Key Findings from the 2014 Clinical Nurse Specialists Census
(Based on responses from 3,370 CNSs)

**PRACTICE**

CNSs provide care in a range of specialties. Based on the APRN Consensus Model’s certification for licensure based on patient population, what is the population group that you primarily care for?

- 71.01% Adult/gerontology
- 9.93% Psychiatric/mental health
- 8.55% Pediatric
- 4.83% Family across the lifespan
- 3.21% Women’s health
- 2.6% Neonatal

CNSs have a range of duties, from providing direct patient care, to managing care, to leading research, to nurse, patient and family education. What is the percentage of time you estimate that you spent on the following activities last year?

- 25% Providing direct patient care
- 20% Consulting with nurses/staff/others
- 19% Teaching nurses/staff
- 14% Leading evidence-based practice projects
- 11% Assisting with patient care
- 10% Assisting with EBP projects
- 9% Teaching patients/families
- 6% Assisting with research
- 6% Precepting students
- 5% Conducting research as the primary investigator
- 3% Providing transitional care
- 27% Other

**EMPLOYMENT**

More than 8 in 10 CNSs work full-time. What is your employment status?

- Full-time: 85.38%
- Part-time: 11.29%

Most CNSs who work in hospitals have responsibility for more than one department. How many units do you have responsibility for?

- 1 unit: 21.8%
- 2 or more units: 39.89%
- Whole system: 44.05%

Most CNSs work in hospitals that are either accredited by the ANCC’s Magnet™ Recognition Program or are seeking accreditation. Does your employer have ANCC Magnet™ Recognition or plan to seek it?

- Has Magnet™ status: 38.84%
- Seeking Magnet™ status: 22.62%
- Does not have magnet status: 19.09%

CNSs work in a variety of settings, but most are based in hospitals. What is your primary work setting?

- Hospital - non-federal: 59.45%
- Hospital - federal: 4.0%
- Hospital - veteran’s: 3.0%
- Nursing Education (all levels): 6.57%
- Ambulatory care (all): 6.93%

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www.nacns.org
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**EDUCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>60.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19% MS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHD</td>
<td>7.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNP</td>
<td>5.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>0.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNS/DNSc</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5.92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY**

- One in four CNSs is authorized to prescribe medications. State laws address whether or not advanced practice nurses (such as CNSs) can prescribe drugs.
- What is the highest nursing degree you currently hold?
  - Yes: 24.6%
  - No: 75.4%

- Most CNSs who are authorized to prescribe live in a state that requires a pharmacology course.

- Graduate supervised clinical hours: 53%
- Post graduate supervised prescribing hours: 27.5%

**REIMBURSEMENT**

- CNSs in independent practice, ambulatory care practice, or who have hospital medical board privileges are more likely to bill directly for their services.
- Do you bill for your CNS services?
  - Yes: 13.07%
  - No: 86.93%

**BILL**

- Private insurance: 89.8%
- Medicare: 79.8%
- Medicaid: 67.4%
- Individual patient: 56.2%

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

- Race/ethnicity:
  - 88.43% White
  - 3.37% Black
  - 2.1% Hispanic/Latino
  - 1.17% Filipino
  - 0.43% Chinese
  - 0.33% Asian Indian
  - 0.27% American Indian
  - 0.23% Japanese
  - 0.2% Korean
  - 0.1% Native Hawaiian
  - 0.07% Vietnamese

- Gender:
  - Female: 94.9%
  - Male: 4.5%