



# Statistical Profile of Certified PAs

ANNUAL REPORT

National Commission on  
Certification of PAs

2020



A smiling female healthcare professional with long brown hair, wearing a white lab coat and a stethoscope, is shown on the left side of the page. The background is a light gray.

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# Message from the President and CEO

Dear Colleagues:

As we said goodbye to 2019 and welcomed in the new year, little did we know how the world would be transformed in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic changed our daily lives, and especially the lives of health care providers across the globe as they spent tireless hours caring for critically ill patients. While this was transpiring, we were also experiencing an escalated awareness of social injustices and racial disparities that forced us to re-examine our perceptions of reality. To say that 2020 brought unprecedented change seems to be an understatement.



However, through it all, the PA profession remained strong and resilient. This 2020 Statistical Profile of Certified PAs demonstrates that PAs are providing essential health care services in all specialties and in a variety of practice settings throughout the U.S. At the end of 2020, 98% of PAs maintained their NCCPA certification and almost 10,000 newly Certified PAs embarked on their new health care career. Through new questions added in 2020, we found that even though facing a pandemic, 72.9% of PAs stated they were completely or mostly satisfied with their present job. However, 26.6% reported feeling some level of burnout.

In addition to sharing data gathered from PAs in 2020, this report provides a retrospect on how the PA profession has changed in the past five years. It is rewarding to see that the number of PAs increased in every state, with the largest increases in Rhode Island, Mississippi, and Arkansas. In the past five years, there has been a steady decrease in the percent of PAs who practice in primary care, but other specialty disciplines, such as palliative medicine and hospice care, pain medicine, and psychiatry, have experienced significant growth. As with many health care professions, the race/ethnicity composition of the PA profession has not changed significantly in the past five years and still has a way to go in reflecting the diversity of the patient population.

Although I always acknowledge and extend appreciation to the dedicated PAs who take the time to complete their PA Professional Profile, it is especially important to do so this year. Almost 86% of PAs contributed to the data provided in this report while caring for patients and dealing with a host of personal, family, and societal issues, and to those PAs, I extend a most sincere “thank you.”

As we progress toward turning the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope the information provided in this report will be beneficial and informative to you. We invite your review and comment as we continuously strive to provide data that facilitates meaningful dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dawn Morton-Rias".

Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C  
**President and CEO**

# About the Data Collection and Methodology

## Introduction

Since 1975, NCCPA has collected data on the profession as PAs obtained their initial certification, maintained their certifications, earned and logged continuing medical education credits and passed recertification examinations. In May 2012, NCCPA's data gathering efforts were significantly enhanced with the launch of the PA Professional Profile. This data gathering instrument is presented to PAs through a secure portal within NCCPA's website. The Profile was launched with two modules: "About Me" and "My Practice."

In December 2012, NCCPA added a "Recently Certified" module delivered online to PAs who have been certified for less than six months. Data from that module can be found in the *Statistical Profile of Recently Certified Physician Assistants*, first published in 2014 and updated annually.

## Data Editing and Analysis

Data reflected in this report include aggregated responses from PAs who were certified as of December 31, 2020 and have made updates to their Profile between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2020. Data from 2016 has been included to provide five-year comparisons. In addition, some data were obtained from other NCCPA data collection strategies. As of December 31, 2020, there were 148,560 Certified PAs, and 127,560 provided responses for at least a portion of the Profile, yielding an overall response rate of 85.9%. In 2020 new questions were added to the Profile. Those data can be found in the appendix. The response rate for the new items is 42.7% as of December 31, 2020. As more PAs access their Profile and provide responses to these newly added questions, it is anticipated that response rates on these items will be similar to the current overall response rate, and data from these items will be moved from the appendix to the body of the report in future years.

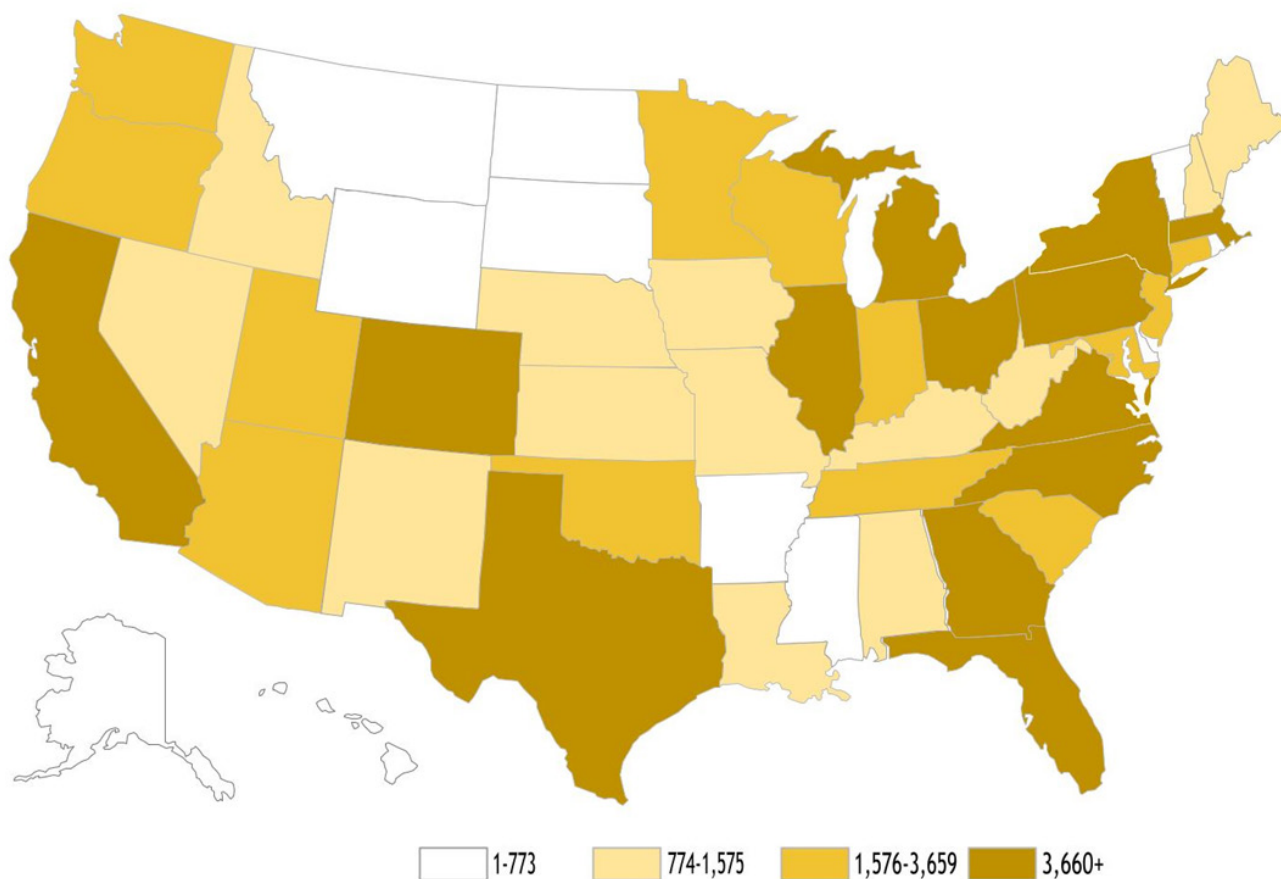
Responses were examined for consistency and potential errors. In cases of obvious error or inconclusive data, the responses were not included in the analysis. The number of responses to individual items varies due to differing response rates or due to the data being removed for reasons previously noted. Analyses of the data consist primarily of descriptive statistics.

## About NCCPA

NCCPA is the only certifying organization for PAs in the United States. Established as a not-for-profit organization in 1974, NCCPA is dedicated to providing certification programs that reflect standards for clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning and other medical skills and professional behaviors required upon entry into practice and throughout the careers of PAs. All U.S. states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories have decided to rely on NCCPA certification as one of the criteria for initial licensure or regulation of PAs. More than 175,000 PAs have been certified by NCCPA since 1975.

# Distribution of Certified PAs in the U.S.

## 2020 Distribution of Certified PAs



Distribution of Certified PAs based on reported state of residence.

