



NCSBN

Leading Regulatory Excellence

# 2020 NCLEX-PN<sup>®</sup> Test Plan Overview

Aly Brenton, RN, MSN, CNL  
RN Test Development Associate, Examinations



# Copyright © 2020 National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. (NCSBN®)

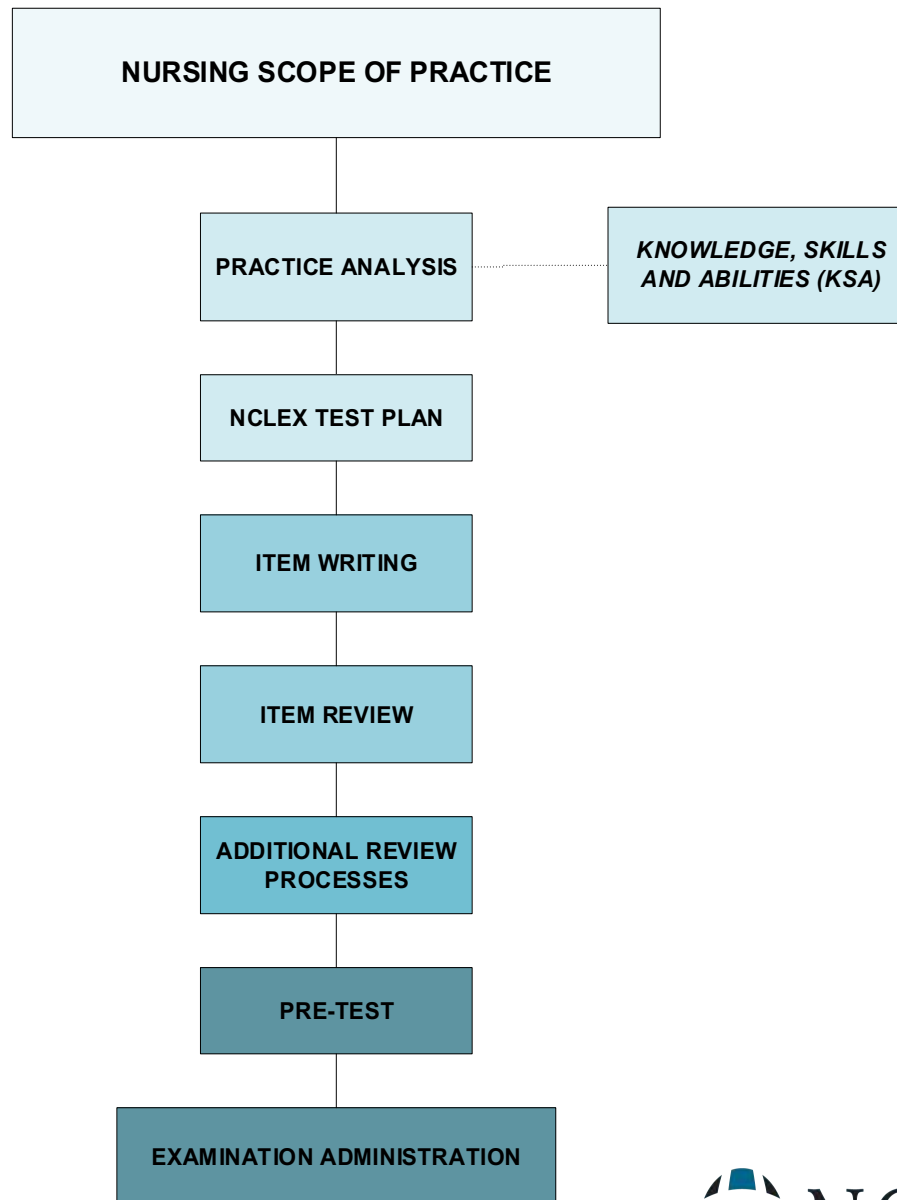
All rights reserved. NCLEX®, NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® are registered trademarks of NCSBN® and may not be used or reproduced without written permission from NCSBN. No part of this publication, presentation or material may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise now known or to be invented) for any commercial or for profit use or purpose without written permission from NCSBN. Inquiries in writing to NCSBN Permissions, 111 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2900, Chicago, IL 60601-4277 or via email at [communications@ncsbn.org](mailto:communications@ncsbn.org).

# Objectives

At the end of the webinar the participant will be able to:

1. Discuss the approved *2020 NCLEX-PN<sup>®</sup> Test Plan*.
2. Access the *2018 PN Practice Analysis* and *2020 NCLEX-PN Test plan*.

# NCLEX Exam Development



# Methodology

- NCLEX PN practice analysis methodology was reviewed and approved by 3 psychometricians.
- NCSBN Chief Executive Officer approved the procedures used to protect subject participants' rights.
- A panel of 11 nurse Subject Matter Experts (SME) developed a comprehensive list of entry-level PN activity statements.

