

**NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING, INC.**

1998

Licensure and Examination Statistics

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INTRODUCTION

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., is committed to maintaining itself as a clearinghouse of information on the activities of its 61 member boards of nursing. This publication represents a continuation of the National Council's efforts to be responsive to the information needs of its member boards of nursing and the public whom they protect through the regulation of nursing practice at the state level. Provided in this publication are the 1998 statistics on the licensing activities of the National Council's Member Boards and its two licensure examinations, the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN[®] examination) and the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN[®] examination).

The data included in this publication provide licensing statistics for the period July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998.

On April 1, 1994, the National Council began administering the NCLEX[®] examination via computerized adaptive testing (CAT) for both the NCLEX-RN[®] examination and NCLEX-PN[®] examination. Because the NCLEX examination is now available on a year-round basis, candidate performance is summarized and reported for each quarter, representing a three-month period of time.

This publication provides the examination statistics for a one-year period, January 1998 - December 1998.

PART I

1998

LICENSURE STATISTICS

DEFINITIONS

REINSTATEMENT is defined as the reactivation of revoked, suspended, or lapsed licenses and is not considered part of routine renewal.

ACTIVE LICENSE figures are based upon the reported actual or estimated total number of individuals holding an active license within a jurisdiction. Whereas the processing figures provide a measure of the magnitude of board operations, the active license figures represent the nurses available for employment. Due to an unknown number of individuals holding active licenses in more than one jurisdiction, the total number of active licenses does not represent the total number of licensees.

SPECIALTY LICENSES contain data for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) groups: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Nurse Specialist (CNS), CNS-

Table 1. Boards of Nursing Empowered to License Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses, or Other Categories of Nursing Personnel

JD	Board of Nursing	RN	LPN/ LVN	Other Specialty Groups
AK	Alaska Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
AL	Alabama Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
AR	Arkansas State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
AS	American Samoa Health Service Regulatory Board	YES	YES	YES
AZ	Arizona State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
CARN	California Board of Registered Nursing	YES	NO	YES
CAVN	California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians	NO	YES	NO
CO	Colorado Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
CT	Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing	YES	YES	YES
DC	District of Columbia Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
DE	Delaware Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
FL	Florida Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
GAPN	Georgia State Board of Licensed Practical Nurses	NO	YES	NO
GARN	Georgia Board of Nursing	YES	NO	YES
GU	Guam Board of Nurse Examiners	YES	YES	YES
HI	Hawaii Board of Nursing Professional and Vocational Licensing Division	YES	YES	YES
IA	Iowa Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
ID	Idaho Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
IL	Illinois Department of Professional Regulation	YES	YES	NO
IN	Indiana State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
KS	Kansas State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
KY	Kentucky Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
LAPN	Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners	NO	YES	NO
LARN	Louisiana State Board of Nursing	YES	NO	YES
MA	Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MD	Maryland Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
ME	Maine State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MI	Michigan Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MN	Minnesota Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MO	Missouri State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MP	Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners	YES	YES	YES
MS	Mississippi Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
MT	Montana State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NC	North Carolina Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
ND	North Dakota Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NE	Nebraska Bureau of Examining Boards	YES	YES	YES
NH	New Hampshire Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NJ	New Jersey Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NM	New Mexico Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NV	Nevada State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
NY	New York State Board for Nursing	YES	YES	YES
OH	Ohio Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
OK	Oklahoma Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
OR	Oregon State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
PA	Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing	YES	YES	YES
PR	Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Board of Nurse Examiners	YES	YES	YES
RI	Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Educon anh6.32 -9.6D(PR) Tj 36.96 0 TD (Commonwealt			

Table 4. Registered Nurses: Maintenance Functions, by Jurisdiction

JD	Renewal		Reinstatement		Total Maintenance	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
AK	0	0.00	a	a	a	a
AL	382	0.02	8	0.05	390	0.02
AR	11575	0.73	10	0.06	11585	0.72
AS	a	a	a	a	a	a
AZ	25200	1.58	a	a	25200	1.57
CARN	123559	7.77	6	0.04	123565	7.69
CO	18500	1.16	500	2.93	19000	1.18
CT	49243	3.10	154	0.90	49397	3.07
DC	17598	1.11	a	a	17598	1.09
DE	9311	0.59	157	0.92	9468	0.59
FL	56000	3.52	6	0.04	56006	3.48
GARN	0	0.00	435	2.55	435	0.03
GU	509	0.03	a	a	509	0.03
HI	13874	0.87	4	0.02	13878	0.86
IA	11023	0.69	198	1.16	11221	0.70
ID	9405	0.59	95	0.56	9500	0.59
IL	131182	8.25	1390	8.15	132572	8.25
IN	70471	4.43	a	a	70471	4.38
KS	12768	0.80	852	5.00	13620	0.85
KY	0	0.00	297	1.74	297	0.02
LARN	38244	2.40	526	3.09	38770	2.41
MA	47500	2.99	10	0.06	47510	2.96
MD	65166	4.10	a	a	65166	4.05
ME	7654	0.48	261	1.53	7915	0.49
MI						

Summary

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Licenses Processed

TLP
573,877

NIS
59,057

MNT
514,820¹

EXM
43,437

END
15,620

REN
508,118

REI
6,545

KEY:

TLP:

TLP:

Table 5. Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses: Total Licenses Processed, by Jurisdiction

JD	New in State		Maintenance		Total Processed	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
AK	75	0.13	0	0.00	75	0.01
AL	1335	2.26	16151	3.14	17486	3.05
AR	968	1.64	7635	1.48	8603	1.50
AS	a	a	a	a	a	a
AZ	1706	2.89	4800	0.93	6506	1.13
CAVN	3663	6.20	29805	5.79	33468	5.83
CO	1055	1.79	7800	1.52	8855	1.54
CT	427	0.72	11120	2.16	11547	2.01
DC	171	0.29	3423	0.66	3594	0.63
DE	222	0.38	1824	0.35	2046	0.36
FL	3412	5.78	54003	10.49	57415	10.00
GAPN	1848	3.13	211	0.04	2059	0.36
GU	18	0.03	122	0.02	140	0.02
HI	333	0.56	3298	0.64	3631	0.63
IA	910	1.54	2448	0.48	3358	0.59
ID	186	0.31	3268	0.63	3454	0.60
IL	1438	2.43	1088	0.21	2526	0.44
IN	1467	2.48	0	0.00	1467	0.26
KS	911	1.54	3383	0.66	4294	0.75
KY	964	1.63	13587	2.64	14551	2.54
LAPN	1273	2.16	20755	4.03	22028	3.84
MA	964	1.63	9107	1.77	10071	1.75
MD	743	1.26	8128	1.58	8871	1.55
ME	85	0.14	1713	0.33	1798	0.31
MI	1442	2.44	14616	2.84	16058	2.80
MN	1193	2.02	10115	1.96	11308	1.97
MO	1638	2.77	21423	4.16	23061	4.02
MP	3	0.01	6	0.00	9	0.00
MS	905	1.53	11698	2.27	12603	2.20
MT	191	0.32	3118	0.61	3309	0.58
NC	1790	3.03	10534			

Table 7. Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses: Maintenance Functions, by Jurisdiction

JD	Renewal n	Renewal %	Reinstatement n	Reinstatement %	Total Maintenance n	Total Maintenance %
AK	0	0.00	a	a	a	a
AL	16147	3.18	4	0.06	16151	3.14
AR	7629	1.50	6	0.09	7635	1.48
AS	a	a	a	a	a	a
AZ	4800	0.94	a	a	4800	0.93
CAVN	29802	5.87	3	0.05	29805	5.79
CO	7600	1.50	200	3.06	7800	1.52
CT	11078	2.18	42	0.64	11120	2.16
DC	3423	0.67	a	a	3423	0.66
DE	1770	0.1T				