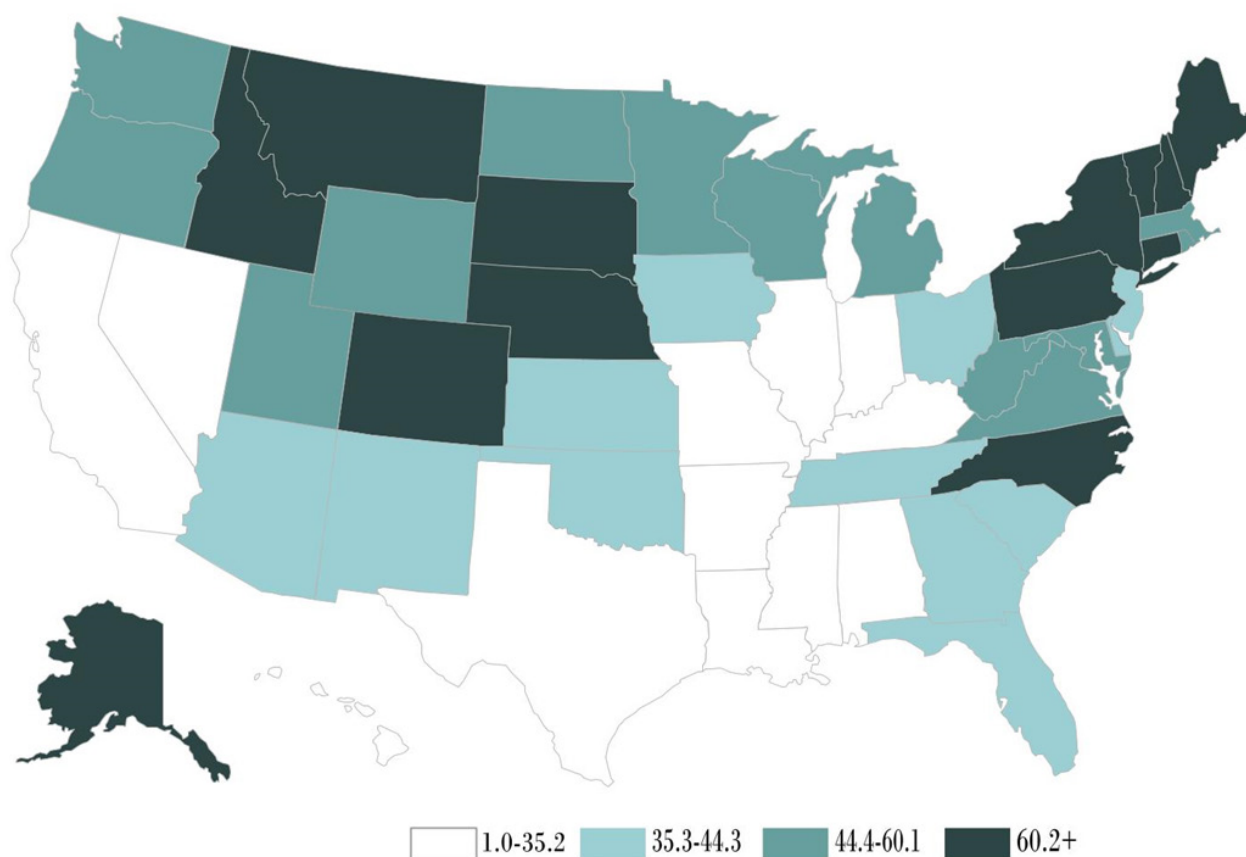


The PA profession grew 28.6% between 2016 and 2020, reaching 148,560 Certified PAs at the end of 2020.

# Distribution of Certified PAs in the U.S.

## 2020 Distribution of Certified PAs per 100,000 Population

Based on 2020 U.S. Census Bureau Estimates



Distribution of Certified PAs based on reported state of residence.



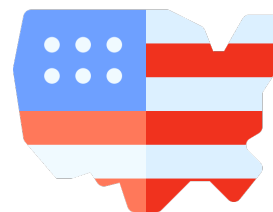
In 2020, there were 45 Certified PAs per 100,000 population in the U.S, compared to 36 in 2016. ARC-PA estimates that the number of PA educational programs will grow from 275 in March 2021 to 311 by 2023<sup>1</sup>, thus increasing the number of individuals who may potentially join the Certified PA workforce.

<sup>1</sup>Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education®, "<http://www.arc-pa.org/projected-growth-as-of-3-30-2021/>"

# Distribution of Certified PAs in the U.S.

## Certified PAs by State, Number, Percent, Rate and Rank\*

State	Number	% of Total (Rank)	Rate* (Rank)	% Change 2016-2020 (Rank)
Alabama	997	0.7% (36)	20.3 (49)	37.1% (8)
Alaska	637	0.4% (41)	87.1 (1)	12.9% (48)
Arizona	3,241	2.2% (17)	43.7 (28)	27.6% (31)
Arkansas	531	0.4% (43)	17.5 (50)	47.5% (3)
California	11,380	7.7% (2)	28.9 (45)	25.9% (33)
Colorado	3,897	2.6% (12)	67.1 (12)	28.1% (28)
Connecticut	2,639	1.8% (20)	74.2 (3)	30.8% (20)
Delaware	437	0.3% (45)	44.3 (27)	32.4% (17)
District of Columbia	285	0.2% (50)	40.0 (34)	12.2% (49)
Florida	9,381	6.3% (5)	43.2 (29)	30.2% (21)
Georgia	4,199	2.8% (9)	39.2 (36)	23.6% (37)
Hawaii	378	0.3% (47)	26.9 (47)	21.5% (38)
Idaho	1,270	0.9% (32)	69.5 (8)	34.1% (13)
Illinois	4,039	2.7% (10)	32.1 (43)	29.4% (24)
Indiana	1,877	1.3% (24)	27.8 (46)	45.3% (4)
Iowa	1,304	0.9% (31)	41.2 (32)	23.6% (36)
Kansas	1,240	0.8% (33)	42.6 (31)	15.8% (47)
Kentucky	1,575	1.1% (27)	35.2 (40)	21.3% (39)
Louisiana	1,389	0.9% (28)	29.8 (44)	28.0% (29)
Maine	924	0.6% (38)	68.4 (10)	20.8% (41)



The top five states ranked by number of Certified PAs:

1. New York
2. California
3. Pennsylvania
4. Texas
5. Florida

The top five states ranked by PA concentration per 100k population:

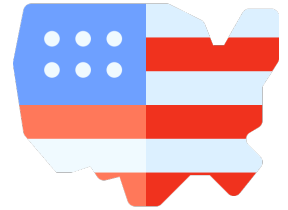
1. Alaska
2. Pennsylvania
3. Connecticut
4. New York
5. South Dakota

\*Rate per 100,000 population based on 2020 U.S. Census estimate  
Continued on page 8

# Distribution of Certified PAs in the U.S.

## Certified PAs by State, Number, Percent, Rate and Rank\*

State	Number	% of Total (Rank)	Rate* (Rank)	% Change 2016-2020 (Rank)
Maryland	3,331	2.2% (16)	55.0 (18)	21.0% (40)
Massachusetts	4,007	2.7% (11)	58.1 (16)	35.4% (11)
Michigan	5,990	4.0% (7)	60.1 (14)	26.1% (32)
Minnesota	3,140	2.1% (18)	55.5 (17)	31.4% (18)
Mississippi	318	0.2% (49)	10.7 (51)	54.4% (2)
Missouri	1,383	0.9% (28)	22.5 (48)	36.0% (10)
Montana	773	0.5% (40)	71.5 (6)	28.6% (26)
Nebraska	1,342	0.9% (30)	69.3 (9)	29.4% (23)
Nevada	1,068	0.7% (34)	34.0 (41)	41.5% (5)
New Hampshire	935	0.6% (37)	68.4 (11)	28.3% (27)
New Jersey	3,659	2.5% (14)	41.2 (33)	40.8% (6)
New Mexico	841	0.6% (39)	39.9 (35)	15.8% (46)
New York	14,233	9.6% (1)	73.6 (4)	24.9% (34)
North Carolina	7,438	5.0% (6)	70.2 (7)	33.1% (16)
North Dakota	371	0.2% (47)	48.5 (23)	17.0% (44)
Ohio	4,302	2.9% (8)	36.8 (38)	39.8% (7)
Oklahoma	1,706	1.1% (26)	42.9 (30)	20.1% (42)
Oregon	2,093	1.4% (22)	49.3 (21)	33.7% (14)
Pennsylvania	10,064	6.8% (3)	78.7 (2)	31.2% (19)
Rhode Island	517	0.3% (4)	48.9 (22)	55.7% (1)



The top five states that experienced the largest percent of growth in the number of PAs from 2016-2020:

1. Rhode Island
2. Mississippi
3. Arkansas
4. Indiana
5. Nevada



# Distribution of Certified PAs in the U.S.

## Certified PAs by State, Number, Percent, Rate and Rank\*

State	Number	% of Total (Rank)	Rate* (Rank)	% Change 2016-2020 (Rank)
South Carolina	2,016	1.4% (23)	38.6 (37)	36.6% (9)
South Dakota	644	0.4% (41)	72.1 (5)	17.7% (43)
Tennessee	2,525	1.7% (21)	36.7 (39)	33.4% (15)
Texas	9,697	6.5% (4)	33.0 (42)	24.8% (35)
Utah	1,722	1.2% (25)	53.0 (20)	35.1% (12)
Vermont	407	0.3% (46)	65.3 (13)	16.6% (45)
Virginia	3,875	2.6% (13)	45.1 (26)	28.7% (25)
Washington	3,538	2.4% (15)	46.0 (25)	27.9% (30)
West Virginia	1,052	0.7% (35)	58.9 (15)	10.3% (51)
Wisconsin	3,138	2.1% (18)	53.8 (19)	29.9% (22)
Wyoming	274	0.2% (51)	47.1 (24)	11.4% (50)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148,019</b>	<b>100%</b>		

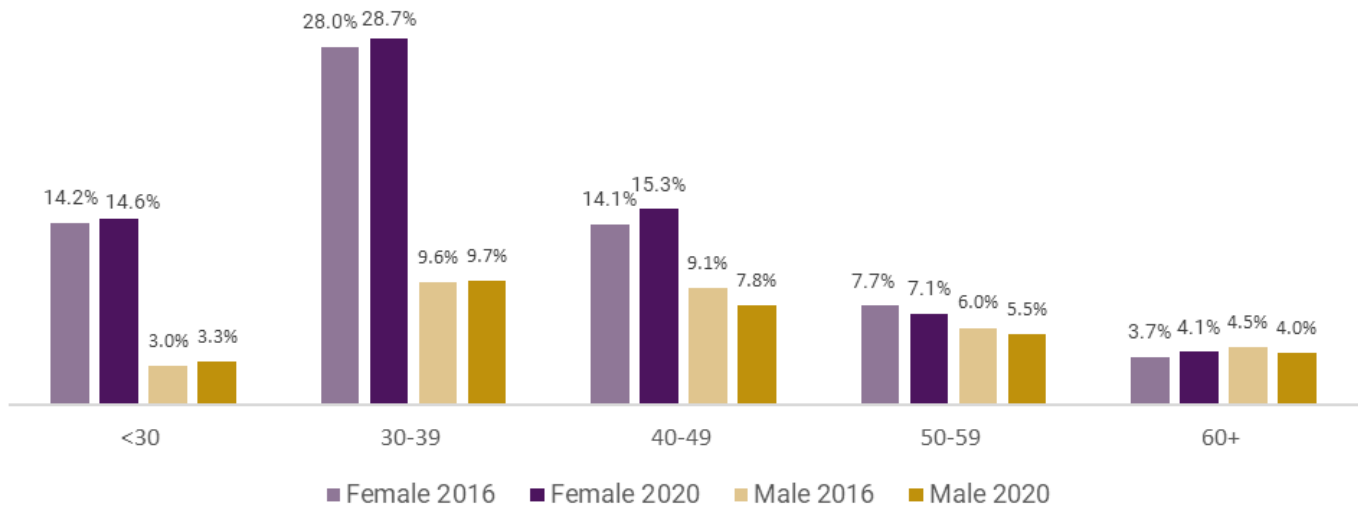
\*Rate per 100,000 population based on 2020 U.S. Census estimate

3,621 Certified PAs indicated that they have a current military status of active duty, National Guard or Reserve.

