

2024

aacn American Academy of
Ambulatory Care Nursing
Shaping Care Where Life Happens

Annual Report





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About AAACN

The American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing is the premier professional organization for practicing nurses and nurse leaders specialized in serving people in community and ambulatory care settings. Dedicated to *Shaping Care Where Life Happens*, AAACN advances holistic and evidence-based care and advocates for the nurses' essential role in improving the health of our nation.

Our mission is *Shaping Care Where Life Happens* and vision is *A healthier world through nursing excellence, leadership, and innovation, revolutionizing healthcare*. The strategic plan goals for 2024 were:

Build the Science to Achieve Value and Demonstration of Health.

Expand Expertise and Empower Excellence.

Shape Care, Leading through Expertise and Advocacy the Transformation of Health to People and Communities.





President's Message

On behalf of the AACN Board of Directors, I am excited to present the 2024 Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to share the accomplishments and activities of AACN over the past year and provide information about our membership and financial health.

To advance our mission of Shaping Care Where Life Happens, AACN has three strategic priorities: Advance Our Science, Set the Standard for Excellence, and Transform Healthcare for People and Communities. All of these goals are laser focused on advancing ambulatory care nursing through research that demonstrates the value of the professional nurse, dissemination of standards of excellence, and advocating for high quality, accessible, affordable care.

In addition to these goals, AACN has also been evolving our organization's infrastructure. To improve services for you, we have upgraded our core member database and the software that supports our Special Interest Group Communities. You may have noticed some changes in appearance; we are still learning about the capabilities of these powerful new platforms.

The Board also made another strategic decision. For many years, we have had a fund that partially supported our scholarships. It was very small and unable to support our future vision. This is now our restricted Research and Scholarship Fund. In the short term we transferred some of AACN's assets into it. Long-term we hope it will grow to support not only our scholarships, but ambulatory care research grants and projects. You will see future fundraising activities to help grow this resource. We hope you will consider participating or donating directly.

President's Message

Financially, we are very strong. AAACN has been a good steward of your funds for many years. We have been making strategic investments and as a result are creating an even stronger future.

Finally, I cannot finish without highlighting the work of the History Task Force. This group of volunteers has worked diligently through 2023 and 2024, to bring you the best 50th Anniversary Celebration ever!!

We couldn't do any of this without you, our members. To truly Shape Care Where Life Happens, we need all of you to become involved. To quote Mary Ann Moore (President, 1990) "If we dare to have dreams regarding the future of nursing and the future of ambulatory care nursing in this country, now is the time to act. This is not a time to immerse ourselves in routine maintenance. I would challenge each of us to break out of your routine...Each day or each week take one brave step towards making a difference related to the future of our profession, to our country and to the health and social welfare of our people". This is our charge for 2025.



STEPHANIE WITWER, PHD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
AAACN PRESIDENT 2024-2025

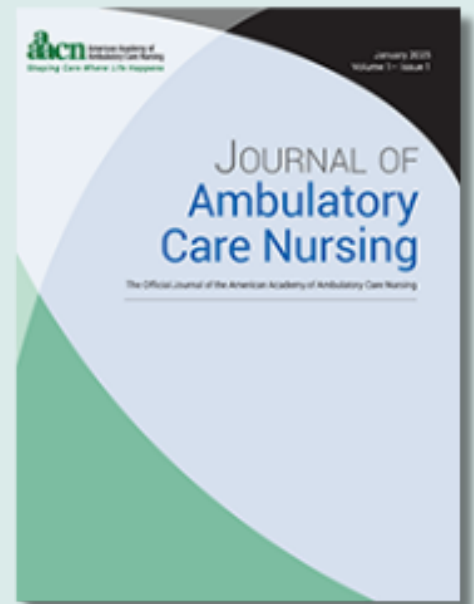
Building the Science

The first goal from our strategic plan is to Build the Science to Achieve Value and Demonstration of Health. The following outlines the progress AAACN has made in achieving this goal,

Scheduled to launch in 2025, the ***Journal of Ambulatory Care Nursing*** will be a peer-reviewed publication dedicated to advancing evidence-based ambulatory care nursing practice, clinical research, and professional development.

Under the leadership of inaugural editor Susan Fowler and an esteemed editorial board—including Beth Ann Swan, Nancy May, Kathy Mertens, and Brandy Williamson—the journal issued its first call for manuscripts. The response was outstanding, with a wealth of high-quality submissions exceeding the needs for the first year of publication. The first of four digital issues is set to be released in March 2025.