# PN Expert Panel

## Resources used

- Summary of Nurse Leader interviews
- Practice activity logs
- Documents from practice
- Professional expertise

## Meeting Outcomes

- Developed list of nursing activity statements
- Approved current category structure

# NCLEX<sup>®</sup> Examination Committee

- Reviewed and approved the activity statements developed by SME Panel.
- Approved overall structure of the NCLEX Client Needs categories.
- Proposed the draft *2020 NCLEX-PN Test Plan*.

# Sample and Respondents

- Sample reflected the 2018 population of NCLEX-PN candidates.
- Percentage of respondents was similar to the nursing representation across the United States.
- Sampling follows entry-level nurse distribution across the United States.





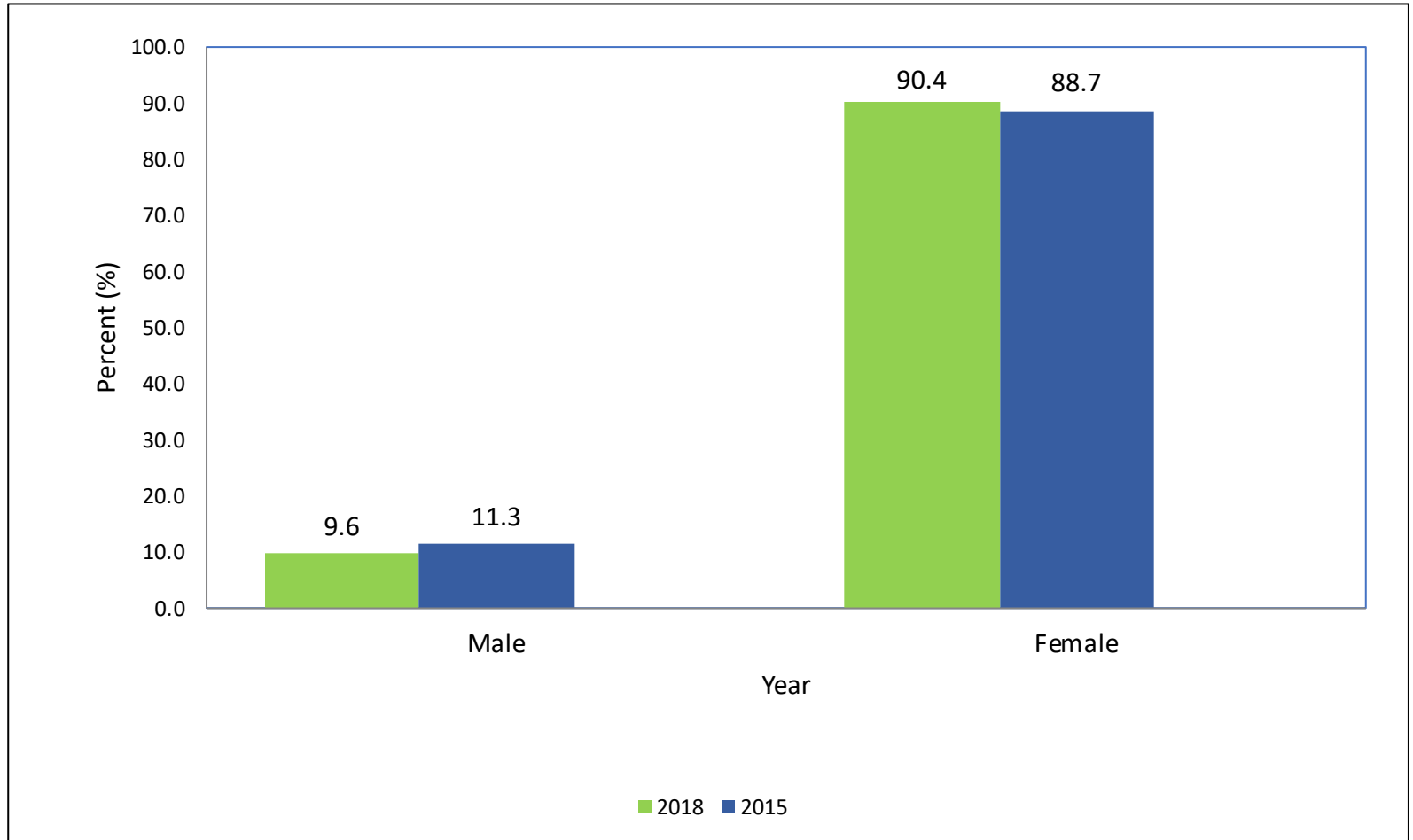
NCSBN

Leading Regulatory Excellence

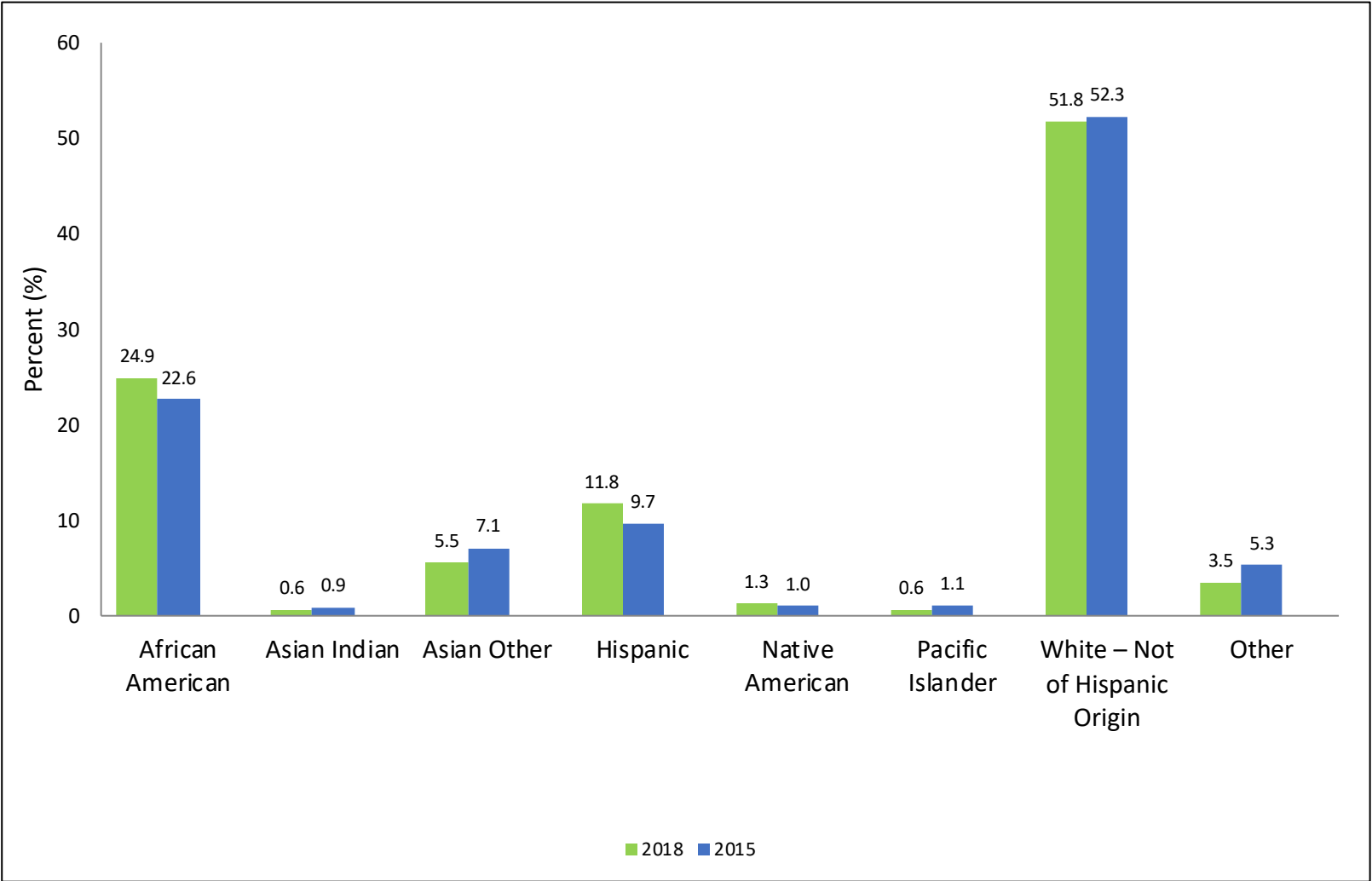
# Entry-Level Nurse Demographics: 2018 and 2015



