

Rural and Remote Nursing in British Columbia: Results from a National Survey

Abstract

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In British Columbia (BC) 7.2% of regulated nurses work in rural and remote locations and these nurses are responsible for caring for 11.9% of the provinces population (CIHI, 2015). In Canada, nurses play an important role in rural and remote health care and more needs to be known about the nursing workforce in order to inform health human resources (HHR) and health services planning in these areas.

Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada II (RRNII) was a national survey implemented in 2014 and 2015 that aimed to collect information on the rural and remote nursing workforce, including nursing roles, work settings, and practice modes. The cross-sectional survey was sent to a sample of Registered Nurses (RNs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), and Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) in every province and territory in Canada with the assistance of the nursing regulatory bodies. The overall response rate for the survey Canada-wide was 40% with 3822 returned surveys; in BC the response rate was 38% with a total of 311 nurses completing the survey. Respondents were from a full range of practice settings including primary care, acute care, community health, home care, mental health and addictions, and long-term care.

This presentation will discuss study results by describing the sample of rural and remote nurses in BC including demographics (gender, age, and education), employment status, work settings, job satisfaction, participant's perceptions of their scope of practice and primary health care in their workplaces, and intentions to retire. The survey findings will provide information planners and policy makers will find useful as they plan for the future of HHR and health services in rural and remote BC.