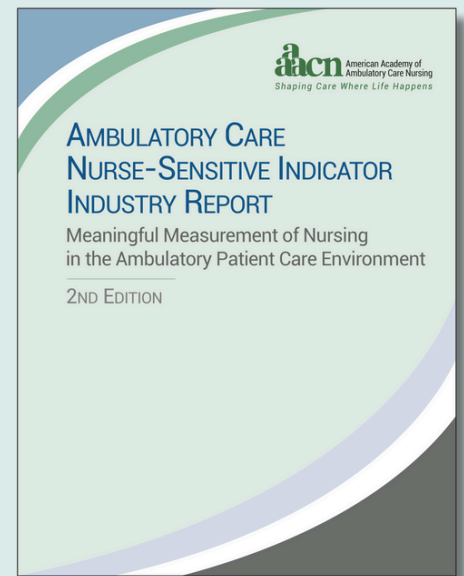
The **Research Committee**, led by AAACN Nurse Scientist Margo Halm, had a highly productive year, achieving several key milestones. They collaborated with Bernadette Melnyk to organize a Preconference Workshop in Chicago focused on developing evidence-based research and created a corresponding online toolkit. Additionally, the committee launched a new consultation service to support members conducting research and introduced AAACN-funded research grants to further advance ambulatory care nursing science.



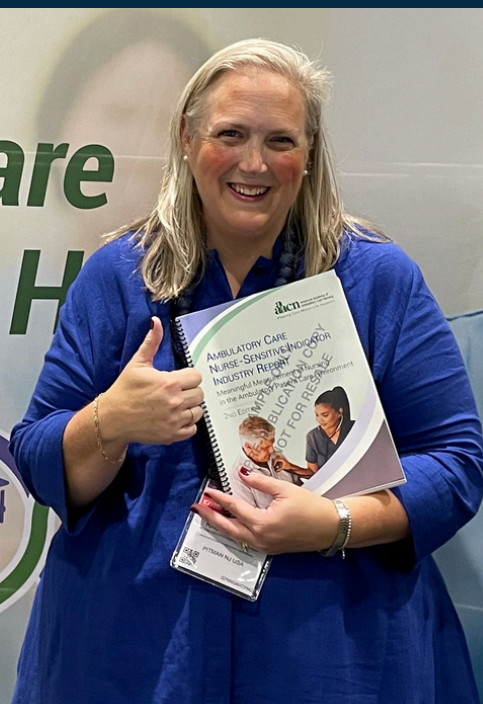
Building the Science

To support our goal of advocating for the value of professional nurses, AACN released the fully updated **Ambulatory Care Nurse-Sensitive Indicator (NSI) Industry Report: Meaningful Measurement of Nursing in the Ambulatory Patient Care Environment, Second Edition.**

Lead by four expert editors, Rachel Start, MSN, NEA-BC, RN, FAAN, Ann Marie Matlock, DNP, RN, NE-BC, Rebecca Dellefave, BSN, RN, MS, and Stephanie Witwer, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN this expanded edition equips ambulatory care nurses with essential tools, measure sets, and advocacy statements to showcase their impact on patient outcomes and cost reduction. The report offers key insights into quality measurement, staffing models, and the critical role of ambulatory nurses in driving healthcare excellence. The publication is available in both print and eBook format.

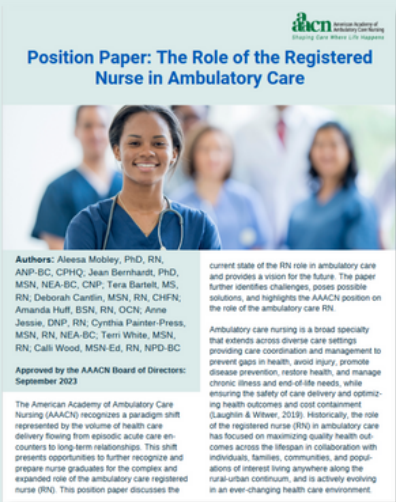


Shaping Care Where Life Happens



Expanding Expertise

The **Publications Committee**, led by co-chairs Cara Spencer and Leslie Pihlstrom, has been actively working to update and enhance key AACN publications. The committee has appointed new editors to lead revisions for three essential resources: the Core Curriculum for Ambulatory Care Nursing, the Ambulatory Care Nursing Certification Review Questions, and the Scope and Standards of Practice for Professional Telehealth Nursing. In addition to these revisions, the committee continues to assess publication formats and explore innovative ways to educate and support AACN members.



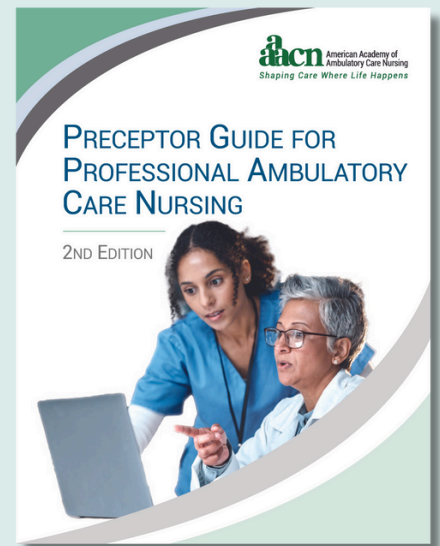
The **Role of the RN in Ambulatory Care Position Paper** was updated in 2024 and remains a vital resource for strengthening and advancing the role of ambulatory care nurses. This comprehensive paper provides an in-depth analysis of the evolving responsibilities of RNs in ambulatory care, addressing key areas such as clinical practice, education, leadership, and research. By exploring current challenges

and proposing actionable solutions, the document serves as a guiding framework for the future of ambulatory care nursing, calling on nurses, the profession, and healthcare organizations to take meaningful action. Lead editors Aleesa Mobley and Jean Bernhardt also presented insights from the updated paper during the AACN Annual Conference. The full statement is available in the "About" section of the AACN website.

Expanding Expertise

The **Inclusion & Belonging Committee** (formerly the DEI Committee) continues to champion inclusivity within AACN through education, resource development, and advocacy. Led by Chairs Amy Cadoret and Gloria Okorley, the committee expanded member training opportunities by hosting a dedicated conference session and quarterly webinars. In addition, they are actively reviewing all AACN resources through a DEI lens and developing a DEI toolkit to support members in fostering inclusive practices. This year, the committee also launched a new DEI scholarship, providing funding for a member to attend the 2025 Annual Conference.

The **Preceptor Guide for Ambulatory Care Nursing, 2nd Edition** has been fully updated by Sara Kollman and the Preceptor Guide for Ambulatory Care Nursing Revision Task Force. This essential resource supports leaders, educators, and preceptors in developing skilled preceptors and sustainable preceptorship programs in ambulatory care settings. With expanded content, including additional resources, real-world exemplars and customizable activities, the guide establishes a new benchmark for preceptor training and program development. It offers robust criteria for preceptor role development, guidance for long-term program sustainability, and interactive skill-building activities. The updated edition is now available in the AACN store.



Expanding Expertise

Carolyn Rutledge, Co-Director of the Center for Telehealth Innovation, Education, & Research (C-TIER) and Professor, Eminent Scholar, and Executive Director of Faculty Development, Innovation, and Research in the School of Nursing at Old Dominion University (ODU), presented two **AAACN Telehealth webinars**. These webinars provided ambulatory care nurses with a comprehensive overview of the current telehealth landscape, including delivery methods, technology, regulations, and the impact on both nurses and patients. Participants gained insight into the various roles nurses can assume in telehealth and how they can serve as leaders and advocates in this evolving field.

AAACN remains committed to advancing ambulatory care nursing by collaborating with industry partners to provide Subject Matter Experts and ensure access to high-quality education and training. We extend our gratitude to our **Strategic Partners** for supporting our mission and helping to elevate the impact of ambulatory care nursing: Commission for Nurse Reimbursement, DAISY, EPIC, Oculi, Press Ganey, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and Vizient.



Shaping Care

AAACN is dedicated to shaping the future of healthcare by leading through expertise and advocacy to transform care for individuals and communities. In 2024, our focus was on developing a long-term strategy to influence policy, reimbursement, and legislation impacting ambulatory care.

Led by Leondra Weiss, the **Advocacy Committee** is dedicated to empowering nurses to shape healthcare policy through education and engagement. As active members of the Nursing Community Coalition, they collaborate on key legislative issues impacting ambulatory care. This year, the committee delivered a strong response to the proposed CMS 2025 Payment Policies, emphasizing the essential role of ambulatory care nurses in patient care. They are also finalizing the AAACN advocacy platform, set to launch in Spring 2025.

AAACN collaborates with like-minded organizations to advance our mission and shape the future of ambulatory care. This year, members of the AAACN Board attended the Commission for Nurse Reimbursement conference and participated in the ANA Membership Assembly as an ANA Organizational Affiliate, contributing to discussions on key nursing issues.



49th Annual Conference

The premier conference for ambulatory care and telehealth nurses

April 2-6, 2024 • Hilton Chicago

2024 AAACN Annual Conference: A Call to Lead and Advocate

The 2024 AAACN Annual Conference, held April 2-6 at the Hilton Chicago, brought together 908 registrants and 24 exhibitors in a dynamic hybrid format. This year's event emphasized leadership, advocacy, and clinical excellence, equipping ambulatory care nurses with tools to engage in policy discussions, address social determinants of health, and promote workplace safety.

The conference opened with an inspiring keynote by U.S. Olympic bobsledder Johnny Quinn, whose message of resilience and perseverance resonated deeply with attendees. His insights on overcoming setbacks and adapting to change set the tone for a conference focused on professional growth and leadership in ambulatory care nursing.



Throughout the event, 90 speakers delivered insightful presentations covering critical topics, including research dissemination, telehealth advancements, high-performing preceptor programs, and pediatric firearm safety. Engaging poster sessions showcased innovative clinical interventions, telehealth programs, and a notable student-led presentation on nurse incivility.

