

CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

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Crisis in Care: Navigating the U.S. Nursing Shortage

The U.S. nursing shortage is a growing crisis impacting healthcare costs, quality of care, and hospital stability nationwide. With an estimated 193,100 annual RN job openings projected through 2032, the workforce is struggling to keep up, adding only about 177,400 nurses over the decade—well short of demand. The nursing unemployment rate, at just 1.6%, underscores the urgent need for more nurses, yet workforce attrition continues, with over 100,000 RNs leaving their jobs in 2020-2021 alone, the largest exodus in decades. This shortage is fueled by factors like an aging population, burnout from the pandemic, and educational barriers—each year, tens of thousands of qualified nursing applicants are turned away due to a lack of educators and resources. Rural hospital closures also continue, which could devastate healthcare access in underserved areas.

100,000+ RNs left the workforce between 2020-2021

42 states projected to face critical nursing shortages by 2030.

More than half of nurses leave their job within the first two years



Average number of years a nurse stays in a job

Source: Zippia, June 2023



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce advocates for legislative changes to increase nursing program capacity and expand immigration pathways, aiming to stabilize the healthcare workforce and bridge these growing gaps. This data highlights an urgent call to action. HoverTech products reduce the number of caregivers needed for many common tasks (e.g., turning, repositioning, etc.).

HoverTech solutions provide more efficient staffing to mitigate the oncoming crisis:

- The HoverMatt® PROS™ Line: air and non-air breathable, wipeable mats and slings that are used to safely reposition (including boosting and turning), transfer, and prone patients to reduce patient and caregiver injuries. These facilitate staff efficiency by decreasing the number of caregivers required to complete many tasks.
- The HoverJack Air Patient Lift allows caregivers to safely lift individuals who have fallen with fewer caregivers. It consists of four chambers that are inflated to comfortably lift individuals from the floor to a bed or stretcher height.
- The Q2Roller® is designed to be used by a single caregiver to safely and effortlessly turn a patient, while reducing friction and shearing that can occur with manual lifting techniques to reduce the likelihood of pressure injuries.