

# Day in the Life of a Nurse™

## 2008 Student Survey Report



In 2008, for the first time in the history of the Nursing Consortium of South Florida's the Day in the Life of a Nurse™ program, student surveys were not administered at the hosting facilities at the beginning and end of the day. The Consortium instead its pre-event student survey available online for one week prior to the event (through noon on the day of the event) and it made its post-event student survey available online for one week following the event (beginning at noon on the day of the event.)

### Participation

A total of **706 surveys were completed online prior to the event and 390 surveys were completed following the experience.** This level of participation compares favorably with the 425 pre-event surveys and the 534 post-event surveys that were collected and submitted to the Consortium in 2007. In 2008, Manpower Software donated an iPod for the Consortium to use as an incentive to encourage students to complete the surveys. This prize was not publicized until the day of the event so it had no effect on the volume of pre-event survey participation. Three schools registered more completed surveys following the event than before, and an additional four schools had the same number of pre and post event surveys completed. For 26 of the 73 participating schools the volume of post event surveys completed was at least 50% of the volume of pre-event surveys completed. A total of 48 schools had at least one student complete a pre-event survey and 42 schools had at least one student complete a post event survey.

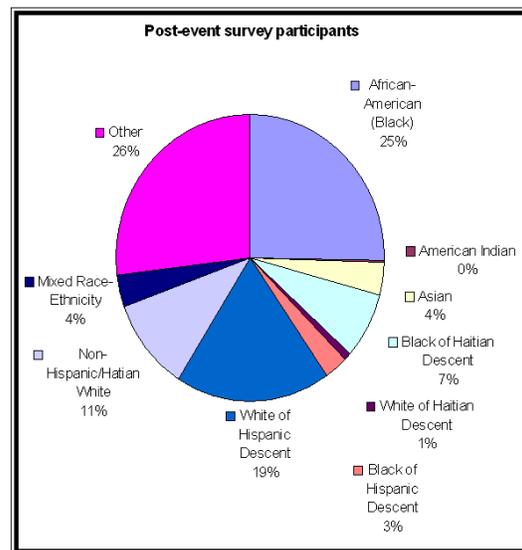
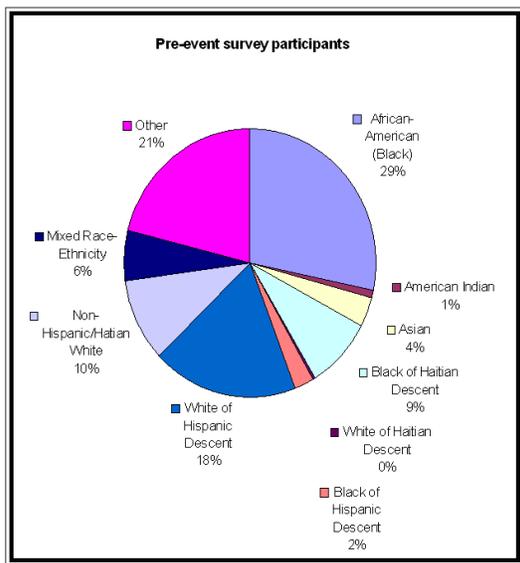
<b><i>Schools submitting most pre-event surveys</i></b>		<b><i>Schools submitting most post-event surveys</i></b>	
WEST BOCA RATON HIGH SCHOOL	45	LAKE WORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL	35
BOCA RATON MIDDLE	42	BOCA RATON MIDDLE	33
LAKE WORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL	38	NORTH MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	26
NORTH MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	35	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	21
BOCA RATON HIGH SCHOOL	32	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH SCHOOL	20
MIAMI CAROL CITY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	31	BOCA RATON HIGH SCHOOL	17
MIAMI NORTHWESTERN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	30	CLEWISTON HIGH SCHOOL	16

Organizers may wish to query the contacts at the highly performing schools to determine best practices that can be shared with others in future years. Similarly, those hospitals which had the greatest number of students completing post experience surveys may also have best practices worthy of broad adoption.

<i>Hosting facilities from which most post-event surveys submitted</i>	
PALMS WEST HOSPITAL	52
BOCA RATON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	49
HENDRY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	41
BARRY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING	28
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HOSPITAL (FORMERLY CEDARS)	22
GLADES GENERAL HOSPITAL	22
WEST BOCA MEDICAL CENTER	20

## Participant Race/Ethnicity

One of the goals of the program is exposing youth from underrepresented communities to career opportunities in the nursing profession. In 2008, **only 11% of program participants completing a post-experience survey identified themselves as non-ethnic white.** 10% of those completing pre-experience surveys identified themselves as non-ethnic white. The following charts illustrate the racial and ethnic diversity of program participants.



