

United States Senate

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Schumer Study: Upstate New York Hospitals Facing Dangerous Shortage of More than 6,100 Nurses

US Senator Charles E. Schumer today revealed that Upstate New York hospitals are facing a massive nursing shortage that could compromise health care and medical treatment in the event of an emergency or a bird flu outbreak. Schumer released a new report showing that there are 70,500 nurses currently working in upstate New York hospitals, 6,100 less than are needed to meet demand, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. In every region in upstate New York, there are more people with nursing licenses than are currently working as nurses, meaning there are thousands of upstate New Yorkers who, with the right training and incentives, could become nursing teachers who would train the next generation of nurses.

While **10,426** nurses need to be employed in the **Capital Region** to meet health care demands, there are only **9,596** full-time equivalents currently working, **830** less than is needed. There are **12,997** licensed registered nurses living in the Capital Region, **3,381** more than are currently working in the field.

County	Nurses Currently Employed	Nurses Needed	Nursing Shortage	Licensed RN's Living or Working in the County
Albany	4,382	4,761	379	4,051
Fulton	473	514	41	591
Montgomery	597	648	51	634
Rensselaer	1,251	1,359	108	2,183
Saratoga	1,128	1,226	98	3,035
Schenectady	1,270	1,380	110	2,183
Schoharie	207	225	18	300
Washington	288	313	25	603
Total	9,596	10,426	830	12,977

While **9,883** nurses need to be employed in **Central New York** to meet health care demands, there are only **9,096** full-time equivalents currently working, **787** less than is needed. There are **12,266** licensed registered nurses living in Central New York, **3,170** more than are currently working in the field.

County	Nurses Currently Employed	Nurses Needed	Nursing Shortage	Licensed RN's Living or Working in the County
Cortland	361	392	31	454
Madison	418	455	37	878
Oneida	2,308	2,508	200	3,253
Onondaga	4,766	5,178	412	6,567
Oswego	1,243	1,350	107	1,114
Total	9,096	9,883	787	12,266

While **19,839** nurses need to be employed in **the Hudson Valley** to meet health care demands, there are only **18,260** full-time equivalents currently working, **1,579** less than is needed. There are **31,569** licensed registered nurses living in the Hudson Valley, **13,309** more than are currently working in the field.

County	Nurses Currently Employed	Nurses Needed	Nursing Shortage	Licensed RN's Living or Working in the County
Columbia	518	563	45	896
Dutchess	2,700	2,933	233	4,192
Greene	185	201	16	742
Orange	2,597	2,822	225	4,784
Putnam	460	499	39	1,494
Rockland	2,099	2,281	182	5,334
Sullivan	526	571	45	891
Ulster	1,833	1,992	159	1,952
Westchester	7,342	7,977	635	1,1284
Total	18,260	19,839	1,579	3,1569

While **4,919** nurses need to be employed in **North Country** to meet health care demands, there are only **4,527** full-time equivalents currently working, **392** less than is needed. There are **6,387** licensed registered nurses living in the North Country, **1,860** more than are currently working in the field.

County	Nurses Currently Employed	Nurses Needed	Nursing Shortage	Licensed RN's Living or Working in the County
Clinton	717	779	62	1,071
Essex	254	276	22	410
Franklin	486	528	42	618
Hamilton	28	31	3	76
Herkimer	411	446	35	692
Jefferson	762	828	66	1,049
Lewis	152	166	14	262
St. Lawrence	880	956	76	1,269
Warren	837	909	72	940
Total	4,527	4,919	392	6,387

While **12,536** nurses need to be employed in **Rochester – Finger Lakes Region** to meet health care demands, there are only **11,540** full-time equivalents currently working, **996** less than is needed. There are **14,437** licensed registered nurses living in the Rochester – Finger Lakes Region, **2,897** more than are currently working in the field.

County	Nurses Currently Employed	Nurses Needed	Nursing Shortage	Licensed RN's Living or Working in the County
Cayuga	410	445	35	992
Livingston	407	442	35	812
Monroe	8,428	9,157	729	8,594
Ontario	965	1,048	83	1,507
Schuyler	101	110	9	194
Seneca	158	171	13	357
Tompkins	588	638	50	691
Wayne	336	365	29	974
Yates	147	160	13	316
Total	11,540	12,536	996	14,437

While **6,271** nurses need to be employed in **the Southern Tier** to meet health care demands, there are only **5,773** full-time equivalents currently working, **498** less than is needed. There are **7,820** licensed registered nurses living in the Southern Tier, **2,047** more than are currently working in the field.

County	Nurses Currently Employed	Nurses Needed	Nursing Shortage	Licensed RN's Living or Working in the County
Allegany	285	310	25	512
Broome	2,262	2,457	195	2,496
Chemung	1,130	1,227	97	1,255
Chenango	449	488	39	430
Delaware	485	527	42	470
Otsego	153	167	14	845
Steuben	860	934	74	1,144
Tioga	149	161	12	668
Total	5,773	6,271	498	7,820

While **12,807** nurses need to be employed in **Western New York** to meet health care demands, there are only **11,788** full-time equivalents currently working, **1,019** less than is needed. There are **18,914** licensed registered nurses living in Western New York, **7,126** more than are currently working in the field.

County	Nurses Currently Employed	Nurses Needed	Nursing Shortage	Licensed RN's Living or Working in the County
Cattaraugus	605	657	52	768
Chautauqua	1,039	1,129	90	1,254
Erie	8,142	8,846	704	12,599
Genesee	446	484	38	789
Niagara	1,120	1,217	97	2,646
Orleans	158	172	14	354
Wyoming	278	302	24	504
Total	11,788	12,807	1,019	18,914

***Schumer used data from Health Resources and Services Administration Report, "Projected Supply, Demand, and Shortages of Registered Nurses: 2000-2020" to determine the number of nurses needed to meet health care demands. To compile the number of full-time equivalent numbers currently working in each county, Schumer used data from the Center for Health Workforce Studies, University at Albany. The number of licensed nurses living and working in each county was compiled by the Office of Professions in the New York State Department of Education.