



## QUARTERLY EXAMINATION STATISTICS

### Volume, Pass Rates & First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates' Countries

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 Web site, [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org).

For general information about the NCLEX, visit the NCLEX Examinations section of NCSBN's Web site.

2008 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates<sup>1</sup>

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2008 Total
<b>RN</b>					
<b>Total</b>	46,854 (70.5%)	52,511 (70.7%)	78,337 (74.5%)	32,056 (55.5%)	209,758 (69.9%)
First-Time	36,578 (79.4%)	40,132 (80.6%)	64,094 (81.5%)	18,324 (65.1%)	159,128 (78.9%)
Repeat	10,276 (39.0%)	12,379 (38.6%)	14,243 (44.3%)	13,732 (42.6%)	50,630 (41.4%)
U.S.-Educated	35,025 (81.0%)	39,234 (82.6%)	65,159 (82.6%)	18,967 (65.3%)	158,385 (80.6%)
Internationally Educated	11,829 (39.3%)	13,277 (35.7%)	13,178 (35.6%)	13,089 (36.9%)	51,373 (36.8%)
<b>PN</b>					
<b>Total</b>	18,046 (76.8%)	15,452 (72.1%)	26,496 (80.8%)	17,839 (72.2%)	77,833 (76.2%)
First-Time	14,775 (84.6%)	11,839 (82.5%)	22,914 (87.5%)	13,866 (81.5%)	63,394 (84.6%)
Repeat	3,271 (41.8%)	3,613 (37.6%)	3,582 (38.1%)	3,973 (39.7%)	14,439 (39.3%)
U.S.-Educated	17,320 (78.5%)	14,608 (74.3%)	25,699 (82.3%)	17,013 (74.1%)	74,640 (77.9%)
Internationally Educated	726 (35.6%)	844 (32.8%)	797 (34.3%)	826 (31.9%)	3,193 (33.6%)

<sup>1</sup>Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.

Percentage = percentage of candidates passing the examination (Pass Rate).

2008 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates:  
Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)<sup>1</sup>

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2008 YTD
<b>1st</b>	Philippines 4,686	Philippines 5,151	Philippines 5,242	Philippines 5,667	Philippines 20,746
<b>2nd</b>	India 950	India 795	India 729	India 584	India 3,058
<b>3rd</b>	South Korea 486	South Korea 448	South Korea 372	South Korea 330	South Korea 1,636
<b>4th</b>	Canada 157	Cuba 337	Cuba 220	Cuba 207	Cuba 883
<b>5th</b>	Cuba 119	Canada 190	Canada 173	Canada 165	Canada 685

<sup>1</sup>In this table, the count of first-time internationally educated candidates includes both RNs and PNs.

### Contacts

Statistical questions about NCLEX:  
Ada Woo, PhD  
Psychometrician  
NCLEX® Examinations Department  
866.293.9600 or [nclexinfo@ncsbn.org](mailto:nclexinfo@ncsbn.org)

Media Inquiries:  
Dawn Kappel, MA  
Director, Marketing and Communications  
312.525.3667 or [dkappel@ncsbn.org](mailto:dkappel@ncsbn.org)



**NCSBN**

National Council of State Boards of Nursing

111 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2900  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312.525.3600 | +1.312.525.3600 (international calls)  
312.279.1032 (fax) | [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)