



NURSING INSTITUTIONS REPORTING LACK OF INSTRUCTORS, LACK OF SPACE TO GRADUATE MORE NURSES

Senator Gillibrand Takes Action To Address Growing Need For Nurses

According to the Center for Health Workforce Studies, New York has substantially fewer registered nurses per capita than the national average. Statewide, New York’s current vacancy rate for nurses is approximately 8.6 percent. In 10 years, New York State will need 105,739 additional nurses to provide quality care.

This report includes regional anecdotes from an informal survey of nursing institutions across New York State conducted by Senator Gillibrand’s Office, requesting information on the amount of applicants they receive and a lack of space to accommodate new nursing students. While some students were turned away because of a lack of qualifications and necessary prerequisites, many institutions were forced to turn away students because of a lack of space and faculty.

County Statistics and Regional Information for New York City:

New York City’s current vacancy rate for nurses is approximately 7.5 percent. In 10 years, New York City will need an additional 59,694 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Bronx	16.0%	8.4%	12,031
Kings	18.6%	7.4%	16,325
New York	15.5%	7.2%	12,226
Queens	18.7%	6.9%	16,324
Richmond	9.8%	N/A	2,788

Senator Gillibrand’s office reached out to the College of Staten Island in Staten Island, and they reported that their college admits about 125 out of 400 applicants. While many applicants are not qualified many other applicants are turned away because there is a lack of classroom space and inadequate faculty supply.

County Statistics and Regional Information for Western New York:

Western New York’s current vacancy rate is approximately 10.6 percent. In 10 years, Western New York will need an additional 7,574 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Allegany/Cattaraugus	14.4%	11.60%	649
Chautauqua	32.6%	7.3%	1,011
Erie	14.0%	10.1%	4,726
Niagara	10.0%	13.5%	1,188

Senator Gillibrand’s office contacted D’Youville College in Buffalo to discuss challenges facing their nursing school. D’Youville has about 75 students per class and has about 200 applicants. Tuition is about \$19,000 per year, which makes the program cost prohibitive for some applicants.

County Statistics and Regional Information for the Rochester/Finger Lakes Region:

The Rochester-Finger Lakes Region’s current vacancy rate is approximately 10.8 percent. In 10 years, the Rochester-Finger Lake Region will need another 3,965 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Genesee/Orleans	23.9%	7.5%	758
Livingston/Wyoming	1.8%	7.1%	830
Monroe/Wayne	15.1%	20.7%	1,535
Ontario	15.8%	7.9%	842

Senator Gillibrand’s office reached out to the Associate Dean of St. John Fisher School in Rochester, and it was reported that their program admits about 96 out of 150 applicants. She reported that a certain number of qualified applicants are turned away each year, due to difficulty in ability to find and hire qualified clinically trained adjunct faculty to grow the program to meet demand.

County Statistics and Regional Information for Central New York:

Central New York’s current vacancy rate is approximately 14.7 percent. In 10 years, Central New York will need an additional 2,192 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Chenango/Cortland	22.9%	26.6%	695
Onondaga/Madison/Cayuga	17.8%	5.4%	954
Oswego	13.7%	12.0%	543

Senator Gillibrand’s office gathered information from LeMoyne College in Syracuse. LeMoyne offers dual nursing/ bachelors and nursing/master’s degrees. They accept about 35 percent for their undergraduate program and 25 percent for their graduate program. While some applicants are turned away due to lack of preparation, the department size is highly restricted due to operating expenses and salaries. They “would be bigger if they could be.”

County Statistics and Regional Information for Mohawk Valley:

The Mohawk Valley’s current vacancy rate is approximately 4.3 percent. In 10 years, the Mohawk Valley will need an additional 2,942 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Fulton/Montgomery	19.4%	1.5%	1,458
Herkimer/Oneida	13.7%	7.1%	1,484

Senator Gillibrand’s office spoke with a representative of Utica College in Utica. The school would be interested in growing its program numbers, but is limited because of underfunding. To attract better students and faculty, they need better pay and facilities which cost more than they bring in via tuition.