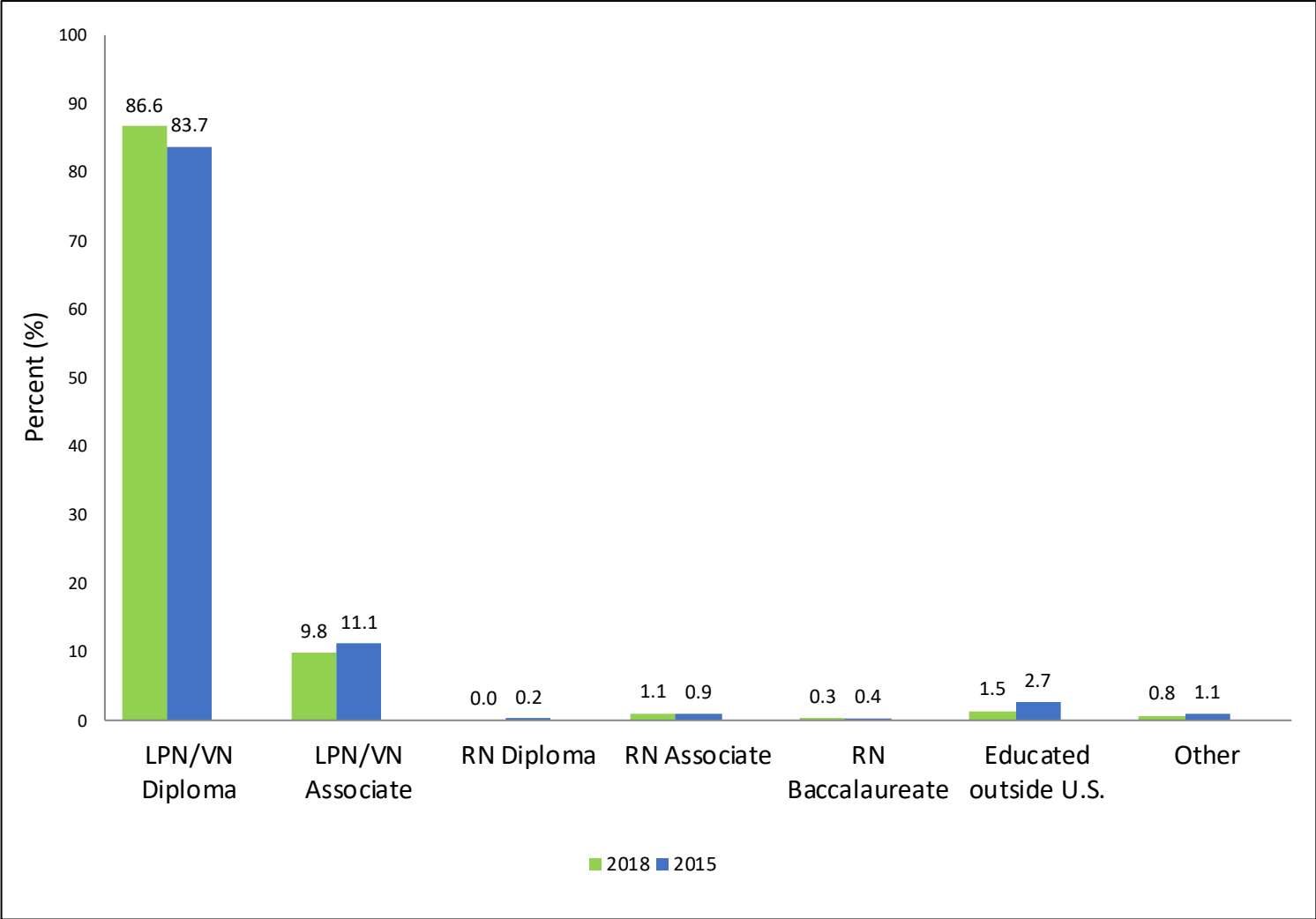
# Gender



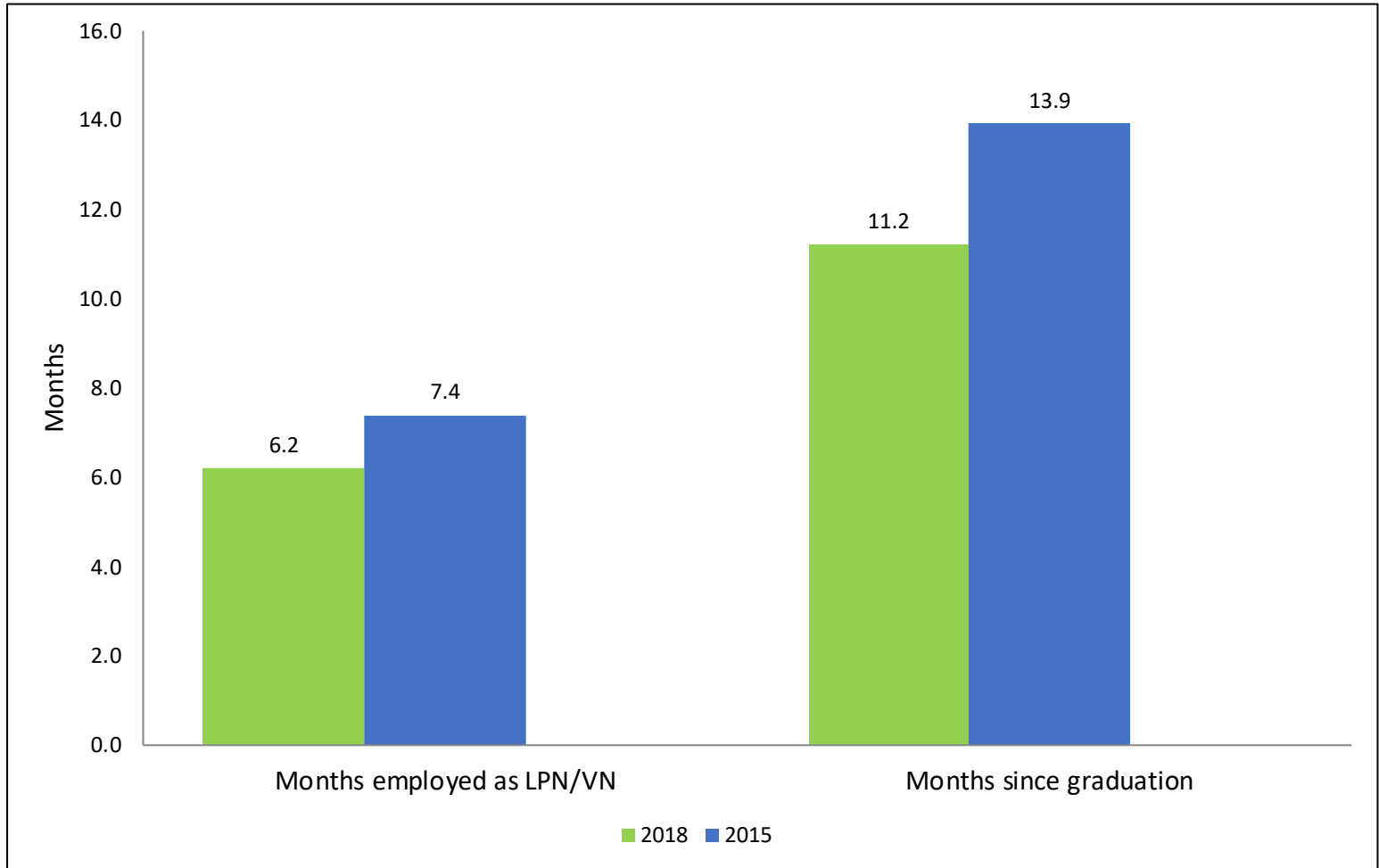
# Race and Ethnicity



# Educational Programs



# Months Since Graduation and Employment



# Orientation Programs

Type and Length of Orientation				
	2018		2015	
	%	Avg Weeks	%	Avg Weeks
Work with an assigned preceptor(s) or mentor(s) with or without additional classroom or skills lab work	66.2	3.9	64	3.2
A formal internship with or without additional classroom or skills lab work	1.9	4.5	2.2	3.5
