Multiple steps must be completed before a nurse can safely enter the profession. These steps typically include:

- Graduating from a recognized nursing program,
- Meeting the specific requirements of the state board of nursing, and
- Passing the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) NCLEX® examination for registered nurses (RNs) or licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs).

Because passing the NCLEX is usually the final step in the nurse licensure process, the number of people passing the NCLEX ("pass rate") is a good indicator of how many new nurses are entering the profession in the U.S.

These tables provide the most recent data on the NCLEX testing volume and the associated pass rates. In addition, NCSBN has listed the top five countries where nurses were educated outside the U.S. and who are taking the NCLEX examination in hopes of obtaining nursing employment in the U.S.

For more detailed NCLEX Examination statistics, including historical pass rates, see Exam Psychometrics under the NCLEX Examinations section of NCSBN’s website, www.ncsbn.org.

For general information about the NCLEX, visit the NCLEX Examinations section of NCSBN’s website.

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### 2010 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RN Total</td>
<td>49,595 (76.12%)</td>
<td>52,766 (77.66%)</td>
<td>68,602 (75.44%)</td>
<td>26,812 (60.51%)</td>
<td>197,775 (74.18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Time</td>
<td>39,683 (84.79%)</td>
<td>43,865 (86.00%)</td>
<td>56,649 (81.97%)</td>
<td>15,093 (66.89%)</td>
<td>155,290 (82.37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeat</td>
<td>9,912 (41.43%)</td>
<td>8,901 (36.56%)</td>
<td>11,953 (44.48%)</td>
<td>11,719 (45.40%)</td>
<td>42,485 (42.36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.-Educated</td>
<td>40,613 (34.28%)</td>
<td>45,473 (35.54%)</td>
<td>61,420 (31.16%)</td>
<td>20,091 (71.94%)</td>
<td>167,597 (82.24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internationally Educated</td>
<td>8,982 (34.74%)</td>
<td>7,293 (28.56%)</td>
<td>7,182 (26.54%)</td>
<td>6,721 (26.35%)</td>
<td>30,178 (29.43%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2010 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)

| 1st | 30,244 Philippines | 2,529 Philippines | 2,227 Philippines | 2,009 Philippines | 9,789 Philippines |
| 2nd | 310 Kenya | 256 India | 245 India | 249 India | 1,033 India |
| 3rd | 283 India | 230 South Korea | 180 South Korea | 185 South Korea | 896 South Korea |
| 4th | 131 Canada | 128 Canada | 169 Canada | 143 Canada | 571 Canada |
| 5th | 104 Puerto Rico | 52 Nigeria | 74 Nigeria | 75 Nigeria | 274 Nigeria |

1 Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.
2 Percentage = percentage of candidates passing the examination (Pass Rate).

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**Table Notes:**

- Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.
- Percentage = percentage of candidates passing the examination (Pass Rate).

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