NCCPA
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Statistical Profile of Certified PAs by Specialty

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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Message from the President and CEO

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of NCCPA and almost 134,000 PAs who contributed to the PA Professional Profile, I am pleased to present the Statistical Profile of Certified PAs by Specialty, now in its eighth year of publication. Looking at the data through this lens helps showcase PAs' tremendous impact across the entire spectrum of medicine. It also highlights some of the challenges PAs face in their practices. We've made some changes that we hope will make this report even more valuable. First, each year we strive to enhance the data gathered on the PA profession by adding new questions to the PA Professional Profile, and this report includes information on topics such as postgraduate education, care for underserved populations, different modalities and functions of telemedicine, and more. The format for this year's report has been updated to facilitate an easier comparison of the data between specialties. Lastly, additional information on PAs practicing in secondary clinical positions is provided in the 2021 Specialty Supplement on Secondary Specialty.

As health care disparities continue to plague our country, it is rewarding to see that 33.8% of PAs working in primary care, 36.1% of PAs practicing in family medicine, and 35.1% of those in general pediatrics are providing care to underserved populations. Over half of the PAs working in family medicine, geriatrics, psychiatry, and general internal medicine have their own patient panels. Overall, PAs see 71 patients per week on average, and those working in dermatology and general pediatrics see 100 or more.

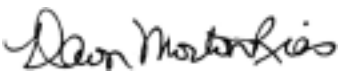
Family medicine continues to be the largest specialty for PAs (17.7%). Across all specialties, 33.6% of PAs are participating in telemedicine to care for patients, and PAs working in psychiatry reported the highest use of telemedicine (62.7%). Of those who do participate in telemedicine, over 90% of the PAs working in gastroenterology, general pediatrics, psychiatry, general internal medicine, and family medicine reported they use telemedicine to diagnose and treat patients.

Burnout and job satisfaction are particularly important topics in the health care arena, especially as health care providers have spent the past two years battling an unprecedented pandemic. Last year, we provided preliminary data on new questions that had been added to the PA Professional Profile to help enhance the data gathered on these topics. Now that we have a full cycle and one more year of data gathering, we see that burnout is slightly higher and job satisfaction is somewhat lower than last year, with 30.6% of PAs experiencing at least one symptom of burnout, and the highest rates coming from PAs who work in Critical Care (37.9%) and Emergency Medicine (36.8%). However, even after experiencing a pandemic crisis, 70.5% of all PAs are completely or mostly satisfied with their job, with plastic surgery and dermatology rating the highest, at 78.7% and 76.7%, respectively.

Overall, 5.4% of PAs plan to retire from the workforce within the next five years. With occupational medicine having the highest planned retirement rate (15.1%), followed by 10.0% practicing in geriatrics. The discipline with the highest level of recruitment is critical care medicine with 60.7% of PAs working in this specialty reporting that their practice is currently recruiting PAs.

We hope you will find the data provided in this report will be interesting and useful. As always, on behalf of NCCPA, we are grateful for the Certified PAs who contribute their data that makes this report possible.

Sincerely,



Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D., PA-C, ICE-CCP
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, 2021 and have made updates to their Profile between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021. Data from 2017 have been included to provide five-year comparisons. In addition, some data were obtained from other NCCPA data collection strategies. As of December 31, 2021, there were 158,470 Certified PAs, and 133,905 provided responses for at least a portion of the Profile, yielding an overall response rate of 84.5%. In 2021 new questions were added to the Profile. Findings from that data can be found in the appendix. The response rate for the new items is ≥57% as of December 31, 2021. 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. Rate per 1,000 physicians is derived from the Association of American Medical Colleges' 2020 Physician Specialty Data Report. Analyses of the data consist primarily of descriptive statistics. Percent change calculations reflect proportional changes from 2017 to 2021 throughout the report unless otherwise noted.

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 185,000 PAs have been certified by NCCPA since 1975.

For more information, visit our website at: www.nccpa.net

All Specialties by Number, Percent and Percent Change

Specialty	2021		Percent change 2017-2021
	Number	Percent	
Addiction medicine	520	0.5%	0.3%
Adolescent medicine	129	0.1%	-0.1%
Anesthesiology	297	0.3%	0.0%
Critical care medicine	2,071	1.9%	0.5%
Dermatology	4,580	4.1%	0.2%
Emergency medicine	13,198	11.8%	-1.3%
Family medicine/general practice	19,700	17.7%	-2.2%
Gynecology only	357	0.3%	-0.1%
Hospice and palliative medicine	138	0.1%	0.0%
Hospital medicine (hospitalist)	4,074	3.7%	0.3%
Internal medicine-allergy and immunology	348	0.3%	0.0%
Internal medicine-cardiology	3,198	2.9%	0.0%
Internal medicine-endocrinology	626	0.6%	0.1%
Internal medicine-gastroenterology	1,831	1.6%	-0.1%
Internal medicine-general practice	4,750	4.3%	-0.6%
Internal medicine-geriatrics	877	0.8%	0.0%
Internal medicine-hematology	279	0.3%	0.1%
Internal medicine-infectious disease	445	0.4%	0.0%
Internal medicine-nephrology	410	0.4%	0.0%
Internal medicine-oncology	1,747	1.6%	0.2%
Internal medicine-pulmonology	554	0.5%	0.0%
Internal medicine-rheumatology	396	0.4%	0.1%
Internal medicine-sports medicine	62	0.1%	0.0%
Neurology	1,098	1.0%	0.2%
Obstetrics and gynecology	1,322	1.2%	0.0%
Occupational medicine	1,466	1.3%	-0.2%
Ophthalmology	93	0.1%	0.0%
Otolaryngology	1,133	1.0%	0.1%
Pain medicine	1,595	1.4%	0.2%
Pathology	5	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-cardiology	100	0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-critical care medicine	144	0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-developmental-behavioral pediatrics	35	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-emergency medicine	291	0.3%	0.0%
Pediatric-endocrinology	38	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-gastroenterology	63	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-general	2,005	1.8%	-0.2%
Pediatric-hematology-oncology	141	0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-hospice and palliative medicine	6	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-infectious diseases	12	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-medical toxicology	1	<0.1%	<0.1%
Pediatric-neonatal-perinatal medicine	404	0.4%	0.1%

Specialty	2021		Percent change 2017-2021
	Number	Percent	
Pediatric-neurodevelopmental disabilities	31	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-pulmonology	33	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-rheumatology	4	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-sleep medicine	7	<0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-sports medicine	82	0.1%	0.0%
Pediatric-transplant hepatology	14	<0.1%	0.0%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	622	0.6%	-0.1%
Preventive medicine/public health	155	0.1%	-0.1%
Psychiatry	2,262	2.0%	0.6%
Radiation oncology	198	0.2%	0.0%
Radiology	841	0.8%	0.1%
Surgery-cardiothoracic	2,821	2.5%	-0.2%
Surgery-colon and rectal	203	0.2%	0.0%
Surgery-general	3,387	3.0%	0.1%
Surgery-gynecologic oncology	228	0.2%	0.0%
Surgery-gynecology and obstetrics	77	0.1%	0.0%
Surgery-neurologic	2,413	2.2%	0.0%
Surgery-ophthalmic	27	<0.1%	0.0%
Surgery-oral and maxillofacial	28	<0.1%	0.0%
Surgery-orthopaedic	12,012	10.8%	0.0%
Surgery-otorhinolaryngology	239	0.2%	0.0%
Surgery-pediatric	266	0.2%	0.0%
Surgery-plastic and maxillofacial	1,068	1.0%	0.2%
Surgery-urology	535	0.5%	0.1%
Surgery-vascular	902	0.8%	0.0%
Urology	1,126	1.0%	0.0%
Other	11,298	10.1%	1.7%

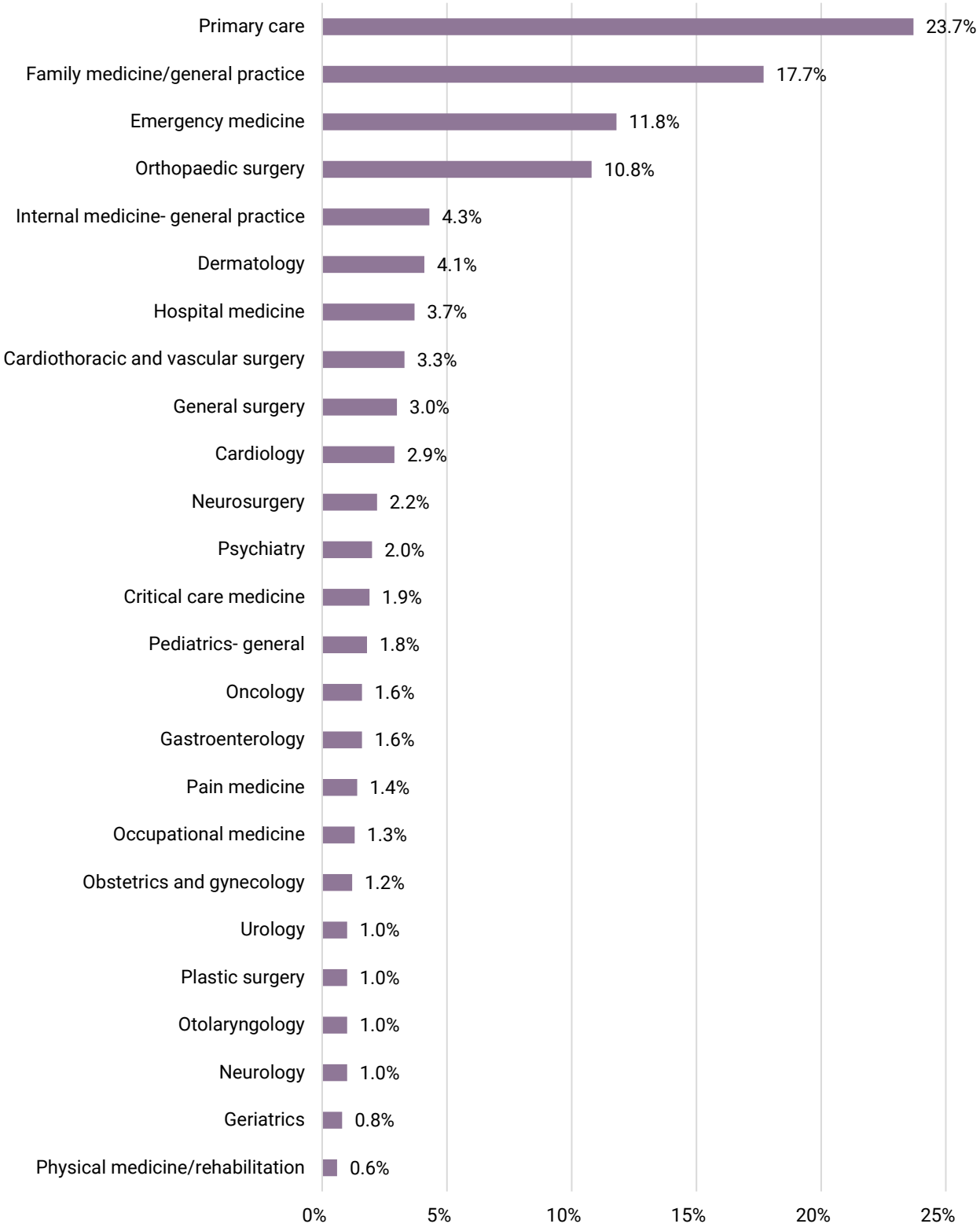
Note: PAs who indicated they are clinically active were asked which specialty they are practicing in for their principal clinical position.

