

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA 1975 - 1982

A Descriptive Report

Report R:21

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This report is one of a series describing the distribution of manpower and resources of health care in the Province of British Columbia. These reports are working documents and comments or suggestions are welcomed. The reports are prepared for the Health Manpower Working Group of the Ministry of Health and for the Associations and Licensing Bodies which provide the data.

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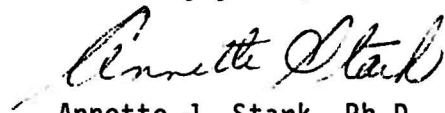
Dear Mr. Lovelace:

It is with pleasure that I transmit to you and to the members of the Health Manpower Working Group, the completed report, "Licensed Practical Nurses in British Columbia 1975 - 1982: A Descriptive Report".

This report is one of a series examining the supply and distribution of health manpower in this province. It is the first time, however, that the number of years' data available have made it possible to document changes in the stock of Licensed Practical Nurses over time.

We look forward with anticipation to receiving comments, suggestions and questions for further study.

Sincerely yours,



Annette J. Stark, Ph.D.
Director
Division of Health Services
Research and Development

/sej

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special appreciation is extended to the British Columbia Council of Practical Nurses for granting us permission to use its membership database.

Assistance in the completion of this report was provided by several members of the Division of Health Services Research and Development, including Dr. Annette Stark, Director of the Division, Dr. Arminée Kazanjian, Patrick Wong Fung, Cheryl Matthews, and Susan Moloney.

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Definition

"As defined in the Practical Nurses' Act, the Licensed Practical Nurse functions UNDER THE SUPERVISION of a registered nurse. In many settings the licensed practical nurse also works under the supervision of a registered psychiatric nurse. Employers follow the Guide issued by the British Columbia Council of Practical Nurses stating what the LPN has been taught and is prepared to perform.

The Licensed Practical Nurse is primarily engaged in direct care of clients/patients in a wide variety of health care settings subject to the policies of the employing agency.

Health care agencies can be acute, extended, intermediate or personal care; home care, public health, and/or community health and mental health care".¹

I. INTRODUCTION

In 1975 the Health Manpower Research Unit of the University of British Columbia computerized a file of all practical nurses licensed with the B.C. Council of Practical Nurses. Since that time this file has been maintained and updated on a regular basis. Currently, notification of new licensees or of change in location is received from the Council on a monthly basis. Employment information is collected yearly by means of a renewal fee form distributed to all nurses licensed with the Council.

The present study examines statistics from three points in time: September 1975, September 1979, and September 1982. Demographic, educational and employment information is examined. On most of the tables, those persons in the "no answer" category have been removed from the

1 Guide to the Definition of the Roles and Functions of the Licensed Practical Nurse, the Registered Nurse and the Registered Psychiatric Nurse. Joint Statement of The Licensed Practical Nurses' Association of British Columbia, The Registered Nurses' Association of British Columbia and The Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Association of British Columbia, February 1977, p. 7.

See also Canadian Classification and Dictionary of Occupations 1980, Major Group 31, No. 3134-110, p. 54, Ottawa: Employment and Immigration Canada.

denominator when calculating the percentages. This procedure has the effect of distributing the missing individuals proportionately among the remainder, enabling one to meaningfully quote the percentage of individuals with a given characteristic. There is no reason to suppose that the missing individuals are not distributed in the same proportion as those who provided answers.

II. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Location

The number of practical nurses licensed to practice in the province numbered 6089 in September 1975, 6892 in September 1979, and 7427 in September 1982. It can be noted that the average annual increase between 1975 and 1979 was 200.8 nurses, but dropped in the period 1979 to 1982 to 178.3.

The percentage of those residing in B.C. (approximately 95 per cent) versus those residing outside the province (approximately 5 per cent) has remained fairly constant. Of those living in B.C., the percentage in non-metropolitan areas has risen very slightly, from 52.7% in 1975 to 54.1% in 1982. Table 1 shows these figures.

Table 1: Number and Percentage¹ Distribution of Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Location of Residence, September 1975, 1979 and 1982

LOCATION OF RESIDENCE	1975		1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
B.C. Subtotal	5739	94.3	6511	94.5	7024	94.6
Non-Metropolitan	3022	52.7	3489	53.6	3801	54.1
Metropolitan	<u>2717</u>	47.3	<u>3022</u>	46.4	<u>3223</u>	45.9
Non-B.C. Subtotal	350	5.7	381	5.5	403	5.4
Total	6089	100.0	6892	100.0	7427	100.0

¹ Percentages on this and following tables may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Sex

As can be seen in Table 2, females dominate the population of Licensed Practical Nurses in the province. It can be noted, however, that the

percentage of males has been increasing ($p < .05$)², from 1.6% of the total in 1975 to 3.2% in 1982.

