

# What Is RN Staffing Like Where You Work?

As part of the newly launched safe staffing campaign, UAN is collecting feedback from staff nurses on what staffing levels are like in their facilities. We'll share the responses with the public, elected leaders, the media and you. Please take a minute to complete the short survey below and return it to UAN.

- 1 How many years have you been an RN?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Please select the description that best reflects the patient care unit in which you work:
  - Operating room or trauma emergency
  - Critical care, intensive care, labor and delivery, post-anesthesia
  - Emergency, antepartum, pediatrics, step-down and telemetry
  - Intermediate care nursery, medical/surgical or acute care psychiatric
  - Rehabilitation
  - Postpartum and well baby nursery
  - Other, please specify:
- 4 In the unit I work in, the nurse-to-patient ratio the hospital follows most of the time is \_\_\_\_ RN(s) to \_\_\_\_ patients.
- 5 When, in my professional judgment, staffing is inadequate for safe patient care:
  - On my request the hospital provides additional staff.
  - I can insist that no more patients be accepted in my unit.
  - I can file an objection to the staffing levels, but must continue to provide care.
  - About half the time.
  - I can do nothing but must accept the situation and provide the best care I can under the circumstances.
- 6 In the unit where I work, safe staffing ratios are exceeded:
  - Rarely or never
  - less than half the time
  - More than half the time.
  - All or nearly all of the time
- 7 The direct care institution where I work (please check all that apply):
  - has established and adheres to safe, appropriate staffing ratios
  - has established but does not adhere to safe staffing ratios
  - asserts that staffing ratios are adequate for safe patient care
  - acknowledges that staffing ratios are sometimes unsatisfactory and does its best to correct the situation
  - involves direct care RNs and other direct care health care workers in development and annual re-evaluation of staffing plans.
- 8 The direct care institution where I work adjusts staffing levels based on (please check any/all that apply):
  - census numbers
  - the acuity of patients
  - barriers in the environment (i.e., distance from needed equipment)
  - the skill level of the nurses
- 9 In my unit over the past year patients have actually sustained preventable harm due to unsafe staffing ratios:
  - never
  - very rarely
  - at least once per month
  - at least once per week
  - nearly every day
- 10 Personally, the biggest concern I have about unsafe patient to staff ratios is: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this to UAN: