STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NURSE REFRESHER PROGRAMS
2021-2022 REPORT

Acronyms

AD-RN ....Associate Degree in Nursing – Registered Nurse
AD-MS ....Associate Degree in Nursing to Masters of Nursing
ARNP ....Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner
BSN ....Bachelor of Science in Nursing – Registered Nurse
PN.................Licensed Practical Nurse
PN-RN ....Licensed Practical Nurse to Associate Degree in Nursing Programs
GE.................Graduate Entry Programs – Registered Nurse
MSN............. .Master of Science Nursing
NCLEX®.......National Council Licensure Examination
NCQAC.........Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission
RN ....Registered Nurse
RNB...............Registered Nurse Bachelor (Bachelor's degree programs for licensed RNs)
PMC ....Post Master's Certificate Nurse
DNP..............Doctorate of Nursing Practice
MN ....Masters of Nursing
MS ....Master of Science

Introduction

The following is a report of a survey completed by representatives of the Washington State approved refresher nursing courses. Successful completion of an approved course is required for return to active status of a Registered Nurse/Licensed Practical Nurse license that has been inactive or lapsed three or more years. Scheduling and fees vary.

Approved nurse refresher programs are required to complete an annual survey see Appendix I. There are five RN refresher programs and two LPN programs for a total of seven programs. South Dakota State has both an RN and an LPN refresher program.

All approved programs completed at least a part of the survey provided in Appendix II. The following are highlights and a summary. The full results are provided in Appendix III.

Figure 1. Program Type (N=6)

■ LPN   ■ RN   ■ Both

Nurse Refresher Programs

Table 1 provides a summary of key components of the programs. There were a total of 17 LPN and 88 RNs enrolled in these programs during academic year 2021-2022. The students who completed the program were 9 LPNs and 68 RNs. There was a range of didactic content from 50-160 hours. The average hours of clinical practice for LPNs were 120 and RNs 160. The average simulation hours were 20 for LPN and 43 for RN.

There were several special circumstances reported by programs that are helpful to consider with this data. Bellevue College and Pacific Lutheran University did not have any Fall 2021 classes; therefore, their data is only from Spring 2022. Bellevue College did not have any students complete the program in the 2021-2022 academic year, however, 10 students were in-progress and due to complete the program in August 2022. Washington State University reported significant delays in completing the program due to limited clinical placement sites during the COVID pandemic. As a result, 32 students completing this program in the 2021-2022 academic year enrolled between 1/1/2020-6/30/2021. Simulation hours are optional for students in the Washington State University RN refresher program—averages were calculated based on actual simulation hours completed. Bates College reported 0 simulation hours so the average may be skewed.

Table 1: Summary of 2021-2022 LPN and RN Refresher Program survey data from 7 programs.

	LPN	RN
Enrolled students	17	88
Students who completed program*	9	68
Hours of didactic theory completed	80-120	50-160
Face-to-face (in person) didactic instruction	0 - 5%	10 - 40%
Asynchronous (online) didactic instruction	95 - 100%	60 - 100%
Average hours of clinical practice experiences completed	120	160
Average simulation hours completed	20	43
Average virtual simulation hours completed	20	42
Average face-to-face (in person) simulation hours completed	0	1

*One responding RN program had no completing students, but 10 students in progress and due to complete program in August 2022.

Summary

Five RN and two LPN refresher programs serve 105 students with 77 RNs and LPN that completed their programs. This is an invaluable serve to nurse who have been inactive for over three years to prepare for a return to practice. The need for nurses is urgent and this is one avenue providing a pathway back to practice. We will be able to track the successes of these programs as we continue to refine the survey, collect, and analyze the results.