

State Survey Regarding BSN Requirement

In December 2008 a survey was done via the ASTDN listserv regarding if states required a BSN to practice as a public health nurse. Some people replied briefly to the question indicating simply “yes” or “no” while others supplied more information. The e-mail messages indicated that few states actually require a BSN most states prefer a baccalaureate degree for state positions but usually experience or degree in another field can substitute for BSN. Some states actually require a BSN for “public health nurse” positions but not all nurses working in public health have this title. The results of the survey follow.

Alabama –No

Alaska –Not for PHN I or II positions but working on requiring for PHN III positions

Arizona -No

Arkansas -No

California – Must have PHN certificate-which can be obtained with Bachelors degree in another field with PHN coursework. However nurses may work in “public heath clinic settings” without BSN.

Colorado -No

Connecticut -No

Delaware-Yes

District of Columbia

Florida –No

Georgia -No

Hawaii

Idaho-No

Illinois-No

Indiana-No

Iowa-No

Kansas -No

Kentucky

Louisiana -No

Maine -No

Maryland –State positions require BSN but can substitute Bachelors in another field or experience

Massachusetts -No

Michigan -No

Minnesota Yes-Also must be registered with Board of Nursing as a public health nurse

Mississippi -No

Missouri -No

Montana-No

Nebraska-No

Nevada -No

New Hampshire-No

New Jersey -No

New Mexico -No

New York-BSN required for PHN title, however all nurses do not have title of PHN. Requirement is in Public Health Law

North Carolina –Yes –required in state code but if do not have a BSN must take course provided by state within one year of employment

North Dakota -No

Ohio-No

Oklahoma -No

Oregon -No

Pennsylvania -No

Rhode Island -No

South Carolina –Yes-state requirement

South Dakota -No

Tennessee-No

Texas-No

Utah -No

Vermont- –Need bachelor degree but may be in a related field

Virginia -No

Washington -No

West Virginia

Wisconsin –Yes

Wyoming-No