

# **Iowa Board of Nursing**



## **Trends in Nursing**

**June 30, 2010**

Data source: Iowa Board of Nursing Annual Report &  
Iowa Board of Nursing Annual Program Reports as submitted by the Heads of Programs

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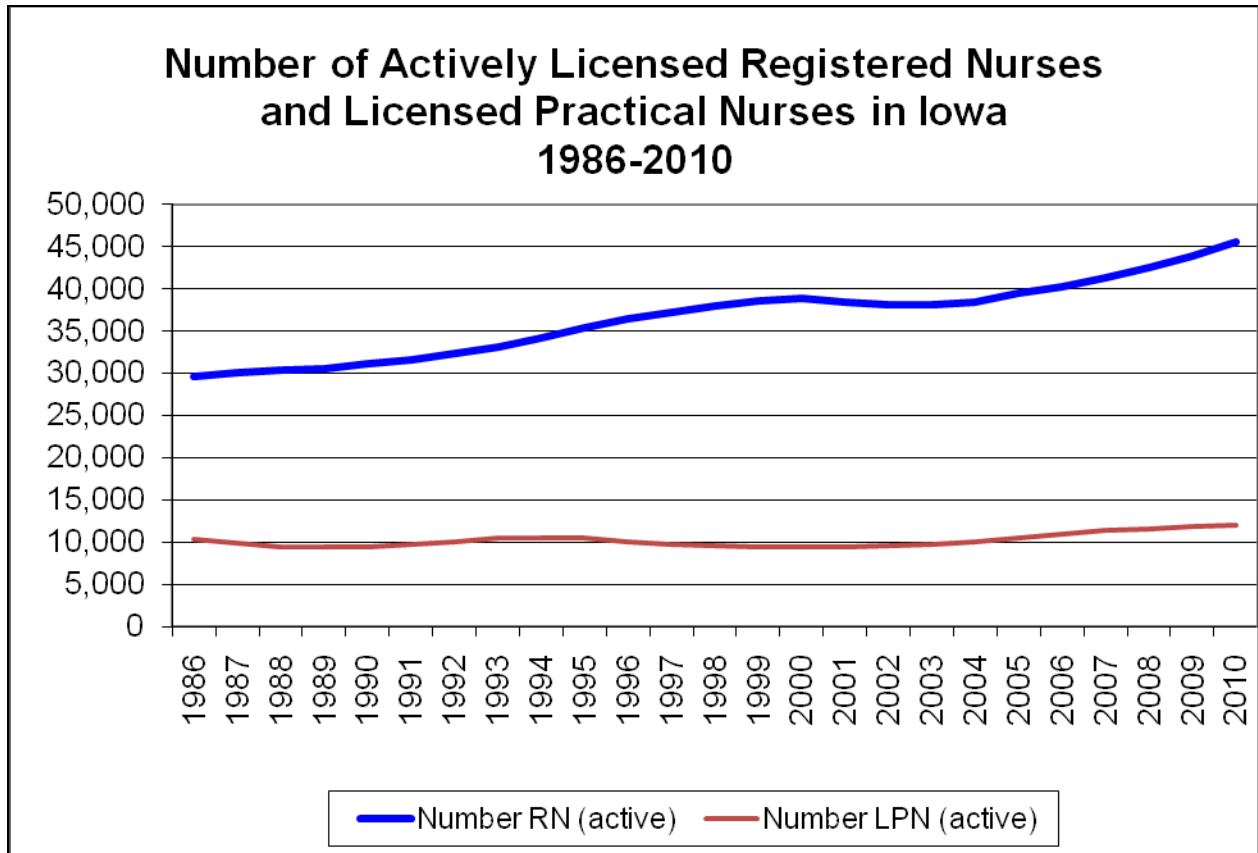
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## SECTION 1: NURSING SUPPLY

The following charts are prepared using the Iowa Board of Nursing annual reports from 1986 to 2010. The graphs illustrate trends and provide a basis of comparison for Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Iowa data with national projections.

*Note: In Iowa, nurses may hold RN and LPN licensures concurrently. On July 1, 2010, 1,109 individuals residing in Iowa held both active RN and LPN licensure. For this reason, the categories are not mutually exclusive on the following charts.*

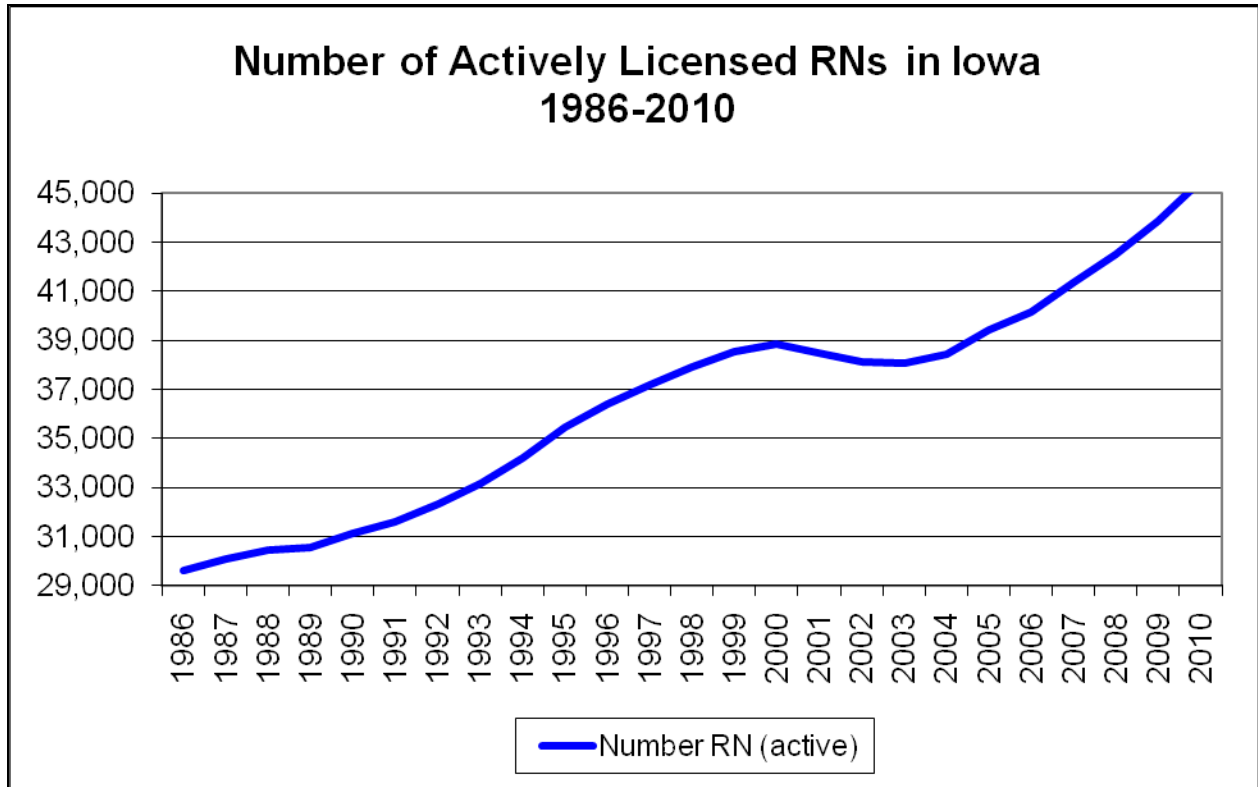
Chart 1



The number of active RNs shows a slight, steady increase since 1986. The number of active LPNs has been relatively steady with only minor fluctuations.

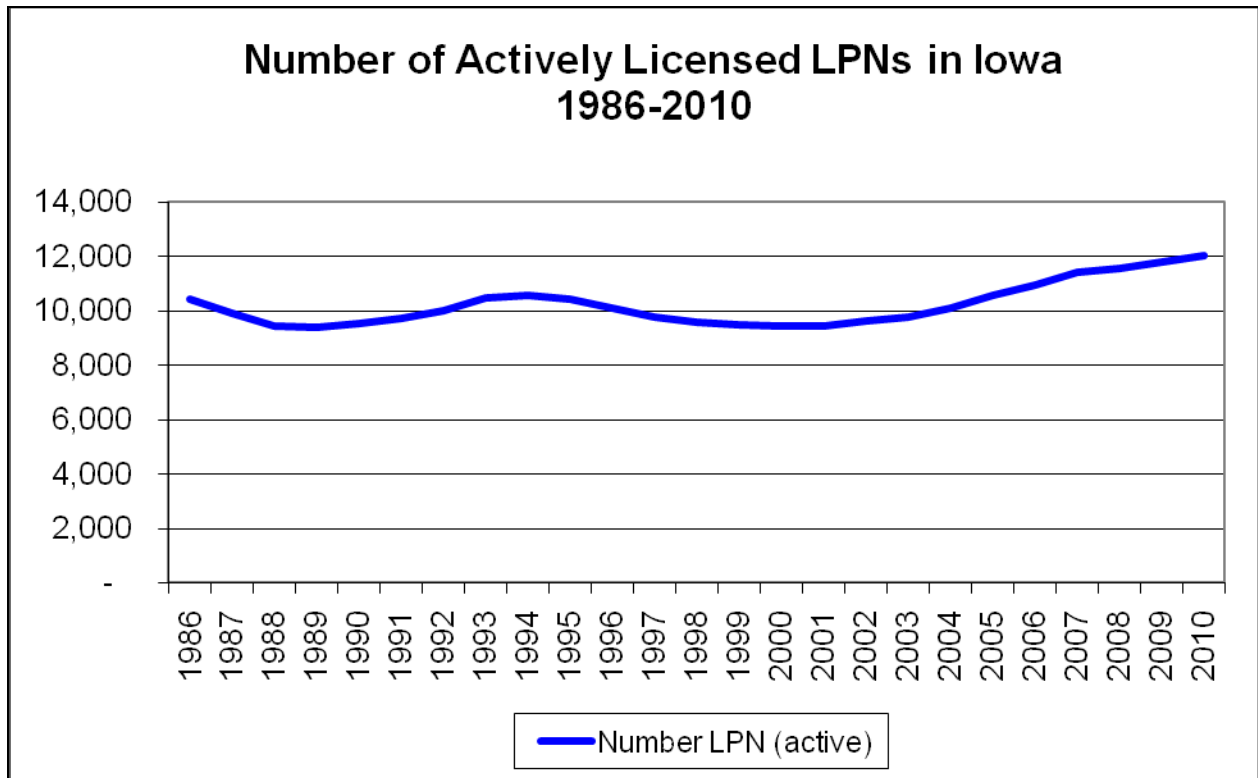
*Note: The Nurse Licensure Compact became effective in Iowa on July 1, 2000. For information about the multi-state licensure compact, visit the Iowa Board of Nursing website at: [nursing.iowa.gov](http://nursing.iowa.gov).*