226 Certified PAs reported a military or U.S. territory address, and 315 Certified PAs indicated they are living abroad.

# Gender and Age of Certified PAs

## Distribution of Certified PAs by Age and Gender



## Number of Certified PAs by Gender

Gender	2016 Number	2016 Percent	2020 Number	2020 Percent
Male	37,286	32.3%	44,956	30.3%
Female	78,247	67.7%	103,590	69.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115,533</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>148,546</b>	<b>100%</b>

The total numbers above are less than the total number of Certified PAs (see table to the right) due to the decision of some not to report gender.

## Number of Certified PAs by Age Group

Age Group	2016 Number	2016 Percent	2020 Number	2020 Percent
<30	19,826	17.2%	26,456	17.8%
30-39	43,434	37.6%	56,957	38.3%
40-49	26,872	23.2%	34,333	23.1%
50-59	15,848	13.7%	18,813	12.7%
60+	9,567	8.3%	12,001	8.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115,547</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>148,560</b>	<b>100%</b>



As with the past seven years, the median age of Certified PAs remains at 38. The profession continues to be majority female. In 1975, 23.9% of the Certified PAs identified as female<sup>1</sup>, compared to **69.7% in 2020**.

<sup>1</sup> NCCPA data records

# Race and Ethnicity of Certified PAs

## Number of Certified PAs by Race

Race	2016 Number	2016 Percent	2020 Number	2020 Percent
White	88,478	80.7%	102,958	80.8%
Black/African American	3,934	3.6%	4,212	3.3%
Asian	5,560	5.1%	7,605	6.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	367	0.3%	353	0.3%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	432	0.4%	449	0.4%
Other	3,248	3.0%	3,558	2.8%
Multi-race	1,760	1.6%	2,625	2.1%
Prefer not to answer	5,813	5.3%	5,671	4.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109,592</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>127,431</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: "Multi-race" and "prefer not to answer" are newly reported categories.



Although the number of PAs has increased during the five-year period from 2016-2020, the overall racial/ethnic diversity of the PA profession has remained relatively consistent, with the largest change occurring for the Asian population, which increased from 5.1% in 2016 to 6.0% in 2020. 6.5% of Certified PAs indicated they are Hispanic, which increased from 5.9% in 2016.

# Educational Profile of Certified PAs

## Number of Certified PAs by Highest Degree Completed

Degree	2016 Number	2016 Percent	2020 Number	2020 Percent
Certificate program	1,947	1.8%	1,318	1.0%
Associate's degree	1,742	1.6%	1,280	1.0%
Bachelor's degree	25,182	23.0%	20,868	16.4%
Master's degree	77,799	71.0%	100,464	78.8%
Doctorate degree*	1,893	1.7%	2,604	2.0%
Other	1,029	0.9%	897	0.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109,592</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>127,431</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*In 2020, doctorate degrees with the largest number of PAs include: PhD, DMSc, MD, and DHSc.



The average PA educational program is 111 weeks long, which includes didactic and clinical instruction.<sup>1</sup> Over time, programs have trended toward the graduate level, and currently all PA programs must confer a graduate degree to be accredited by ARC-PA.<sup>2</sup> This is evident as the percentage of master's degrees held by Certified PAs has increased from 71.0% in 2016 to 78.8% in 2020.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PAEA Physician Assistant Educational Programs in the United States, By the Numbers: Program Report 34; 2018.

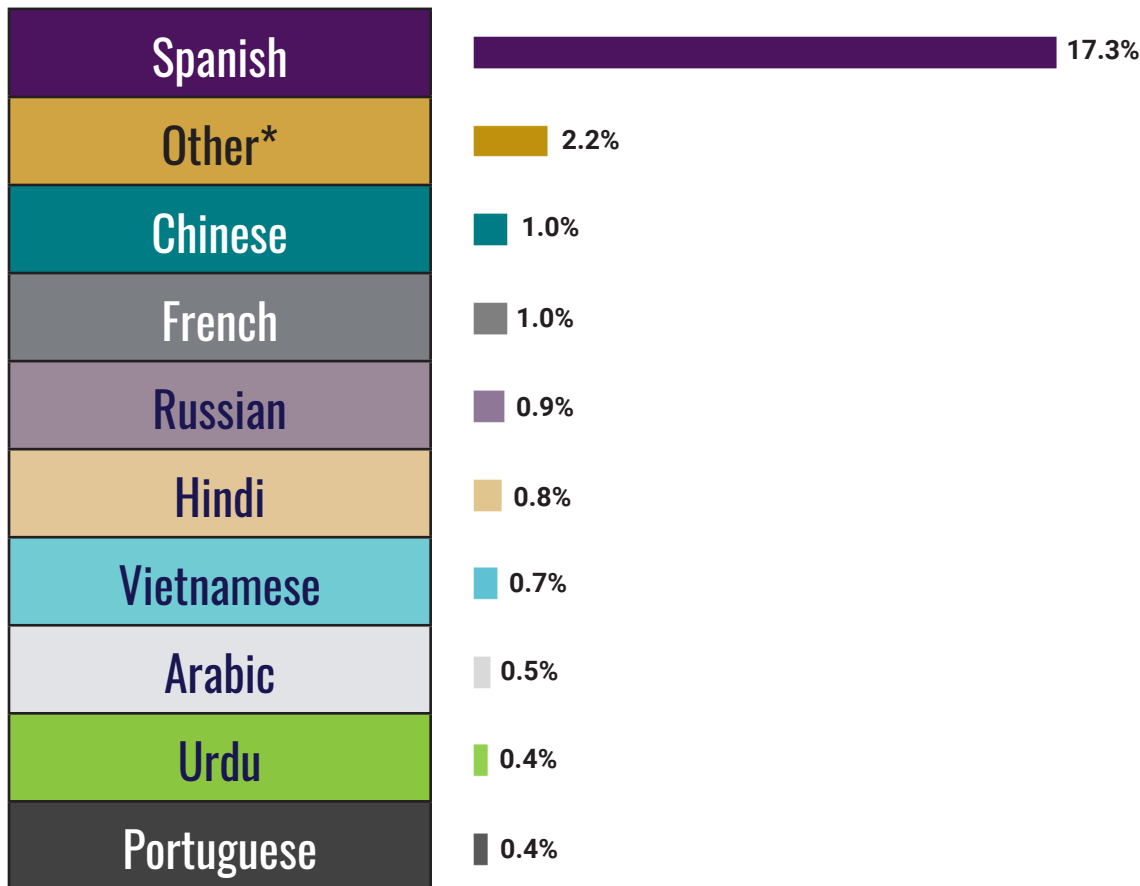
<sup>2</sup> ARC-PA Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education®, 5th edition. 2020 Approved September 2020.

<sup>3</sup> NCCPA 2016 Statistical Profile of Certified PAs, An Annual Report of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. 2017.



# Languages Other Than English Spoken with Patients

## Percent of Certified PAs who Communicate with Patients in Languages Other than English



Percentage of Certified PAs who communicate with patients in languages other than English by the top 10 most frequently identified languages.

\*For Certified PAs who responded "other" to language, the most frequently selected included: American Sign Language, Hebrew, Punjabi, and Malayalam.

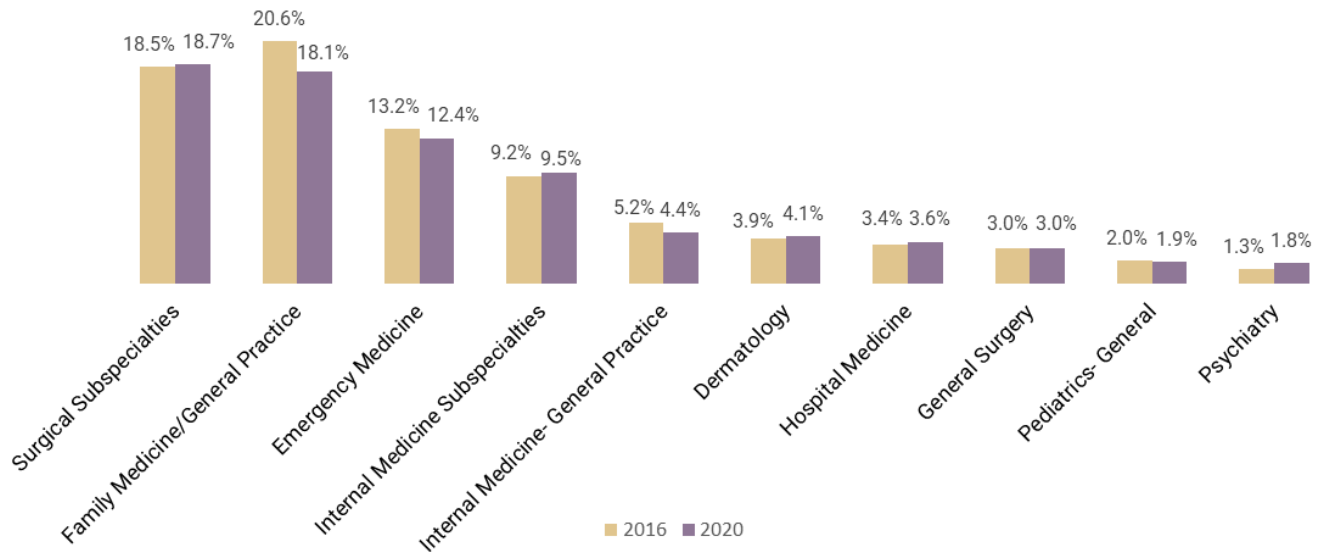


In 2020, 22.7% of Certified PAs indicated they communicate with patients in a language other than English; 22.8% in 2016. Of the Certified PAs who communicate with patients in a language other than English, most do so in Spanish.

