

2025 KENTUCKY RURAL NURSING WORKFORCE UPDATE

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Kentucky At A Glance

120 KY Counties

102 Rural Counties

18 Urban Counties
(HRSA, 2022)



4.5 Million

Total population as of the most recent census on July 1, 2024 (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.).

Kentucky ranks **44** out of **50** states in health outcomes according to the 2024 America Health Rankings Annual Report (United Health Foundation, 2024).

 Center of Excellence
in Rural Health

A Look At The Numbers

All nursing data is derived from the current 2024 nursing registry provided by the Kentucky Board of Nursing.

	Rural	Urban	State
APRNs	4,260	5,723	9,983
RNs	31,407	38,537	69,944
LPNs	6,728	4,957	11,685

NOTE: LPNs are the only nursing population in the state with more, (58%) practicing in rural areas.

Percentage of State Distribution

	APRNs	RNs	LPNs
Rural	43%	45%	58%
Urban	57%	55%	42%
Appalachia	25%	25%	33%
Delta	10%	10%	11%

Nursing Demographics

According to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, **87.6%** of APRNs are female and **11.5%** are male, with **0.5%** identifying as other. These numbers reflect RN numbers in the state of Kentucky showing similar patterns and trends when reviewing state licensure data (American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2024).

APRNs
National Numbers



87.6%
Female



11.5%
Male

RNs
State Numbers

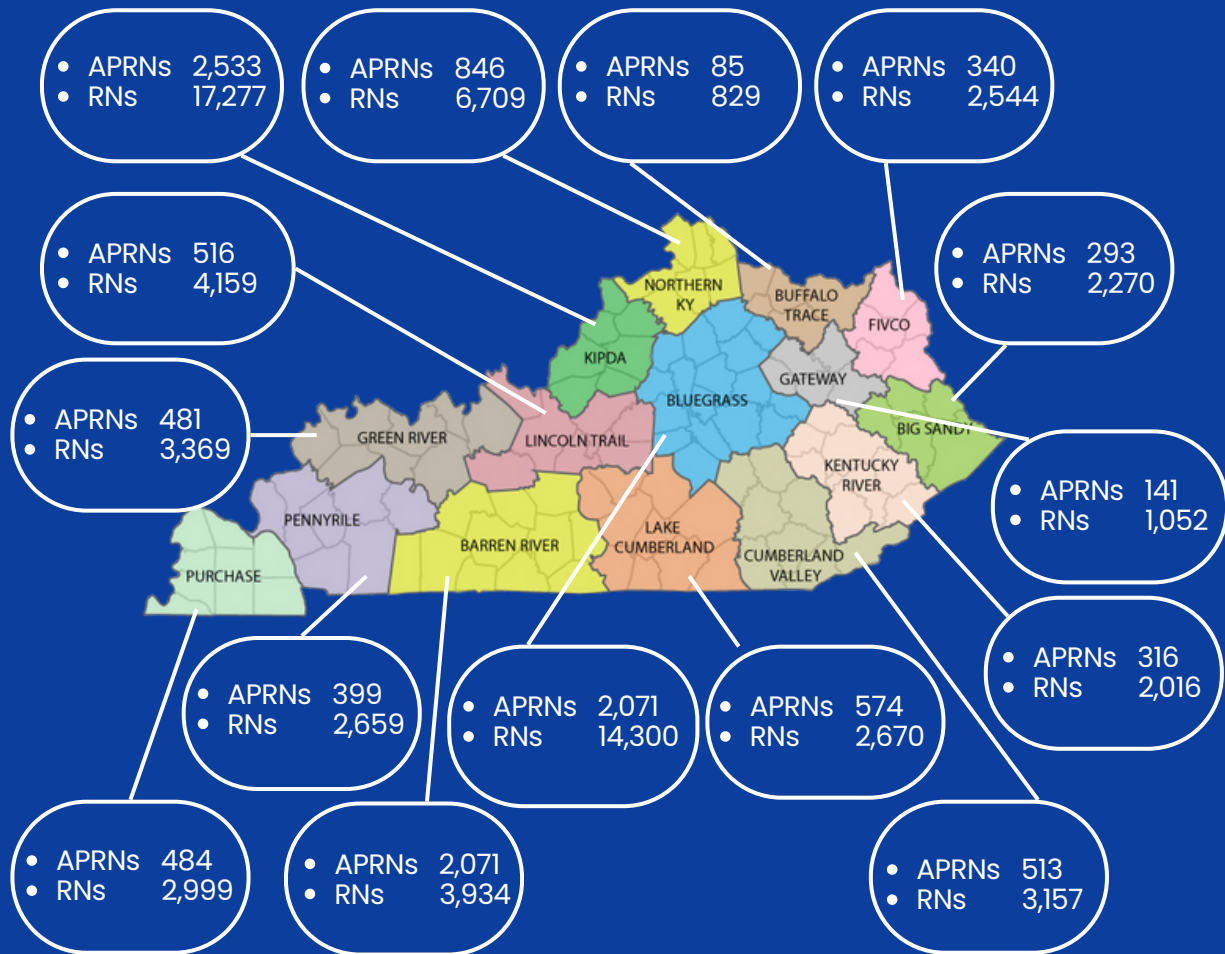


91%
Female



9%
Male

Distribution By Kentucky Area Development District



Percentage per Area Development District (ADD).

	KRPDA	BADD	NKADDI	LTADD	BRADD	CVADD	GRADD	FIVCOADD	PennADD	LCADD	PADD	BSADD	KRADD	GADD	BTADD
APRNs	25%	21%	8%	5%	6%	5%	5%	3%	4%	6%	5%	3%	3%	1%	1%
RNs	25%	20%	10%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%



WAGES

	Kentucky Mean Annual Wage	National Mean Annual Wage	Kentucky vs. National Difference
APRNs	\$113,870	\$129,210	12% lower
RNs	\$79,910	\$93,600	15% lower
LPNs	\$58,450	\$62,340	6% lower