2024 Annual Conference

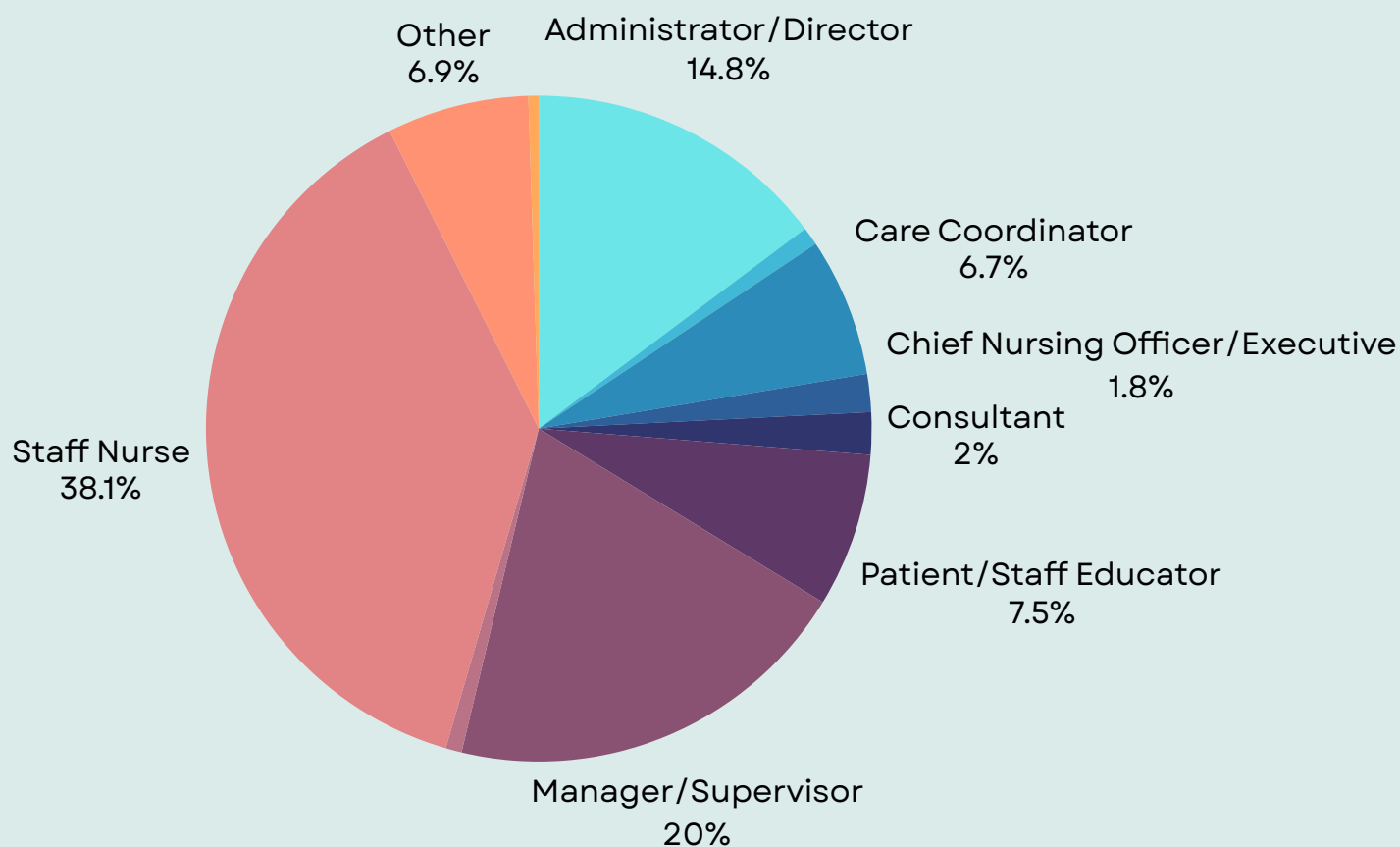
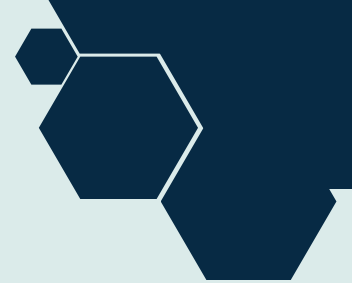
A key highlight was the general session, “Workplace Safety: Tools for Ambulatory Care,” which built upon last year’s Town Hall on workplace safety advocacy. Presenters shared strategies for addressing workplace violence, de-escalation techniques, and creating clinic-specific safety plans. This discussion reinforced AAACN’s commitment to ensuring safe and supportive environments for ambulatory care professionals and patients, as outlined in its Position Statement on Workplace Violence, Incivility, and Bullying in Ambulatory Care.

The conference also featured two preconference workshops and an ambulatory care nursing certification review course. Attendees engaged with experts in evidence-based practice and scholarly writing, while review course participants prepared to earn the prestigious AMB-BC™ credential, further supporting their professional development.