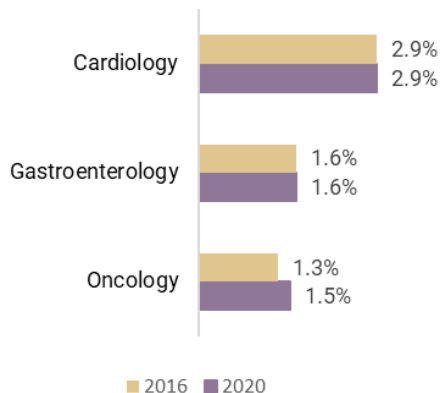
4.2% of Certified PAs speak two or more languages other than English, compared to 3.9% in 2016.

# Current Practice Area of Principal Clinical Position

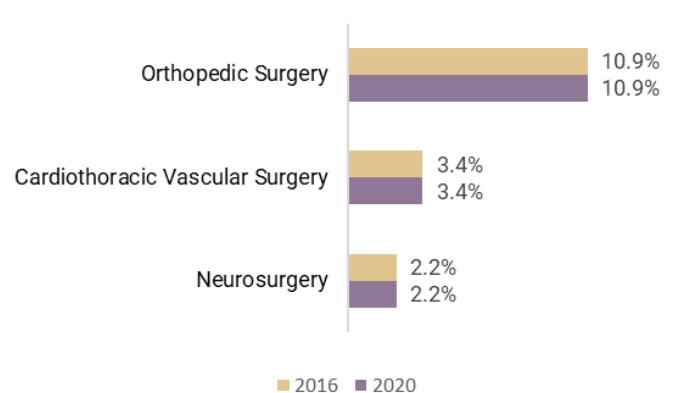
## Top Certified PA Practice Areas



## Top Internal Medicine Subspecialties



## Top Surgical Subspecialties



The Profile asks Certified PAs to identify their practice area and other practice characteristics for their principal clinical position and for those working in more than one clinical position, for a secondary clinical position. The data shown in this section is based only on responses to the question regarding the principal clinical position. In 2020, 10 specialties comprise over three-quarters (77.5%) of Certified PAs.

# Principal Clinical Position

## Number and Percent of Certified PAs by Principal Clinical Position

Area of Practice	2016 Number	2016 Percent	2020 Number	2020 Percent	Percent Change 2016-2020
Addiction Medicine	NA	NA	445	0.4%	NA
Adolescent Medicine	180	0.2%	129	0.1%	-28.3%
Anesthesiology	356	0.4%	279	0.3%	-21.6%
Critical Care Medicine	1,241	1.3%	1,810	1.7%	45.9%
Dermatology	3,589	3.9%	4,350	4.1%	21.2%
Emergency Medicine	12,152	13.2%	13,219	12.4%	8.8%
<b>Family Medicine/General Practice</b>	<b>18,944</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>19,312</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
Gynecology	367	0.4%	359	0.3%	-2.2%
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	37	<0.1%	117	0.1%	216.2%
Hospital Medicine	3,086	3.4%	3,859	3.6%	25.0%
<b>Internal Medicine-General Practice</b>	<b>4,778</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>4,644</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>
Internal Medicine-Subspecialties	8,487	9.2%	10,148	9.5%	19.6%
Neurology	755	0.8%	1,007	0.9%	33.4%
Obstetrics and Gynecology	1,117	1.2%	1,244	1.2%	11.4%
Occupational Medicine	1,378	1.5%	1,469	1.4%	6.6%
Ophthalmology	71	0.1%	87	0.1%	22.5%
Otolaryngology	808	0.9%	1,047	1.0%	29.6%
Pain Medicine	571	0.6%	1,469	1.4%	157.3%
Pathology	10	<0.1%	6	<0.1%	-40.0%
<b>Pediatrics-General Practice</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>

\*Continued on page 16



Most specialties increased in size from 2016 to 2020, but a few decreased.

The five specialties with the largest numbers of PAs:

1. Family Medicine/General Practice
2. Surgery Subspecialties
3. Emergency Medicine
4. Other\*\*
5. Internal Medicine Subspecialties

# Principal Clinical Position

## Number and Percent of Certified PAs by Principal Clinical Position (cont.)

Area of Practice	2016 Number	2016 Percent	2020 Number	2020 Percent	Percent Change 2016-2020
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation	789	0.8%	628	0.6%	-20.4%
Preventive Medicine/Public Health	159	0.2%	132	0.1%	-17.0%
Psychiatry	1,201	1.3%	1,887	1.8%	57.1%
Radiation Oncology	155	0.2%	193	0.2%	24.5%
Radiology	625	0.7%	769	0.7%	23.0%
Surgery-General	2,791	3.0%	3,208	3.0%	14.9%
Surgery-Subspecialties	17,009	18.5%	19,902	18.7%	17.0%
Urology	996	1.1%	1,068	1.0%	7.2%
Other	7,329	8.0%	10,423	9.8%	42.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91,882</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>106,606</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>

\*Clinical specialties are listed in alphabetical order.

\*\*Most frequent responses include Urgent Care, Interventional Radiology, Sleep Medicine, Trauma, Bariatric Surgery, Correctional Medicine, and Functional Medicine.



# Primary Care and Non-Primary Care by State

## Number and Percent of Certified PAs Practicing in Primary Care and Non-Primary Care by State

State	Primary Care* (%)	Non-Primary* (%)	Percent Change 2016-2020 in Primary Care
Alabama	146 (21.5%)	532 (78.5%)	22.7%
Alaska	233 (47.9%)	253 (52.1%)	-10.4%
Arizona	629 (27.1%)	1,693 (72.9%)	1.3%
Arkansas	110 (30.2%)	254 (69.8%)	7.8%
California	2,293 (29.3%)	5,525 (70.7%)	-4.6%
Colorado	965 (32.8%)	1,980 (67.2%)	-0.3%
Connecticut	280 (14.8%)	1,610 (85.2%)	9.4%
Delaware	51 (16.9%)	251 (83.1%)	-10.5%
Dist. of Columbia	41 (20.6%)	158 (79.4%)	-8.9%
Florida	1,313 (20.1%)	5,228 (79.9%)	3.4%
Georgia	636 (21.2%)	2,360 (78.8%)	-7.3%
Hawaii	103 (36.9%)	176 (63.1%)	8.4%
Idaho	367 (37.3%)	617 (62.7%)	23.6%
Illinois	644 (23.1%)	2,145 (76.9%)	1.6%
Indiana	221 (16.8%)	1,096 (83.2%)	17.6%
Iowa	375 (37.8%)	618 (62.2%)	3.0%
Kansas	318 (34.3%)	608 (65.7%)	-4.8%
Kentucky	300 (25.6%)	872 (74.4%)	0.3%
Louisiana	157 (15.7%)	843 (84.3%)	4.0%
Maine	170 (24.7%)	517 (75.3%)	-6.6%
Maryland	379 (15.8%)	2,023 (84.2%)	-7.6%

\*Primary care includes family medicine/general practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics. The total counts of Certified PAs in primary care and non-primary care specialties are based on the numbers of PAs who provided specialty information for their principal area of practice.

# Primary Care and Non-Primary Care by State

## Number and Percent of Certified PAs Practicing in Primary Care and Non-Primary Care by State (cont.)

State	Primary Care* (%)	Non-Primary* (%)	Percent Change 2016-2020 in Primary Care
Massachusetts	476 (16.7%)	2,374 (83.3%)	10.4%
Michigan	1,074 (24.5%)	3,308 (75.5%)	5.8%
Minnesota	660 (27.5%)	1,736 (72.5%)	10.4%
Mississippi	48 (23.1%)	160 (76.9%)	17.1%
Missouri	205 (21.0%)	772 (79.0%)	10.2%
Montana	194 (33.2%)	390 (66.8%)	6.6%
Nebraska	388 (37.8%)	638 (62.2%)	0.3%
Nevada	237 (30.3%)	545 (69.7%)	12.3%
New Hampshire	149 (20.7%)	570 (79.3%)	-4.5%
New Jersey	387 (15.7%)	2,074 (84.3%)	12.2%
New Mexico	217 (34.5%)	412 (65.5%)	-13.2%
New York	1,615 (16.5%)	8,189 (83.5%)	-2.8%
North Carolina	1,440 (26.7%)	3,959 (73.3%)	3.8%
North Dakota	128 (44.0%)	163 (56.0%)	-0.8%
Ohio	418 (13.6%)	2,659 (86.4%)	9.7%
Oklahoma	351 (27.5%)	926 (72.5%)	-6.6%
Oregon	513 (32.8%)	1,053 (67.2%)	11.5%

# Primary Care and Non-Primary Care by State

## Number and Percent of Certified PAs Practicing in Primary Care and Non-Primary Care by State (cont.)

State	Primary Care* (%)	Non-Primary* (%)	Percent Change 2016-2020 in Primary Care
Pennsylvania	1,483 (20.1%)	5,912 (79.9%)	10.5%
Rhode Island	53 (15.5%)	288 (84.5%)	20.5%
South Carolina	322 (23.1%)	1,072 (76.9%)	7.7%
South Dakota	202 (40.2%)	300 (59.8%)	-5.6%
Tennessee	490 (27.6%)	1,283 (72.4%)	1.9%
Texas	2,258 (32.0%)	4,800 (68.0%)	-2.4%
Utah	390 (31.0%)	867 (69.0%)	8.9%
Vermont	102 (33.2%)	205 (66.8%)	3.0%
Virginia	608 (22.1%)	2,143 (77.9%)	-2.6%
Washington	771 (29.7%)	1,826 (70.3%)	3.1%
West Virginia	261 (32.5%)	541 (67.5%)	-14.7%
Wisconsin	521 (22.6%)	1,785 (77.4%)	-0.4%
Wyoming	98 (43.9%)	125 (56.1%)	-16.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,790 (24.3%)</b>	<b>80,434 (75.7%)</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

24.4% of Certified PAs work in primary care: family medicine/general practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics, compared to 27.8% in 2016. Although the overall percentage of the Certified PA workforce practicing in primary care decreased during this five-year period, there was a slight net increase in the number of PAs working in primary care as more Certified PAs entered the workforce.

