

# Primary Health Care (PHC) Nursing Workforce – Fact Sheet

## 2022 College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) Registration Data

In 2022, 172,914 nurses were registered with the CNO, including:

**4,352**

nurses registered in the  
Nurse Practitioner (NP) class

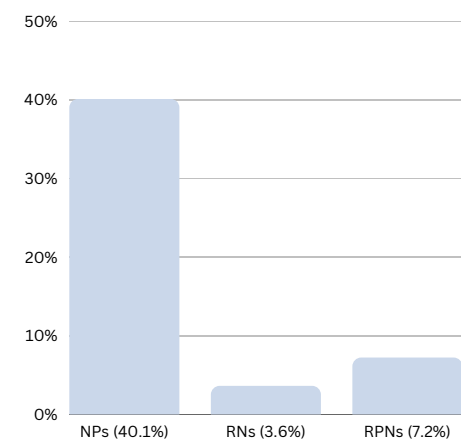
**57,624**

nurses registered in the  
Registered Practical Nurse (RPN)  
class

**111,716**

nurses registered in the  
Registered Nurse (RN) class

In 2022, 5.9%  
(11,097) of nurses  
registered in  
Ontario  
specialized in  
**PHC**



Proportion of nurses specializing in PHC by class

**3.4%**

Since 2015, the  
proportion of NPs  
specializing in PHC  
has decreased when  
compared to other areas  
of practice

### Trends of Nurses Specializing in PHC by Class (2020-2022)

**+14%**

**NPs**

**-2.3%**

**RNs**

**-4.8%**

**RPNS**

Overall, there was a **0.5% decrease of nurses specializing in PHC**  
between 2020 to 2022.

**Data Source:** College of Nurses of Ontario. (2022). *Registration Statistics Report 2022*. [https://www.cno.org/globalassets/2-howweprotectthepublic/statistical-reports/registration-statistics-report-2022.html#Area\\_of\\_Practice](https://www.cno.org/globalassets/2-howweprotectthepublic/statistical-reports/registration-statistics-report-2022.html#Area_of_Practice)

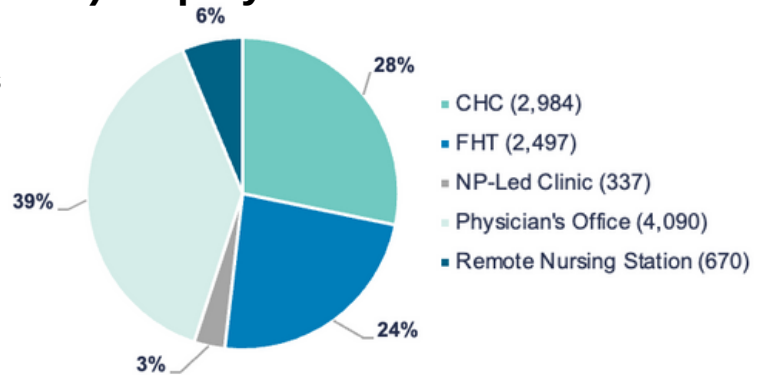
**Citation:** Ling, E., Ganann, R. on behalf of Patient Expertise in Research Collaboration centre (2023). *Primary Health Care (PHC) Nursing Workforce – Fact Sheet*. School of Nursing, McMaster University.

# PHC Employment Trends (2022)

Nurses practise in a variety of primary health care (PHC) employment settings in Ontario, including Community Health Centres (CHCs), Family Health Teams (FHTs), NP-led clinics, Physician's Offices, and Remote Nursing stations.

## Where are PHC nurses (NP, RN, RPN) employed?

- **NPs** were more likely to work in CHCs, FHTs, and NP-led clinics and less likely to work in physician's offices compared to RNs and RPNs.
- The greatest proportion of **RNs** work in a physician's office, followed by CHCs and FHTs.
- **RNs** are more likely than their NP and RPN counterparts to work in a remote nursing station.
- Almost half of the **RPN** workforce working in PHC work in physician's offices.



Employment Setting	NPs Number	%	RNs Number	%	RPNs Number	%
CHC	571	31%	1,356	28%	1,057	28%
FHT	693	37%	1,058	22%	746	19%
NP-Led Clinic	205	11%	79	2%	53	1%
Physician's Office	326	18%	1,934	39%	1,830	48%
Remote Nursing Station	61	3%	464	9%	145	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Trends in Nursing Employment Rates by Primary Care Setting (2020-2022)



CHC



FHT



NP-Led Clinic



Physician's Office



Remote Nursing Station

+14.7%

-1.0%

+23.0%

-10.7%

+46.0%

RN, RPN, NP

+14.4%

-3.6%

+23.4%

-13.9%

+27.1%

RN

+19.4%

-2.9%

+10.4%

-12.1%

+353.1%

RPN

+8.1%

+5.8%

+26.5%

+30.4%

-1.6%

NP

The proportion of NPs working in CHCs decreased 3.2% between 2015-2022 (13.5% to 10.3%). Further, the proportion of NPs working in FHTs decreased 3.4% (15.9% to 12.5%).

**Data Source:** College of Nurses of Ontario. (2022). *Registration Statistics Report 2022*. [https://www.cno.org/globalassets/2-howweprotectthepublic/statistical-reports/registration-statistics-report-2022.html#Area\\_of\\_Practice](https://www.cno.org/globalassets/2-howweprotectthepublic/statistical-reports/registration-statistics-report-2022.html#Area_of_Practice)

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