

Title: Profile of the LPN/LVN Workforce 2008 and 2013

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Issue: Licensed practical nurses (LPNs), referred to as licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) in some states, are the second-largest health care occupation that requires postsecondary education. More LPNs work in long-term care (LTC) than in any other sector. Demand for LPNs among long-term care providers is expected to increase substantially over the next several decades. There is a need to better understand recent trends in the LPN workforce and their implications for the future supply of LPNs available to provide long-term care.

Methods: Data from the 2008 and 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample were analyzed.

Findings: The U.S. LPN workforce has overall shrunk by 6% between 2008 and 2013, but the number of LPNs working in the LTC sector increased by 12%. There have been some racial and ethnic shifts toward more diversity, although this varies regionally, and diversity is likely to increase in the coming decades.

Discussion: As LPN employment shifts to the long-term care setting, education programs should address the particular skills needed for that environment.

Key Words: LPN; LVN; long-term care; workforce demand

HWRC Website Link: <http://healthworkforce.ucsf.edu/publication/profile-licensed-practical-nurselicensed-vocational-nurse-workforce-2008-and-2013>