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**Nursing Workforce Demand Study Reveals Areas of Need for Louisiana**  
*Even in Recession, Nursing Jobs are in Demand*

Baton Rouge, LA - Despite a sluggish economy and few nursing shortages reported by health care agencies, a recent study found there is a significant need for an increase in nursing personnel in Louisiana. The Nursing Workforce Demand Study, which was completed by the Louisiana Center for Nursing (LCN), a division of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, revealed that there continues to be a substantial need for nurses in Louisiana.

“Completing the demand study was a huge accomplishment for the Center for Nursing,” Dr. Cynthia Bienemy, director of the Louisiana Center for Nursing, said. “We are excited to share the results and become both a leader and a resource for the industry.”

The study, which was completed over the past year and included a survey of more than 600 employers, was conducted to determine the demand for registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and nursing assistants (NAs) in Louisiana. An in-depth study of this nature has only been completed in 14 states across the nation.

“This study reflects the kind of collaboration and employer involvement Louisiana needs to operate a responsive, demand-driven workforce system,” Curt Eysink, executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, said. “The state’s labor markets and our high schools, colleges and universities need actionable labor market intelligence like this to make good decisions about the courses and degrees they offer. Students need this information to make good decisions about their careers.”

Results from the study projected areas of need and areas of growth between 2010 and 2012. The research found that Home Health Agencies had the largest vacancy rates for direct care RNs, LPNs, and NAs. Hospices also suffered the highest turnover rates for RNs, while long term care/skilled nursing facilities experienced the highest turnover rates for LPNs and NAs. The greatest expected growth rate for direct care RNs, LPNs and NAs will occur in hospices.



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Other results of the study showed that administrators/supervisors represented one of the top five most difficult nursing positions to fill for all of the health care industries surveyed, but direct care RN positions are expected to have the greatest growth between 2010 and 2012.

A nursing forecasting study to predict the future nursing workforce needs in Louisiana for the next 15 to 20 years will be conducted using information from this study, in addition to the nursing supply and education data collected by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. The information can be used by legislators and governmental officials to develop policies that are data driven.

The Nursing Demand Report is based on information obtained from healthcare industries such as hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, long term care and skilled nursing facilities, home health care agencies and hospices, ambulatory health care facilities, and the Office of Public Health. The study was completed through a collaborative effort that included the Louisiana Center for Nursing, a division of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, and the Nursing Supply and Demand Council.

For more information on the Nursing Workforce Demand Study, please contact Dr. Cynthia Bienemy at the Louisiana Center for Nursing, [lcn@lsbn.state.la.us](mailto:lcn@lsbn.state.la.us). Find the complete study by visiting <http://lcn.lsbn.state.la.us/documents/NursingWorkforceDemandReport.pdf>.

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#### About Louisiana State Board of Nursing

The mission of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing is to safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are competent and safe.

#### About the Louisiana Center for Nursing

The mission of the Louisiana Center for Nursing, a division of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, is to contribute to the health and welfare of Louisiana residents and visitors through activities that are directed to ensure that there is an adequate workforce to meet the current and future healthcare needs of the citizens of the state of Louisiana.