STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS IN VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS

This update presents data for the 86 vocational nursing (VN) programs and the military-based VN program[1] in Texas during the 2023 reporting year, including:

- 81 generic programs
- 5 Multiple Entry/Exit Programs (MEEPs)

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the 2023 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 2, 2023. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2022-2023 (September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

In previous years, student demographics have been reported for both newly enrolled students and graduates. In 2023, data collection related to student demographics was limited to graduates in order to ease survey burden.

[1]Data collected from the military-based VN program were analyzed separately and can be found on page 2.

Graduates from Vocational Nursing Programs

Gender

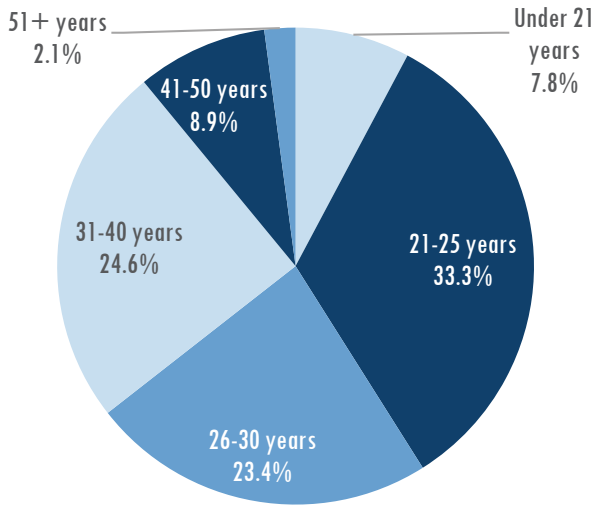
In 2023, there were 3,216 graduates from vocational nursing programs. Gender data were missing for 2.8% of VN graduates. The graduates from VN programs were predominately female (83.0%).

Age

Figure 1 presents the AY 2022-2023 breakdown of VN graduates by age. Age data were missing for 2.5% of VN graduates.

- The majority (64.5%) of VN graduates were 30 years or younger.
- 11.0% of VN graduates were aged 41 and older.

Figure 1. Age of VN Graduates, 2023



Race/Ethnicity

Figure 2 (page 2) shows the racial/ethnic distribution of 2023 VN graduates compared to the 2023 Texas VN workforce[2] and the 2023 projected Texas population[3].

- The proportion of VN graduates who were White/Caucasian (26.7%) was lower than both the proportion in the 2023 VN workforce (42.2%) and in the 2023 projected Texas population (39.6%).
- The proportion of Black/African American VN graduates (21.2%) was higher than the proportion of Black/African American Texans in 2023 (12.1%) but less than the proportion of Black/African American nurses in the 2023 VN workforce (25.7%).
- The proportion of VN graduates who were Hispanic/Latino (47.5%) was greater than both the proportion in the 2023 Texas VN workforce (27.9%), and the 2023 Texas population (40.3%).
- Figure 3 (page 2) shows that the VN graduate population is diversifying. The proportion of VN graduates who were White/Caucasian has dropped since 2014, while the percentage of graduates who were Hispanic/Latino has increased.

International Graduates

- Programs reported a total of 12 international graduates[4] (0.4% of all VN graduates).

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of VN Graduates, Texas VN Workforce[2], and Texas Population[3]

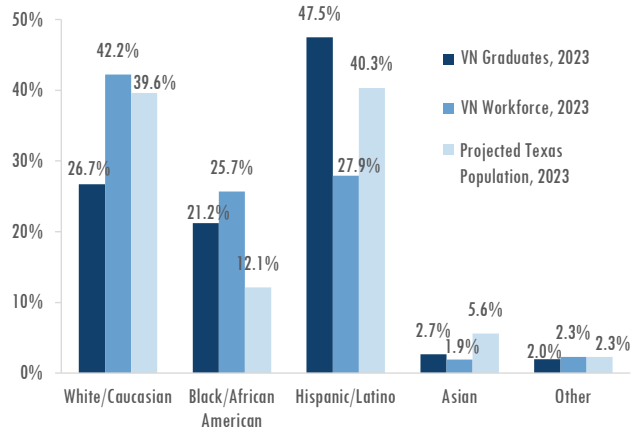
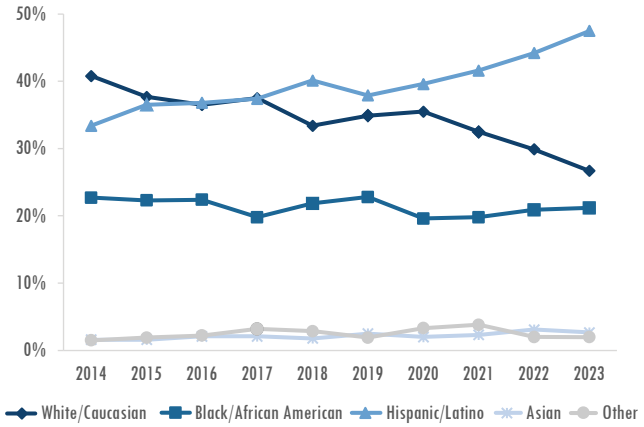


Figure 3. Race/Ethnicity Trends of VN Graduates, 2014-2023



[2]VN workforce data come from the 2023 BON Licensure Renewal file of actively practicing Texas vocational nurses, the most recent data available at the time of this publication.

[3]Texas population data come from the 2023 Texas Demographic Center population projections (https://demographics.texas.gov/Projections/).

[4]International was defined as a person who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and who is in this country on a temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

Military-Based VN Student Demographics

Gender

Unlike other VN programs, graduates from the military-based VN program were predominately male (55.5%).

Age

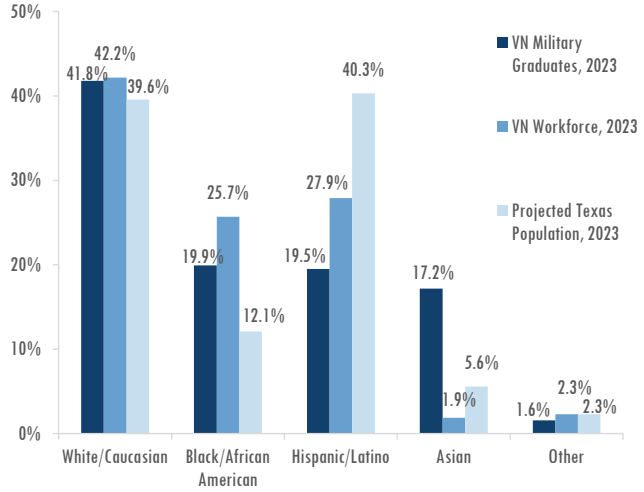
The majority of graduates (80.1%) were 30 years old or younger. Military VN graduates who were 17-20 years comprised 32.0%, compared to 7.8% in non-military programs.

Race/Ethnicity

Figure 4 shows the racial/ethnic distribution of graduates from the military-based VN program compared to the 2023 Texas VN workforce and the 2023 projected Texas population.

- The proportions of White/Caucasian VN military graduates (41.8%) and the VN workforce (42.2%) were higher compared to the Texas population (39.6%).
- Black/African American graduates (19.9%) and the 2023 VN workforce (25.7%) were both higher in proportion compared to the 2023 Texas population (12.1%).

Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Military-Based VN Program Graduates, Texas VN Workforce, and the Texas Population



- Hispanic/Latino graduates (19.5%) and 2023 VN workfoce (27.9%) were lower in proportion compared to the 2023 Texas population (40.3%).
- The proportion of Asian graduates (17.2%) was more than the proportion of the Texas population (5.6%) and the 2023 Texas VN workforce (1.9%).