# Practice Setting

## Number of Certified PAs by Principal Clinical Practice Setting

Practice Setting	2016 Number	2016 Percent	2020 Number	2020 Percent	Percent Change 2016-2020
Hospital	35,400	38.9%	44,193	41.5%	24.8%
Office-based private practice	38,377	42.2%	40,222	37.7%	4.8%
Federal government facility/hospital/unit*	5,302	5.8%	5,428	5.1%	2.4%
Urgent care**	1,553	1.7%	5,412	5.1%	248.5%
Community health center	3,073	3.4%	3,131	2.9%	1.9%
Rural health clinic	2,038	2.2%	1,801	1.7%	-11.6%
Public or community health clinic (non-federally qualified)	1,245	1.4%	866	0.8%	-30.4%
School-based or college-based health center or school clinic	853	0.9%	859	0.8%	0.7%
Occupational health setting	953	1.0%	835	0.8%	-12.4%
Extended care facility/nursing home	659	0.7%	710	0.7%	7.7%
Behavioral/mental health facility	449	0.5%	600	0.6%	33.6%
Ambulatory surgical center	351	0.4%	322	0.3%	-8.3%
Rehabilitation facility	293	0.3%	307	0.3%	4.8%
Retail clinic	NA	NA	245	0.2%	NA
Free clinic	239	0.3%	182	0.2%	-23.8%
Home healthcare agency	118	0.1%	143	0.1%	21.2%



Most Certified PAs work in a hospital or an office-based private practice setting (79.2%).

The average number of hours worked per week for all Certified PAs in their principal clinical position is 40.1. This is a slight decrease from 2016 when the average was 40.6.

Throughout all practice settings, the average number of patients seen per week for all full-time (40+ hours per week) Certified PAs who see patients in their principal clinical position is 71. This is a decrease from 2016 when the average was 74.

Practice settings listed in rank order by number of PAs in 2020.

\*3,621 Certified PAs indicated they have a current military status of active duty, national guard, or reserve in 2020, compared to 3,980 in 2016.

\*\*Urgent care appeared on the profile for the first time in 2016; therefore, the increase may be inflated as PAs were provided the opportunity to select this option as additional responses were gathered.



# Plans to Leave Clinical Position

## Factors Influencing Certified PAs Planning to Leave Principal Clinical Position

2016 and 2020 Number (n\*) and Percentage of Total (%\*) who Plan to Leave Principal Position and Indicated Factor was “Very Important”

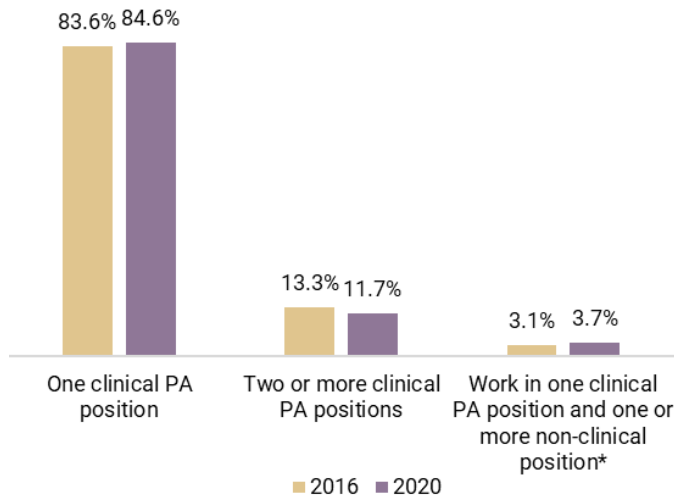
	2016		2020	
	n	%	n	%
Seeking another clinical PA position	4,027	64.0%	4,241	61.2%
Insufficient wages given the workload and responsibilities involved	2,286	36.3%	2,567	37.0%
Feelings of professional burnout	NA*	NA	2,371	34.2%
Relocating to another geographic area	2,016	32.1%	2,069	29.9%
Work is not professionally challenging or satisfying	1,636	26.0%	1,815	26.2%
Other	1,532	24.4%	1,717	24.8%
Family responsibilities interfere with ability to continue working	920	14.6%	1,068	15.4%
Plan to retire from active workforce	547	8.7%	830	12.0%
Want to pursue additional education	506	8.0%	508	7.3%
Desire a non-clinical health-related position	275	4.4%	411	5.9%
Desire a position outside of health care	226	3.6%	337	4.9%
Want to work in a health professional training program position	307	4.9%	328	4.7%
My health does not allow me to continue working as a PA	109	1.7%	134	1.9%

\*Factor was not included in the 2016 Profile.

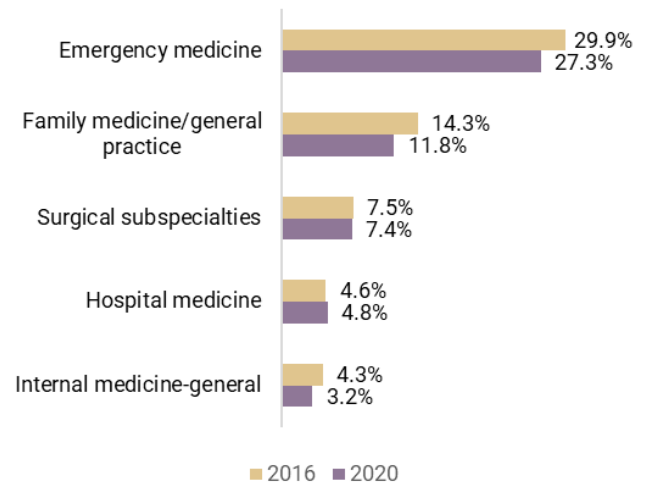
Overall, 6.5% (6,929) of Certified PAs indicated they were planning to leave their principal clinical position in the next 12 months. However, 61.2% were seeking another clinical position. There was an increase in the percentage of PAs who plan to retire, increasing to 12% in 2020, compared to 8.7% in 2016.

# Distribution Working in More Than One Position

## Distribution of Certified PAs Working in More than One Clinical Position



## Top Five Secondary Specialty Areas of Certified PAs with More than One Clinical Position



In 2020, 16.3% of Certified PAs who were working in more than one clinical position were working in a primary care position in their secondary position, compared to 21.1% in 2016.

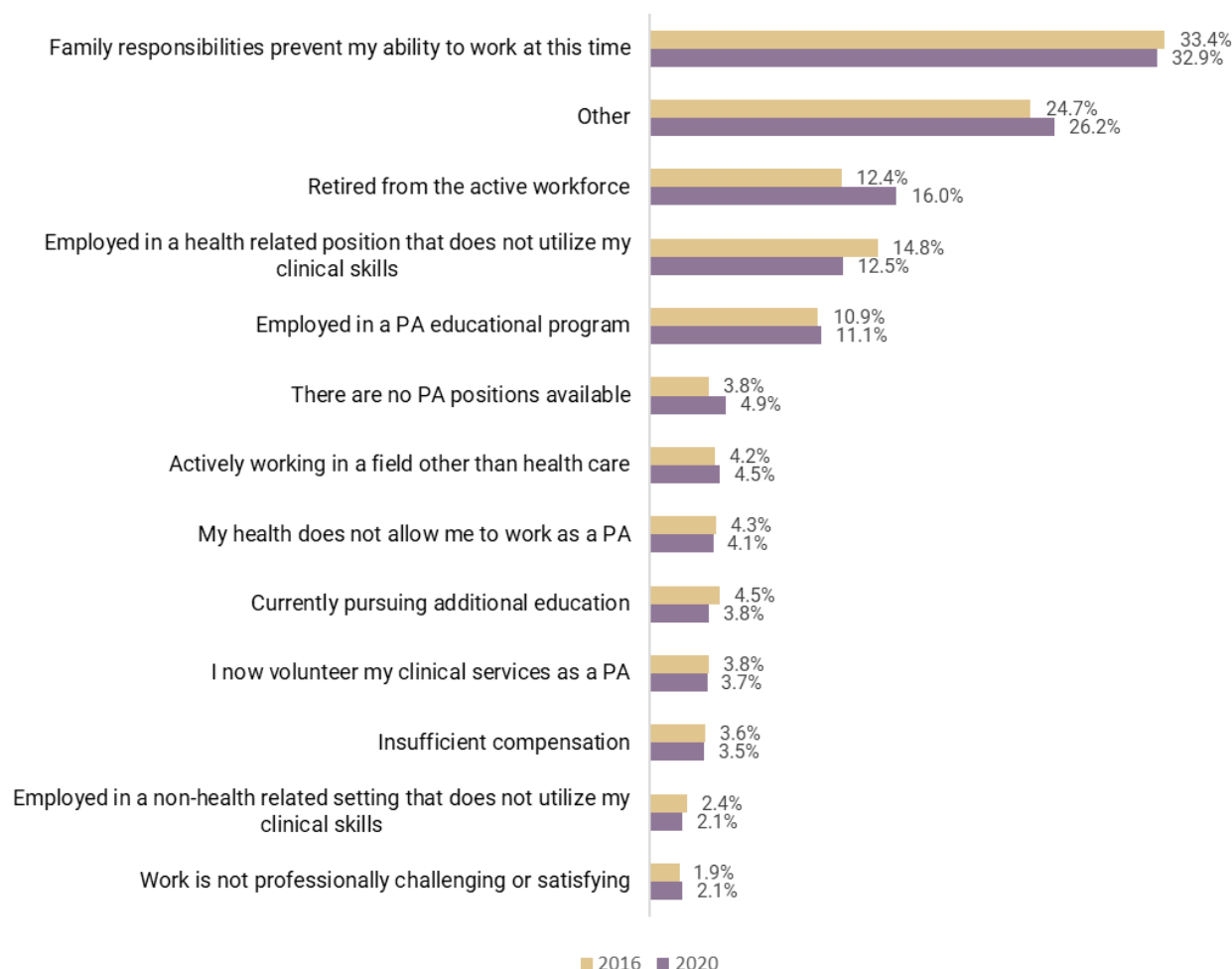
## Reasons Certified PAs are Employed in More than One Clinical Position

	2016	2020
Supplement earnings from principal clinical position	43.9%	44.9%
Enjoy working in a variety of clinical settings	26.4%	26.6%
To gain experience in a different aspect of clinical care	18.7%	18.5%
Other (e.g., financial, military service, gain experience, etc.)	9.0%	8.3%
Was not offered full-time work in my principal clinical PA position	1.9%	1.8%

Certified PAs who work in a secondary clinical position work an average of **11.0 hours per week** (10.9 in 2016) and see an average of **22 patients per week** (same as 2016) in their secondary clinical position.