Classroom and/or skills lab plus supervised work with clients	18.2	3.8	18.1	3.1
No formal orientation	7.2	N/A	8.3	N/A
Other	3.8	3.1	4.3	2.6
Classroom instruction/skills lab work only	2.8	1.9	3.1	1.3

# Employment Settings

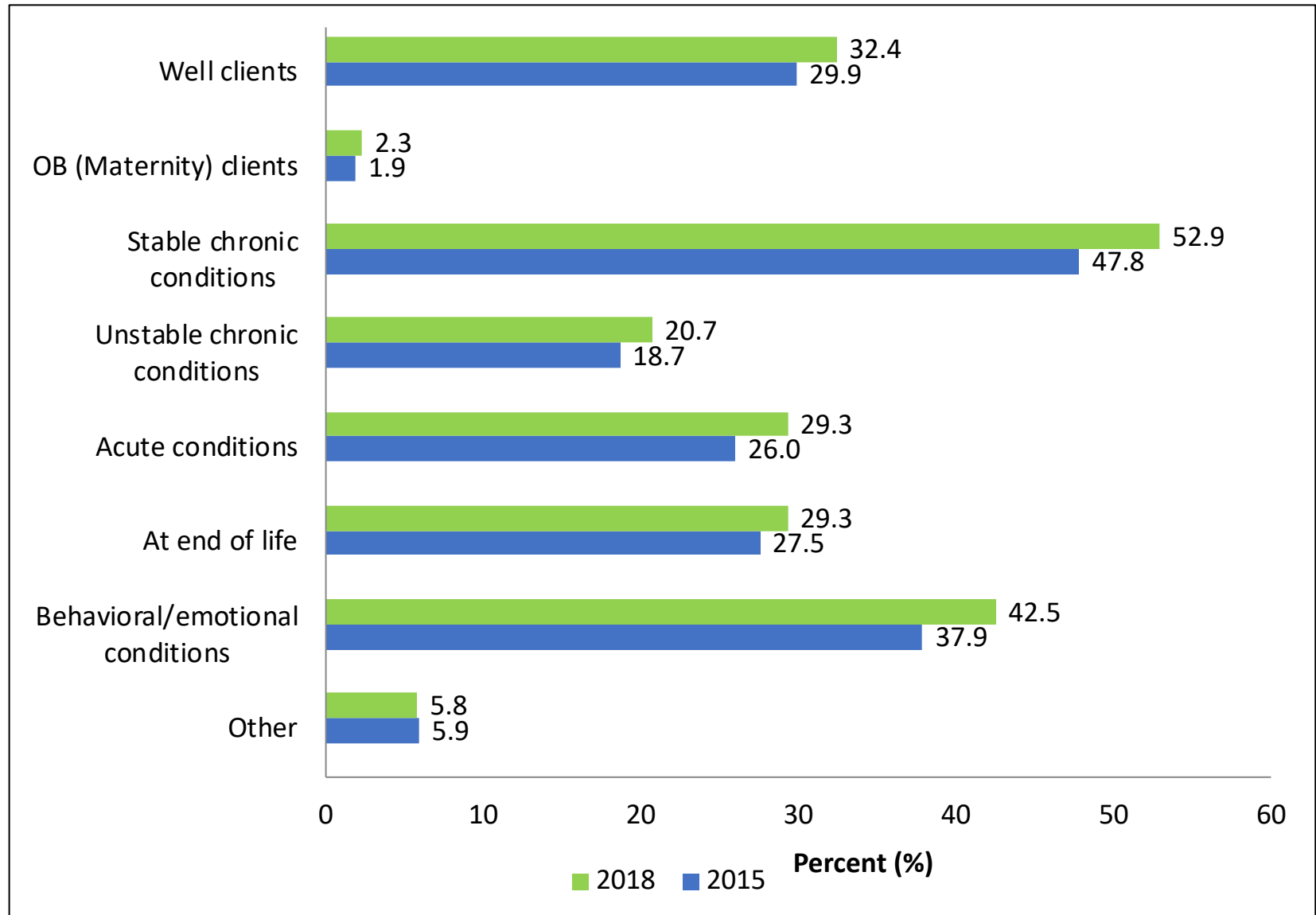
Employment Facilities		
Type of Facility/Organization	2018	2015
Hospital	13.5	10.3
Long-term care facility	49.4	50.4
Community-based or ambulatory care facility/organization	26.6	28.6
Other	10.5	10.7

