College of Nurses of Ontario

Nursing Registration Exams Report 2015

Revised April 21, 2016
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Revisions
Table 4.7 on page 27 was revised on April 27, 2016.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About the College of Nurses of Ontario

The College of Nurses of Ontario (the College) is the regulatory body for nursing in Ontario. Its mission is to regulate nursing in the public interest. The College sets the requirements for becoming a nurse in Ontario and the standards of practice that must be met to maintain that designation. Only a person with a valid Certificate of Registration from the College can practise as a nurse in Ontario and use the protected titles nurse, Registered Nurse (RN), Registered Practical Nurse (RPN), or Nurse Practitioner (NP).¹

To find out more about the College’s statistical resources, or to sign up for statistics announcements from the College, visit http://www.cno.org/stats.

1.2 About this document

Along with other registration requirements, most applicants registering with the College must successfully complete two examinations: a registration examination and a jurisprudence examination. The registration exam tests the writer’s knowledge of entry-level nursing skill, and the jurisprudence exam tests knowledge of nursing and health care legislation in Ontario. These tests help the College ensure that all new nurses in Ontario are safe to practice.

This report provides an overview of the results of the registration examination only.

1.2.1 Who is included in this report

Only applicants to the College are included in this report. Three types of applicants require successful completion of a registration examination when applying to the College:

1. Registered Nurses in the General Class (RNs)
2. Registered Practical Nurses in the General Class (RPNs)
3. Nurse Practitioners (NPs)

1.3 Registration exam requirements

Applicants complete the following Council-approved registration exams:²

- **RN applicants** complete the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN),³ which replaced the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE) on January 1, 2015⁴

- **RPN applicants** complete the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE)

¹ Visit www.cno.org/become-a-nurse for more information about the College’s registration requirements and classes of registration.
³ Visit www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm for more information about the NCLEX-RN.
⁴ Visit www.cno.org/en/become-a-nurse/entry-to-practice-examinations/nclex-rn for more information about development, administration and implementation of the NCLEX-RN at the College.
- **NP applicants** complete a registration exam in the NP specialty to which they are applying (Adult, Paediatrics, or Primary Health Care). In 2015, the following NP registration exams were available to Ontario applicants:
  - **NP-Adult**: The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program’s Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Certification Examination
  - **NP-Paediatrics**: The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board’s Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Certification Examination or the *Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec*’s Certification Examination for Nurse Practitioners Specializing in Neonatology
  - **NP-Primary Health Care**: The Canadian Nurses Association’s Canadian Nurse Practitioner Examination

### 1.4 Location of nursing education

In this report, the location of nursing education refers to where a writer completed their nursing program. Location is summarized into three groups for analysis and reporting purposes: Ontario, other Canadian jurisdictions, and international.

- **Ontario**: exam statistics for writers who applied to the College after completing an approved Ontario nursing program are categorized as “Ontario.”
  - An Ontario nursing program is one that is offered at an Ontario university or college and approved by the College’s Council\(^6\) for registering as a nurse in Ontario.
  - In Ontario, nursing programs approved for RN registration grant a university baccalaureate degree in nursing. Those approved for RPN registration grant a diploma in practical nursing from a college of applied arts and technology. Programs approved for NP registration grant a post-baccalaureate certificate, a master’s degree or a postmaster's diploma.

- **Other Canadian jurisdiction**: exam statistics for writers who applied to the College after completing a nursing program from another Canadian province or territory are categorized as “other Canadian jurisdiction.”

- **International**: exam statistics for writers who applied to the College after completing a nursing program from outside of Canada are categorized as “international.”

### 1.5 Pass Rates

Applicants to the College get three attempts at writing their registration exam. This report provides pass rate statistics for applicants’ first, second and third attempts at the exam. In addition, the ultimate pass rate statistic has been added to this report for the first time.

- The **first, second and third-attempt** pass rates measure the percentage of writers who passed the exam on either their first, second or third try at the exam. An attempt does not refer to the total number of times the writer has taken the exam in a year.

- The **ultimate** pass rate measures the percentage of writers who wrote the exam during a year and had passed the exam by their latest attempt in that year. The ultimate pass rate does not consider how often a

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\(^6\) Council has approved other exams that fulfill the NP registration exam requirement, but that may have been written in other jurisdictions.

