

**\*Special Edition\*****National Nurses Week (May 6-12) and  
National Hospital Week (May 8-14)**

National Nurses Week coincides with Florence Nightingale's birthday, May 12. Many consider Nightingale the founder of modern nursing. The history of Nurses Week began in 1953 when Dorothy Sutherland of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare sent the proposal to President Eisenhower. In 1974, President Nixon proclaimed a "National Nurse Week." The celebration of National Hospital Week began in 1921 when a magazine editor suggested that more information about hospitals might alleviate public fears about them.

**Nurses in the  
United States****2.4 million**Number of [registered nurses](#) [PDF].**92%**Percentage of registered [nurses who are women](#) [PDF].**623,000**[Projected growth in the number of registered nurses](#) [PDF] between 2002 and 2012. It is expected that registered nurses will experience the largest job growth of any occupation during this time period.**531,000**Number of [licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses](#) [PDF].**1,181**[Number of nurses](#) [PDF] per 100,000 residents in Massachusetts, the highest rate among states. (The District of Columbia has 1,498.) Nevada, with 517, has the lowest rate.**1.8 million**Number of [nursing, psychiatric and home health aides](#) [PDF].**Hospitals****7,569**Number of [hospitals nationwide](#). These hospitals employ 5.1 million people.**Health  
Insurance****243.3 million**The number of people with [health insurance coverage in 2003](#), an increase of 1.0 million from 2002. The percentage of the population with health insurance in 2003 was 84.4 percent, down from the 84.8 percent with coverage in 2002.**91.8%**The percentage of people with health insurance coverage in 2003 among [people living in households with incomes of \\$75,000 or more](#). The likelihood of being covered by health insurance rises with income, as the corresponding rate for people with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000 was 75.8 percent.**82.5%**The [percentage of full-time workers](#) age 18 to 64 covered by health insurance in 2003, higher than the rate for part-time workers (76.2 percent) or nonworkers (74.0 percent).

## \$536.3 billion

Estimated **annual revenue in 2003 for hospitals**, up 6 percent from 2002. Major sources of revenue were private insurance (\$204 billion, up 8 percent), Medicare (\$167 billion, up 2 percent) and Medicaid (\$65 billion, up 7 percent).

## At a Hospital

You may encounter [PDF] one of the nation's 819,000 physicians and surgeons; 77,000 occupational therapists; 182,000 physical therapists; or 94,000 respiratory therapists.



## 33.7 million

Number of **hospital inpatient discharges in 2002** [PDF], amounting to 118 per every 1,000 residents. The average hospital stay lasts about five days. On any given day, there are 539,000 **hospital inpatients** [PDF], nationwide, excluding newborns.

## \$7,346

Average **cost to community hospitals per patient** [PDF], per stay.

## 110.2 million

Number of **visits annually to hospital emergency rooms** [PDF]. That amounts to 39 for every 100 people.

## 60.4% and 174.0 million

The percentage and number of **people covered by employment-based health insurance** in 2003, down from 61.3 percent and 175.3 million in 2002. This decline essentially explains the fall in total private health insurance coverage over the period, from 69.6 percent to 68.6 percent.

## 26.6% and 76.8 million

The percentage and number of **people covered by government health insurance programs** in 2003, up from 25.7 percent and 73.6 million in 2002.

## No Health Insurance

### 45.0 million

The **number of people without health insurance coverage** in 2003, up from 43.6 million in 2002. The percentage of people without coverage also rose, from 15.2 percent in 2002 to 15.6 percent in 2003.

### 11.4%

The **proportion of children (under 18 years old)** without health insurance coverage in 2003. These uninsured children totaled 8.4 million. Neither the rate nor the number changed significantly between 2002 and 2003.

### 8.2%

The **proportion of Minnesota residents** who lack health insurance, based on a 2001-2003 average. While Minnesota has the lowest proportion of residents who are uninsured, Texas (24.6 percent) and New Mexico (21.3 percent) have the highest and second highest proportions of uninsured.

"Special Editions" of the U.S. Census Bureau **Facts for Features** are issued to provide background information for less known observances; anniversaries of historic events; and other timely topics in the news.

Individual source links for each statement herein may be accessed on the Internet at [http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions004491.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions004491.html).

The **photos herein may be downloaded** and are available free for your use in all print and broadcast products. Please credit the U.S. Census Bureau. For product information, call (301) 763-3011 or e-mail [pio.broadcast.services@census.gov](mailto:pio.broadcast.services@census.gov).

**Editor's note:** Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office at (301) 763-3030; fax (301) 457-3670; or e-mail [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov).