

# National Survey Shows RN Educational Trends

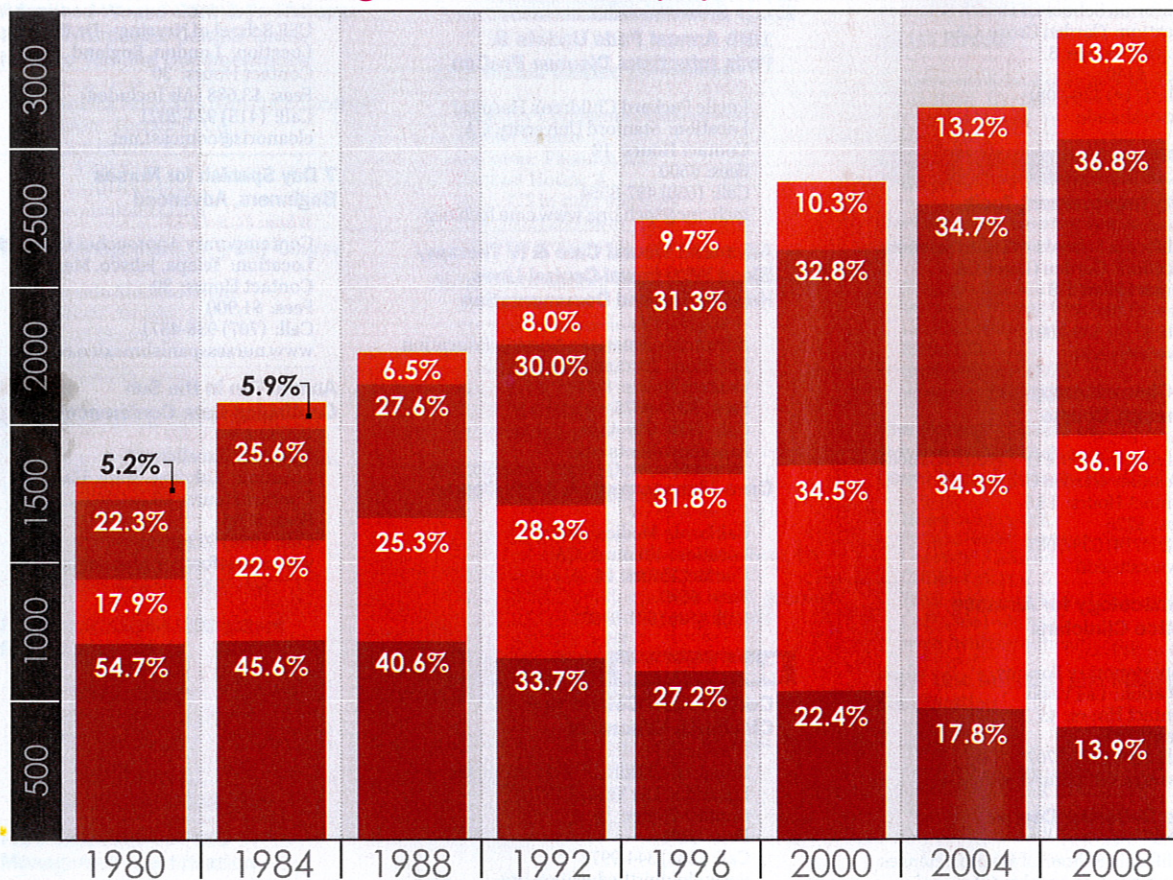
In March, the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration released its report, "Initial Findings From the 2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses." Conducted every four years since 1977, the survey gauges trends in the U.S. nursing workforce, including educational preparedness of the nation's RNs. According to the newly released data:

In 2008,  
**13.2%**  
of all licensed RNs had  
advanced degrees.

RNs with **master's or doctoral degrees** in nursing or a related field are up  
**46.9%**  
— from **275,068** in 2000 to **404,163** in 2008.

Nearly  
**28,400 RNs**  
had **doctoral degrees** in nursing or a nursing-related field in **2008** — an increase of  
**64.4%**  
since 2000.

Distribution of the registered nurse population by highest nursing or nursing-related educational preparation, 1980-2008\*



\* The totals in each bar may not equal the estimated numbers of RNs in each survey year due to incomplete information provided by respondents and the effect of rounding. Only those who provided initial RN educational preparation information are included in the calculations used for this chart.

KEY ■ Diploma ■ Associate ■ Bachelor's ■ Master's/Doctorate