

Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) Program

Academic Years 2014-2019

HRSA is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated or economically or medically vulnerable. HRSA programs help those in need of high quality primary health care by supporting the training of health professionals – focusing in particular on the geographical distribution of providers to areas where they are needed most.

The purpose of the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) program is to increase the number of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) providing care, especially to rural and underserved populations. This report analyzes the NAT program contributions to increasing the number of CRNAs for Academic Years (AY) 2014 through 2019.

Increasing Supply of CRNAs

- Between AYs 2014-2019 the NAT program supported 7,971 nursing anesthetist students, of whom 6,492 graduated from their degree programs and entered the nursing workforce, with the remainder not being eligible yet to graduate.
- According to the 2018 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN), CRNAs accounted for 9.3 percent of all advanced practice registered nurses¹. Moreover, national estimates indicate that as of May 2019 there were 43,571 nurse anesthetists employed in the United States².
- Based on these national estimates, graduates from the NAT program over these five years increased the supply of nurse anesthetists in the United States by 15 percent³.
- During AY 2014-2015, the most recent year for which national trainee estimates are available, nurse anesthetists supported by HRSA's NAT program accounted for over 90 percent of all nurse anesthetists trained in the United States³.

Increasing Access to Care

- During the five year period 3,080 partnerships were established to provide clinical or experiential training for the NAT trainees.
- On average, 35 percent of 2014-2019 clinical training sites were located in primary care settings, 52 percent in medically underserved communities, and 21 percent in rural areas.

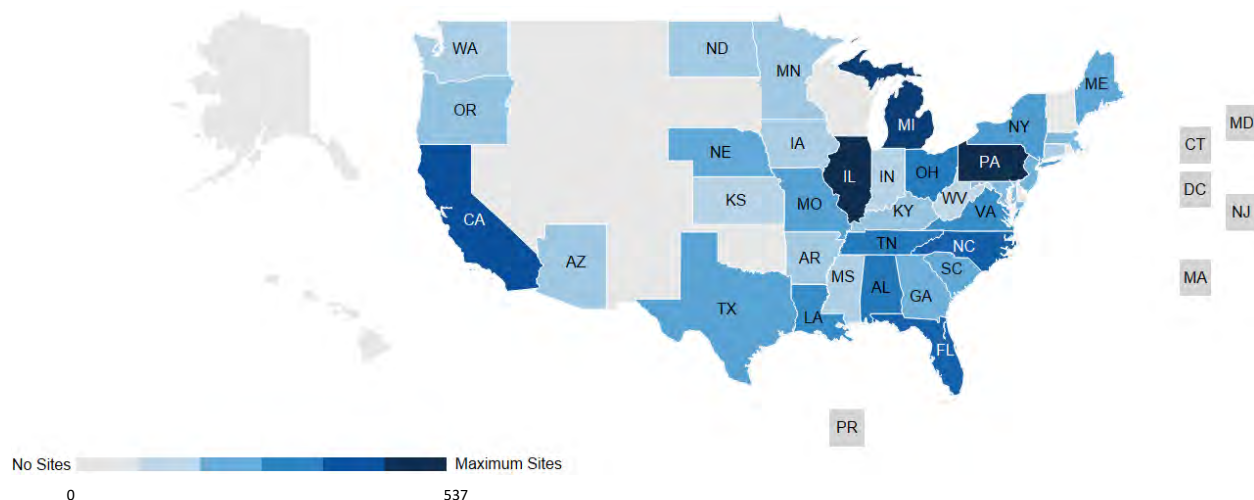
¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis. 2019. Brief Summary Results from the 2018 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses, Rockville, Maryland.

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2020. Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2019. Nurse Anesthetists. Available at: <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291151.htm>.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis. 2019. Brief Summary Results from the 2018 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses, Rockville, Maryland.