Chart 2



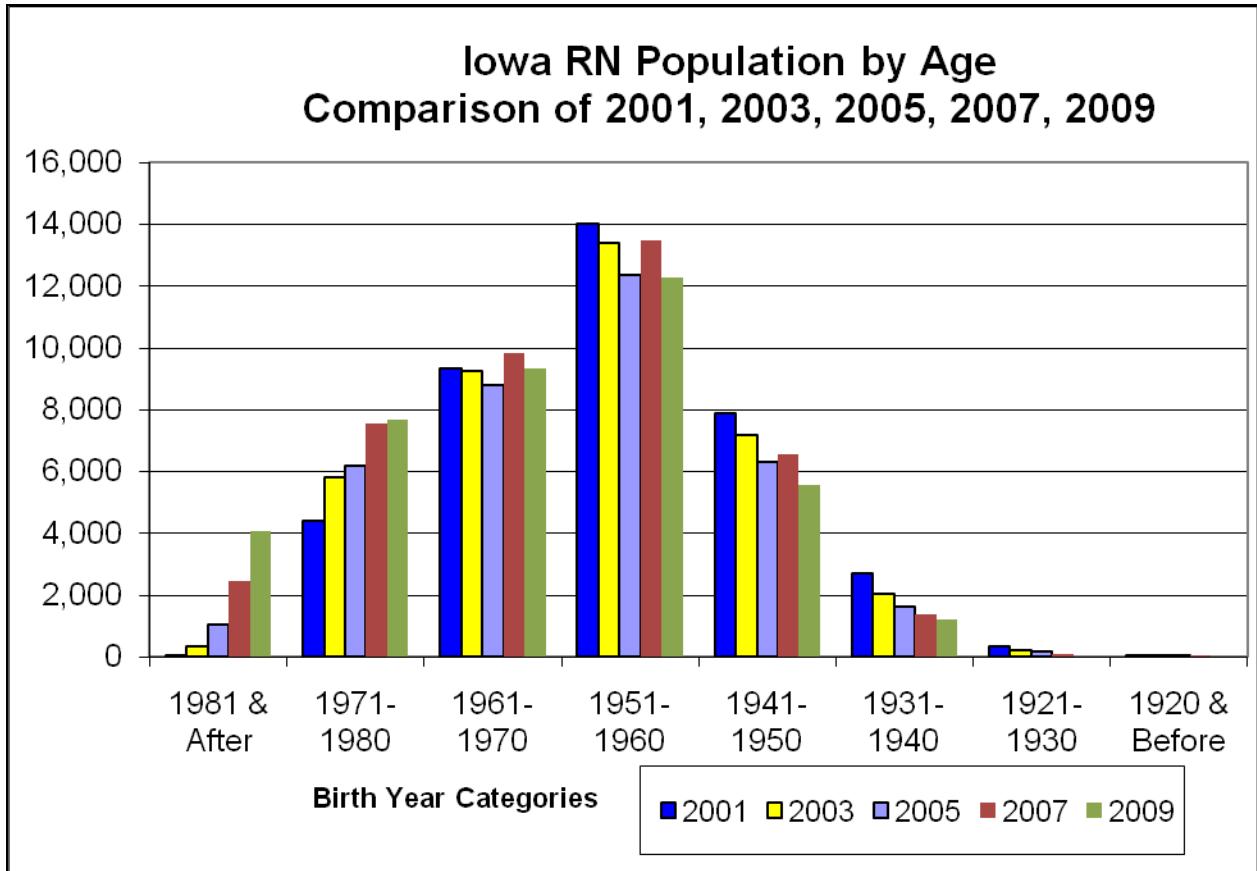
The number of active RNs in Iowa increased from 29,649 in 1986 to 45,493 in 2010. The trend reflects a steady increase until 2000. Between 2000 and 2003, there was a net loss of 748 RNs. The number of RNs increased by 959 between 2004 and 2005 and has increased each year thereafter.

Chart 3



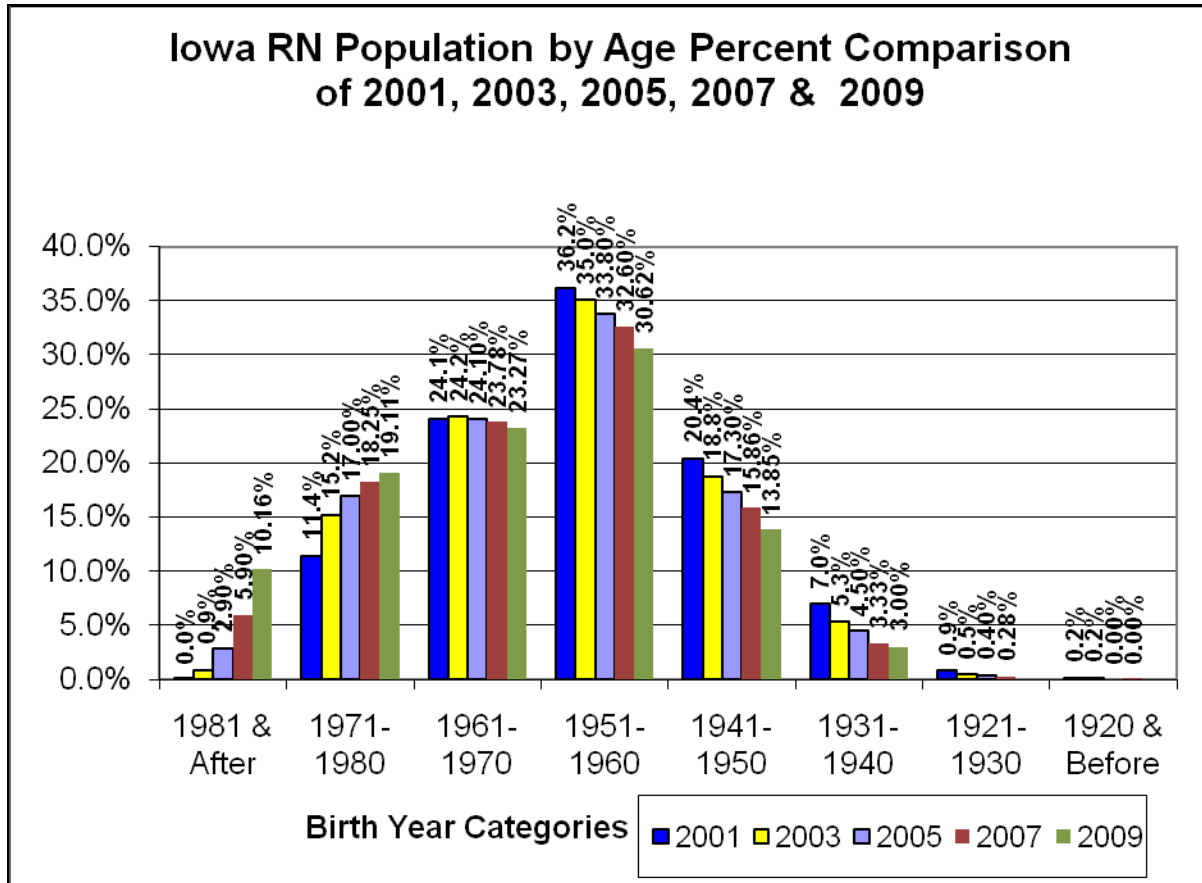
The number of active LPNs in Iowa increased from 10,435 in 1986 to 12,031 in 2010, a net gain of 1,596. The number of LPNs increased by 218 between 2009 and 2010.

Chart 4



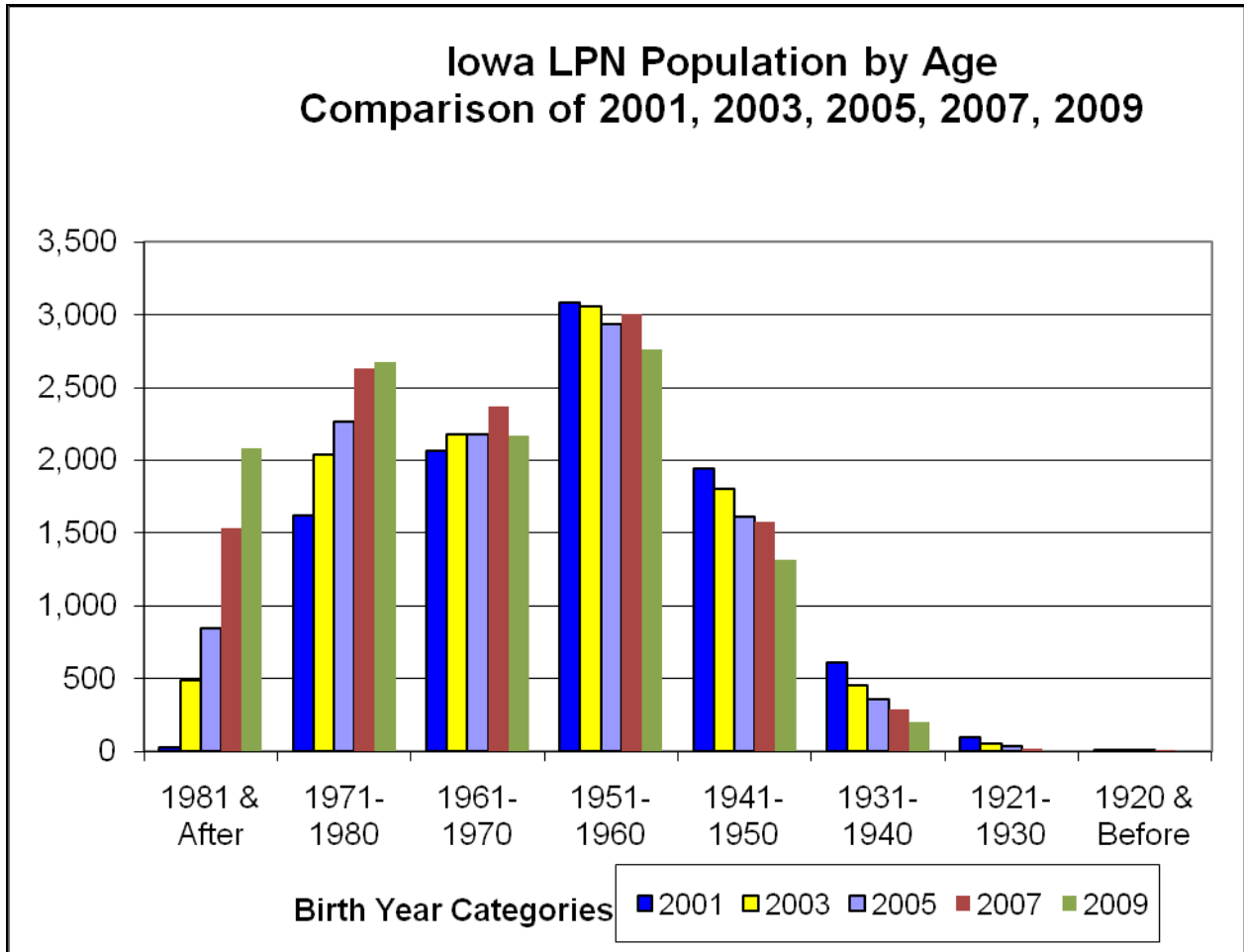
There has been a net increase in the number of actively licensed RNs born after 1970. The total number of RNs in all other age groups experienced a net decline since 2007. In 2009, the largest cohort of RNs is between 49 and 58 years of age.

Chart 5



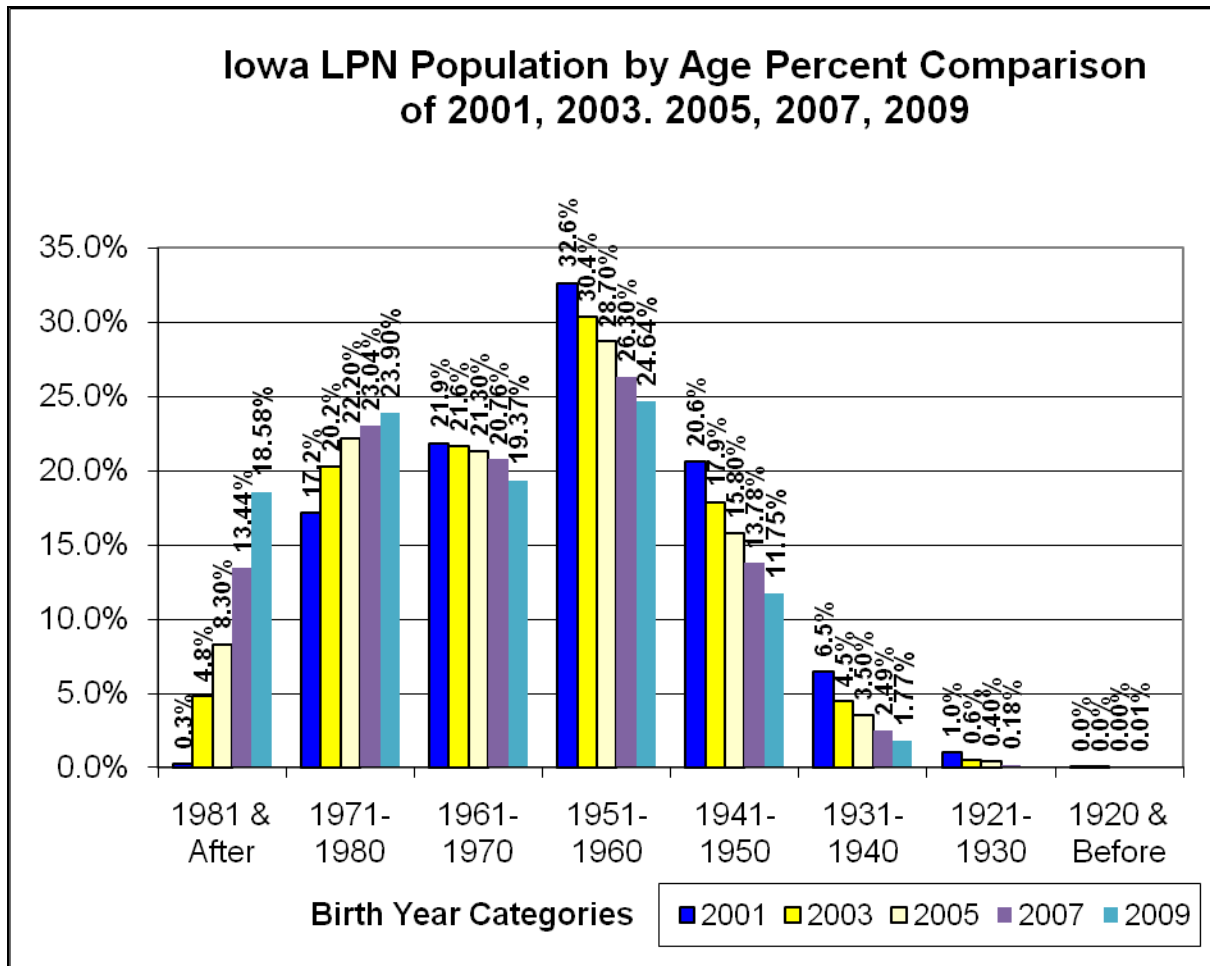
The largest percentage (30.62%) of RNs licensed in Iowa range in age from 49 to 58. Forty-eight percent (48%) are 58 years of age or older. Twenty-nine percent (29%) are younger than 38 years of age.

Chart 6



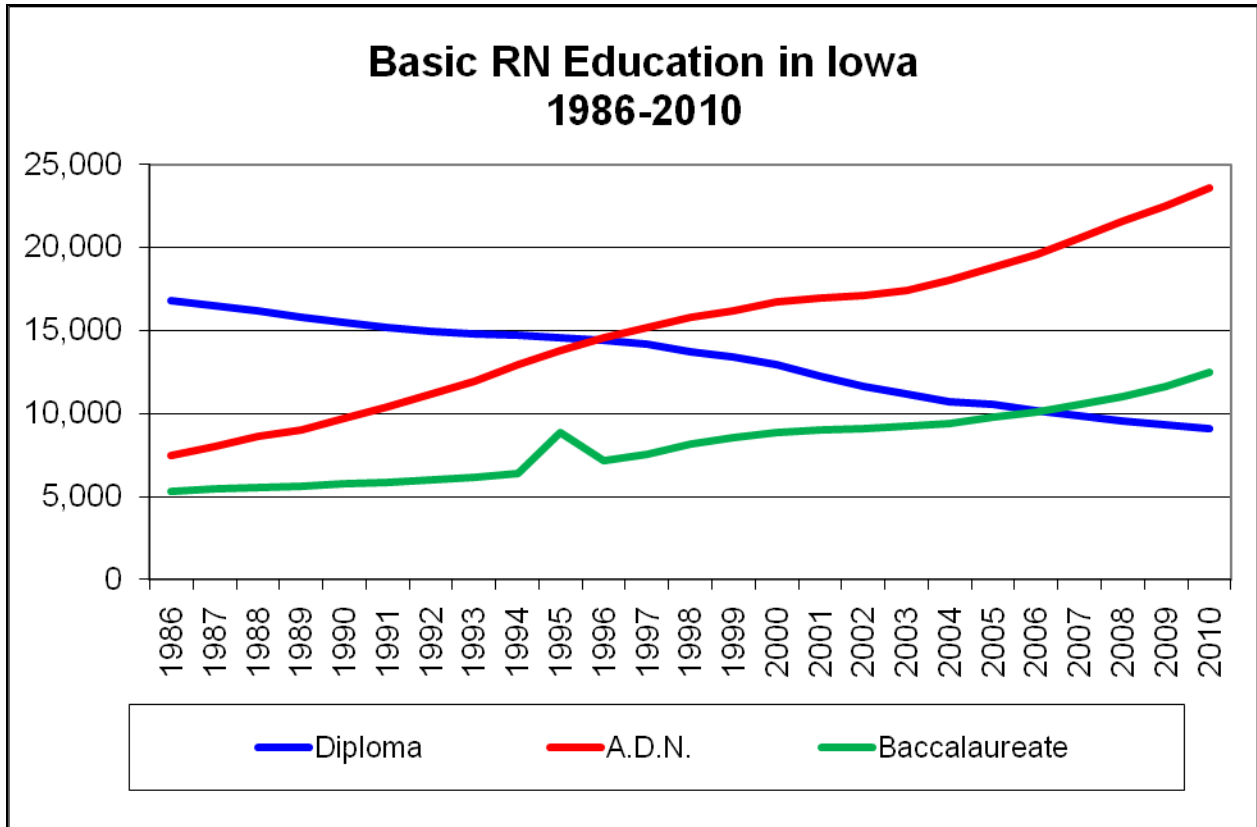
There has been a net increase in the number of actively licensed LPNs born after 1970. The number of LPNs aged 39 to 48 increased between 2005 and 2007. In 2009, the largest cohort of LPNs is between 49 and 58 years of age.

Chart 7



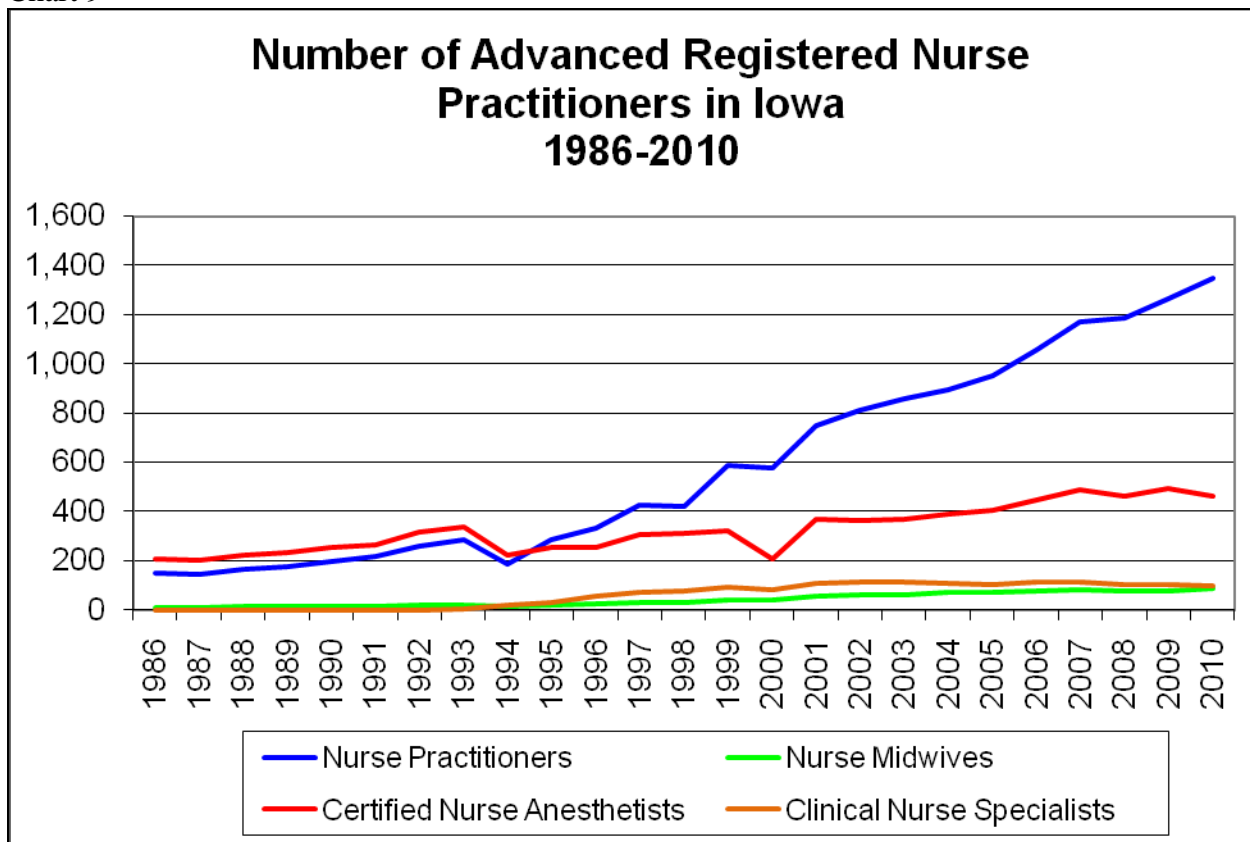
The largest percentage (25%) of LPNs licensed in Iowa range in age from 49 to 58. The majority (62%) are 48 years of age or younger. LPNs born after 1970 (younger than 39) have increased by 25% since 2001.

Chart 8



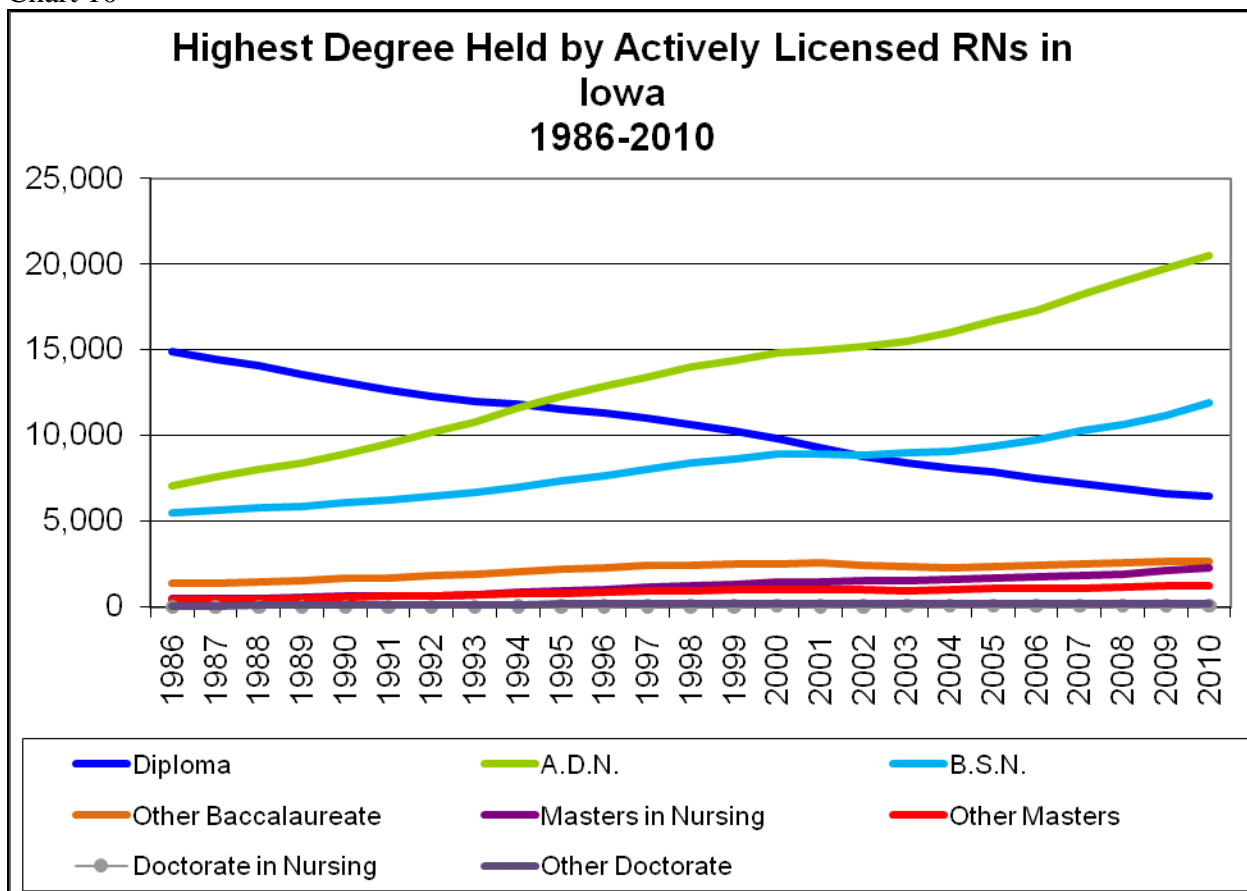
There are no longer Diploma Nursing Programs in Iowa, which is reflected by the decrease in Diploma Basic RN Education.

