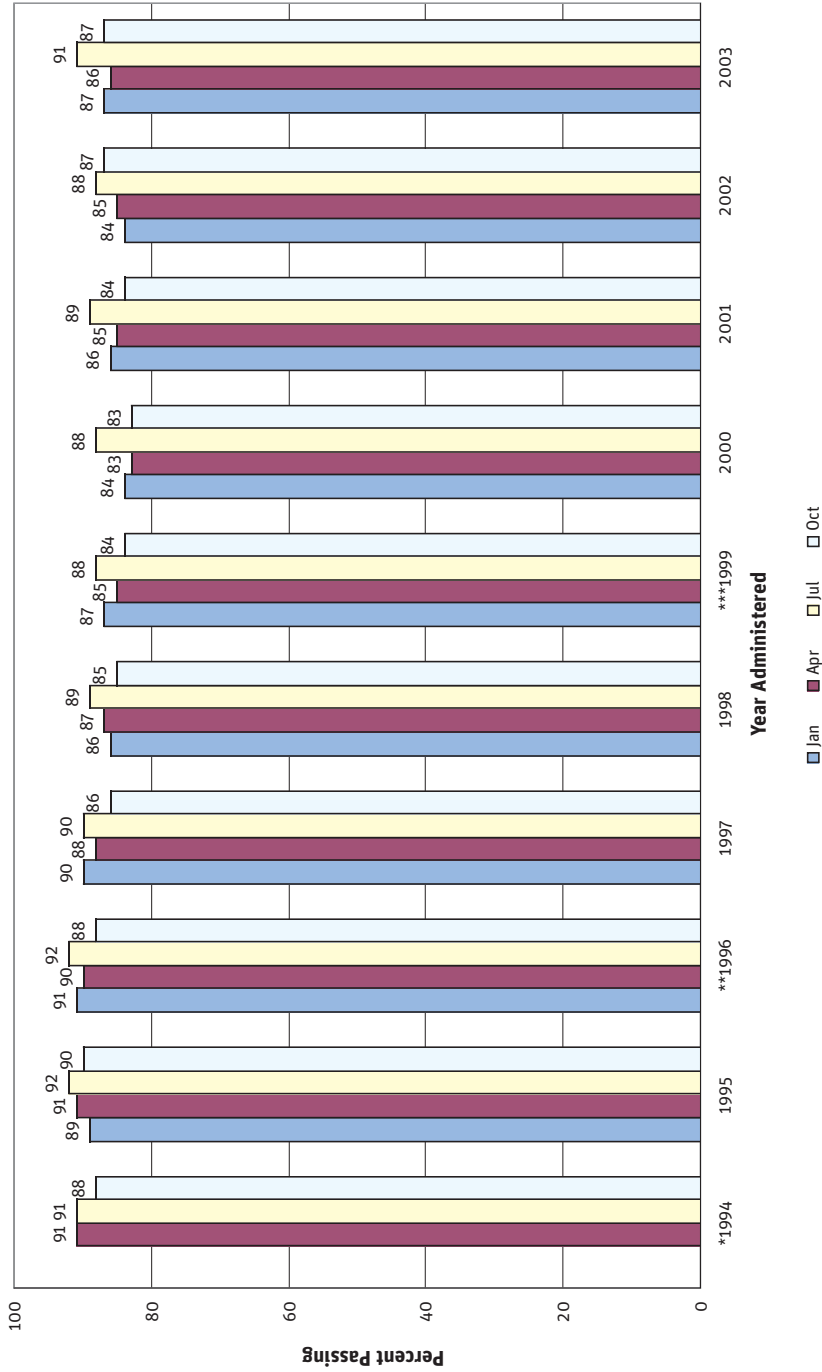
Country of Education	NCLEX-PN® Examination: January 1 - December 31, 2003						Total Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2003 Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed		
	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2003 Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed	Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2003 Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed	Jul 1 - Sep 30, 2003 Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed			Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2003 Candidates Passed	% Candidates Passed
Albania	0		0		0		2	1 50.0	2	1 50.0
Antigua and Barbuda	0		0		1	100.0	0		1	1 100.0
Argentina	0		1	100.0	0		0		1	1 100.0
Armenia	2	1 50.0	0		5	1 20.0	8	0 0.0	15	2 13.3
Australia	0		0		0		1	1 100.0	1	1 100.0
Azerbaijan	1	0 0.0	0		0		0		1	0 0.0
Bangladesh	0		0		1	100.0	0		1	1 100.0
Belize	1	0 0.0	0		0		0		1	0 0.0
Belarus	1	1 100.0	2	0 0.0	2	1 50.0	3	2 66.7	8	4 50.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	1 16.7	3	3 100.0	4	3 75.0	2	2 100.0	15	9 60.0
Botswana	0		0		1	1 100.0	0		1	1 100.0
Brazil	2	1 50.0	0		0		0		2	1 50.0
Bulgaria	1	0 0.0	0		0		1	0 0.0	2	0 0.0
Cameroon, Free Republic of	1	0 0.0	0		0		0		1	0 0.0
Canada	11	7 63.6	9	8 88.9	11	8 72.7	8	6 75.0	39	29 74.4
China, Peoples Republic of	28	15 53.6	12	7 58.3	42	17 40.5	28	13 46.4	110	52 47.3
Colombia	1	0 0.0	1	1 100.0	0		1	0 0.0	3	1 33.3
Congo, The Democratic Republic of	0		0		0		1	0 0.0	1	0 0.0
Costa Rica	1	1 100.0	0		0		0		1	1 100.0
Croatia	0		1	0 0.0	1	1 100.0	0		2	1 50.0
Cuba	4	1 25.0	2	0 0.0	7	3 42.9	5	3 60.0	18	7 38.9
Dominica	0		1	0 0.0	0		0		1	0 0.0
Dominican Republic	0		0		0		2	1 50.0	2	1 50.0
Ecuador	0		0		0		1	1 100.0	1	1 100.0
Egypt, Arab Republic of	1	1 100.0	1	1 100.0	1	1 100.0	0		3	3 100.0

