

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

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Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

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Summary

Quick Facts: Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

2015 Median Pay	\$43,170 per year \$20.76 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	Postsecondary nondegree award
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2014	719,900
Job Outlook, 2014-24	16% (Much faster than average)
Employment Change, 2014-24	117,300



Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses discuss the care they are providing with patients.

What Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses Do

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) provide basic nursing care. They work under the direction of registered nurses and doctors.

Work Environment

Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses work in many settings, including nursing homes and extended care facilities, hospitals, physicians' offices, and private homes. Most work full time.

How to Become a Licensed Practical or Licensed Vocational Nurse

Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses must complete a state-approved educational program, which typically takes about 1 year to complete. They must also be licensed.

Pay

The median annual wage for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses was \$43,170 in May 2015.

Job Outlook

Employment of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. As the baby-boom population ages, the overall need for healthcare services is expected to increase. LPNs and LVNs will be needed in residential care facilities and in home health environments to care for older patients.

State & Area Data

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses.

Similar Occupations

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses with similar occupations.

More Information, Including Links to O*NET

Learn more about licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses by visiting additional resources, including O*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and occupations.

[What They Do ->](#)**SUGGESTED CITATION:**