Table 2: Number and Percentage Distribution of Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Sex, September 1975, 1979 and 1982

SEX	1975		1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	70	1.6	190	2.8	237	3.2
Female	4185	98.4	6702	97.2	7190	96.8
Total	4255 ¹	100.0	6892	100.0	7427	100.0

¹ This total does not include 1834 unknown in 1975.

Marital Status

Table 3 shows the distribution by marital status. The percentage of those married has stayed over 60 per cent, comprising 65.3% of the total population in 1975, 62.4% in 1979 and 63.1% in 1982.

Table 3: Number and Percentage Distribution of Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Marital Status, September 1975, 1979 and 1982

MARITAL STATUS	1975		1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Single	849	20.3	1686	24.7	1649	22.5
Married	2730	65.3	4256	62.4	4620	63.1
Other (Widowed, Divorced, Separated)	599	14.3	874	12.8	1056	14.4
Total ¹	4178	100.0	6816	100.0	7325	100.0

¹ These totals do not include 1911 unknown in 1975, 76 unknown in 1979, and 102 unknown in 1982.

² The Chi Square test for independence is used throughout at the usually accepted $p < .05$ level of significance. (That is, the probability of this happening by chance is 1 out of 20.)

Age

The data in Table 4 indicate that the age distribution of licensed practical nurses has changed over the seven-year period studied. The percentage distribution in the <25 year and the 25-29 year age groups has decreased, while the percentage in the 30-34 year, 35-39 year, and 40-44 year age groups has increased ($p<.05$) substantially. The single largest age group was that between 25-29 years in 1975 and 1979, but shifted to that between 30-34 years in 1982. In 1975, 1979 and 1982 at least two-thirds of those licensed have been under 40 years of age.

Table 4: Number and Percentage Distribution of Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Age, September 1975, 1979 and 1982

AGE IN YEARS	1975		1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
< 25	752	17.8	999	14.9	650	9.0
25 - 29	1024	24.3	1542	23.0	1504	20.8
30 - 34	665	15.8	1358	20.3	1578	21.9
35 - 39	369	8.7	858	12.8	1219	16.9
40 - 44	325	7.7	536	8.0	731	10.1
45 - 49	302	7.2	442	6.6	468	6.5
50 - 54	310	7.3	397	5.9	437	6.1
55 - 59	227	5.4	342	5.1	345	4.8
60 - 64	186	4.4	170	2.5	212	2.9
65 +	60	1.4	58	0.9	73	1.0
Total ¹	4220	100.0	6702	100.0	7217	100.0

¹ These totals do not include 1869 unknown in 1975, 190 unknown in 1979, and 210 unknown in 1982.

Initial B.C. Licensure

Licensure with the B.C. Council of Practical Nurses has been available for practical nurses since 1965. When a nurse first becomes licensed with

the Council, (s)he is assigned a unique number and becomes a licensed practical nurse. Each year thereafter in which the nurse wishes to continue practising as an L.P.N., this license must be renewed. As at September 30, 1982 12,022 nurses had become licensed with the Council since 1965. Of that total, 7427 (61.8%) were currently licensed to practice. Table 5 shows the year of initial B.C. licensure for 7184 of these individuals.

Table 5: Number and Percentage Distribution of Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Year of Initial Licensure with the B.C. Council of Practical Nurses, September 1982

YEAR OF INITIAL LICENSURE IN B.C.	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
1965 ¹	133	1.9
1966	434	6.0
1967	519	7.2
1968	302	4.2
1969	334	4.6
1970	298	4.1
1971	353	4.9
1972	396	5.5
1973	444	6.2
1974	534	7.4
1975	468	6.5
1976	397	5.5
1977	408	5.7
1978	431	6.0
1979	397	5.5
1980	519	7.2
1981	466	6.5
1982 ²	351	4.9
Total	7184 ³	100.0

¹ 1965 was the first year licensure was available with the B.C. Council of Practical Nurses.

² This figure represents only a partial year -- January 1 to September 30, 1982.

³ This total does not include 243 unknown.

III. EDUCATION PROFILE

Pre-L.P.N. Education

As is shown in Table 6, the majority of L.P.N.'s have high school graduation or higher education before commencing their training in nursing. This proportion has increased from 64.2% of those licensed to practice in B.C. in 1979, to 69.2% in 1982 ($p < .05$).

Table 6: Number and Percentage Distribution of Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Pre-L.P.N. Education¹, September 1979 and 1982

PRE-L.P.N. EDUCATION	1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
< Grade 10	210	3.2	175	2.4
Grade 10	1099	16.5	1000	13.7
Grade 11	1069	16.1	1068	14.6
≥ Grade 12	4263	64.2	5049	69.2
Total ²	6641	100.0	7292	100.0

¹ This information is not available for 1975.

² These totals do not include 251 unknown in 1979 and 135 unknown in 1982.