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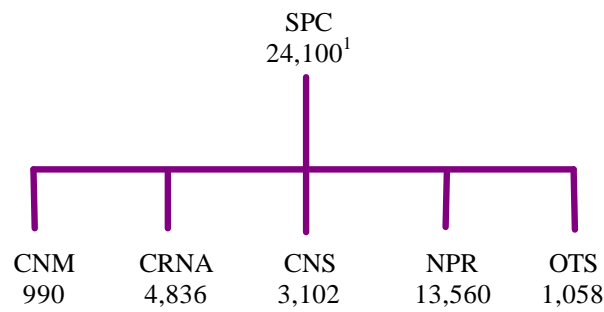
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Table 9. Number of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Programs Licensed, by Jurisdiction

JD	RN graduates of foreign nursing programs		LPN/VN graduates of foreign nursing programs	
	n	%	n	%
AK				
AL	22	0.67	2	2.25
AR	15	0.46	1	1.12
AS				
AZ	101	3.07	3	3.37
CARN				
CAVN				
CO				
CT				
DC				
DE				
FL	312	9.49	11	12.36
GAPN				
GARN				
GU	43	1.31	9	10.11
HI				
IA				
ID				
IL				
IN				
KS				
KY	42	1.28	0	0.00
LAPN			0	0.00
LARN				
MA				
MD	90	2.74	2	2.25
ME	176	5.35	0	0.00
MI				
MN	354	10.77	3	3.37
MO	22	0.67	1	1.12
MP	19	0.58	1	1.12
MS				
MT				
NC	496	15.09	14	15.73
ND	26	0.79	0	0.00
NE				
NH				
NJ				
NM	102	3.10	3	3.37
NV				
NY				
OH	109	3.32	6	6.74
OK				
OR	95	2.89	13	14.61
PA	155	4.71	14	15.73
PR				
RI	10	0.30	2	2.25
SC				
SD				
TN				
TXRN	986	29.99		
TXVN				
UT				
VA				
VI	1	0.03		
VT				
WA				
WI	112	3.41	4	4.49
WVPN			0	0.00
WVRN				
WY				
Total	3288	100.00	89	100.00

Summary

Specialty Licenses Processed



KEY:

- SPC: Total Specialty Licenses Processed
- CNM: Certified Nurse Midwife
- CRNA: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
- CNS: Clinical Nurse Specialist
- NPR: All categories of nurse practitioners
- OTS: Unspecified

¹Includes 554 specialty licenses not available by specialty license category.

Table 10. Distribution of Licensing Boards Empowered to Grant Specialty Licenses, by Specialty Category

Abbreviation	Category	Number of Boards Empowered to Issue Specialty Licenses	
		n	%*
CNM	Certified Nurse Midwife	47	85.5
CRNA	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	44	80.0
CNS-PSYCH	Clinical Nurse Specialist - Psychiatry and/or Mental Health (including all its subspecialties)	29	52.7
CNS	Clinical Nurse Specialist (all others)	26	47.3

ssed within each Specialty Category, by Jurisdiction

Types of Nurse Practitioners					
AC	AHP	CHP	COL	EMR	FAM
n	n	n	n	n	n
	1	1			29
9	11	11	0	0	90
	52	17			64
1	7	8	0	0	44
	9	3			12

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D .84 0.48 re f BT 72 493.4 (9) Tj 45.12 0 TD (3) Tj 12075P 0.46 578.4 fD -0.2e60NTc (9) I

Table 11. Distribution of Specialty Licenses Processed within each Specialty Category, by Jurisdiction (continued)

JD	Types of Nurse Practitioners (continued)								Total Licenses Processed n
	FPN n	GER n	NEO n	WOM n	PSY n	SCH n	NP -No specialty n	OTS n	
AK				9	3				59
AL	0	1	0	12	0	0	4	1	148
AR							120	41	222
AS									a
AZ		10	17	19	12	0			215
CARN							763		940
CO							1300	600	2235
CT								235	247
DC									a
DE	0	0	5	6	0	0	0		112
FL							696		931
GARN							279		461
GU							15		24
HI		4	4	10	20		13		136
IA									a
ID							43		64
IL									
IN									
KS			14	9	1			2	261
KY							149	19	253
LARN									193
MA							425		534
MD		20	17	13					265
ME	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	20	133
MI									a
MN							659		707
MO		14	26	61	0	2			760
MP									7
MS	0	0	1	6		0		0	169
MT							12		30
NC	24	14	22	1					297
ND									42
NE							56		97
NH		4	3	7	14				142
NJ							1044		1923
NM							57		146
NV							62		77
NY		107	19	56	66	0		14	1242
OH							1362		4301
OK							377		881
OR		0	3	5	18				120
PA	0	24	19	61	11	0		68	700
PR									a
RI							7	52	78
SC	4	12	78	91	0	4	3	3	2070
SD							32		52
TN									319
TXRN		29	28	73	11	0		2	828
UT							60		91
VA									a
VI			1						7
VT			0	0		0		1	22
WA		7	7	14		1			270
WI									12
WVRN		7	19	36					1046
WY	0	0	0	1	2	0			27
Total	28	254	283	490	158	7	7717	1058	*24100

a = no information available

*Includes 554 specialty licenses not available by specialty license category

Table 12. Total Number of Active Specialty Licenses within the Member Board Jurisdictions

Abbreviation	Category	Active Licenses	
		n	%
CNM	Certified Nurse Midwife	5,251	6.0
CRNA	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	20,240	23.0
CNS-PSYCH	Clinical Nurse Specialist - Psychiatry and/or Mental Health (including all its subspecialties)	3,955	4.5
CNS	Clinical Nurse Specialist (all others)	4,415	5.0
<u>Nurse Practitioners</u>			
AC	Acute Care	269	0.3
AHP	Adult Health	6,046	6.9
CHP	Child Health/Pediatric	4,207	4.8
COL	College Health	13	0.0
EMR	Emergency	64	0.1
FAM	Family	12,188	13.9
FPN	Family Planning	128	0.1
GER	Geriatric	1,162	1.3
NEO	Neonatal	1,573	1.8
WOM	Obstetrical and/or Gynecological and/or Women's Health	4,163	4.7
PSY	Psychiatric and/or Mental Health	871	1.0
SCH	School Health	182	0.2
NP	Nurse Practitioner - no specialty designation	20,757	23.6
OTS	Other Specialty (unspecified)	2,495	2.8
Total		*87,979	100.0

*Excludes 15,155 licenses not available by specialty license category

Table 13. Distribution of Active Specialty Licenses within each Specialty Category, by Jurisdiction

