

NSW Health

2007

Profile of the Nurses and Midwives Workforce in NSW

Overview

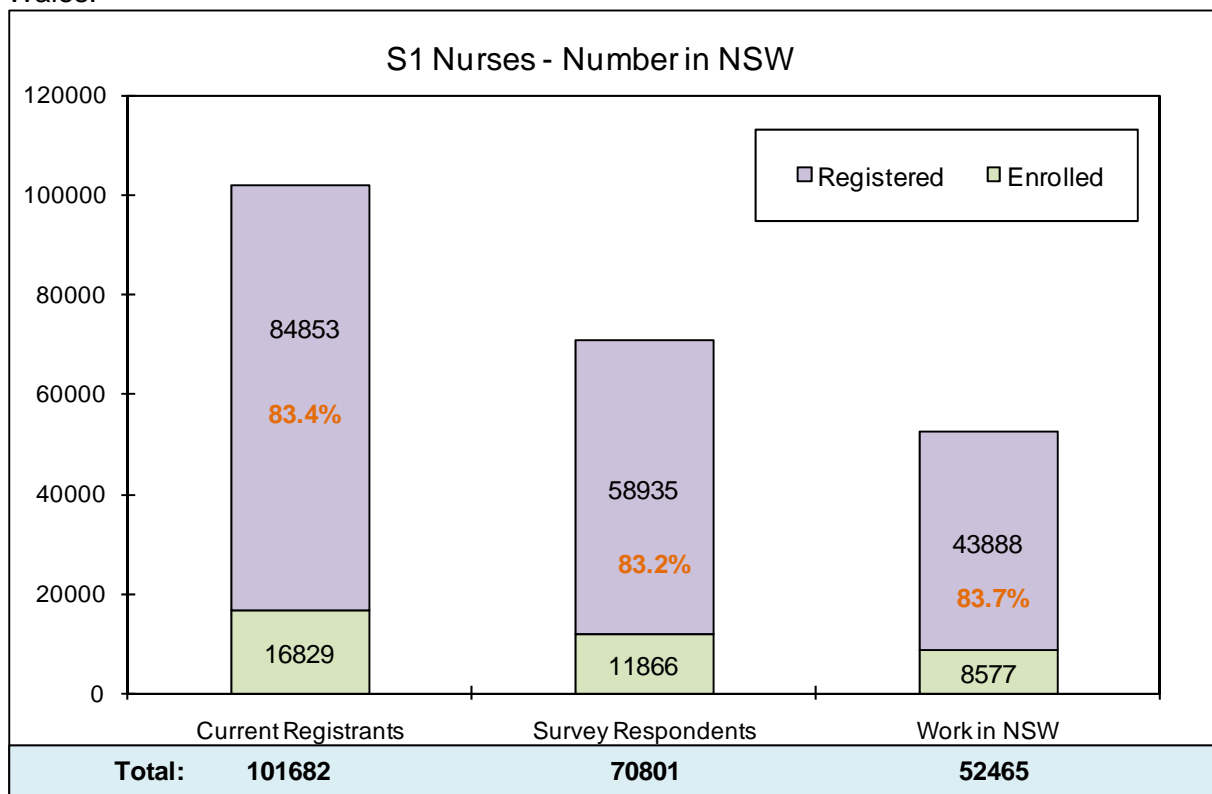
Overview

This publication presents a range of survey statistics for the nursing workforce in the State of New South Wales. The workforce is composed of registered nurses and midwives, enrolled nurses and direct entry midwives. All persons wishing to work as a nurse must be either registered or enrolled. There are differences in qualifications, award rates, duties and responsibilities between the various categories of nurses and midwives.

Separate publications have been compiled reporting a range of survey statistics for registered nurses and midwives; and for enrolled nurses. However, some readers will wish to obtain information about the nursing workforce as a whole and about the ratio between the categories of nurses for various aspects of patient care.

Number of Nurses

Chart S1 indicates the total number of nurses on the register or roll, the number of survey respondents and the number of those respondents who state that they work in New South Wales.



