The Need for Licensure Compacts: Highlights of the APRN and NLC Survey Findings

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Outline

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Results
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   b. APRN Compact Survey
4. Discussion & Conclusion
Increases access to care by allowing nurses to practice seamlessly in all NLC states with a multistate license.

Grants advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) the option to obtain a multistate license, similar to the NLC.
Study Purpose

• Evaluate the need for cross-border nursing practice (RNs, LPNs/LVNs, and APRNs)

• Gather nurses' views on the NLC and APRN Compact licensure models
General Research Methods

• These are aggregate, descriptive summaries of state-based Qualtrics surveys conducted by NCSBN in partnership with nursing regulatory bodies (NRBs) that were, at the time of the survey, interested in passing NLC or APRN Compact legislation in their state.

• The survey samples included all nurses holding an active license for an appropriate survey group with a valid email account registered with the participating NRBs.
Data Analysis

- Standard descriptive analysis was performed on fixed-response items using SAS.
- Responses to open-ended, text-based questions were classified using natural language processing and supervised learning in Python.
NLC Survey

• Survey Participants: 66,054 nurses holding an active RN or LPN/LVN license in five states [Kansas, Alaska, Nevada, Vermont, and Minnesota]

• Overall Response Rate: 24%
NLC Survey Research Questions

• Did the responding nurses see a need to provide nursing services across state borders?
• What were the work experiences of nurses who have already obtained a multistate license?
• What are responding nurses’ opinions about adopting the NLC?
Results: Out of State License and Practice

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<tr>
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<th>Yes n (%)</th>
<th>No n (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hold an active license out of survey state ($N = 65,556$)</td>
<td>28,753</td>
<td>36,803</td>
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<td></td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>56.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practiced out of state in the past 2 years ($N = 58,312$)</td>
<td>26,291</td>
<td>32,021</td>
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<td>45.1</td>
<td>54.9</td>
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At the time of the survey, 44% of the respondents held an active nursing license in other state(s) and 45% had provided out-of-state nursing services in the preceding two years.
**Multistate License: Practice and Benefits of Usage**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Held an active Multistate License ((N = 46,609))</td>
<td>10,585 22.7</td>
<td>36,024 77.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practiced under the Multistate License ((N = 10,536))</td>
<td>7,136 67.7</td>
<td>3,400 32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit of Multistate License ((N = 9,512))</td>
<td>8,677 91.2</td>
<td>835 8.8</td>
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68% of the nurses who obtained a multistate license from their home state already used it and 91% of them reported that the multistate license benefited their nursing practice.
Among the 50,672 responding nurses who expressed their support or opposition, 95% were supportive of the NLC.

Support was consistent across states and demographic characteristics of nurses (e.g., state residency, union membership, etc.)
Reasons for Opposing or Supporting the Adoption of the NLC

Opposing \((n=1,797)\)
- Lowers standards and risks patient safety (39.0\%, \(n = 700\))
- Weakens nurse bargaining power (29.7\% \(n = 534\))

Supporting \((n=7,328)\)
- Offers new employment opportunities, particularly around state borders (40.2\%, \(n = 2,944\))
- Makes the process of applying for and maintaining licenses easier, cheaper, more convenient, and flexible (23.8\%, \(n = 1,744\))
Compacts and Patient Safety

[NLC] Lowers standards and risks patient safety ($n = 700$)

[NLC] Promotes patient safety by relieving nursing shortages, and creating uniform standards across states ($n = 945$)
The annual discipline rates of nurses holding multistate licenses are lower than those of their colleagues holding single-state licenses.

APRN Compact Survey

• Survey Participants: 8,453 nurses holding an active APRN license within five states [Wyoming, Maryland, Arizona, Montana, and West Virginia]
• Overall Response Rate: 26%
APRN Compact Research Questions

• Did APRNs in these jurisdictions experience a need to provide APRN services across state borders?

• What are responding APRNs’ stated interests and concerns regarding the APRN Compact?

• Are APRNs across these five states interested in applying for an APRN Compact license if the opportunity becomes available?
## Need for Out-of-State Practice and Out-of-State License

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<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hold an active license out of survey state ($N = 8,109$)</td>
<td>3,732</td>
<td>4,377</td>
<td>46.02</td>
<td>53.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to practice out of state in the past 2 years ($N = 8,008$)</td>
<td>5,392</td>
<td>2,616</td>
<td>67.33</td>
<td>32.67</td>
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APRNs’ Views on the APRN Compact Model

Among the 7,409 responding APRNs who specifically expressed their support or opposition, 96% reported a favorable opinion of the APRN Compact.
Reasons for Opposing or Supporting the Adoption of the APRN Compact

**Opposing** ($n = 258$)
- 2,080 hours of experience requirement ($n = 109$)
- Lack of APRN representation, and concerns from professional organizations ($n = 33$)

**Supporting** ($n = 5,528$)
- Increased access to care and better patient safety ($n = 1,725$)
- Reduced costs of license applications ($n = 1,604$)
Plans for APRN Compact License Application

When asked about a future APRN Compact license application, \textbf{84\%} (n = 3,443) of respondents indicated their interest in applying for it once it becomes available.
Limitations

• Based on online surveys voluntarily submitted by respondents.
• Most NLC surveys were conducted before the outbreak of the pandemic.
Need Compacts

Public

Nursing Regulatory Bodies

Nurses
Conclusion

• There is a clear need for cross-state nursing practice and the NLC multistate license has benefited nursing practice.

• The majority of responding nurses would welcome the NLC and APRN Compact and reasoned that the compacts would increase patient access to high-quality care.
Participating NRBs

NLC Survey
- Kansas (2018)
- Nevada (2019)
- Alaska (2019)
- Vermont (2019)
- Minnesota (2022)

APRN Compact Survey
- Wyoming (2021)
- Maryland (2022)
- Arizona (2022)
- West Virginia RN (2022)
- Montana (2023)
Thank you!