

Nursing shortage

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Introduction

There is a large existing deficit in the number of Registered Nurses (RNs), which is majorly caused by an aging workforce and limited capacity in nursing education programs (American Association of Collage of Nursing (AACN), 2017). The situation is further gravitated by the fact that schools of nursing are trying to their limits to expand in order to meet the dire demand of care as per the national healthcare reform (Jimenez, 2016). According to the Bureau of Labour Statistics projections, the AACN notes, the Registered Nursing is among the top occupations in terms of growth in the next 5 – 10 years, which projects to an increase to 3.2 million RNs by the year 2024 from 2.7 million in 2014. Another factor contributing to the shortage is the slow growth of nursing school enrollment that does not meet the demand of the RNs and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN).

The education policy initiatives

The colleges and universities are financially strapped and lack of Nurse Faculties limit the number of the qualified applications (Aiken, Cheung, & Olds, 2009). A coalition that involves legislators, in the senate, lobby groups, faculty heads and Nurses associations would be sufficient in formulating a policy or policies to curb the nurse shortage.

Faculty heads and nurses association would be the ones to formulate the sufficient policies that would mitigate the present shortage and in future, as they are the ones on the ground and they know the demographics of the problem. Lobby groups would be responsible for ‘selling’ the policy proposals, getting people to buy the ideas of the propositions and finally the legislators would be able to formulate working laws that will enact the policies and get government support where needed.

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References

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Jimenez, S. (2016). U.S. still headed for shortage for nurses shortage. Nurse.com, On Course Learning. <https://www.nurse.com/blog/2016/02/16/u-s-still-headed-for-nurse-shortage/>

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