

WWAMI CENTER FOR HEALTH WORKFORCE STUDIES

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Project Summary October 2005

Washington State Hospitals: Results of 2005 Workforce Survey

Background and Methods:

The University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies and the Washington State Hospital Association’s Health Work Force Institute collaborated in a staffing survey of Washington’s nonfederal acute care hospitals. Eighty-one percent of the 88 hospitals responded to this mailed survey. This was the fourth staffing survey of Washington’s hospitals since 2001.

Major Findings:

- ✦ The 2005 staff nurse vacancy rate of 6 percent is unchanged from 2004, while the number of employed staff nurses in payroll positions increased by 19 percent in the past year.

- ✦ Approximately 1,900 RNs are needed to fill current vacancies—roughly the same number as were needed in 2001 when the vacancy rate was 10 percent.

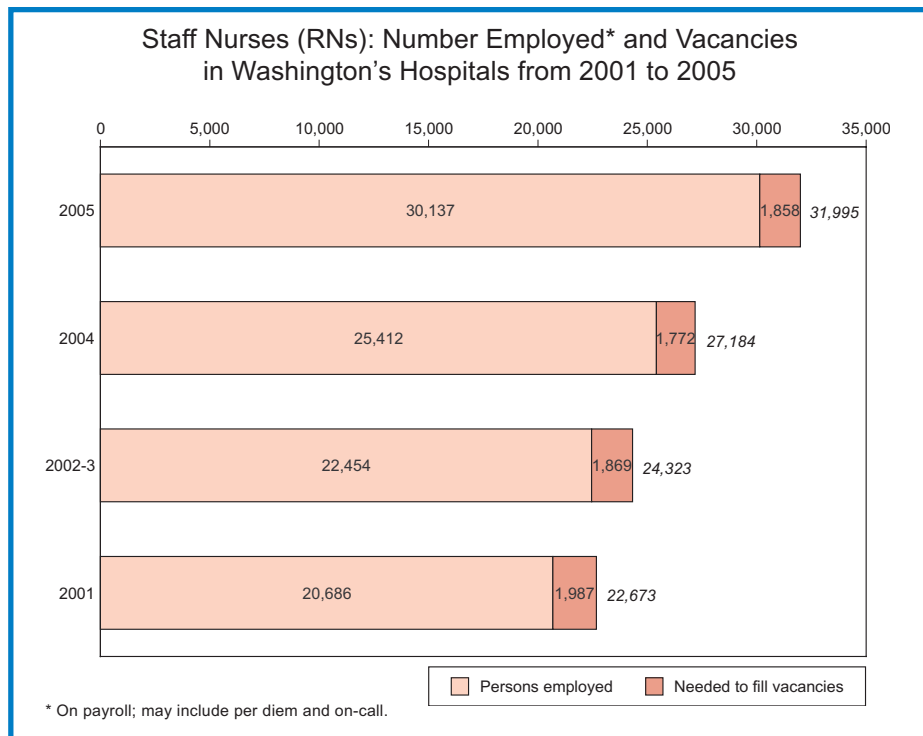
- ✦ Employment for most hospital occupations has grown in the past several years.

- ✦ More than half of the hospitals report it is very difficult to recruit physical therapists, nuclear medicine technologists, occupational therapists, and ultrasound technologists.

- ✦ There is regional variation in type of occupation in short supply and level of recruitment difficulty.

- ✦ Many hospitals report employing fewer contract employees over the past year.