\(^6\) Council may also authorize a third party to provide approval of nursing programs for registration purposes (e.g., Ontario RN nursing programs are approved through the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing’s accreditation for university baccalaureate degrees).
writer had to write the exam before passing or if, at the end of the year, they still had attempts remaining on
the exam. If a writer has attempted the exam in two different years (for example unsuccessful in one year
and successful in a subsequent year), they would be included in calculation of ultimate pass rates for both
years.

The table below illustrates how pass rates are calculated using an example of 10 applicants to the College who
attempted the registration exam at least once in 2015. The table shows the outcomes of their first, second, and third
attempts and their ultimate result. Detailed description of the results for applicants 1 and 5 are provided to show
how to interpret these results:

**Applicant 1**

Applicant 1 attempted the exam three times in total: twice in 2014 and once in 2015, therefore, they do not
have a first or second attempt result to report for 2015. The result of their third attempt is a pass; and as it
occurred in 2015, it will be reported in 2015. Their ultimate result for 2015 is a pass. As they have passed
the exam, they do not need to write the exam again. Therefore, the attempts remaining do not apply to
them.

**Applicant 5**

Applicant 5 attempted the exam twice in 2015. Their first and second attempts resulted in failing the exam.
Both attempts occurred in 2015 and will be reported in 2015. Their ultimate result for 2015 is a fail, as it
was the latest result obtained by applicant 5 in 2015. In total, they have written the exam twice and still
have one more attempt available in future years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant number</th>
<th>Registration exam attempts</th>
<th>2015 results</th>
<th>Attempts remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>First-attempt result</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 1</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 2</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 3</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 4</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 5</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 6</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 7</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 8</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 9</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant 10</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2015 First-attempt pass rate**

Number of first-attempt writes in 2015: 6
Number of passes on the first attempt in 2015: 1
First-attempt pass rate for 2015: 1 out of 6, or 16.7%

**2015 Second-attempt pass rate**

Number of second attempt writes in 2015: 6
Number of passes on the second attempt in 2015: 2
Second-attempt pass rate for 2015: 2 out of 6, or 33.3%

**2015 Third-attempt pass rate**

Number of third-attempt writes in 2015: 5
Number of passes on the third attempt in 2015: 3
Third-attempt pass rate for 2015: 3 out of 5, or 60%

**2015 Ultimate pass rate**

Number of exam writers in 2015: 10
Number of writers who passed by the end of 2015: 6
Ultimate pass rate for 2015: 6 out of 10, or 60%
2 REGISTERED NURSE EXAM WRITERS

In 2015, the College (along with all other Canadian nursing regulators except Yukon and Quebec) adopted the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) as the registration exam for RN applicants. The NCLEX-RN is a computer-adaptive exam that uses measurement theory to determine a writer’s knowledge of entry-level nursing skills. Previously, applicants wrote the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE), which was a pen-and-paper multiple-choice exam. More information on the transition to the NCLEX-RN and the exam’s format can be found on the College’s website (www.cno.org/en/become-a-nurse/entry-to-practice-examinations/nclex-rn) and the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators website (http://www.ccrnr.ca/exams.html).

In 2015, 4,406 RN applicants to the College wrote the NCLEX-RN at least once. In total, these applicants made 4,072 first-attempt writes, 1,057 second-attempt writes, and 219 third-attempt writes in 2015.

Applicants, who failed their first (or second) attempt in a year, may make subsequent attempts in another year. Of the 4,406 RN applicants to the College who wrote the NCLEX-RN at least once, 190 had attempted the CRNE one or more times before attempting the NCLEX-RN in 2015. Attempts made on both the CRNE and NCLEX-RN count toward a writer’s three possible attempts.

2.1 RN exam writers’ ultimate pass rate

The ultimate pass rate measures the percentage of writers who wrote the registration exam during the calendar year and had passed the exam on their latest attempt in that year.

Table 2.1 reports the ultimate pass rate for RN exam writers by location of their nursing education. In 2015, of the 4,406 RN exam writers, 79.9 per cent had passed by the end of the year.

The total number of RN exam writers has decreased significantly since 2011. The decrease is mainly attributed to decreases in the number of internationally educated applicants. Ontario-educated applicants accounted for 90 per cent of all writers in 2015.

