



# There's no IL Registered Nurse (RN) Shortage

## Linda Aiken's Illinois RN Survey reveals something *has changed*...nurses' confidence in their employer.

*Our findings confirmed among hospital nurses that high nurse burnout, job dissatisfaction, intent to leave hospital employer, and lack of confidence in hospital management predated the pandemic. -Linda Aiken*

- ◆ No evidence was found that large numbers of nurses left health care or hospital practice in the first 18 months of the pandemic.
- ◆ Policies that prevent chronic hospital nurse understaffing have the greatest potential to stabilize the hospital nurse workforce at levels supporting good care and clinician wellbeing.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9729649/?fbclid=IwAR0SkfSszGZSOtt2fHzebYDW7qTUZIWw6O7p0fs8N6qTDEdWij5U114Q4c>

## THERE WAS **NO EVIDENCE** TO LOWER THE STANDARDS IN THE NURSE PRACTICE ACT FOR COMMUNITY SETTINGS—SUPPORT SB 1277

Dozens of research over the last twenty years have identified poor outcomes, errors, falls, increased length of stay, missed care, increased patient mortality and morbidity when limited numbers of RNs care for too many patients in hospitals—but there was **NO EVIDENCE** provided that non-nurses were qualified to deliver nursing interventions in 2017. There remains NO EVIDENCE to support UNLICENSED, UNEDUCATED NON-NURSES are safe to perform nursing interventions inside or outside a hospital.

**Two steps are required to practice as a nurse in Illinois:**

1. Complete approved Board of Nursing education curriculum and
2. Passage of a national licensure exam called NCLEX

**SUPPORT SB 1277 to restore only qualified nurses ACROSS all care settings care for you and your families—just like the Legislative Purpose of the Nurse Practice Act identifies.**

## Facts on Illinois' Nursing Workforce are clear...

- In 2019 there were 210,000 RNs
- In 2023 there were 213,000 RNs

<https://nursing.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/nursing/documents/pdf/2023-01-01%20Active%20Nurse%20Licensees.pdf>

**The myth there are declining numbers of registered nurses in Illinois is just that—a myth to intimidate legislators to choose unfounded policy remedies.**

## Results from a 2021 survey 2,200 RNs

(with 500 RNs from IL) in hospitals across the U.S. reveal that the stress of COVID-19 and inadequate industrywide staffing practices have caused a majority of nurses to consider leaving the profession altogether and have created alarming levels of moral distress.

- 43 percent of nurses cared for 6 patients or more at any one time during their shifts.
- Only 30 percent of nurses reported that staffing levels were based on patient needs.
- Only 15 percent of nurses felt nurse-to-patient ratios in their units or facilities were safe.
- 45 percent of nurses have had to work beyond their scheduled shifts for “mandatory overtime” to cover scheduling gaps.
- 93 percent of nurses experienced “**moral distress**,” caused when they feel that the ethical course of action is not being pursued due to organizational or institutional constraints.
- 51 percent of nurses were considering leaving the profession within the next 12 months— and the top reasons why were “unsafe staffing” and “unresolved moral distress.” <https://illinoisepi.files.wordpress.com/2022/06/pmcr-ilepi-registered-nurses-in-crisis-final.pdf>