



Nursing Education Clinical Placements: A Review of Washington Consortium Data 2022-2023



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Summary of Key Findings

Using combined data from four Washington consortiums, a total of 25,031 nursing clinical placements were coordinated for Washington-based nursing schools for the academic year 2022-2023. Total clinical placements include clinical rotations and preceptor placements. Most consortium placements were in acute care or hospital settings. The consortiums coordinate nursing clinical placements across the state with at least 38 nursing programs using one of these consortiums to support clinical placements.

While some of the consortiums place nursing students from out-of-state nursing schools, most placements were from schools located in Washington (97%). Most of the clinical placements took place on the day shift starting at 7 a.m. and occurred during the week, with fewer placements on the weekends. There are opportunities for placements during evening or night shift hours, on the weekends, and during the months that do not follow a quarterly or semester calendar, such as summer months and December. The data is limited for non-acute care settings and placements not coordinated by the consortiums.

All Consortiums Statewide Overview					
	CPNW	My Clinical Exchange	Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium	Student Max	Total
Total WA Placements	11,330	4,746	7,296	1,659	25,031
Total clinical rotation placements	9,781	4,341	7,118	1,375	22,615
Total preceptor placements	1,549	356	178	284	2,367
Total WA education facilities	31	17	4	3	55
Total healthcare facilities	42	30	33	15	120
WA Clinical Placement Initiative Regions	Eastern WA, King, Central State, North Sound, South Sound, Southwest	King, South Sound, Eastern WA	North Sound	Southwest	

*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Sources: CPNW, My Clinical Exchange, NNCPC, Student Max: Academic year 2022-2023.



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Background

Nursing programs report challenges in coordinating clinical hours and clinical placements for students to meet program requirements. In a national survey, 69% of nursing programs surveyed report they are unable to enroll more students due to insufficient availability of clinical sites, and 40% of those schools cite this as the most important reason for turning away qualified applicants (American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN], 2022). In a 2022-2023 Washington Nursing Education Survey, 52% of pre-licensure programs reported clinical sites are not adequate for their program, and, in the same year, 3,588 qualified applicants were not admitted into pre-licensure nursing programs (Washington Board of Nursing [WABON] Education dashboard, 2024).

The Washington Administrative Code 246-840-541 outlines areas of clinical experiences for prelicensure registered nursing education programs such as medical surgical nursing and mental health nursing or community and public health clinical experiences for baccalaureate programs (WABON, 2021). AACN provides a list of clinical expectations and competencies to guide programs in designing clinical experiences for students with periodic updates to reflect current evidence and includes providing experiences across the lifespan, direct and indirect care experiences, and recent additions to include face-to-face or virtual encounters (AACN, 2024). There is little evidence or guidance to suggest a set number of clinical hours results in better exam pass rates (Cipher, LeFlore, Urban, & Mancini, 2021), and as clinical placement challenges intensified during the Covid pandemic, it is timely to explore creative approaches to the traditional clinical placement model.

Introduction

Nursing clinical placement activities are a collaborative effort between education programs and healthcare facilities and are time-consuming for both sides. Thus, many programs have a clinical coordinator on staff or contract with clinical consortiums to support their clinical experience placements for nursing students. Little is known about existing nursing student's placements for clinical experiences. The Washington Center for Nursing aims to better understand this information to inform clinical placements in Washington State and provide insight into opportunities. This report was developed by the Washington Center for Nursing in collaboration with four Washington consortiums: Clinical Placements Northwest (CPNW), Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium (NNCPC), My Clinical Exchange with MultiCare Health System, and Student Max Consortium.

The report was designed to analyze existing consortium data to determine:

- 1) the number of nursing student placements by consortiums across Washington,
- 2) provide insight into clinical site locations and types of healthcare facilities for nursing student placements,
- 3) provide a summary of Washington's nursing clinical consortium data and,
- 4) identify the adequacy of placements and gaps.

This report provides a summary of nursing clinical placements for all nursing programs placing students using one of the four consortiums listed with clinical experiences in Washington state. The main sources of data came from the consortium placement data collected by CPNW, My Clinical Exchange, NNCPC, and Student Max.

Data for this report has been informed from consortiums used for nursing clinical placements in the academic year starting August 2022 to July 2023. The data is categorized into three types of placements: 1) clinical rotation placements, 2) preceptor placements, and 3) total placements that combine the sum of clinical rotation and preceptor placements. Clinical rotations include observations and any clinical rotation. A preceptor placement includes one-on-one preceptor or practicum placements for a single student assigned to a specific preceptor for a pre-determined number of hours. It is important to note that one placement does not equal one student, as a student can be placed multiple times to meet multiple clinical experiences. Data collection across the four consortiums was inconsistent, and summaries were organized by the consortium in their respective sections. More details on the data are provided in the Methods and Limitations sections.

Washington Center for Nursing would like to thank the four clinical consortiums for their partnership and collaboration: CPNW, My Clinical Exchange, NNCPC, and Student Max. Your contributions were vital in informing this important workforce project.

Overview of Consortiums

Washington has four recognized clinical placement consortiums that coordinate nursing clinical placements for Washington nursing programs. All but one of the consortiums, NNCPC, places students from out-of-state programs and non-nursing clinical experiences. The data in this report only includes nursing clinical placements for students attending a Washington program.

A total of 25,031 clinical placements were coordinated in the 2022-2023 academic year for nursing students attending a Washington program who utilize a consortium service. There was a total of 2,367 preceptor placements, 38 total schools working with a consortium, and 103 healthcare facilities identified as working with consortiums to place nursing students for their clinical experiences.

Table 1. Total Clinical Placements by Consortium

All Consortiums Statewide Overview					
	CPNW	My Clinical Exchange	Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium	Student Max	Total
Total WA Placements	11,330	4,746	7,296	1,659	25,031
Total clinical rotation placements	9,781	4,341	7,118	1,375	22,615
Total preceptor placements	1,549	356	178	284	2,367
Total WA education facilities	31	17	4	3	55
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WA Clinical Placement Initiative Regions	Eastern WA, King, Central State, North Sound, South Sound, Southwest	King, South Sound, Eastern WA	North Sound	Southwest	

*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Sources: CPNW, My Clinical Exchange, NNCPC, Student Max: Academic year 2022-2023.

CPNW coordinates with 31 Washington schools and 42 healthcare facilities for nursing clinical placements. The smallest number of placements for Washington is by Student Max, serving three schools in Washington with a total of 1,659 clinical placements for nursing students. The consortium with the highest total number of clinical placements was CPNW, which coordinates 45% of the total Washington placements, followed by NNCPC with 29% of the total placements.

While several schools partner with consortiums to coordinate clinical placements, schools continue to coordinate many of their own placements, especially for placements other than the hospital setting. CPNW primarily coordinates placements for their 31 schools in acute care settings, and CPNW does not coordinate all clinical placements for their member schools. It is

also important to note that CPNW and My Clinical Exchange have some overlap in their nursing clinical placements, as My Clinical Exchange is a member of CPNW.

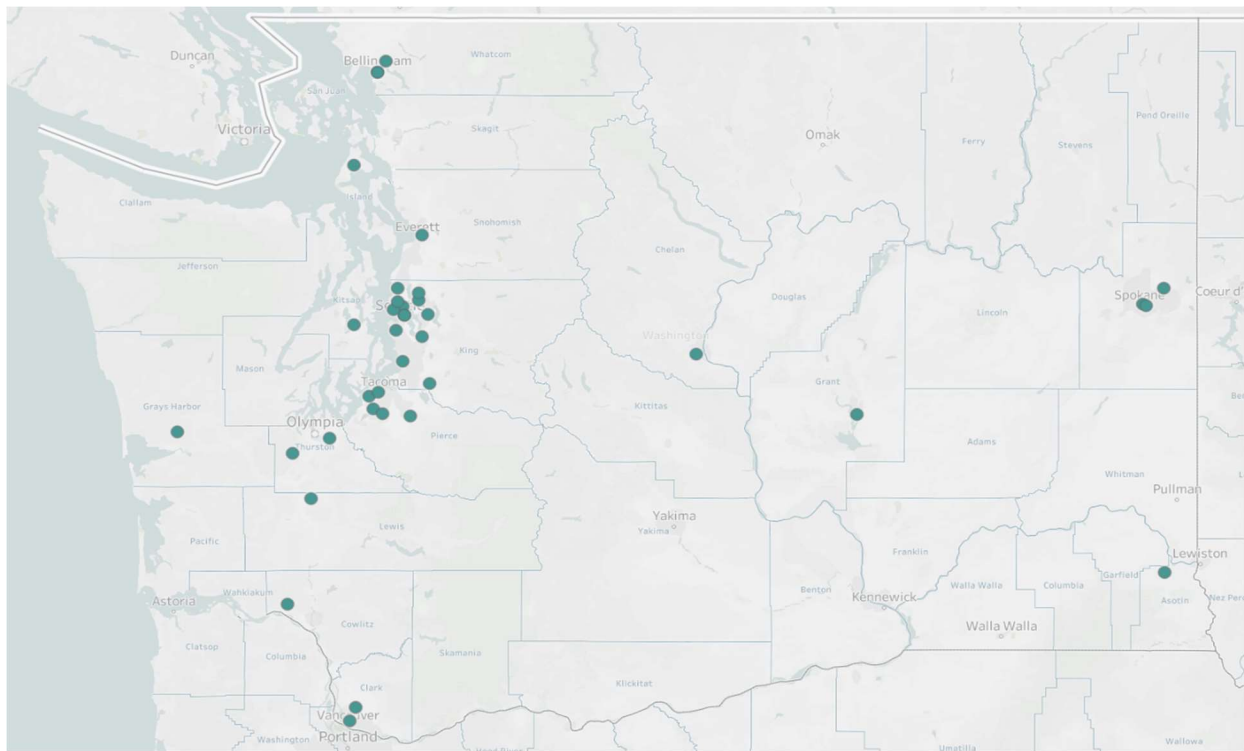
The data shows that NNCPC coordinates 7,296 total clinical placements for four nursing schools and is large compared to the other consortiums that support more schools. This is likely due to NNCPC coordinating all types of clinical rotations and preceptor placements for their member schools, including long-term care, community, and school nursing placements.

Table 2. Total Consortium Clinical Placements by Program Type

Total Placements by Program Type					
	CPNW	My Clinical Exchange	NNCPC	Student Max	Total
Total AD-RN placements	6,293	100	6,981	701	14,075
Total BSN placements	3,921	unknown	-	-	3,921
Total PN placements	755	unknown	278	-	1,033
Total RN refresher placements	12	1	-	-	13
Total Veteran PN to BSN placements	78	unknown	-	-	78
Total LPN-BSN placements	72	unknown	-	-	72
Total Accelerated BSN placements	183	unknown	-	-	183
Total Advanced Practice placements	16	unknown	-	13	29
Total RN-BSN placements	-	unknown	37	-	37

*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Sources: CPNW, My Clinical Exchange, NNCPC, Student Max: Academic year 2022-2023.

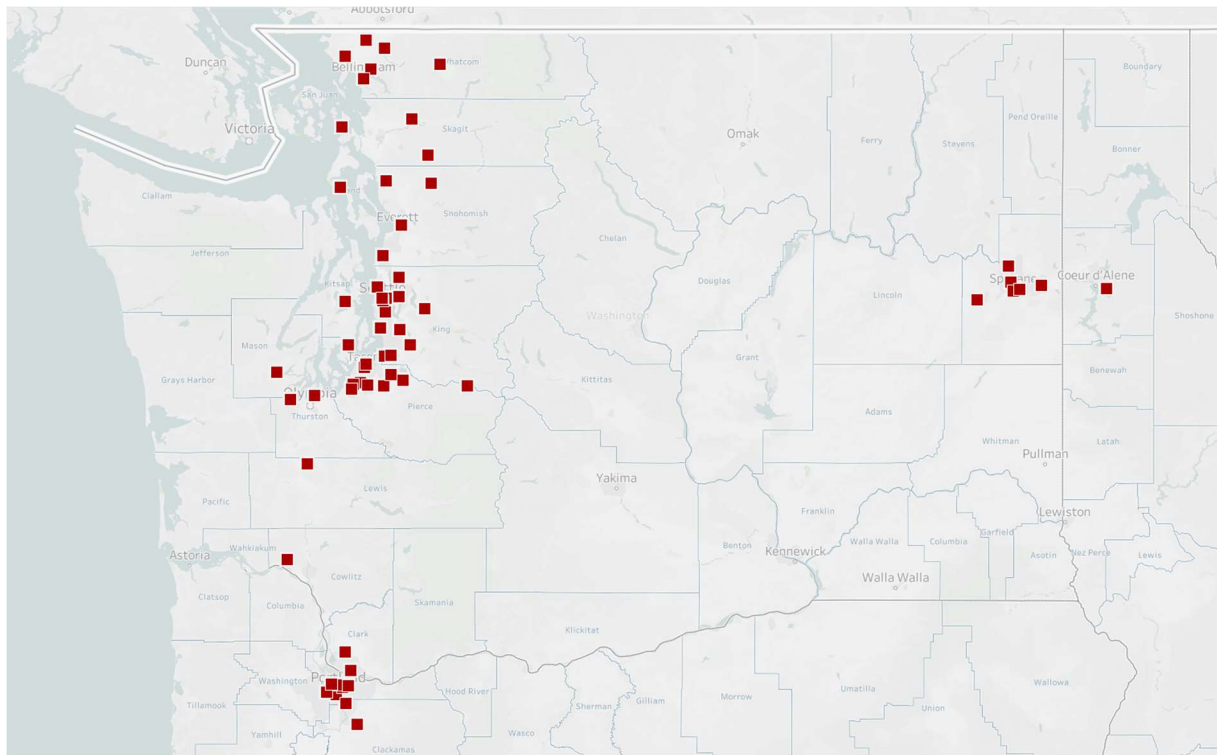
Figure 1. Washington Nursing Education Facilities with Consortium Coordinated Placements



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Sources: CPNW, My Clinical Exchange, NNCP, Student Max: Academic year 2022-2023. The map uses zip codes to display longitude and latitude on map as green circles. Some facilities share a zip code and may be visible as a single circle on the map.

Figure 1 shows a map of the educational facilities that the consortiums partner with for nursing clinical placements. There are a total of 38 schools. Schools with more than one campus may not appear on the map as data was inconsistent with providing zip codes and specific campus locations.

Figure 2. Healthcare Facilities with Nursing Clinical Placements Coordinated by Consortium



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Sources: CPNW, My Clinical Exchange, NNCP, Student Max: Academic year 2022-2023. The map uses zip codes to display longitude and latitude on map as red squares. Some facilities share a zip code and may be visible as a single square on the map.

The map in Figure 2 shows the healthcare facilities used by consortiums for nursing clinical placements. They are located across Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Most students attending a Washington nursing program are placed in Washington healthcare facilities. The programs located in the southwest region may cross into Oregon for some of their clinical rotations, and the programs located in eastern Washington go into Idaho for some of their clinical placements. The types of healthcare facilities for clinical placements include hospitals, children's hospitals, mental health settings, long-term care, and a few other settings. However, acute care or the hospital setting has the largest total number of nursing clinical placements across all four consortiums.

Clinical Placements Northwest (CPNW)

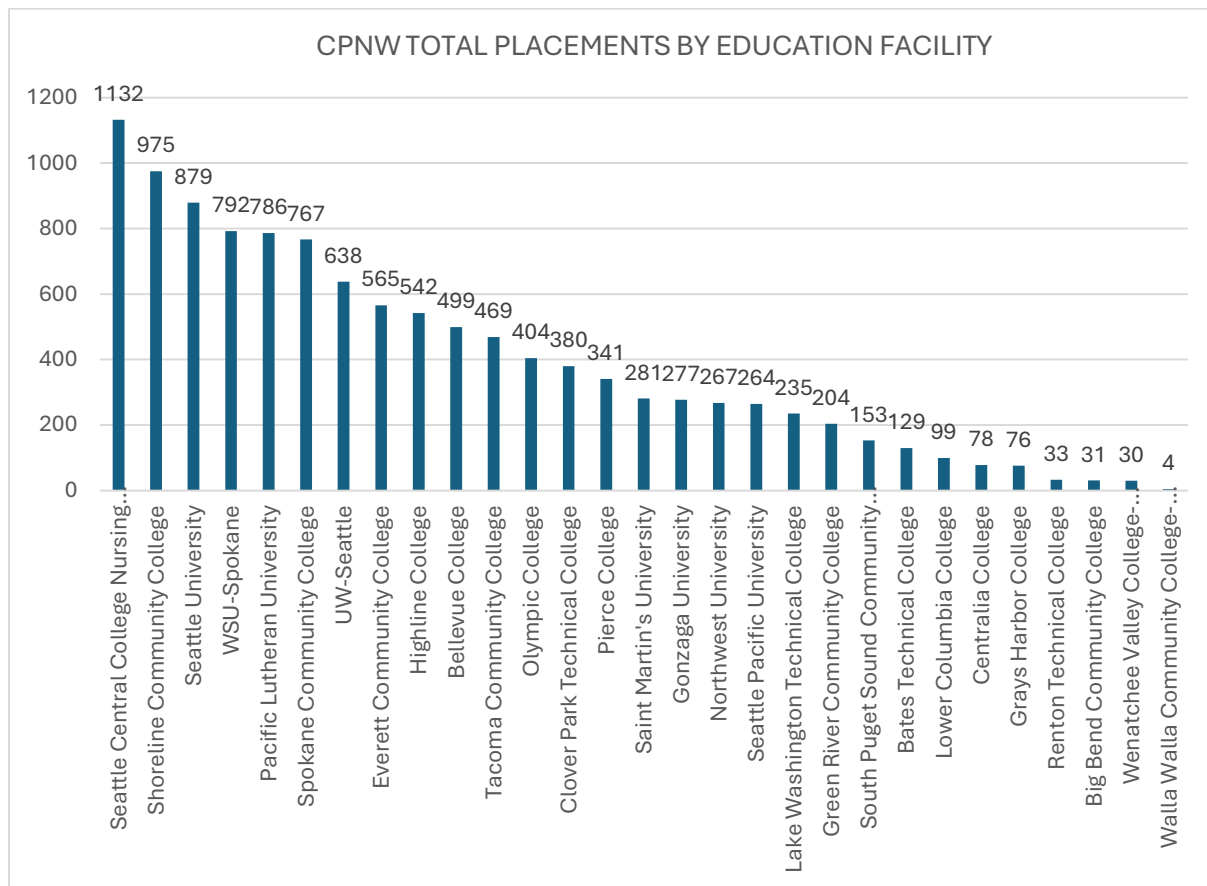
CPNW offers clinical placement services for nursing, surgical technical, and other clinical programs in Washington and some out-of-state programs. This report includes data for Washington nursing programs and represents 95% of their total clinical placements. CPNW coordinated a total of 11,330 clinical placements, including clinical rotations and preceptor placements, for nursing students attending 31 Washington nursing programs at 42 healthcare facilities.

Table 1. CPNW Placements Overview 2022-2023

CPNW Nursing Clinical Placements Overview 2022-2023	
Total WA placements	11,330
Total out of state placements	630
Total clinical rotation placements	9,781
Total preceptor placements	1,549
Total WA education facilities	31
Total healthcare facilities	42

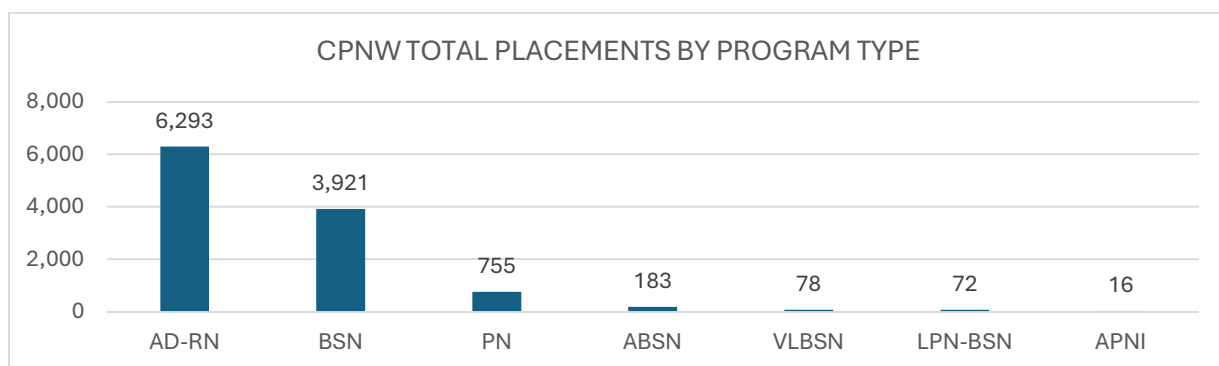
*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023.

Figure 3. CPNW Total Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023. Schools with placements at multiple campuses are viewed as one campus.

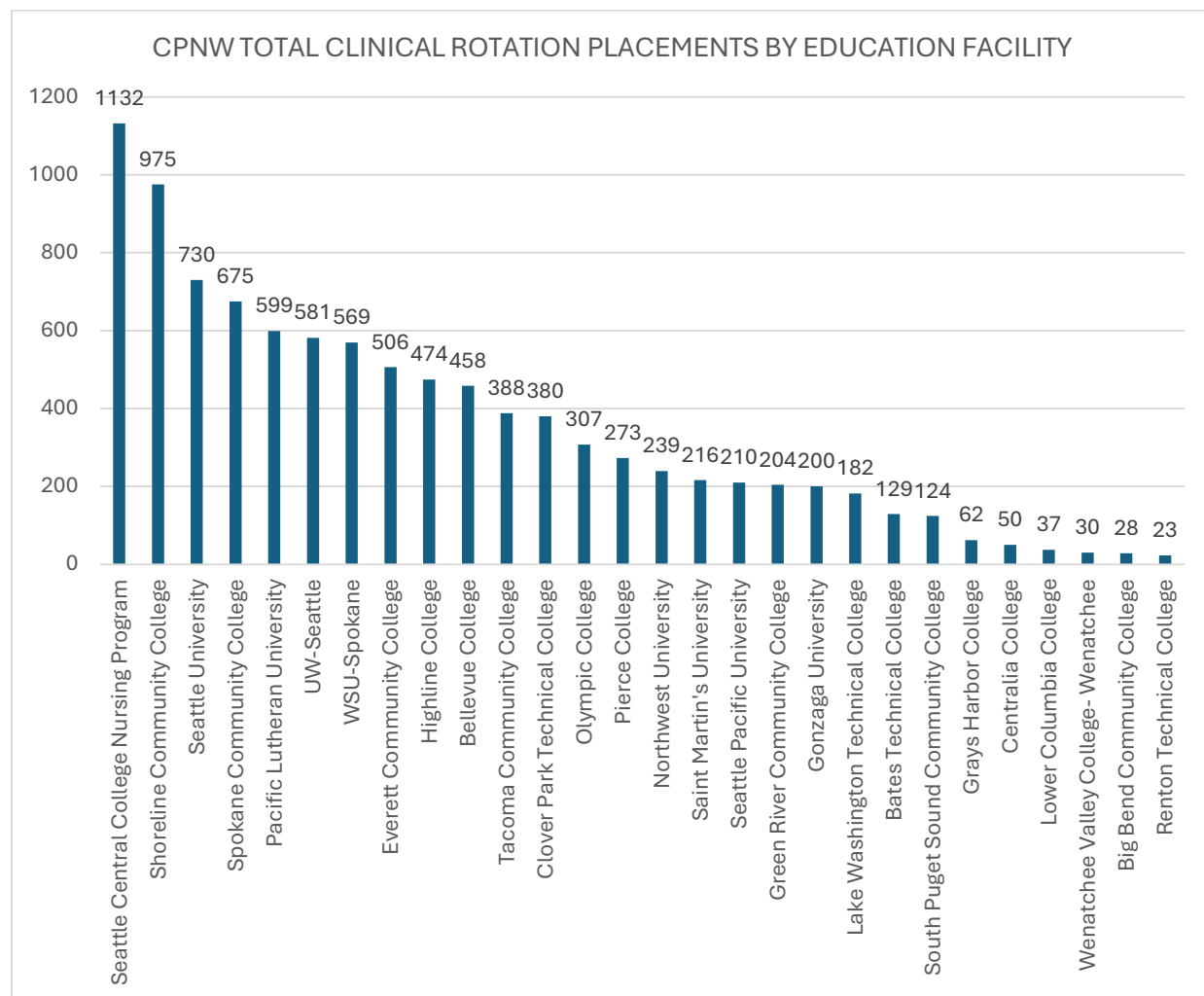
Figure 4. CPNW Total Placements by Program Type



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023. Schools with placements at multiple campuses may be viewed as one campus.

CPNW coordinated placements for schools across the state and for multiple levels of nursing programs including practical nursing, refresher RNs, and advanced practice nursing students with the largest placements for AD-RN and BSN students (6,293 and 3,921 respectively) and a total of 1,116 placements for the remaining programs.

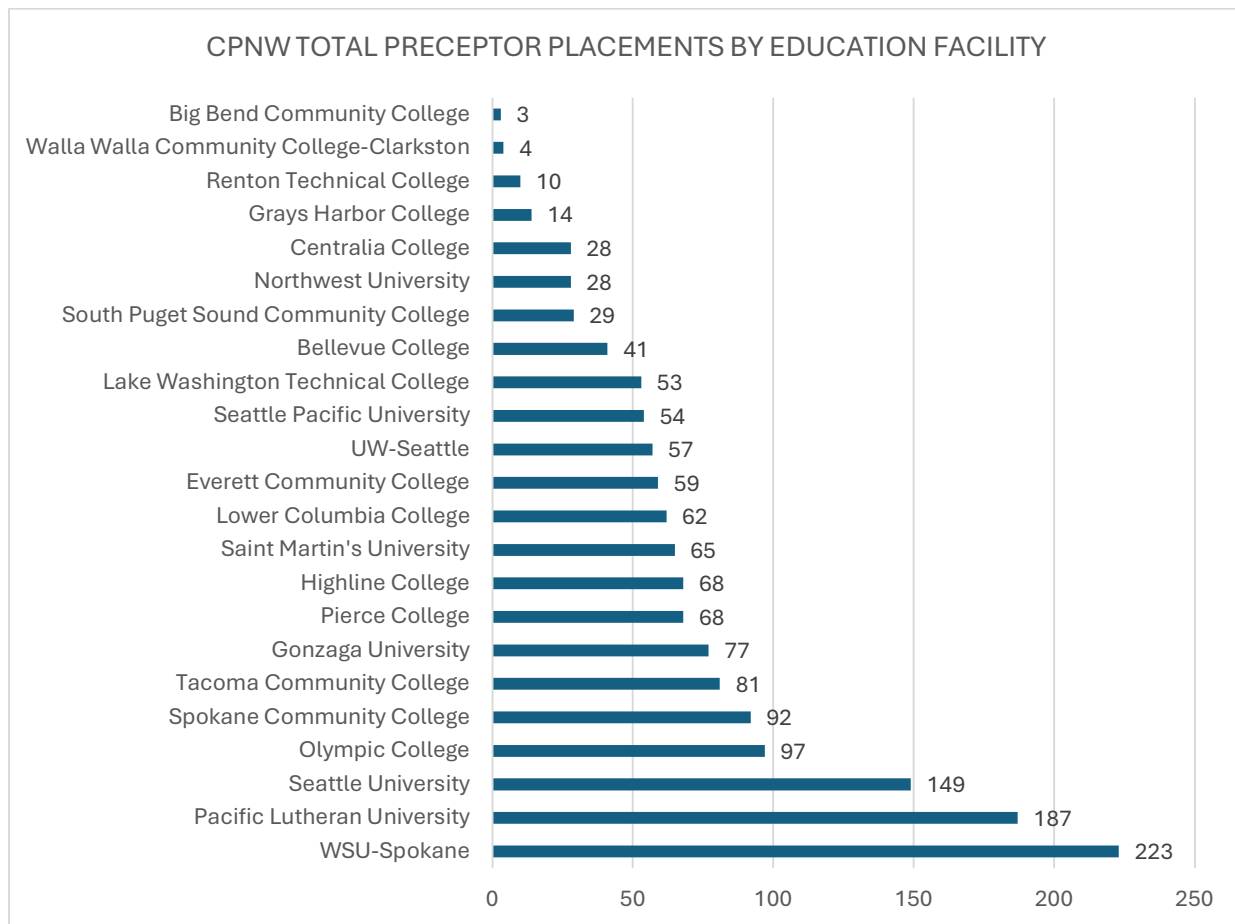
Figure 5. CPNW Total Clinical Rotation Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023. Schools with placements at multiple campuses may be displayed as one campus.

Clinical rotations include all types of clinical rotations, such as observation experiences, and exclude preceptor rotations. Total clinical placements by education facility, including clinical rotations and preceptor placements, ranged from as few as four total placements and up to as many as 975 total placements. The schools with the largest number of placements were Shoreline Community College, with 975 placements, and Seattle University, with 730 placements. The school with the least number of placements was Walla Walla Community College, with four placements. The total number of placements is dependent on the size of the program and the total number of students in the program.

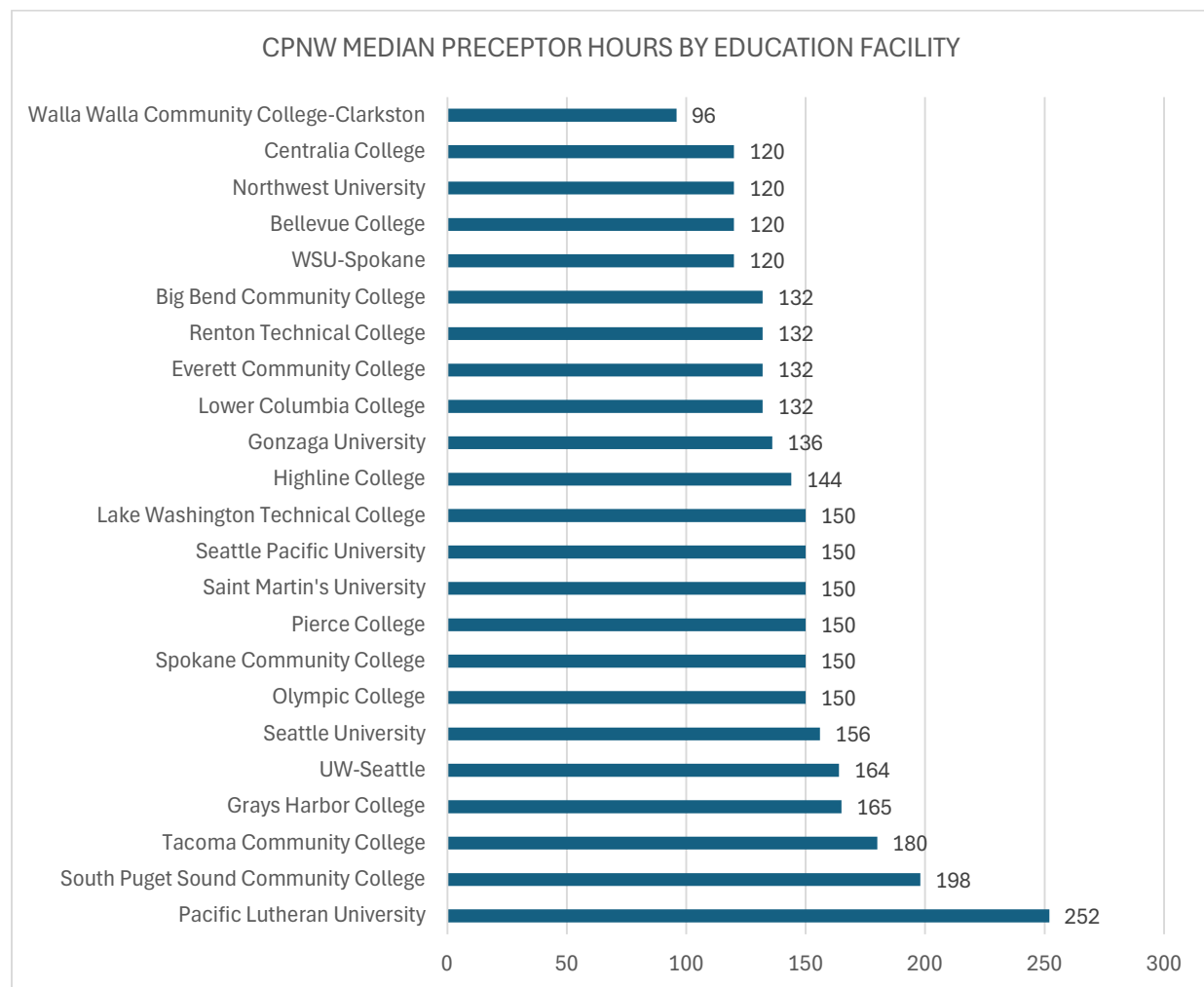
Figure 6. CPNW Total Preceptor Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023. Schools with placements at multiple campuses may be displayed as one campus.

A preceptor placement is where a nursing student spends a pre-determined number of hours with a designated nurse preceptor. The total number of preceptor placements ranges from 223 at Washington State University to three at Big Bend College. Total preceptor placements by school are dependent on the number of students and the size of the nursing program. Programs with a larger number of students and multiple cohorts will have a higher number of total placements.

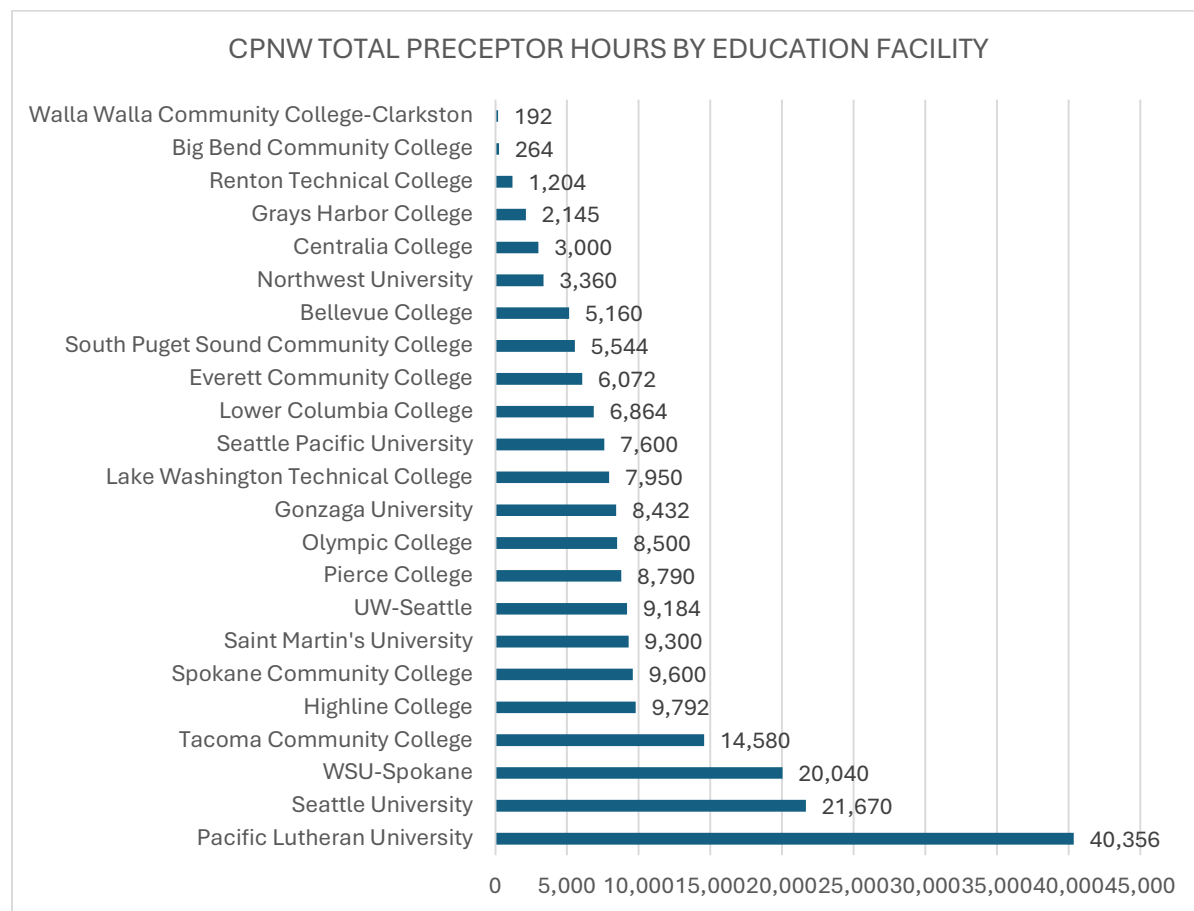
Figure 7. CPNW Median Preceptor Hours by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023. Schools with placements at multiple campuses may be displayed as one campus.

The median number of preceptor hours per student ranged from 96 hours to 252 hours. Pre-licensure nursing programs spend most of their direct care hours in their medical-surgical rotation, followed by their preceptorship rotation. The preceptorship rotation comprises 25% of the AD-RN student's direct care clinical hours and 21% of the direct care clinical hours in BSN programs (Flores-Montoya & Moulton Burwell, 2023). In the 2022-2023 academic year, the average number of direct care hours for the role assimilation/preceptorship clinical rotation was 132.2 for AD-RN programs and 145.8 hours for the BSN programs (WABON Education dashboard, 2024).