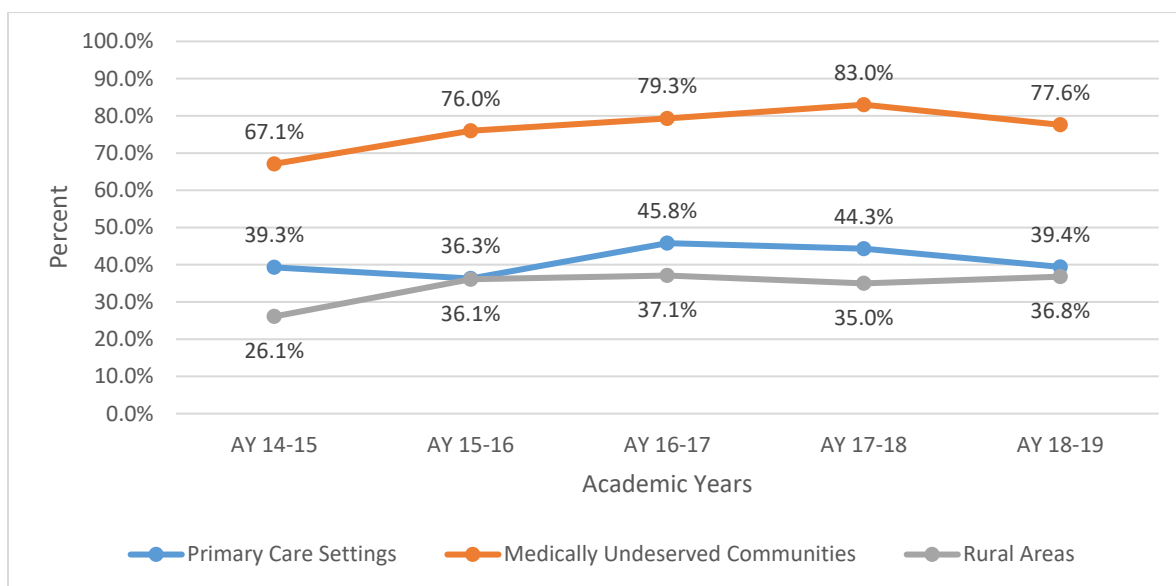
- During the five year period, the NAT program increased access to care by providing over 5.5 million contact hours in medically underserved communities and over 1.3 million contact hours in rural areas.
- Over AYs 2014-2019, more than 90 percent of clinical sites provided services to older adults. A substantial number of sites also served individuals with HIV/AIDS (78 percent), individuals with mental illness or substance use disorders (74 percent), and people with disabilities (88 percent).

Number of experiential training sites during AYs 2014-2019



Notes: These training sites locations are not mutually exclusive. States and territories noted in gray boxes indicate the presence of training sites in those jurisdictions. States excluded from the map had no training sites.

Training settings where individuals received clinical and/or experiential training



Note: These training settings are not mutually exclusive. An individual can participate in more than one training setting.

- During AY 2014-2019, on average 77 percent of supported students received clinical training in medically underserved communities and 41 percent in primary care settings.

Improving Distribution of CRNAs

- One year post-graduation employment data for 2014-2019 showed that 47 percent of the NAT graduates were employed or pursuing additional training in a medically underserved community. In addition, 25 percent of the graduates from this program were pursuing additional training in primary care settings.
- The NAT program over AYs 2014-2019 also increased CRNAs in rural areas of the United States as 23 percent of the nurse anesthetist graduates obtained employment in a rural setting.

Increasing Diversity among Nursing Workforce

Academic Years 2014-2019	
Background Characteristics	Graduates
Underrepresented Minorities	14.7%
Disadvantaged Background	18.6%
Rural Background	18.0%

Note: These percentages are based on total trained and 6,492 graduates.

- Among those who graduated between Academic Years 2014-2019, nearly 15 percent were underrepresented minorities, nearly 19 percent were from a disadvantaged background, and 18 percent came from a rural background.