CLINICAL EXPERTISE
NURSING PRACTICE
SYSTEMS INNOVATION
NACNS
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists

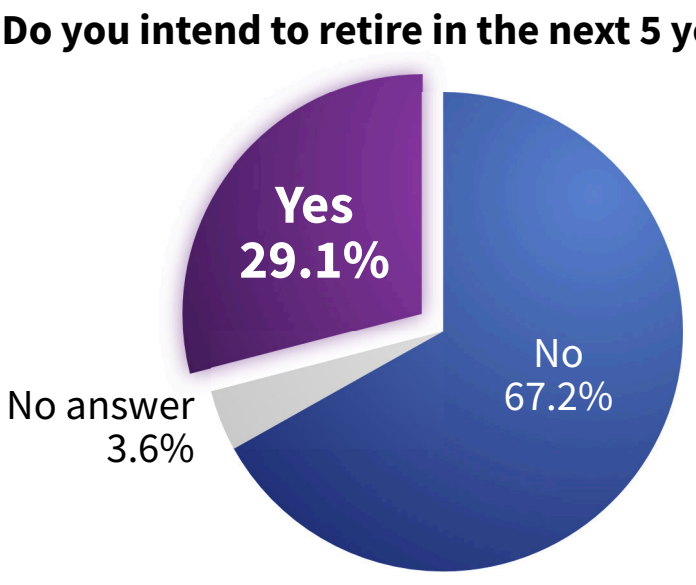
Leading the Next Generation:
Insights from the 2022 NACNS Census

Chief nursing officers rave about clinical nurse specialists (CNSs). The top 10 medical facilities in the USA all employ teams of CNSs — and wish they could employ more.

Now is the time to build a strong new generation and nurture their skills.

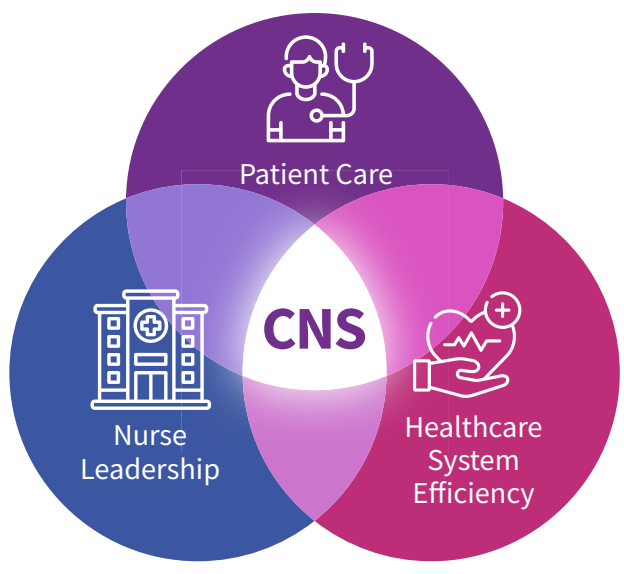
The Opportunity of a New Generation

We asked CNSs:
Do you intend to retire in the next 5 years?



Almost a third of our CNSs are about to start enjoying retirement.

Why We Need More CNSs



Only CNSs work across all three spheres to improve health care for all stakeholders.

How Should CNSs Prepare?

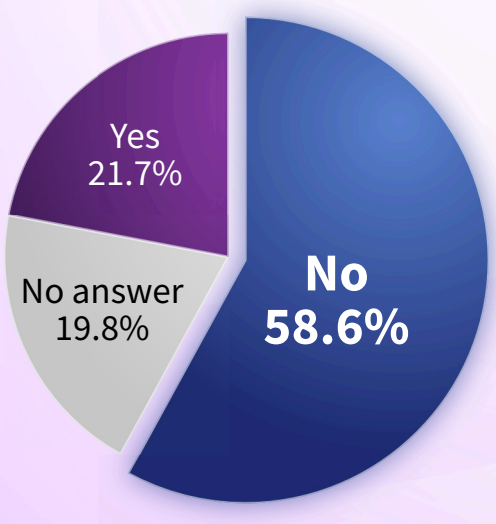
Retiring CNSs:
Have you started your succession planning?

New CNSs:
Are you maximizing your competencies to get ready?