Chart 9



The number of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) in Iowa increased in all categories between 1986 and 2007. In 2008 the Certified Nurse Anesthetists decreased by 24. In 2009 the Certified Nurse Anesthetists increased by 30 and in 2010 the number decreased by 32. The most significant increase has occurred among nurse practitioners.

Chart 10



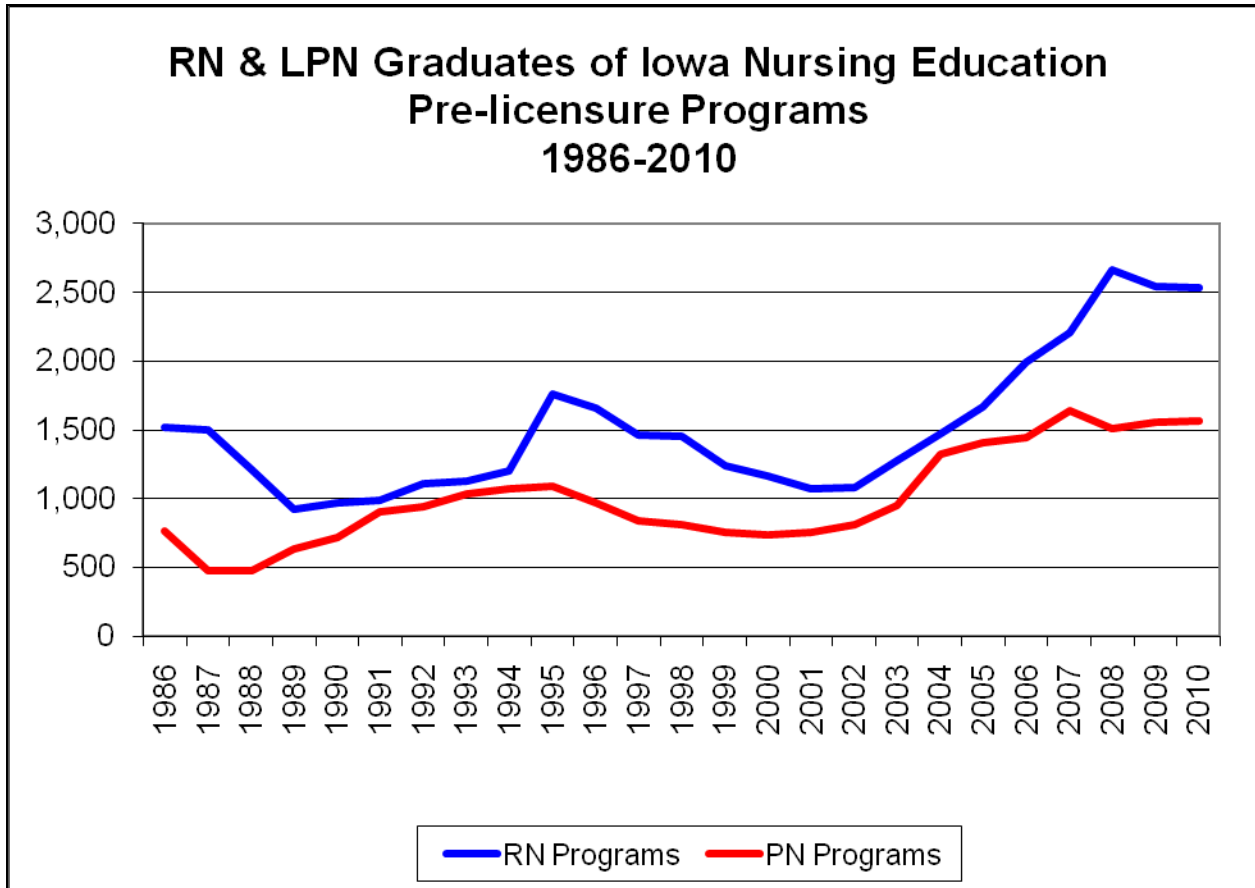
All degree categories identified by RNs as their highest have shown an increase since 1986 with the exception of the Diploma. There are no longer Diploma Nursing Programs in Iowa, which is reflected by the decrease in Diploma Basic RN Education. The greatest increase was found among RNs who reported the Associate Degree in Nursing as their highest degree.

The number of RNs reporting B.S.N. as their highest degree has steadily increased since 2004.

*Note: Faculty members who teach nursing theory must hold a master's degree in nursing or an applicable field, or make progress toward such a degree.*

Highest Degree Held by RNs	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Diploma	8,073	7,892	7,517	7,232	6,924	6,642	6,443
A.D.N.	16,026	16,718	17,301	18,165	18,978	19,751	20,529
B.S.N.	9,107	9,403	9,781	10,283	10,671	11,168	11,932
Other Baccalaureate	2,298	2,366	2,456	2,499	2,596	2,630	2,687
Masters in Nursing	1,601	1,649	1,728	1,802	1,928	2,124	2,251
Other Masters	1,038	1,098	1,104	1,110	1,137	1,199	1,221
Doctorate in Nursing	61	58	57	57	67	79	93
Other Doctorate	163	171	177	191	199	208	220

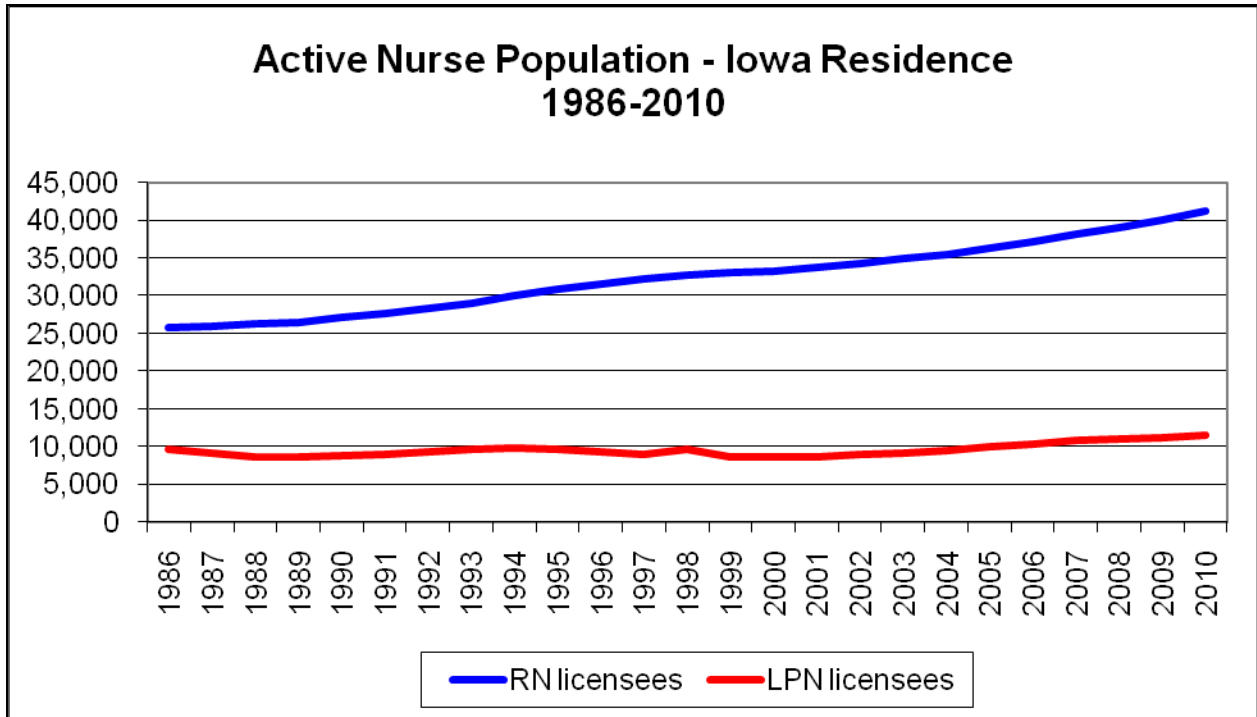
Chart 11



The number of graduates from RN and LPN pre-licensure programs declined in the late 1980s. An increase in graduates began in the early 1990s, peaking for both RNs and LPNs in 1995 and 1996. Following another decline, the number of RN graduates steadily increased from 2001 to 2008. A decline in RN graduates is seen for late 2008 through 2010. Following another decline, the number of LPN graduates steadily increased through 2007 and then declined in 2008 and then remained steady in 2009 and 2010.

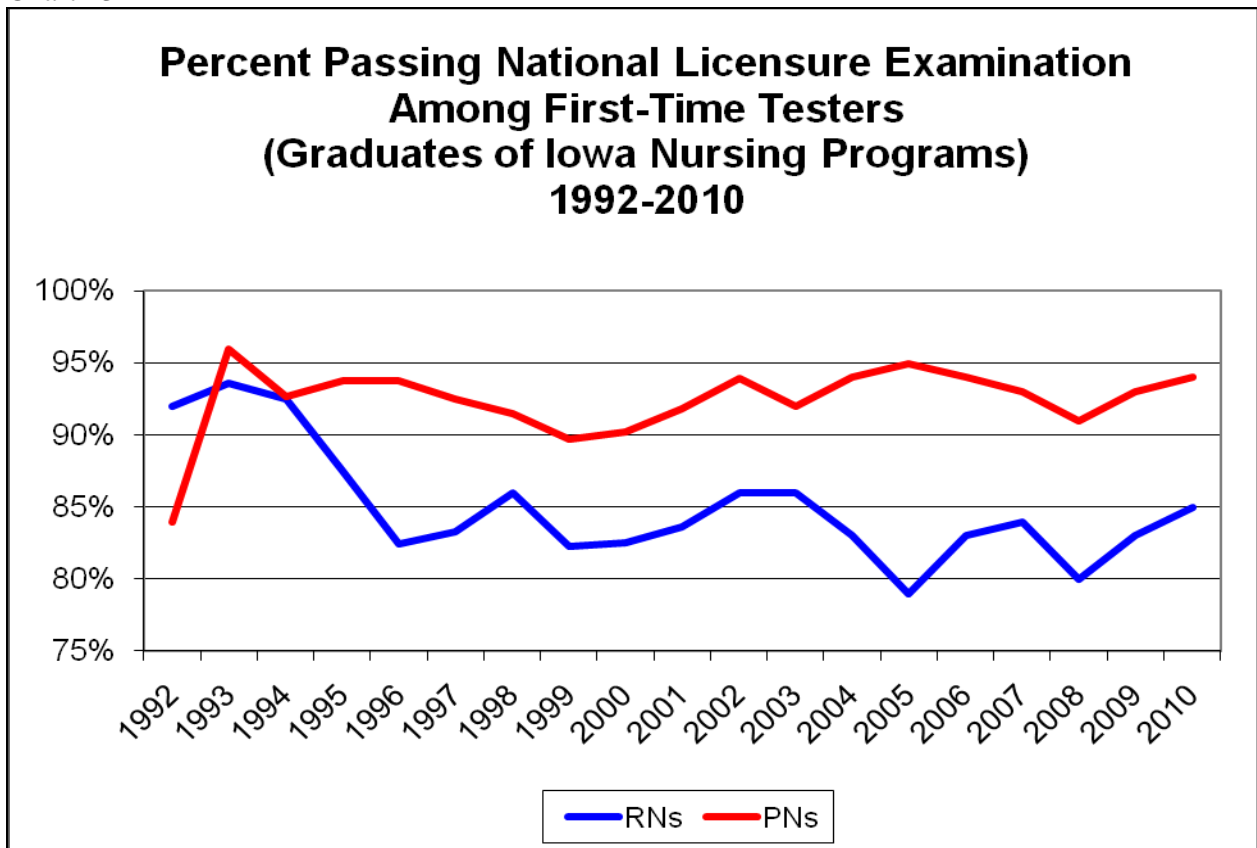
*Note: Most nursing education programs at Iowa community colleges are built on a career ladder concept that prepares graduates to apply for LPN licensure upon completion of the first level (year) and RN licensure upon completion of the second level (year). At least two-thirds of PN graduates from Iowa programs proceed directly to an RN program without becoming licensed as an LPN.*