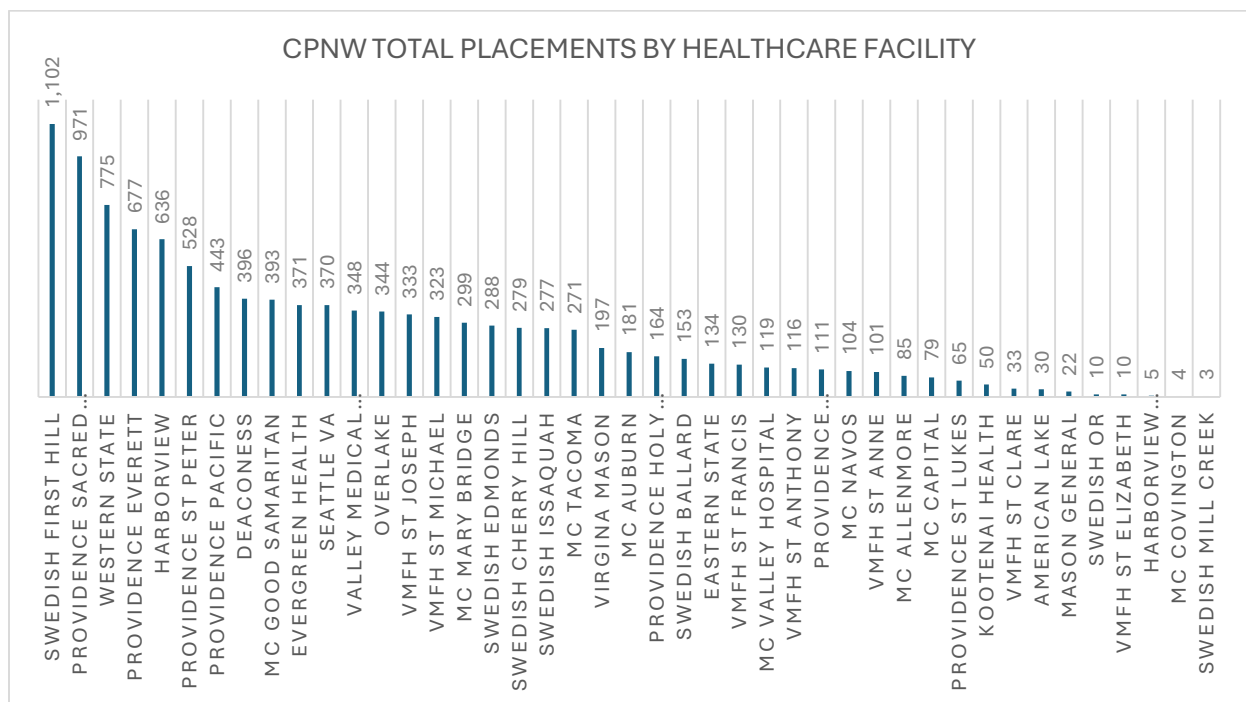
Figure 8. CPNW Total Preceptor Hours by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023. Schools with placements at multiple campuses may be displayed as one campus.

The total number of hours spent in a preceptor rotation is determined by the program's curriculum. Figure 7 shows median hours by education facility ranging from 96 hours per student at the lowest number of hours and up to 252 preceptor hours per student at the highest number of hours per student. Total preceptor hours range from 192 hours per school to over 40 thousand hours. Total preceptor hours were calculated using the number of preceptor hours required per placement and multiplying hours by the total placements by school. The total preceptor hours are dependent on the required number of preceptor hours as determined by each school and the total number of preceptor placements.

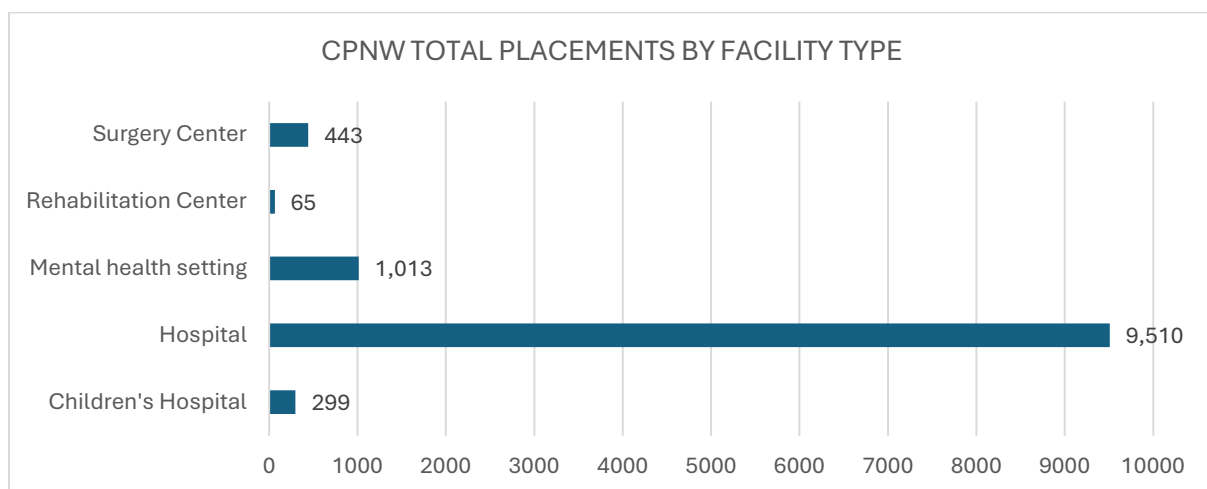
Figure 9. CPNW Total Placements by Healthcare Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements (clinical rotation and preceptor placements) and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023.

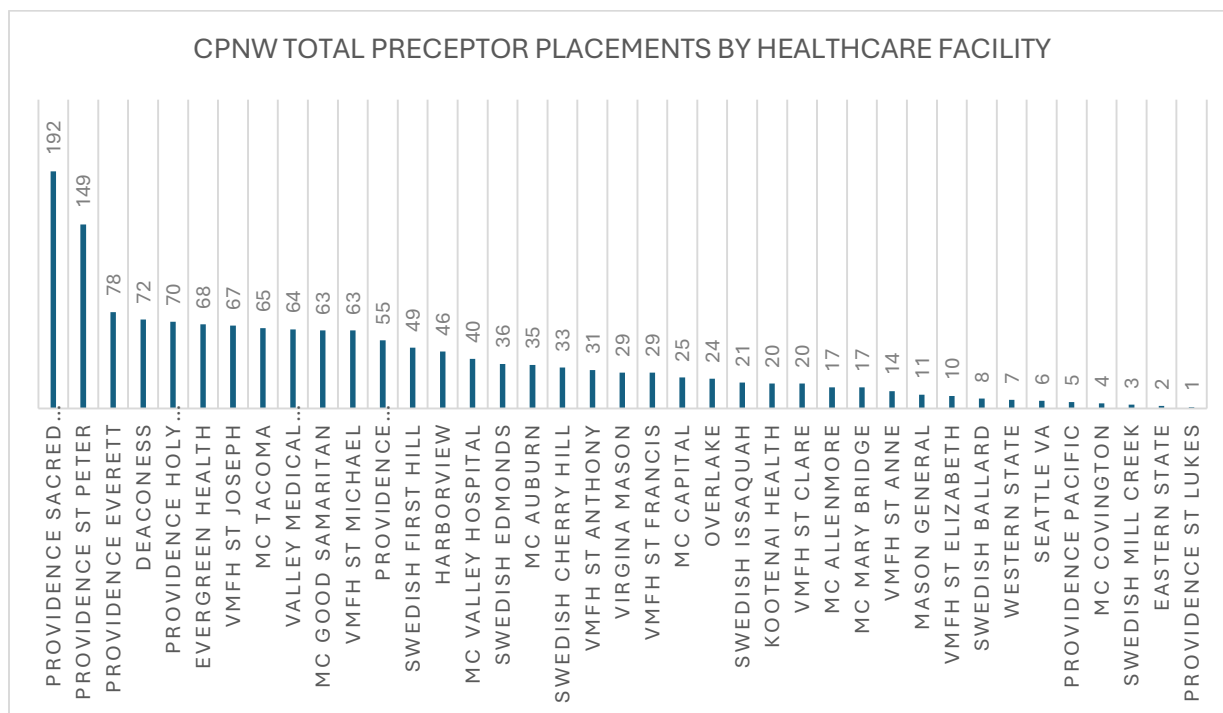
CPNW placed students across the state of Washington. The hospitals with the largest total placements were Swedish First Hill at 1,102 placements and Providence Sacred Heart at 971 placements. Most clinical placements were in acute care facilities or hospitals. Most of CPNW's clinical placements (85%) were in the hospital setting, followed by a mental health setting (8%).

Figure 10. CPNW Total Placements by Facility Type



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements (clinical rotation and preceptor placements) and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023.

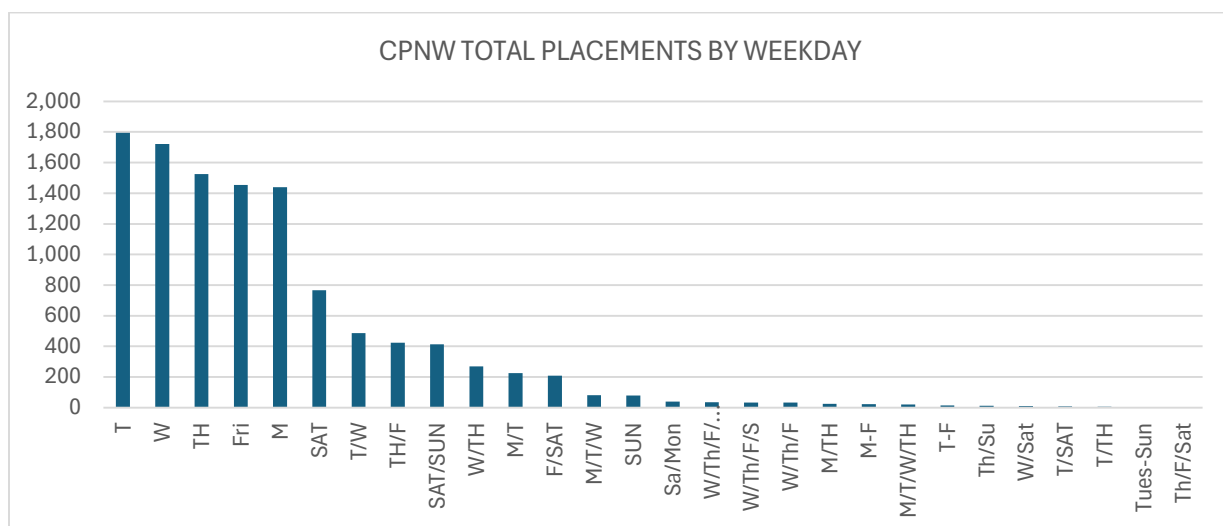
Figure 11. CPNW Total Preceptor Placements by Healthcare Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023.

The facility with the largest number of preceptor placements was Providence Sacred Heart, with 192 preceptor placements, followed by Providence St Peter, with 149 preceptor placements.

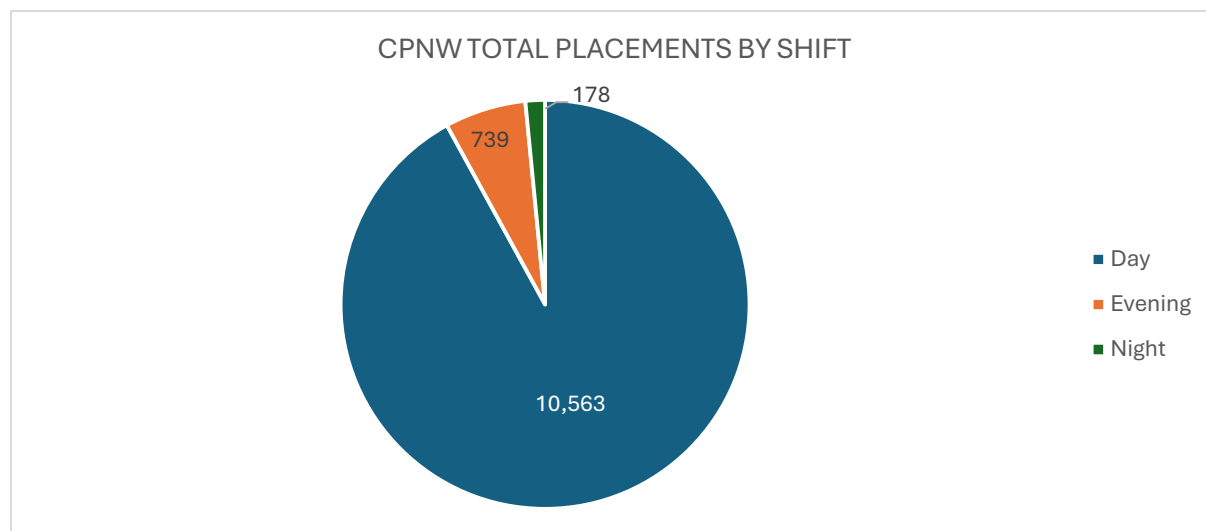
Figure 12. CPNW Total Placements by Weekday



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023.

Requests to schedule a single-day placement were most common, with 78% of placements and 86% of total clinical placements scheduled on a weekday. The most common single-day clinical placements were scheduled on Tuesdays (1,794, 16%), followed by Wednesdays (1,721, 15%). The least number of clinical placements scheduled for a single-day occurred on Saturday (767, 7%) and Sunday (78, 1%). There were several combinations of days. However, 84% of them did not include a weekend day.

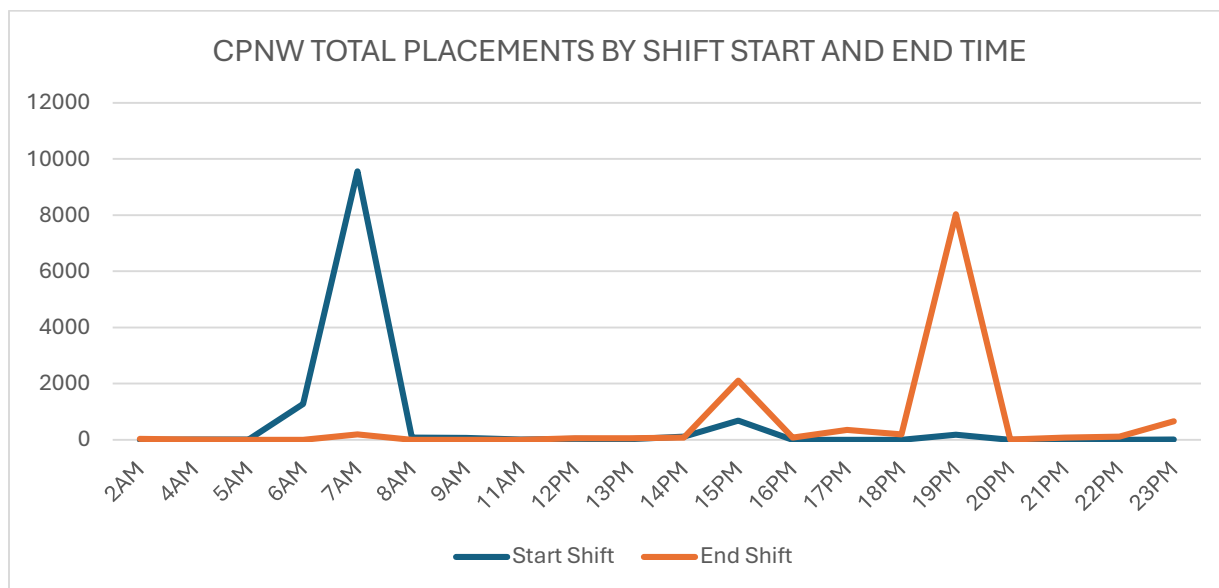
Figure 13. CPNW Total Placements by Shift



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Data excludes assigned preceptor shifts. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023.

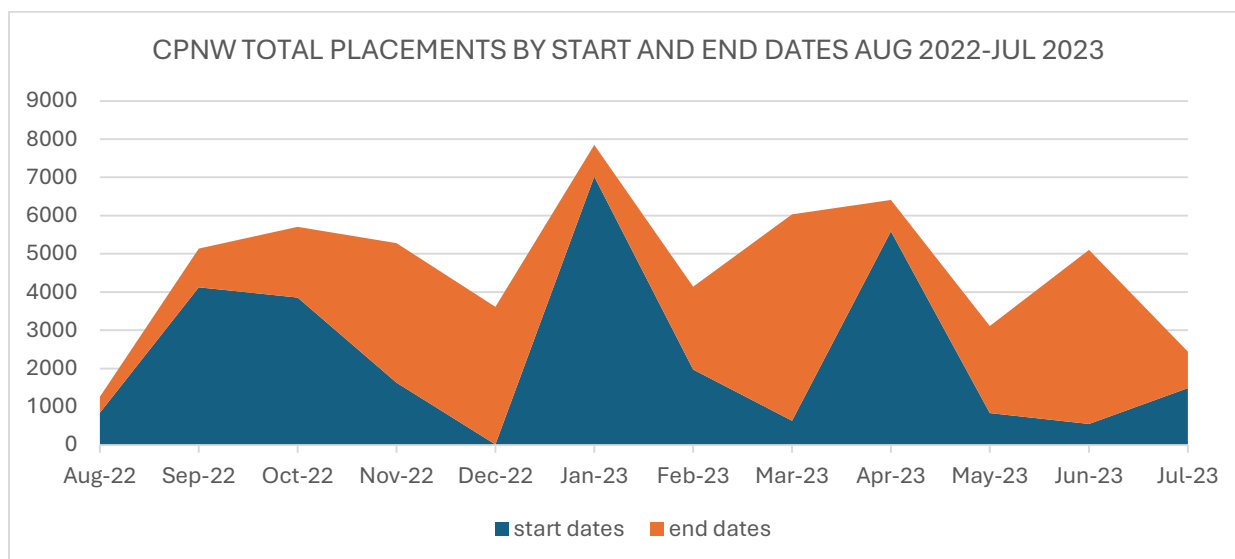
A total of 92% of clinical shifts occurred on the day shift, with a start time ranging from 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. The evening shift comprised 6% of the CPNW clinical shifts, with a start time ranging from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Finally, the night shift comprised 2% of the shifts with a start time ranging from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Most total clinical placement shifts (80%) start at 7 a.m., followed by a start time at 3 p.m. (6%). Most shifts ended at 7 p.m. (67%) and 3 p.m. (18%).

Figure 14. CPNW Total Placements by Shift Start and End Time



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Data excludes assigned preceptor shifts. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023.

Figure 15. CPNW Total Placements by Start and End Dates Aug 2022-Jul 2023



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: CPNW: Academic year 2022-2023.

Start dates for total clinical placements were largest in September (4,122), January (7,023), and April (5,592). Alternately, the months with the least amount of start dates for clinical placements were December (19) and June (549). When combining start and end dates, January had the highest number of total placements (7,850), while August had the lowest total number of clinical placements (1,267). There is an opportunity to stagger start and end dates and utilize months with lower placements.

My Clinical Exchange

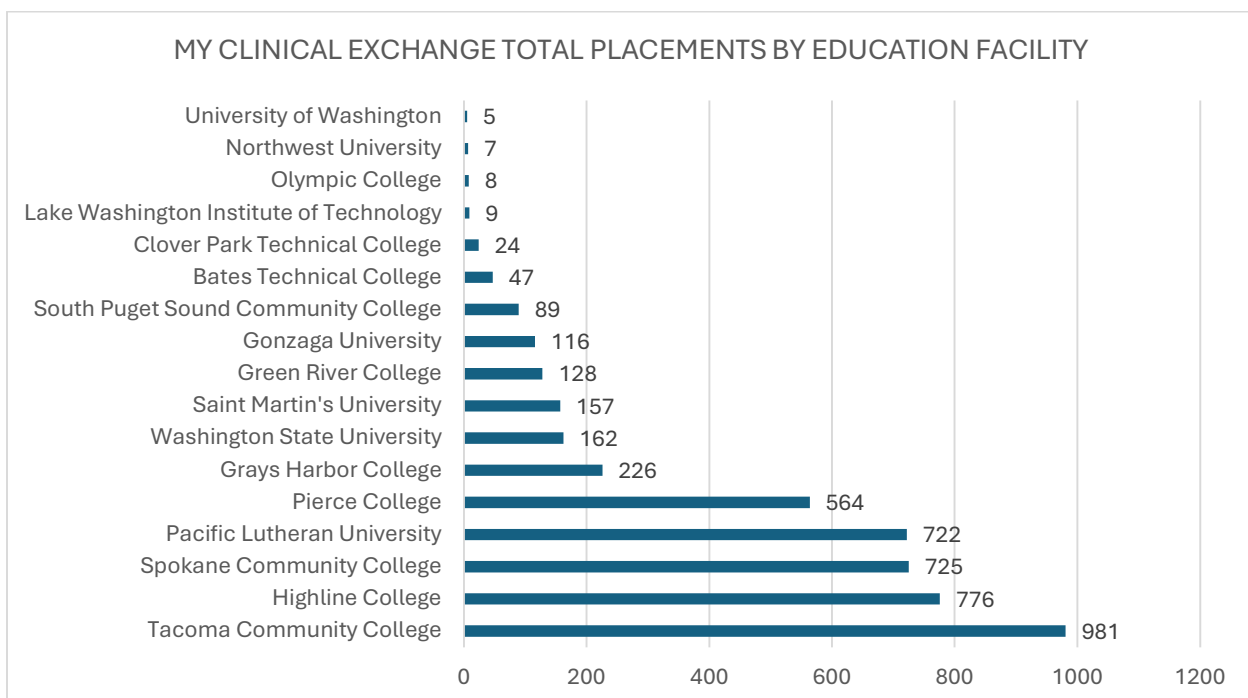
My Clinical Exchange is a MultiCare Health System clinical placement service for students placed within the MultiCare Health System. They place students across multiple programs, including non-nursing programs and out-of-state placements. This report only includes data for nursing clinical placements for students attending a Washington nursing program. My Clinical Exchange primarily places nursing students in a Washington program (97%) compared to out-of-state placements (3%). They support 17 schools and place them in at least 30 MultiCare facilities across the state.

Table 2. My Clinical Exchange Nursing Clinical Placements 2022-2023

MultiCare My Clinical Exchange Nursing Clinical Placements 2022-2023	
Total WA nursing placements	4,746
Total out of state nursing placements	149
Clinical rotation placements	4341
Preceptor/practicum placements	356
Graduate or capstone placements	20
RN Refresher placements	1
Total education facilities	17
Total healthcare facilities for placements	30

*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

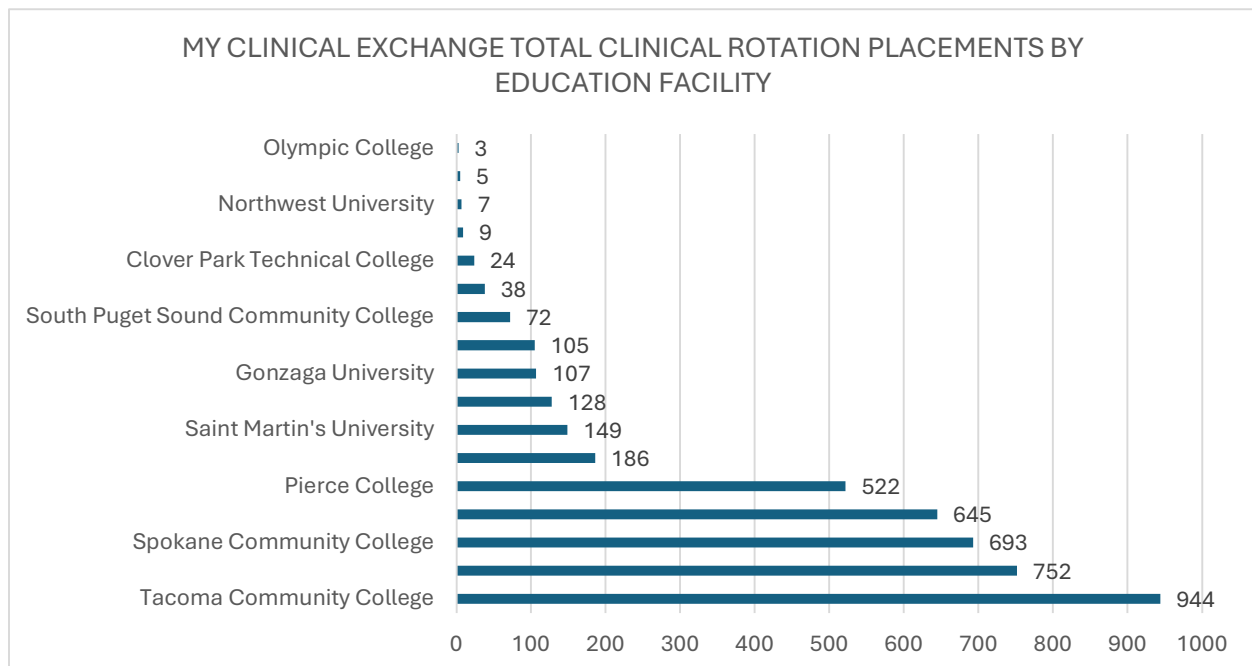
Figure 16. My Clinical Exchange Total Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

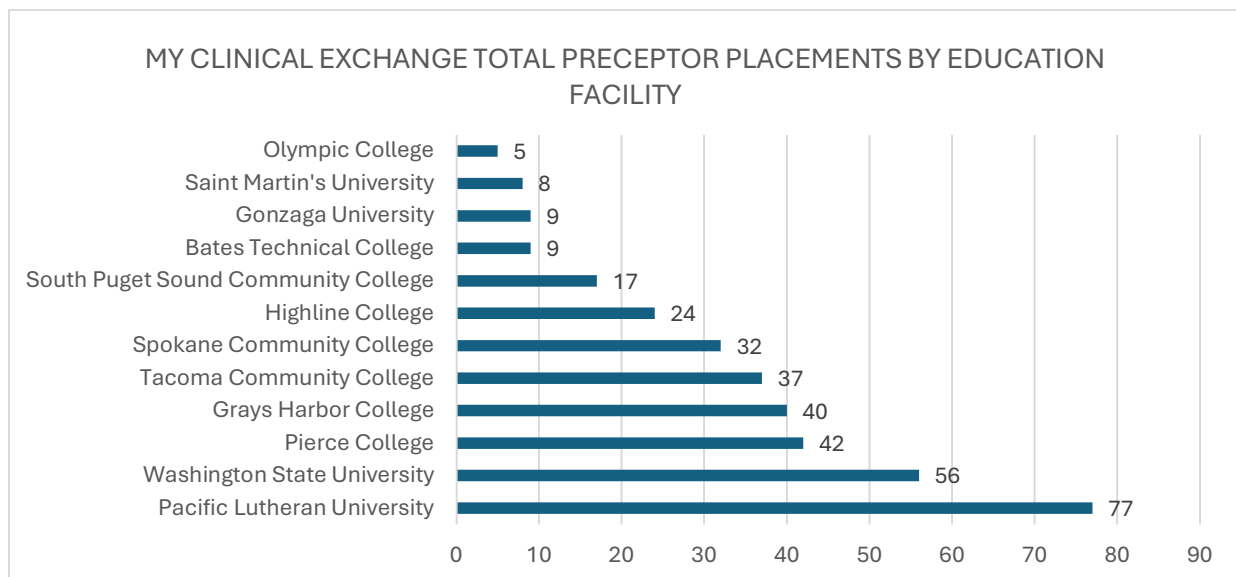
The school with the highest number of total placements was Tacoma Community College at 981 placements, followed by Highline College at 776 placements.

Figure 17. My Clinical Exchange Total Clinical Rotation Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

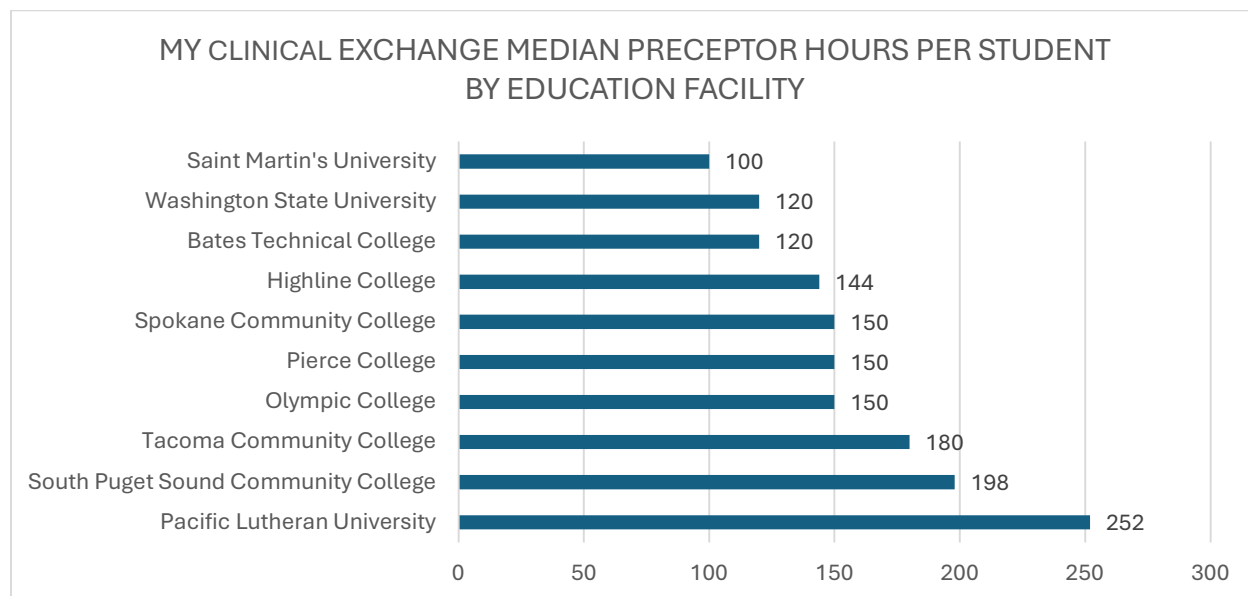
Figure 18. My Clinical Exchange Total Preceptor Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

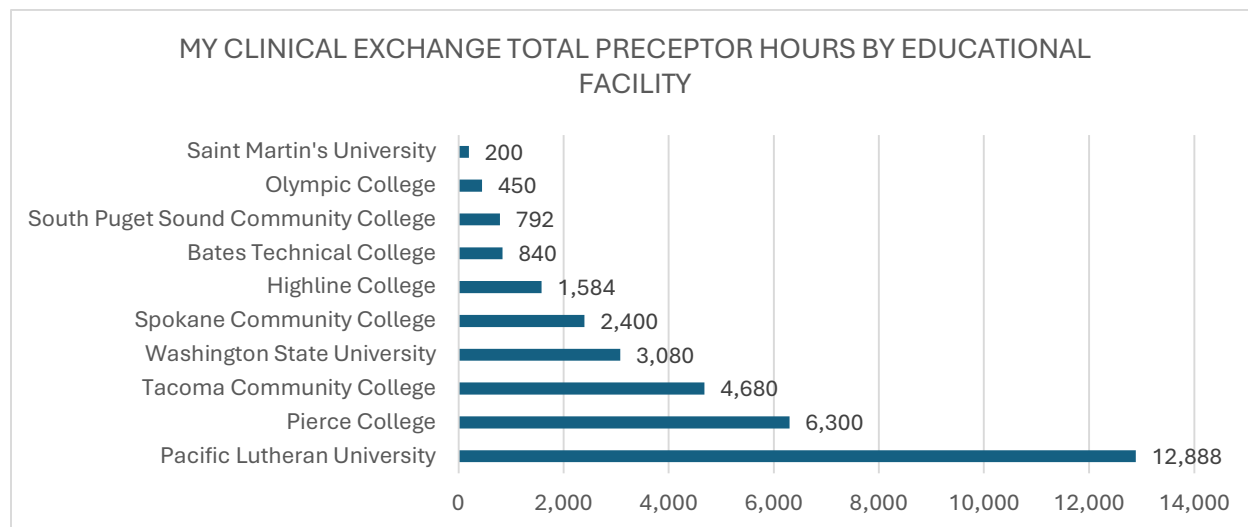
The total number of preceptor placements was highest at Pacific Lutheran University at 77 placements, followed by Washington State University with 56 placements. The median preceptor hours ranged from 100 preceptor hours per student at Saint Martin's University to 252 preceptor hours per student at Pacific Lutheran University.

Figure 19. My Clinical Exchange Median Preceptor Hours per Student by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

Figure 20. My Clinical Exchange Total Preceptor Hours by Educational Facility

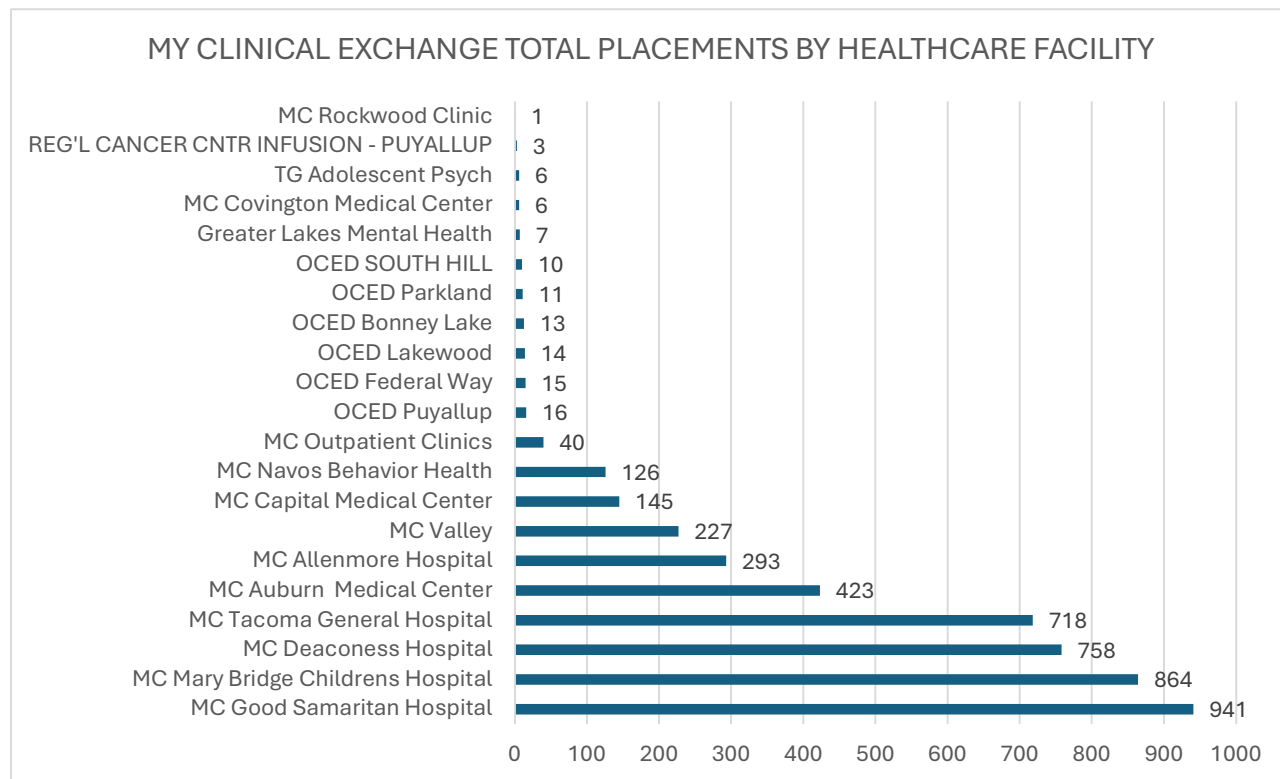


*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

Total preceptor hours were calculated using the number of preceptor hours required per student and multiplied by the number of preceptor placements. Pacific Lutheran University had

12,888 total preceptor hours coordinated and placed by My Clinical Exchange, followed by Pierce College at 6,300 total preceptor hours.

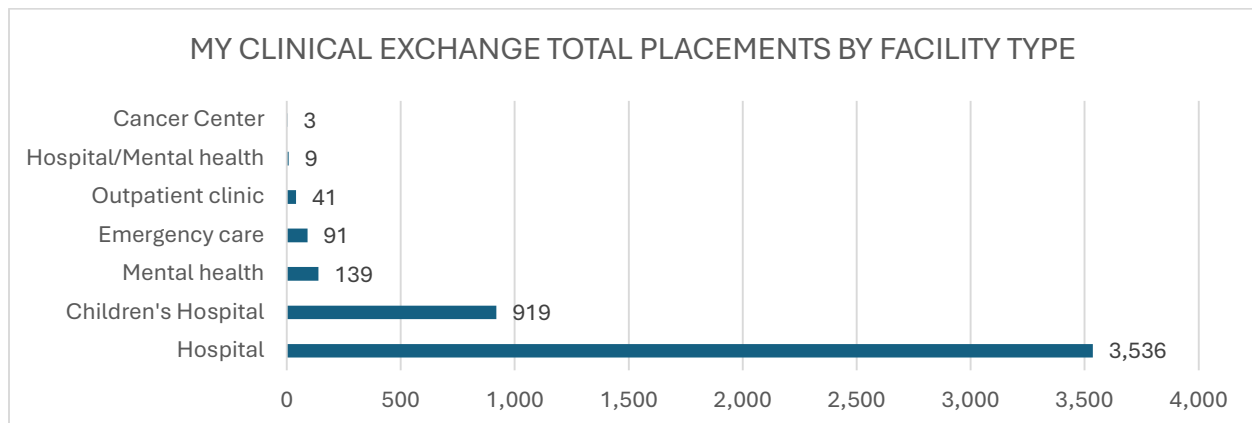
Figure 21. My Clinical Exchange Total Placements by Healthcare Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

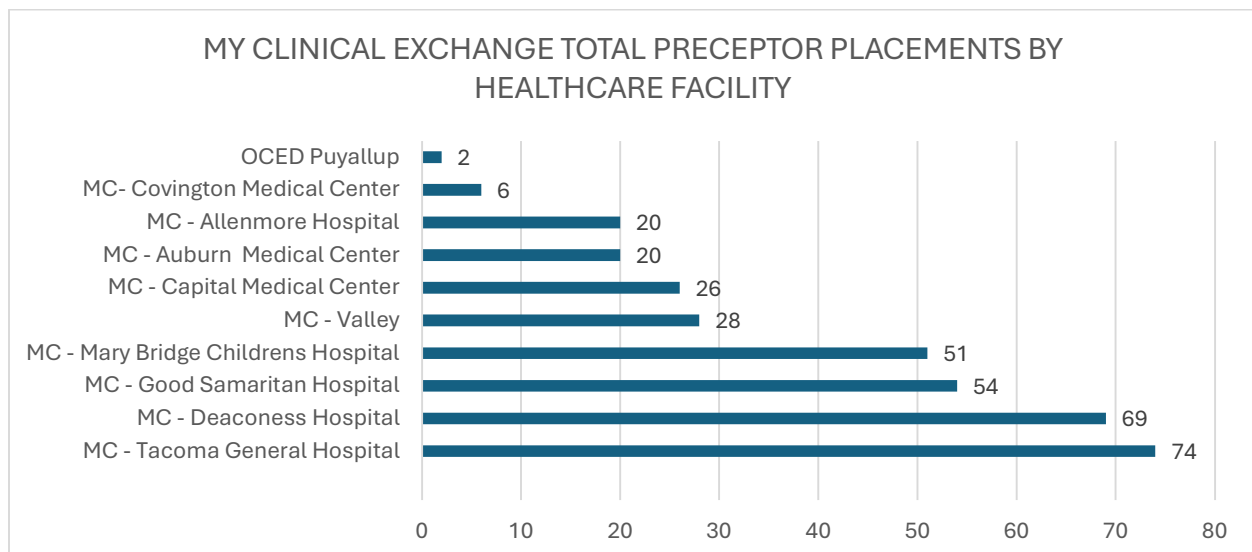
The healthcare facility with the highest number of total placements was MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital, with 941 total placements, followed by MultiCare Mary Bridge Hospital, a children's hospital, with 864 total placements. Most clinical placements were in a hospital or acute care setting (75%), followed by the children's hospital with 19% of total placements. Nursing students were also placed in mental health settings, emergency care, outpatient clinics, and cancer centers through My Clinical Exchange.

Figure 22. My Clinical Exchange Total Placements by Facility Type



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

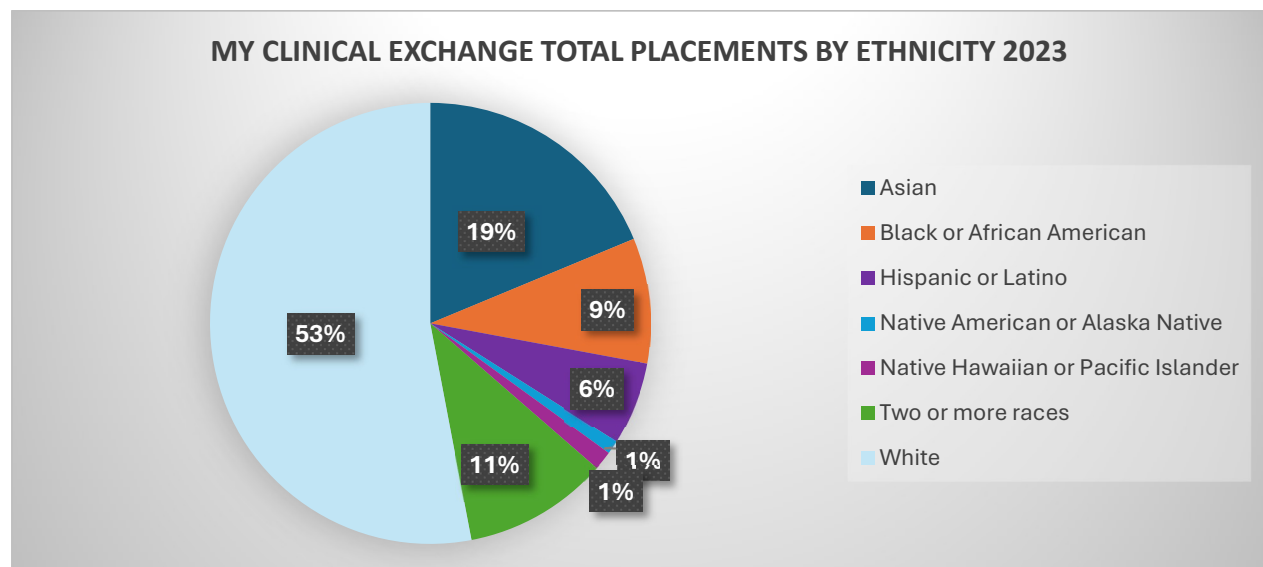
Figure 23. My Clinical Exchange Total Preceptor Placements by Healthcare Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

The healthcare facility with the highest number of preceptor placements was MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital, with 74 preceptor placements, followed by MultiCare Deaconess Hospital with, 69 preceptor placements. Most of the preceptor placements (99%) were in the hospital setting.

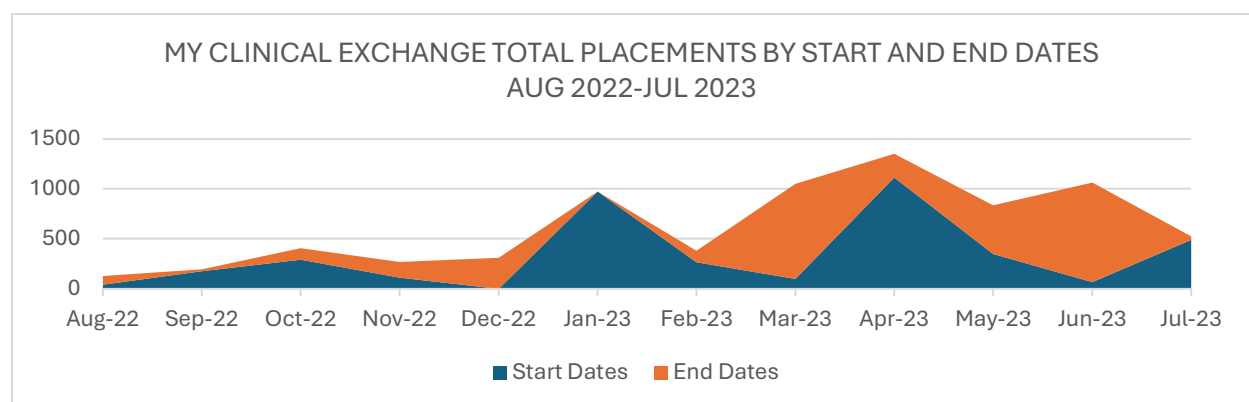
Figure 24. My Clinical Exchange Total Placements by Ethnicity 2023



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange year 2023; 2022-year data not available.

My Clinical Exchange is unique in that they collect ethnicity data for their clinical placements. The largest ethnicity for nursing clinical placement is White (53%), followed by Asian (19%) and two or more races (11%). The data only includes the 2023 year, as this is when data collection on this variable was initiated.

Figure 25. My Clinical Exchange Total Placements by Start and End Dates Aug 2022-Jul 2023



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: MultiCare My Clinical Exchange academic year 2022-2023.

The highest number of total placements during the year, including start dates and end dates, were in April 2023, with 1,351 total placements (18%), followed by March 1,050 (14%) and June 1,063 (14%). The months with the fewest total placements were in August and September (126 and 193, respectively). Students are typically placed around school schedules and follow calendar dates associated with their quarter or semester starts and end dates. There may be an opportunity to place nursing students from August through December for My Clinical Exchange placements.

Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium (NNCPC)

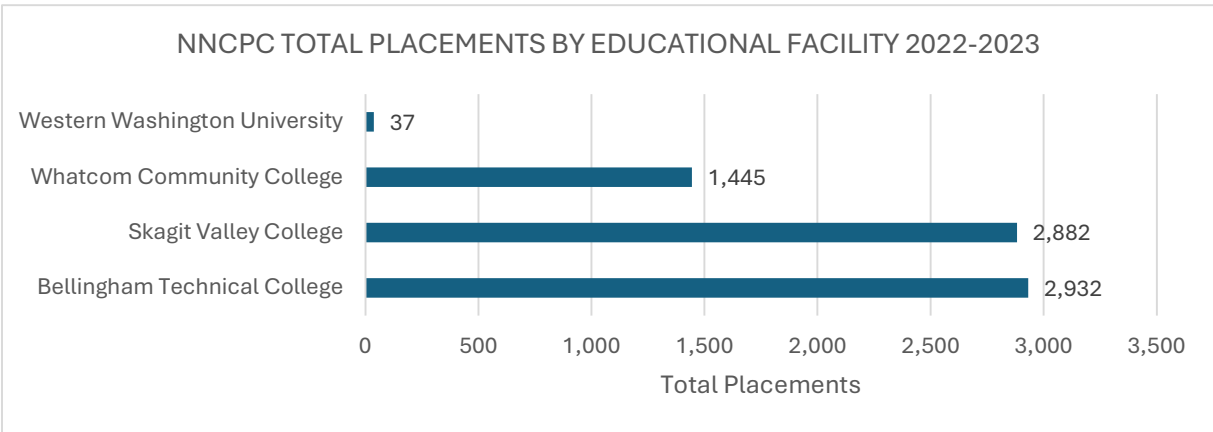
NNCPC is a consortium supporting four schools in the northwest region of Washington state. NNCPC has been in place for more than a decade and does not place for out-of-state schools. In the 2022-2023 academic year, NNCPC coordinated 7,296 total placements and placed nursing students at 33 healthcare facilities.

Table 3. NNCPC Nursing Clinical Placements 2022-2023

NNCPC Clinical Placement Summary 2022-2023	
Total placements	7,296
Total Clinical rotation placements	7,118
Total Preceptor placements	178
Total Education Facilities	4
Total Healthcare Facilities for placements	33

*Note: Includes all placements. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

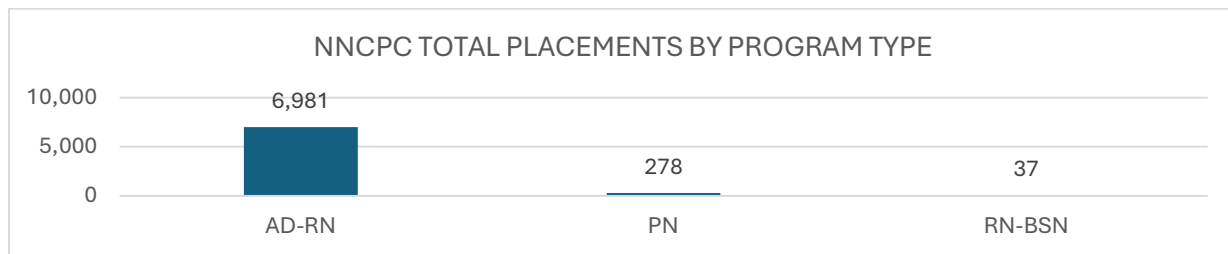
Figure 26. NNCPC Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes all placements. Skagit Valley College includes the Mount Vernon and Island locations combined. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

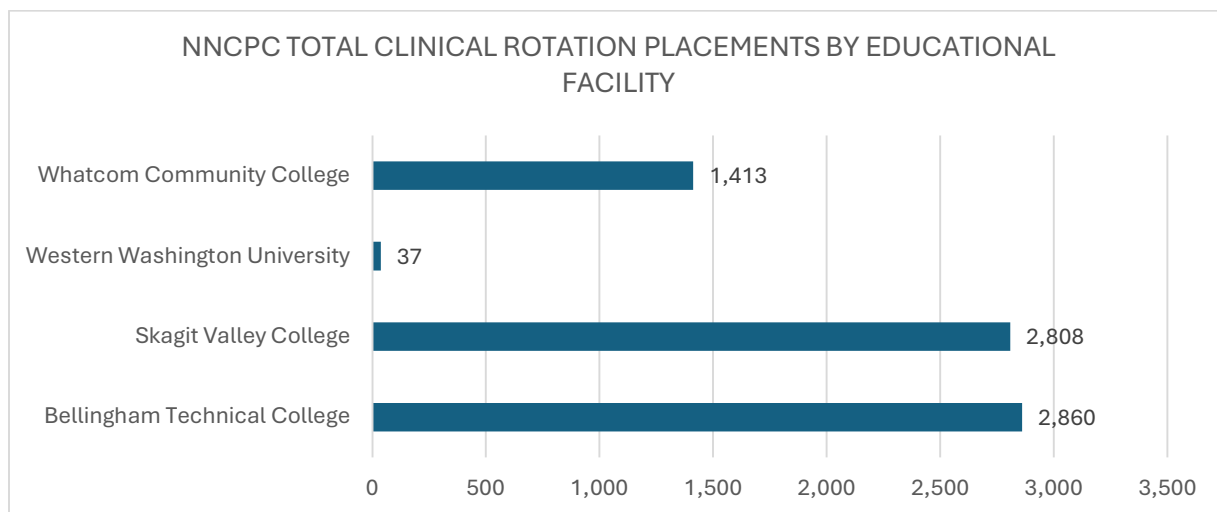
The largest number of total placements was Bellingham Technical College, with 2,932 total placements. The AD-RN clinical placements comprise 96% of the total placements coordinated by NNCPC.

Figure 27. NNCPC Total Placements by Program Type



*Note: Includes all placements. Skagit Valley College includes the Mount Vernon and Island locations combined. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

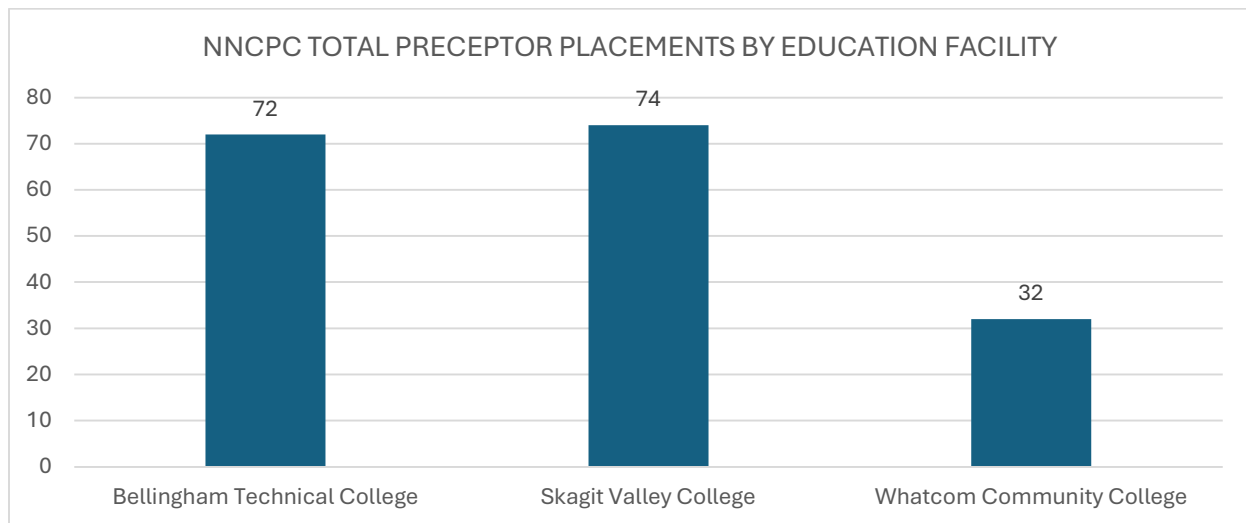
Figure 28. NNCPC Total Clinical Rotation Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes all clinical rotation placements. Skagit Valley College includes the Mount Vernon and Island locations combined. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

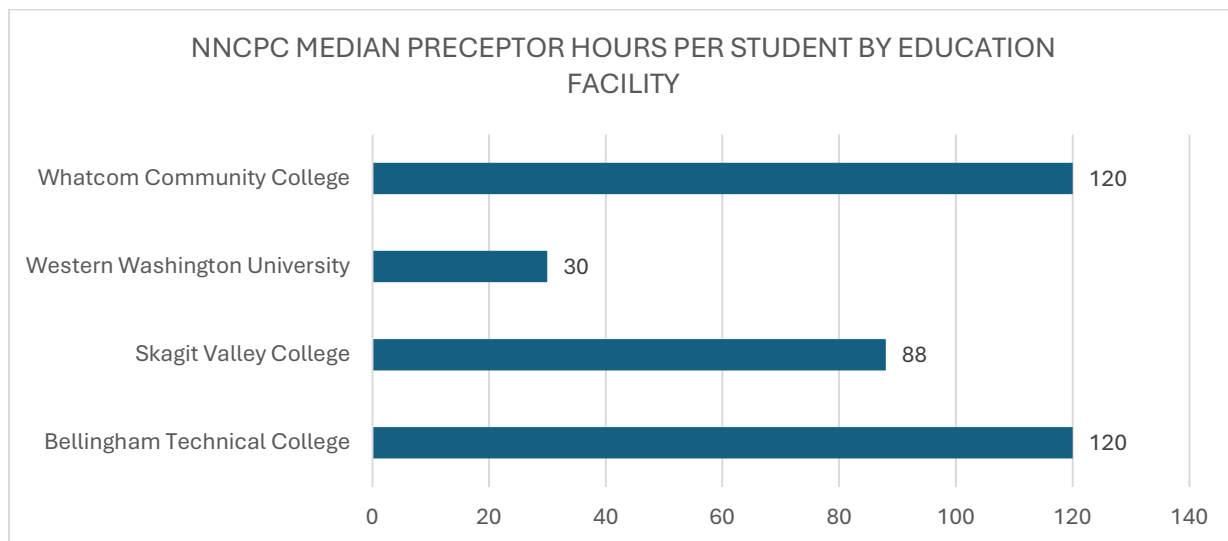
Total clinical rotation placements were highest at Bellingham Technical College with 2,860 placements, followed closely by Skagit Valley College with 2,808 total clinical rotation placements.

Figure 29. NNCPC Total Preceptor Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes all preceptor placements. Skagit Valley College includes the Mount Vernon and Island locations combined. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

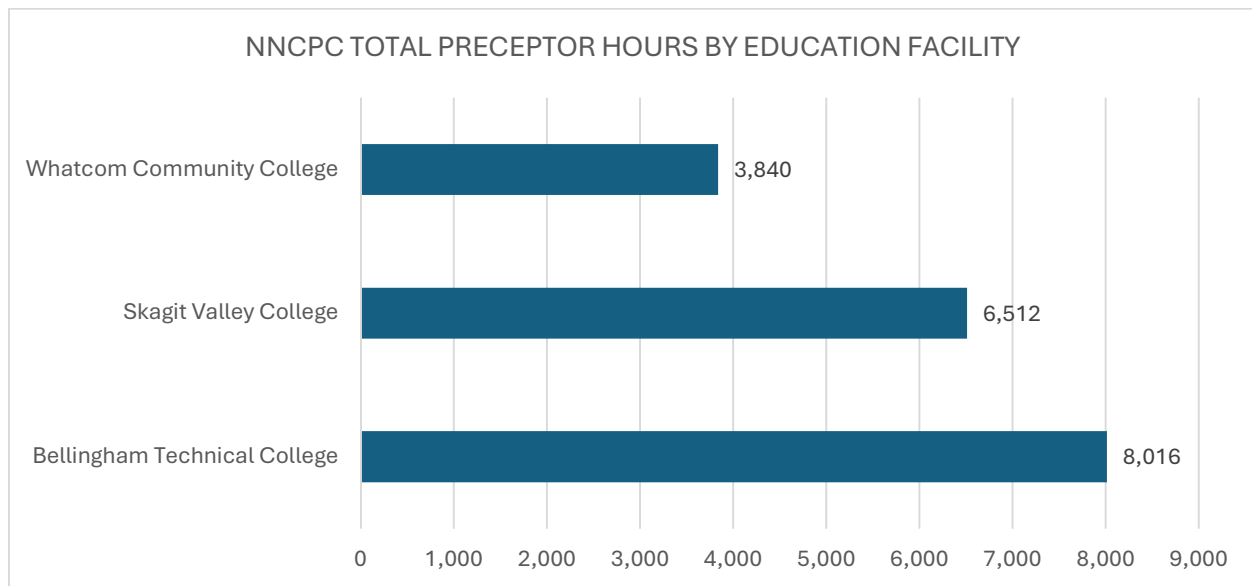
Figure 30. NNCPC Median Preceptor Hours per Student by Education Facility



*Note: Includes all preceptor placements. Skagit Valley College includes the Mount Vernon and Island locations combined. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

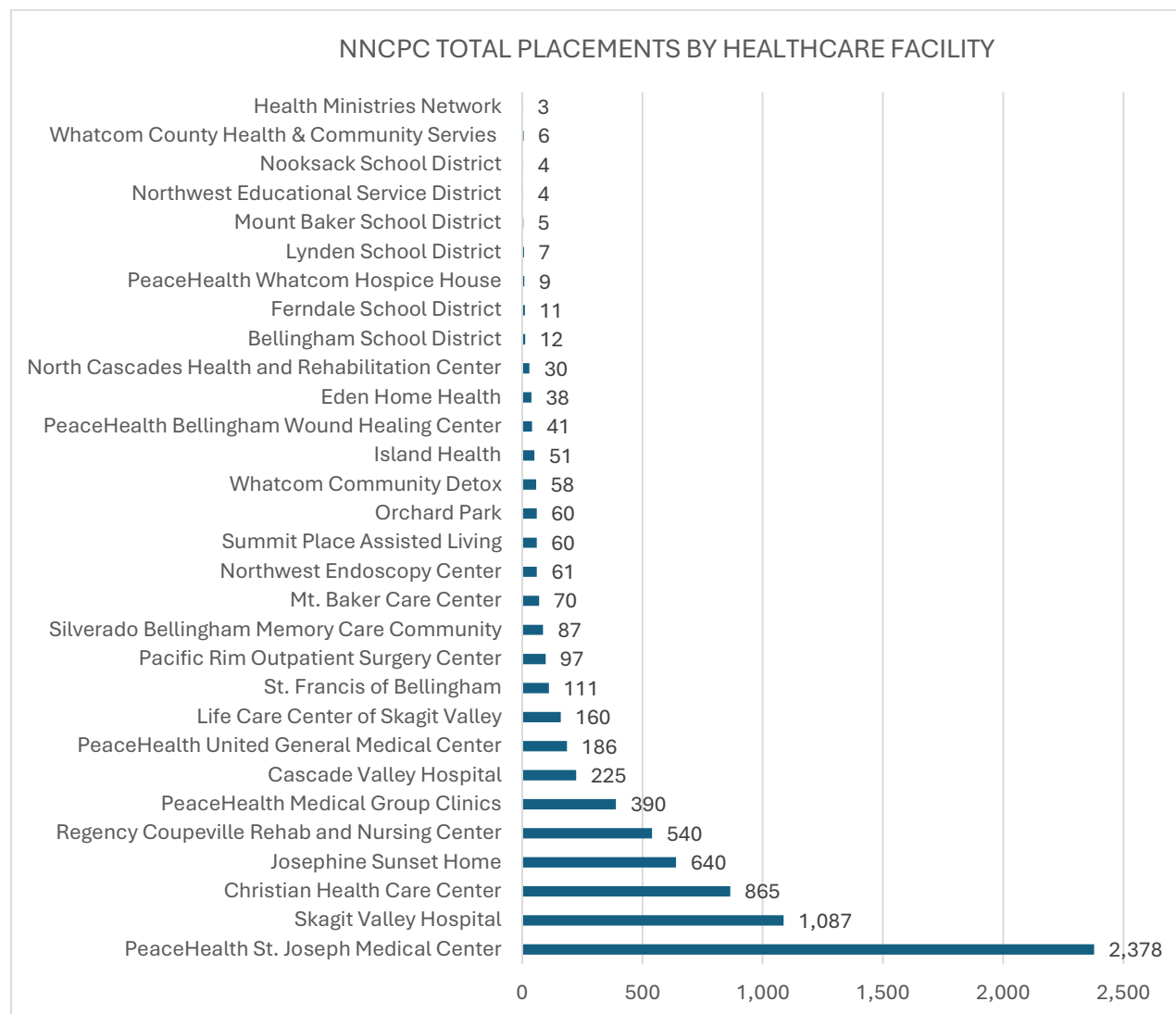
Median preceptor hours ranged from 88 preceptor hours per student at Skagit Valley College to 120 preceptor hours per student at Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College.

Figure 31. NNCPC Total Preceptor Hours by Education Facility



*Note: Includes all preceptor placements. Skagit Valley College includes the Mount Vernon and Island locations combined. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

Figure 32. NNCPC Total Placements by Healthcare Facility

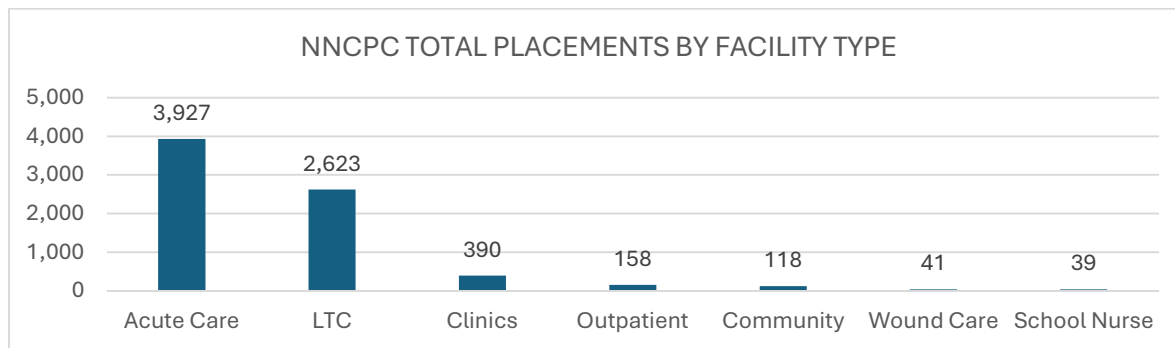


*Note: Includes all placements. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

The healthcare facility with the highest number of total placements was PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, with 2,378 total placements, followed by Skagit Valley Hospital, with 1,087 total placements for nursing students.

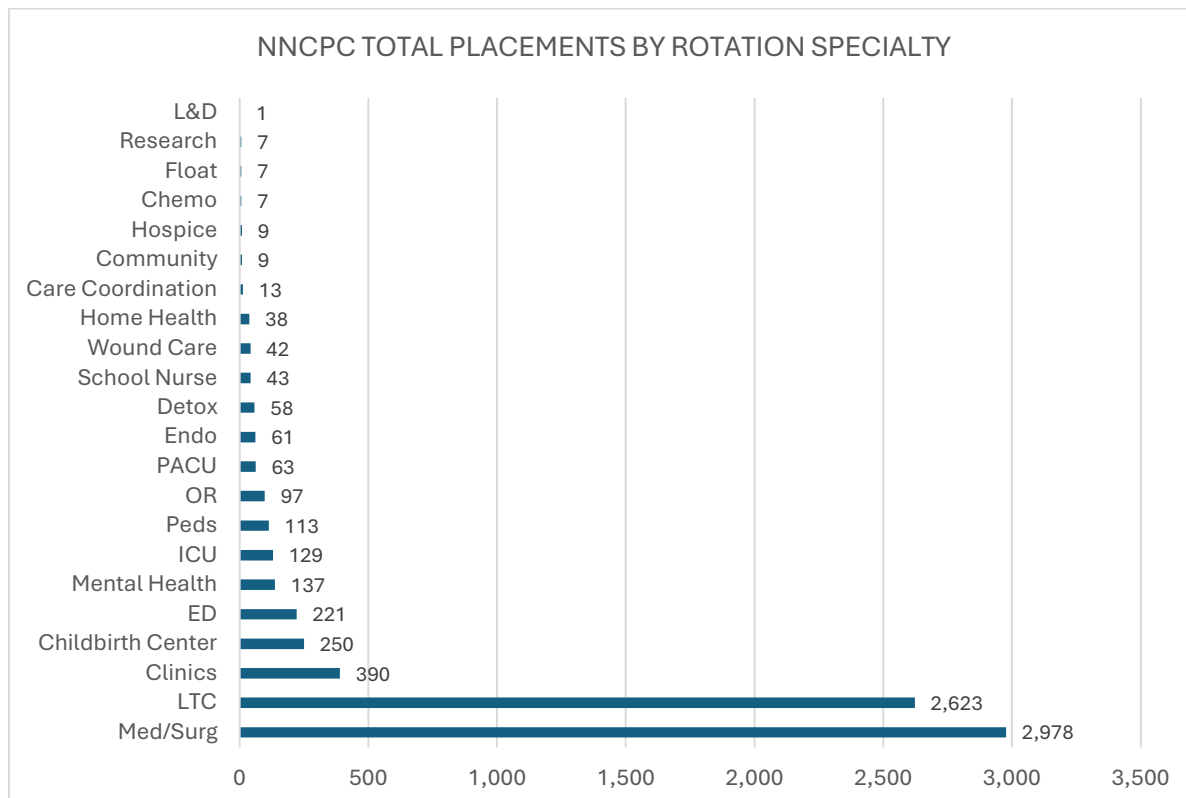
The majority of NNCPC nursing clinical placements coordinated were in an acute care setting (54%), followed by a long-term care setting (36%). Additional clinical placement settings included clinical, outpatient, community, wound care, and school nurse placements.

Figure 33. NNCPC Total Placements by Facility Type



*Note: Includes all placements. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

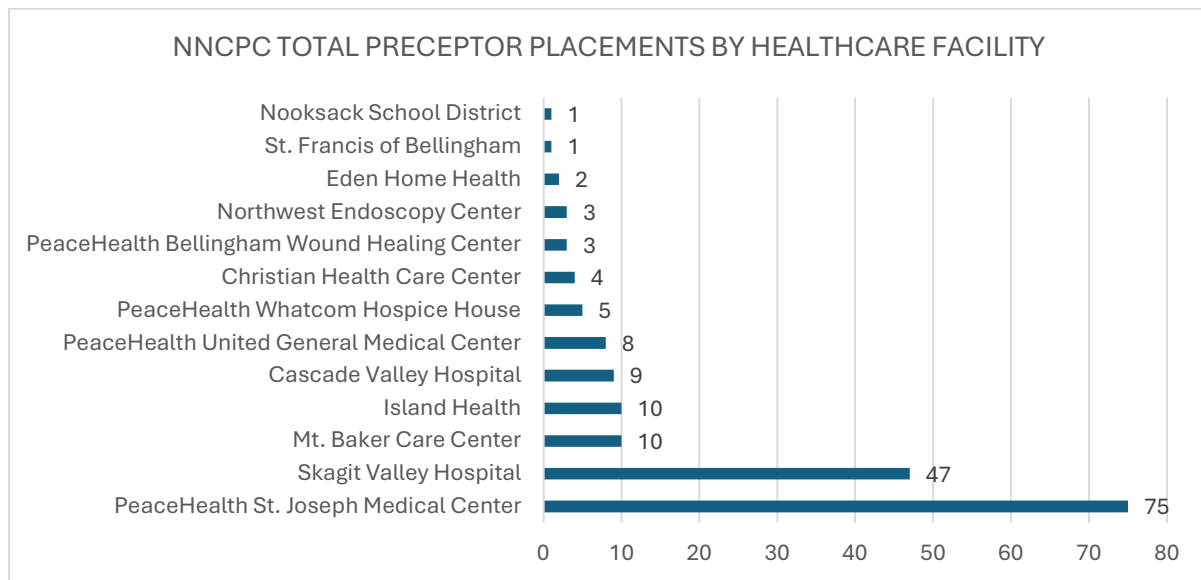
Figure 34. NNCPC Total Placements by Rotations Specialty



*Note: Includes all placements. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

A variety of clinical rotation specialties were coordinated for nursing students by NNCPC. The rotations with the highest number of total placements were in the medical-surgical rotation (41%), followed by long-term care (36%) and clinics (5%).

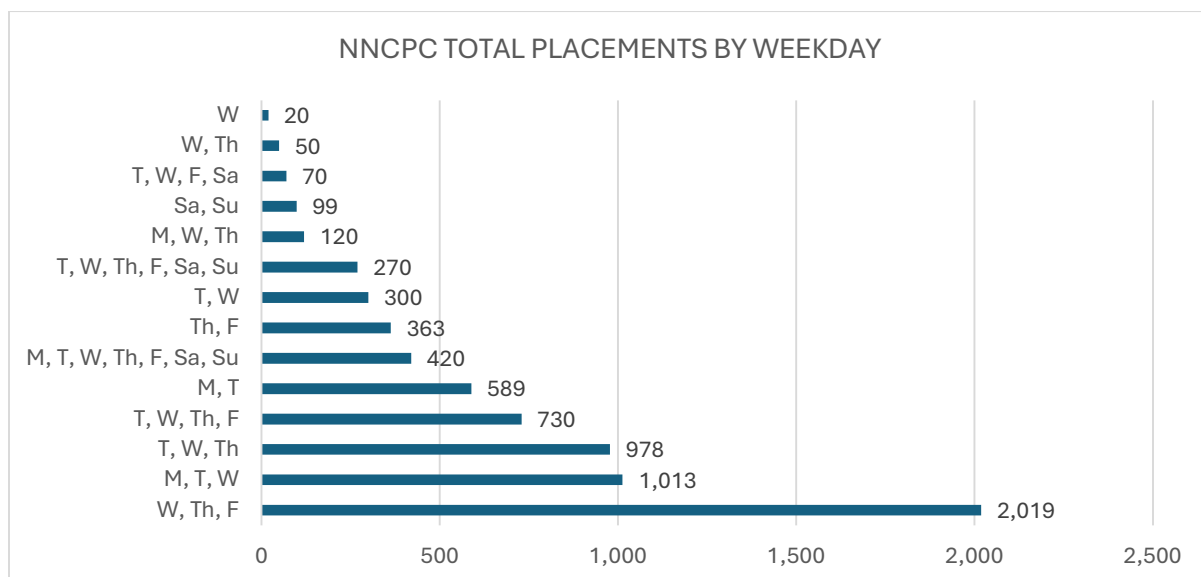
Figure 35. NNCPC Total Preceptor Placements by Healthcare Facility



*Note: Includes all placements. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

The total number of preceptor placements is dependent on the number of students in a program and the program's requirements. The largest number of preceptor placements was at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, with 75 preceptor placements, followed by Skagit Valley Hospital, with 47 preceptor placements.

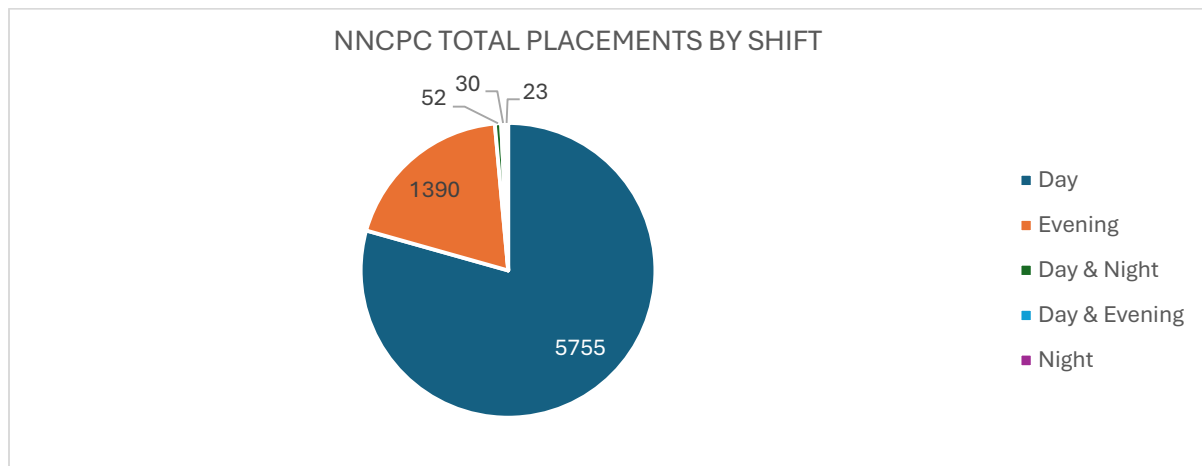
Figure 36. NNCPC Total Placements by Weekday



*Note: Includes all placements. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

There is a mix of clinical days, with 88% of the total NNCPC placements occurring on a weekday compared to 12% that included a weekend day.

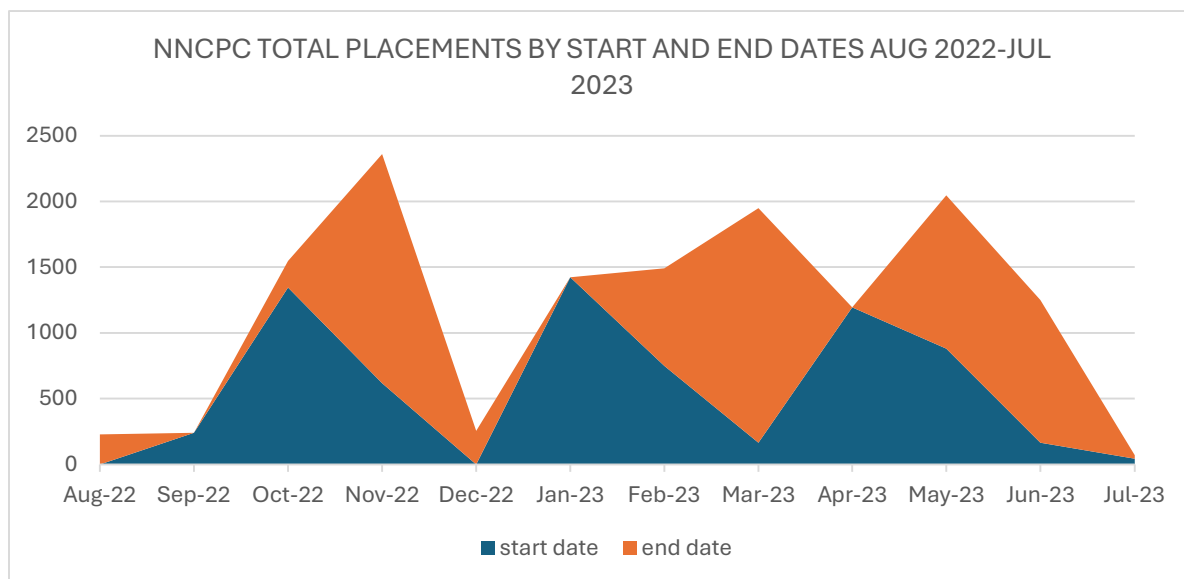
Figure 37. NNCPC Total Placements by Shift



*Note: Includes all clinical and preceptor shifts where data available. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

Most clinical placement shifts occur on the day shift (79%), followed by the evening shift (19%). The specific time of day the shift starts and ends is unknown and categorized by the NNCPC.

Figure 38. NNCPC Total Placements by Start and End Dates Aug 2022-Jul 2023



*Note: Includes all placements. Source: Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium academic year 2022-2023.

Total clinical placements, including start dates and end dates, were highest during the months of November (2,361), March (1,948), and May (2,047) and lowest during August (227), December (253), and July (69).

Student Max

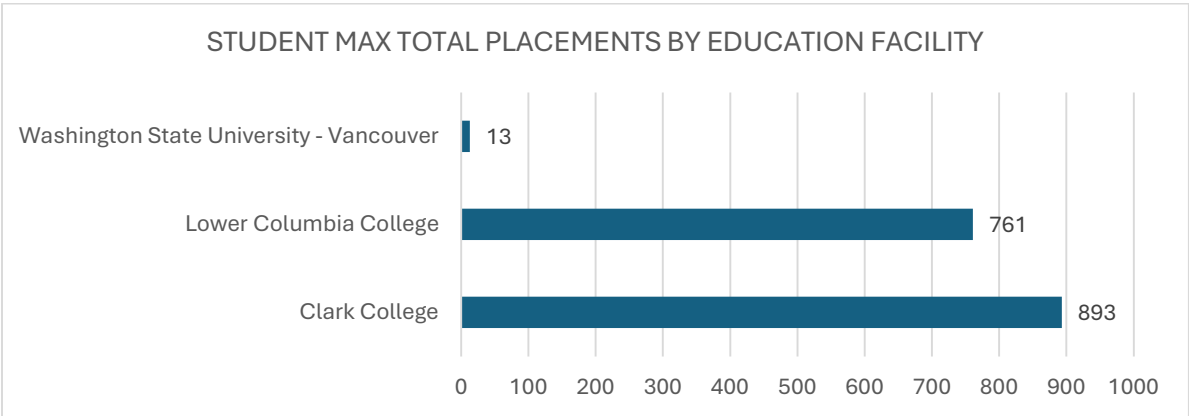
Student Max is a clinical consortium supporting education and clinical facilities in Oregon and southwestern Washington. Only those clinical placements for schools located in Washington state were included and analyzed in this report. Student Max had a total of 1,659 clinical placements, supports three Washington nursing schools, and coordinates placements in 15 healthcare facilities in Washington and Oregon.

Table 4. Student Max Nursing Clinical Placements 2022-2023

Student Max clinical placements overview 2022-2023	
Total placements	1,659
Total clinical rotation placements	1,375
Total preceptor placements	284
Total AD-RN placements	701
Total APRN placements	13
Total education facilities	3
Total healthcare facilities	15

*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

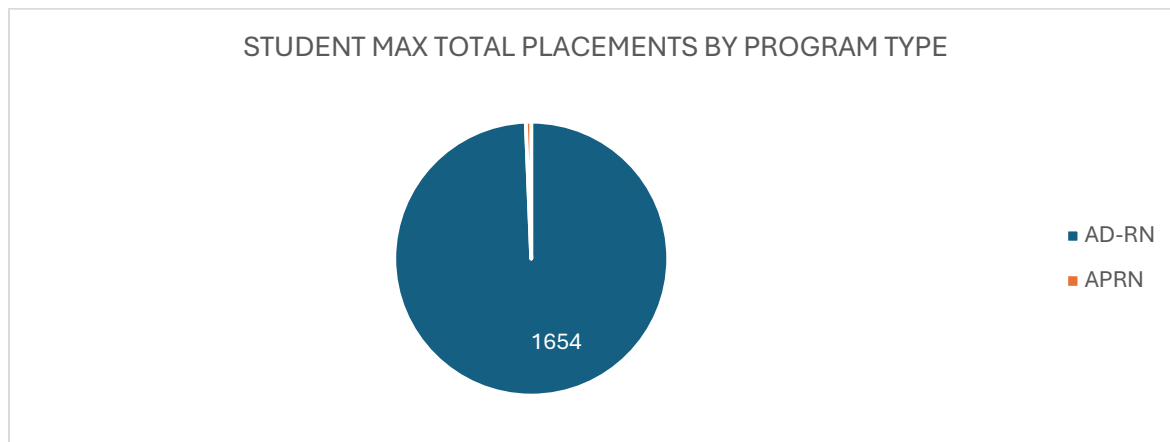
Figure 39. Student Max Total Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

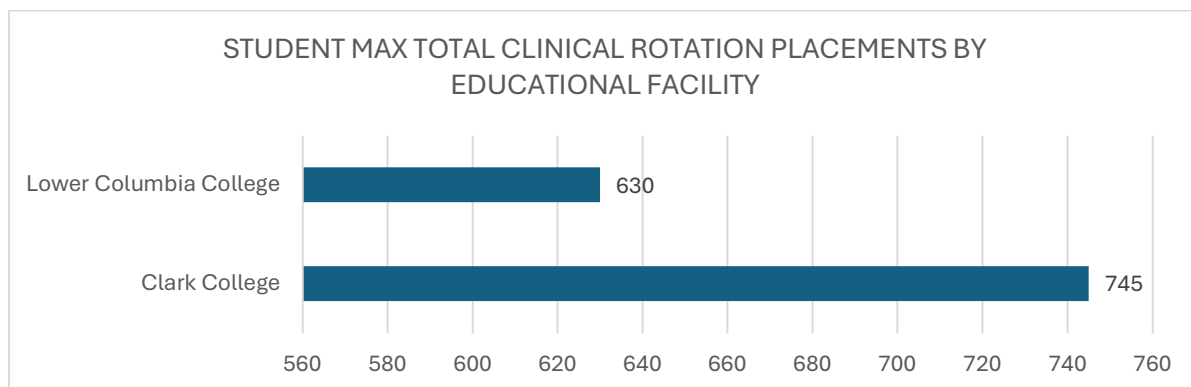
The school with the highest number of total placements was Clark College, with 893 placements, followed by Lower Columbia College, with 761 placements. Student Max clinical placements are primarily for AD-RN students, with 1,654 AD-RN placements and 11 advanced practice placements.

Figure 40. Student Max Total Placements by Program Type



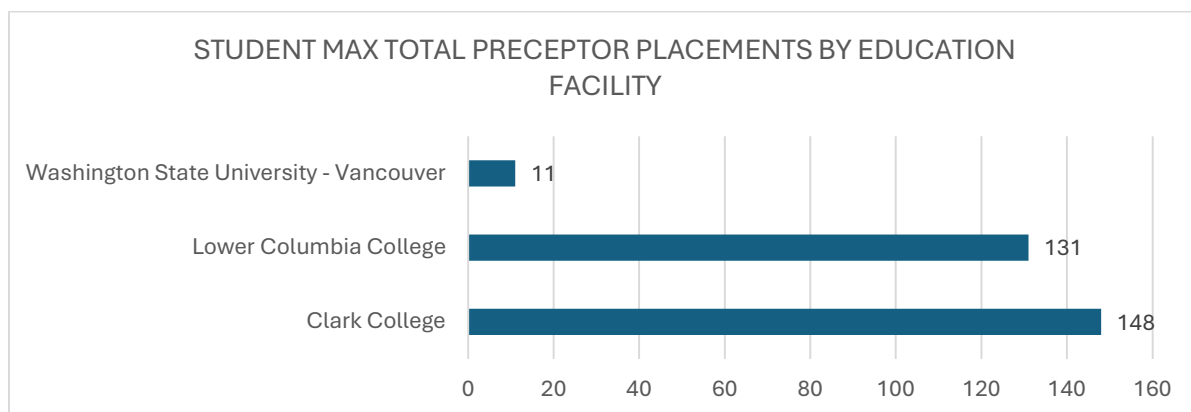
*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Data missing on all program types. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

Figure 41. Student Max Total Clinical Rotation Placements by Educational Facility



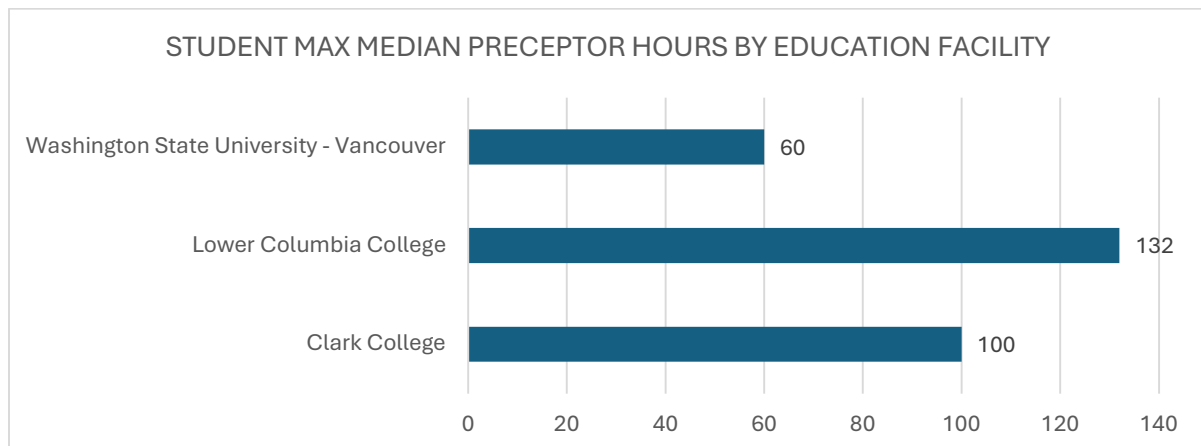
*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

Figure 42. Student Max Total Preceptor Placements by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

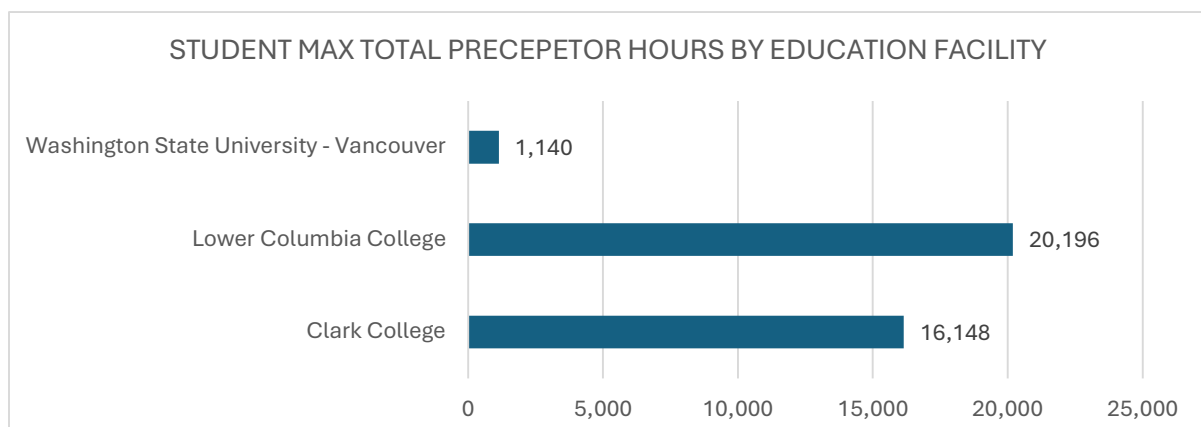
Figure 43. Student Max Median Preceptor Hours by Education Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

Median preceptor hours varied by college, ranging from 60 hours per student to 132 hours per student for preceptor clinical placements.

Figure 44. Student Max Total Preceptor Hours by Education Facility

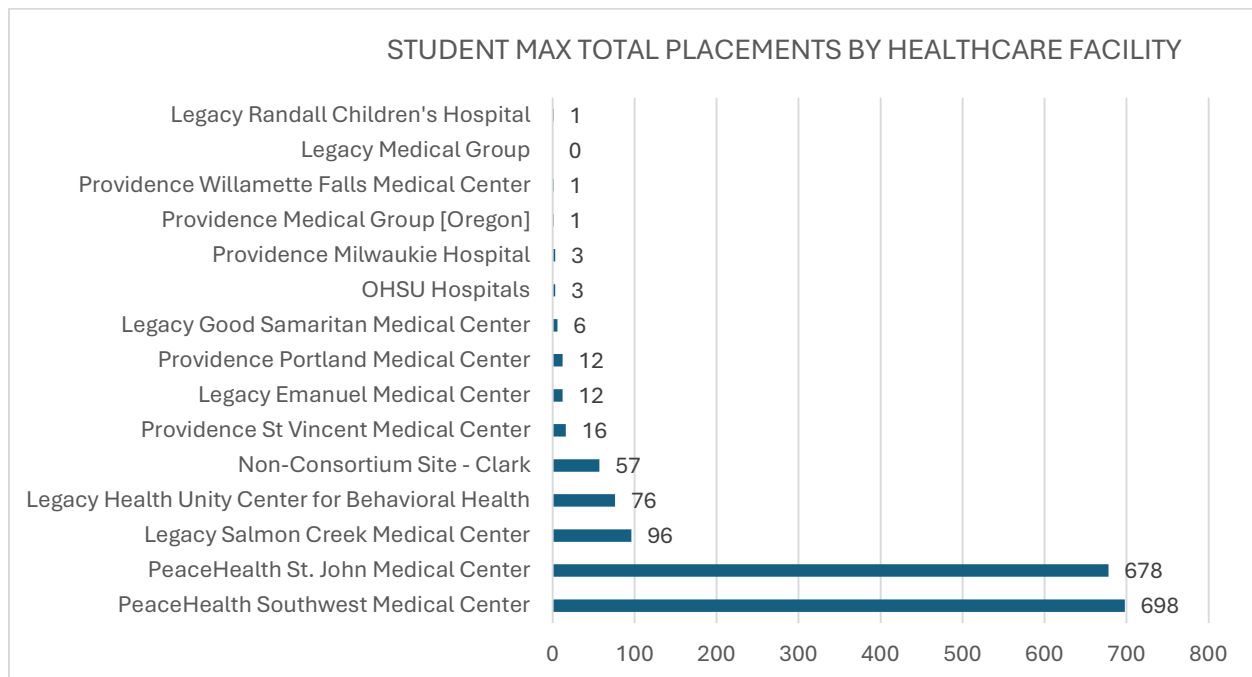


*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

Total preceptor hours are dependent on the size of the program and the total number of students. Total preceptor hours are calculated using the total number of preceptor placements multiplied by the number of preceptor hours per student required. This does not include the preceptor hours not placed by Student Max. Lower Columbia College had the highest total number of preceptor hours at 20,196 total preceptor hours.

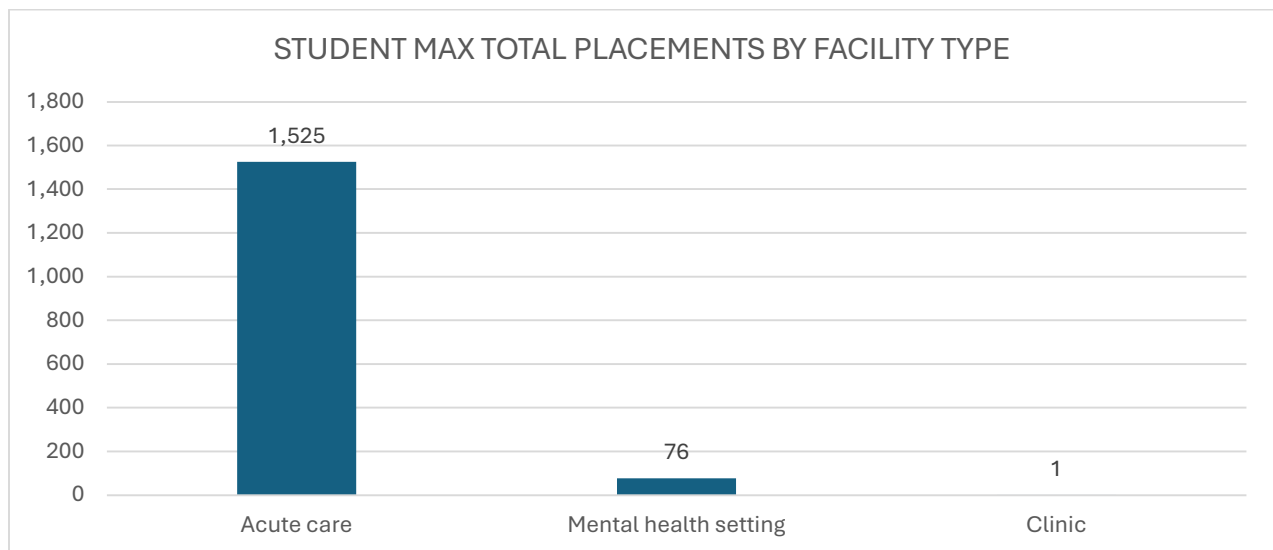
The total placements by healthcare facility were primarily in the acute care setting, with the highest placements at PeaceHealth Southwest and PeaceHealth St. John located in Washington state. Several clinical placement sites are located in Oregon. Some of the healthcare facilities are not displayed on the map in Figure 2 due to multiple locations and thus no single zip code to enter into the dataset.

Figure 45. Student Max Total Placements by Healthcare Facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

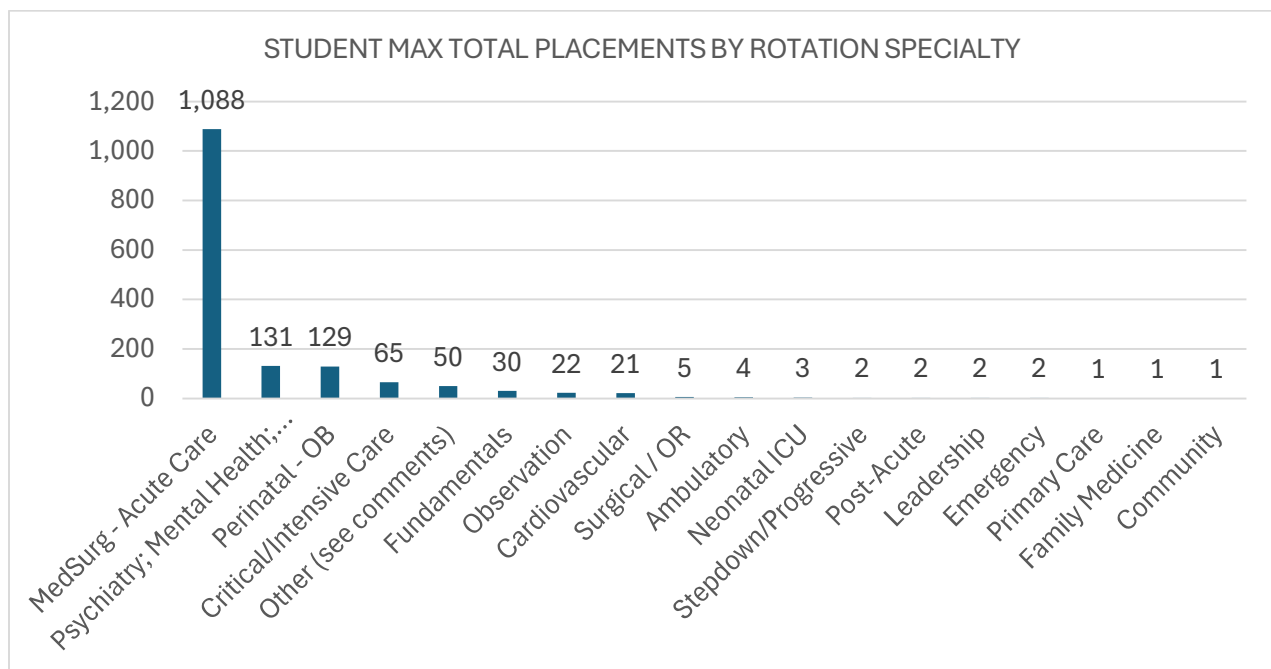
Figure 46. Student Max Total Placements by Facility Type



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

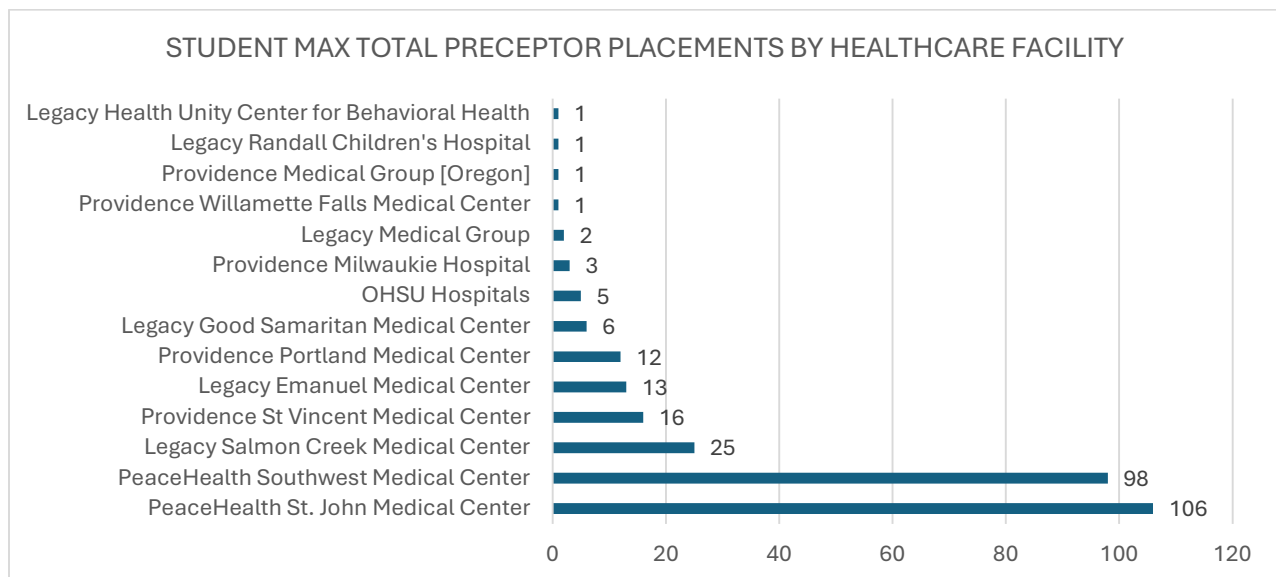
Most of the Student Max clinical placements were coordinated in the acute care setting (95%), followed by a mental health setting (5%). The highest number of total placements by rotation specialty was in medical-surgical or acute care settings, with 70% of placements followed by psychiatry or mental health placements (8%).

Figure 47. Student Max Total Placements by Rotation Specialty



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

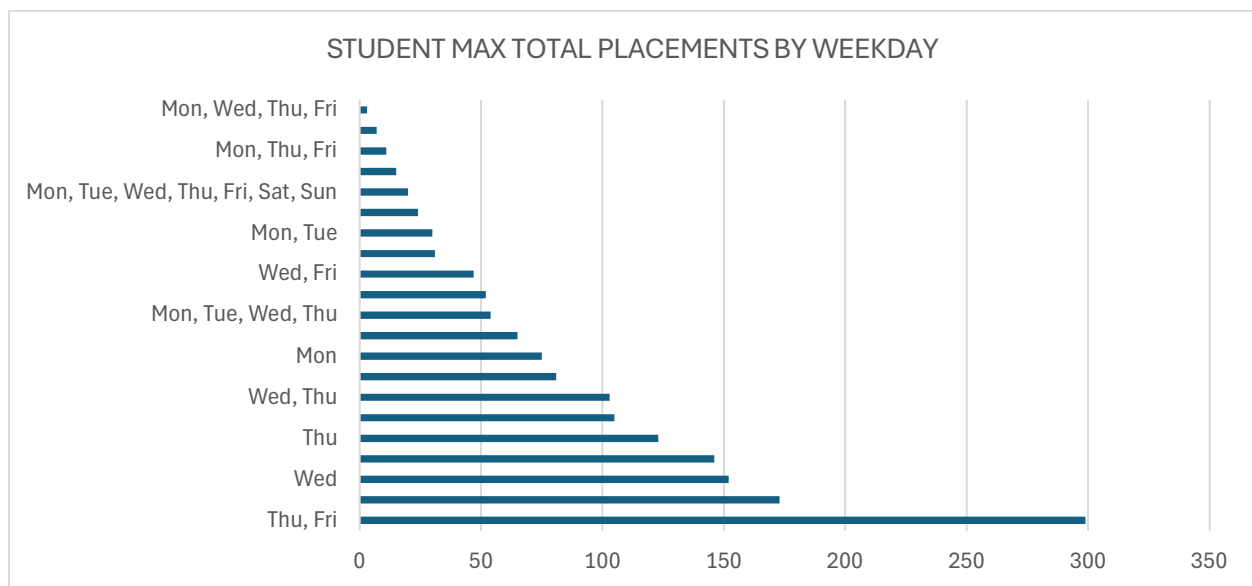
Figure 48. Student Max total preceptor placements by healthcare facility



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

The highest number of preceptor placements occurred in the acute care setting at PeaceHealth Southwest and PeaceHealth St. John Medical Centers, with a combined total of 204 preceptor placements or 70% of total preceptor placements.

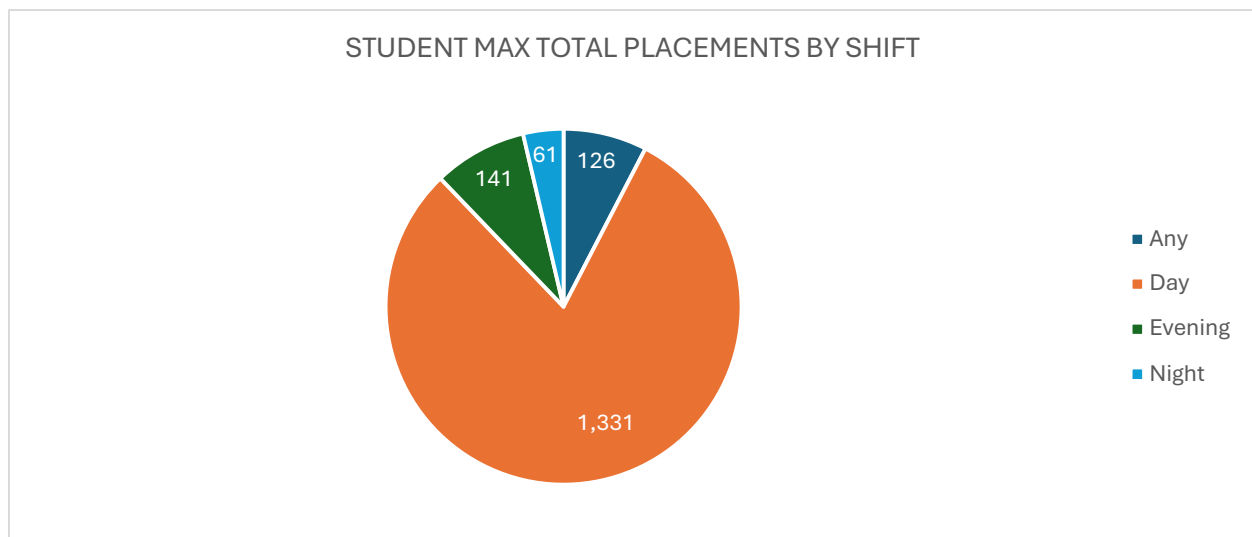
Figure 49. Student Max Total Placements by Weekday



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

A total of 1,385 (86%) clinical placements coordinated by Student Max occurred on a Monday through Friday weekday, with only 14% including a Saturday or Sunday weekend day.

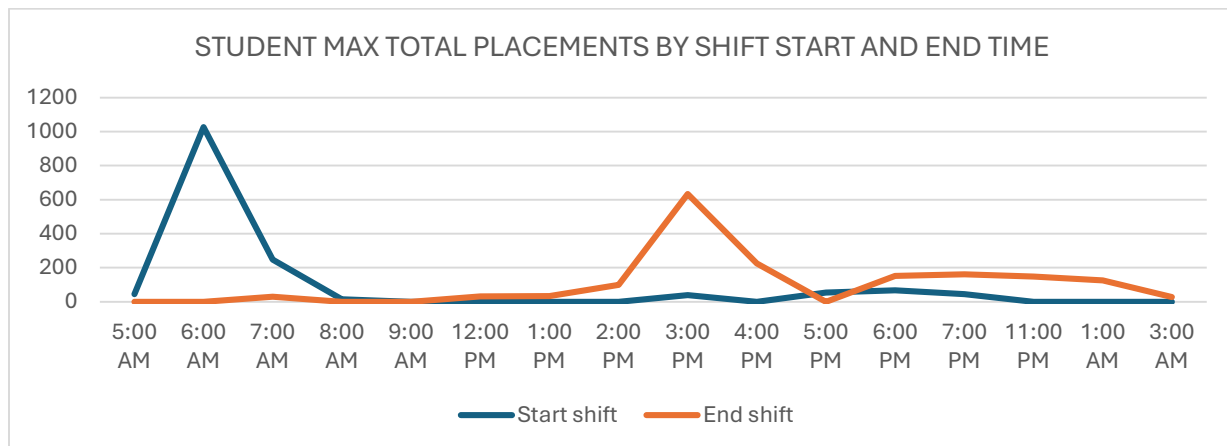
Figure 50. Student Max Total Placements by Shift



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. "Any" refers to any schedule that follows the preceptor's schedule. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

Most Student Max clinical placements occurred on a day shift (80%) followed by an evening shift (8%). "Any" shift refers to a student following the preceptor's schedule, and accordingly, the student will be placed on any shift while they complete their preceptor rotation.

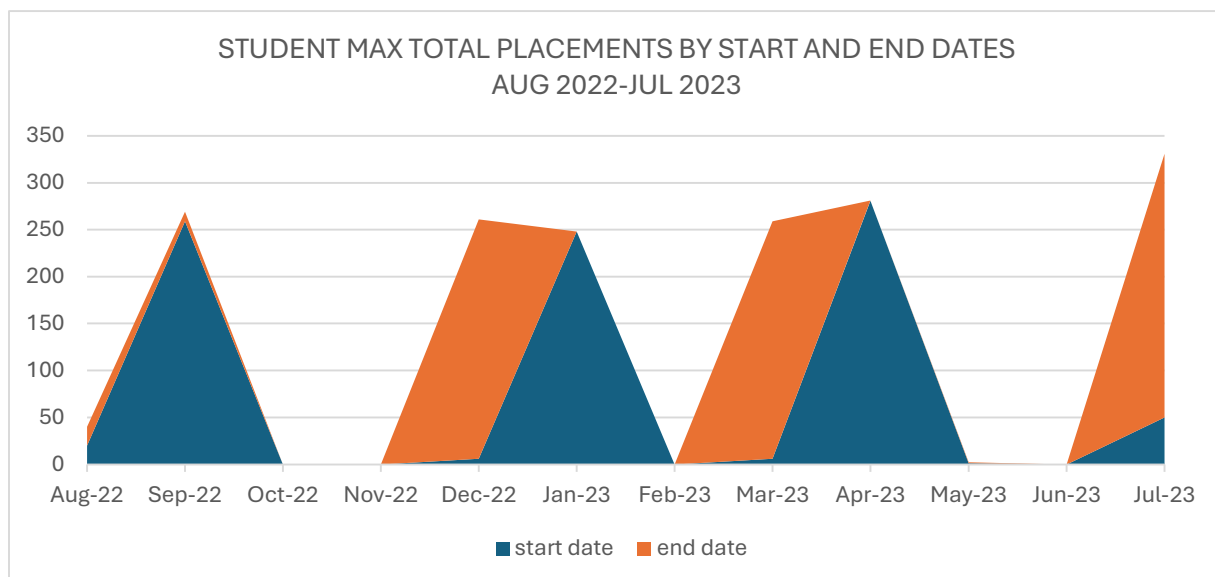
Figure 51. Student Max Total Placements by Shift Start and End Time



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

The highest volume of total clinical placement shifts start between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., with 1,275 (83%) total placements starting during these hours. Clinical placements end their clinical shift between 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (52%) or 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. (19%).

Figure 52. Student Max Total Placements by Start and End Dates Aug 2022-July 2023



*Note: Includes WA nursing program placements and excludes out of state program placements. Source: Student Max year 2022-2023.

Student Max placements show a visual rhythm for clinical placements. The highest number of clinical placements occur in April (281) and July (331), while there are no placements starting or ending in October and November months.

Methods

A secondary data analysis was conducted using existing data. The main sources of data for this analysis were derived from the four Washington clinical consortiums placing nursing students attending Washington nursing programs: Clinical Placements Northwest (CPNW), Northwest Nursing Clinical Placement Consortium (NNCPC), My Clinical Exchange with MultiCare Health System, and Student Max Consortium.

The data collected from the consortiums were primarily used for clinical placement requests and not for the purpose of this analysis. The consortium data is collected using input from nursing programs and clinical coordinators with the purpose of requesting and scheduling clinical placements. Data was analyzed for the academic year August 2022 to July 2023. Data collection from each consortium varied in input and output. Data was reviewed for accuracy and consistency. The data was verified for accuracy of data where required with each consortium. When a school has more than one location or campus, data is depicted as one school. Percentages were calculated by excluding missing cases for each variable.

There were approximately 38 nursing programs and over 100 healthcare facilities included in this analysis, with some facilities duplicated with results categorized by consortium. The main questions analyzed for this report focused on clinical placements for nursing students, settings for placements, and placement hours. Data was excluded from the analysis if there was no data available or was missing. A data request was submitted to each consortium and approved by the consortium, their board, and their member schools to be used for this analysis.

During this one-year analysis, the consortium clinical placement request questions and outputs changed for CPNW and My Clinical Exchange, with some questions added or removed during this time and the use of new electronic systems in place. This results in varying outputs and inconsistent data in the one-year analysis. For example, My Clinical Exchange started to collect ethnicity data on students in January of 2023, and that data was not available in the 2022 year. CPNW and My Clinical Exchange have some overlap in clinical placements, and since the data was de-identified with no student information, it was not possible to remove duplicate clinical placement data.

Limitations

Limitations include potential errors in data entry as data entry is manual, and may be entered incorrectly or inaccurately. The accuracy of the report is dependent on the accuracy of the data submitted. Clinical placement requests can be entered up to one year in advance with potential changes during the year, and data is updated regularly to reflect the actual clinical placement use. However, some data may be inaccurate with advanced planning. The consortium data was retrospective with some collecting manually, while others pulled data from an electronic system.

Data collection was significantly inconsistent across the four consortiums with varying inputs and definitions of clinical placement. There was inconsistency noted within datasets for facility names, misspelled words, or inconsistent categories and definitions across the data. For example, the consortiums identified a single healthcare facility with many names and varying abbreviations with similar findings across datasets and multiple variables.

Data was collected for purposes other than this analysis, providing no control for questions, survey development, or output variations. Data was not available for all the nursing clinical placements occurring in the state, with most data and placements occurring in the acute care setting. Data was not available for schools that do not use a consortium, and consortiums do not coordinate all nursing rotation clinicals. Three of the consortiums place non-nursing students and nursing students attending schools out of state, and this report excluded those out-of-state placements and non-nursing placements. These limitations did not allow for a comparative analysis to compare the consortiums. As a result, findings are reported by consortium rather than a collective summary.

Finally, duplication of placements is likely as data was de-identified and placements were not linked to specific students, which can create duplicate placement information, specifically for CPNW and My Clinical Exchange placements. My Clinical Exchange is a member of CPNW, and therefore, some of the total placements are duplicated in the data.

Summary

This report is a first-ever analysis of consortium data that provides insight into nursing clinical placements in Washington state. While there are limits to the data, there are consistent trends across the consortiums showing opportunities for placements in all regions.

Across the four consortiums, a total of 25,031 nursing clinical placements were coordinated for Washington nursing students. While the consortiums place many levels of students, most of the total placements were for pre-licensure nursing students, including AD-RN (67%) and BSN (19%). The consortiums supported 38 Washington education facilities and placed in at least 103 healthcare facilities across the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, with at least 78% of healthcare facilities located in Washington state. The number of total placements varies by the size of the school's program.

Results show that while consortiums coordinate nursing clinical placements in a variety of settings, the acute care setting has the highest number of total placements across all consortiums. The consortiums coordinate placements in healthcare facilities across the state, primarily in large hospital settings, long-term care settings, and mental health settings. There are regions of the state that have high utilization of placements, such as the Puget Sound area, whereas the central state regions and the southeast region have few consortium placements.

The number of median preceptor hours varies among the schools and affects the total number of preceptors needed for this type of clinical rotation. The data shows there are gaps in placements for certain times of the day, the week, and the months of the year that allow for more opportunities for placements during evening or night shifts, on weekends, and during select months. There are several limitations with inconsistent data across the consortiums. Data was not available for schools that do not use a consortium, and the consortiums do not place all nursing clinicals for all rotations.

Recommendations and Future Studies

There is a large variation in the clinical placement data used for this analysis, and data for all nursing clinical placements was not available to include in this analysis. Therefore, recommendations for data and future studies include:

Recommendations for data:

- 1) Consistent data collection approach for statewide analysis.
- 2) Standardize clinical placement definitions and terms (i.e. use of terms such as preceptor, practicum, capstone, etc.).
- 3) Organize data by region to better visualize high-utilization areas and opportunities.
- 4) Support collecting qualitative data focused on clinical placements.
- 5) Assign students a unique identifier to remove duplicate placement data.
- 6) Create uniform clinical placement data collection from healthcare facilities to better understand capacity across all settings.

This report provides an initial analysis of Washington's consortium data focusing on nursing clinical placements.

Future Studies:

- 1) Explore outcomes of programs to understand the variation in clinical placements, clinical hours, and preceptor hours.
- 2) Determine clinical placement needs of regional communities.
- 3) Gather clinical placement best practices from consortiums and schools.
- 4) Understand barriers to placements across all clinical placement settings.
- 5) Analyze data in settings other than acute care and from the schools that do not utilize a consortium for placements.
- 6) Investigate barriers and successes in clinical placements from consortiums and school perspectives.
- 7) Gather clinical placement data from consortium and non-consortium placements for a comprehensive review.
- 8) Monitor trends in clinical placements to determine advancements and progress.

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