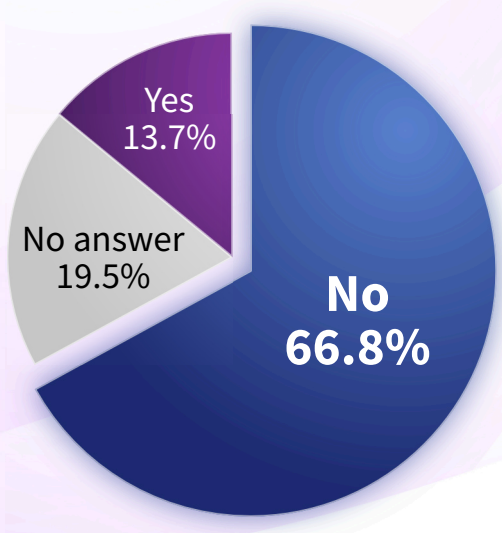
CNSs Can Do So Much More

Physical assessment, diagnosing and prescribing are all part of CNS education and clinical hours. But some states or systems don't take advantage of the full CNS scope of practice, as you'll see below. Let's show them the opportunities for improvement that they're missing!

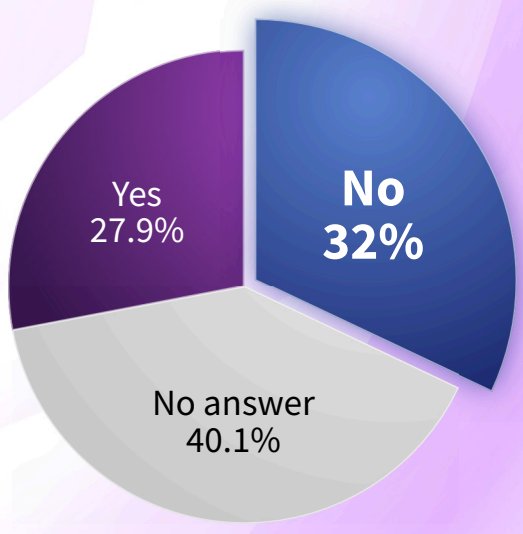
Do you have hospital or healthcare system privileges?



Do you have a collaborative agreement to prescribe medications, equipment, or write orders as a CNS?

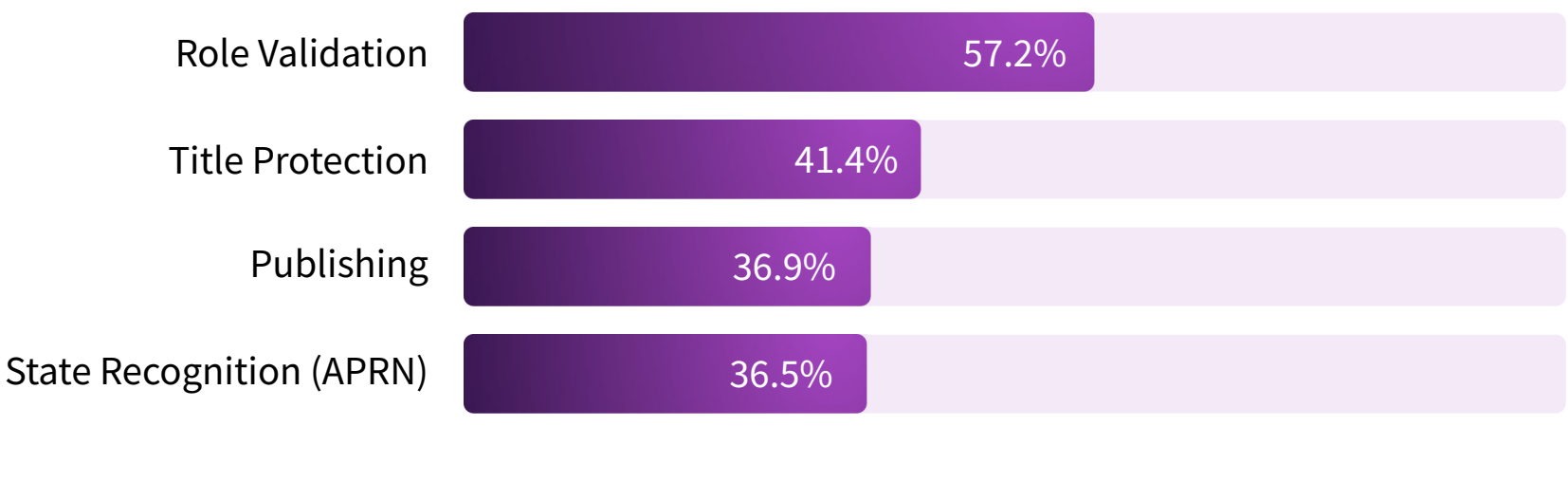


Are you able to be credentialed with hospital privileges for expanded CNS practice?



