

**Occupational Profile**  
**Registered Nurses**  
**OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 32502**

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
2,140	2,780	2,860	3,770
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
640	29.9	910	31.8
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
Yes	1:0.7	Yes	1:0.7
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
\$19.59	\$20.24	\$23.88	\$22.90

**Job Description:**

Registered nurses (RNs) work to promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illness. They are advocates and health educators for patients, families, and communities. When providing direct patient care, they observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions, and progress; assist physicians during treatments and examinations; administer medications; and assist in convalescence and rehabilitation. RNs also develop and manage nursing care plans; instruct patients and their families in proper care; and help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health. While State laws govern the tasks RNs may perform, it is usually the work setting, which determines their day-to-day job duties.

**Average Education Required**

Most of these occupations require an associate degree but some require a four-year bachelor's degree.

**Related Occupations**

Workers in other health care occupations with responsibilities and duties related to those of registered nurses are [occupational therapists](#), [emergency medical technicians](#), [physical therapists](#), [physician assistants](#), and [respiratory therapists](#).

**Skills Required**

- Service Orientation -- Actively looking for ways to help people
- Speaking -- Talking to others to effectively convey information
- Judgment and Decision Making -- Weighing the relative costs and benefits of a potential action
- Reading Comprehension -- Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
- Social Perceptiveness -- Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react the way they do

Industrial Employment Patterns		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
8060	Hospitals	55.4%
8080	Home Health Care Services	12.6%
8010	Offices & Clinics Of Medical Doctors	7.9%
8050	Nursing & Personal Care Facilities	3.9%
8210	Elementary & Secondary Schools	3.8%
8220	Colleges & Universities	3.4%
7360	Personnel Supply Services	2.7%
9100	Federal Government	2.6%