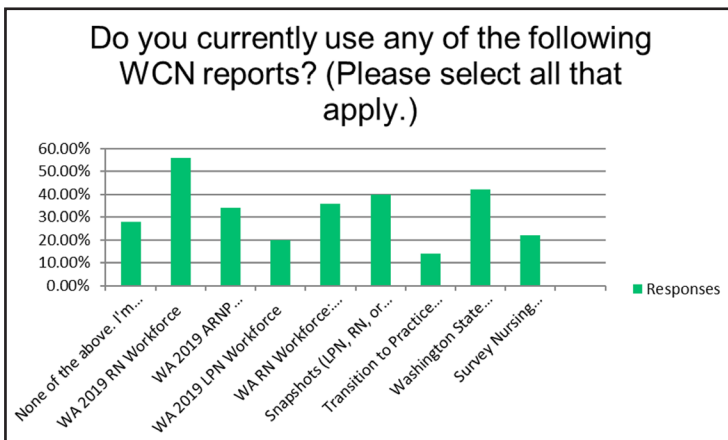


Summary of Results: WCN Research Strategic Planning Survey 2021

Workforce research provides an accurate picture of Washington's nursing workforce to inform health policy and prepare for the future of nursing. In May 2021, WCN's research team launched a survey requesting stakeholder feedback on existing WCN research and gather input to guide our future research strategy. After sending the survey to approximately 300 stakeholders, we received a total of 51 responses. The stakeholders identified their practice setting as public health nurses, school nurses, nurse executives, staff nurses, APRNs, nurse educators/faculty, and health-related settings such as community health leaders and nursing regulators.

One aim of the survey is a better understanding of which WCN reports are used by our stakeholders. The top report selected (56%) was the [Washington State's 2019 Registered Nurse Workforce Survey Data Report](#) by the [UW Center for Health Workforce Studies](#). The second most used report was the [2017 Washington State Nursing Student Diversity Report](#) (42%). Several respondents (40%) also use the WCN Snapshots that provide a two-page overview of the [LPN](#), [RN](#), and [ARNP](#) workforce. Unfortunately, the survey revealed that 28% of the stakeholders who responded were not familiar or did not use the WCN reports. The majority of WCN's stakeholders accessed the reports via the WCN website, the WCN newsletter or email, and workforce presentations.



The second aim was to obtain stakeholders input about what workforce data they would like to see collected in the topics of;

- Supply (the number of nurses available to work)
- Demand (employment of nurses)
- Nursing Education (information about schools of nursing)
- Diversity (information about race, ethnicity, and other attributes)

The first emerging theme is to expand diversity data on students, faculty, and the overall workforce including, race/ethnicity categories and demographic data such as degree level or educational path. A second theme is to identify the workforce by geographical location in the state and by specialty or practice setting such as school nurses, acute care, or long-term care, as examples. Stakeholders are also interested in the nursing pipeline by requesting data on the capacity of nursing programs, how many applicants are accepted and turned away, barriers to admission into programs, and graduation rates. Additional research topics proposed included retirement data of the workforce to project demand, a better understanding of nurse retention or turnover, and data on community health nurses. The survey feedback was extensive, and WCN is reviewing each topic thoroughly.

[WCN does provide some data](#) on several of the topics listed above. Additionally, the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission also publishes a nursing education report on their website research page. However, this survey confirms that stakeholders are still missing key nursing workforce data to inform their agendas. The WCN research team plans to use survey responses to evaluate the current use of available nursing workforce data and guide future research. A big thank you to our stakeholders for your participation in this survey and your valuable input to inform WCN's research strategic plan. Based on information gathered in the survey, WCN will move forward with creating a research plan and releasing it later this year so stay tuned for more information.

Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS): Working Together to Support Safe Practice

Research indicates one out of every 10 nurses experiences difficulty with alcohol or drug use over the course of his/her career. Fortunately, effective treatment and ongoing support can save a nurse's career and even his/her life.



The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission recognizes the importance of providing early recognition and treatment options for nurses who may be struggling with alcohol or drug use. The commission supports monitored treatment of nurses with substance use disorder so that they can return to or continue to practice their profession in a manner that safeguards the public. Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS) is the commission's approved substance use monitoring program for nurses, which provides early intervention, referral to treatment, and recovery monitoring services.

Click [HERE](#) or contact WHPS at 360-236-2880 or whps@doh.wa.gov to learn more and discuss voluntary participation.