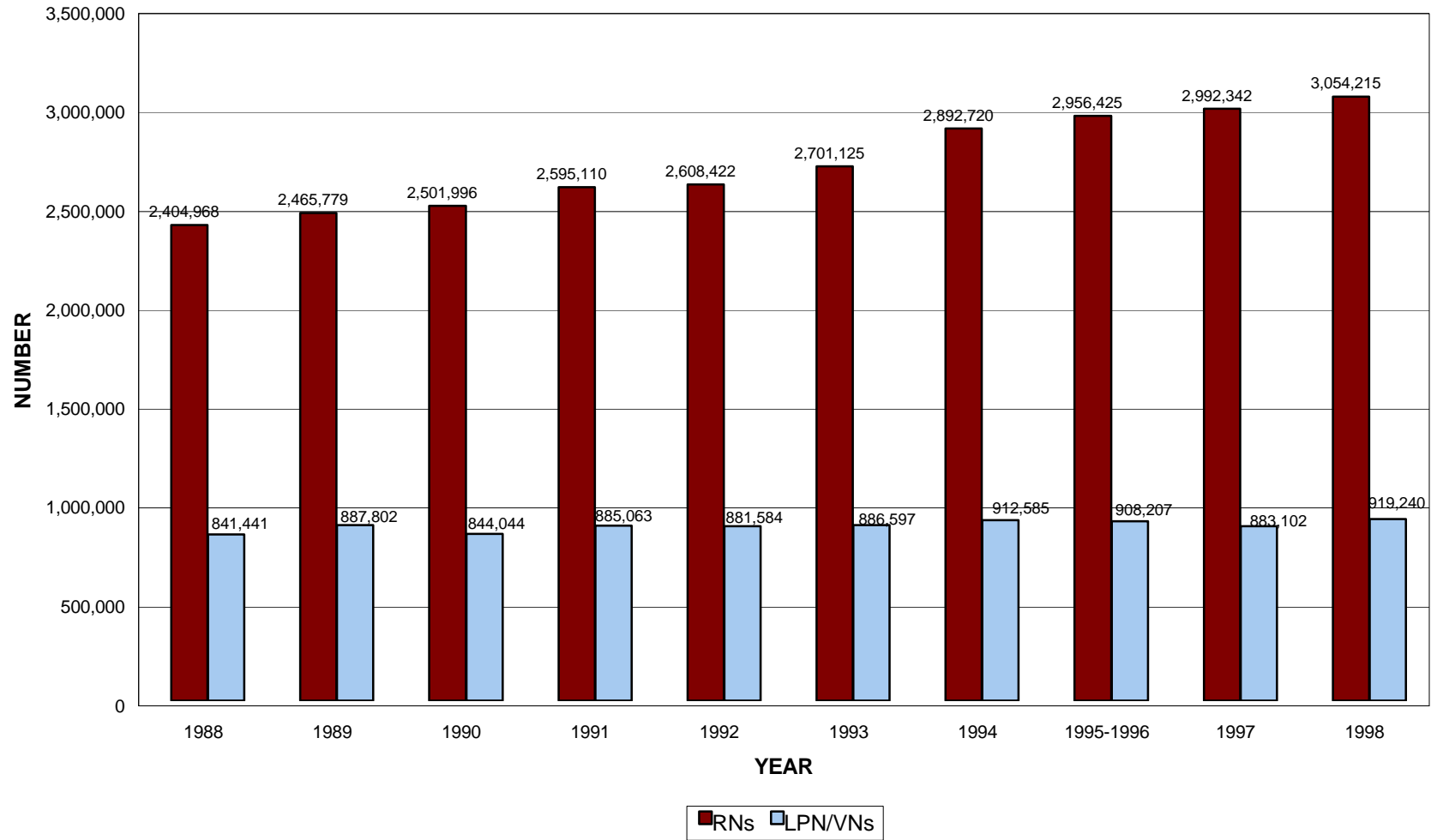
JD	Types of Nurse Practitioners										
	CNM	CRNA	CNS PSYCH	CNS	AC	AHP	CHP	COL	EMR	FAM	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	
AK	44	75	37			25	35			197	
AL	48	1167			19	104	92	0	0	501	
AR	16	283		48							
AS											
AZ	138			24		208	153			397	
CARN	948	1386									
CO	135	200		600							
CT	132	1713									
DC	68	165									
DE	19	133	29	48	2	20	49	0	0	95	
FL											
GARN	262	1124	301								
GU	6	3	0	0							
HI	17	8	24	31		14	9			32	
IA	28	313	75			25	138			178	
ID	0	236									
IL		LAW GRANTING LEGAL RECOGNITION FOR NPs AND CNMs PASSED IN JUNE 1998									
IN	27			46							
KS	28	465	147	441	3	46	32	0	10	392	
KY	107	732									
LARN	28	833	517								
MA	370	800	870								
MD	182	413	357		16	601	316			293	
ME	50	279	8	0	0	104	64	2	0	251	
MI											
MN		ONLY THOSE NPs DESIRING PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD									
MO	60	1031	106	191		171	224	0	0	610	
MP	7										
MS	27	428			10	56	32			449	
MT	30	132	21								
NC	129				18	121	140		2	671	
ND	8	184	30								
NE	15	352									
NH	62	155				141	63		1	207	
NJ											
NM		188		116							
NV	17	64				19	33			97	
NY	722					2276	1045	1		2189	
OH	202	1423		1401							
OK	32	349	123								
OR	181	0	0	0	7	279	135	3	0	426	
PA					101	831	663		9	1338	
PR											
RI	53	140									
SC	109	1021	41	36	36	77	77	6	0	472	
SD	8	246		94							
TN											
TXRN	317	2109	456	1328	33	259	461	1	16	1103	
UT	81	135								694	

Table 13. Distribution of Active Specialty Licenses within each Specialty Category, by Jurisdiction (continued)

Types of Nurse Practitioners (continued)	
JD	FPN
	ncontinued)

FIGURE 1

1988-1998
Total Number of Active Licenses: Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses



Totals do not reflect number of licensees due to potential issuance of a license in more than one jurisdiction

PART II

**1998
LICENSURE EXAMINATION STATISTICS**

INTRODUCTION TO PART II: 1998 Licensure Examination Statistics

The National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN[®] examination) and the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN[®] examination) are administered to licensure candidates on behalf of the National Council's member boards of nursing. The purpose of the licensing examination is to determine if a licensure candidate possesses the minimum knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide safe and effective nursing care at an entry level.

On April 1, 1994, the National Council instituted the use of the NCLEX[®] examination via computerized adaptive testing (CAT) for the NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN examinations. The NCLEX examination is available on a year-round basis and statistical information provided by the National Council's test service is reported as follows:

- (1) Information regarding performance by type of candidate, state of licensure and type program, and country of origin for foreign-educated nurses are reported on a quarterly basis.
- (2) Charts indicate national passing rates by type of program for first-time, U.S.-educated candidates and all examinees, reported by quarter from 1994 forward and in six-month periods prior to 1994.
- (3) Annual summary statistics are reported by type of program for first-time, U.S.-educated candidates only.

In keeping with the purpose of licensure examinations, the results are reported as the percent passing. The passing criterion is equivalent to the level of competence a candidate must demonstrate in order to provide a safe and effective standard of nursing care. Definitions of selected statistical terms are provided in Appendix A.

Table 1. Number of Candidates Taking NCLEX® Examination and Percent Passing, by Type of Candidate

NCLEX-PN® Examination

Type of Candidate	Jan 1- Mar 31, 1998		Apr 1- Jun 30, 1998		Jul 1 - Sep 30, 1998		Oct 1 - Dec 31, 1998		Totals	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%

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Table 2. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions (continued)

NCLEX-PN® Examination

Jurisdiction	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 1998			Apr 1 - Jun 30, 1998			Jul 1 - Sep 30, 1998			Oct 1 - Dec 31, 1998		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Nebraska	28	26	92.8	68	64	94.1	98	95	96.9	45	42	93.3
Nevada	0	0	0.0*	3	3	100.0	13	13	100.0	2	2	100.0
New Hampshire	32	30	93.7	39	37	94.8	57	49	85.9	21	20	95.2
New Jersey	122	100	81.9	162	127	78.4	244	215	88.1	254	197	77.5
New Mexico	32	28	87.5	31	30	96.7	97	90	92.7	24		

Table 3. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX® Examination and Percent Passing (continued)