County Statistics and Regional Information for the Southern Tier:

The Southern Tier’s current vacancy rate is approximately 7.2 percent. In 10 years, the Southern Tier will need an additional 4,951 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Broome/Tioga	21.4%	N/A	901
Chemung /Schuyler	32.6%	14.4%	1,154
Delaware/Otsego/Schoharie	13.3%	1.4%	956
Seneca/Tompkins	18.9%	N/A	161
Steuben/Yates	18.0%	5.8%	1,779

Senator Gillibrand’s office spoke with a representative of Elmira College in Elmira. Elmira admits about half of its applicants to a program with about 80 spaces per class. However, because Elmira College is in an underserved area, they would like to matriculate and graduate more qualified nurses, especially those committed to serving in Elmira and the Mohawk Valley. This is difficult given the shortage of faculty members because there are fewer incentives to attract them to Elmira. After graduation, it is difficult to keep students in the community -- “it is hard to ‘grow your own people’.” Funding for more hires, including incentives to serve in underserved communities, such as debt and loan forgiveness would help address the problem. Elmira College would not have to waitlist students if the program’s size was not confined by these factors.

County Statistics and Regional Information for the Capital Region:

The Capital Region’s current vacancy rate is approximately 8.2 percent. In 10 years, the Capital Region will need an additional 2,263 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Albany	12.9%	11.3%	(144)*
Columbia/Greene	14.3%	N/A	329
Rensselaer	50.0%	10.2%	576
Saratoga	29.8%	N/A	547
Schenectady	25.7%	0.3%	534
Warren/Washington	16.0%	10.8%	421

* Albany County is not projected to need additional nurses in 2020 as compared to the nurses that are already employed in the county. This does not mean there is no nursing shortage in the county, but rather that there will not be a projected need for additional nurses over the next ten years in the county. This is a result of a number of factors, including the fact that the nursing population is slightly younger, which means less nurses will be retiring in the coming years, and the population overall is younger which leads to less demand.

Additionally, there are major nursing institutions in the area, for example, Excelsior College in Albany. Senator Gillibrand’s office contacted Excelsior, which serves adults working with prior clinical experience and is a national program. Their Associate of Science in Nursing program has approximately 8,000 undergraduate applications per year and this year they will enroll 4,800 new students by the end of June. Their Bachelor of Science Nursing program receives approximately 450 new applications per year and this year we will enroll 500 students. Their MRN program will have approximately 150 applications per year and this year they will enroll approximately 140 students.

County Statistics and Regional Information for the North Country:

The North Country’s current vacancy rate is approximately 9.5 percent. In 10 years, the North Country will need an additional 930 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Clinton/Essex/Franklin/Hamilton	6.2%	10.9%	497
Jefferson/Lewis	11.9%	10.9%	304
St. Lawrence	9.4%	6.6%	129

Senator Gillibrand’s office received information on the nursing shortage from Jefferson Community College in Jefferson County. Their nursing division can only accept 50 students per year into their two year RN program. According to their Program Director they would like to grow their capabilities and accept a greater number of qualified students, but they are unable to do so due to size and financial constraints.

County Statistics and Regional Information for the Hudson Valley:

The Hudson Valley’s current vacancy rate is approximately 5.7 percent. In 10 years, the Hudson Valley will need an additional 8,704 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Dutchess	13.1%	18.0%	537
Orange	19.4%	4.1%	1,616
Rockland	29.3%	2.8%	113
Sullivan/Ulster	18.6%	5.3%	695
Westchester/Putnam	24.6%	-1.7%	5,743

Senator Gillibrand’s office spoke with a representative of the College of New Rochelle in Westchester. The college has both undergraduate and graduate level programs and they receive upward of 750 applicants per year and admit about 275. While there are many unqualified applicants, the financial cost of the program is a deterrent to many of the qualified applicants.

County Statistics and Regional Information for Long Island:

Long Island’s current vacancy rate is approximately 6.3 percent. In 10 years, Long Island will need an additional 12,524 nurses to provide quality care.

COUNTY	CURRENT % OF NURSES OVER AGE 55	CURRENT VACANCY RATE	ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED TO MEET 2020 DEMAND
Nassau	14.4%	7.7%	7,067
Suffolk	15.70%	4.9%	5,457

Senator Gillibrand’s office received information on the nursing shortage from Molloy College in Rockville. Their Division of Nursing has the sixth largest undergraduate nursing enrollment in the country, but still has resource limitations. They are restricted by classroom space, faculty, and clinical facilities for hands-on experiences. At this time, all class and laboratory facilities are used at maximum levels at all hours and days of the week. The pool of qualified nursing faculty is also limited. Despite efforts to educate nurses for positions in nursing academia, the numbers do not meet the demand at this time or in the near future.

**All calculations are based on preliminary data from: McGinnis S. *Toward a Methodology for Substate Projections of Registered Nurse Supply and Demand in New York*. Rensselaer, NY: Center for Health Workforce Studies, School of Public Health, SUNY Albany. October 2008.