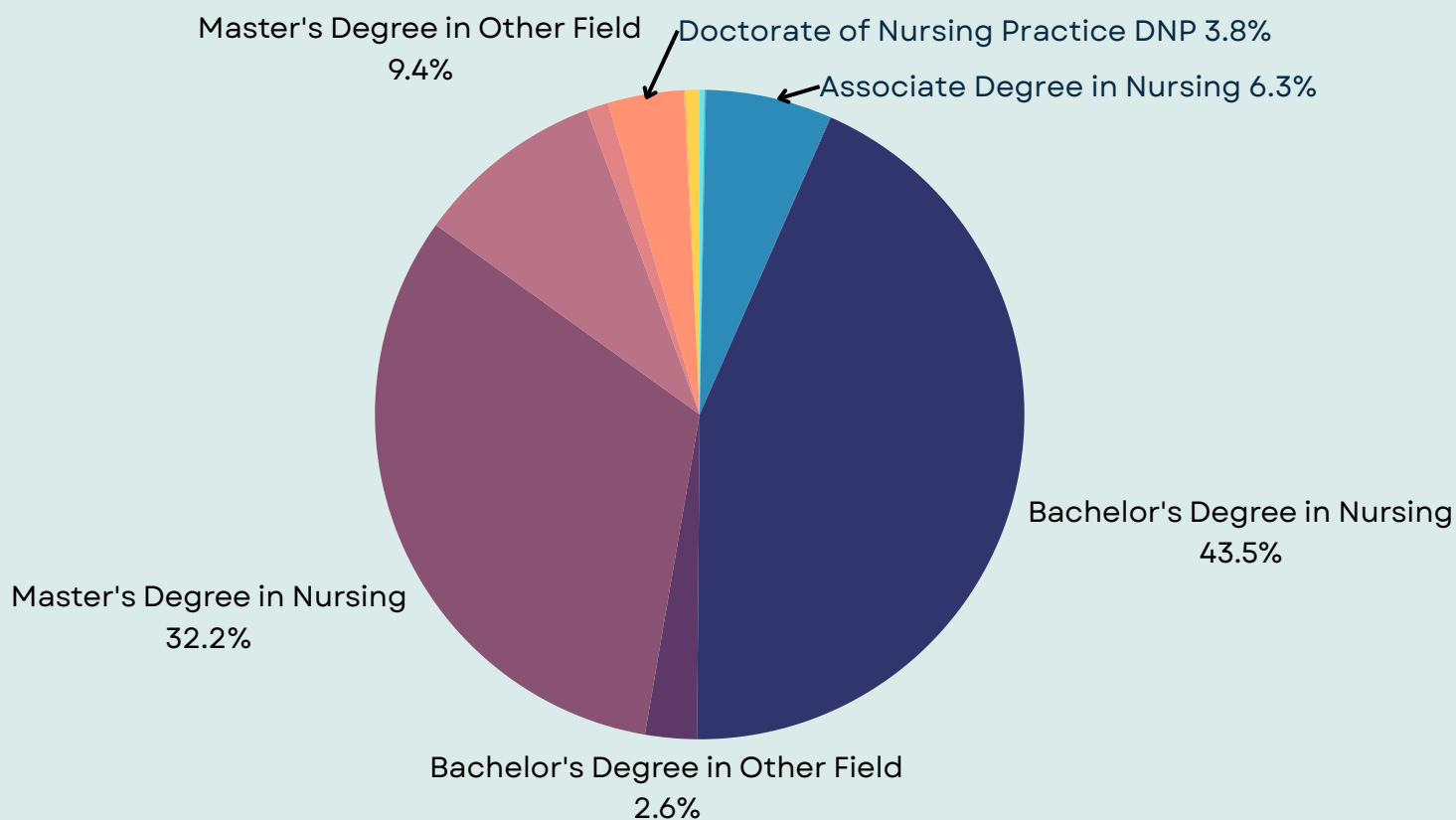
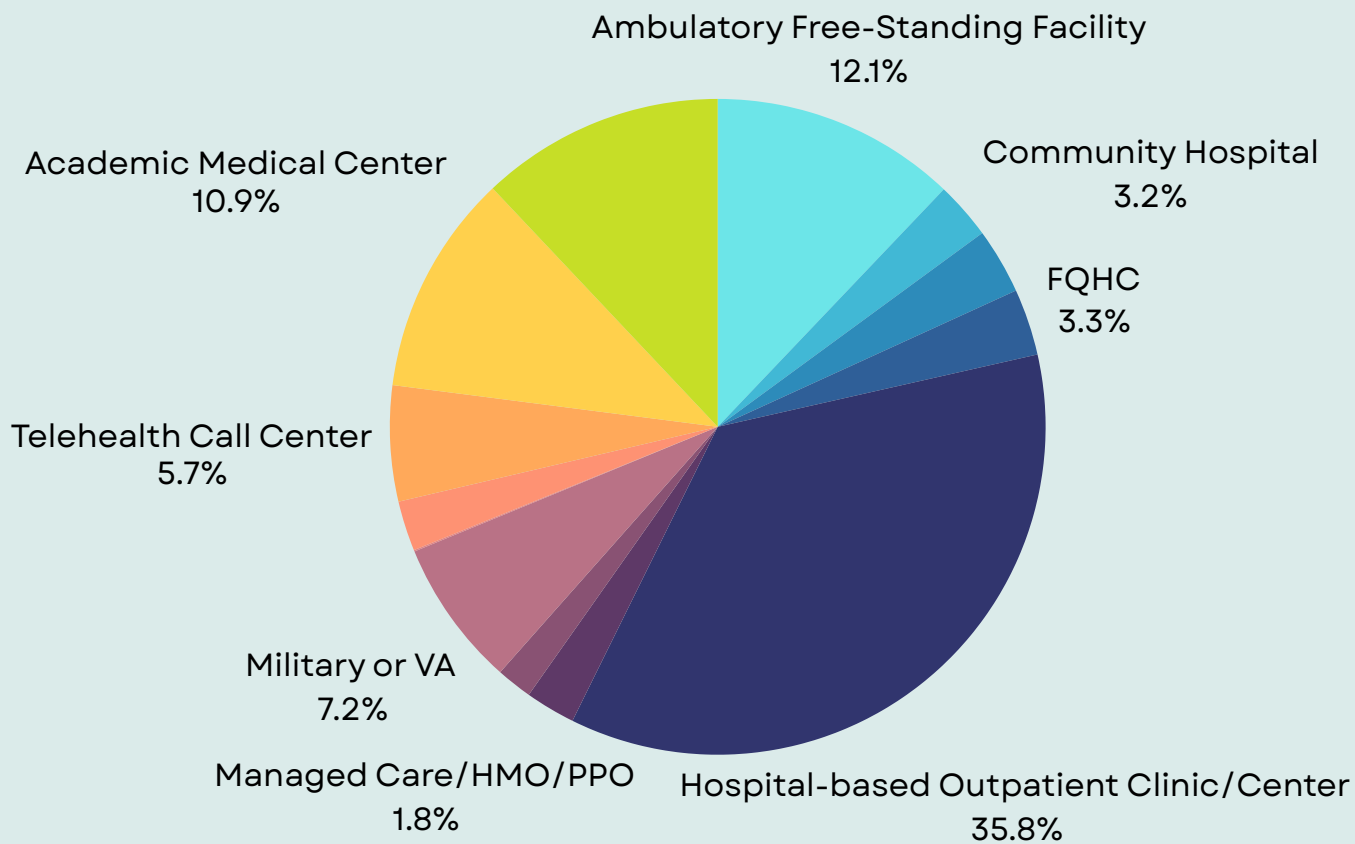
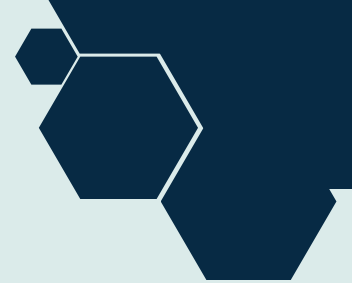
With a combination of livestreamed sessions, on-demand content, and interactive networking opportunities, the 2024 AAACN Annual Conference reaffirmed its role as a premier event for advancing ambulatory care nursing. Attendees left with renewed inspiration, practical strategies, and a strengthened commitment to leading change in their organizations and beyond.



Membership



Membership



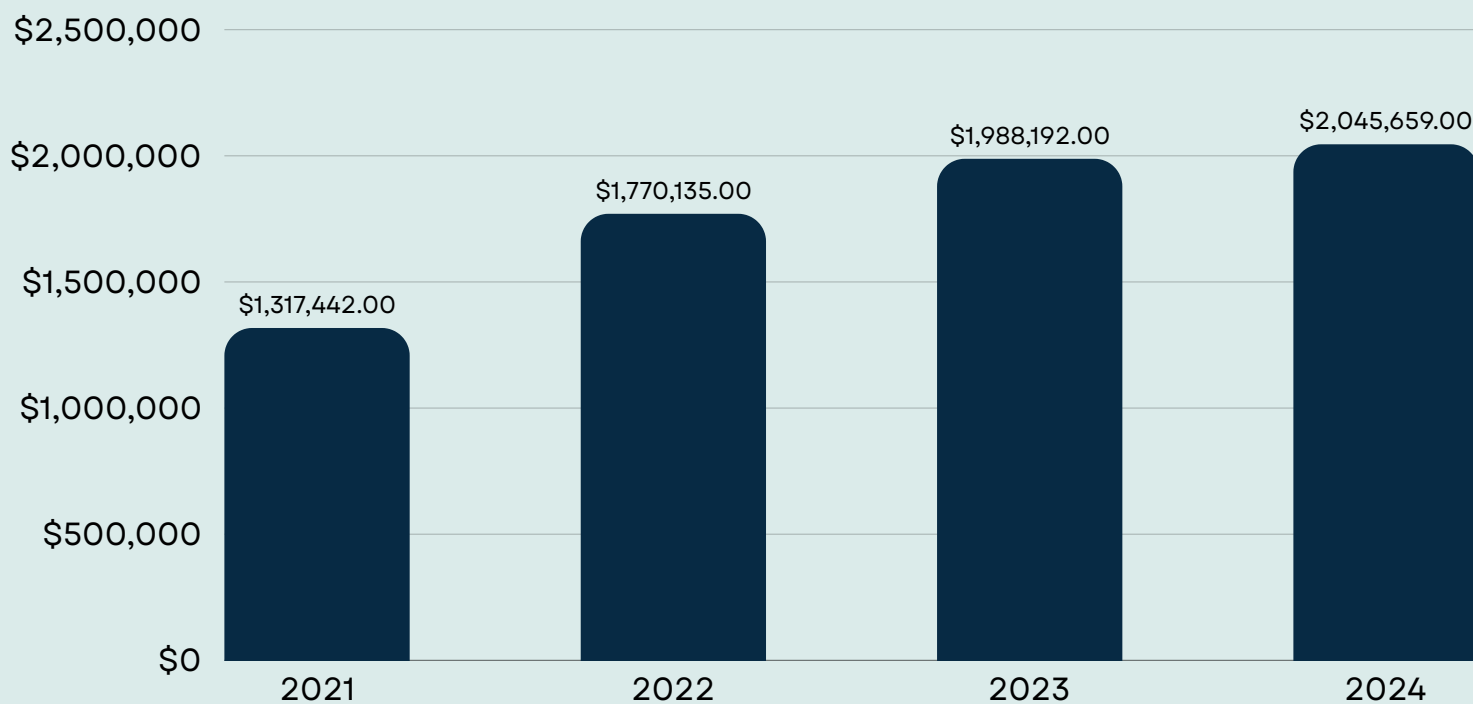
Financial Update



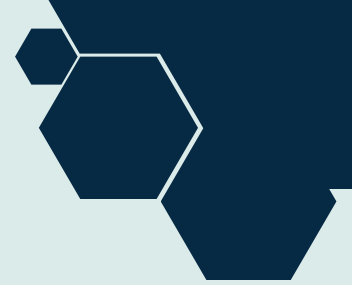
● Gross Income



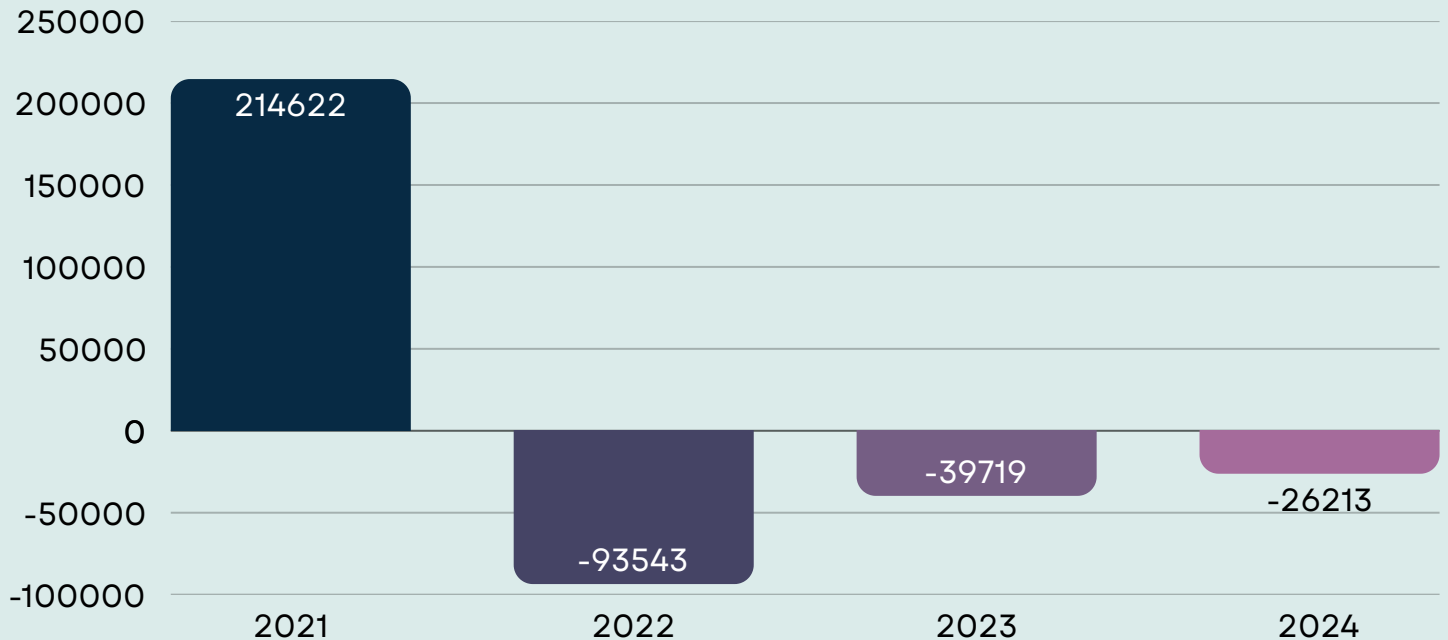
● Gross Expenses



Financial Update



Net Income



Net Assets

As of December 31, 2024, AAACN's total net assets were approximately \$2,704,099, equating to over 14 months of operating expenses. Industry best practices recommend maintaining reserves covering six to eight months of expenses. AAACN is strategically reinvesting these assets to advance its strategic plan and enhance resources for members. The Board remains committed to its fiduciary responsibility, ensuring careful oversight and sustainable financial management.