El Salvador	2	1	50.0	1	0	100.0	3	0	0.0	3	1	33.3	9	2	22.2
Eritrea	0			0			0			1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0
Ethiopia	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	3	2	66.7	1	0	0.0	6	4	66.7
Fiji Islands	1	1	100.0	0			0			0			1	1	100.0
Gambia, The	0			0			1	0	0.0	0			1	0	0.0
Germany (United)	2	2	100.0	0			0			1	1	100.0	3	3	100.0
Ghana	1	0	0.0	4	1	25.0	1	1	100.0	2	1	50.0	8	3	37.5
Greece	1	1	100.0	0			0			1	0	0.0	2	1	50.0
Grenada and the Grenadines	0			0			0			1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0
Guatemala	0			0			2	1	50.0	0			2	1	50.0
Guyana	4	1	25.0	3	1	33.3	6	3	50.0	1	1	100.0	14	6	42.9
Haiti	62	8	12.9	28	4	14.3	27	3	11.1	44	6	13.6	161	21	13.0
Honduras	0			1	0	0.0	0			0			1	0	0.0
Hong Kong	2	2	100.0	1	0	0.0	2	1	50.0	0			5	3	60.0
Hungary	1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0	0			1	0	0.0	3	0	0.0
India	34	15	44.1	43	19	44.2	37	18	48.6	53	25	47.2	167	77	46.1
Indonesia	1	1	100.0	0			0			2	1	50.0	3	2	66.7
Iran	1	1	100.0	3	2	66.7	3	1	33.3	3	1	33.3	10	5	50.0
Israel	0			0			1	0	0.0	1	1	100.0	2	1	50.0
Italy	0			2	1	50.0	0			0			2	1	50.0
Jamaica	2	0	0.0	2	2	100.0	2	1	50.0	2	2	100.0	8	5	62.5
Japan	0			3	3	100.0	2	1	50.0	1	1	100.0	6	5	83.3
Kazakhstan	0			1	0	0.0	0			0			1	0	0.0
Kenya	5	3	60.0	8	5	62.5	5	3	60.0	7	5	71.4	25	16	64.0
Korea (North)	0			0			1	1	100.0	0			1	1	100.0
Korea (South)	2	1	50.0	2	1	50.0	3	0	0.0	4	1	25.0	11	3	27.3
Kuwait	0			0			0			1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Latvia	1	1	100.0	0			0			0			1	1	100.0
Lebanon	0			1	0	0.0	0			0			1	0	0.0
Liberia	0			0			0			1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0
Macao	2	1	50.0	0			0			0			2	1	50.0