Registered nurses make up 83.7% (2006, 84.4%) of the nursing workforce according to number of respondents. The estimated true workforce calculated by proportional allocation of non respondents is 73,186 nurses made up of 61,413 registered nurses (83.9%) and 11,773 enrolled nurses.

Hours Worked & FTEs

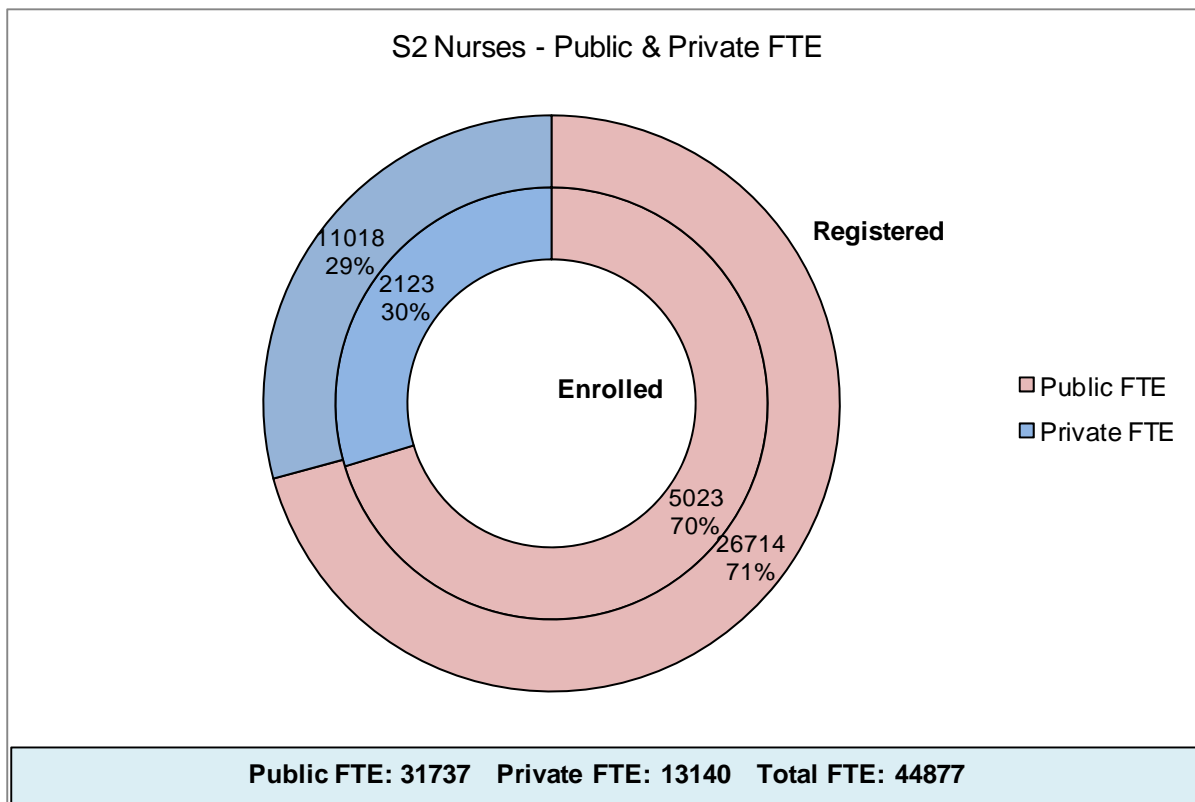
The number of hours reported as worked in the main and the second nursing related jobs in the public and private sectors are shown below. More than 96% of hours worked were in the main job. In 2006, the comparable number of hours for all nurses was 1,218,156 public and 500,518 private. This represents a decline of 0.8% with the public sector declining 1.7% and the private sector gaining 1.5%. However, the response rate for registered nurses was lower in 2007 than in 2006.

