



## **MEDICATION AIDE FACT SHEET - APRIL, 2007**

### **NURSING SHORTAGE**

1. Perhaps the biggest single driver of demand for health care services will be the **growth of the U.S. population which estimates say will increase by 13.5% by 2020 and by 42% by 2050.** (U.S. Census Bureau)
2. The General Accounting Office (GAO) demographic analysis indicates that the **population of 65-84 year olds will double between 2000 and 2030 while the population of 20-44 year olds will increase by only ten percent.**
3. The U.S. Census Bureau also projects a rapid increase in the elderly population starting in particular around 2010 when the leading edge of the baby boom generation approaches 65. **Because the elderly have much greater per capita healthcare needs compared with the non-elderly, the rapid growth in demand for nursing services is especially pronounced for long-term care settings that predominantly provide care to the elderly.** This is an area that does not receive much attention at nursing schools, either in classrooms or clinicals.
4. The number of registered nurses under the age of 30 is decreasing. **The RN population under 30 dropped from 25.1 percent in 1980 to only 9.1 percent in 2000.** In fact, the average age of new RN graduates is 31. They are entering the profession at an older age and will have fewer years to work than nurses traditionally had. [March 2000 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN) conducted by the Division of Nursing of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Health Professions]
5. According to a report released in 2002 by the American Health Care Association, the **vacancy and annualized turnover rates** in Illinois long-term care settings was:

DON Vacancy Rate	9.4%
Administrative RN Vacancy Rate	9.0%
Staff RN Vacancy Rate	13.4%
LPN Vacancy Rate	12.0%
CNA Vacancy Rate	8.0%
DON Turnover Rate	53.2%
Administrative RN Turnover Rate	32.7%
Staff RN Turnover Rate	41.0%
LPN Turnover Rate	51.6%
CNA Turnover Rate	75.5%

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6. **By 2020, the national shortage is projected to increase to more than 1 million FTE RNs if current trends continue, suggesting that only 64 percent of projected demand will be met.** (Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA)
7. **The state has a current shortage of nurses of 7%** (vacancies vs. jobs filled) and that shortage is projected to grow to almost 8,000 registered nurses and 1,200 licensed practical nurses per year projected through 2010. (Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity)
8. In Illinois, the number of potential caregivers, including nurses, is projected to decrease 4.2% between 2000 and 2020, while the number of those who need care is projected to increase by 31%. All told, **by 2020 Illinois could be facing a shortage of over 21,000 nurses.** (Illinois Department of Public Health)
9. According to the latest projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics published in the November 2005 *Monthly Labor Review*, more than 1.2 million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2014. Government analysts project that more than **703,000 new RN positions will be created through 2014**, which will account for two-fifths of all new jobs in the health care sector. (*Monthly Labor Review*, November, 2005)
10. Bureau of Labor Statistics also reports that **jobs for RNs will grow 23% by 2008.** That's faster than the average for all other occupations.
11. **The need for RNs in nursing homes is expected to increase by 44.2% between 2000 and 2020.** (American Health Care Association)
12. Research suggests that interest in nursing as a career is decreasing generally, and where interest does exist, **interest in a career of geriatric care in nursing homes is not likely high relative to other areas of nursing.** (Buerhaus, et al, 2000, *Journal of the American Medical Association*)
13. To meet projected growth in demand for RN services, the **U.S. must graduate approximately 90% more nurses from U.S. nursing programs relative to the baseline projections.** (HRSA)
14. In 2006 alone however, **we turned away more than 32,000 qualified applicants to baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs because of a shortage of faculty and budget constraints** in our nation's colleges of nursing. (American Association of Colleges of Nursing)
15. At the same time, **job dissatisfaction** is on the rise due to increased workloads, longer hours and not having the resources to provide the highest quality care to patients. (Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing)
16. According to a May 2001 report, *Who Will Care for Each of Us?: America's Coming Health Care Crisis*, released by the Nursing Institute at the University of Illinois College of Nursing, **the ratio of potential caregivers to the people most likely to need care, the elderly population, will decrease by 40% between 2010 and 2030.** Demographic changes may limit access to health care unless the number of nurses and other caregivers grows in proportion to the rising elderly population.