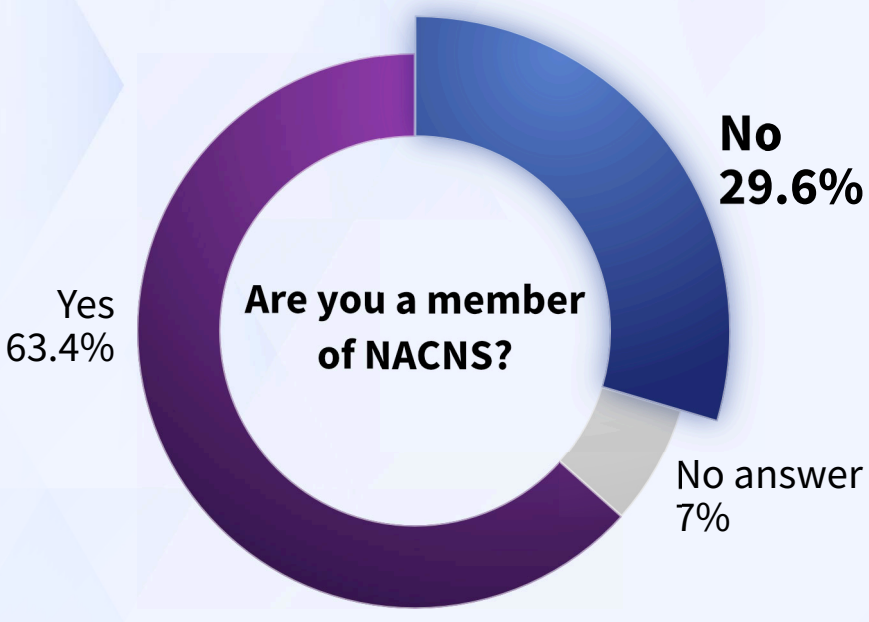
How Should NACNS Support CNSs?

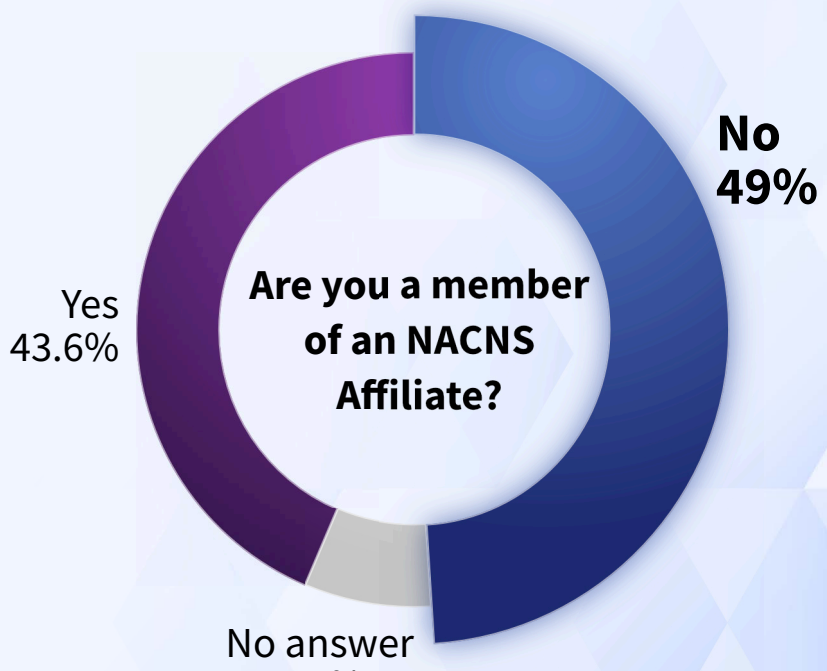
Our members have confirmed that they want us to lead the charge on these key issues.



Strength in Numbers

NACNS is the only organization that represents all CNSs across the country.
CNSs need to come together to get the full healthcare privileges that we've trained for.





How Can YOU Help?

- Talk to promising nurses who would make great CNSs and encourage them to join a program.
- Join NACNS if you haven't already — even if you're already a member of an NACNS affiliate.
- Ensure healthcare system leaders like CEOs and CFOs know the value of the CNS role. Hiring more CNSs can ensure all kinds of business problems see positive movement — including the nursing shortage.

** The survey was responded to by over 1,600 CNSs*

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