# Certified PAs Not in Clinical Practice

## Why Certified PAs Do Not Practice Clinically



PAs may select multiple reasons they are not engaged in clinical practice.  
Percentages are the percent of PAs who indicated they did not practice clinically and chose each reason.

The vast majority of PAs are engaged in clinical practice. In 2020 and 2016, 94.8% of Certified PAs indicated they were practicing clinically.

For PAs who chose “other,” the most common reason provided was that they are currently searching for a clinical position.

## Total Income in Last Calendar Year from PA Positions

Income Range	2016	2020
Less than or equal to \$60,000	6.7%	4.8%
\$60,001-\$70,000	2.9%	1.9%
\$70,001-\$80,000	6.7%	3.0%
\$80,001-\$90,000	14.4%	7.0%
\$90,001-\$100,000	17.8%	13.3%
\$100,001-\$110,000	16.3%	17.3%
\$110,001-\$120,000	11.6%	14.9%
\$120,001-\$130,000	7.8%	11.4%
\$130,001-\$140,000	4.7%	7.6%
\$140,001-\$150,000	3.0%	5.3%
\$150,001-\$160,000	2.2%	3.7%
\$160,001-\$170,000	1.3%	2.3%
\$170,001-\$180,000	1.1%	1.8%
\$180,001-\$190,000	0.8%	1.3%
\$190,001-\$200,000	0.7%	1.1%
More than \$200,000	1.8%	3.0%

## Mean and Median Income

	2016	2020
<b>Mean</b>	\$104,131	\$115,470
<b>Median</b>	\$105,000	\$115,000

The average total income for Certified PAs increased by 10.9% between 2016 and 2020.

Specialties with the highest average income include: cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, neurosurgery, emergency medicine, and orthopaedic surgery.

In 2016, 51.3% of Certified PAs had an average total income of \$100,000 or more from all PA positions. In 2020, this increased to 69.7%.

The percentage of PAs earning more than \$200,000 has almost doubled between 2016 and 2020.



# Future Data on Certified PAs

NCCPA pursues a research agenda that focuses on its core activities and the ongoing evaluation and improvement of its exams and certification program. NCCPA is also committed to collaborating with external researchers to share data in appropriate and ethical ways to further advance the health and safety of the public or otherwise conduct useful research related to PAs. To facilitate research collaborations, NCCPA developed Policies for the Review of Requests for Data and External Research Collaboration and guidelines that describe the process external researchers will need to follow for submitting requests for data and how those requests will be reviewed. The policies and guidelines are provided on NCCPA's web site at [http:// www.nccpa.net/Research](http://www.nccpa.net/Research).

This Statistical Profile will be updated and published annually. In addition, there are supplementary reports that are currently available and updated annually. Those reports include:

- Statistical Profile of Recently Certified PAs
- Statistical Profile of Certified PAs by State
- Statistical Profile of Certified PAs by Specialty

Please cite this report as follows:

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This study is exempt from IRB review pursuant to the terms of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Policy for Protection of Human Research Subjects at 45 C.F.R. §46.101(b).

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## Practice or Institution Participates in Telemedicine Services

Specialty	%
Primary Care	63.4%
Cardiology	69.7%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	64.4%
Critical care medicine	56.4%
Dermatology	54.4%
Emergency medicine	43.7%
Family medicine/ general practice	63.6%
Gastroenterology	67.3%
General surgery	60.0%
Geriatrics	63.9%
Hospital medicine	58.0%
Internal medicine- general	64.0%
Neurology	72.8%
Neurosurgery	65.5%
Obstetrics and gynecology	56.3%
Occupational medicine	52.3%
Oncology	67.4%
Orthopaedic surgery	61.4%
Otolaryngology	63.9%
Pain medicine	49.7%
Pediatrics- general	61.0%
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	51.7%
Plastic surgery	57.5%
Psychiatry	64.5%
Urology	69.0%
All Specialties	59.0%

## Modalities PAs Use When Participating in Telemedicine

Specialty	Videoconferencing	Remote patient monitoring	Storing and forwarding data
Primary Care	74.4%	17.9%	9.1%
Cardiology	74.6%	37.2%	10.4%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	65.5%	16.5%	7.8%
Critical care medicine	42.2%	24.9%	8.6%
Dermatology	82.2%	11.0%	15.1%
Emergency medicine	50.6%	8.5%	6.6%
Family medicine/ general practice	73.3%	17.8%	9.6%
Gastroenterology	84.5%	11.1%	5.6%
General surgery	67.8%	17.5%	7.3%
Geriatrics	76.9%	18.3%	8.7%
Hospital medicine	49.5%	19.8%	11.2%
Internal medicine- general	75.6%	21.3%	8.6%
Neurology	81.1%	12.6%	6.6%
Neurosurgery	74.7%	16.3%	7.9%
Obstetrics and gynecology	82.9%	13.9%	5.3%
Occupational medicine	69.0%	18.7%	11.9%
Oncology	85.0%	19.6%	4.9%
Orthopaedic surgery	74.3%	14.2%	6.6%
Otolaryngology	81.2%	9.7%	4.8%
Pain medicine	82.9%	21.4%	5.5%
Pediatrics- general	85.8%	9.6%	5.3%
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	83.3%	14.9%	4.4%
Plastic surgery	66.8%	17.9%	5.4%
Psychiatry	73.0%	16.2%	5.5%
Urology	77.6%	13.6%	7.5%
All Specialties	72.6%	16.5%	8.2%

## Functions of Telemedicine

Specialty	Following up with patients	Diagnosing or treating patients	Managing patients with chronic disease	Collaboration with another provider
Primary Care	74.7%	76.2%	66.6%	24.6%
Cardiology	81.7%	69.4%	78.1%	33.2%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	71.9%	43.5%	39.5%	25.5%
Critical care medicine	20.0%	33.0%	15.1%	36.2%
Dermatology	82.6%	80.4%	65.4%	20.1%
Emergency medicine	21.7%	41.1%	10.0%	25.0%
Family medicine/ general practice	74.6%	75.4%	66.6%	24.7%
Gastroenterology	86.5%	83.3%	81.6%	24.4%
General surgery	74.5%	45.8%	24.0%	19.3%
Geriatrics	71.6%	70.2%	73.6%	38.0%
Hospital medicine	31.6%	37.7%	22.8%	38.3%
Internal medicine- general	73.9%	76.4%	70.8%	26.8%
Neurology	80.8%	70.9%	73.5%	29.1%
Neurosurgery	80.5%	63.8%	37.6%	30.5%
Obstetrics and gynecology	84.1%	75.9%	42.4%	21.2%
Occupational medicine	73.1%	56.3%	17.9%	23.5%
Oncology	85.6%	58.4%	70.6%	33.3%
Orthopaedic surgery	80.7%	56.8%	29.3%	19.9%
Otolaryngology	84.5%	76.8%	59.4%	20.8%
Pain medicine	89.3%	70.5%	78.9%	27.7%
Pediatrics- general	77.9%	85.1%	54.5%	17.5%
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	83.3%	63.2%	57.9%	25.4%
Plastic surgery	70.1%	47.8%	15.2%	23.4%
Psychiatry	72.7%	70.4%	62.0%	36.4%
Urology	80.3%	70.2%	69.7%	26.3%
All Specialties	69.5%	66.1%	51.2%	25.5%