L.P.N. Training

Currently, in order to become licensed as a practical nurse in B.C., one must meet all the requirements of the B.C. Council of Practical Nurses.³ This includes proof of successful completion of an approved B.C. course for practical nurses or nursing orderlies, or equivalent training and experience. When all such requirements are fulfilled, the individual

³ See Skills Required of the Beginning Licensed Practical Nurse, British Columbia Council of Practical Nurses, 1981.

receives full licensure. Some of those who applied for licensure before the end of 1966 were granted partial licenses on the basis of experience only. Partial licenses have been granted to individuals in one or more of the following areas: medical, surgical, pediatric, maternity, newborn, or chronic/convalescent nursing. The breakdown of licensees by partial/full licensure is shown in Table 7. The percentage of those holding partial licenses has dropped over the years, from 12.5% in 1975 to a low of only 3.7% in 1982.

Table 7: Number and Percentage Distribution of Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Partial/Full Licensure, September 1975, 1979 and 1982

TYPE OF LICENSURE	1975		1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Partial	764	12.5	349	5.1	276	3.7
Full	5325	87.5	6543	94.9	7151	96.3
Total	6089	100.0	6892	100.0	7427	100.0

Year L.P.N. Training Completed

If one considers the ten-year period of completion of training prior to each of 1975, 1979 and 1982, it becomes apparent that the percentage of recent graduates has been decreasing ($p < .05$) in relation to the total number of nurses licensed each year. That is, in 1975, 68.2% of those fully licensed had graduated during the 1966-1975 period; in 1979, 58.7% had graduated from 1970-1979; and in 1982, 48.4% had graduated from 1973-1982. Table 8 gives the breakdown of these figures. It is interesting that the aging of the stock (see Table 4) is apparently related to people staying in the workforce as L.P.N.'s, rather than to new graduates being older.

Table 8: Number and Percentage Distribution of Practical Nurses Licensed to Practice in B.C. as Full Licensees, by Year Training Completed, September 1975, 1979 and 1982

YEAR TRAINING COMPLETED	1975		1979		1982	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Before 1965	1276	26.4	1209	19.7	1169	17.2
1965	259	5.4	248	4.0	239	3.5
1966	262	5.4	245	4.0	234	3.4
1967	249	5.2	234	3.8	226	3.3
1968	295	6.1	274	4.5	272	4.0
1969	373	7.7	328	5.3	328	4.8
1970	350	7.2	300	4.9	281	4.1
1971	412	8.5	397	6.5	359	5.3
1972	404	8.4	403	6.6	398	5.9
1973	450	9.3	398	6.5	387	5.7
1974	424	8.8	428	7.0	409	6.0
1975	80*	1.7*	356	5.8	330	4.9
1976	-	-	381	6.2	353	5.2
1977	-	-	402	6.5	387	5.7
1978	-	-	397	6.5	382	5.6
1979	-	-	149*	2.4*	372	5.5
1980	-	-	-	-	327	4.8
1981	-	-	-	-	248	3.7
1982	-	-	-	-	90*	1.3*
Total ¹	4834	100.0	6149	100.0	6791	100.0

* This figure represents only a partial year.

¹ These totals do not include 491 unknown in 1975, 394 unknown in 1979 and 360 unknown in 1982.

Province/Country of L.P.N. Training

Looking at the 1982 data, it is evident that the majority of practical nurses fully licensed in B.C. received their training in Canada (93.7%). Of

Table 9: Number and Percentage Distribution of Practical Nurses Licensed to Practice in B.C. as Full Licensees, by Province/Country of L.P.N. Training, September 1982

PROVINCE/COUNTRY OF L.P.N. TRAINING	<u>N</u>	% of Subtotals	% of Total
<u>Canada</u>			
British Columbia	4657	70.9	66.4
Alberta	589	9.0	8.4
Ontario	532	8.1	7.6
Manitoba	310	4.7	4.4
Saskatchewan	216	3.3	3.1
Nova Scotia	93	1.4	1.3
Province of Quebec	62	0.9	0.9
New Brunswick	38	0.6	0.5
Yukon Territories	30	0.5	0.4
Newfoundland	27	0.4	0.4
Prince Edward Island	8	0.1	0.1
Northwest Territories	6	0.1	0.1
Province Unknown	<u>4</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.1</u>
Subtotal	6572	100.0	93.7
<u>Outside Canada</u>			
United Kingdom	173	39.2	2.5
U.S.A.	64	14.5	0.9
Philippines	60	13.6	0.9
Hong Kong	31	7.0	0.4
Germany	24	5.4	0.3
Other	<u>89</u>	<u>20.2</u>	<u>1.3</u>
Subtotal	441	100.0	6.3
Total ¹	7013		100.0

¹ This total does not include 138 unknown.

those Canadian trained, most named B.C. as their province of training (70.9% of Canadian total). Alberta and Ontario were the next most common (comprising 9.0% and 8.1% of the Canadian total, respectively).

