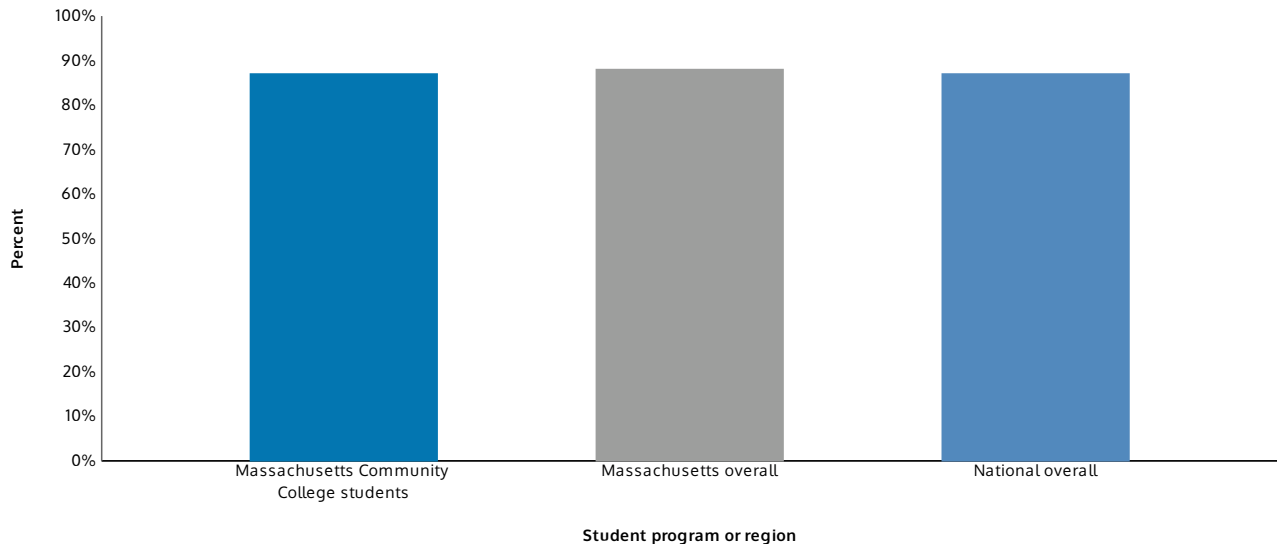


WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

NURSING EXAM PASS RATES: MASSACHUSETTS

Registered nurse exam pass rates



What Is Measured?

National Council Licensure Exam in nursing pass rates

Who Is Counted?

Massachusetts Community College students who took the exam for the first time in 2008

What It Tells Us

Some 87 percent of Massachusetts Community College students who took the National Council Licensure Exam in nursing for the first time passed, a rate that was similar or identical to state and national pass rates.

Why It's Important

For many occupations, in particular those in the health industry, licensure is required to work in the field. Licensing standards vary by state and occupation, but they typically require a minimum level of education in a specified field and a passing score on a test of competence (Krueger 2006). Licensure exam pass rates indicate how well community colleges are preparing their students for future employment.

ABOUT THE DATA

Data come from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The National Council Licensure Exam in nursing is required to become a registered nurse. Massachusetts data include only those taking the test for the first time. The inclusion of repeat test-takers would increase the pass rate.

DATA SOURCE

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. (2010). *Massachusetts Community Colleges: Key performance indicators: Linear trends*. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.