	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total NSW
First Job RN	983,373	397,290	1,413,721
Second Job RN	23,722	29,835	56,867
Registered Nurses	1,007,095	427,125	1,470,588
First Job EN	186,109	77,165	269,638
Second Job EN	4,500	3,678	8,525
Enrolled Nurses	190,609	80,843	278,163
First Job All	1,169,482	474,455	1,683,359
Second Job All	28,222	33,513	65,392
All Nurses	1,197,704	507,968	1,748,751

The average number of hours worked in the main job for the week prior to the survey was 33.5 (2006, 33.3) hours for registered nurses and 33.1 (2006, 32.8) hours for enrolled nurses. The average number of working hours for all nurses in the main job was 33.4.

Registered nurses with a second job worked an average of 12.8 (2006, 12.4) hours compared to 13.5 (2006, 13.8) hours for enrolled nurses. The average number of hours worked in second jobs for all nurses was 13.0 (2006 12.6) hours.

Chart S2 shows Full Time Equivalents (FTE) for registered and enrolled nurses in the public and private sectors. It will be observed that there is little difference between public and private facilities in the percentages of FTE worked by each type of nurse and there is almost no difference in the percentages by sector being 84% for both registered and enrolled nurses.

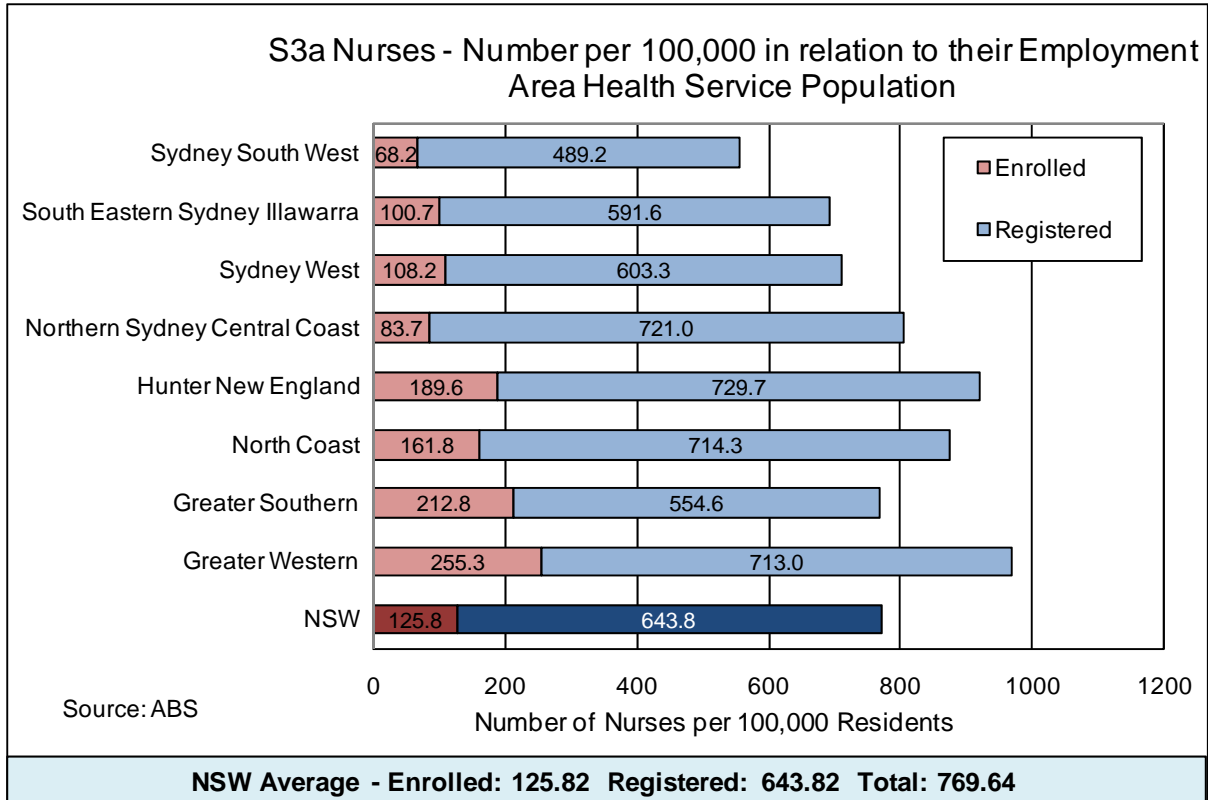


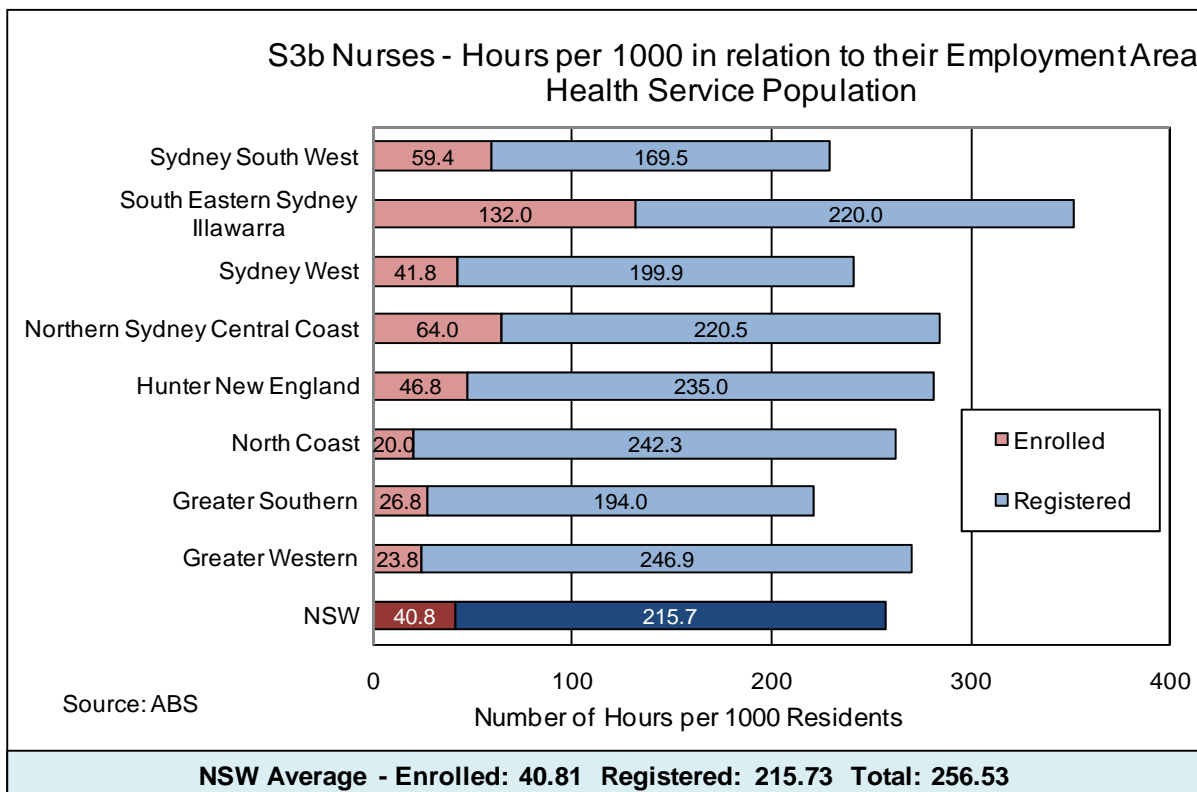
Projected Numbers for the Next Ten Years

The nursing workforce is a female dominated profession with a workforce older than the population in general. Projections of the respective workforces indicate that by 2017, there will be 92,983 registered nurses and 17,381 enrolled nurses; a combined workforce of 110,364 nurses of whom 84.3% will be registered.