NCLEX-PN® Examination

Country of Education	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 1998			Apr 1 - Jun 30, 1998			Jul 1 - Sep 30, 1998			Oct 1 - Dec 31, 1998		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Grenada and the Grenadines	1	1	100.0							6	4	66.7
Guatemala							1	1	100.0			
Guayana	1	1	100.0	8	5	62.5	4	2	50.0	17	1	5.9
Haiti	17	4	23.5	23	5	21.7	14	5	35.7	37	20	54.1
Hong Kong	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0			
India	40	18	45.0	45	24	53.3	48	25	52.1	2	0	0.0
Indonesia				6	1	16.7	2	0	0.0	2	2	100.0
Iran	3	1	33.3	1	0	0.0	2	0	0.0	1	1	100.0
Ireland							1	1	100.0			
Italy										4	1	25.0
Israel				2	1	50.0	1	0	0.0			
Jamaica	2	1	50.0	2	2	100.0				1	0	0.0
Japan	1	1	100.0	2	1	50.0				3	1	33.3
Jordan	1	0	0.0									
Kenya	3	1	33.3	4	3	75.0	4	4	100.0	1	1	100.0
Korea	1	0	0.0	2	0	0.0	1	0	0.0	1	1	100.0
Korea (North)	1	0	0.0									
Khmer Republic Cambodia	1	0	0.0									

Table 3. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX® Examination and Percent Passing (continued)

NCLEX-PN® Examination

Table 4. Summary Statistics for First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates Taking NCLEX-PN®

