

Many in the nursing field are sounding the cry about whether Wisconsin will have enough nurses in the future to provide adequate care. The 2005 Registered Nurse Workforce Survey is attempting to find out from the nurses themselves through a voluntary online survey, said Susan Gleason, director of the state Department of Workforce Development's office of economic initiatives.

"The RN workforce is going to be one of the most important health care issues in the coming years," Gleason said. "With an aging population and an aging workforce itself, state projections indicate that registered nurses top the list of both most job openings and greatest growth in new jobs."

Between 2002 and 2012, the latest 10-year period studied, the state will **need 24,300 registered nurses** for replacement and new jobs created, she said.

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Leader - Telegram
January 11, 2006