Nurses in Relation to the Population

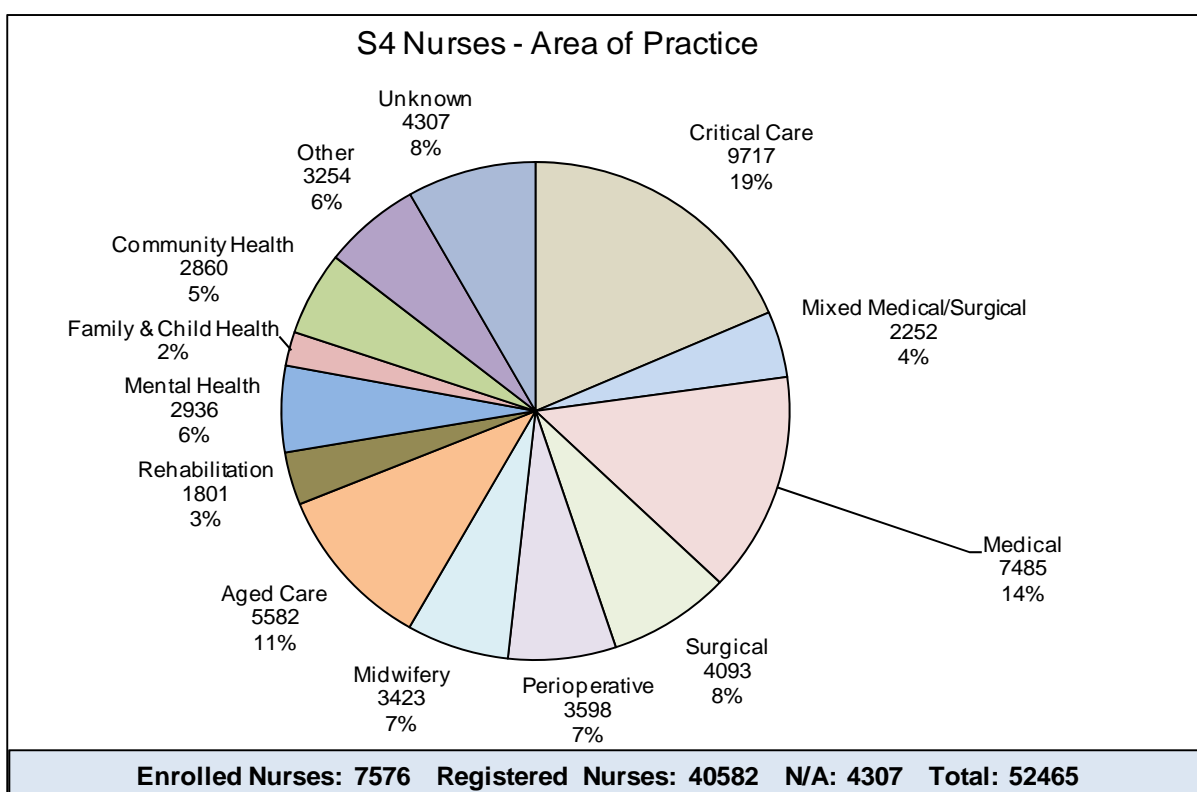
In terms of survey respondents, the total nursing workforce indicates an average of 770 (2006, 766) nurses per hundred thousand population. Charts S3a and S3b show the number of nurses per 100,000 and the number of hours per 1000 by Area Health Service of employment respectively. The proportion of registered to all nurses is considerably higher in the metropolitan Areas ranging from 89.6% in Northern Sydney Central Coast to 72.3% in the Greater Southern AHS. Similar ratios are evident for Area of work.





Area of Practice

Area of practice also varies substantially between the two types of nurse. Midwifery practice is almost entirely registered nursing while rehabilitation employs the highest proportion of enrolled nurses. Chart S4 shows the number of nurses for each area of practice group.



Nurses not Working

The number of qualified nurses under the age of 60 who are not currently working as a nurse was 9,480 (2006 10,548) of whom 78% were registered. There were 855 nurses (9% of non working nurses) currently looking for work, mostly part time positions. The most common reason for not working was employment in another occupation as shown in Chart S5. Enrolled nurses were more likely than registered nurses to be looking for work and to be working out of the nursing profession.