FIGURE 1

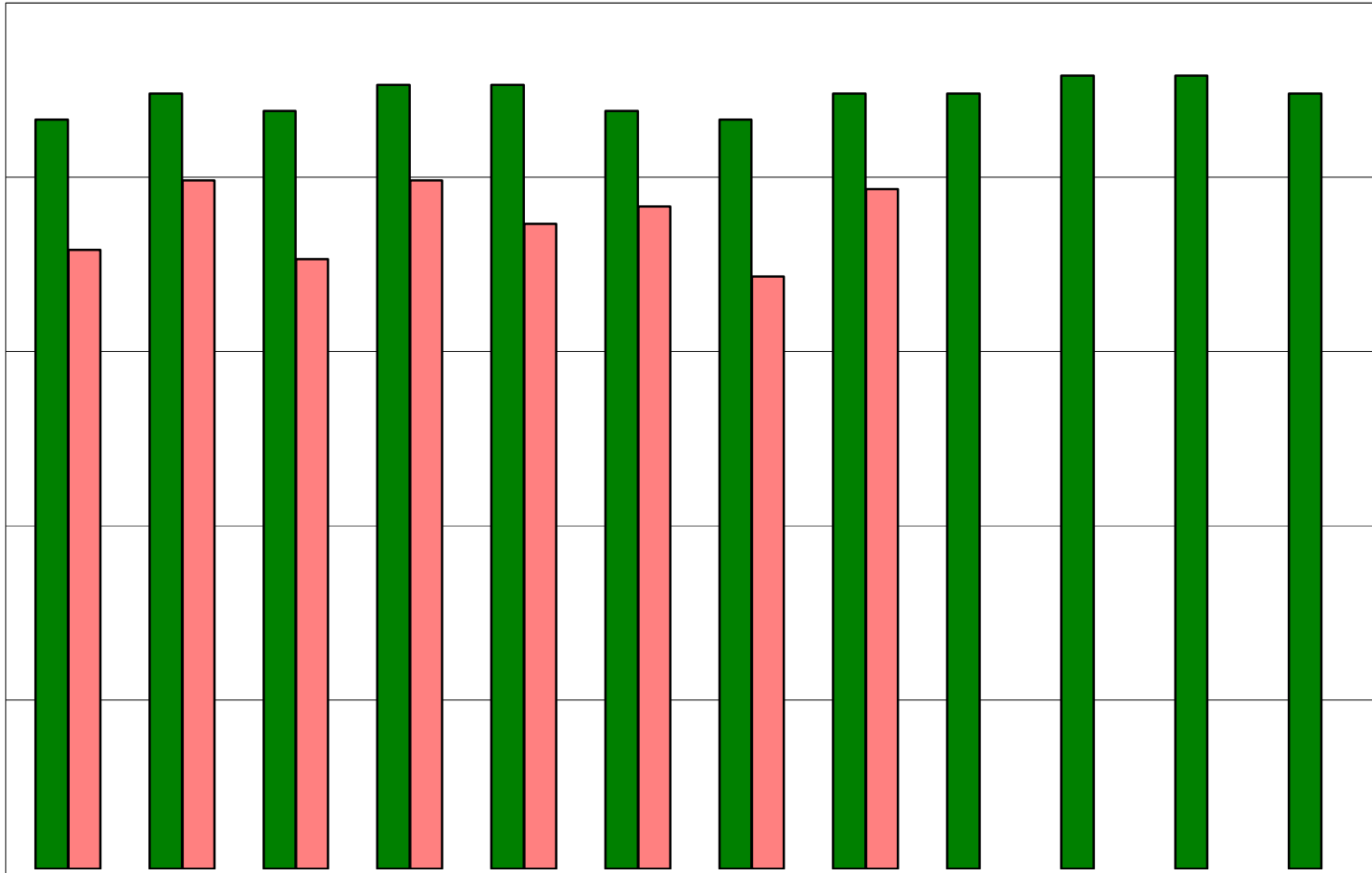


FIGURE 2

NATIONAL PASSING RATE: LICENSED PRACTICAL/VOCATIONAL NURSES, 1994-1996

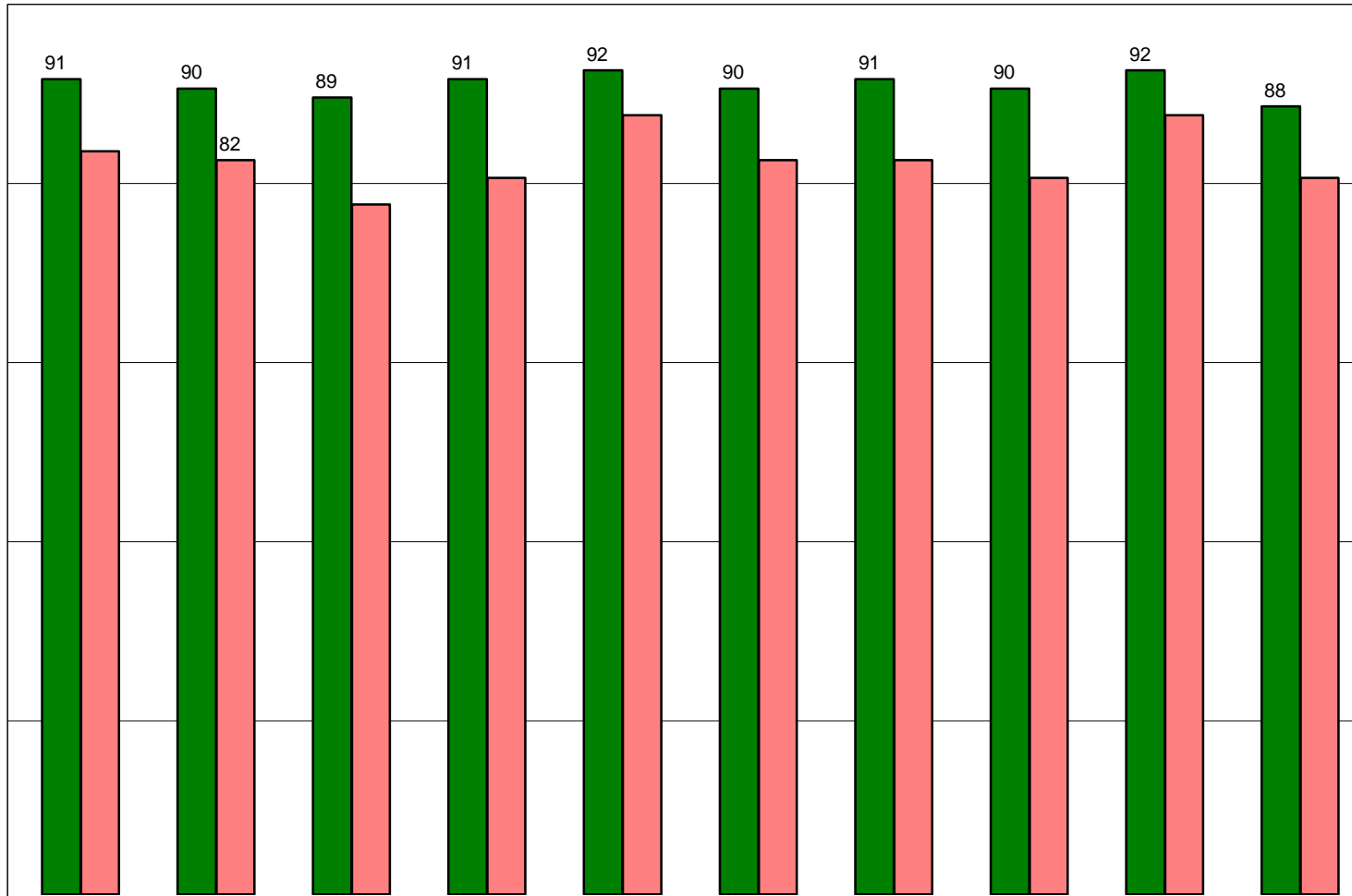


FIGURE 3

NATIONAL PASSING RATE: LICENSED PRACTICAL/VOCATIONAL NURSES, 1997-1998

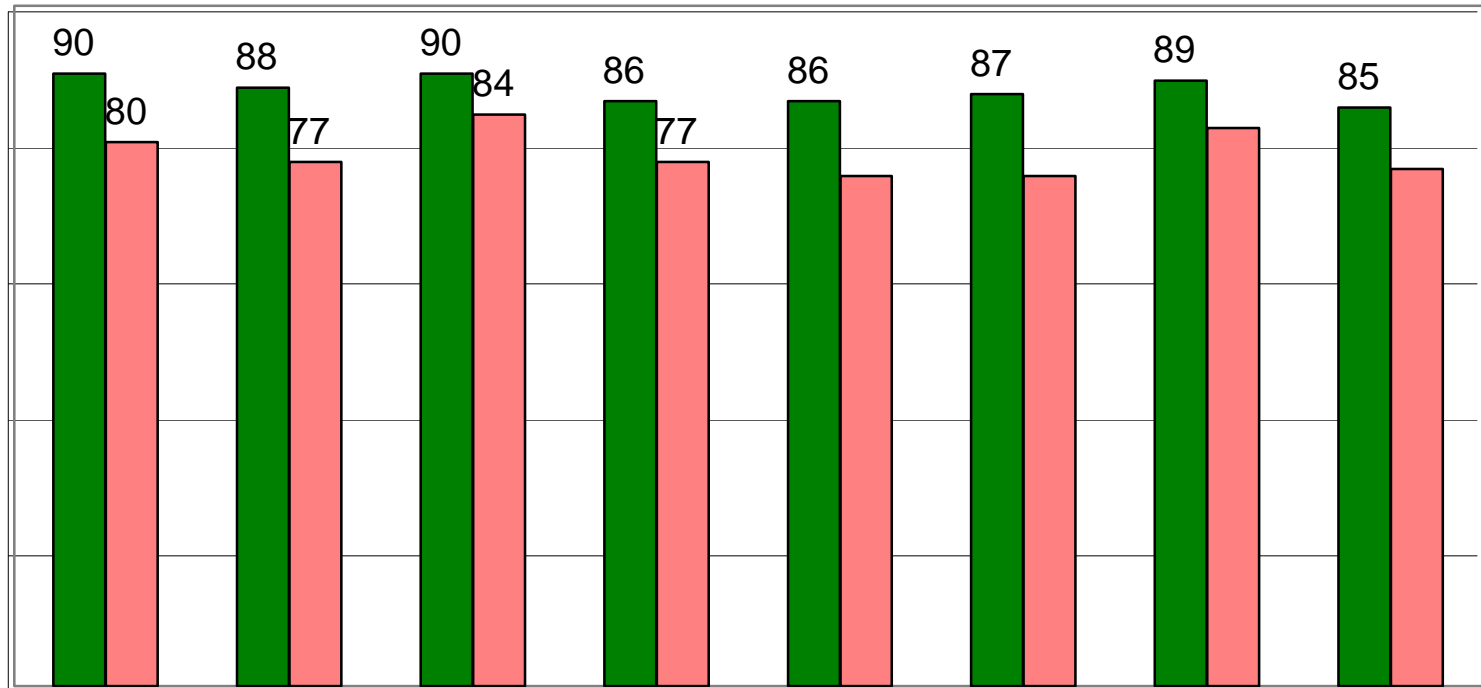


Table 5. Number of Candidates Taking NCLEX® Examination and Percent Passing, by Type of Candidate

NCLEX-RN® Examination

	Jan 1- Mar 31, 1998	Apr 1- Jun 30, 1998*		
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Table 6. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions, by Degree Type

NCLEX-RN® Examination

January 1 - March 31, 1998

Jurisdiction	Total			Diploma			Associate Degree			Baccalaureate Degree		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Alabama	450	388	86.2	0	0	0.0*	265	223	84.2	185	165	89.2
Alaska	20	19	95.0	0	0	0.0*	1	1	100.0	19	18	94.7
American Samoa	0	0	0.0*	0	0	0.0*	0	0	0.0*	0	0	0.0
Arizona	384	359	93.5	0	0	0.0*	246	232	94.3	138	127	92.0
Arkansas	258	228	88.4	165	143	86.7	71	64	90.1	22	21	95.5
California	1491	1309	87.8	0	0	0.0*	1071	955	89.2	420	354	84.3
Colorado	96	86	89.6	0	0	0.0*	79	72	91.1	17	14	82.4
Connecticut	61	53	86.9	0	0	0.0*	31	26	83.9	30	27	90.0
Delaware	69	65	94.2	0	0	0.0*	59	55	93.2	10	10	100.0
District of Columbia	20	17	85.0	0	0	0.0*	4	3	75.0	16	14	87.5
Florida	918	793	86.4	1	1	100.0	755	653	86.5	162	139	85.8
Georgia	159	139	87.4	0	0	0.0*	76	64	84.2	83	75	90.4
Guam	5	3	60.0	0	0	0.0*	1	1	100.0	4	2	50.0

Table 6. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions, by Degree Type

NCLEX-RN® Examination

January 1 - March 31, 1998

Jurisdiction	Total			Diploma			Associate Degree			Baccalaureate Degree		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Montana	52	51	98.1	0	0	0.0*	1	1	100.0	51	50	98.0
Nebraska	204	185	90.7	29	27	93.1	100	120	120.0	120	120	100.0

Table 7. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions, by Degree Type

NCLEX-RN[®] Examination

April 1 - June 30, 1998

Jurisdiction	Total			Diploma			Associate Degree			Baccalaureate Degree		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Alabama	408	347	85.0	0	0	0.0*	229	194	84.7	179	153	85.5
Alaska	16	14	87.5	0	0	0.0*	3	3	100.0	13	11	84.6
American Samoa	0	0	0.0*	0	0	0.0*	0	0	0.0*	0	0	0.0*
Arizona	400	366	91.5	0	0	0.0*	271	246	90.8	129	120	93.0
Arkansas	496	427	86.1	0	0	0.0*	304	264	86.8	192	163	84.9
California-RN	878	717	81.7	10	10				8	1		

Table 7. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions, by Degree Type