Table 12, continued

NCLEX-PN® Examination: January 1 - December 31, 2003									
Country of Education	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2003 Candidates Passed %	Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2003 Candidates Passed %	Jul 1 - Sep 30, 2003 Candidates Passed %	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2003 Candidates Passed %	Total Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2003 Candidates Passed %	Total Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2003 Candidates Passed %			
Malawi	0	0	1	1	100.0	2	1	50.0	
Marshall Islands	0	1	1	100.0	0	0	1	100.0	
Mexico	1	1	100.0	4	1	25.0	4	1	25.0
Moldova	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Myanmar	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	
Nepal	0	0	0	0	0.0	2	2	100.0	
Netherlands	1	1	100.0	0	0	0	1	100.0	
Nigeria	20	12	60.0	17	11	64.7	18	11	61.1
Occupied Palestinian Territory	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	0	0	0
Pakistan	5	2	40.0	2	0	0.0	0	0	0
Peru	1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0	2	1	50.0
Philippines	291	191	65.6	310	184	59.4	318	181	56.9
Pitcairn Islands	0	0	0	1	1	100.0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	2	1	50.0	3	1	33.3
Portugal	1	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romania	1	1	100.0	5	3	60.0	1	0	0.0
Russian Federation	11	5	45.5	8	5	62.5	7	2	28.6
Serbia and Montenegro	1	0	0.0	3	1	33.3	4	2	50.0
Sierra Leone	1	0	0.0	3	0	0.0	2	0	0.0
Slovakia	1	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solomon Islands	1	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somalia, Democratic Republic	1	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa	0	0	0	1	0	100.0	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0

Figure 7. NCLEX-PN® Pass Rates for First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates

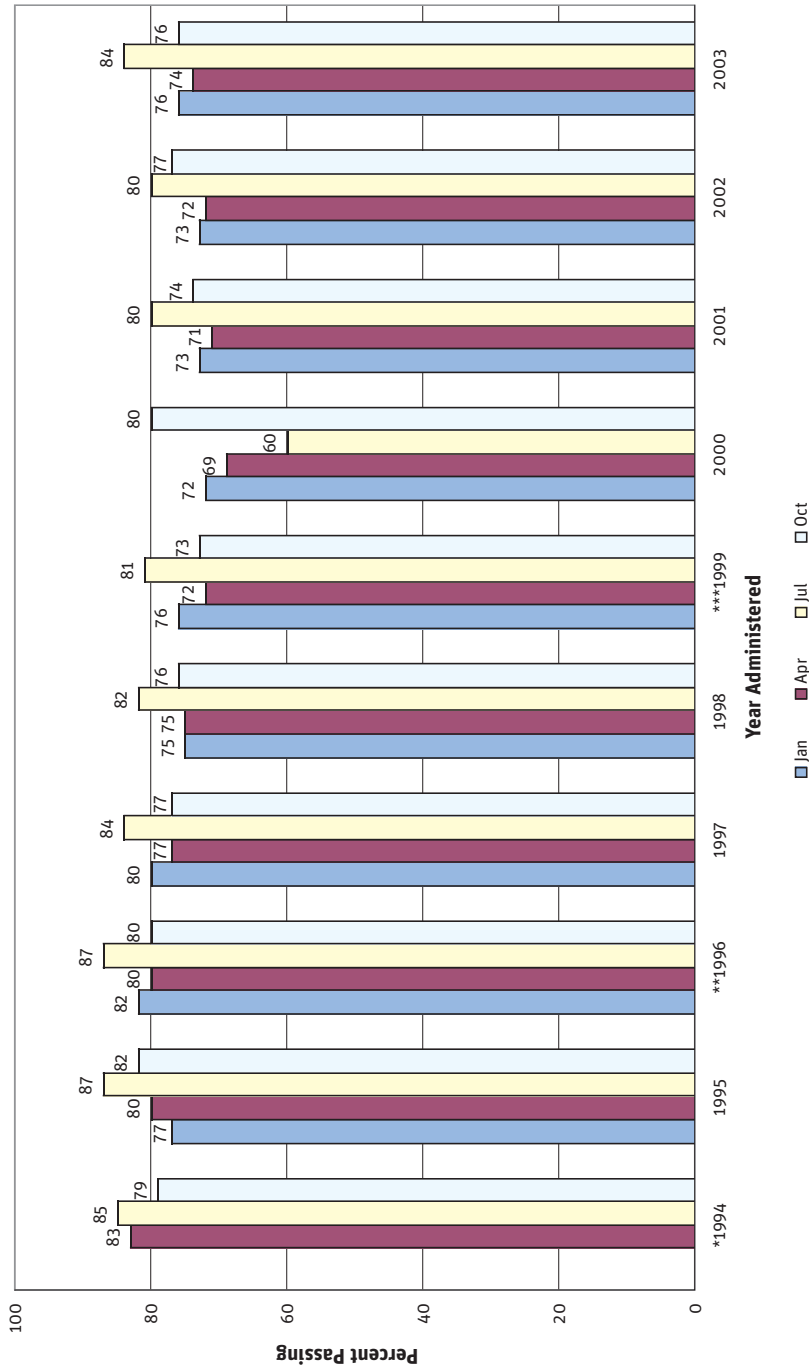


*Apr 1994 Passing standard -.56 logits and Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins.

**Oct 1996 Passing standard change from -.56 to -.51 logits.

***Apr 1999 Passing standard change from -.51 to -.47 logits.

Figure 8. NCLEX-PN® Pass Rates for All Candidates



*Apr 1994 Passing standard -.56 logits and Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins.

**Oct 1996 Passing standard change from -.56 to -.51 logits.

***Apr 1999 Passing standard change from -.51 to -.47 logits.

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Figure 9. NCLEX-PN® Annual Pass Rates, April 1994 - December 2003

Year Administered	First-Time, U.S.-Educated	All Candidates
*1994	90	83
1995	91	82
**1996	91	83
1997	89	80
1998	87	78
***1999	86	76
2000	85	74
2001	86	75
2002	87	76
2003	88	79

*Apr 1994, Passing standard -.56 logits and Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) begins.

**Oct 1996 Passing standard change from -.56 to -.51 logits.

***Apr 1999 Passing standard change from -.51 to -.47 logits.

National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. (NCSBN) ♦ 2005

Figure 10. NCLEX-PN® Volume for First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates

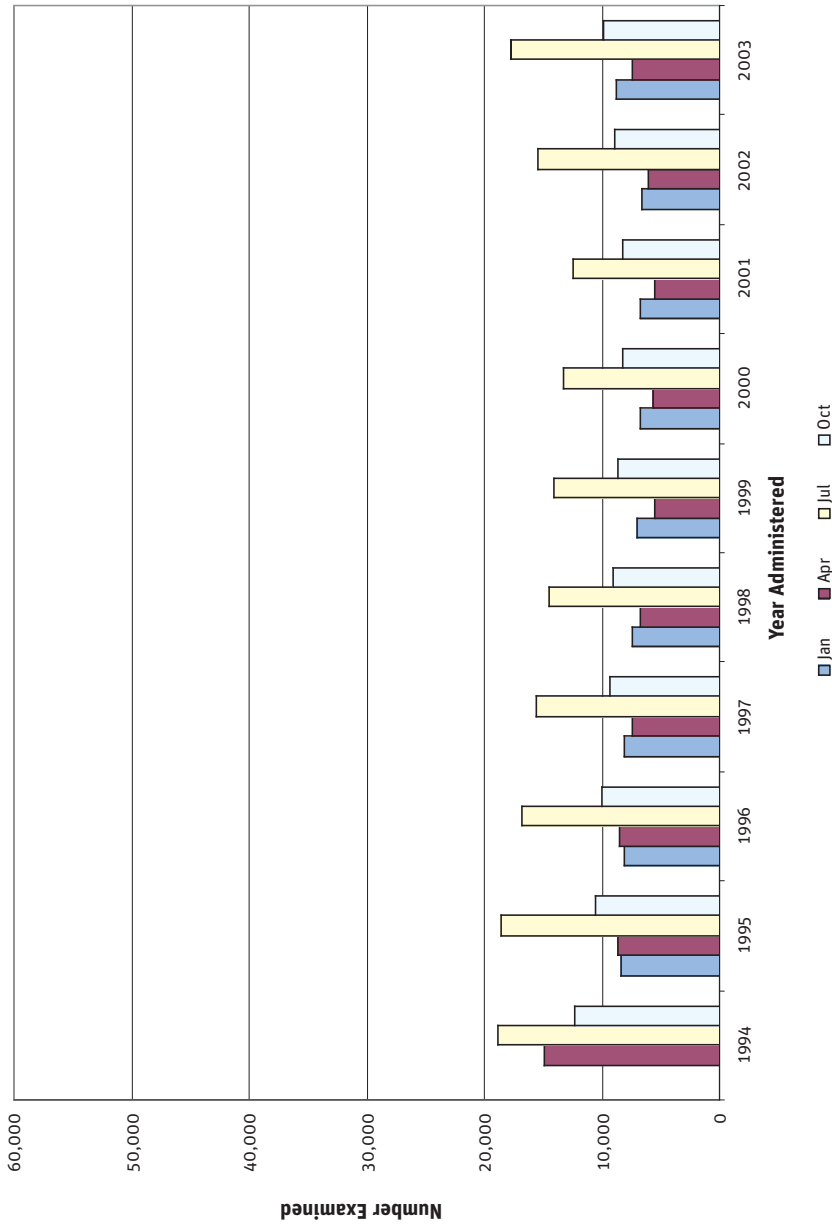


Figure 11. NCLEX-PN® Volume for All Candidates

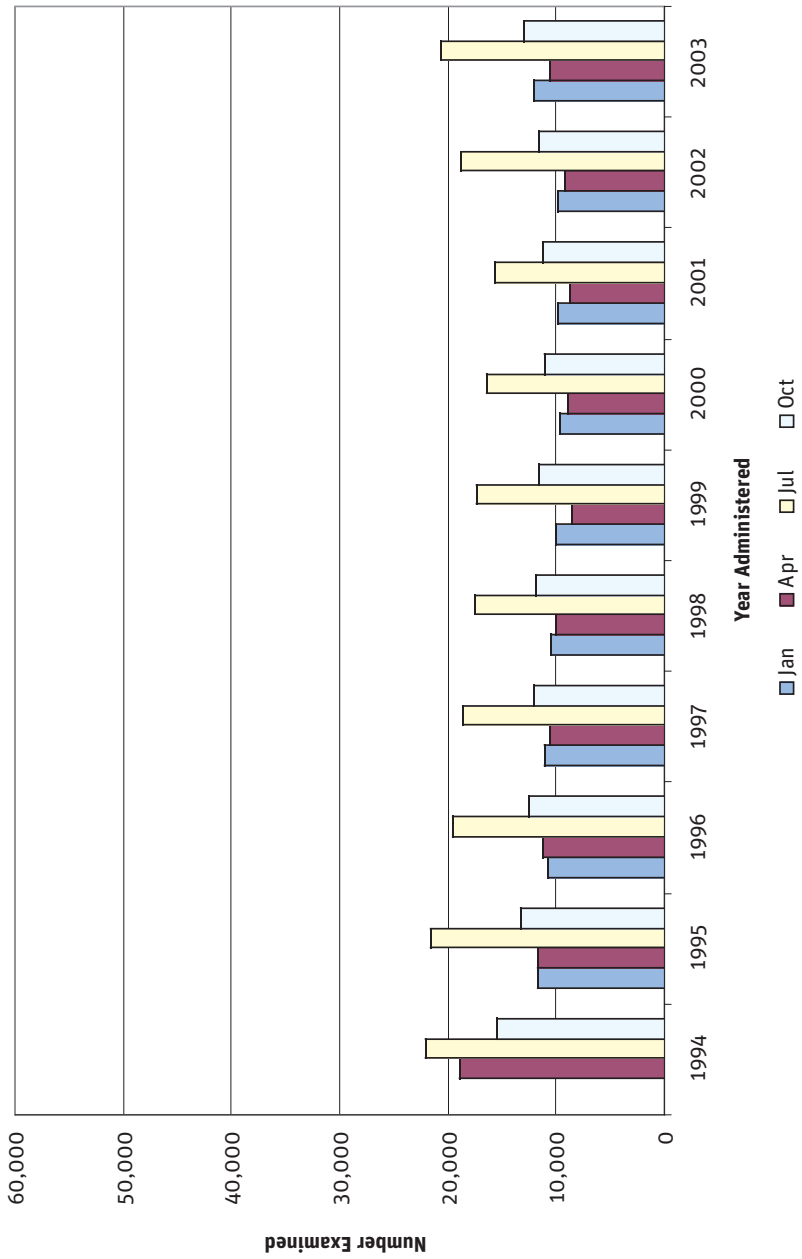
