



Healing Utah's Nursing Gap

Every Life Is Touched By a Nurse

Counties with higher RN to population ratios are healthier¹:

LOWER RATE
OF FAIR OR
POOR HEALTH

2.8%

HIGHER
MAMMOGRAPHY
SCREENING RATE

6%

LOWER
RATE OF
TEEN BIRTHS

9/1000

PROBLEM

Utah is short more than 1200 qualified nurses², and the gap between providers and patients is growing. This will lead to a decline in quality of care.

- Utah is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, increasing the demand for health care.
- We can avert the oncoming nursing crisis by preparing now.
- Low faculty to student ratios are required to ensure patient safety (average 1:8)
- Limited number of current faculty restricts class size

SOLUTION

Increase funding for Utah's public nursing schools to increase class size by 25% over the next four years.

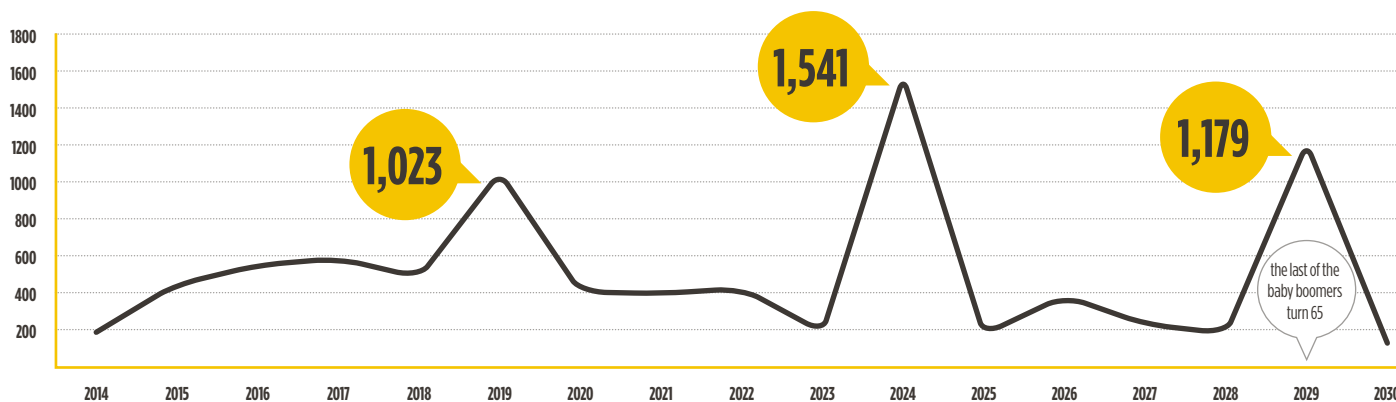
- It costs an average of \$7,500 per semester to educate one new nurse.
- Experienced nurses in Utah make a median salary of \$67,000.³
- Supports Governor Gary Herbert's Vision 2020, which has set a goal for 66% of Utah's ages 20 to 64 to have a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2020.
- Closely aligned with the Board of Regents' budget priorities in the areas of market demand and performance-based funding

EACH INVESTMENT OF **\$3 million** = **100** NEW REGISTERED NURSES

$$1245 \times \$67,000 \times .038 = \$3,167,700$$

1245 unfilled nursing positions \times \$67,000 median salary \times .038 3.8% state tax rate = \$3,167,700 annual state revenue

Nearly half of Utah's nurses are expected to retire in the next 15 years



MYTH	FACT
Utah can recruit nurses from other states.	The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that by 2022 there will be 1.2 million unfilled nursing positions nationwide. ⁴ More than 50,000 qualified applications to RN programs are rejected nationally each year due to faculty shortages.
People don't want to be nurses.	Nursing is a highly desirable profession, but Utah's public nursing programs reject over 900 qualified applications each year. ⁵
RN's mostly work part time.	94% of nurses licensed in Utah are currently practicing in Utah, and 61% of Utah's nurses work full time.

The Utah Nursing Consortium is a collaboration of Utah's eight publicly funded nursing programs and health care industry partners. **These eight schools educate 2/3 of Utah's nursing workforce.** The goal of the Consortium is to increase the number of new registered nurses graduating from public Utah colleges and universities each year.



1 Bigbee, J.L., Evans, S., Lind, B., Perez, S., Jacobo, L., & Geraghty, E.M. (2014). RN-to-Population ratio and population health: A multifactorial study. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 5(1), 11-17.
 2 Utah Medical Education Council (2015). *Demand for Nurses in Utah: The 2015 Survey of Utah's Nurse Employers*. Salt Lake City, UT.
 3 Utah Medical Education Council (2016). *Supply of Nurses in Utah: The 2016 Survey Utah's Registered Nurses*. Salt Lake City, UT.
 4 The Atlantic, *The U.S. Is Running Out of Nurses*, Feb 3, 2016, <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/02/nursing-shortage/459741/>
 5 Utah Medical Education Council (2016). *Supply of Nurses in Utah: The 2016 Survey Utah's Registered Nurses*. Salt Lake City, UT.