Executive Summary

Background and Purpose:
A survey of Maine’s Nursing Education Programs was conducted annually from 2003-2009. In 2009, upon the recommendation of the Organization of Nurse Executives (OMNE) and the Maine Partnership in Nursing Education and Practice (MPNEP), the survey was changed to a biennial cycle. The survey has been reviewed and approved by the University of Southern Maine IRB (protocol number 110408-07) and was last revised and reviewed in Fall 2011. The survey is supported by the University of Southern Maine, the Directors and Chairs of Maine’s Nursing Schools, the Organization of Maine Nurse Executives and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in partnership with the Bingham Foundation. Data gathered in this survey is used to assess Maine’s capacity to educate nurses.

Process:
The survey was initially developed as an adjunct to the minimum data set collected on all nurses in Maine and was first supported through a Robert Wood Johnson executive fellowship grant. In subsequent years, the University of Southern Maine has continued to support this research, providing faculty research time, housing the results and making them publically available. The survey has been revised several times since its inception. Previous surveys have been paper and pencil and this year’s survey was created in an interactive electronic format. Support for the development of this on-line survey and for the analysis of data was provided by the Robert Wood Johnson/Bingham Foundation Partnership in Nursing (PIN) grant.

Primary Investigator:
Susan B. Sepples is the Primary Investigator on this research. Dr. Sepples is an Associate professor of Nursing at the University of Southern Maine, co-chair of the Maine Partnership in Nursing Education and Practice and former Director of the USM School of Nursing. Susan conducted this year’s survey and four of the previous surveys (2006-2009).

Dissemination of Findings:
Results of this year’s survey were reported at the annual Maine Nursing Summit, the spring meeting of the Maine Partnership in Nursing Education and Practice, the spring meeting of the One Maine Health Collaborative and is posted (along with surveys from previous years) on the University of Southern Maine School of Nursing website. The presentation and the data set are made available to anyone interested in workforce and capacity issues in Maine’s Nursing Schools.

Attachments:
- The 2011 Survey of Maine Nursing Programs
- Powerpoint Presentation on the Survey Results with an analysis
- Complete Data Book