Those educated outside of Canada represent only 6.3% of the total nurses licensed. The United Kingdom is the country most frequently cited as the place of training outside of Canada, but when viewed in relation to the total nursing population, it represents only 2.5%.

These figures are shown in Table 9, on the preceding page.

B.C. Institution of Training

Taking a closer look at those trained in B.C., it can be seen that a full 96.8% completed programs in one of seven colleges in the province. Vancouver Community College alone accounts for 33.4% of those B.C. trained. Table 10 details the distribution.

Table 10: Number and Percentage Distribution of Practical Nurses
Licensed to Practice in B.C. as Full Licensees, by B.C.
Institution of Training, September 1982

B.C. INSTITUTION OF TRAINING	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Vancouver Community College	1549	33.4
Malaspina College	894	19.3
Camosun College	599	12.9
Okanagan College	496	10.7
Selkirk College	486	10.5
College of New Caledonia	378	8.2
Douglas College	86	1.9
Other	150	3.2
Total ¹	4638	100.0

¹ This total does not include 19 unknown.

FIGURE 1: STATUS OF ALL PRACTICAL NURSES LICENSED WITH THE B.C.
COUNCIL OF PRACTICAL NURSES, AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1975;
EMPLOYMENT STATUS AS OF JUNE 1975.

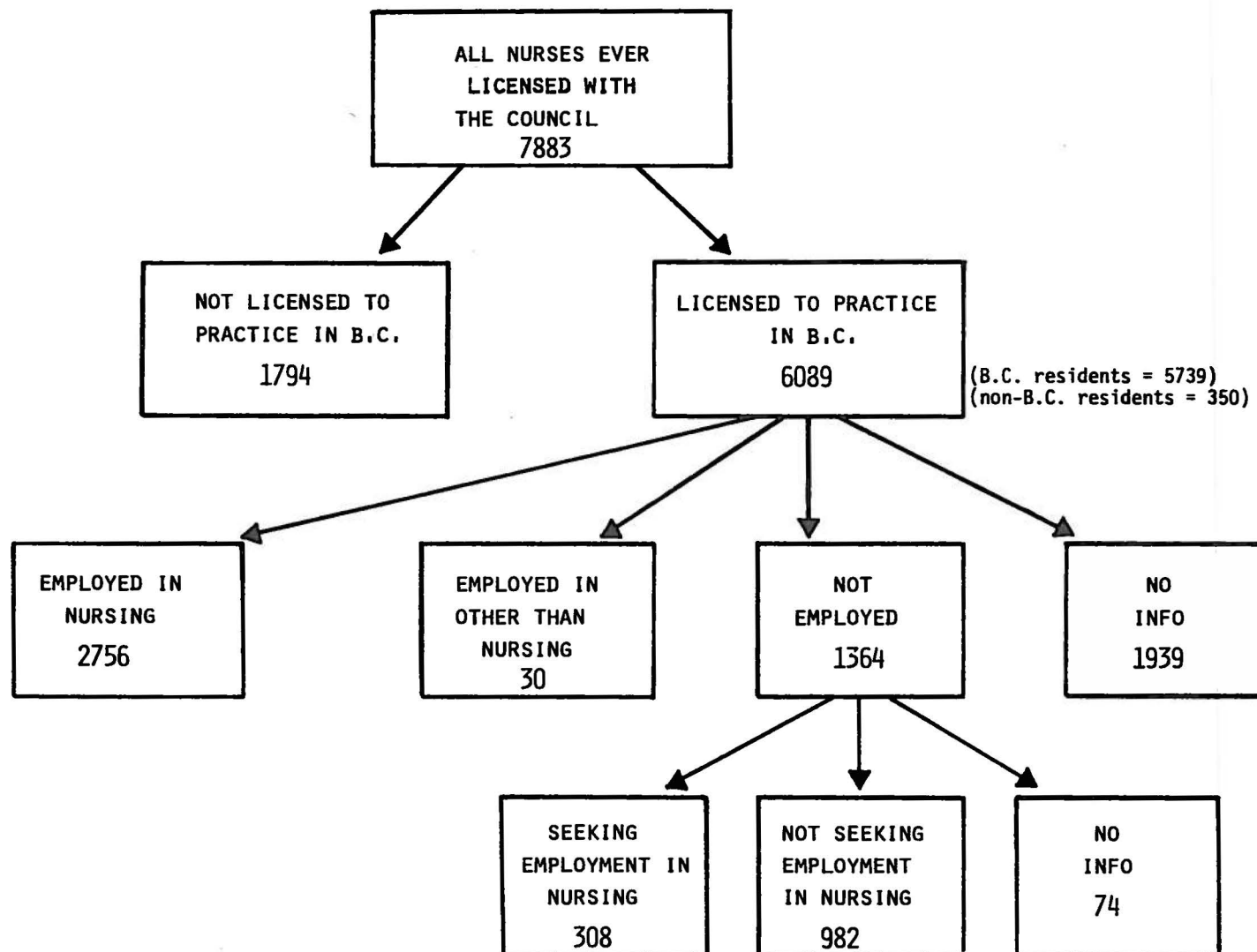


FIGURE 2: STATUS OF ALL PRACTICAL NURSES LICENSED WITH THE B.C.
COUNCIL OF PRACTICAL NURSES, AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1979.

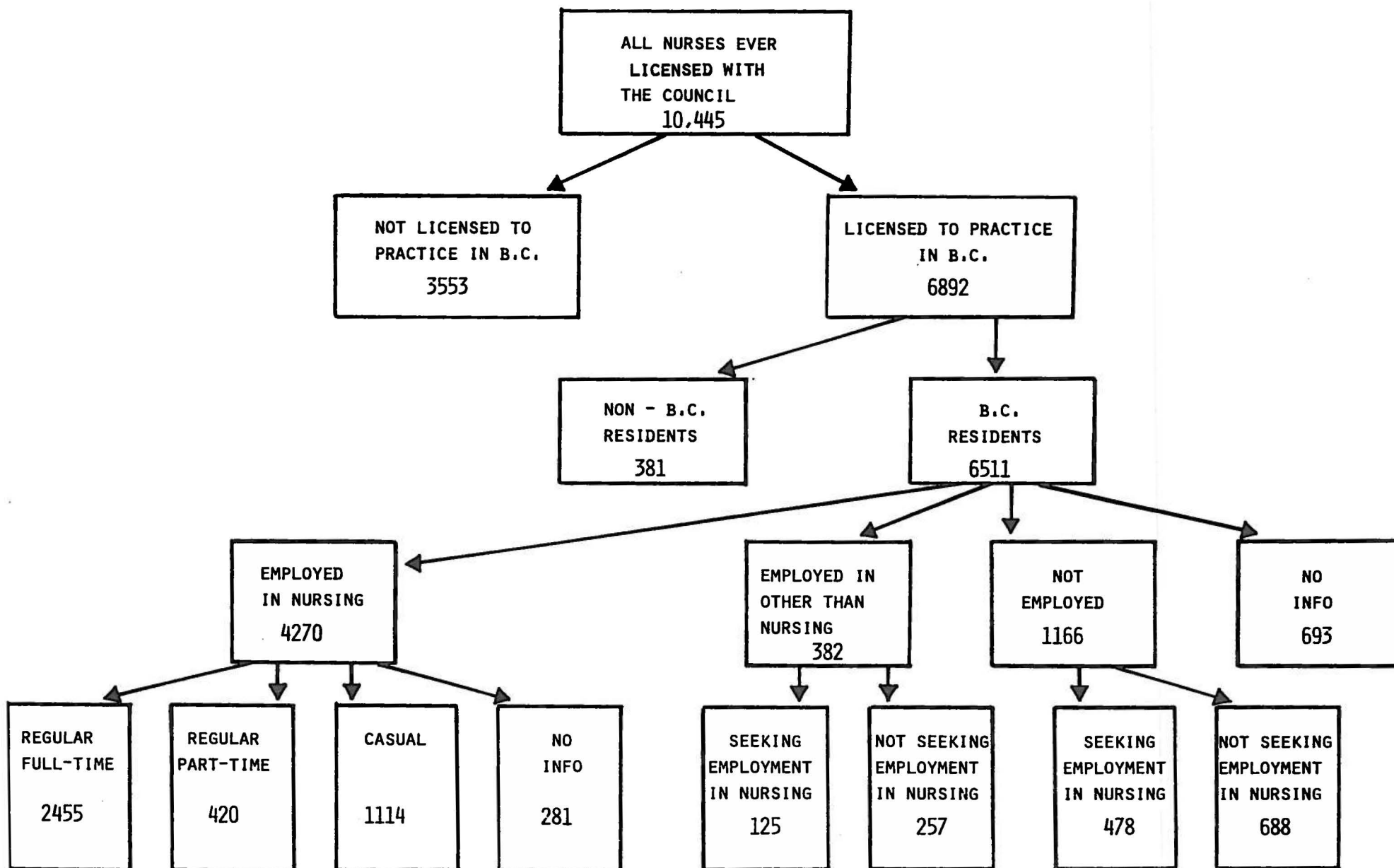
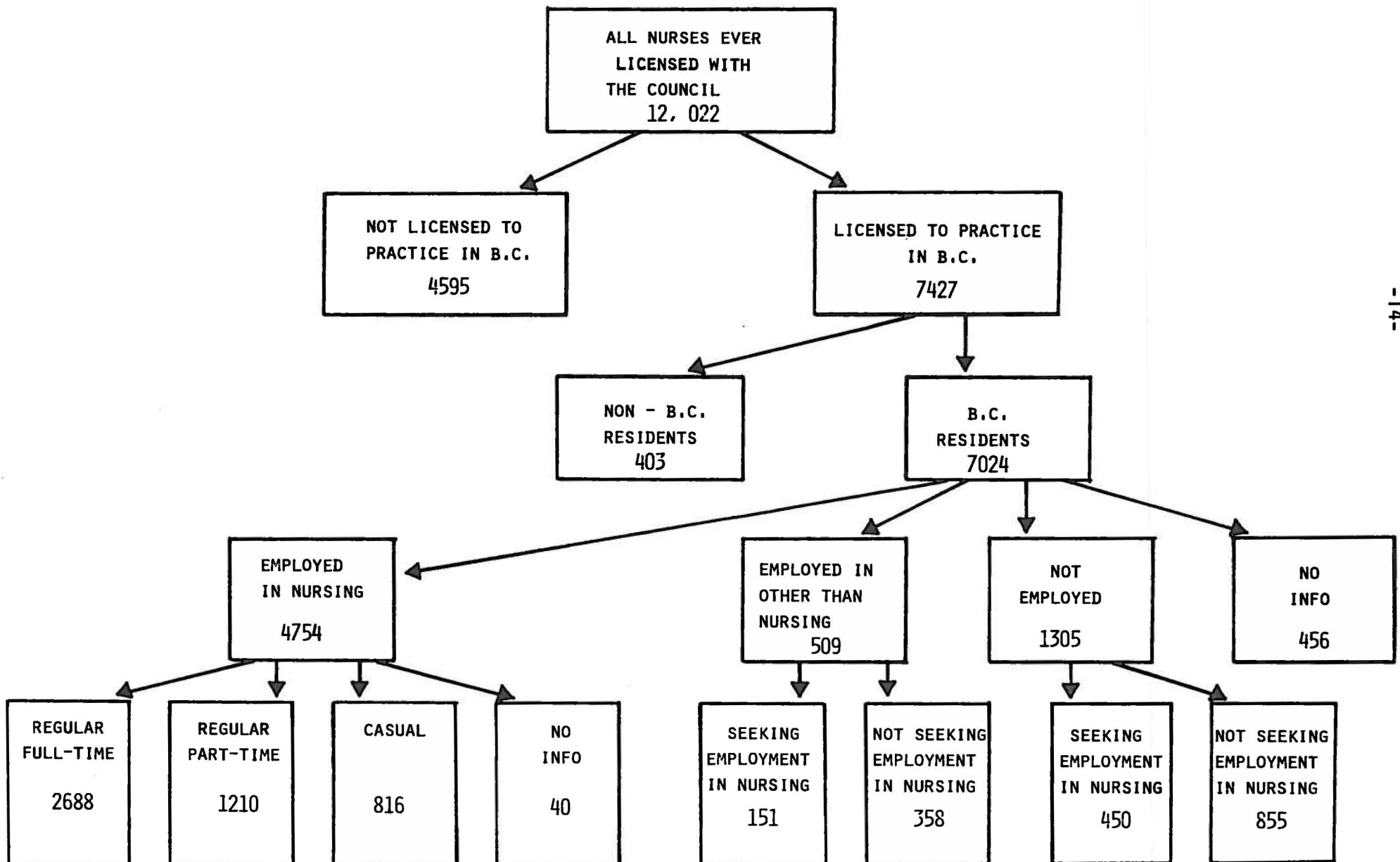


