

# Survey of Alberta Nurses 2011

## Selected Questions\*

Random telephone survey of 1504 conducted by Viewpoints Research between April 12 to April 25th 2011. Margin of Error plus or minus 2.4% 19 times out of 20.

**Q1** *What do you feel is the most important issue facing nurses today?  
(open-ended question)*

Heavy workload / long hours / burnout.....	21.4%
Shortage of nurses .....	38.3%
Quality of patient care.....	9.2%
Safe work environment / working conditions / stress.....	6.1%
Low wages / contract issues .....	0.7%
Job security / stability.....	3.4%
Too many nurses retiring .....	0.3%
Not enough nurses in training/recruitment .....	0.5%
Not enough full time/too much part time .....	1.1%
Education / length of program to become nurse .....	0.6%
Quality of care.....	0.7%
Lack of respect for the job nurses perform.....	4.0%
Retention of nurses .....	1.1%
Forced to move around/not working in same unit/facility .....	0.0%
Disorganization of the health system .....	1.3%
Budget cuts / government cuts to health care .....	1.8%
Staff reductions .....	2.7%
Substitution of RNs/ RPNs by other staff .....	1.5%
Access to continuing education/keeping current.....	1.0%
Scheduling issues .....	0.8%
Other (specify below).....	1.2%
Don't know / Refused.....	2.5%

\*Selected released questions from a larger survey UNA conducted of nurses in Alberta. Other questions in the survey dealt with UNA concerns or internal topics and are not being made public.

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**Q2 What one thing do you believe would most improve your satisfaction with your work?  
(open-ended question)**

More nurses / adequate nurse staffing.....	34.3%
Better communication .....	6.5%
More / better supplies .....	0.8%
More / better equipment.....	2.1%
More training .....	4.7%
Better managers / better supervisor.....	9.4%
Stopping budget cuts.....	1.9%
More time to do good work/decreased workload .....	10.4%
More respect/listened to.....	8.3%
Work to full scope .....	0.9%
More money.....	1.1%
Better benefits .....	0.7%
More shift flexibility.....	4.5%
More support staff .....	0.5%
More hours/job security .....	1.1%
Hire more RNs .....	0.6%
Other (specify below).....	1.5%
Nothing.....	1.4%
Don't know / Refused.....	9.2%

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**Q3 IF FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME: Do you work additional hours above regularly scheduled FTE? <sup>1,2</sup>**

Yes.....	74.5%	
No.....	24.4%	to Q5
Don't know / Refused / N/A.....	1.2%	Go to Q5

**Q4 IF FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME and working additional hours: On average, how many additional hours do you work in a week? (open ended question)<sup>3</sup>**

**OR Additional hours worked per week**

None .....	4.2%
1 to 5.....	34.8%
6 to 8.....	27.8%
9 to 12.....	13.7%
13 to 15 .....	5.5%
16 to 20 .....	5.6%
21 to 25 .....	1.6%
26 to 30 .....	0.2%
More than 30 .....	0.7%
Don't know / Refused .....	5.8%

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1 FTE is Full-Time Equivalent. Part-time is usually expressed as 0.4 FTE or 40% of Full-time hours.

2 Results based on a sub-set of 1288 respondents classified as Full -time or Part-time employees (as opposed to Casual employees?). Because of the smaller sub-set of respondents, the margin of error for this question is +-2.7% 19 times out of 20.

3 Results based on a sub-set of 959 Full -time or Part-time employees who indicated that they worked additional hours above their regularly scheduled FTE. Because of the smaller sub-set of respondents, the margin of error for this question is +-3.1% 19 times out of 20.

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**Q5 How many hours of paid overtime do you usually work per week <sup>4</sup>**

None .....	51.1%
1 to 5 .....	28.3%
6 to 8 .....	10.2%
9 to 12 .....	3.5%
13 to 15 .....	0.7%
16 to 20 .....	0.7%
21 to 25 .....	0.4%
26 to 30 .....	0.0%
More than 30 .....	0.2%
Don't know / Refused.....	5.0%

**Q6 Which one of the following four statements best describe the full regular (RN) staffing for your primary workplace unit.**

There are more than enough registered nurses .....	2.9%
There is an adequate number of registered nurses.....	24.6%
One more full time registered nurse would make an adequate number of nurses.....	28.7%
It would take more than one registered nurse to make staffing levels adequate.....	39.1%
Depends .....	2.0%
Don't know / Refused.....	2.7%

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<sup>4</sup> Results based on a sub-set of 1288 respondents classified as Full -time or Part-time employees (as opposed to Casual employees?). Because of the smaller sub-set of respondents, the margin of error for this question is +-2.7% 19 times out of 20.

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**Q7 How many years of nursing service do you have?**

Less than 5 .....	15.1%
5 to 10 .....	18.1%
11 to 15 .....	11.8%
16 to 20 .....	9.9%
21 to 25 .....	12.2%
26 to 30 .....	10.4%
31 to 35 .....	11.0%
36 to 40 .....	6.1%
More than 40 .....	5.2%
Don't know / Refused.....	0.1%

**Q8 What best describes your workplace?**

Hospital.....	72.3%
Long-term care facility.....	6.2%
Home care .....	6.4%
Public Health.....	9.9%
Do not read	
More than one.....	0.9%
Other.....	4.2%
Don't know / Refused.....	0.0%

**Q9 What age category are you in?**

18 to 24 .....	3.8%
25 to 30 .....	13.4%
31 to 40 .....	21.7%
41 to 50 .....	25.0%
51 to 60 .....	26.7%
61 to 64 .....	5.9%
65 + .....	3.5%
Don't know / Refused .....	0.1%