2024 Awards & Sponsors

Award & Scholarship Recipients

Above & Beyond Award

Aleesa M. Mobley
LTC Kristen Shear

Administrative Excellence Award

Emmika Elkin
Courtney Monterusso

Clinical Excellence Award

Karen Perez

Candia Baker Laughlin Certification Scholarship

Teri Travis
Tessia Winnfield

Conference Scholarships

Leondra Weiss
Stefani Deines

Education Scholarship

Virginia Byrnes

Research/Evidence Based Practice Project

Kristine Peterson

ViewPoint Writer's Award

Laura Tassin
Kristin Broussard
Benita N. Chatmon

Exhibitors & Sponsors

American Medical Technologists
American Nurses Credentialing Center
American Nurses Credentialing Center
ClearTriage
Bristol Bay Area Health Corp
Department of Veterans Affairs - VA
Defense Health Agency
Epic
Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board
Henka
Illinois Ambulatory Nurse Practice Consortium
ACE American College of Education
Luminos Pro
Mayo Clinic Continuing Nursing Education
Navajo Area Indian Health Services
OculiData
Otto Trading Inc.
Press Ganey
Schmitt Thompson Clinical Content
Stanford Health Center
The DAISY Foundation
Vizient
Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Inc.



Board of Directors



President: Stephanie Witwer, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN



President-Elect: Cynthia Murray, BN, AMB-BC



Immediate Past President: Rachel Start, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN



Treasurer: Kimberly Regis, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CPNP-PC, BCC



Secretary: Andrea Petrovanie-Green, MSN, RN, AMB-BC



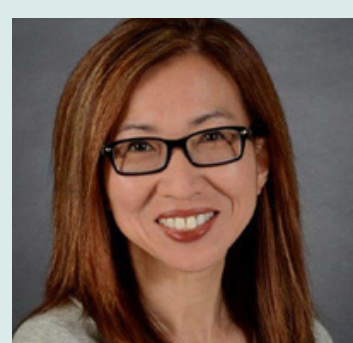
Director: Mary Blankson, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, FAAN



Director: Ann Marie Matlock, DNP, RN, NE-BC



Director: Cara Spencer, PhD, RN, FNP-BC



Director: Julie Alban, DNP, MPH, AMB-BC, CCCTM



Emerging Fellow Board Member
Chrystal Lewis, PhD, RN

Volunteer Leaders

Thank you to all of the volunteers who help advance our mission!

Advocacy Committee:

Chair: Leondra Weiss

ANPD Team

Chair: Elizabeth Anderson

History Task Force

Co-Chair: Stephanie Witwer

Co-Chair: Cynthia Murray

Inclusion & Belonging Committee

Chair: Amy Cadoret

Co-Chair: Gloria Okorley

Nominating Committee

Chair: Rachel Start

Nurse-Sensitive Indicator**Industry Report Revision**

Co-Chairs: Rebecca Dellefave,
Ann Marie Matlock, Rachel
Start

Preceptor Guide Revision

Chair: Sara Kollman

Program Planning Committee

Chair: Gregory Kopp

Publications Committee

Chair: Cara Spencer

Co-Chair: Leslie Pihlstrom

Research Committee

Chair: Margo Halm

Co-Chair: Kristen Shear

Special Interest Groups

Care Coordination and Transition Management (CCTM)

Chair: James Ryan Taylor

Federal

Co-Chair: Patrick Turpin

Co-Chair: Monica Scott

Leadership

Chair: Christina Madriz

NSI:

Chair: Annette Hamlin

Pediatrics

Chair: Brandy Williamson

Staff Patient Education

Chair: Rhonda Edwards

Workplace Safety & Workforce Well-Being

Co-Chair: Dawn Fletcher

Co-Chair: Beth Sparks

Telehealth Nursing Practice

Chair: Sheryl Bartlett



Volunteer Leaders



ViewPoint is the official publication of the AAACN. It is a peer-reviewed, bimonthly resource for nursing professionals. Thank you to editor Elizabeth Fritz and her Editorial Board: Robert Bailey, Eileen Esposito, Michele Hasselblad, Mary Hines Vinson, and Tracy Weistreich. Together they facilitated six issues covering topics such as: CCTM, emerging clinical issues, health policy, leadership, safety, and telehealth.

Nursing Economics®

AAACN contributes to the *Perspectives in Ambulatory Care* column published up to six times annually in *Nursing Economic\$*. Thank you to column editor, Heather Ryan, for serving in this role and helping promote ambulatory care nursing.

Certification Review Course

Instructors E. Mary Johnson, Susan Paschke, Diane Resnick, Eileen Esposito, and Dawn Vonderheide led AAACN's Certification Review Courses again in 2024. The group presented in-person at several venues including during the Annual Conference in Chicago.

National Office

Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer Stranix, Director of Membership & Association Services

Nicole DeMers, Association and Board Services Manager

Stephanie McDonald, Association Project Manager

Olivia Parry, Association Services Coordinator

Laura Smith, Conference Manager

Trisha Mims, Education Director

Kristina Moran, Conference Education Coordinator

Jennifer Jardine, Education Coordinator

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