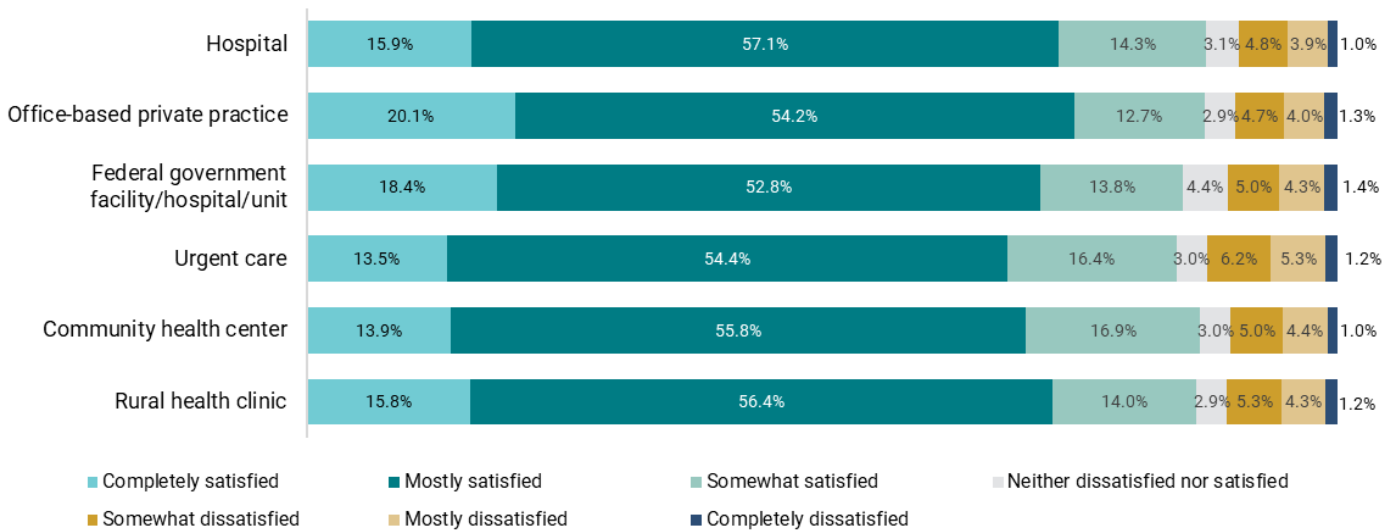
# Job Satisfaction

## Satisfaction with Present Job

Specialty	Completely satisfied	Mostly satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Mostly dissatisfied	Completely dissatisfied
Primary Care	16.6%	54.9%	14.4%	3.4%	5.1%	4.3%	1.2%
Cardiology	17.4%	58.9%	13.4%	2.2%	3.6%	3.5%	1.0%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	18.0%	56.4%	11.1%	3.1%	4.6%	4.1%	1.1%
Critical care medicine	18.7%	58.0%	12.5%	2.0%	4.1%	3.4%	1.1%
Dermatology	27.2%	50.8%	10.6%	2.4%	3.6%	4.1%	1.4%
Emergency medicine	13.4%	55.2%	16.1%	3.8%	6.0%	4.4%	1.1%
Family medicine/ general practice	16.5%	55.0%	14.4%	3.3%	5.2%	4.3%	1.2%
Gastroenterology	13.5%	59.3%	12.1%	3.5%	6.2%	4.2%	1.2%
General surgery	18.1%	57.0%	12.8%	2.9%	4.0%	3.6%	1.6%
Geriatrics	16.3%	55.6%	13.3%	2.6%	7.3%	3.6%	1.3%
Hospital medicine	15.0%	57.0%	14.3%	3.8%	4.7%	4.1%	1.2%
Internal medicine-general	15.6%	53.8%	15.1%	4.1%	5.6%	4.3%	1.4%
Neurology	16.7%	54.9%	14.0%	2.5%	7.0%	4.3%	0.5%
Neurosurgery	19.5%	54.0%	13.9%	3.4%	5.1%	2.8%	1.3%
Obstetrics and gynecology	22.0%	54.6%	14.0%	1.5%	3.6%	3.6%	0.8%
Occupational medicine	20.0%	51.1%	13.0%	4.0%	4.3%	5.9%	1.6%
Oncology	18.8%	56.5%	13.6%	3.0%	2.9%	3.8%	1.3%
Orthopaedic surgery	19.9%	56.3%	12.6%	2.5%	4.0%	3.6%	1.0%
Otolaryngology	19.3%	57.7%	11.7%	2.6%	3.3%	4.4%	1.1%
Pain medicine	16.3%	50.8%	16.9%	5.1%	4.1%	4.9%	1.9%
Pediatrics- general	19.7%	55.8%	12.3%	2.4%	5.0%	4.1%	0.7%
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	18.7%	50.6%	14.6%	5.8%	6.1%	2.9%	1.2%
Plastic surgery	23.1%	54.8%	9.8%	3.1%	4.1%	3.1%	1.9%
Psychiatry	19.0%	52.8%	13.2%	4.4%	5.1%	4.1%	1.4%
Urology	14.3%	56.1%	14.8%	2.8%	5.5%	4.8%	1.7%
All Specialties	17.6%	55.3%	13.8%	3.1%	4.9%	4.1%	1.2%

# Job Satisfaction

## Satisfaction with Present Job by Top Practice Settings\*



\*Includes practice settings with greatest number of Certified PAs in 2020

Based on data from the top practice settings with the largest number of Certified PAs: Certified PAs working in an office-based private practice reported the highest satisfaction with their present job. 74.3% of office-based private practice PAs indicated they are completely or mostly satisfied with their job. 67.9% of PAs in urgent care reported they are completely or mostly satisfied with their job, but 12.7% of them reported some level of dissatisfaction.



## Feeling of Burnout

Specialty	One or more symptoms of burnout	No symptoms of burnout
Primary Care	28.9%	71.1%
Cardiology	24.4%	75.6%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	25.3%	74.7%
Critical care medicine	31.8%	68.2%
Dermatology	20.3%	79.7%
Emergency medicine	30.6%	69.4%
Family medicine/ general practice	29.7%	70.3%
Gastroenterology	27.8%	72.2%
General surgery	21.4%	78.6%
Geriatrics	28.8%	71.2%
Hospital medicine	29.2%	70.8%
Internal medicine- general	28.5%	71.5%
Neurology	28.2%	71.8%
Neurosurgery	24.6%	75.4%
Obstetrics and gynecology	24.1%	75.9%
Occupational medicine	20.6%	79.4%
Oncology	29.4%	70.6%
Orthopaedic surgery	21.7%	78.3%
Otolaryngology	22.4%	77.6%
Pain medicine	27.7%	72.3%
Pediatrics- general	22.2%	77.8%
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	21.6%	78.4%
Plastic surgery	22.4%	77.6%
Psychiatry	28.9%	71.1%
Urology	27.3%	72.7%
All Specialties	26.6%	73.4%

## Level of Burnout

PAs were asked to rate their level of burnout based on their own definition of burnout.

### Burnout Scale<sup>1,2</sup>

1= I enjoy my work; I have no symptoms of burnout

2= Occasionally I am under stress, and I don't always have as much energy as I once did, but I don't feel burned out.

3= I am definitely burning out and have one or more symptoms of burnout, such as physical and emotional exhaustion.

4= The symptoms of burnout that I'm experiencing won't go away. I think about frustration at work a lot.

5= I feel completely burnout out and often wonder if I can go on. I am at the point where I may need some changes or may need to seek some sort of help.

The mean burnout score was **2.2** and the median was **2.0**.

<sup>1</sup>Rohland BM, Kruse GR, Rohrer JE. Validation of a single-item measure of burnout against the Maslach Burnout Inventory among physicians. Stress and Health: Journal of the International Society for the Investigation of Stress. 2004 Apr;20(2):75-9.

<sup>2</sup>Dolan ED, Mohr D, Lempa M, Joos S, Fihn SD, Nelson KM, Helfrich CD. Using a single item to measure burnout in primary care staff: a psychometric evaluation. Journal of general internal medicine. 2015 May 1;30(5):582-7.

# Supply and Demand

## Plans to Retire in the Next Five Years

Specialty	%
Primary Care	7.5%
Cardiology	5.8%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	6.6%
Critical care medicine	2.6%
Dermatology	3.4%
Emergency medicine	4.7%
Family medicine/ general practice	7.7%
Gastroenterology	4.2%
General surgery	4.6%
Geriatrics	10.8%
Hospital medicine	3.9%
Internal medicine- general	7.8%
Neurology	5.4%
Neurosurgery	3.9%
Obstetrics and gynecology	4.8%
Occupational medicine	15.5%
Oncology	3.9%
Orthopaedic surgery	4.0%
Otolaryngology	3.2%
Pain medicine	6.4%
Pediatrics- general	4.9%
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	6.5%
Plastic surgery	3.4%
Psychiatry	6.8%
Urology	6.1%
All Specialties	5.8%

## Primary Place of Employment is Currently Recruiting/Hiring PAs

Specialty	%
Primary Care	24.9%
Cardiology	36.5%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	44.3%
Critical care medicine	58.7%
Dermatology	11.8%
Emergency medicine	28.9%
Family medicine/ general practice	25.8%
Gastroenterology	26.1%
General surgery	40.3%
Geriatrics	35.4%
Hospital medicine	42.0%
Internal medicine- general	26.3%
Neurology	34.2%
Neurosurgery	38.6%
Obstetrics and gynecology	23.5%
Occupational medicine	28.2%
Oncology	44.1%
Orthopaedic surgery	29.8%
Otolaryngology	20.4%
Pain medicine	21.4%
Pediatrics- general	13.9%
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	21.1%
Plastic surgery	23.0%
Psychiatry	29.5%
Urology	28.6%
All Specialties	30.3%

# Supply and Demand

## Number of Months Open Positions Have Remained Unfilled

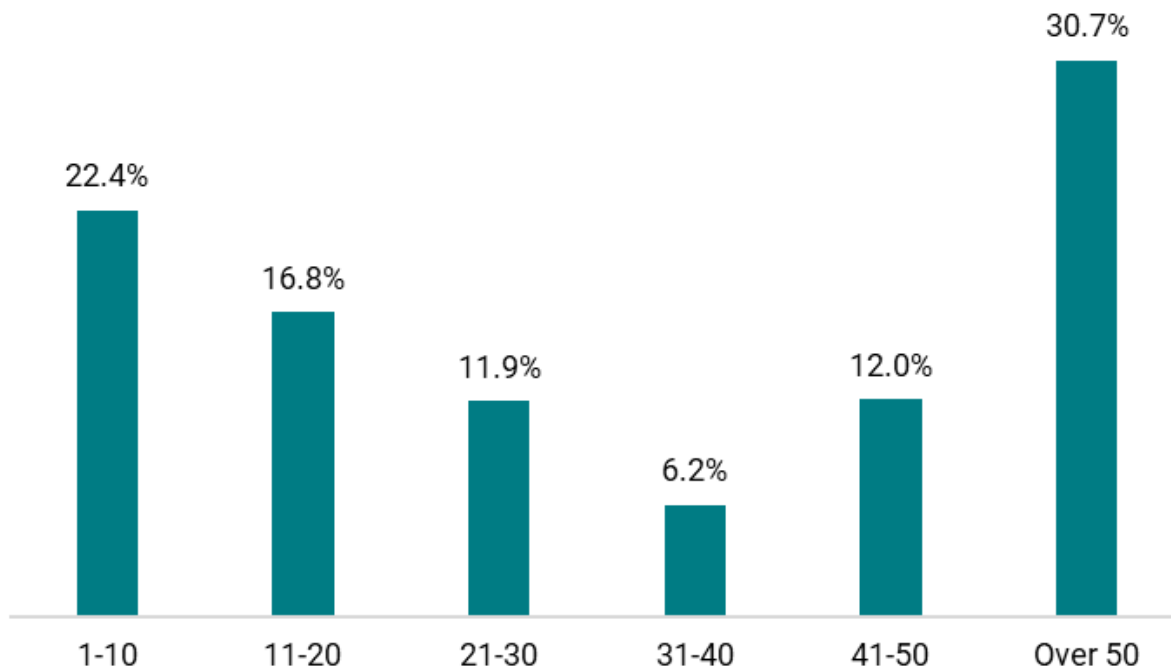
Specialty	1-2 Months	3-4 Months	5 or More Months
Primary Care	52.1%	21.7%	26.2%
Cardiology	56.7%	25.5%	17.8%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	42.0%	24.8%	33.2%
Critical care medicine	53.8%	22.0%	24.1%
Dermatology	68.7%	16.3%	14.9%
Emergency medicine	66.3%	16.8%	16.9%
Family medicine/ general practice	52.0%	21.9%	26.2%
Gastroenterology	55.9%	23.8%	20.4%
General surgery	57.9%	23.1%	19.0%
Geriatrics	56.9%	26.1%	17.0%
Hospital medicine	62.5%	21.0%	16.5%
Internal medicine- general	50.3%	23.0%	26.6%
Neurology	50.8%	23.9%	25.4%
Neurosurgery	52.6%	25.5%	21.8%
Obstetrics and gynecology	62.4%	19.6%	18.0%
Occupational medicine	55.9%	21.5%	22.7%
Oncology	62.6%	25.2%	12.2%
Orthopaedic surgery	61.9%	21.7%	16.4%
Otolaryngology	64.9%	16.8%	18.3%
Pain medicine	56.9%	17.9%	25.1%
Pediatrics- general	59.7%	13.9%	26.5%
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	62.5%	22.3%	15.3%
Plastic surgery	58.9%	17.7%	23.4%
Psychiatry	53.6%	19.8%	26.6%
Urology	54.0%	26.8%	19.2%
All Specialties	57.5%	21.5%	20.9%

