

## APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY

**Overview.** In the spring of 2007, the deans, directors, or department chairs of all state-accredited prelicensure nursing programs in the United States\* were contacted by email by the National League for Nursing and invited to participate in the 2007 Concise Survey of Schools of Nursing. Invitations were sent on March 7, 2007 followed by a series of follow-up emails sent to non-responding schools between March 28 and June 19. Electronic, web-based survey forms were made available to nursing school administrators and staff members.

**Data reporting and estimation techniques.** The estimation techniques used to generate this report were devised to balance two key objectives: a) the evaluation of the 2005-06 dataset within the context of historical trends, and b) accurate statistical estimation of the size of the 2005-06 student body and its subpopulations. To fulfill these objectives we used two different techniques throughout this report. Figures and tables that present the proportional distribution of the 2005-06 nursing student population use only 2005-06 survey data. By contrast, tables and figures that trend numbers of students were generated using unweighted historical imputation, a technique in which a previous value of a non-respondent is used for the imputation of a current value. In this case the number of enrollments, admissions, or graduations of programs that did not complete a survey in 2005-06 were imputed from the data most recently reported by the program. These charts and tables are identified in footnotes.

**Response Rate Analysis**

	All nursing programs		Data Collection Year							
			Any data		2006		Pre-2006		No data	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Program Type</b>	<b>1694</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>14.9</b>
Baccalaureate	644	100.0	522	81.1	226	35.1	296	46.0	122	18.9
Diploma	73	100.0	61	83.6	48	65.8	13	17.8	12	16.4
Associate degree	977	100.0	859	87.9	414	42.4	445	45.5	118	12.1

**Response Rate Analysis.** Of 1,694 programs, 1,442 reported survey data within the past three years yielding an overall cumulative response rate of 85.1 percent. The cumulative response rate varied slightly by program type, with 81.1 percent of baccalaureate programs, 83.6 percent of diploma programs, and 87.9 percent of associate degree programs submitting data in 2006 or a prior year. When reported data are combined with historical data to produce population estimates, the 2005-06 dataset is very similar to the universe of nursing schools with respect to regional distribution and program type (see table below).

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS	All nursing programs		Data Collection Year							
			Any data		2006		Pre-2006		No data	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Program Type</b>	<b>1694</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Baccalaureate	644	38.0	522	36.2	226	32.8	296	39.3	122	48.4
Diploma	73	4.3	61	4.2	48	7.0	13	1.7	12	4.8
Associate degree	977	57.7	859	59.6	414	60.2	445	59.0	118	46.8

\* US territories are not included in this publication.

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS	All nursing programs		Data Collection Year							
			Any data		2006		Pre-2006		No data	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Region</b>	<b>1694</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Midwest	476	28.1	404	28.0	194	28.2	210	27.9	72	28.6
North Atlantic	351	20.7	299	20.7	157	22.8	142	18.8	52	20.6
South	594	35.1	516	35.8	250	36.3	266	35.3	78	31.0
West	273	16.1	223	15.5	87	12.6	136	18.0	50	19.8

Isolating only data reported in the most recent survey year, a total of 688 programs submitted data in 2007, producing an overall single-year response rate of 40.6 percent. The single year response rate varied considerably by program type, ranging from a rate of 65.8 percent among diploma programs to 35.1 percent among baccalaureate programs. Associate degree programs responded at a rate of 42.4 percent. The 2006 single-year survey response rate was highest in the North Atlantic (45 percent), followed by the South (42 percent), the Midwest (41 percent), and the West (32 percent).