NCLEX-RN® Examination

April 1 - June 30, 1998

Jurisdiction	Total			Diploma			Associate Degree			Baccalaureate Degree		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Montana	48	47	97.9	0	0	0.0*	21	20	95.2	27	27	100.0
Nebraska	313	285	91.1	0	0	0.0*	118	111	94.1	195	174	89.2
Nevada	63	60	95.2	0	0	0.0*	44	41	93.2	19	19	100.0
New Hampshire	79	71	89.9	0	0	0.0*	60	54	90.0	19	17	89.5
New Jersey	441	396	89.8	120	110	91.7	211	183	86.7	110	103	93.6
New Mexico	130	120	92.3	0	0	0.0*	112	102	91.1	18	18	100.0
New York	1104	834	75.5	13	9	69.2	889	682	76.7	202	143	70.8
North Carolina	1669	1538	92.2	95	90	94.7	1151	1058	91.9	423	390	92.2
North Dakota	122	110	90.2	0	0	0.0*	0	0	0.0*	122	110	90.2
Northern Mariana Islands	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0*	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0*
Ohio	1146	1039	90.7	93	87	93.5	547	483	88.3	506	469	92.7
Oklahoma	750	673	89.7	0	0	0.0*	537	481	89.6	213	192	90.1
Oregon	139	129	92.8	0	0	0.0*	26	22	84.6	113	107	94.7
Pennsylvania	714	615	86.1	85	67	78.8	245	216	88.2	384	332	86.5
Puerto Rico	28	3	10.7	0	0	0.0*	10	1	10.0	18	2	11.1
Rhode Island	76	67	88.2	22	18	81.8	36	34	94.4	18	15	83.3

Table 8. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions, by Degree Type (continued)

NCLEX-RN® Examination
July 1 - September 30, 1998

Jurisdiction	Total			Diploma			Associate Degree			Baccalaureate Degree		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Montana	117	98	83.8	0	0	0.0*	70	53	75.7	47	45	95.7
Nebraska	202	181	89.6	49	46	93.9	69	64	92.8	84	71	84.5
Nevada	116	94	81.0	0	0	0.0*	63	56	88.9	53	38	71.7
New Hampshire	300	248	82.7	0	0	0.0*	219	187	85.4	81	61	75.3
New Jersey	905	778	86.0	250	217	86.8	455	389	85.5	200	172	86.0
New Mexico	257	217	84.4	0	0	0.0*	194	158	81.4	63	59	93.7
New York	3727	3090	82.9	118	96	81.4	2467	2084	84.5	1142	910	79.7
North Carolina	916	736	80.3	35	29	82.9	564	450	79.8	317	257	81.1
North Dakota	103	88	85.4	0	0	0.0*	0	0	0.0*	103	88	85.4
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	50.0	0	0	0.0*	2	1	50.0	0	0	0.0*
Ohio	1979	1702	86.0	240	214	89.2	965	825	85.5	774	663	85.7
Oklahoma	346	288	83.2*	155	135	87.1*	256	219	85.5*	127	108	84.7*
Oregon	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*
Rhode Island	256	219	85.5	0	0	0.0*	256	219	85.5	0	0	0.0*
Tennessee	559	457	81.8	0	0	0.0*	559	457	81.8	0	0	0.0*
Texas	2097	1777	84.7	155	135	87.1	1942	1642	84.6	127	108	84.7
Utah	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*
Vermont	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*
Virginia	256	219	85.5	0	0	0.0*	256	219	85.5	0	0	0.0*
Washington	1979	1702	86.0	240	214	89.2	965	825	85.5	774	663	85.7
West Virginia	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*
Wisconsin	2097	1777	84.7	155	135	87.1	1942	1642	84.6	127	108	84.7
Wyoming	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*	100	85	85.0	0	0	0.0*
Total	28860*	23860*	82.7*	155	135	87.1*	25620*	21900*	85.5*	12700*	10800*	84.7*

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Table 9. Number of Candidates Examined and Passing Rates for First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions, by Degree Type

NCLEX-RN® Examination
October 1 - December 31, 1998

Jurisdiction	Total			Diploma			Associate Degree			Baccalaureate Degree		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Alabama	172	125	72.7	0	0	0.0*	78	51	65.4	94	74	78.7
Alaska	2	2	100.0	0	0	0.0*	2	2	100.0	0	0	0.0*
American Samoa	3	0	0.0	0	0	0.0*	3	0	0.0	0	0	0.0*
Arizona	12	10	83.3	0	0	0.0*	7	6	85.7	5	4	80.0
Arkansas	23	19	82.6	2	2	100.0	9	8	88.9	12	9	75.0
California	524	382	72.9	0	0	0.0*	363	265	73.0	161	117	72.7
Colorado	40	31	77.5	0	0	0.0*	20	15	75.0	20	16	80.0
Connecticut	17	14	82.4	0	0	0.0*	11	11	100.0	6	3	50.0
Delaware	11	6	54.5	0	0	0.0*	5	2	40.0	6	4	66.7
District of Columbia	26	11	42.3	0	0	0.0*	4	2	50.0	22	9	40.9
Florida	536	430	80.2	0	0	0.0*	454	371	81.7	82	59	72.0
Georgia	123	101	82.1	0	0	0.0*	37	26	70.3	86	75	87.2

Table 10. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX® Examination and Percent Passing
 NCLEX-RN® Examination

Country of Education	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 1998			Apr 1 - Jun 30, 1998			Jul 1 - Sep 30, 1998			Oct 1 - Dec 31, 1998		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Afghanistan										2	0	0.0
Albania										2	0	0.0
Algeria	1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0						
Andorra										1	0	0.0
Argentina	1	0	0.0									
Australia	20	19	95.0	9	8	88.9	22	22	100.0	20	18	90.0
Azores				2	0	0.0						
Bahamas	4	2	50.0	1	0	0.0	2	0	0.0	4	0	0.0
Bangladesh							1	0	0.0	1	1	100.0
Barbados	3	2	66.7				1	0	0.0			
Belgium	1	1	100.0							2	0	0.0
Botswana							2	1	50.0	1	1	100.0
Brazil	2	0	0.0	4	0	0.0	5	2	40.0	7	5	71.0
Bulgaria	4	1	25.0	2	1	50.0						
British West Indies										2	0	0.0
Burma							1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Cameroon, Free Republic of	3	2	66.7	2	0	0.0	3	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Canada	388	302	77.8	337	254	75.4	431	304	70.5	333	246	74.0
Chile	1	0	0.0							1	1	100.0
Colombia	2	1	50.0	4	2	50.0	2	0	0.0	1	1	100.0
Commonwealth of States-USSR	51	19	37.3	42	13	31.0	54	12	22.2			
Costa Rica				1	1	100.0	2	1	50.0	1	0	0.0
Cuba	3	1	33.3	3	1	33.3	4	1	25.0	2	0	0.0
Czechoslovakia	2	0	0.0	5	2	40.0				4	1	25.0
Denmark	1	1	100.0				2	1	50.0			
Dominica	1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0				1	0	0.0
Dominican Republic	3	0	0.0							1	0	0.0
Egypt, Arab Republic of	1	0	0.0							2	1	50.0

Table 10. Number of First-Time Candidates Not Educated in Member Board Jurisdictions Taking NCLEX® Examination and Percent Passing (continued)

NCLEX-RN® Examination

Country of Education	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 1998			Apr 1 - Jun 30, 1998			Jul 1 - Sep 30, 1998			Oct 1 - Dec 31, 1998		
	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed	Candidates Examined	Number Passed	Percent Passed
Jamaica	9	4	44.4	8	4	50.0	4	3	75.0	7	2	29.0
Japan	7	4	57.1	8	4	50.0	14	5	35.7	6	4	67.0
Jordan	2	1	50.0	1	0	0.0	4	1	25.0	91	48	53.0
Kenya	5	4	80.0	6	3	50.0	2	1	50.0	2	1	50.0
Korea	69	46	66.7	111	49	44.1	89	37	41.6	3	0	0.0
Kuwait				1	0	0.0						
Latvia	2	0	0.0	2	1	50.0						
Lebanon	6	2	33.3	1	0	0.0	3	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
Leeward Islands	3	1	33.3				1	0	0.0			
Liberia	1	0	0.0	1	1	100.0	2	1	50.0	1	1	100.0
Lithuania	1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0						
Luxembourg							1	1	100.0			
Malawi										11	3	27.0
Malaysia	1	1	100.0							1	0	0.0
Mexico	11	3	27.3	13	2	15.4	11	2	18.2	2	2	100.0
Morocco							1	0	0.0			
Nepal										3	3	100.0
Netherlands	1	0	0.0	2	2	100.0	3	1	33.3	69	18	26.0
New Zealand	6	6	100.0	6	3	50.0	3	1	33.3	2	1	50.0
Nicaragua	1	0	0.0				1	1	100.0			
Nigeria	86	21	24.4	76	15	19.7	70	19	27.1	1	0	0.0
Northern Ireland	1	1	100.0	2	0	0.0				13	3	23.0
Norway	1	1	100.0	1	0	0.0				2	1	50.0
Pakistan	10	5	50.0	10	2	20.0	11	2	18.2	16	7	44.0
Palestine	1	0	0.0	2	0	0.0	2	2	100.0			
Panama, Republic of	1	0	0.0	2	0	0.0	30	16	53.3	1	1	100.0
Peoples Republic of China	26	16	61.5	21	9	42.9				498	142	29.0
Peru	12	5	41.7	4	1	25.0	3	1	33.3	10	4	40.0
Philippines	462	135	29.2	396	63	15.9	368	86	23.4	4	2	50.0

Table 11. Summary Statistics for First-Time, U.S.-Educated Candidates Taking NCLEX-RN[®] Examination, January - December 1998

NCLEX-RN [®] Examination	
January - December 1998	
*Passing Standard	
January - March 1998	-0.4200
April - December 1998	-0.3500
Estimated Decision Consistency	0.91
Average Number of Test Items (questions) Taken	120
Percent Taking Minimum Number of Items	51.1%
Percent Taking Maximum Number of Items	12.8%
Average Testing Time	2 hr 8 min
Percent Taking Maximum Amount of Time	2.6%

See Appendix A for definitions of terms

*The passing standard was raised from -0.4200 to -0.3500 on April 1, 1998. The passing standard is presented in units, called logits, on the Rasch measurement scale

FIGURE 4

NATIONAL PASSING RATE: REGISTERED NURSES, 1988-1993

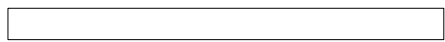
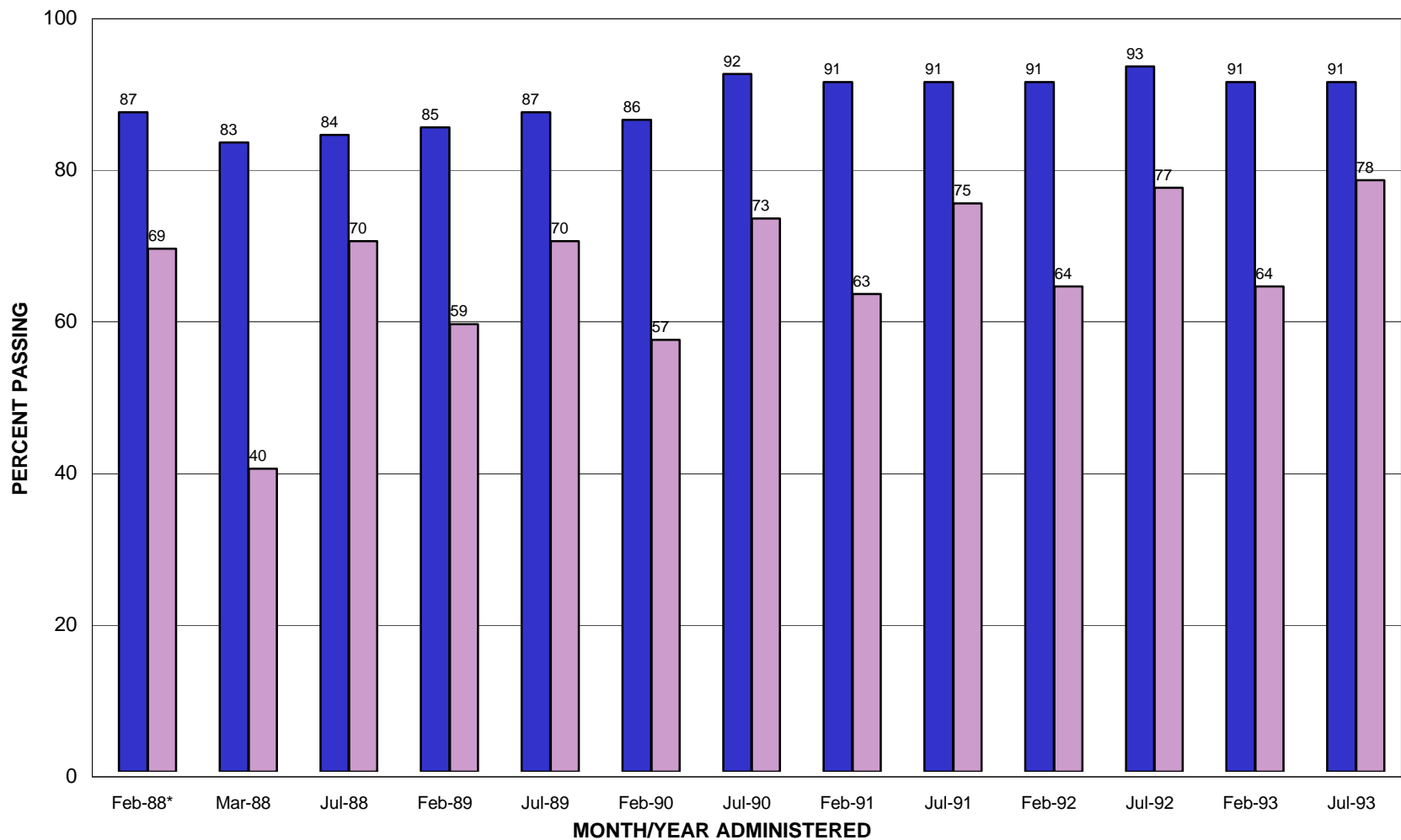


