

NBRC Credential Maintenance Among California Licensed RCPs

KEY FINDING: Of the 20,569 California RCPs for whom NBRC credential data was identified, 19,510 (94.9%) were identified as currently maintaining an active or non-expiring CRT or RRT credential.

Background

Current California law requires applicants for Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) licensure to obtain the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential issued by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) as a requirement for initial licensure. Prior to January 1, 2015, applicants were only required to obtain the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential. As a result, California's licensed population includes individuals who qualified for licensure under both statutory frameworks.

Although an NBRC credential is required to obtain initial licensure, California law does not currently require licensees to maintain their NBRC credential as a condition of their license renewal. NBRC credentials expire on a 5-year cycle, requiring continuing education and/or ongoing assessments for renewal.

Recently there was an inquiry as to why we do not require maintenance of an active credential since we require the passing of the credential exams as a prerequisite for licensure.

To assist the Board in determining whether it wishes to further explore this concept, staff reviewed California licensure records and compared them with credential information provided by the NBRC to evaluate the extent to which California licensees are already maintaining their NBRC credentials.

Methodology

Staff reviewed California licensure records and compared them with NBRC credential information. A licensee was considered to be maintaining a credential if the NBRC data reflected an active CRT and/or RRT credential or a CRT* and/or RRT* credential (*designated as non-expiring). RCPs with inactive CRT and/or RRT credentials were not counted as maintaining a credential.

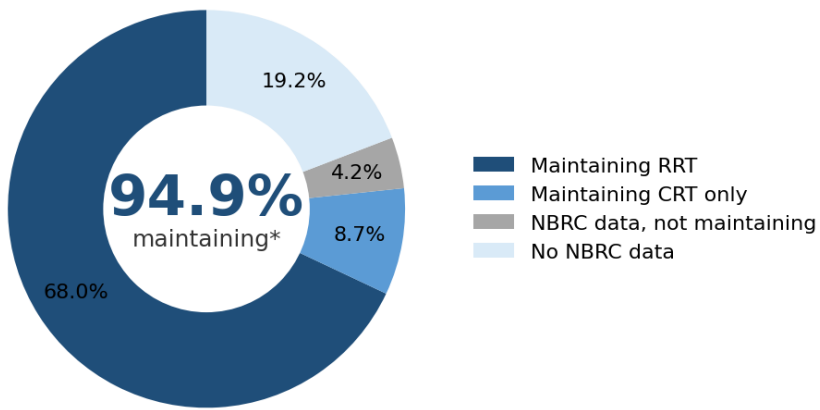
LICENSES REVIEWED	NBRC DATA IDENTIFIED	MAINTAINING CRT and/or RRT	NO NBRC DATA
25,449	20,569	19,510	4,880
California License Population	80.8% of total	94.9% of matched	19.2% of total

California License Population: This review includes current, inactive, delinquent, and probationary California RCP licenses. These categories were consolidated, as each may qualify for renewal and could be impacted by future NBRC credential requirements related to license renewal.

Non-expiring credentials: Credentials designated with an asterisk (*) are non-expiring NBRC credentials. In general, these credentials were earned prior to July 1, 2002, before the NBRC implemented expiration dates and continuing competency requirements. Because these credentials remain valid, they were considered maintained for purposes of this review.

NBRC Data Availability: The NBRC provided credential information for individuals with a California address of record maintained by the NBRC. As a result, corresponding NBRC credential data was not identified for 4,880 California licenses (19.2%). Staff reviewed records for these unmatched licenses and found that 2,309 (47.3%) maintain an out-of-state address of record with the RCB, which partially explains the absence of corresponding NBRC data. The remaining 2,571 (52.7%) unmatched records may be attributable to other factors, such as differences in address information between the NBRC and RCB.

Credential Maintenance Status



Percentages are based on the total California license population reviewed (25,449).

Licensure Credentials Identified

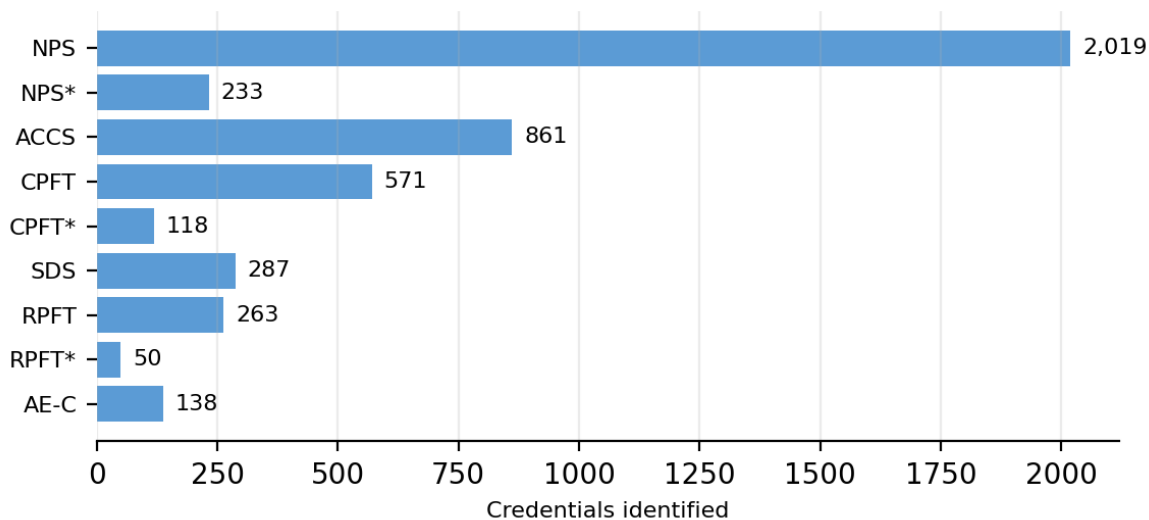
Credential	Count
Active RRT	15,863
RRT*	1,441
Active CRT	16,344
CRT*	3,166

Note: Since many RCPs hold both CRT and RRT credentials, these numbers overlap and should not be added together.

Maintenance of Licensure Credentials

Category	Number	Percent
Maintaining active or non-expiring RRT	17,304	68.0%
Maintaining active or non-expiring CRT only	2,206	8.7%
Maintaining no active or non-expiring CRT or RRT	1,059	4.2%
No NBRC data identified	4,880	19.2%

Active and Non-Expiring Specialty Credentials



Conclusion

Based on the data reviewed, approximately 95% of California RCP licenses for whom corresponding NBRC credential data was identified were already maintaining an active or non-expiring CRT or RRT credential. Although corresponding NBRC data was not identified for every California licensee, the available data suggests that maintenance of NBRC credentials is already a common practice among California RCP licensees.

This report is presented for informational purposes to assist the Board in determining whether it wishes to further explore requiring maintenance of an NBRC credential as a condition of California licensure.