## Parental occupations

**22.38% of students completing post-event survey reported having mothers that worked in a healthcare profession<sup>1</sup> including 12.11% who are nurses, compared to 25.7% and 14.56% reported by those completing pre-event surveys.** Other top professions for mothers of those students completing pre-event surveys were Business 11.73%<sup>2</sup>, Teaching 7.58%, and Other 19.17%. Construction 9.69%, Business 16.74%<sup>3</sup>, Agriculture 4.55%, and Other 21% were the employment classifications most often reported for Fathers by those completing pre-event surveys. This group reported **only 7.34% of Fathers as working in the health professions<sup>4</sup> including 2.35% as nurses.** Construction 9.92%, Business 18.01%<sup>5</sup>, Agriculture 5.74%, and Other 22.45% were the employment classifications most often reported for Fathers by **those completing post-event surveys.** This group reported **only 3.4% of Fathers as working in the health professions including 1.31% as nurses.** Notwithstanding parental careers, 85.16% of pre-event survey respondents and 86.47% of post-event survey respondents reported having known someone that worked in nursing.

## Key Post-experience Impressions

I liked being with a nurse.	91.88%
I learned things I didn't know about nursing.	94.49%
I will recommend this program to others.	96.06%
I would like to join a Future Nurses Club or help start one at my school.	69.03%
I would like to volunteer at a hospital.	92.65%

## Attributes associated with nursing

Those taking the surveys were provided 29 attributes of which they were asked to select five that best applied to nursing and to their "preferred career" if nursing was not selected as a preferred career in the pre-event survey. **Among pre-event survey respondents, nursing was not perceived to be as highly paid (ranked 9) or interesting (ranked 16),** but Healthcare Related, Serving Children & Youth, and Caring were shared top five attributes. **The variance between the attributes of a non-nursing preferred career reported on pre-experience surveys and those attributed to nursing in the post-event surveys was greater.** Only Caring was a top five attribute, but Well Paid (ranked 13), Healthcare Related (ranked 17), Interesting (ranked 6), and Serving Children & Youth (ranked 14) were not selected as top-five nursing attributes by those

<sup>1</sup> Combined "Dental", "Nursing", "Physician", Psychology", "Veterinarian", and "Healthcare-Other" categories

<sup>2</sup> Combined "Business" and "Self-Employed" categories

<sup>3</sup> Combined "Business" and "Self-Employed" categories

<sup>4</sup> Combined "Dental", "Nursing", "Physician", Psychology", "Veterinarian", and "Healthcare-Other" categories

<sup>5</sup> Combined "Business" and "Self-Employed" categories

completing post-event surveys. The remaining top-five nursing attributes in the post event surveys Life-changing, Hard working, Dedicated, and Helpful were ranked 11, 6, 9, and 7 as preferred non-nursing career attributes in the pre-experience surveys.

The bottom five or least selected attributes associated with non-nursing preferred careers were Having growth potential, Great, Time consuming, Serving Elderly, and Stressful. The correlation in this instance with post-event survey responses were very high with four of the five being ranked at the bottom and the fifth "Stressful" ranked 23. The correlation with pre-event survey responses for nursing were not as high; only one of the five "Great" was one of the least popular selections and the rankings for the other categories were Having growth potential (24), Time consuming (23), Serving Elderly (20), and Stressful (22); all near the bottom but not bottom five picks. Of the bottom five attributes for nursing in the pre-event survey responses, Great, Fun, Joyful, Flexible, and Healthy, but only Great and Healthy were ranked in the bottom five by those completing post-experience surveys.

### **Other impressions opinions**

The extent to which participation in the program affects student opinions held about the nursing profession is also illustrated by their responses to the following questions.

	Pre-event	Post-event
Are you considering a career in nursing?	70.9%	71.54%
Nursing is hard to enter because it requires many qualifications.	60.25%	59.15%
Nursing is the sort of job people like me might do.	75.46%	80.11%
Nursing is a job you can only do if you make careful plans throughout school and college.	77.59%	68.62%

Even though responses to other questions did not vary significantly, there was a measurable increase in the percentage of respondents that saw nursing as a good fit for themselves, and a measurable decrease in the perception that nursing is a profession with a significant barrier to entry. The number of second career nurses participating as program mentors may have some effect on the latter.

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Day in the Life of a Nurse™  
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