Number, Percent, Rate, Rank and Secondary Position

Specialty	2021 Number	2021 Percent	Number whose principal position is in this specialty and have a secondary clinical position	Number who have a principal and secondary position in this specialty	Number who have a secondary position in this specialty	Rate of Certified PAs per 1,000 physicians[1]	Percent change PAs who have a secondary clinical position 2017-2021
Primary care	**26,455**	**23.7%**	**2,588**	**745**	**1,979**	**88.5**	**-2.0%**
Cardiology	3,198	2.9%	249	62	168	142.0	-1.1%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	3,723	3.3%	394	140	212	442.1	-1.5%
Critical care medicine	2,071	1.9%	408	114	313	158.2	-4.1%
Dermatology	4,580	4.1%	228	74	170	365.9	-0.8%
Emergency medicine	13,198	11.8%	2,959	1,489	3,306	292.0	-1.2%
Family medicine/general practice	19,700	17.7%	1,907	461	1,441	166.7	-2.1%
Gastroenterology	1,831	1.6%	99	12	53	118.4	-1.1%
General surgery	3,387	3.0%	436	107	335	132.5	-1.6%
Geriatrics	877	0.8%	78	8	99	146.8	-4.5%
Hospital medicine	4,074	3.7%	560	149	627	NA	-3.7%
Internal medicine- general practice	4,750	4.3%	540	84	390	39.5	-1.2%
Neurology	1,098	1.0%	76	16	65	77.6	-1.1%
Neurosurgery	2,413	2.2%	239	71	139	419.8	-1.3%
Obstetrics and gynecology	1,322	1.2%	145	52	97	30.9	-0.9%
Occupational medicine	1,466	1.3%	209	43	290	NA	-1.7%
Oncology	1,747	1.6%	101	17	48	107.3	-1.4%
Orthopaedic surgery	12,012	10.8%	938	272	448	629.9	-1.3%
Otolaryngology	1,133	1.0%	67	4	27	115.9	-2.5%
Pain medicine	1,595	1.4%	130	12	99	271.7	-1.7%
Pediatrics- general	2,005	1.8%	141	36	148	33.1	-2.1%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	622	0.6%	54	7	59	63.7	-2.4%
Plastic surgery	1,068	1.0%	100	19	79	146.0	-2.5%
Psychiatry	2,262	2.0%	298	132	261	58.3	-3.4%
Urology	1,126	1.0%	87	8	35	110.4	-3.3%

[1]Association of Americal Medical Colleges' 2020 Physician Specialty Data Report

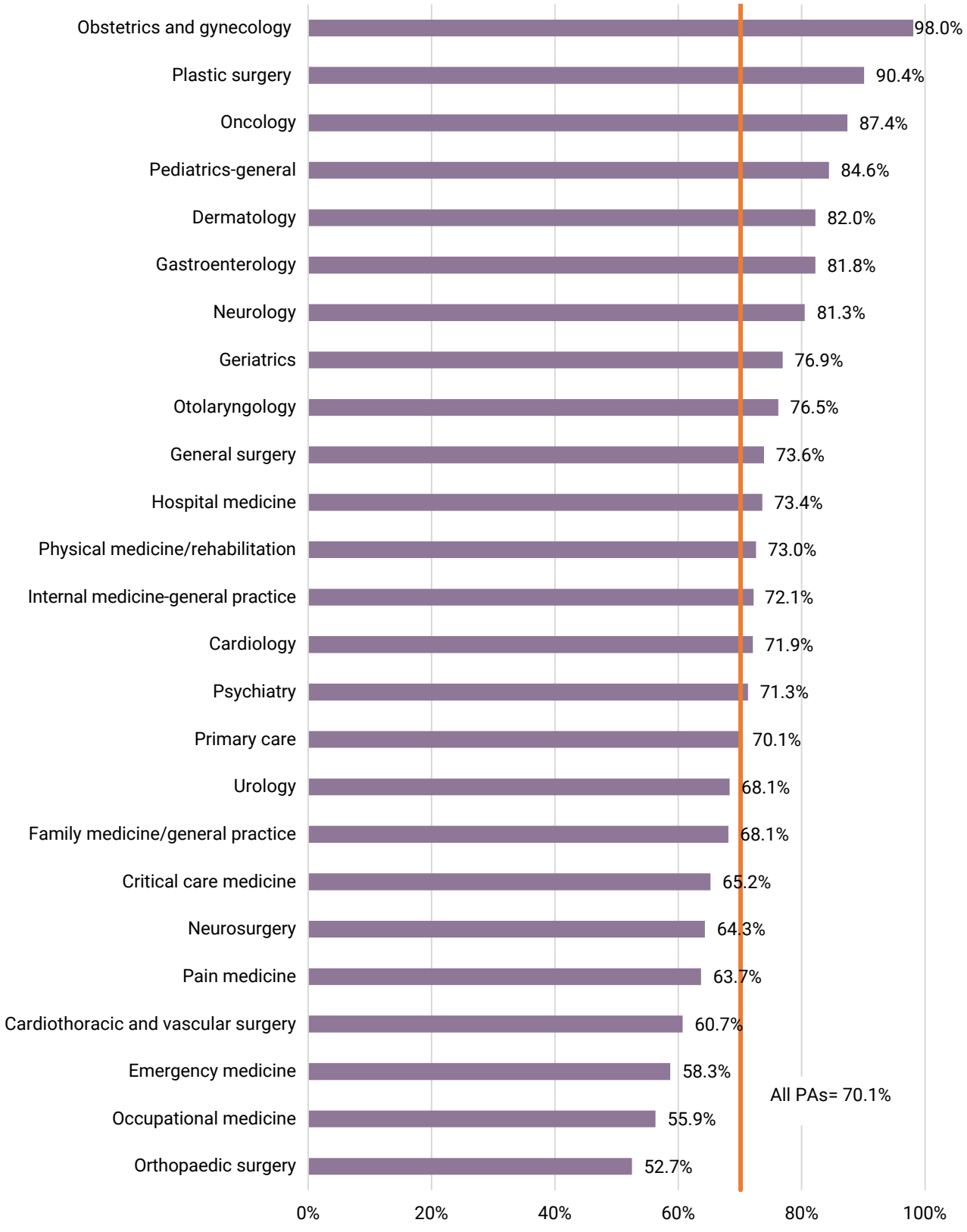
Percent of PA Workforce by Specialty



Gender by Specialty

Specialty	Male			Female		
	2021	2017	Percent change 2017-2021	2021	2017	Percent change 2017-2021
Primary care	**29.9%**	**30.6%**	**-0.7%**	**70.1%**	**69.4%**	**0.7%**
Cardiology	28.1%	30.1%	-2.0%	71.9%	69.9%	2.0%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	39.3%	43.0%	-3.7%	60.7%	57.0%	3.7%
Critical care medicine	34.8%	38.1%	-3.3%	65.2%	61.9%	3.3%
Dermatology	18.0%	18.3%	-0.3%	82.0%	81.7%	0.3%
Emergency medicine	41.7%	42.0%	-0.3%	58.3%	58.0%	0.3%
Family medicine/general practice	31.9%	32.6%	-0.7%	68.1%	67.4%	0.7%
Gastroenterology	18.2%	18.1%	0.1%	81.8%	81.9%	-0.1%
General surgery	26.4%	28.5%	-2.1%	73.6%	71.5%	2.1%
Geriatrics	23.1%	23.3%	-0.2%	76.9%	76.7%	0.2%
Hospital medicine	26.6%	28.0%	-1.4%	73.4%	72.0%	1.4%
Internal medicine-general practice	27.8%	28.1%	-0.3%	72.1%	71.9%	0.3%
Neurology	18.7%	22.2%	-3.5%	81.3%	77.8%	3.5%
Neurosurgery	35.7%	37.9%	-2.2%	64.3%	62.1%	2.2%
Obstetrics and gynecology	2.0%	2.6%	-0.6%	98.0%	97.4%	0.6%
Occupational medicine	44.1%	46.7%	-2.6%	55.9%	53.3%	2.6%
Oncology	12.6%	13.5%	-0.9%	87.4%	86.5%	0.9%
Orthopaedic surgery	47.3%	49.6%	-2.3%	52.7%	50.4%	2.3%
Otolaryngology	23.5%	25.4%	-1.9%	76.5%	74.6%	1.9%
Pain medicine	36.3%	36.9%	-0.6%	63.7%	63.1%	0.6%
Pediatrics-general	15.4%	16.4%	-0.8%	84.6%	83.6%	1.0%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	27.0%	28.0%	-1.0%	73.0%	72.0%	1.0%
Plastic surgery	9.6%	11.1%	-1.5%	90.4%	88.9%	1.5%
Psychiatry	28.7%	30.7%	-2.0%	71.3%	69.3%	2.0%
Urology	31.9%	35.3%	-3.4%	68.1%	64.7%	3.4%