The ultimate pass rate for Ontario-educated applicants was 83.8 per cent in 2015, which is a 7.1 percentage-point decrease compared to 2014. However, this result is not significantly different from ultimate pass rates observed from 2011 to 2013. The ultimate pass rate for internationally educated applicants was 40.4 per cent, which is also not significantly different from pass rates seen in previous years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of nursing education</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writers</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writers</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>4,054</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
<td>4,199</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
<td>4,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Canadian jurisdiction</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>1,124</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>1,053</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,191</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
<td>5,252</td>
<td>78.1%</td>
<td>5,243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See Section 1.5 for information on how the pass rates are calculated.*
2.2 RN exam pass rates by attempt\(^8\)

In 2015, the overall first-attempt pass rate was 67.6 per cent, an 11.4 percentage-point decrease compared to 2014 and a 4.9 percentage-point decrease compared to 2011. The overall second-attempt pass rate was 64.4 per cent, a 9-percentage point increase over 2014, and the highest overall second-attempt pass rate observed in the five years. The overall third-attempt pass rate was 39.3 per cent.

### Table 2.2 Overall RN exam pass rates by attempts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>4,677</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
<td>4,581</td>
<td>73.7%</td>
<td>4,433</td>
<td>77.2%</td>
<td>4,662</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>4,072</td>
<td>67.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>1,014</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>1,023</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>1,014</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
<td>1,057</td>
<td>64.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.1 Ontario-educated RN exam writers: pass rates by attempt

Table 2.3 shows that the first-attempt pass rate for Ontario-educated exam writers in 2015 was 69.4 per cent. This was a 15.3 percentage-point decrease over 2014 and the lowest first-attempt pass rate in the last five years.

The second-attempt pass rate for 2015 was 70 per cent, a 3 percentage-point increase over 2014. This was the highest second-attempt pass rate in the last five years and the only time the second-attempt pass rate was higher than the first-attempt pass rate. From 2011 to 2014, the second-attempt pass rate had been significantly lower (between 18 and 27 percentage points lower) than the first-attempt pass rate. This increase in the second-attempt pass rate in 2015 made up for the first-attempt pass rate decrease, resulting in an ultimate pass rate being in line with those of previous years.

In addition, 820 of the 899 second-attempt writers were made by writers attempting the NCLEX-RN for the second time in 2015 (they had not written the CRNE). Of these 820 second-attempt NCLEX-RN writers, 600 (73.2 per cent) were successful. The remaining 79 of the 899 second-attempt writers were made by writers whose first attempt happened prior to 2015 (on the CRNE). Of those 79 writers, 29 (36.7 per cent) were successful on their second attempt.

There were 142 third-attempt writes in 2015, with a pass rate of 38 per cent. 2015 saw the lowest number of third-attempt writes and the lowest third-attempt pass rate observed in five years.

Of these third-attempt writes, 42 were made by writers who had also made their first and second attempts in 2015 on the NCLEX-RN (had not previously written the CRNE). The pass rate for these 42 writes was 69 per cent. The pass rate for the remaining 100 (who had written the CRNE at least once) of the 142 third-attempt writes was 25 per cent.

### Table 2.3 Ontario-educated RN exam writers: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>3,759</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
<td>3,825</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
<td>3,852</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>4,095</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

8 See Section 1.5 for information on how the pass rates are calculated.
2.2.2 RN exam writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions: pass rates by attempt

In 2015, the first-attempt pass rate for exam writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions was 76.3 per cent. The second-attempt pass rate was 37.5 per cent and the third-attempt pass rate was 83.3 per cent.

Table 2.4 RN exam writers educated in Other Canadian jurisdictions: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.3 Internationally educated RN exam writers: pass rates by attempt

In 2015, the first-attempt pass rate for internationally educated exam writers was 35.9 per cent, the second-attempt pass rate was 32.7 per cent and the third-attempt pass rate was 38 per cent.

The number of writes for internationally educated exam writers has decreased since 2011. This decrease is the result of a decline in the number of internationally educated applicants.