# Supply and Demand

## Average and Median Number of Prescriptions/Refills Written per Week

Specialty	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	Over 50	Median
Primary Care	6.9%	8.4%	9.0%	6.1%	14.8%	54.9%	20
Cardiology	23.9%	22.2%	16.8%	5.4%	13.8%	17.9%	25
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	57.0%	20.7%	9.6%	2.5%	6.1%	4.0%	10
Critical care medicine	37.3%	13.9%	10.2%	2.8%	13.8%	21.9%	20
Dermatology	5.8%	7.1%	8.1%	7.1%	16.0%	55.9%	65
Emergency medicine	9.1%	16.3%	14.5%	10.5%	15.7%	33.9%	40
Family medicine/ general practice	5.9%	7.4%	8.3%	6.0%	14.4%	58.1%	75
Gastroenterology	14.9%	19.5%	16.6%	10.9%	18.6%	19.6%	30
General surgery	53.8%	26.9%	9.0%	2.3%	4.4%	3.6%	10
Geriatrics	21.8%	23.6%	14.5%	5.9%	11.6%	22.7%	25
Hospital medicine	34.4%	24.2%	12.3%	4.1%	8.4%	16.7%	20
Internal medicine- general	8.7%	8.6%	8.4%	4.8%	14.3%	55.2%	70
Neurology	19.5%	12.6%	15.5%	7.9%	16.2%	28.3%	40
Neurosurgery	54.1%	25.4%	11.0%	2.5%	3.9%	3.0%	10
Obstetrics and gynecology	17.9%	17.0%	16.6%	8.6%	16.2%	23.6%	30
Occupational medicine	50.9%	19.4%	9.7%	4.4%	6.6%	8.9%	10
Oncology	29.6%	28.2%	17.1%	6.0%	10.5%	8.6%	20
Orthopaedic surgery	35.2%	30.0%	16.4%	5.0%	7.3%	5.9%	20
Otolaryngology	15.1%	23.1%	18.5%	7.3%	15.9%	20.1%	30
Pain medicine	9.0%	6.5%	6.2%	4.5%	10.1%	63.7%	80
Pediatrics- general	12.4%	17.5%	15.8%	9.3%	19.0%	26.0%	40
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	27.2%	16.7%	11.5%	5.2%	10.8%	28.5%	30
Plastic surgery	61.7%	23.5%	9.5%	2.0%	2.6%	0.8%	10
Psychiatry	7.4%	11.1%	10.0%	4.2%	11.2%	56.1%	70
Urology	13.6%	19.0%	18.2%	11.0%	17.5%	20.7%	30
All Specialties	22.4%	16.8%	11.9%	6.2%	12.0%	30.7%	30

## Average Number of Prescriptions/Refills Written per Week



The median number of prescriptions written by Certified PAs per week is 30.

95.5% of clinically practicing Certified PAs prescribe pharmacologic agents for patients.

## Number of Patients in Panels with PA as the Primary Provider

Number of Patients in Panel	Number	Percent
1-25	7,218	20.3%
26-50	5,185	14.6%
51-75	1,287	3.6%
76-100	4,576	12.9%
101-150	1,224	3.4%
151-200	2,385	6.7%
201-300	1,584	4.5%
301-400	1,165	3.3%
401-500	2,403	6.8%
Over 500	8,524	24.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35,551</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The median number of patients in panels with Certified PAs as the primary provider is 100.

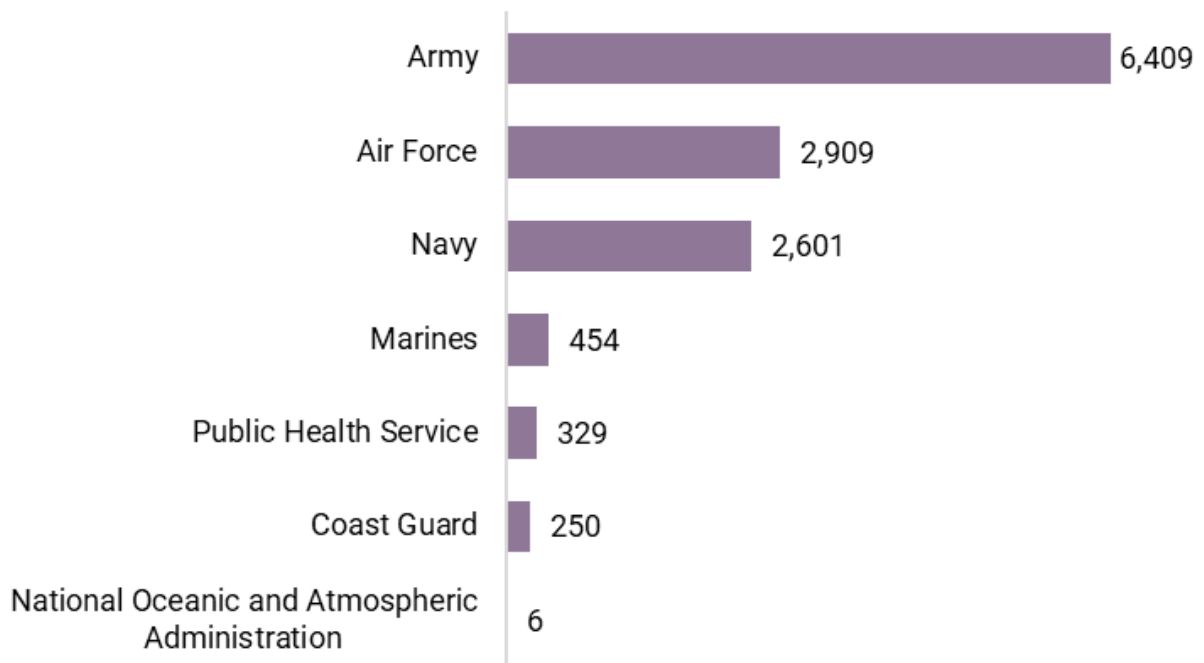
33.8% (over 36,000) of clinically practicing Certified PAs indicated they have a patient panel for which they are the primary provider.



## Percent of Certified PA Workforce who Have Ever Served in the Armed Forces and Present Status of Those Military PAs

Specialty	Ever served	Active Duty	National Guard	Reserve	Veteran	Retired Veteran
Primary Care	13.4%	34.1%	5.3%	2.8%	34.4%	23.4%
Cardiology	5.6%	1.8%	4.7%	4.1%	70.4%	18.9%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	7.7%	3.8%	9.0%	6.0%	63.5%	17.7%
Critical care medicine	6.7%	4.2%	15.3%	4.2%	63.6%	12.7%
Dermatology	5.4%					
Emergency medicine	12.6%	14.6%	11.2%	4.9%	46.5%	22.9%
Family medicine/ general practice	15.7%	37.8%	5.4%	2.7%	31.3%	22.8%
Gastroenterology	3.9%	1.5%	12.1%	7.6%	62.1%	16.7%
General surgery	6.9%	12.6%	12.1%	6.1%	54.2%	15.0%
Geriatrics	7.4%	6.5%	6.5%	3.2%	62.9%	21.0%
Hospital medicine	3.0%	4.5%	8.0%	2.5%	68.5%	16.5%
Internal medicine- general	8.3%	9.6%	4.0%	3.5%	54.5%	28.5%
Neurology	5.4%					
Neurosurgery	7.3%	2.4%	10.1%	3.6%	60.4%	23.7%
Obstetrics and gynecology	1.9%	8.7%	8.7%	13.0%	65.2%	4.3%
Occupational medicine	24.4%	15.6%	8.5%	2.8%	42.8%	30.3%
Oncology	2.7%	4.7%	7.0%	7.0%	60.5%	20.9%
Orthopaedic surgery	9.7%	11.5%	10.5%	5.7%	47.9%	24.4%
Otolaryngology	7.8%					
Pain medicine	12.1%	5.1%	5.1%	1.1%	62.9%	25.7%
Pediatrics- general	3.6%	8.6%	5.7%	5.7%	60.0%	20.0%
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	7.6%	4.2%	12.5%	2.1%	58.3%	22.9%
Plastic surgery	3.0%	10.7%	3.6%	3.6%	64.3%	17.9%
Psychiatry	9.9%	6.6%	5.5%	3.8%	59.6%	24.6%
Urology	8.5%	5.6%	7.9%	5.6%	53.9%	27.0%
All Specialties	9.8%	18.7%	7.9%	4.0%	45.7%	23.7%

## Branch of U.S. Armed Forces Served



Note: PAs could select multiple branches of armed forces, and 948 PAs indicated they served in more than one branch.