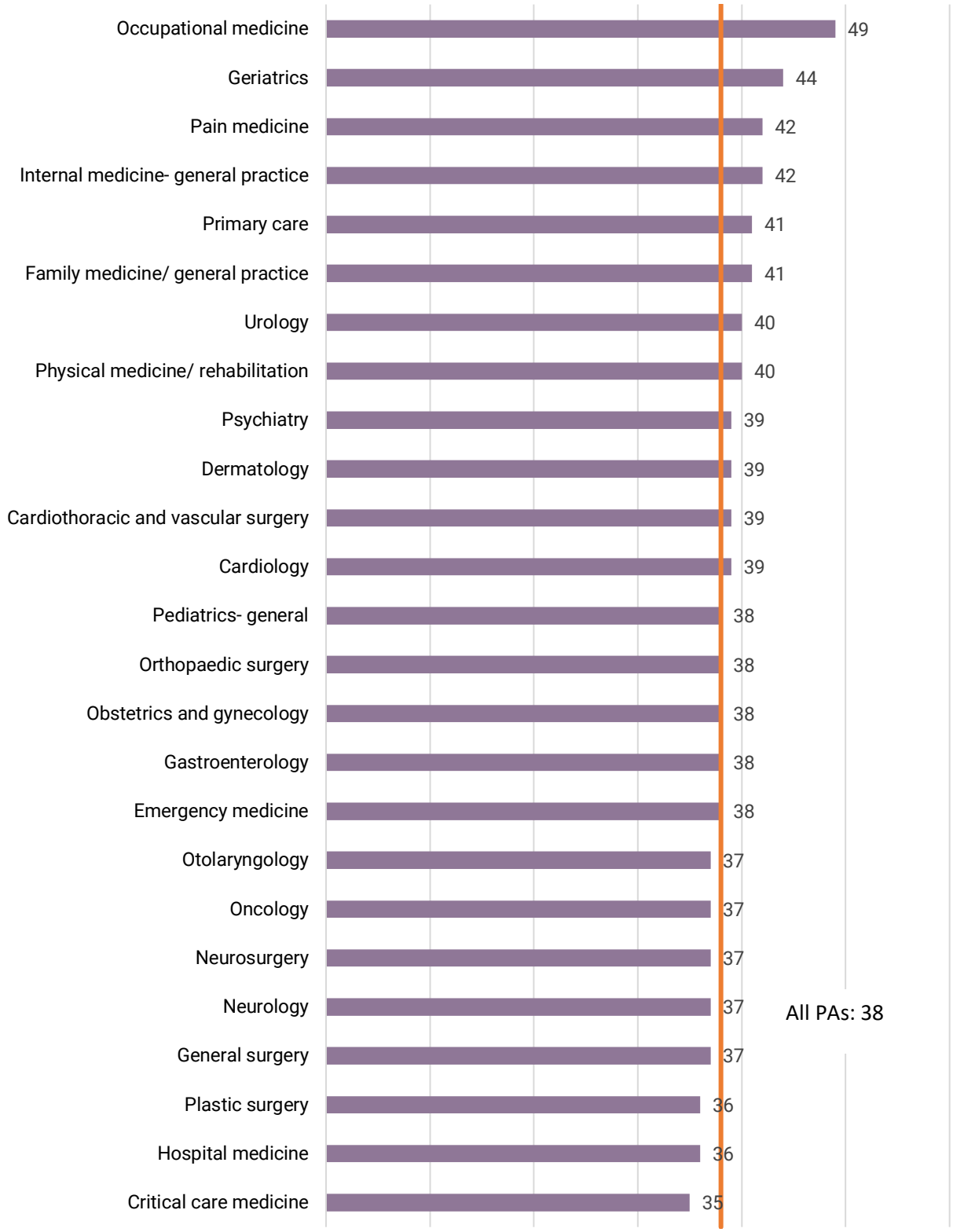
Percent Female by Specialty



Age by Specialty

Specialty	<30		30-39		40-49		50-59		60+		Median age	
	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017
Primary care	9.1%	9.3%	36.6%	36.6%	26.4%	25.7%	16.5%	16.4%	11.5%	12.1%	41	41
Cardiology	11.2%	11.3%	39.5%	39.5%	28.3%	27.1%	13.7%	14.0%	7.4%	8.1%	39	39
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	12.0%	10.6%	40.0%	39.4%	25.1%	26.7%	14.2%	15.0%	8.6%	8.3%	39	39
Critical care medicine	20.6%	18.4%	46.9%	45.9%	19.4%	20.8%	10.0%	11.1%	3.1%	3.7%	35	35
Dermatology	8.8%	9.6%	42.4%	46.4%	32.3%	30.0%	12.4%	9.9%	4.1%	4.1%	39	38
Emergency medicine	10.6%	12.8%	43.4%	42.1%	24.9%	25.0%	14.5%	13.6%	6.6%	6.4%	38	38
Family medicine/general practice	8.7%	8.9%	36.6%	36.9%	26.5%	25.7%	16.7%	16.4%	11.5%	12.1%	41	41
Gastroenterology	12.5%	15.0%	43.4%	41.0%	26.3%	25.6%	12.5%	12.7%	5.4%	5.6%	38	38
General surgery	15.4%	15.1%	43.8%	42.2%	22.9%	22.6%	12.0%	14.0%	5.9%	6.2%	37	37
Geriatrics	7.1%	8.5%	29.9%	26.6%	26.4%	27.8%	21.3%	22.7%	15.4%	14.4%	44	45
Hospital medicine	21.0%	18.4%	41.8%	42.1%	21.0%	20.9%	10.0%	11.8%	6.1%	6.8%	36	36
Internal medicine-general practice	9.5%	9.4%	34.0%	32.8%	25.8%	25.6%	17.8%	18.2%	13.0%	13.9%	42	42
Neurology	17.4%	12.7%	41.5%	41.8%	23.3%	22.3%	12.1%	13.2%	5.7%	10.1%	37	38
Neurosurgery	14.7%	12.6%	43.1%	43.0%	24.0%	25.4%	12.4%	14.0%	5.7%	5.0%	37	38
Obstetrics and gynecology	14.8%	12.2%	40.7%	43.9%	25.5%	25.5%	12.1%	11.3%	6.8%	7.2%	38	38
Occupational medicine	4.3%	3.0%	21.8%	22.9%	26.4%	26.6%	24.2%	25.0%	23.2%	22.6%	49	49
Oncology	13.7%	12.0%	44.5%	44.6%	25.2%	25.3%	11.6%	13.0%	4.9%	5.2%	37	38
Orthopaedic surgery	11.6%	11.0%	42.6%	43.8%	27.3%	28.4%	13.6%	12.0%	4.9%	4.9%	38	38
Otolaryngology	15.0%	11.5%	45.8%	45.1%	24.5%	27.8%	9.0%	9.5%	5.7%	6.0%	37	38
Pain medicine	9.3%	9.9%	32.7%	34.9%	26.9%	27.6%	20.6%	18.9%	10.5%	8.9%	42	41
Pediatrics-general	11.6%	12.5%	42.9%	43.3%	26.5%	25.4%	11.7%	11.6%	7.2%	7.2%	38	38
Physical medicine/ rehabilitation	9.7%	10.0%	36.7%	38.4%	30.7%	27.9%	14.3%	14.3%	8.7%	9.4%	40	40
Plastic surgery	14.2%	15.9%	50.7%	48.1%	23.2%	22.8%	8.8%	8.6%	3.2%	4.4%	36	36
Psychiatry	15.1%	10.4%	37.3%	30.5%	22.6%	23.8%	14.5%	19.2%	10.6%	16.2%	39	43
Urology	13.3%	7.6%	35.9%	39.0%	27.5%	27.2%	15.5%	17.1%	7.8%	9.1%	40	40

Median Age by Specialty

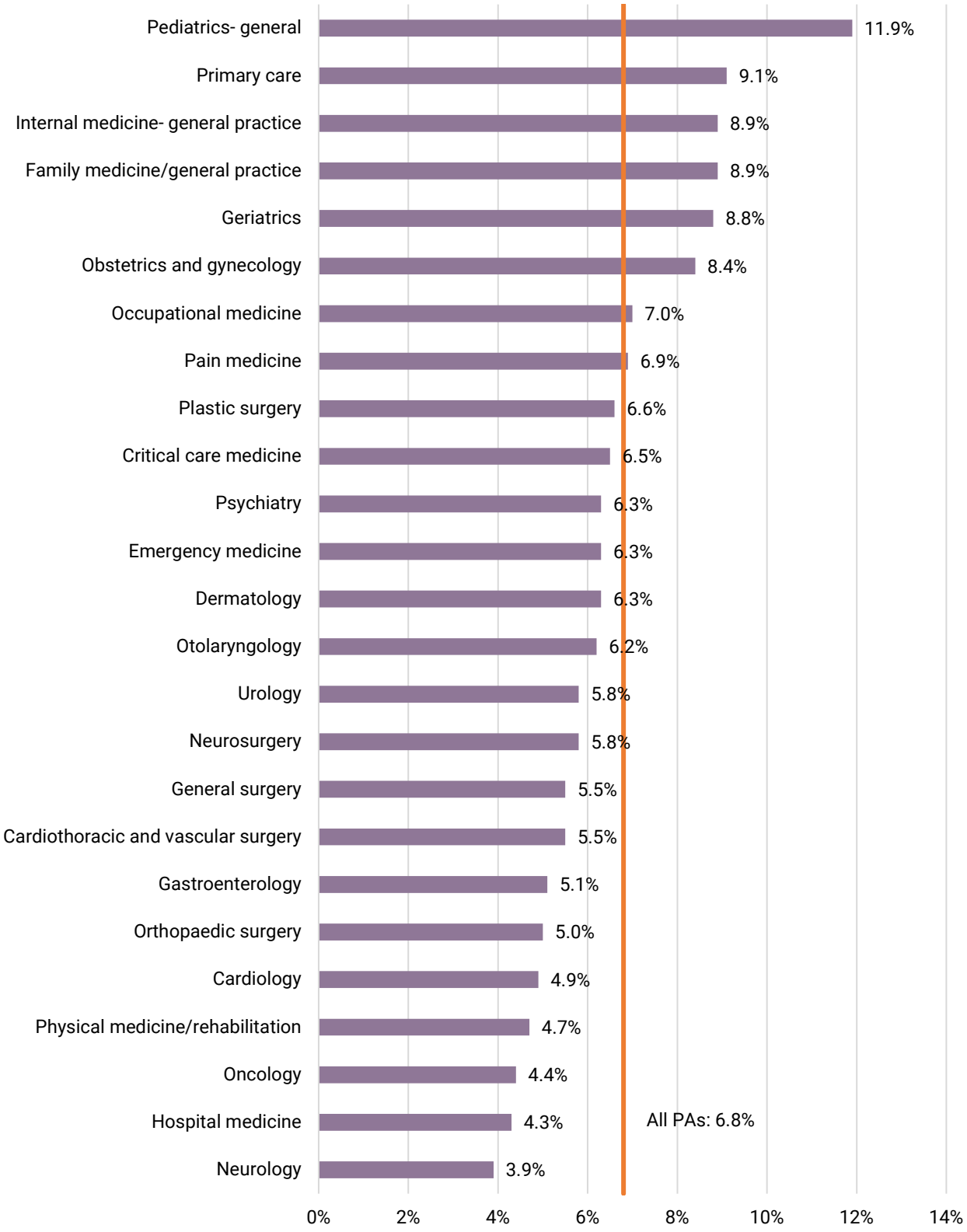


Ethnicity by Specialty

Specialty	Hispanic, Latino(a) or Spanish origin 2021	Hispanic, Latino(a) or Spanish origin 2017
Primary care	9.1%	8.4%
Cardiology	4.9%	5.0%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	5.5%	5.3%
Critical care medicine	6.5%	5.3%
Dermatology	6.3%	5.7%
Emergency medicine	6.3%	5.6%
Family medicine/general practice	8.9%	8.3%
Gastroenterology	5.1%	5.3%
General surgery	5.5%	5.1%
Geriatrics	8.8%	7.5%
Hospital medicine	4.3%	4.2%
Internal medicine-general practice	8.9%	8.0%
Neurology	3.9%	3.3%
Neurosurgery	5.8%	5.3%
Obstetrics and gynecology	8.4%	7.2%
Occupational medicine	7.0%	6.2%
Oncology	4.4%	4.3%
Orthopaedic surgery	5.0%	4.5%
Otolaryngology	6.2%	5.4%
Pain medicine	6.9%	6.8%
Pediatrics-general	11.9%	11.3%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	4.7%	3.5%
Plastic surgery	6.6%	5.7%
Psychiatry	6.3%	5.3%
Urology	5.8%	5.6%

Note: PAs were asked if they were of Hispanic, Latino(a) or Spanish origin.

Ethnicity: Identifies as Hispanic, Latino(a), or Spanish Origin by Specialty



Race by Specialty

Specialty	American Indian or Alaskan Native		Asian		Black/ African American		Multi-race		Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander		Other		White		Prefer not to answer	
	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017
Primary care	0.5%	0.5%	5.3%	4.7%	3.9%	4.0%	2.2%	1.7%	0.3%	0.3%	3.5%	3.5%	79.8%	80.4%	4.5%	4.9%
Cardiology	0.2%	0.2%	6.3%	5.7%	2.8%	2.4%	1.3%	1.3%	0.3%	0.3%	2.4%	2.8%	83.7%	83.6%	3.1%	3.8%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	0.2%	0.2%	6.4%	5.6%	2.5%	2.4%	1.5%	1.4%	0.3%	0.5%	2.4%	2.6%	83.2%	83.2%	3.5%	4.1%
Critical care medicine	0.2%	0.1%	6.8%	5.8%	3.4%	4.4%	2.0%	1.9%	0.1%	0.4%	2.4%	2.7%	80.9%	79.9%	4.2%	4.7%
Dermatology	0.2%	0.3%	6.3%	5.0%	1.4%	1.4%	1.9%	1.5%	0.3%	0.3%	2.4%	2.7%	83.2%	84.2%	4.4%	4.5%
Emergency medicine	0.4%	0.4%	5.4%	4.6%	3.3%	3.5%	2.0%	1.5%	0.3%	0.3%	2.8%	2.8%	80.5%	81.1%	5.3%	5.9%
Family medicine/ general practice	0.6%	0.6%	4.8%	4.2%	3.5%	3.7%	2.2%	1.8%	0.3%	0.3%	3.4%	3.5%	80.6%	81.0%	4.5%	4.9%
Gastroenterology	0.2%	0.0%	7.3%	6.0%	2.3%	3.0%	1.4%	1.1%	0.5%	0.6%	1.7%	2.8%	82.6%	82.3%	4.0%	4.2%
General surgery	0.3%	0.3%	6.6%	5.5%	3.5%	3.5%	1.7%	1.4%	0.1%	0.1%	2.5%	2.6%	80.2%	81.4%	5.0%	5.2%
Geriatrics	0.3%	0.3%	4.4%	3.7%	4.3%	4.9%	1.1%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	3.8%	81.1%	81.5%	4.3%	4.1%
Hospital medicine	0.2%	0.3%	7.7%	6.8%	5.2%	5.8%	1.8%	1.3%	0.2%	0.2%	2.4%	2.2%	78.5%	78.4%	4.0%	4.9%
Internal medicine-general practice	0.3%	0.3%	7.5%	6.5%	5.6%	5.6%	2.1%	1.3%	0.2%	0.3%	3.9%	3.5%	75.3%	77.0%	5.0%	5.4%
Neurology	0.5%	0.3%	5.4%	3.6%	3.1%	2.6%	2.0%	1.0%	0.1%	0.3%	2.0%	1.5%	83.5%	86.0%	3.5%	4.7%
Neurosurgery	0.3%	0.2%	6.6%	5.5%	3.1%	2.6%	1.8%	2.1%	0.2%	0.4%	3.2%	3.2%	80.4%	80.0%	4.3%	6.0%
Obstetrics and gynecology	0.6%	0.5%	5.6%	5.9%	4.6%	5.7%	1.2%	1.4%	0.3%	0.4%	3.6%	3.8%	80.7%	79.4%	3.4%	2.9%
Occupational medicine	0.5%	0.6%	6.8%	5.4%	4.9%	5.1%	2.8%	1.7%	0.6%	0.8%	2.8%	2.9%	76.1%	76.5%	5.5%	7.0%
Oncology	0.3%	0.2%	7.0%	7.7%	2.7%	2.7%	1.6%	1.3%	0.1%	0.1%	1.6%	2.7%	83.3%	81.9%	3.3%	3.4%
Orthopaedic surgery	0.3%	0.3%	3.8%	3.4%	1.9%	2.0%	1.8%	1.5%	0.3%	0.3%	2.2%	2.4%	85.8%	85.8%	4.0%	4.3%
Otolaryngology	0.5%	0.8%	8.5%	6.0%	2.4%	2.3%	1.9%	1.6%	0.2%	0.5%	2.4%	2.8%	80.9%	81.3%	3.3%	4.7%
Pain medicine	0.4%	0.6%	6.7%	5.2%	4.4%	5.8%	2.3%	1.8%	0.3%	0.3%	3.6%	3.3%	77.0%	76.4%	5.3%	6.7%
Pediatrics- general	0.3%	0.3%	4.9%	4.7%	3.0%	3.3%	1.8%	1.5%	0.1%	0.2%	3.8%	3.7%	82.7%	82.5%	3.1%	3.7%
Physical medicine/ rehabilitation	0.6%	0.0%	6.6%	6.9%	4.3%	4.2%	2.6%	2.6%	0.6%	0.4%	3.1%	3.0%	77.5%	77.5%	4.7%	5.3%
Plastic surgery	0.3%	0.2%	6.1%	4.9%	1.7%	1.0%	2.4%	2.5%	0.1%	0.5%	2.4%	2.2%	83.6%	84.1%	3.4%	4.6%
Psychiatry	0.4%	0.5%	6.3%	4.0%	5.2%	4.8%	2.7%	2.0%	0.1%	0.3%	3.0%	3.1%	77.5%	78.3%	4.7%	6.9%
Urology	0.3%	0.5%	6.0%	5.3%	2.7%	4.3%	2.2%	1.6%	0.6%	0.6%	2.4%	2.8%	82.2%	80.4%	3.6%	4.4%