Chart 12



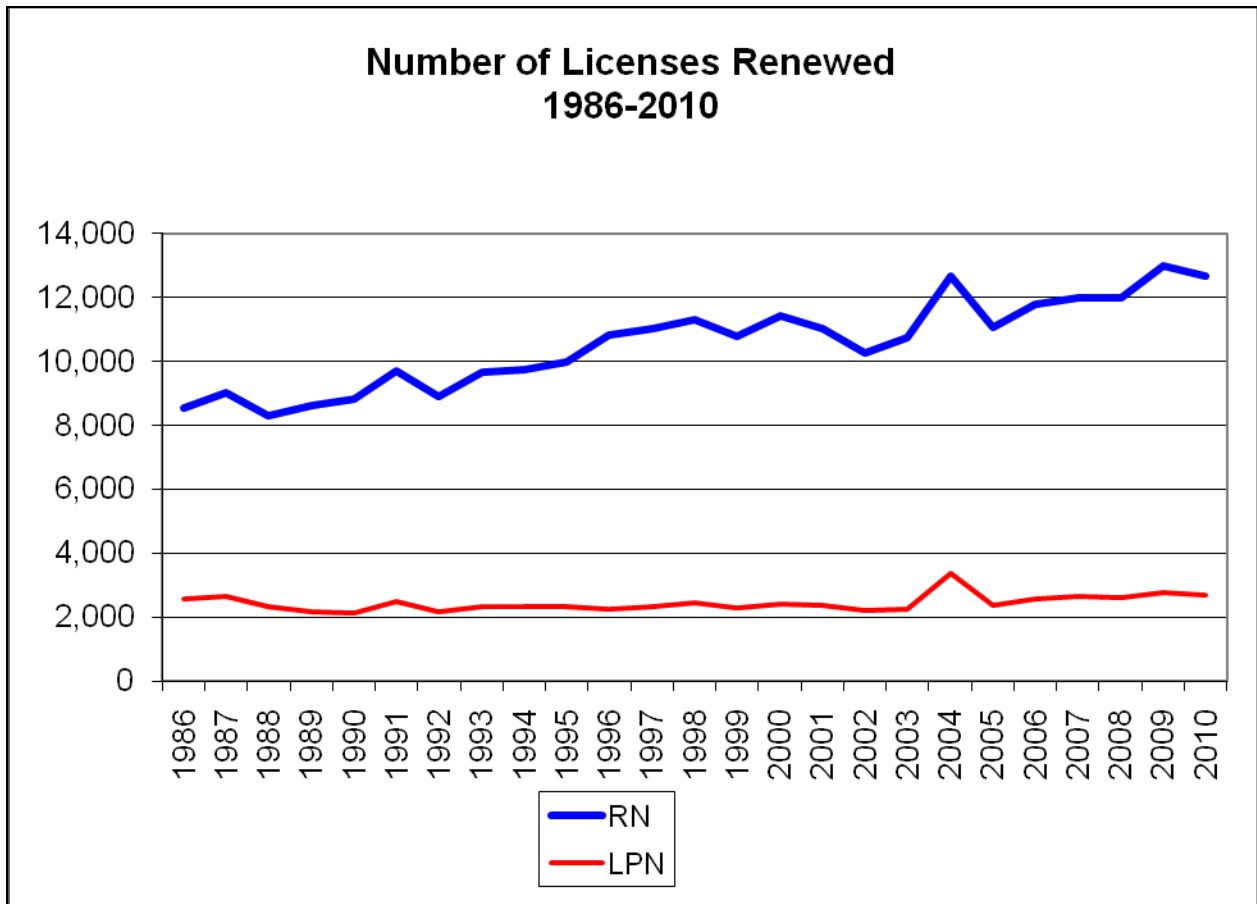
The number of RN residents in Iowa showed a slight, steady increase between 1986 and 2010. In the same time period, the number of LPN residents in Iowa fluctuated. Recent trends indicate an increased number of Iowa LPN residents.

Chart 13



Note: The State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE) was provided from 1946-1982. The National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) has been provided from 1982 to present. After 1988, NCLEX results were reported as Pass/Fail. The examination was converted to computerized adaptive testing (CAT) in April 1994.

Chart 14



*Note: RN and LPN license renewals are conducted on a three-year cycle.*

## SECTION 2: NURSING EDUCATION

### Nursing Education Programs

Number of Nursing Education Programs by Type (1990-2010)

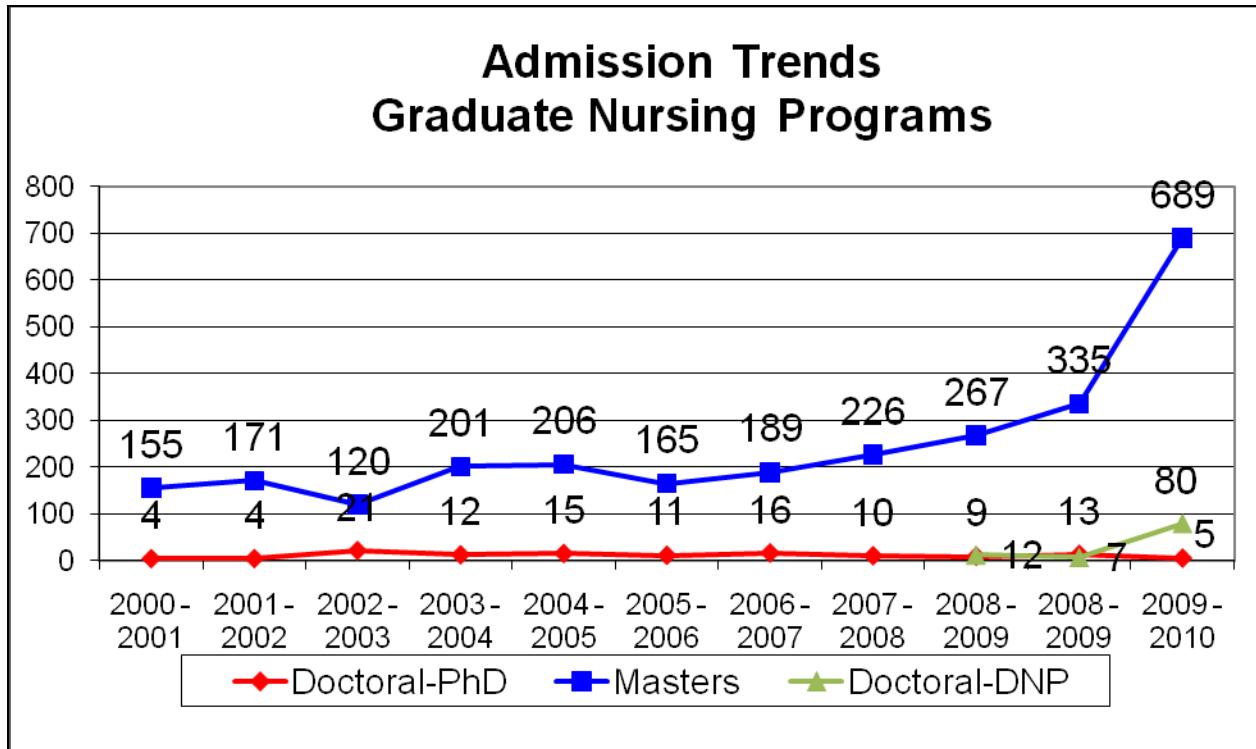
Chart 15

Program	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Doctoral	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
DNP												1	-
Post Masters	0	0	0	2	3	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	5
Masters	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	6	6	7	7	8
Professional Masters/CNL (Prelicensure) Masters Degree								1	1	1	1	1	1
Baccalaureate	14	14	14	15	14	14	13	14	18	18	18	19	19
Associate Degree	22	24	25	26	27	26	26	26	26	26	26	35	27
Practical Nursing	28	29	29	30	29	29	28	29	33	33	33	37	33
Diploma	5	5	5	5	4	0	0	0	0		0	0	0

## Admission Data

Admission data is based on the number of students who have met program admission requirements and are taking nursing courses the first day classes meet.

Chart 16



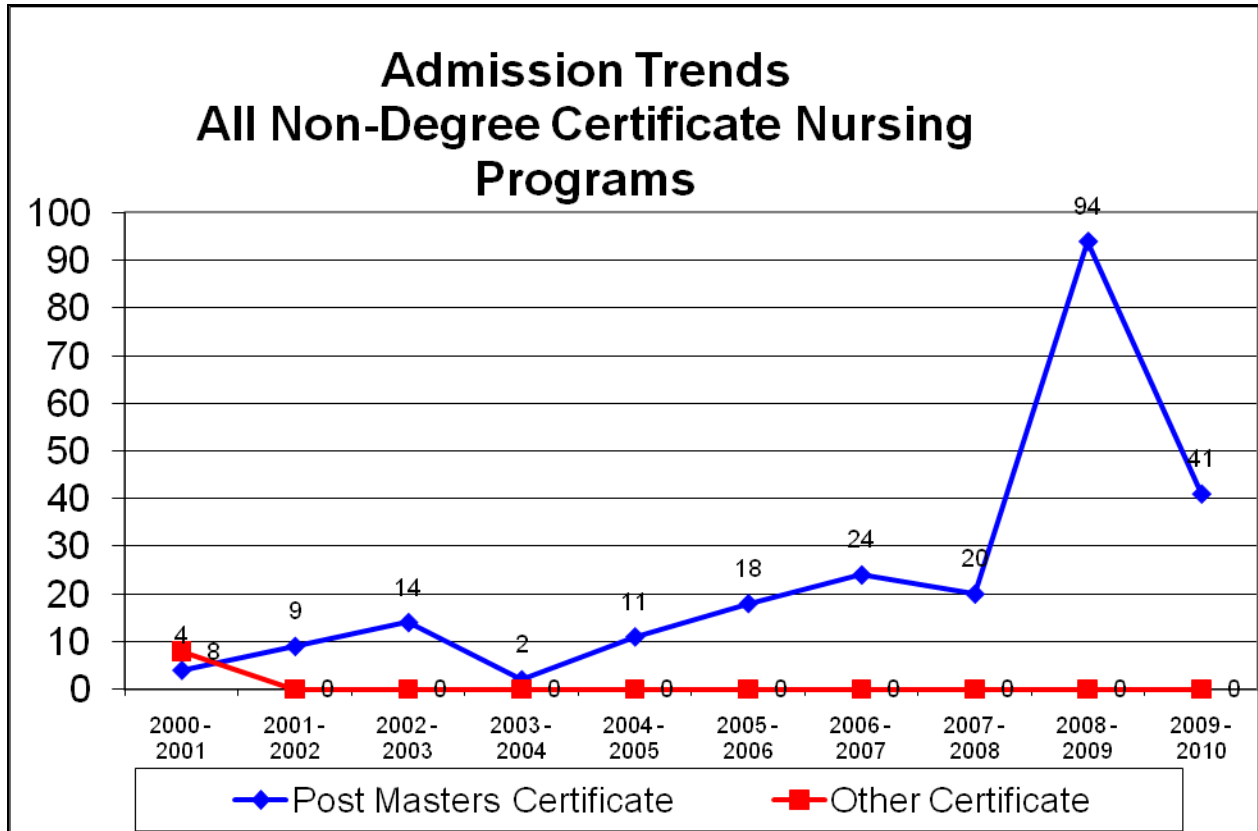
Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **85 students were admitted to Iowa's Doctoral Programs**, an increase of 431% compared to five years ago.

Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **689 students were admitted to Iowa's academic Masters Program**, an increase of 106% compared to last year and an increase of 265% compared to five years ago.

There has been an apparent increase in the number of admissions to Masters Programs. This is due largely to the rise in Online Graduate Programs.

In 2010, graduate programs in nursing reported **141** students on waiting lists.

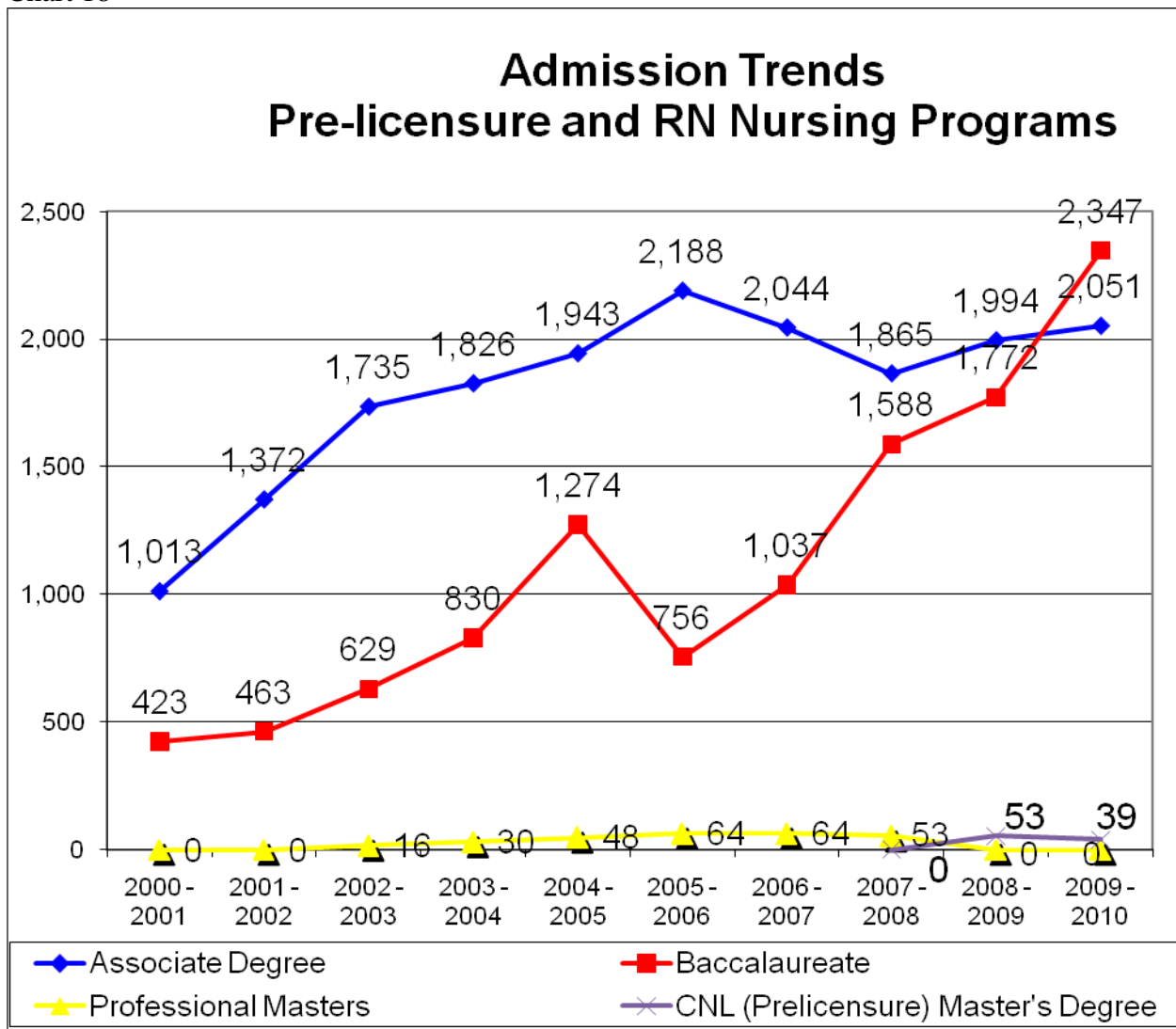
Chart 17



Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **41 students were admitted to Iowa's Post-Masters Certificate programs**, a decrease of **56%** compared to last year and an increase of **128%** compared to five years ago.

In 2010, Post-Masters Certificate programs in nursing reported (11) eleven students on waiting lists.

Chart 18



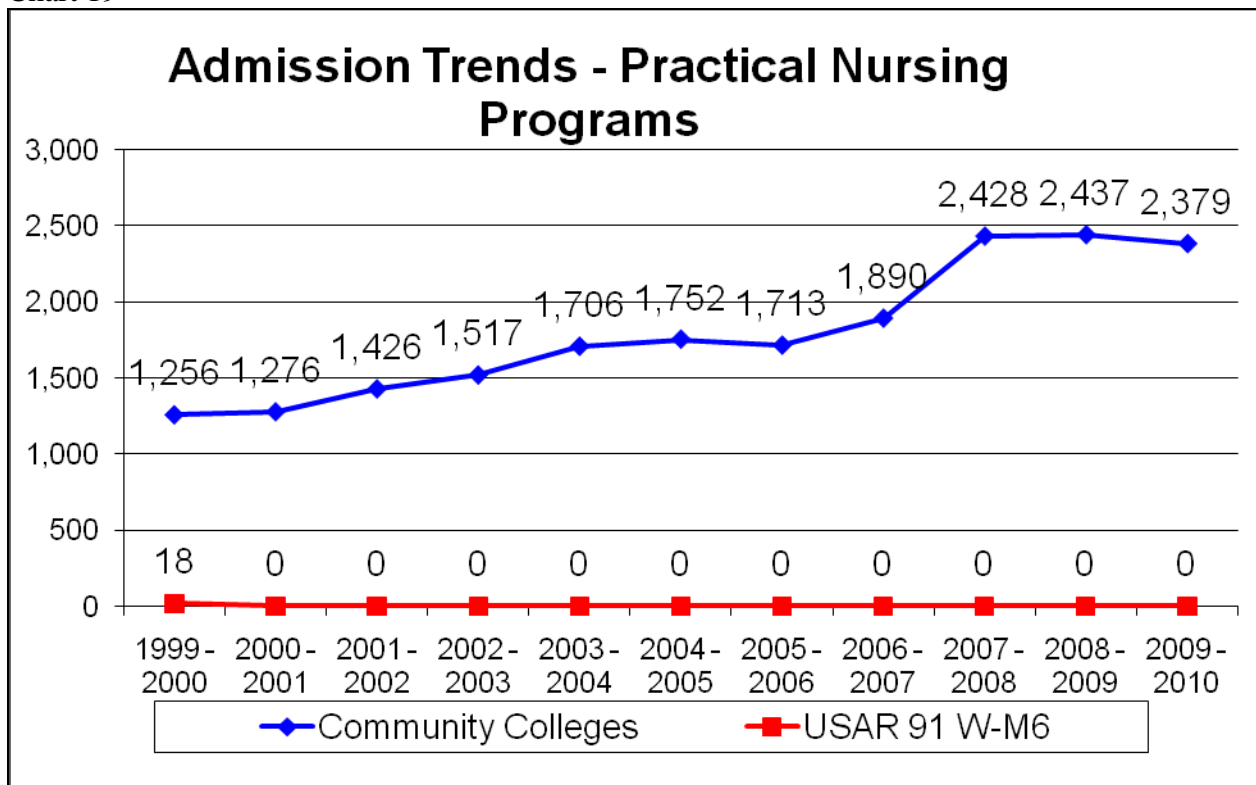
Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **4,437 students were admitted to Iowa's pre-licensure and RN programs**, an increase of 16% compared to last year and an increase of 48% compared to five years ago.

In 2010, the undergraduate RN programs, including Baccalaureate, CNL (Pre-licensure) Master's Degree and Associate Degree, reported **361 students on waiting lists**.

The rise in Baccalaureate Program admissions may be a result of the increase to online RN to BSN Programs.

*Note: In 2010, the Nursing Programs in Iowa reported 50 total faculty vacancies (22 full-time, 8 part-time and 20 adjunct).*

Chart 19



Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **2,379 students were admitted to Iowa's LPN programs**, a decrease of **2%** compared to last year and an increase of 39% compared to five years ago.

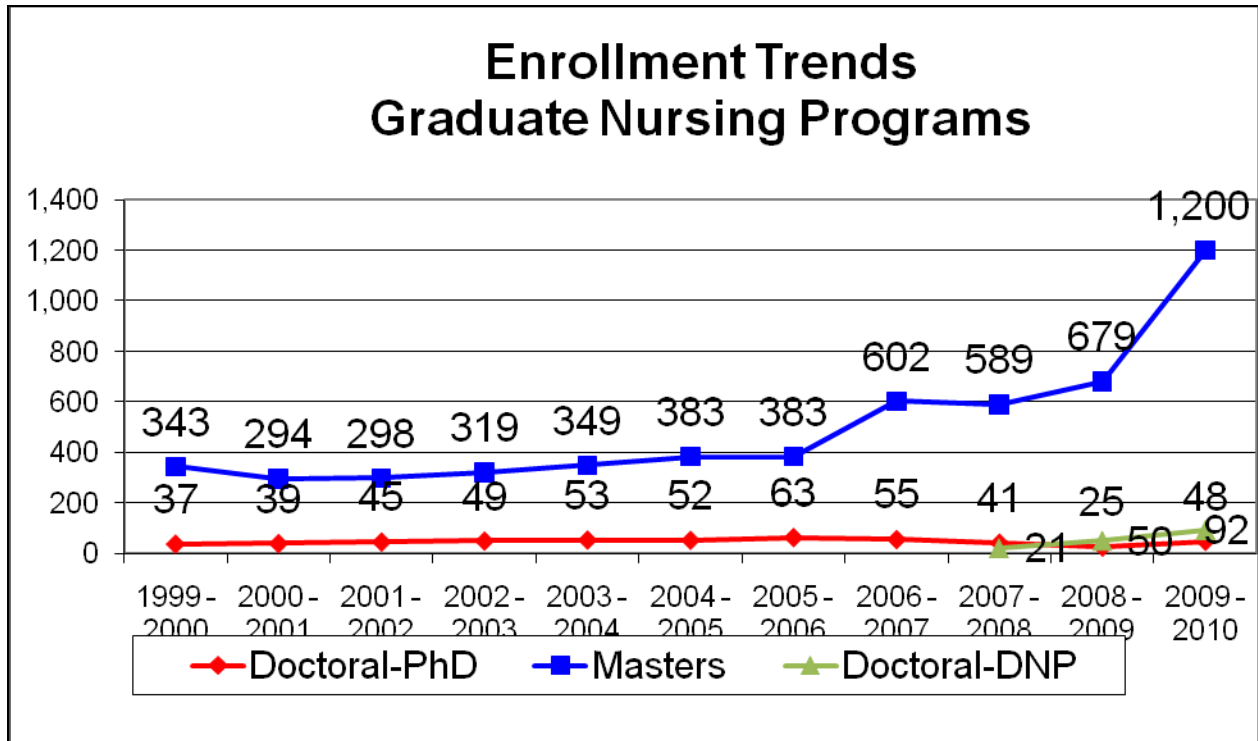
In 2010, the LPN programs reported **583 students on waiting lists**.

*Note: In 2010, approximately 84% of practical nursing graduates proceeded directly to RN programs.*

## Enrollment Data

Enrollment data is based on the number of students who have met admission requirements and are accepted into the nursing program and are taking the nursing courses.

Chart 20

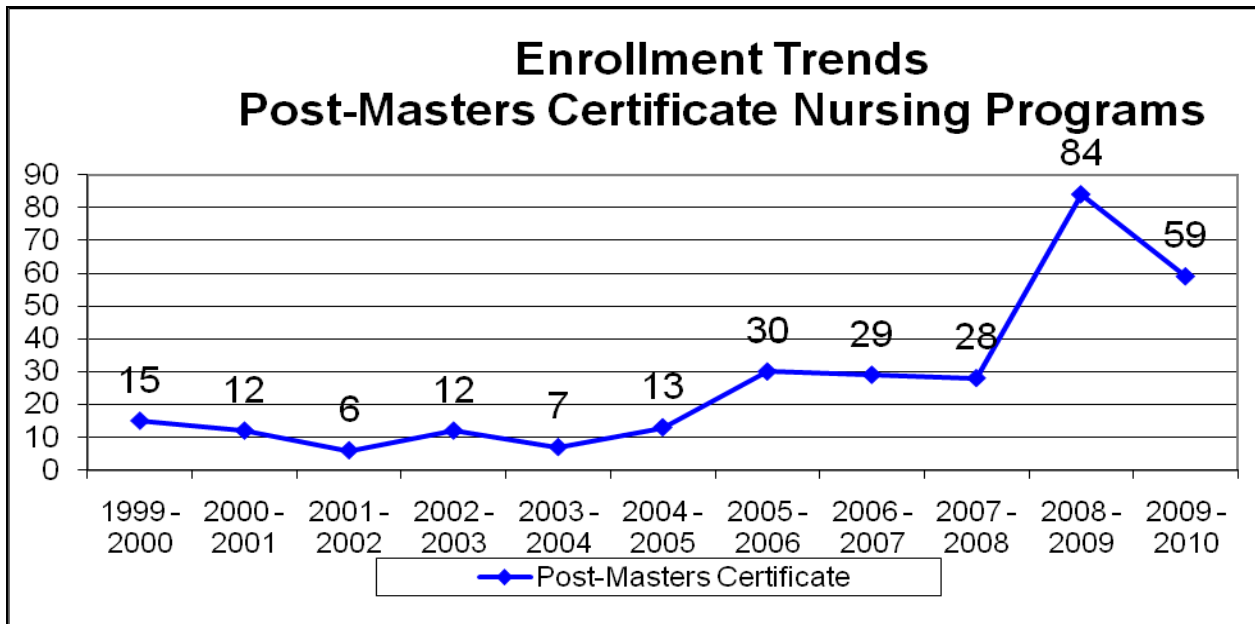


Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **140 students were enrolled in Iowa's Doctoral programs**, an increase of 86% compared to last year and an increase of 122% compared to five years ago.

Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **1200 students were enrolled in Iowa's academic Masters program**, an increase of 77% compared to last year and an increase of 213% compared to five years ago.

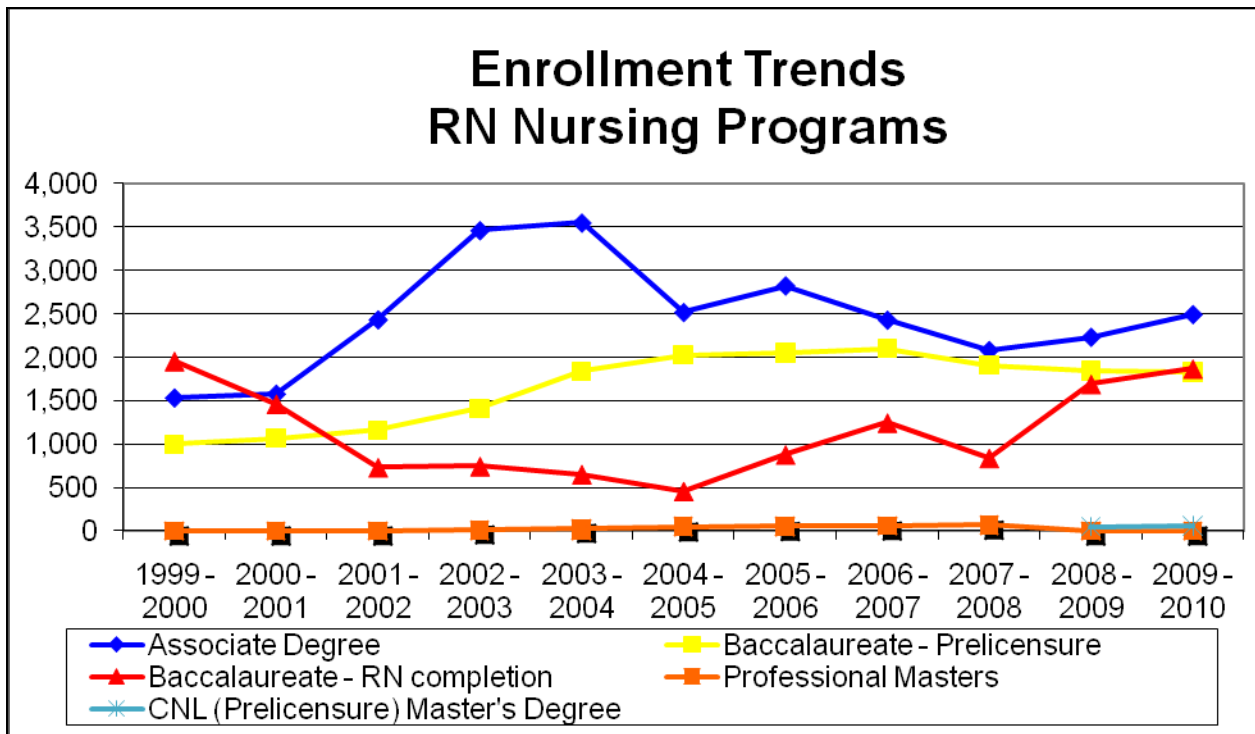
The rise in Baccalaureate Program admissions may be a result of the increase to online RN to BSN Programs.

Chart 21



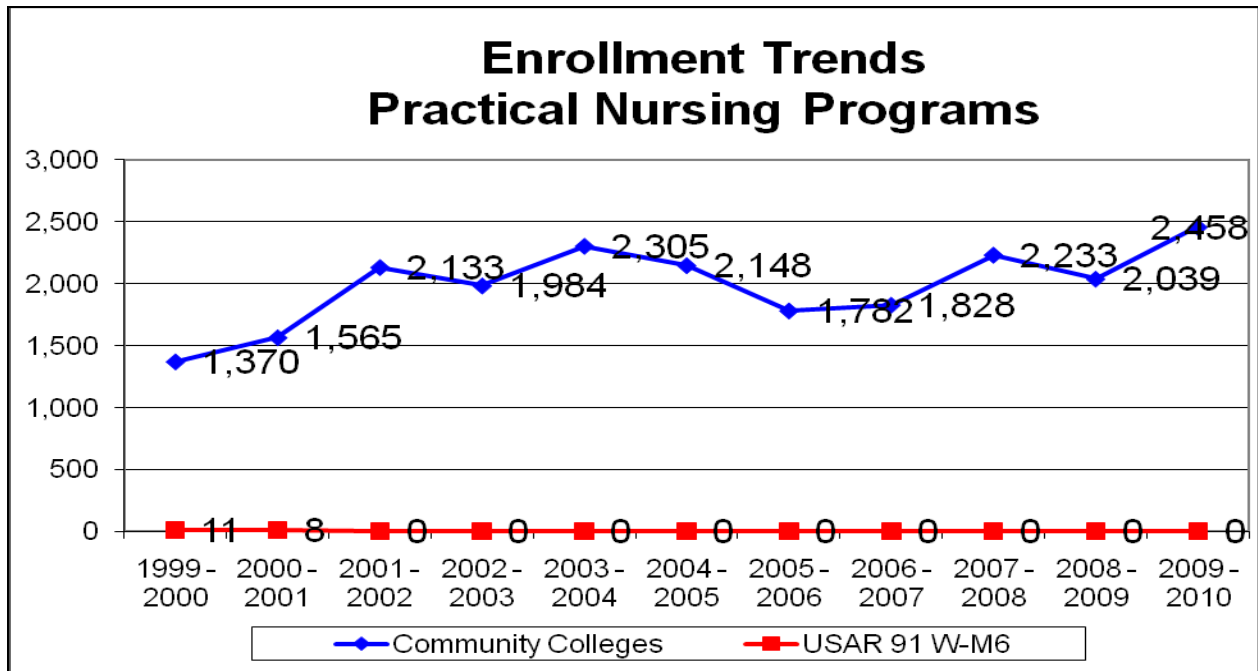
Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **59 students were enrolled in Iowa's Post-Masters Certificate programs**, a decrease of 30% compared to last year an increase of 97% compared to five years ago.

Chart 22



Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **6,250 students were enrolled in Iowa's RN programs**, an increase of 7% compared to last year and an increase of 8% compared to five years ago.

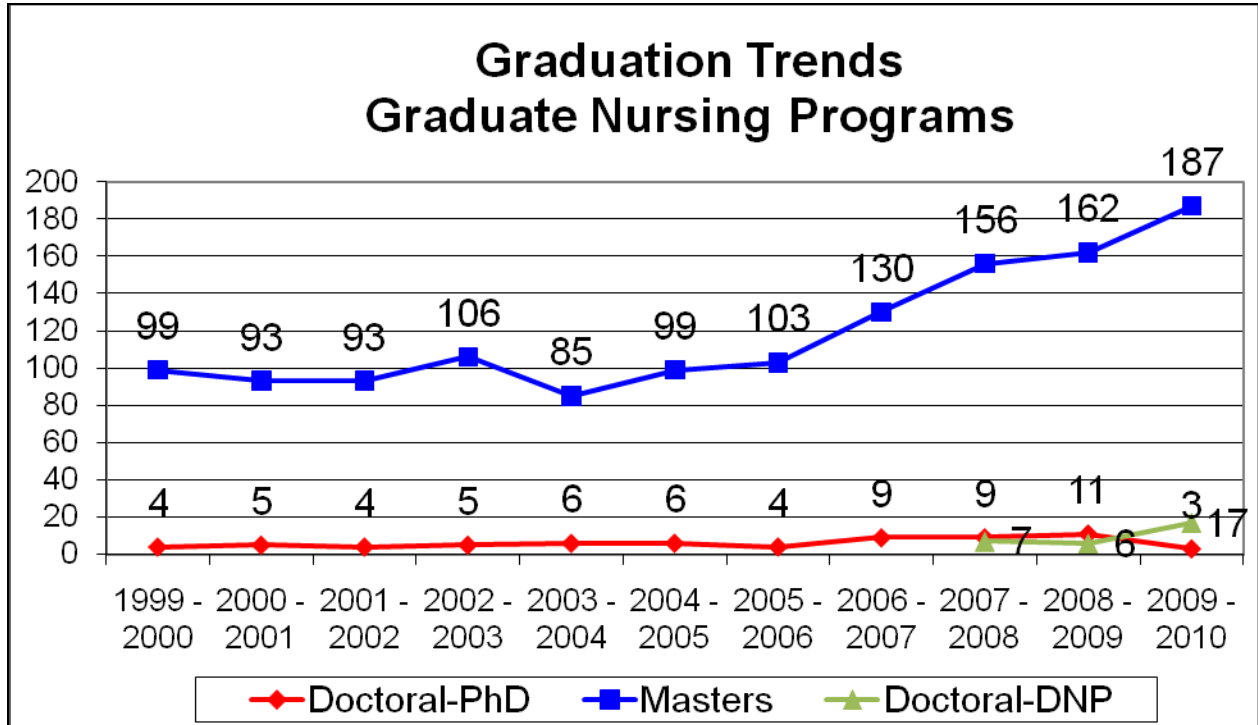
Chart 23



In 2010, **2,458 students were enrolled in Iowa’s LPN programs**, an increase of 21% compared to last year and an increase of 38% compared to five years ago.

