Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada II

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

378 out of 797 Nova Scotia nurses responded to the RRNII survey, 56% were RNs.

**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)
Nova Scotia response rate: 47% (N=378)

**Demographics**
- 2% work in a fly-in community
- 11% work in a community <2,500
- 96% are female
- 65% are employed in a full-time/permanent position
- 52% live in their primary work community
- 37% are 55 years of age or older

**Highest nursing education**
- RNs: 50% Diploma, 46% Bachelor’s, 4% Master’s or Doctorate
- NPs: 71% Master’s, 29% Doctorate
- LPNs: 100% Diploma

**Workplace**
- 63% Hospital
- 16% Community health
- 15% Nursing Home
- 7% Other

**Perceived scope**
- RNs: 96% within, 1% beyond, 3% below
- NPs: 86% within, 14% beyond
- LPNs: 88% within, 10% below, 2% beyond

**Career plans**
Planning to leave position within the next 12 months:
- 21% of all NS nurses
  - 21% of all NS nurses plan to retire
  - 25% plan to nurse in the same community

**Rural NS Recruitment Factors**
![Graph showing professional, job-related, and personal/community factors for RN/NP and LPN.]

- 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**
- Rural NS nurses were more likely to work in hospitals than rural Canada nurses overall.
- Rural NS nurses were older than rural nurses in Canada overall, especially RNs.
- The large majority of rural NS nurses reported working within their licensed scope of practice.
- A greater proportion of rural NS nurses held a permanent full-time position compared to rural Canada nurses overall.
- 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 detail, please see the NS fact sheet [http://ruralnursing.unbc.ca]