FIGURE 3: STATUS OF ALL PRACTICAL NURSES LICENSED WITH THE B.C.
COUNCIL OF PRACTICAL NURSES, AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1982.



IV. EMPLOYMENT PROFILE

This section of the report is based on analysis of 1979 and 1982 data. As well, a publication prepared by the Division of Health Services Research and Development entitled, Licensed Practical Nurses in British Columbia, 1975, was consulted for 1975 figures when appropriate. The 1975 employment data is not directly comparable for purposes of the present study, because the questionnaire used in that year was substantially different from that developed for subsequent surveys and because the information was collected in June rather than in September (by which time most of the summer graduates from practical nursing programs would have been licensed). The employment profiles for all three years are shown in flow chart form in Figures 1 to 3, on the preceding pages.

Employment Status

In both 1979 and 1982, over 72 per cent of those nurses licensed and residing in B.C. were employed in nursing. There is an indication that this percentage has increased from earlier years. In the previously mentioned 1975 survey, only about 66 per cent of respondents (both within and without the province) stated that they were employed in nursing. The proportion not employed has remained at approximately 20 per cent from 1979

Table 11: Number and Percentage Distribution of B.C. Resident Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Employment Status¹, September 1979 and 1982

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Employed in Nursing	4270	73.4	4754	72.4
Employed in Other than Nursing	382	6.6	509	7.7
Not Employed	1166	20.0	1305	19.9
Total ²	5818	100.0	6568	100.0

¹ This information is not available for 1975.

