Evaluation of the Multistate Nursing Licensure Compact
Client: The National Council of State Boards of Nursing

Project Overview
This project was designed to evaluate the effects of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) on each of the States and on actively practicing nurses. The NLC was initiated in 2000 when it was passed into law by the first 5 participating States. The NLC is an agreement between participating States to mutually recognize each other’s Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), and Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) licenses. This agreement allows nurses to hold a single license and be eligible to practice in the licensing State as well as other States participating in the NLC, subject to each State’s practice laws and regulations. At the time of this study, 18 States had adopted the NLC with the goal of removing regulatory barriers to increase access to safe nursing care throughout the United States.

As a subcontractor to Gallup, Insight assessed the NLC’s outcomes through:

- A literature search and synthesis of the history of the NLC, each State’s position on the NLC (including groups of proponents and opponents within the State), progress toward full implementation, and perceived barriers and benefits to participation.
- In-depth, semi-structured interviews with NLC administrators in participating States and executive directors of State boards of nursing in nonparticipating States. The interviews focused on the State’s actual and perceived barriers to participation, perceived benefits of participation, and perceptions of the NLC’s effectiveness in meeting its goals.
- A survey of 2,000 nurses across the United States to measure nurses’ awareness and knowledge of, attitudes about, and experiences with the NLC, and to assess preliminary impacts on nurses.

Results of this research helped the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to develop effective strategies to communicate with States, address State concerns, and recommend ways to break down barriers to full implementation. It also helped States to share information on implementation challenges and best practices with other States.

Core Activities
Program Evaluation; Literature Reviews and Environmental Scans; Qualitative Research; Survey Design and Implementation; Policy Analysis and Assessment; Report Development and Presentation

Products