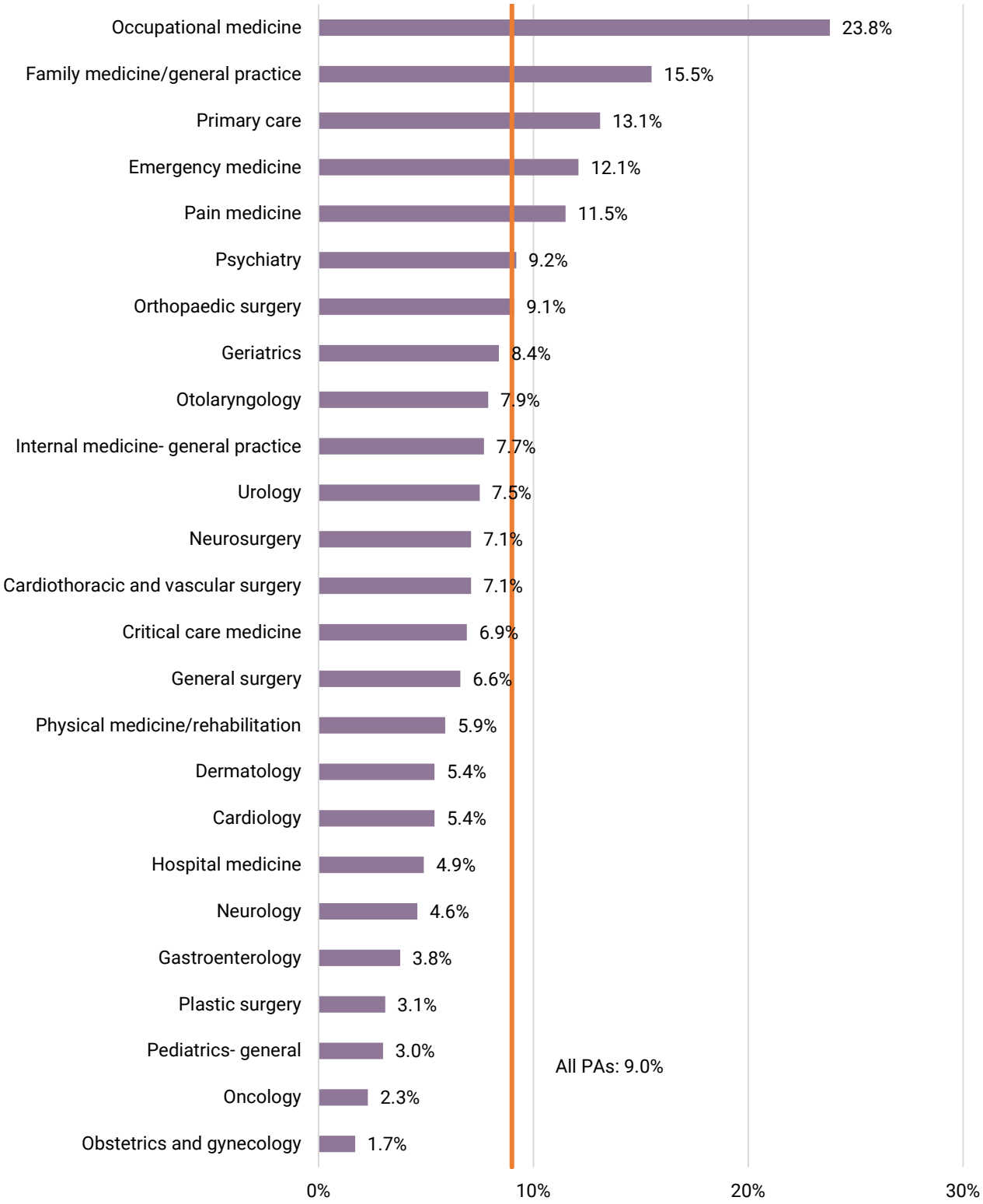
Note: PAs were asked how they classify their race.

Military by Specialty

Specialty	Served in U.S. Military		Served in U.S. Military percent change 2017-2021	Military status 2021				
	2021	2017		Active duty	Reserve	National Guard	Retired	Veteran
Primary care	13.1%	15.0%	-1.9%	34.9%	3.6%	6.0%	22.4%	33.1%
Cardiology	5.4%	6.8%	-1.4%	2.3%	4.1%	6.4%	18.1%	69.0%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	7.1%	9.2%	-2.1%	4.2%	5.3%	9.8%	18.9%	61.7%
Critical care medicine	6.9%	7.0%	-0.1%	4.9%	5.6%	16.1%	11.2%	62.2%
Dermatology	5.4%	6.3%	-0.9%	4.9%	7.0%	7.8%	25.8%	54.5%
Emergency medicine	12.1%	13.2%	-1.1%	13.7%	5.5%	11.9%	22.9%	46.0%
Family medicine/general practice	15.5%	17.3%	-1.8%	38.5%	3.4%	6.1%	21.8%	30.2%
Gastroenterology	3.8%	5.1%	-1.3%	1.4%	7.2%	13.0%	14.5%	63.8%
General surgery	6.6%	7.8%	-1.2%	12.9%	8.0%	12.1%	13.8%	53.1%
Geriatrics	8.4%	7.5%	0.9%	5.4%	4.1%	8.1%	21.6%	60.8%
Hospital medicine	4.9%	6.9%	-2.0%	2.5%	5.1%	7.6%	14.1%	70.7%
Internal medicine-general practice	7.7%	10.1%	-2.4%	9.8%	4.6%	5.2%	27.0%	53.3%
Neurology	4.6%	5.9%	-1.3%	8.2%	4.1%	18.4%	18.4%	51.0%
Neurosurgery	7.1%	9.0%	-1.9%	4.1%	4.1%	11.8%	20.6%	59.4%
Obstetrics and gynecology	1.7%	1.7%	0.0%	4.3%	8.7%	8.7%	4.3%	73.9%
Occupational medicine	23.8%	26.8%	-3.0%	14.6%	4.0%	8.6%	28.9%	43.8%
Oncology	2.3%	2.5%	-0.2%	2.4%	9.8%	7.3%	19.5%	61.0%
Orthopaedic surgery	9.1%	11.2%	-2.1%	11.3%	6.5%	12.0%	23.6%	46.5%
Otolaryngology	7.9%	9.2%	-1.3%	7.9%	6.7%	10.1%	33.7%	41.6%
Pain medicine	11.5%	13.9%	-2.4%	3.3%	1.6%	6.0%	29.0%	60.1%
Pediatrics-general	3.0%	3.9%	-0.9%	4.9%	6.6%	6.6%	24.6%	57.4%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	5.9%	7.8%	-1.9%	2.7%	2.7%	8.1%	21.6%	64.9%
Plastic surgery	3.1%	2.9%	0.2%	16.1%	6.5%	0.0%	19.4%	58.1%
Psychiatry	9.2%	12.1%	-2.9%	5.3%	4.3%	5.3%	22.6%	62.5%
Urology	7.5%	9.2%	-1.7%	7.1%	4.8%	10.7%	27.4%	50.0%

Note: PAs were asked if they now serve or have ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces, and if so, to provide their current status.

Currently or Previously Served in the U.S. Armed Forces by Specialty

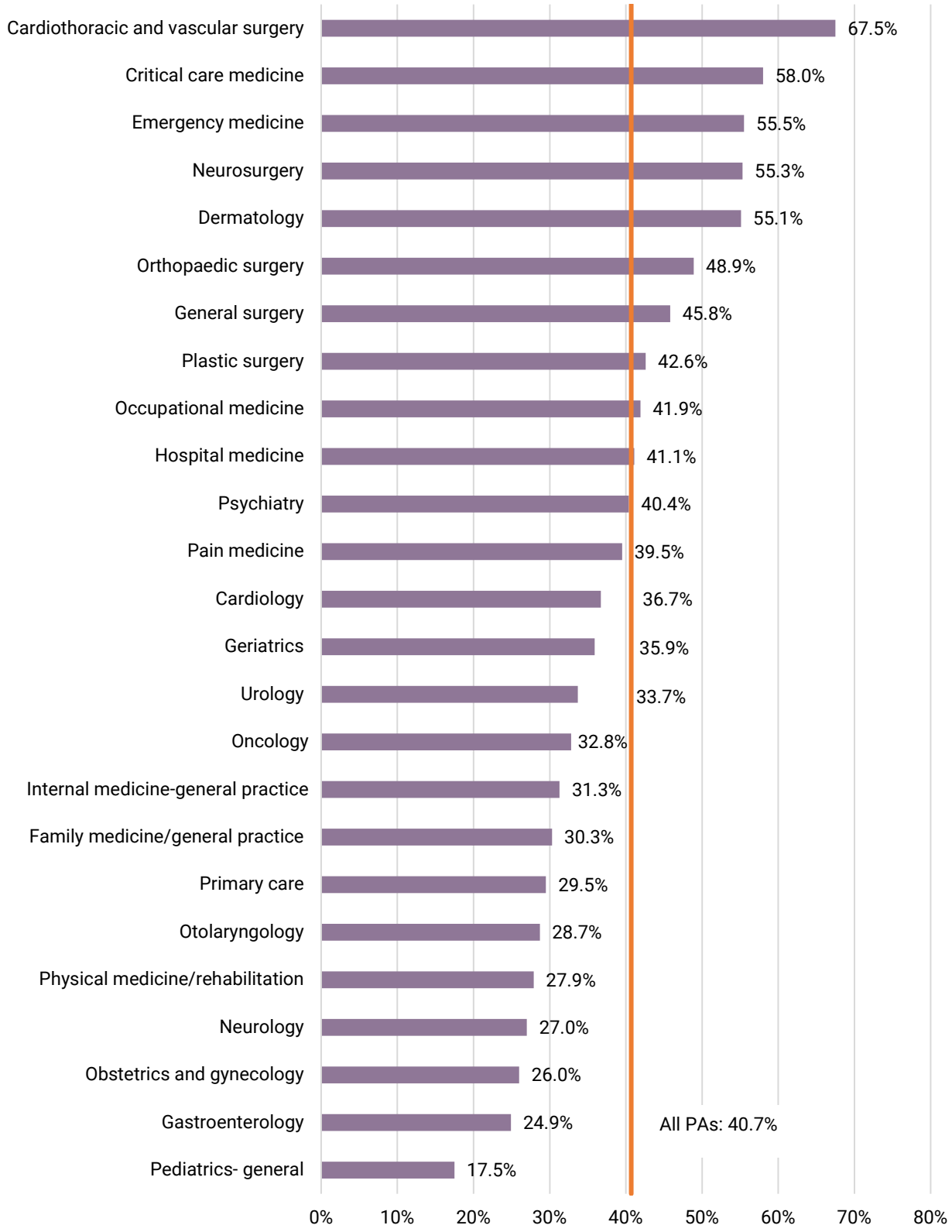


Income by Specialty

Specialty	≤$60,000		$60,001-$80,000		$80,001-$100,000		$100,001-$120,000		$120,001-$140,000		$140,001-$160,000		$160,001-$180,000		$180,001-$200,000		More than $200,000	
	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017
Primary care	6.1%	8.2%	7.3%	11.8%	25.2%	35.5%	31.9%	26.8%	16.4%	10.2%	7.0%	3.9%	2.7%	1.5%	1.6%	0.9%	1.8%	1.1%
Cardiology	2.9%	4.8%	3.5%	5.9%	18.5%	32.2%	38.2%	36.0%	22.0%	14.3%	9.3%	3.9%	2.9%	1.6%	1.4%	0.6%	1.1%	0.5%
Cardio-thoracic and vascular surgery	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	2.6%	7.9%	16.5%	22.3%	26.2%	21.6%	20.1%	17.0%	13.7%	10.8%	8.4%	7.6%	4.9%	10.5%	6.2%
Critical care medicine	1.3%	2.1%	1.8%	2.3%	8.6%	20.7%	30.3%	35.7%	25.4%	20.6%	15.1%	9.0%	7.9%	3.9%	4.6%	3.3%	5.0%	2.3%
Derma-tology	3.4%	4.9%	4.7%	7.5%	15.4%	21.4%	21.3%	22.6%	15.7%	14.0%	11.7%	9.3%	7.6%	7.1%	6.8%	4.9%	13.3%	9.0%
Emergency medicine	3.2%	3.9%	2.8%	3.8%	10.7%	17.3%	27.9%	31.1%	23.8%	20.7%	14.9%	11.4%	7.2%	6.4%	4.2%	4.9%	5.4%	9.0%
Family medicine/	5.8%	7.8%	6.9%	11.5%	24.9%	34.9%	32.1%	27.4%	16.7%	10.5%	7.2%	4.2%	2.9%	1.5%	1.7%	0.9%	1.8%	1.2%
Gastro-enterology	3.1%	6.2%	5.3%	9.8%	26.6%	43.4%	39.8%	28.3%	17.7%	8.7%	4.7%	2.0%	1.2%	0.9%	0.6%	0.4%	0.7%	0.1%
General surgery	2.3%	4.0%	2.1%	4.5%	13.5%	27.6%	36.4%	35.9%	24.9%	15.6%	11.1%	6.3%	4.7%	2.7%	2.9%	2.1%	2.2%	1.2%
Geriatrics	5.8%	7.3%	5.3%	7.5%	19.5%	20.6%	33.6%	33.0%	20.6%	12.9%	8.0%	4.7%	3.4%	1.7%	1.7%	1.1%	2.2%	1.3%
Hospital medicine	2.4%	3.5%	2.2%	3.8%	15.1%	29.0%	39.1%	38.4%	23.8%	15.9%	10.5%	4.9%	3.3%	2.1%	1.7%	1.1%	1.8%	1.4%
Internal medicine-gen.	6.2%	7.7%	5.9%	10.3%	23.6%	36.8%	33.0%	27.8%	17.5%	10.0%	7.2%	3.5%	2.9%	1.7%	1.6%	1.0%	2.1%	1.2%
Neurology	3.6%	4.9%	4.8%	9.1%	24.8%	43.5%	40.0%	28.8%	18.2%	9.0%	5.0%	3.0%	1.8%	1.2%	0.9%	0.2%	1.1%	0.3%
Neuro-surgery	1.1%	1.8%	1.5%	3.3%	11.8%	23.7%	30.3%	30.5%	25.2%	20.5%	13.6%	9.9%	6.8%	5.1%	5.0%	2.5%	4.7%	3.0%
Obstetrics and gynecology	7.0%	10.5%	8.2%	13.5%	26.9%	38.1%	32.0%	24.7%	16.6%	8.6%	6.0%	3.3%	2.0%	0.5%	1.0%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
Occupational medicine	8.5%	8.3%	5.5%	7.3%	12.9%	25.7%	31.1%	34.4%	21.7%	14.4%	11.6%	6.3%	5.2%	1.6%	1.4%	1.1%	2.0%	1.1%
Oncology	2.6%	4.4%	2.8%	7.2%	21.3%	37.2%	40.6%	34.0%	21.1%	11.3%	7.0%	3.8%	2.7%	1.1%	1.1%	0.5%	0.9%	0.4%
Orthopaedic surgery	2.0%	2.3%	1.8%	3.6%	14.7%	26.3%	32.6%	32.9%	24.2%	18.5%	12.3%	8.2%	5.5%	3.7%	3.2%	2.1%	3.7%	2.5%
Otolaryn-gology	4.5%	6.5%	5.1%	9.6%	24.0%	36.2%	37.6%	29.9%	17.3%	12.3%	6.8%	2.3%	2.2%	1.5%	1.7%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%
Pain medicine	3.7%	4.8%	4.5%	7.0%	19.3%	29.9%	33.0%	32.3%	21.0%	14.4%	10.4%	6.8%	4.4%	2.9%	1.5%	0.5%	2.2%	1.3%
Pediatrics-general	9.4%	13.3%	13.5%	18.8%	32.2%	37.9%	27.3%	18.2%	9.9%	6.6%	4.3%	2.8%	1.5%	1.2%	0.8%	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%
Physical medicine/ rehabilitation	5.4%	6.5%	5.0%	10.0%	21.9%	39.5%	40.0%	28.1%	17.7%	10.0%	5.8%	3.9%	1.9%	0.8%	1.6%	0.3%	0.9%	0.9%
Plastic surgery	4.8%	5.5%	3.8%	7.5%	15.4%	21.3%	33.2%	20.4%	21.7%	13.0%	10.1%	5.1%	4.0%	3.2%	2.4%	1.9%	4.4%	2.1%
Psychiatry	4.9%	5.5%	4.4%	7.5%	18.7%	31.3%	31.8%	30.4%	20.8%	13.0%	9.1%	5.1%	4.3%	3.2%	2.6%	1.9%	3.6%	2.1%
Urology	2.7%	4.6%	3.6%	6.7%	21.0%	30.5%	38.8%	37.5%	20.4%	13.6%	6.7%	3.9%	3.7%	2.1%	1.5%	0.6%	1.4%	0.6%

Note: PAs were asked to estimate their total income in the last calendar year form all PA positions combined.

PA Income Over $120,000 by Specialty

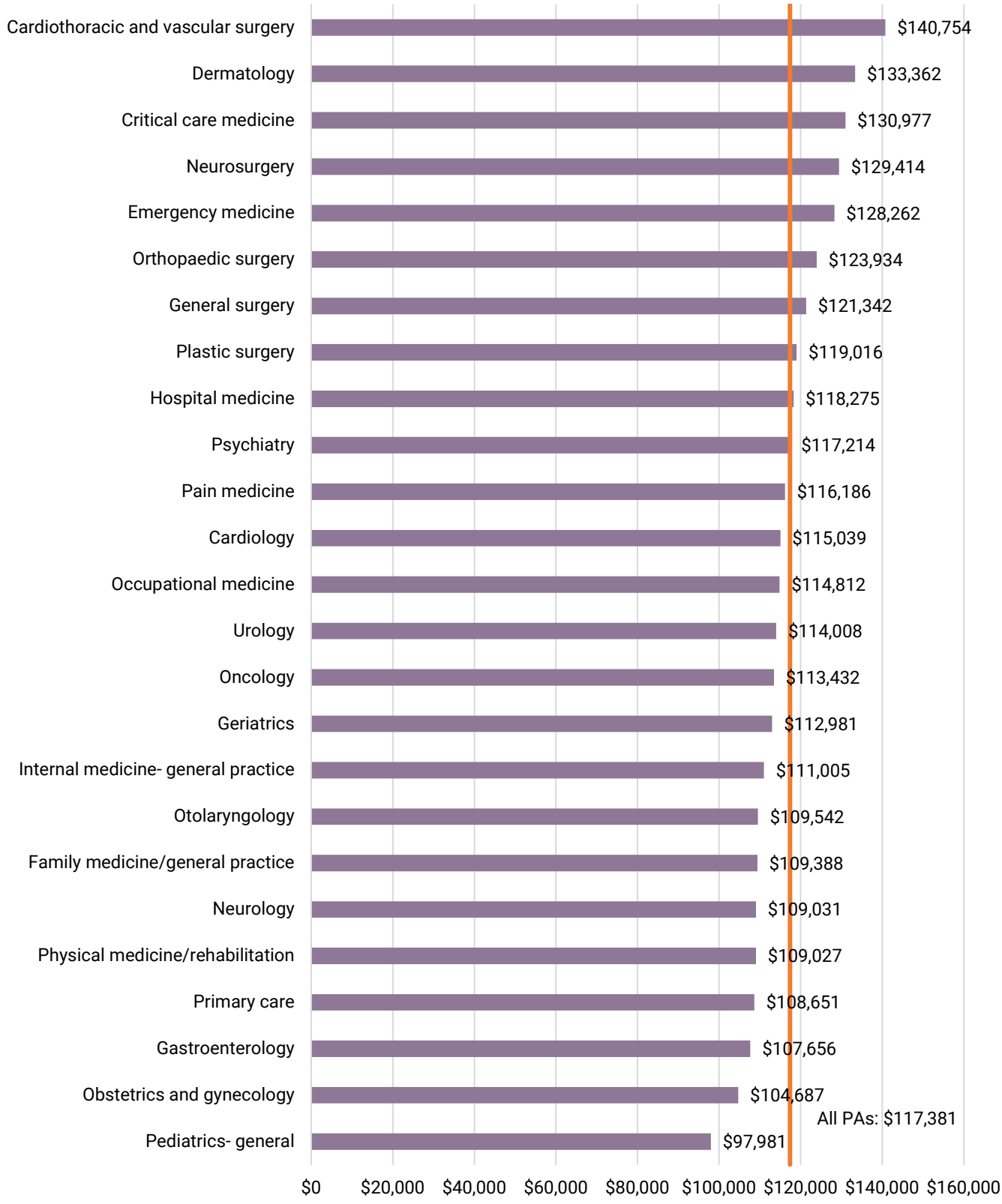


Income by Specialty: Mean and Median

Specialty	Mean		Median	
	2021	2017	2021	2017
Primary care	$108,651	$98,988	$105,000	$95,000
Cardiology	$115,039	$104,499	$115,000	$105,000
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	$140,754	$129,155	$135,000	$125,000
Critical care medicine	$130,977	$118,528	$125,000	$115,000
Dermatology	$133,362	$122,413	$125,000	$115,000
Emergency medicine	$128,262	$120,238	$125,000	$115,000
Family medicine/general practice	$109,388	$99,696	$105,000	$95,000
Gastroenterology	$107,656	$96,568	$105,000	$95,000
General surgery	$121,342	$110,123	$115,000	$105,000
Geriatrics	$112,981	$103,336	$115,000	$105,000
Hospital medicine	$118,275	$108,797	$115,000	$105,000
Internal medicine-general practice	$111,005	$99,638	$105,000	$95,000
Neurology	$109,031	$98,259	$105,000	$95,000
Neurosurgery	$129,414	$118,656	$125,000	$115,000
Obstetrics and gynecology	$104,687	$94,053	$105,000	$95,000
Occupational medicine	$114,812	$104,740	$115,000	$105,000
Oncology	$113,432	$101,859	$115,000	$105,000
Orthopaedic surgery	$123,934	$114,866	$115,000	$105,000
Otolaryngology	$109,542	$100,310	$105,000	$95,000
Pain medicine	$116,186	$106,698	$115,000	$105,000
Pediatrics-general	$97,981	$90,234	$95,000	$85,000
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	$109,027	$98,827	$105,000	$95,000
Plastic surgery	$119,016	$109,697	$115,000	$105,000
Psychiatry	$117,214	$107,078	$115,000	$105,000
Urology	$114,008	$104,742	$115,000	$105,000

Note: PAs were asked to estimate their total income in the last calendar year form all PA positions combined.

Mean Income by Specialty



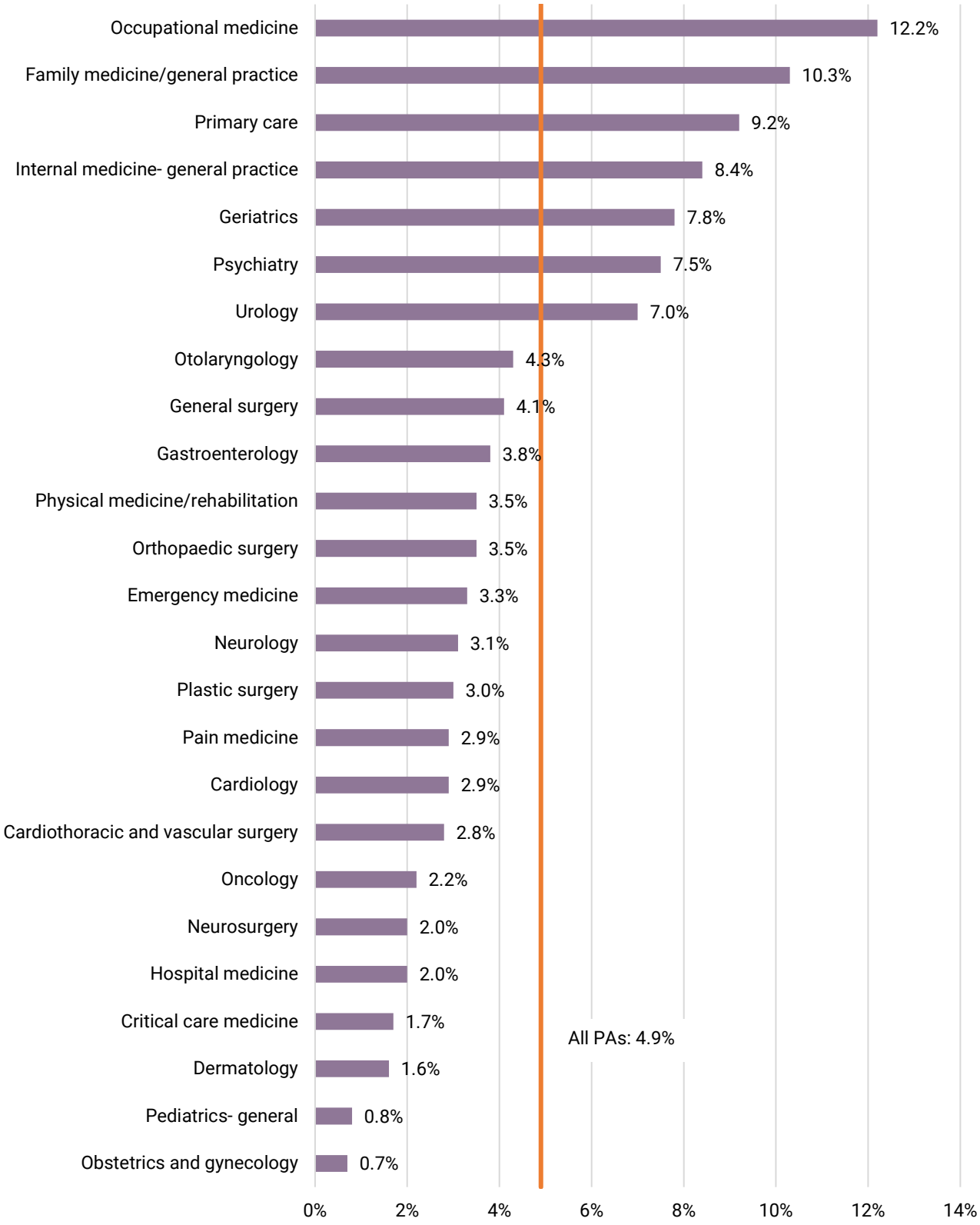
Top Principal Practice Settings by Specialty

Specialty	Hospital		Office-based private practice		Federal government		Urgent care		Community health center		Behavioral/ mental health facility*	
	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017
Primary care	9.8%	8.0%	53.9%	56.8%	9.2%	9.9%	3.8%	2.6%	9.8%	9.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Cardiology	60.2%	57.6%	34.2%	37.3%	2.9%	3.4%	<0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	84.2%	82.9%	11.1%	12.3%	2.8%	3.2%	<0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Critical care medicine	95.1%	94.0%	1.5%	2.4%	1.7%	2.3%	1.0%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Dermatology	4.9%	4.3%	91.4%	92.3%	1.6%	1.7%	0.0%	<0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	<0.1%	0.0%
Emergency medicine	82.0%	86.6%	3.2%	3.8%	3.3%	2.9%	9.5%	5.1%	0.4%	0.4%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Family medicine/general practice	7.9%	6.1%	51.1%	54.3%	10.3%	10.8%	4.7%	3.2%	11.4%	10.8%	0.2%	0.2%
Gastroenterology	38.2%	33.1%	54.7%	60.3%	3.8%	4.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.6%	0.8%	0.1%	0.0%
General surgery	79.5%	77.3%	12.3%	15.2%	4.1%	4.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Geriatrics	6.5%	7.2%	25.0%	22.3%	7.8%	8.0%	0.0%	0.1%	1.9%	1.9%	0.1%	0.0%
Hospital medicine	94.7%	94.2%	0.9%	0.9%	2.0%	2.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.6%
Internal medicine-general practice	18.1%	16.1%	57.0%	58.5%	8.4%	9.8%	1.4%	0.9%	4.9%	5.1%	0.8%	1.0%
Neurology	53.7%	47.0%	39.5%	46.3%	3.1%	3.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Neurosurgery	63.5%	57.2%	31.2%	38.1%	2.0%	2.4%	<0.1%	<0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Obstetrics and gynecology	33.9%	29.2%	54.7%	57.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%	6.0%	6.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Occupational medicine	9.8%	9.8%	25.8%	23.2%	12.2%	11.0%	4.3%	3.0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Oncology	61.1%	58.8%	33.1%	35.6%	2.2%	2.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Orthopaedic surgery	36.2%	31.8%	56.3%	61.3%	3.5%	3.7%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Otolaryngology	32.7%	28.7%	59.6%	65.1%	4.3%	3.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Pain medicine	13.3%	10.7%	81.6%	84.8%	2.9%	2.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Pediatrics-general	9.6%	6.8%	75.1%	77.7%	0.8%	0.8%	1.4%	1.1%	6.2%	5.5%	0.1%	0.1%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	27.5%	20.4%	47.7%	55.6%	3.5%	4.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Plastic surgery	41.1%	43.5%	49.0%	45.7%	3.0%	3.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Psychiatry	17.6%	18.8%	41.6%	32.2%	7.5%	11.8%	0.3%	0.2%	3.9%	5.5%	19.2%	22.6%
Urology	34.8%	33.4%	55.4%	55.5%	7.0%	7.6%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%

Note: PAs were asked which practice setting they practice in their principal clinical location.

*Although behavioral/mental health facility is not one of the most frequently selected practice settings, it is included due to the growing mental health need.

