

Appendix B

Survey Methodology

The project consists of a non-experimental, descriptive, cross-sectional exploratory survey. The chart in Figure B1 describes the approach used in drawing a sample of 3, 296 Texas RNs, 66% larger than the sample used for the 2000 survey.

The questionnaire was constructed to maintain comparability with the study conducted by the Center for Health Economics and Policy two years earlier. However, input from notable researchers and organizations currently involved in nursing research enhanced design and format, and the larger sample allowed greater reliability in stratification and the addition of nurse managers as a new stratum in the sampling scheme. The representation of Hispanic RNs in the sample (14%) exceeds that in Texas (8%) because of oversampling to ensure representation of the border population.

An eleven-member professional RN focus group convened by the Texas Nurses Association and twelve graduate nursing student volunteers assisted in question refinement and testing.

Each variable used in the survey was analyzed with frequencies and descriptive statistics. The report contains the results of the descriptive findings. Future work, beyond the scope of this report, will focus on correlation and other measures of association. Additionally, 437 respondents, nearly 40% of the total, wrote open-ended comments. This data will be subjected to formal content analysis to further describe perceptions and concerns within the nurse workforce. However, a preliminary analysis of the comments suggests that the quantitative analysis presented in this report covers well all of the surveyed nurses' major areas of concern.