## Graduation Data

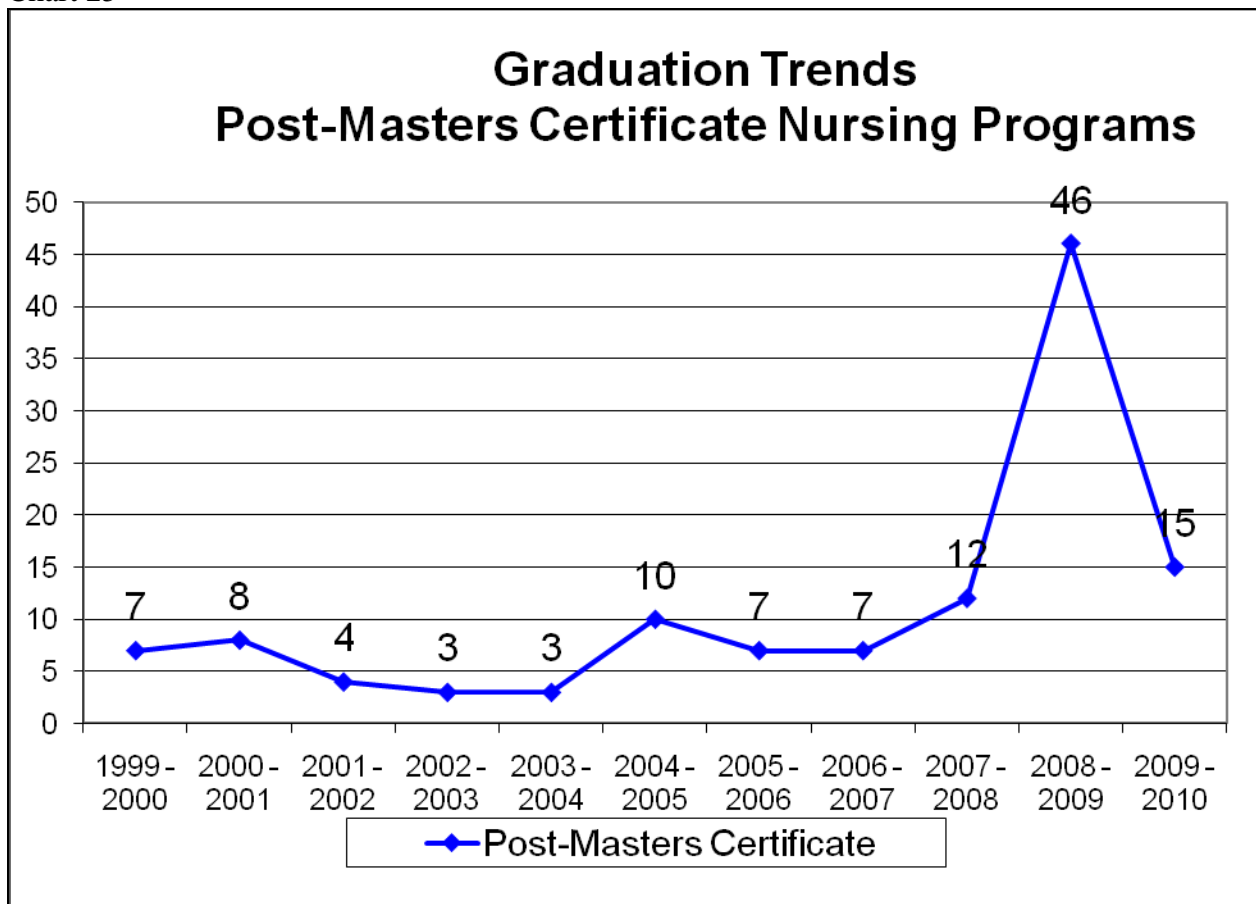
Chart 24



Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **20 students graduated from Iowa’s Doctoral programs**, an increase of 20% compared to last year and an increase of 400% compared to five years ago. A total of 66 students have graduated from the doctoral programs in the past five years.

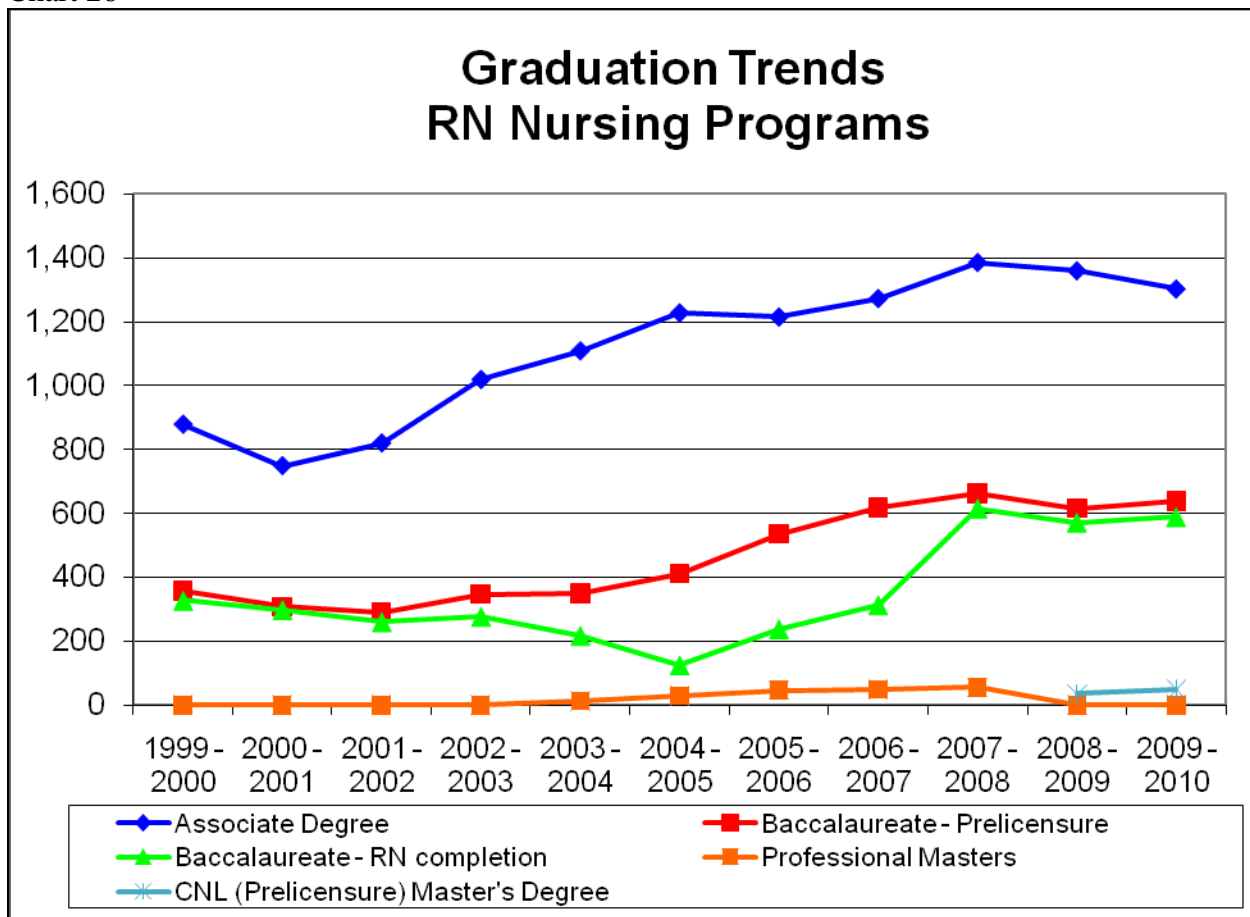
Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **187 students graduated from Iowa’s academic Masters program**, an increase of 15% compared to last year and an increase of 82% compared to five years ago.

Chart 25



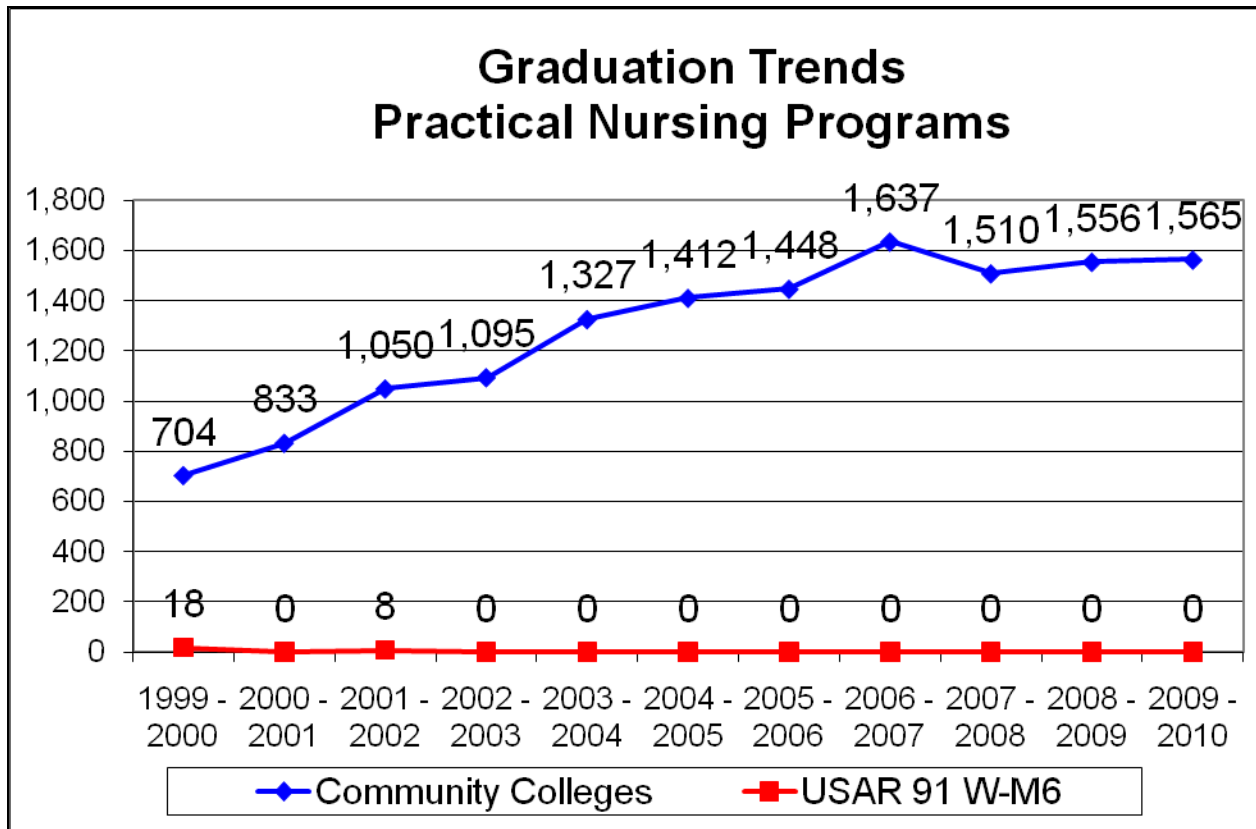
Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: 15 students graduated from Iowa's Post-Masters Certificate program, a decrease of 67% compared to last year and an increase of 114% compared to five years ago.

Chart 26



Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **2,580 students graduated from Iowa's RN programs**, a decrease of **.04%** compared to last year and an increase of 27% compared to five years ago.

Chart 27



Between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010: **1,565 students graduated from Iowa’s LPN programs**, an increase of 1% compared to last year and an increase of 8% compared to five years ago.

All of the data in this report is collected from the Iowa Board of Nursing Annual Report June 2010 and the Annual Program Reports as submitted by the Heads of Nursing Education Programs. The Iowa Board of Nursing Annual Report is posted on the board’s web site at: [nursing.iowa.gov](http://nursing.iowa.gov). Nursing education programs are counted separately by site and type. In some instances, more than one site may share administration, a common philosophy, curriculum and faculty.

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