Table 2.5 Internationally educated RN exam writers: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>910</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2.4 Pass rates by attempt made in French

Exam writers can choose to write the registration exam in either English or French, and can change their choice upon their second (or third) attempt. Historically, French writes of the RN exam represented 2 per cent or less of the overall writes, with the vast majority of French writes made by Ontario-educated writers. Due to low numbers, tables for writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions and internationally educated writers are not shown.

Table 2.6 shows first-, second- and third-attempt pass rates for French-language exam writes made by Ontario-educated writers, which is a subset of the overall numbers presented in Table 2.3. In 2015, the first-attempt pass rate for writes of the exam in French was 34.8 per cent, which was a 30.8 percentage-point decrease over 2014. The number of first-attempt writes in French had decreased in 2015 by 48.9 per cent compared to 2014. This decrease can be attributed to an increase in the number of graduates of French or bilingual programs in Ontario choosing to write the registration exam in English. The trend of consistently lower pass rates on the exam when written in French in comparison to the overall pass rates on the exam continues in 2015.

Table 2.6 Ontario-educated RN exam writers writing in French: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
2.3 2015 pass rates of RN applicants by Ontario university and program

In Ontario, 15 universities offer RN nursing programs. Some universities offer more than one nursing program and some nursing programs are offered in collaboration with a college. Table 2.7 shows the 2015 ultimate pass rate and pass rates of first, second and third attempts of Ontario RN applicants by university, program and collaborative partner.

2.3.1 Program Definition Guide

In 2015, the College revised Ontario RN nursing program names and definitions. Due to these revisions, comparison to historical program data is not possible at the program and collaborative partner level. The following are RN program types available in Ontario:

**Full - Direct Entry**

A program for students who met standard admission criteria and completed a structured nursing curriculum in its entirety, to attain an academic credential such as a university degree, or CAATS diploma.

**Compressed - Second level Entry**

A program for students who met admission criteria based on pre-determined university credits and completed a shorter curriculum (compared to the direct entry full program) to attain an academic credential such as a university degree or CAATS diploma.

**Specified - Pre-health related**

A program for students who met admission criteria based on pre-determined health related credentials and completed a specific nursing curriculum to attain an academic credential such as a university degree, CAATS diploma or NP Specialty certificate.

---

### Table 2.7 2015 Pass rates of RN applicants by Ontario university, program and collaborative partner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ontario university</th>
<th>First attempt</th>
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<th>Ultimate results</th>
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</tr>
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<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>Third attempt</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>York University Compressed</td>
<td>York University Compressed</td>
<td>York University Compressed</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>York University Specified for Internationally Educated Nurses</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>York University Specified for Internationally Educated Nurses</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Ontario</td>
<td></td>
<td>Overall Ontario</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4 Demographics of Registered Nurse exam writers

2.4.1 Gender of RN exam writers

As shown in Figure 2.1, in 2015, 12.8 per cent of Ontario-educated RN exam writers were male, compared to 8.7 per cent of exam writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions and 20.2 per cent educated internationally.

Figure 2.1 Gender distribution by location of nursing education in 2015

2.4.2 Age of RN exam writers

In 2015, the average age of RN exam writers was 26.7 years. The average age of Ontario-educated RN writers was 26.2 years compared to 29.5 years for writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions and 31.2 years for writers educated internationally. See Figure 2.2 for the age distribution of exam writers by location of nursing education.

Figure 2.2 Age distribution by location of nursing education in 2015
3 REGISTERED PRACTICAL NURSE EXAM WRITERS

In 2015, 6,021 RPN applicants to the College wrote the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE) at least once. In total, these applicants made 5,096 first-attempt writes, 1,110 second-attempt writes, and 449 third-attempt writes.

2.1 RPN exam writers’ ultimate pass rate\(^\text{10}\)

The ultimate pass rate measures the percentage of writers who wrote the registration exam during the calendar year and had passed the exam on their latest attempt in that year. Table 3.1 shows the ultimate pass rate for RPN exam writers by location of nursing education. In 2015, of the 6,021 RPN exam writers, 79.5 per cent had passed by the end of the year.

Ontario-educated applicants accounted for 68.4 per cent of all writers. The ultimate pass rate for Ontario-educated RPN applicants in 2015 was 91.8 per cent, the highest ultimate pass rate observed in the last five years.