# Practice Settings

	2018	2015
	%	%
Assisted Living	9.6	7.2
Critical care (e.g., ICU, CCU, stepdown units, pediatric/neonatal intensive care, emergency department, postanesthesia recovery unit)	1.6	1.4
Home health, including visiting nurses associations	5.8	7.4
Hospice care	3.4	3.7
Labor and delivery	0.3	0.2
Medical-surgical unit or any of its subspecialties (e.g., oncology, orthopedics, neurology)	5.9	5.5
Nursery	0.2	0.1
Nursing home, skilled or intermediate care	34.3	32.1
Occupational health	0.4	0.5
Operating room, including outpatient surgery and surgicenters	0.6	0.5
Other	5.1	3.2
Other longterm care (e.g., residential care, developmental disability)	10.2	9.6
Outpatient clinic	5.8	6.0
Pediatrics	5.2	5.2
Physician/APRN/Dentist office	4.1	4.6
Postpartum unit	0.4	0.1
Prison/Correctional Facility/Jail	1.9	1.7
Psychiatry or any of its subspecialties (e.g., detox)	3.8	3.7
Public health	0.5	1.0
Rehabilitation	14.6	9.9
Short stay/Observational	0.5	0.6
Step-down/Progressive care	0.3	0.3
Student/school health	0.9	1.5
Subacute unit	1.9	1.6
Transitional care unit	1.3	0.8