² These totals do not include 693 unknown in 1979 and 456 unknown in 1982.

to 1982, by comparison. The 1975 unemployment figure was nearer 33 per cent. Table 11 details the 1979 and 1982 figures.

L.P.N.'s Employed in Nursing Positions

Of those employed in nursing, the greater percentage work on a regular full-time basis. In Table 12 it is interesting to note that this proportion has dropped ($p < .05$) from 61.5% in 1979 to 57.0% in 1982. The number of those employed on a casual basis has also decreased, with the consequent growth occurring in the percentage of nurses employed on a regular part-time basis.

Table 12: Number and Percentage Distribution of B.C. Resident Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Full-Time/Part-Time/Casual Status¹, September 1979 and 1982

EMPLOYED IN NURSING:	1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Regular Full-Time	2455	61.5	2688	57.0
Regular Part-Time	420	10.5	1210	25.7
Casual	1114	27.9	816	17.3
Total ²	3989	100.0	4714	100.0

¹ This information is not available for 1975.

² These totals do not include 281 unknown in 1979 and 40 unknown in 1982.

Table 13 shows the distribution of employed nurses by type of employing agency. By far the greatest proportion of nurses are employed in acute care and extended care hospitals (84.3% in 1979 and 85.3% in 1982). The apparent drop in numbers employed in extended care hospitals between 1979 and 1982 can be accounted for by a change in coding procedures adopted in 1982, which placed each hospital under its appropriate B.C. Hospital Programs' designation (if incorrectly categorized by the L.P.N. on his/her renewal form).

Table 13: Number and Percentage Distribution of B.C. Resident Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Type of Employing Agency¹, September 1979 and 1982

TYPE OF EMPLOYING AGENCY	1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Acute Care Hospital	2622	68.1	3825	80.9
Activation/Rehab. Hospital	110	2.9	153	3.2
Extended Care Hospital	625	16.2	206	4.4
Psychiatric Hospital	60	1.6	34	0.7
Intermediate Care Facility	114	3.0	51	1.1
Personal Care Facility	50	1.3	191	4.0
Community Health Agency (including Home Care)	61	1.6	85	1.8
Physician's Office/Family Practice Unit	69	1.8	121	2.6
Educational Institution	14	0.4	7	0.1
Business/Industry	8	0.2	31	0.7
Other	116	3.0	25	0.5
Total ²	3849	100.0	4729	100.0

¹ This information is not available for 1975.

² These totals do not include 421 not answered in 1979 and 25 not answered in 1982.

The field of practice for those employed in nursing is detailed in Table 14. The percentage distribution throughout all areas has remained fairly constant from 1979 to 1982, with medical/surgical general being the most common area of employment (39.4% of the nursing population), geriatric nursing the second (at least 21 per cent of the total each year), and generalized practice the third (11.6% in 1979; 15.6% in 1982). Teaching, administration and research (with 0.8% in 1979 and 0.6% in 1982) and psychiatric nursing (with 1.3%) retained the lowest percentages of employed nurses over the three-year period.

Table 14: Number and Percentage Distribution of B.C. Resident Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Field of Practice¹, September 1979 and 1982

FIELD OF PRACTICE	1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Medical/Surgical General	1467	39.4	1734	39.4
Medical/Surgical Specialties ²	239	6.4	274	6.2
Maternal/Newborn	226	6.1	248	5.6
Psychiatric	47	1.3	59	1.3
Pediatric	251	6.7	237	5.4
Geriatric	782	21.0	932	21.2
Generalized Practice ³	433	11.6	685	15.6
Teaching, Administration and Research	31	0.8	28	0.6
Other	245	6.6	205	4.7
Total ⁴	3721	100.0	4402	100.0

¹ This information is not available for 1975.

² e.g. Intensive Care Unit, Operating Room, Emergency, Dialysis.

³ e.g. float pool, occupational health, small general hospital.

⁴ These totals do not include 549 unknown in 1979 and 352 unknown in 1982.

Table 15 shows the job title assigned to those employed in nursing in 1982. L.P.N. (including orderlies and health care workers) is by far the most commonly used classification (88.0%). Geriatric aides (2.3%) and Unit Clerks (2.0%) make up another portion of the population, with an additional 7.8% being combined into the "other" category.

Table 15: Number and Percentage Distribution of B.C. Resident Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C., by Job Title¹, September 1982

JOB TITLE	1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
L.P.N.	3907	88.0
Geriatric Aide	102	2.3
Unit Clerk	88	2.0
Other	345	7.8
Total ²	4442	100.0

¹ This information is not available for 1975 and 1979.

² This total does not include 312 unknown.

L.P.N.'s Not Employed in Nursing

As illustrated in Table 16, one-third or more of those L.P.N.'s not employed in nursing are seeking jobs in nursing. The greatest portion of these are unemployed. Of those unemployed, it is of interest that the percentage seeking employment in nursing has dropped from 41.0% (478 of 1166) in 1979 to 34.5% (450 of 1305) in 1982.

Table 17 shows the year last employed in nursing for those individuals employed in other than nursing or unemployed in September of 1982. Over 64 per cent of these people indicated that they were last employed in nursing as recently as 1978.

Table 16: Number and Percentage Distribution of B.C. Resident Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C. and Not Employed in Nursing, by Whether Seeking or Not Seeking Employment in Nursing¹, September 1979 and 1982

STATUS OF THOSE NOT EMPLOYED IN NURSING	1979		1982	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Seeking Employment in Nursing:				
Employed in Other than Nursing	125	8.1	151	8.3
Not Employed	478	30.9	450	24.8
Seeking - Subtotal	603	39.0	601	33.1
Not Seeking Employment in Nursing:				
Employed in Other than Nursing	257	16.6	358	19.7
Not Employed	688	44.4	855	47.1
Not Seeking - Subtotal	945	61.0	1213	66.9
Total	1548	100.0	1814	100.0

¹ This information is not available for 1975.

Table 17: Number and Percentage Distribution of B.C. Resident Practical Nurses Licensed in B.C. and Not Employed in Nursing, by Year Last Employed in Nursing, September 1982

YEAR LAST EMPLOYED IN NURSING	Employed in Other than Nursing		Not Employed		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Before 1970	30	6.3	53	4.4	83	5.0
1970	5	1.1	21	1.7	26	1.6
1971	8	1.7	28	2.3	36	2.2
1972	12	2.5	43	3.6	55	3.3
1973	25	5.3	33	2.7	58	3.5
1974	14	3.0	42	3.5	56	3.3
1975	15	3.2	60	5.0	75	4.5
1976	34	7.2	63	5.2	97	5.8
1977	25	5.3	72	6.0	97	5.8
1978	57	12.1	108	9.0	165	9.9
1979	71	15.0	152	12.7	223	13.3
1980	97	20.5	200	16.7	297	17.7
1981	77	16.3	304	25.3	381	22.8
1982	3	0.6	22	1.8	25	1.5
Total ¹	473	100.0	1201	100.0	1674	100.0

¹ These totals do not include 140 unknown.

V. SUMMARY

The number of practical nurses licensed to practice in the province numbered 6089 in September 1975, 6892 in September 1979, and 7427 (61.8% of the 12,022 nurses ever licensed with the B.C. Council of Practical Nurses) in September 1982.

The majority (approximately 95 per cent) reside in B.C.

Although females dominate the population of L.P.N.'s in the province, the percentage of males has been increasing (from 1.6% of the total in 1975 to 3.2% in 1982).

Over 60 per cent of L.P.N.'s are married.

At least two-thirds of L.P.N.'s are under 40 years of age. The single largest age group of L.P.N.'s was that between 25-29 years in 1975 and 1979, but shifted to that between 30-34 years in 1982.

The majority of L.P.N.'s have high school graduation or higher education before commencing their training in nursing. This proportion has increased from 64.2% in 1979 to 69.2% in 1982.

The percentage of those recently graduated (i.e. within the last 10 years) from L.P.N. programs has been decreasing in relation to the total number of nurses licensed each year (from 68.2% in 1975 to 48.4% in 1982).

The large majority (93.7% in 1982) of L.P.N.'s received their training in Canada. Of those Canadian trained, most named B.C. as their province of training (70.9% of Canadian total in 1982).

Most B.C. trained L.P.N.'s graduated from one of seven colleges in the province (96.8% in 1982). Vancouver Community College alone accounted for 33.4% of those B.C. trained.

In both 1979 and 1982, over 72 per cent of those nurses licensed and residing in B.C. were employed in nursing.

Of those employed in nursing, the greater percentage work on a regular full-time basis. This number and the number employed on a casual basis have, however, decreased; the consequent growth is occurring in the percentage employed on a regular part-time basis.

By far the greatest proportion of nurses are employed in acute care and extended care hospitals (84.3% in 1979 and 85.3% in 1982).

Medical/surgical general is the most common field of practice, geriatric nursing the second, and generalized practice the third.

L.P.N. (including orderlies and health care workers) is the most commonly used job title (88.0% in 1982). Geriatric aides (2.3%) and Unit Clerks (2.0%) make up another portion of the population, with an additional 7.8% being combined into the "other" category.

One-third or more of those L.P.N.'s not employed in nursing are seeking jobs in nursing. The greatest portion of these are unemployed.

Of those employed in other than nursing or unemployed in 1982, over 64 per cent were last employed in nursing as recently as 1978.