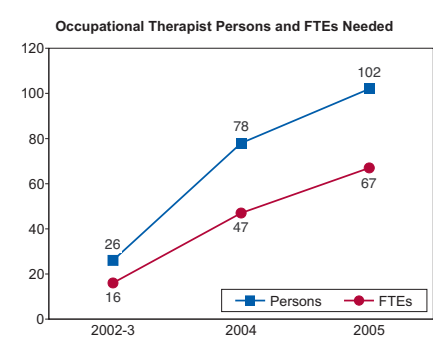
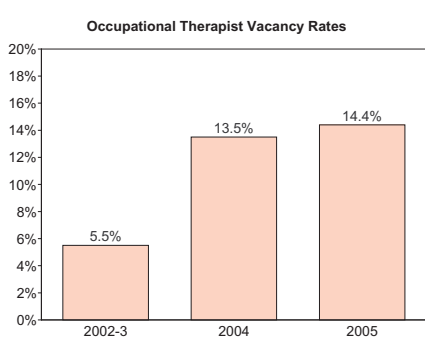
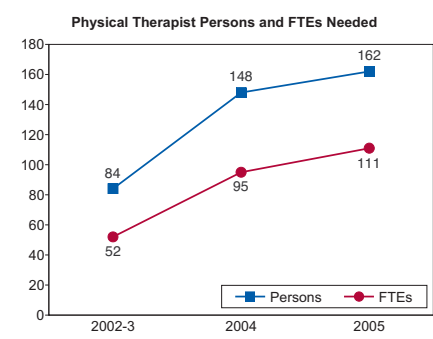
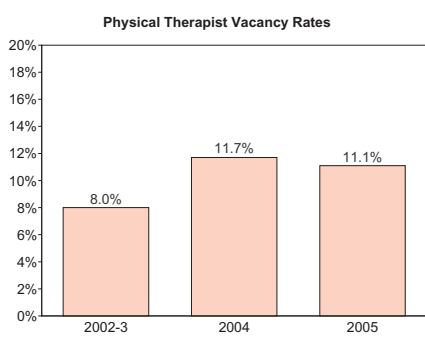
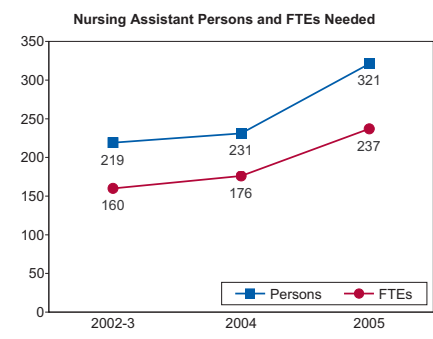
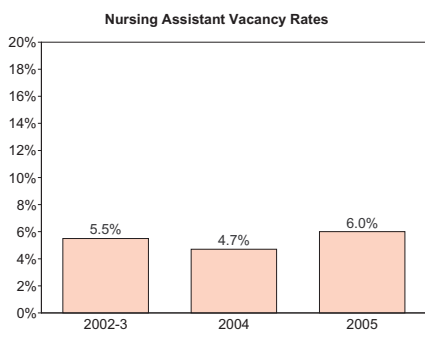
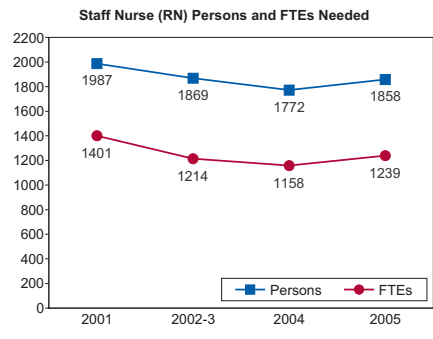
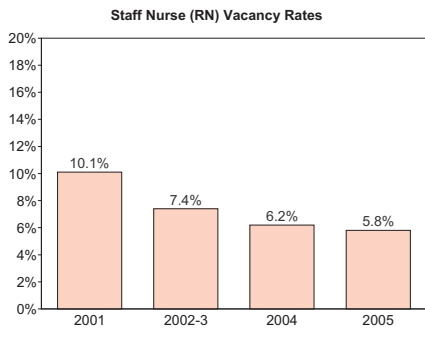
- ✦ Of hospitals reporting it is “very difficult” to recruit neurologists, obstetrician-gynecologists, specialist surgeons, internists, and family physicians, most say there is a serious access problem for that physician type in their community.



Policy Implications:
 Growth in Washington’s hospital sector appears to be keeping the demand for health care occupations high, even when vacancy rates for some jobs appear to be lower than in past years. This growth, and the shift away from contracting employees, needs to be considered in projections of future workforce supply and demand.

... more figures on reverse





Findings from this study are more fully described in WWAMI Center for Health Workforce Studies Working Paper #104: Skillman SM, Andrilla CHA, Phippen E, Hutson T, Bowditch E, Praseuth T, Washington State Hospitals: Results of 2005 Workforce Survey, October 2005.