FIGURE 5

**NATIONAL PASSING RATE: REGISTERED NURSES,
1994-1996**

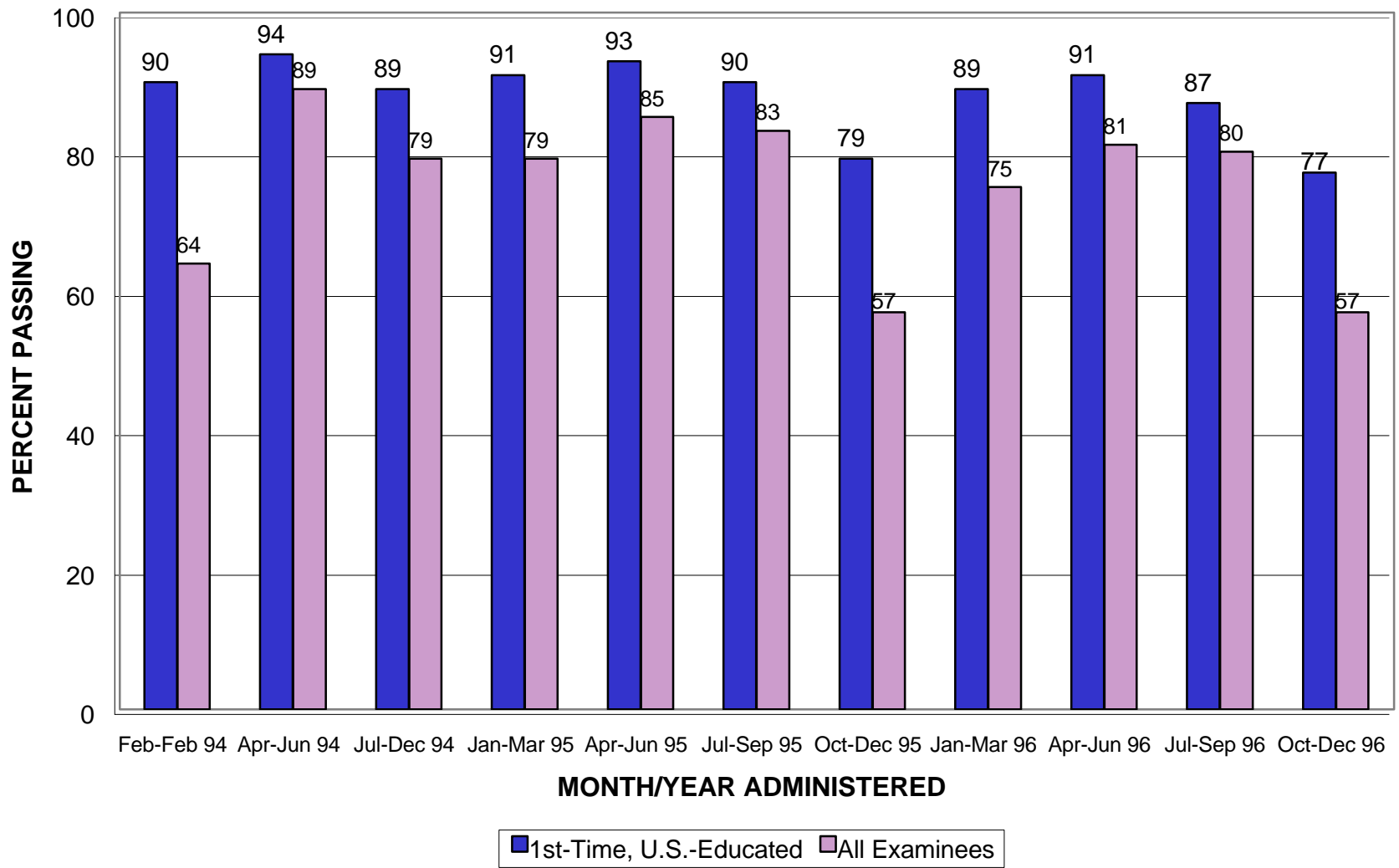
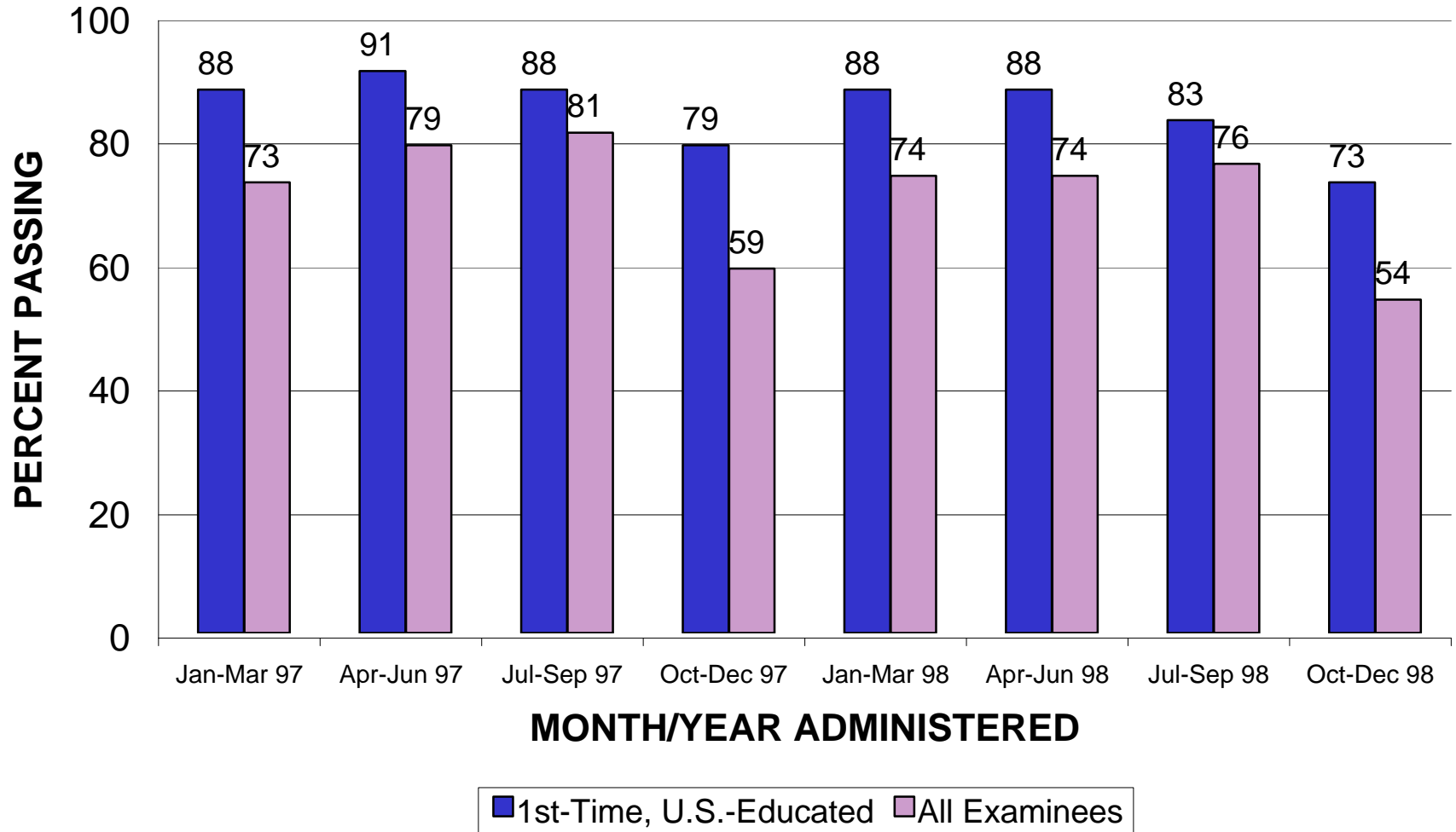


FIGURE 6

NATIONAL PASSING RATE: REGISTERED NURSES, 1997-1998



APPENDIX A

LICENSURE EXAMINATION SUMMARY STATISTICS DEFINITIONS

Average Number of Test Items (questions) Taken. Average number of items (questions) on which candidate performance is determined. In a variable-length Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT), candidates are administered items only until they satisfy one of the following stopping rules:

- 1) A candidate's measure of competence is known to be above or below the passing standard with at least 95 percent confidence (is significantly above or below the standard) and at least the minimum number of questions has been answered.
- 2) A candidate has taken the maximum number of questions.
- 3) A candidate has been testing for the maximum time.

CAT-Computerized Adaptive Testing. Candidates are administered items appropriate for their current estimated competence level until a confident pass or fail decision can be made, the maximum number of items is answered, or they run out of time.

Estimated Decision Consistency. A measure of examination reliability appropriate for CAT. It is the proportion of pass/fail decisions that would remain the same if all candidates were to be retested with parallel examinations.

***Passing Standard.** The minimum level of competence a candidate must demonstrate to pass the examination. Currently, the passing standard effective April 1998 is -0.3500 for the NCLEX-RN[®] examination and -0.5100 for the NCLEX-PN[®] examination. The RN and PN standards are not directly comparable because they are based on different item pools.

*These statistics are in units, called logits, on the Rasch measurement scale. There is no inherent meaning of the units; they represent an arbitrary scale useful for reporting relative differences. This scale can be used for two purposes: (1) to measure degree of candidate competence (-2 = low; +2 = high), and (2) degree of item difficulty (-2 = easy; +2 = hard).