The ultimate pass rate of internationally educated RPN applicants was 52.8 per cent in 2015, a decrease of 7 percentage points compared to 2014. The number of overall writers decreased compared to 2013 and 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>3,716</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
<td>3,741</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
<td>3,926</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
<td>3,975</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>4,121</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Canadian jurisdiction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>1,446</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td>1,919</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
<td>2,513</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
<td>2,808</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
<td>1,898</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,162</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
<td>5,663</td>
<td>77.2%</td>
<td>6,445</td>
<td>77.9%</td>
<td>6,787</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
<td>6,021</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1 RPN exam pass rates by attempt

In 2015, the first-attempt pass rate was 81.1 per cent, the highest in the last five years. The second-attempt pass rate of 44 per cent represented a decrease of 3.6 percentage points compared to 2014. The number of third attempts made in 2015 increased significantly. The third-attempt pass rate in 2015 was at 37 per cent, the lowest in the past five years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>4,566</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
<td>4,936</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
<td>5,640</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
<td>5,936</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>5,096</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>1,110</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{10}\) See Section 1.5 for information on how the pass rates are calculated.
3.1.1 Ontario-educated RPN exam writers: pass rates by attempt

The first-attempt pass rate for Ontario-educated applicants was 91.3 per cent in 2015, the highest in the past five years. The second-attempt pass rate was 66.6 per cent, also the highest in the past five years. The third-attempt pass rate has decreased since 2011, and was 44.4 per cent in 2015.

Table 3.3 Ontario-educated RPN exam writers: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>3,415</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>3,405</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>3,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.2 RPN exam writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions: pass rates by attempt

The number of RPN applicants educated in other Canadian jurisdictions and writing the RPN exam has remained low over the past five years. In 2015, only one applicant educated in another Canadian jurisdiction wrote their first attempt, and one applicant wrote their third attempt.

Table 3.4 RPN exam writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.3 Internationally educated RPN exam writers: pass rates by attempt

The pass rate of internationally educated applicants was 50.1 per cent in 2015, a decrease of 6.7 percentage points compared to 2014. The second-attempt pass rate, which was at 33.7 per cent in 2015, was the lowest rate in the past five years. The third-attempt pass rate in 2015 was 34.4 per cent.

Table 3.5 Internationally educated RPN exam writers: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>1,151</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
<td>1,528</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
<td>2,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1.4 Pass rates by attempt made in French

Exam writers can choose to write the registration exam in either English or French, and can change their choice on their second (or third) attempt. On average, French writes of the RPN exam represented 3 per cent or less of the overall writes. Ontario-educated writers represented more than 95 per cent of exam writers in French. Due to small numbers, tables for writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions and for internationally educated writers are not shown.

Table 3.6 shows the first-, second- and third-attempt pass rates for French language exam writes made by Ontario-educated writers, and is a subset of the overall numbers presented in Table 3.3. The first-attempt pass rate had increased from 62.1 per cent in 2011 to a peak of 76.9 per cent in 2014. In 2015, the first-attempt pass rate of CPNRE in French was 75.3 per cent, a small decrease over 2014. The trend of consistently lower pass rates on the exam when written in French in comparison to the overall pass rates on the exam continued in 2015.

Table 3.6 Ontario-educated RPN exam writers writing in French: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>62.1%</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 2015 pass rates of RPN applicants by Ontario college, program and site

In Ontario, 24 colleges offer RPN nursing programs. Some colleges offer more than one nursing program, and some nursing programs are offered at different sites of a college. Table 3.10 reports on the 2015 ultimate pass rate and pass rates of first, second, and third- attempts of Ontario RPN applicants by college, program and site.\(^\footnote{The 2014 report with 2012–2014 university and program first-attempt pass rates is available online: http://www.cno.org/en/what-is-cno/nursing-demographics/statistical-reports/}\

