



Statistics on CRNE Writers for Calendar Year 2006

Number 10 – September 2007

This bulletin is the tenth of a series to keep you informed about the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE). It provides statistical information on the candidates who wrote the CRNE (French and English versions of the exam combined) in calendar year 2006 as well as comparisons with previous years' data.

Statistical information on CRNE writers provides not only useful information about the candidates' performance but also a snapshot of new nurses ready to enter the Canadian nursing workforce. The CRNE is required for all nurses registering in Canada except those in Quebec, and it is usually the last requirement nurses meet before achieving licensure. The CRNE is owned by CNA, developed and maintained for CNA by Assessment Strategies Inc. and administered by the provincial and territorial regulatory authorities.

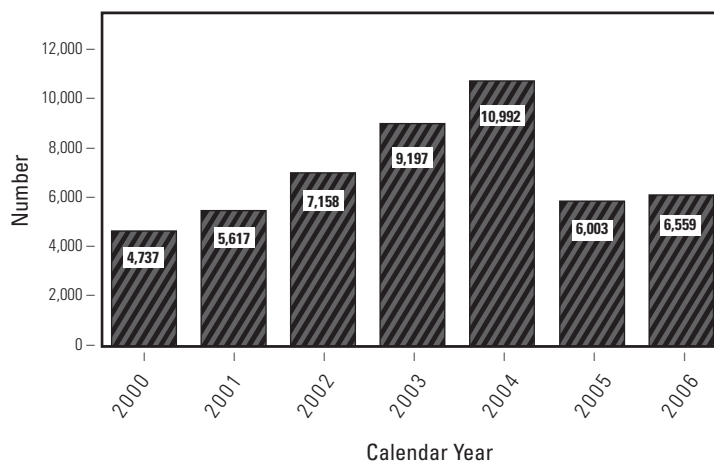
The purpose of the CRNE is to protect the public by ensuring that the entry-level registered nurse possesses the competencies required to practise safely in Canada.

NUMBERS AND DEMOGRAPHICS: FIRST-TIME WRITERS

Candidates writing the CRNE consist of Canadian-educated new graduates and internationally educated nurses seeking to be registered in Canada for the first time. In 2006, 6,559 candidates wrote the CRNE for the first time, and of the four sittings, most (62%) wrote it in June. Of all first-time candidates, 6,356 (97%) wrote the exam in English and 203 (3%) wrote it in French; 5,692 (87%) were Canadian-educated and 867 (13%) were internationally educated.

Over the last seven years, the number of first-time writers has fluctuated between a low of 4,737 in 2000 and a high of 10,992 in 2004.

All First-time CRNE Writers, 2000-2006



Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy



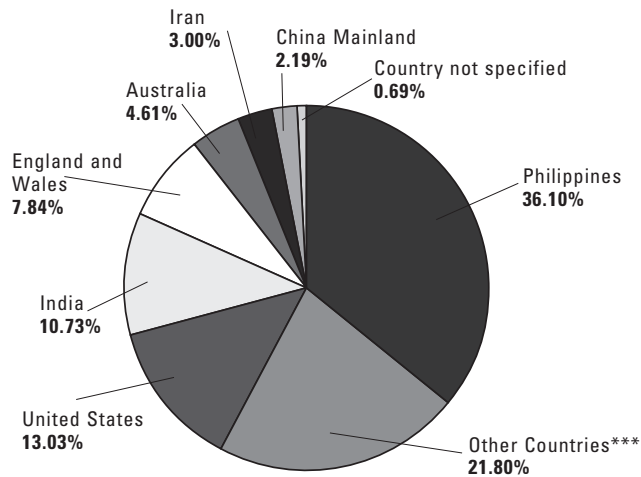
SEX

Women made up 93% of Canadian-educated, first-time CRNE writers, while 7% were men. The percentage of men among internationally educated candidates was 12%, higher than among Canadian-educated candidates.

COUNTRY OF EDUCATION OF INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED, FIRST-TIME WRITERS

The top countries of education of internationally educated, first-time writers were the Philippines, the United States, India, England and Wales (counted together), Australia, Iran and China. The remaining writers, representing about 22% percent of the total, were educated in 53 different countries.

Country of Education of First-Time, Internationally Educated CRNE Writers, 2006

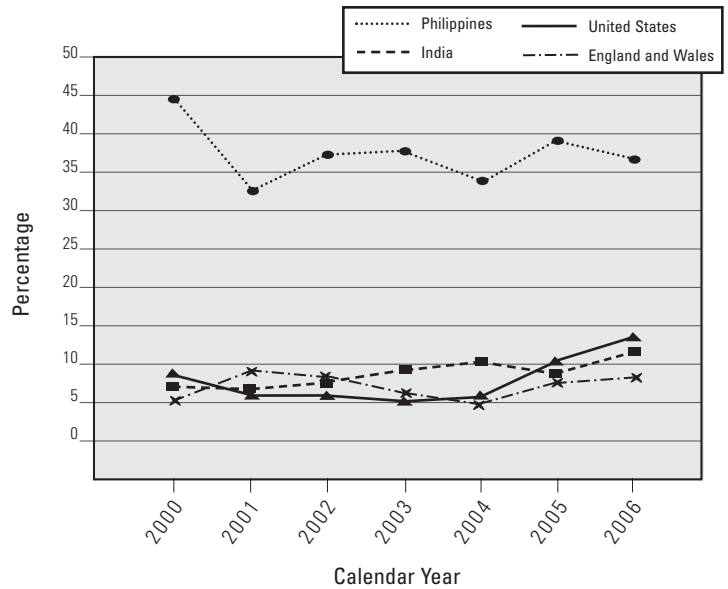


Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy

*** "Other countries" represent 53 countries, each with less than 2% of the total number of internationally educated, first-time writers.

Between 2000 and 2006, several countries have consistently appeared among the top countries of education for internationally educated, first-time CRNE writers: the Philippines, India, the United States, and – counted together – England and Wales.

Percentage of Internationally Educated, First-Time Writers from Top Countries of Education, 2000-2006



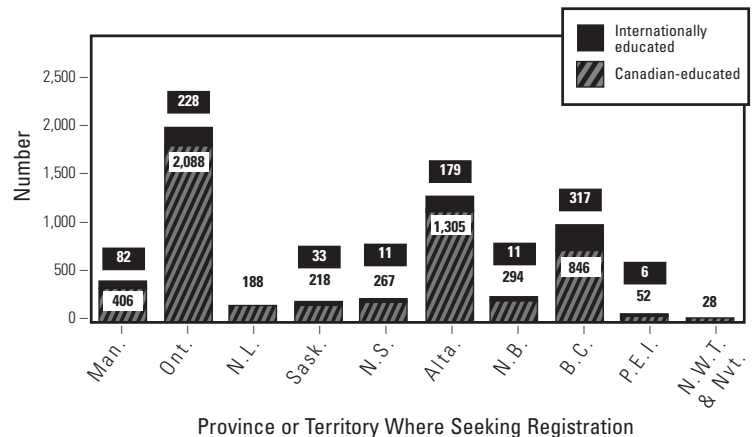
Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL BREAKDOWN

Ontario had the highest number of first-time writers in 2006 with 2,316, or 35% of the national total, followed by Alberta with 1,484 writers (23%) and British Columbia with 1,163 writers (18%).

In British Columbia, 27% of first-time writers were internationally educated – the highest percentage among the provinces and territories. Manitoba had the second highest percentage at 17%, followed by Alberta at 12% and then Ontario and Prince Edward Island with 10% each. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia both had 4%. Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut had no internationally educated writers in 2006.

Canadian-educated and Internationally Educated First-time CRNE Writers by Jurisdiction, 2006



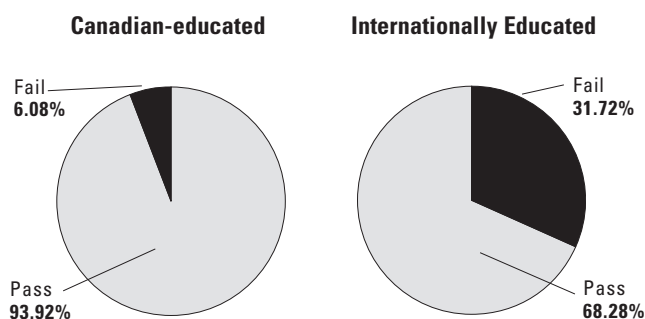
Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy

PERFORMANCE

SUCCESS RATES: FIRST-TIME WRITERS

The pass rate of the 5,692 Canadian-educated, first-time CRNE writers in 2006 was 94%. In 2006, the 867 internationally educated, first-time CRNE writers showed the best performance by internationally educated writers in the last seven years with a 68% pass rate. Between 2000 and 2005, internationally educated candidates had pass rates ranging from a low of 49% in 2004 to a high of 67% in 2002. In the same period, the lowest pass rate among Canadian-educated writers was 93% in 2003, and the highest was 96% in 2005.

Pass/Fail Results by Location of Education for First-Time CRNE Writers, 2006



Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy

PASSING NUMBERS: ALL WRITERS (FIRST-TIME AND REPEAT)

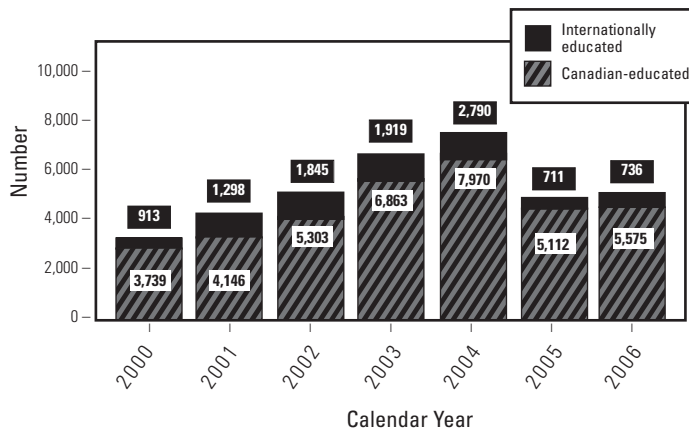
The data in the preceding sections included information on first-time writers only to avoid counting the same candidate more than once. Candidates who are unsuccessful on the CRNE may write the exam up to three times, with the possibility of writing more than once in the same calendar year.

However, in this section on successful candidates, the data include both first-time and repeat writers. The total number of successful CRNE writers provides an indication of how many new nurses are available to enter the Canadian workforce, with the recognition that the data do not include Quebec licensure examination writers. As well, some candidates may still need to meet other requirements to be registered.

Out of 7,193 first-time and repeat writers, 6,311 passed the CRNE in 2006. Among the successful candidates, 88% were educated in Canada and 12% were educated internationally. Not surprisingly, Ontario, followed by Alberta, had the highest numbers of successful candidates, since these two provinces had the highest numbers of CRNE writers overall.

A total of 48,920 candidates passed the CRNE between 2000 and 2006. Of that number, 10,212 were internationally educated, representing 21% of the total.

All Successful CRNE Writers, 2000-2006



Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy

This document has been prepared by CNA to provide information and support CNA in the pursuit of its mission, vision and goals, as established by the CNA Board of Directors.

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