Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada II

Alberta

Research Question
What is the nature of nursing practice in rural and remote Canada?

Survey Methods
Survey mailed to 9,622 eligible nurses (RNs, NPs, RPNs, LPNs)
All nurses in the territories & stratified systematic sample in every province
Canada-wide response rate: 40% (N=3,822)
Alberta response rate: 35% (N=344)

Demographics
- 3% work in a fly-in community
- 17% work in a community <2,500
- 93% are female
- 50% are employed in a permanent part-time position
- 60% live in their primary work community
- 35% are 55 years of age or older

Highest nursing education
- RNs: 49% Bachelor's, 44% Diploma, 7% Master's
- NPs: 60% Master's, 40% Bachelor's
- LPNs: 98% Diploma, 2% Bachelor's
- RPNs: 98% Diploma, 2% Bachelor's

Workplace
- 63% Hospital
- 19% Community Health
- 15% Nursing Home
- 4% Other

Perceived scope
- RNs: 88% within, 7% below, 5% beyond
- NPs: 100% within
- LPNs: 81% within, 16% below, 3% beyond
- RPNs: 89% within, 7% below, 5% beyond

Career plans
- Planning to leave position within the next 12 months:
  - 28% of all AB nurses
    - 26% plan to retire
    - 26% plan to nurse in a different remote/rural community

Rural AB Nurse Recruitment Factors
- Professional: advanced practice opportunities; career; interest in practice setting
- Job-related: benefits; flexibility of work; income
- Personal & Community: spouse employment/transfer; family or friends; lifestyle; location

Take Home Messages
- A greater proportion of rural AB nurses worked in a hospital setting than rural Canada nurses
- Rural AB nurses were less likely to live in communities of less than 1,000 persons compared to rural nurses in Canada overall
- The majority of rural AB nurses indicated they work within their scope of practice
- Rural AB nurses expressed positive views about primary health care, their contributions to it and the accessibility it provides for patients
- This study makes an important contribution by providing a comprehensive overview of rural and remote nurses’ practice and communities within each Canadian province and territory

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For more details, please see the AB fact sheet [http://ruralnursing.unbc.ca]