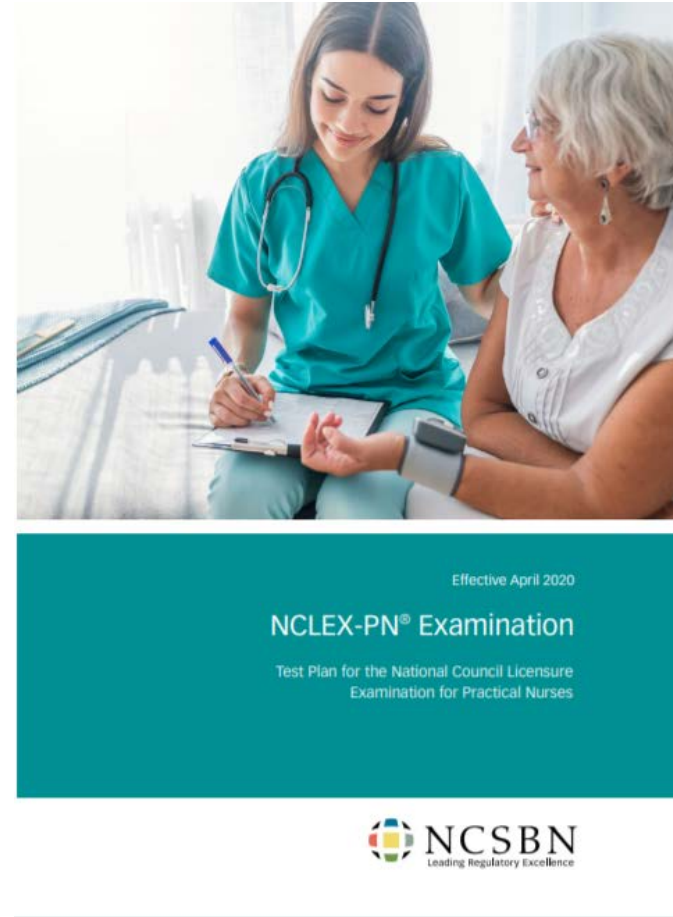
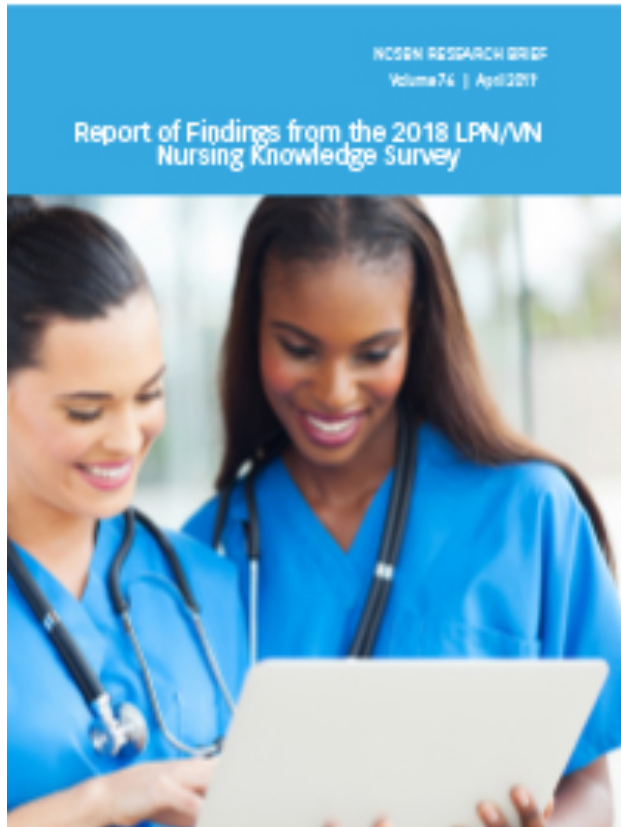
# Client Health Conditions



# Practice Analysis to Test Plan

<https://www.ncsbn.org/13519.htm>

[www.ncsbn.org/testplans.htm](http://www.ncsbn.org/testplans.htm)



ncsbn.org



# NCLEX<sup>®</sup> Test Plan

- The practice analysis guides the development of the test plan, which is the basis of the NCLEX.
- The test plan is an outline of content entry-level nurses must know to be considered minimally competent.

# 2020 NCLEX-PN® Test Plan Timeline

August 2019	Delegate Assembly action is provided.
September 2019	Panel of Judges meet to recommend the 2020 NCLEX-PN Passing Standard.
December 2019	NCSBN Board of Directors evaluated and raised the 2020 NCLEX-PN Passing Standard.
January 2020	The approved 2020 NCLEX-PN Test Plan is published and placed on the NCSBN web site.
April 1, 2020	Approved 2020 NCLEX-PN Test Plan and the 2020 NCLEX-PN Passing Standard are effective.



**NCSBN**

Leading Regulatory Excellence

# Overview of the 2020 NCLEX-PN Test Plan



# 2020 NCLEX<sup>®</sup> Test Plan

## Three purposes

1. Guide candidates preparing for the exam
2. Provide direction for item development
3. Facilitate classification of exam items

# Overview of the 2020 NCLEX-PN® Test Plan

- Overall format is retained
- Minor edits for currency and clarification
- Minimal changes to the entry-level nursing activity statements
- No change to the NCLEX client need content distribution percentages

