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Canadian Institute
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Public Summary

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There are 3 groups of regulated nursing professionals in Canada: registered nurses (RNs, including nurse practitioners), registered psychiatric nurses (RPNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Each province and territory has its own legislation governing nursing practice, as well as its own body for the regulation and licensing of its members.

Additional Resources

The following companion products are available on **CIHI's website**:

- Chartbook
- Data tables
- Methodology guide

Talk to Us

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Canada's nursing workforce continues to grow

Regulated Nurses, 2013

Contrary to predictions of a shortage, the supply of regulated nurses in Canada is increasing and continues to outpace the growth of the Canadian population.

CIHI's annual report on Canada's regulated nursing workforce highlights current trends in nursing practice, including those affecting registered nurses, nurse practitioners, registered psychiatric nurses and licensed practical nurses.

Key findings

Since 2009, there has been an 8% increase in the number of regulated nurses licensed to practise in Canada.

- Of the 3 groups of regulated nursing professionals, LPNs have seen the largest growth in supply—more than 50% since 2003.

More young nurses are entering the workforce, but older nurses are staying as well.

- The age distribution has flattened over the past 10 years, as the proportions of younger and older regulated nurses each increased.

When it comes to full-time employment for regulated nurses, success rates vary.

- It can take LPNs up to 10 years to find a full-time position after graduation, while it can take RNs and RPNs up to 5 years.