

61 Broadway  
New York, NY 10006  
800-669-1656  
www.nln.org

# News



**National League  
for Nursing**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Karen R. Klestzick  
212-812-0376; kklestzick@nln.org**

## **STARTLING DATA FROM THE NLN'S COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF ALL NURSING PROGRAMS EVOKES WAKE-UP CALL**

### **Program-Inclusive Numbers Raise Nursing and Nursing Faculty Shortages to Crisis Level**

December 15, 2004—New York, NY— Calling it a red flag, the National League for Nursing today released a preliminary report that shows that thousands of qualified applicants, represented by an estimated 125,000 applications, are turned away from nursing programs at all levels. According to Dr. Ruth Corcoran, chief executive officer of the NLN, “despite what seems a healthy increase in the number of graduations, admissions, and enrollments in all nursing programs for the academic year 2003-2004, the supply will fall well short of the demand and the gap will continue to grow unless we address the critical shortage of faculty.”

The National League for Nursing is the **only nursing organization that collects data on *all* nursing education programs in the USA and its territories**: doctorate, master’s, baccalaureate, associate degree, diploma, and practical. “It is interesting to note,” continued Dr. Corcoran, “that the percentage of qualified applicants who were turned away by associate degree programs is significantly higher than the rate at BSN programs.”

### **Highlights of the NLN’s 2004 National Nursing Education Database™ Survey**

#### **Estimated number of *qualified* applications rejected by nursing programs: 125,037**

- Baccalaureate ..... 36,615
- Associate Degree.....86,680
- Diploma.....1,742

#### **Percentage of schools reporting an increase in number of applications: 69.7%**

- Baccalaureate .....75.5%
- Associate Degree.....65.8%
- Diploma.....77.4%

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*Other projected increases over 2002-03, by type of nursing program, are as follows:*

**Admissions to all pre-licensure RN programs: 37.4%**

- Baccalaureate .....30.8%
- Associate Degree.....43.8%
- Diploma..... 6.6%

**Enrollments in all pre-licensure RN programs: 50.3%**

- Baccalaureate .....56.6%
- Associate Degree.....48.9%
- Diploma.....6.6%

**Graduations from all pre-licensure RN programs: 33.0%**

- Baccalaureate .....22.0%
- Associate Degree.....40.9%
- Diploma..... 34.3%

The final report, with complete data tables, detailed analysis, and implications will be published early spring 2005.

**Editors and reporters: For interview opportunities, please contact NLN communications director Karen R. Klestzick at 212-812-0376, [kklestzick@nlm.org](mailto:kklestzick@nlm.org).**

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*The NLN advances quality nursing education that prepares the nursing workforce to meet the needs of diverse populations in an ever-changing health care environment.*