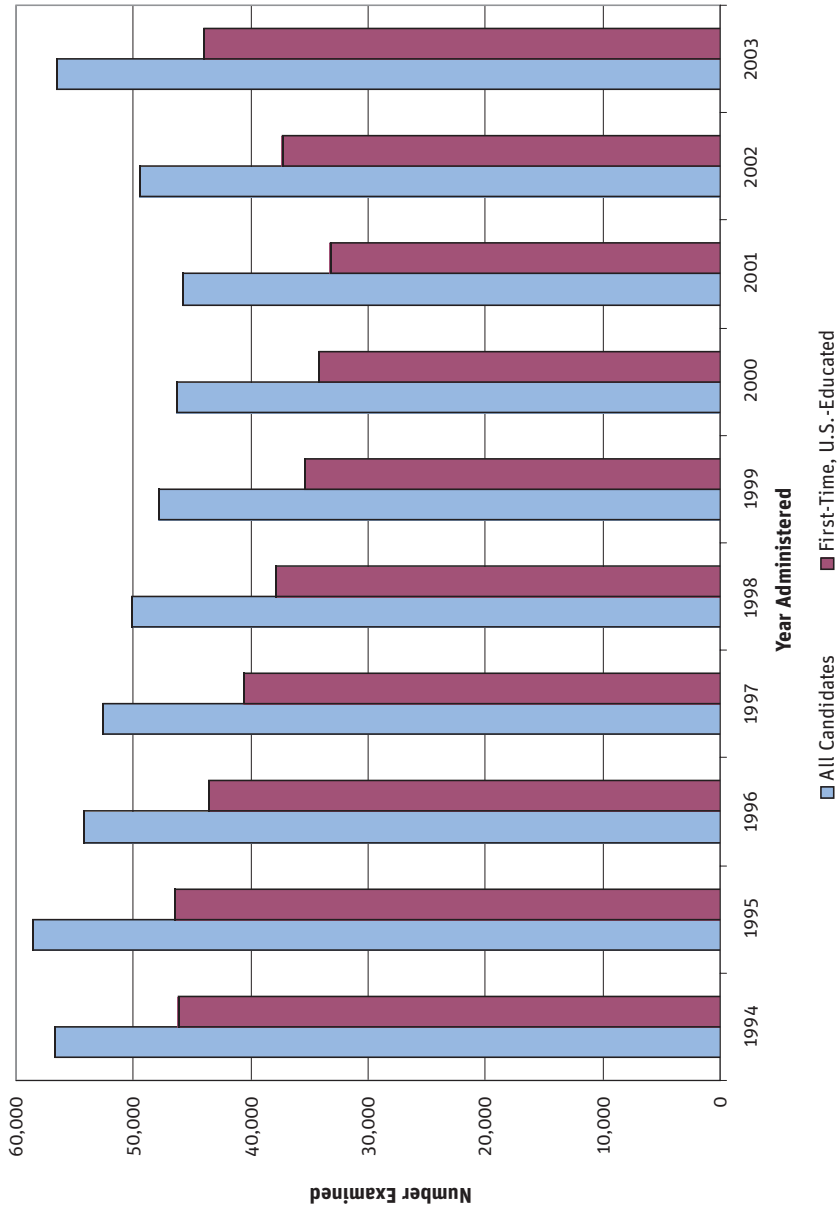


Figure 12. NCLEX-PN® Annual Volume, April 1994 - December 2003





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