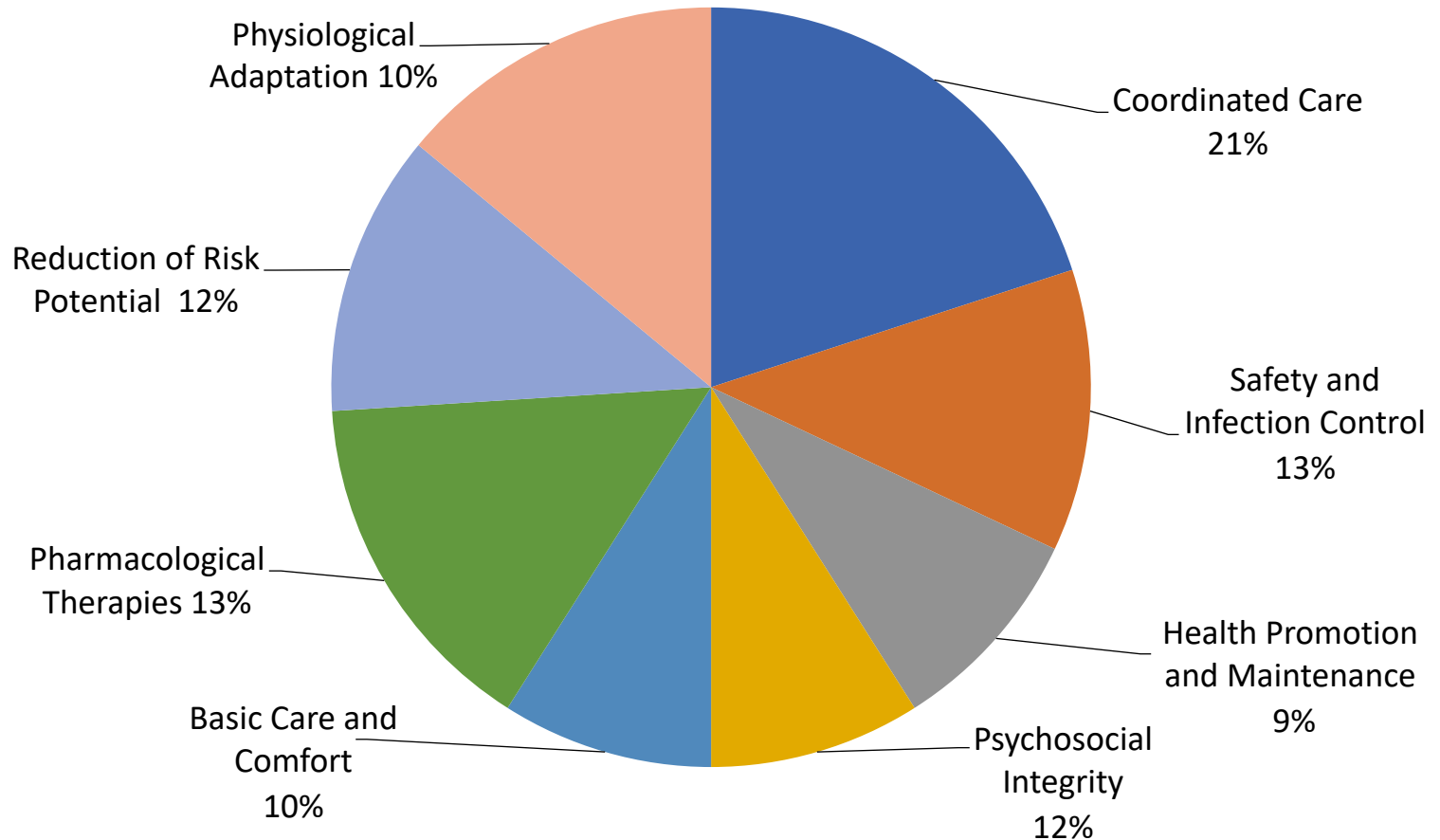
# NCLEX-PN<sup>®</sup> Test Plan Comparison

Content Area	Title	April 2020 Weight (±3%)	April 2017 Weight (±3%)
1	Coordinated Care	21%	21%
2	Safety and Infection Control	13%	13%
3	Health Promotion and Maintenance	9%	9%
4	Psychosocial Integrity	12%	12%
5	Basic Care and Comfort	10%	10%
6	Pharmacological Therapies	13%	13%
7	Reduction of Risk Potential	12%	12%
8	Physiological Adaptation	10%	10%
	Total	100%	100%



# Effective April 1, 2020

## Distribution of Content for the NCLEX-PN® Test Plan



# Activity Statement Additions

- + Perform focused data collection based on client condition
  - *Reduction of Risk Potential*
  
- + Assist with client wound drainage device removal
  - *Physiological Adaptation*
  
- + Assist in the care of a client with a pacing device
  - *Physiological Adaptation*

# Transferred Activity Statement

- ❖ Provide end of life care and education to clients.

*Health Promotion and  
Maintenance*



*Psychosocial  
Integrity*



# NCLEX & Other Exams

NCSBN is dedicated to developing psychometrically sound and legally defensible nurse licensure and certification examinations consistent with current practice.

**5.7+**  
**million**

candidates have taken the NCLEX since April 1994

## NCLEX & Other Exams

- Application & Registration >
- Before the Exam >
- Exam Day >
- After the Exam >
- Testing Locations >
- Test Plans >
- Exam Statistics & Publications >
- Exam Volunteer Opportunities >
- Next Generation NCLEX Project >

### Before the Exam

Find out what you need to do before you take the NCLEX.

[What you need to know](#)

### Register

Sign up to take the NCLEX

[Sign up for the NCLEX](#)

### Exam Day

### After the Exam

For questions please email:  
[nclexinfo@ncsbn.org](mailto:nclexinfo@ncsbn.org)