Table 3.7 2015 pass rates of RPN applicants by Ontario college, program and site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site/campus program</th>
<th>First attempt</th>
<th>Second attempt</th>
<th>Third attempt</th>
<th>Ultimate results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Number of writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algonquin College</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algonquin College - Nepean Campus</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algonquin College - Pembroke Campus</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambrian College</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadore College</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial College</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>88.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial College - Nepean Campus</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial College - Pembroke Campus</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial College - Internationally Educated Nurses</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collège Boréal</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collège Boréal - Campus de Toronto</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collège Boréal - Campus de Sudbury</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collège Boréal - Campus de Nipissing</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collège Boréal - Campus de Timmins</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collège Boréal - Campus de Kapuskasing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collège Boréal - Campus de Hearst</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conestoga College</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confederation College</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham College</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanshawe College</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanshawe College - London campus</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanshawe College - Woodstock campus</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site/campus</td>
<td>Number of writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Number of writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleming College</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brown College</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgian College</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgian College - Barrie campus</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>61.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgian College - Owen Sound campus</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgian College - Orangeville campus</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgian College - Bracebridge campus</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgian College - Midland/Penetanguishene campus</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humber College</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>81.7%</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Cité Collégiale</td>
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<td>72.7%</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambton College</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyalist College</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohawk College</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohawk College - Aboriginal communities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niagara College</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern College</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>97.6%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern College - Kirkland Lake campus</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern College - South Porcupine campus</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern College - Moosonee campus</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sault College</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca College</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca College - Continuing Education</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca College</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheridan College</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Clair College</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Clair College - Windsor campus</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Clair College - Chatham campus</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>82.6%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Clair College - Anishinabek Educational Institute</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence College</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Ontario college program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site/campus</th>
<th>First attempt</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Ultimate</td>
<td>Ultimate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>writes</td>
<td></td>
<td>writes</td>
<td></td>
<td>writes</td>
<td></td>
<td>number</td>
<td>pass rate</td>
<td>pass rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence College - Brockville</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>80.5%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence College - Kingston</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence College - Cornwall</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Ontario RPN Programs</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,766</strong></td>
<td><strong>91.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>342</strong></td>
<td><strong>66.7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>114</strong></td>
<td><strong>44.7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,049</strong></td>
<td><strong>91.9%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ontario RN programs</strong></td>
<td><strong>67</strong></td>
<td><strong>88.1%</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>60.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>33.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>72</strong></td>
<td><strong>87.5%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,833</strong></td>
<td><strong>91.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>347</strong></td>
<td><strong>66.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>117</strong></td>
<td><strong>44.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,121</strong></td>
<td><strong>91.8%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Notes

12 RPN applicants who completed an Ontario RN baccalaureate program, but are applying for RPN registration. Applicants do this for a variety of reasons; for example, they have been unsuccessful in registering as an RN, or they want to hold registration in both nursing categories.
3.3 Demographics of Registered Practical Nurse exam writers

3.3.1 Gender of RPN exam writers

Figure 3.1 shows that in 2015, 12.4 per cent of RPN Ontario-educated exam writers were male, compared to 20.9 per cent of exam writers who were educated internationally.

Figure 3.1 Gender distribution by location of nursing education in 2015

3.3.2 Age of RPN exam writers

In 2015, the average age of RPN exam writers was 29.7 years. The average age of Ontario-educated RPN writers was 29.0 years compared to 31.2 years for writers educated internationally. See Figure 3.2 for the age distribution of exam writers by location of nursing education.

Figure 3.2 Age distribution by location of nursing education in 2015
4 Nurse Practitioner Exam Writers\(^{13}\)

In 2015, 292 NP applicants to the College wrote one of the NP exams at least once. In total, these applicants made 273 first attempt writes, 17 second attempt writes, and four third attempt writes.

4.1 NP exam writers’ ultimate pass rate\(^{14}\)

The ultimate pass rate measures the percentage of writers who wrote the registration exam during the calendar year and had passed the exam on their latest attempt in that year. Table 4.1 reports the ultimate pass rate for NP exam writers by location of nursing education. In 2015, of the 292 NP exam writers, 96.9 per cent had passed by the end of the year. The ultimate pass rate in 2015 was the highest rate in the past five years.

Ontario-educated applicants accounted for 91 per cent of all writers. The ultimate pass rate for Ontario-educated NP applicants was 97.4 per cent in 2015. This is a 5.8 percentage-point increase over 2014 and the highest rate in the past five years. The ultimate pass rate of NP applicants educated in other Canadian jurisdictions was 95.7 per cent in 2015.

Table 4.1 NP exam writers and ultimate pass rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of nursing education</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writers</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writers</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writers</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Canadian jurisdiction</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>91.0%</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2 NP exam pass rates by attempt

In 2015, the first-attempt pass rate was 96.3 per cent, the highest rate in the past five years. The second-attempt pass rate was 94.1 per cent and there were only four overall third-attempt writes, with all resulting in a pass.

Table 4.2 Overall NP exam pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>92.8%</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{13}\) In this report, the term “Nurse Practitioner (NP)” refers to applicants seeking registration as a Registered Nurse in the Extended Class.  
\(^{14}\) See Section 1.5 for information on how the pass rates are calculated.
4.2.1 Ontario-educated NP exam writers: pass rates by attempt

The first-attempt pass rate for Ontario-educated applicants was 97.2 per cent in 2015, the highest rate in the past five years. The second-attempt pass rate in 2015 was 93.3 per cent.

Table 4.3 Ontario-educated NP exam writers: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.2 NP exam writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions: pass rates by attempt

In 2015, there were 23 first-attempt and one second-attempt exam writes by NP applicants educated in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Table 4.4 NP exam writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.3 Internationally educated NP exam writers: pass rates by attempt

The number of internationally educated NP applicants writing the exam has remained low over the past five years. In 2015, only two applicants wrote their first attempt of the exam, and two applicants wrote their second and third attempts.

Table 4.5 Internationally educated NP exam writers: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third attempt</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2.4 Pass rates by attempt made in French

Exam writers can choose to write the registration exam in either English or French, and can change their choice on their second (or third) attempt. Over past five years, French writes of NP exams represented less than four per cent of the overall writes in a calendar year. Only Ontario-educated NP applicants had written their exam in French since 2011. The maximum attempts they made were two (in 2012).

Table 4.6 shows the first and second-attempt pass rates for French-language exam writes made by Ontario-educated writers, which is a subset of the overall numbers presented in Table 4.3.

Table 4.6 Ontario-educated NP exam writers writing in French: pass rates by attempt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attempt</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Writes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second attempt</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3 2015 pass rates of NP applicants by Ontario university and specialty

In Ontario, 10 universities offer NP nursing programs. Some universities may offer more than one NP specialty: Primary Health Care, Adult, or Paediatric. Table 4.7 reports on ultimate results and pass rates of first, second and third attempts of Ontario NP applicants by university and specialty.\footnote{The report with program and site first-time attempt pass rates for 2012–2014 is available online: \url{http://www.cno.org/en/what-is-cno/nursing-demographics/statistical-reports/}.}

Table 4.7 2015 pass rates of NP applicants by Ontario university and specialty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>First attempt</th>
<th>Second attempt</th>
<th>Third attempt</th>
<th>Ultimate results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Total Number of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>writes</td>
<td>Writs</td>
<td>writes</td>
<td>Writers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Pass rate</td>
<td>Ultimate pass rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario university</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakehead University</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurentian University</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMaster University</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen’s University</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryerson University</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Ottawa</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Western Ontario</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Windsor</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York University</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Healthcare Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>248</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>265</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>97.2%</strong></td>
<td><strong>93.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>97.4%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Programs</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>49</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paediatrics Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMaster University</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>265</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>265</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>97.2%</strong></td>
<td><strong>93.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>97.4%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4 Demographics of Nurse Practitioner exam writers

4.4.1 Gender of NP exam writers

Figure 4.1, shows that in 2015, 7.5 per cent of Ontario-educated NP exam writers were male, compared to 13 per cent of exam writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions and 25 per cent who were educated internationally.

**Figure 4.1 Gender distribution by location of nursing education in 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of nursing education</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Cdn. jurisdictions</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>87.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4.2 Age of NP exam writers

In 2015, the average age of NP exam writers was 34.7 years. The average age of Ontario-educated writers was 34 years compared to 39.8 years for writers educated in other Canadian jurisdictions and 47.8 years for writers educated internationally. See Figure 4.2 for the age distribution of NP exam writers by location of nursing education.

**Figure 4.2 Age distribution by location of nursing education in 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Other Cdn. jurisdictions</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>39.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>