Federal Government Practice Setting by Specialty

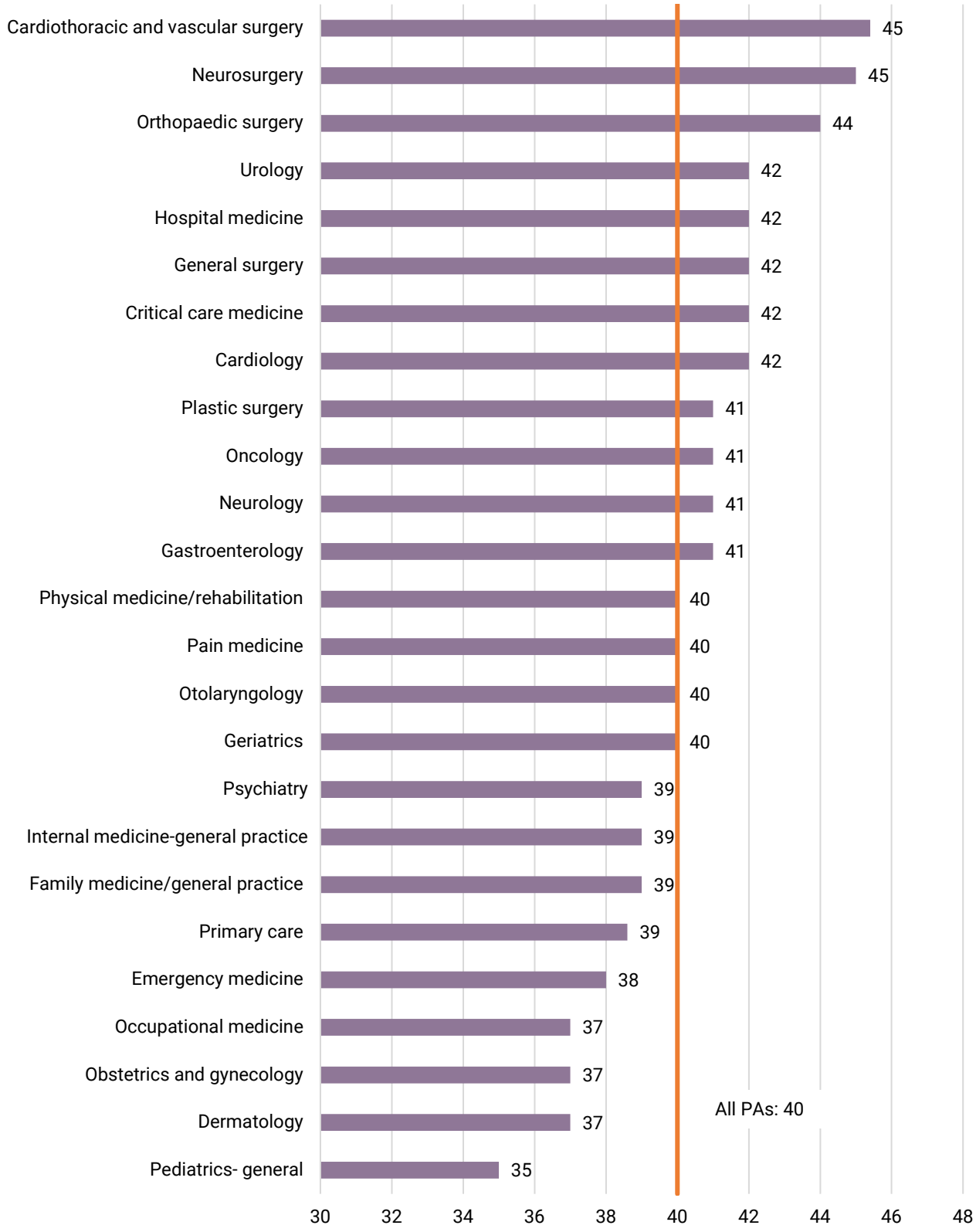


Hours Worked per Week in Prinicipal Clinical Position by Specialty

Specialty	2021		2017	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Primary care	39	40	39	40
Cardiology	42	40	42	40
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	45	45	47	48
Critical care medicine	42	40	43	40
Dermatology	37	40	37	40
Emergency medicine	38	40	39	40
Family medicine/general practice	39	40	39	40
Gastroenterology	41	40	41	40
General surgery	42	40	43	40
Geriatrics	40	40	40	40
Hospital medicine	42	40	43	40
Internal medicine-general practice	39	40	40	40
Neurology	41	40	41	40
Neurosurgery	45	45	46	45
Obstetrics and gynecology	37	40	37	40
Occupational medicine	37	40	38	40
Oncology	41	40	42	40
Orthopaedic surgery	44	44	45	45
Otolaryngology	40	40	40	40
Pain medicine	40	40	41	40
Pediatrics-general	35	40	36	40
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	40	40	40	40
Plastic surgery	41	40	41	40
Psychiatry	39	40	40	40
Urology	42	40	42	40

Note: PAs were asked how many hours per week they work at their principal position.

Mean Hours Work per Week in Principal Clinical Position by Specialty

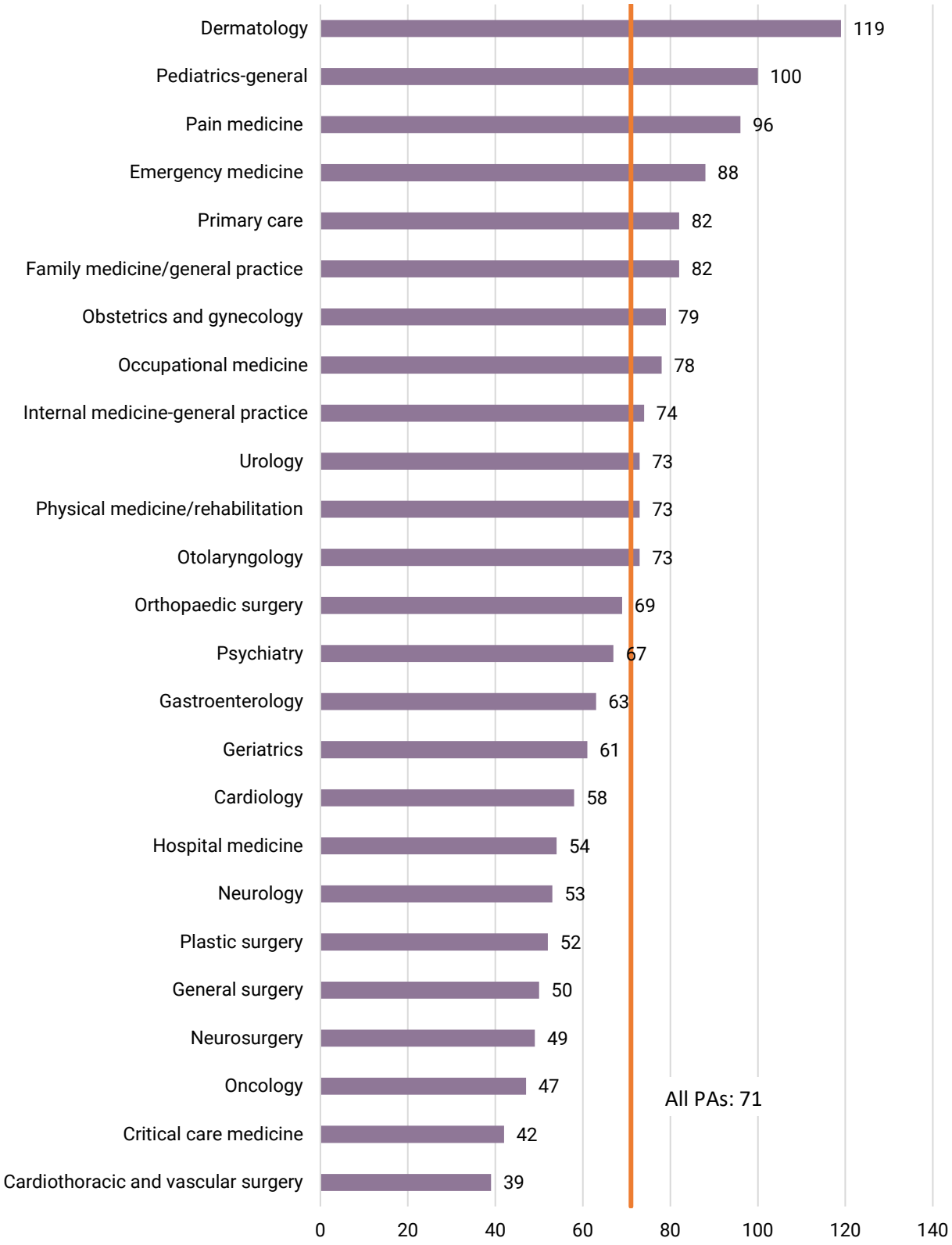


Patients Seen per Week by Specialty (working 40+ hours per week)

Specialty	2021		2017	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Primary care	82	80	85	80
Cardiology	58	50	60	50
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	39	30	39	30
Critical care medicine	42	30	46	40
Dermatology	119	110	118	115
Emergency medicine	88	80	89	80
Family medicine/general practice	82	80	86	80
Gastroenterology	63	60	63	60
General surgery	50	50	51	50
Geriatrics	61	55	63	60
Hospital medicine	54	50	57	50
Internal medicine-general practice	74	70	76	75
Neurology	53	50	54	50
Neurosurgery	49	45	49	45
Obstetrics and gynecology	79	75	78	75
Occupational medicine	78	75	81	80
Oncology	47	40	49	45
Orthopaedic surgery	69	60	71	60
Otolaryngology	73	70	77	75
Pain medicine	96	100	98	100
Pediatrics-general	100	100	106	100
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	73	70	80	75
Plastic surgery	52	50	54	50
Psychiatry	67	60	68	60
Urology	73	70	74	70

Note: PAs were asked how many patients they see during a typical work week.

Mean Number of Patients Seen per Week by Specialty

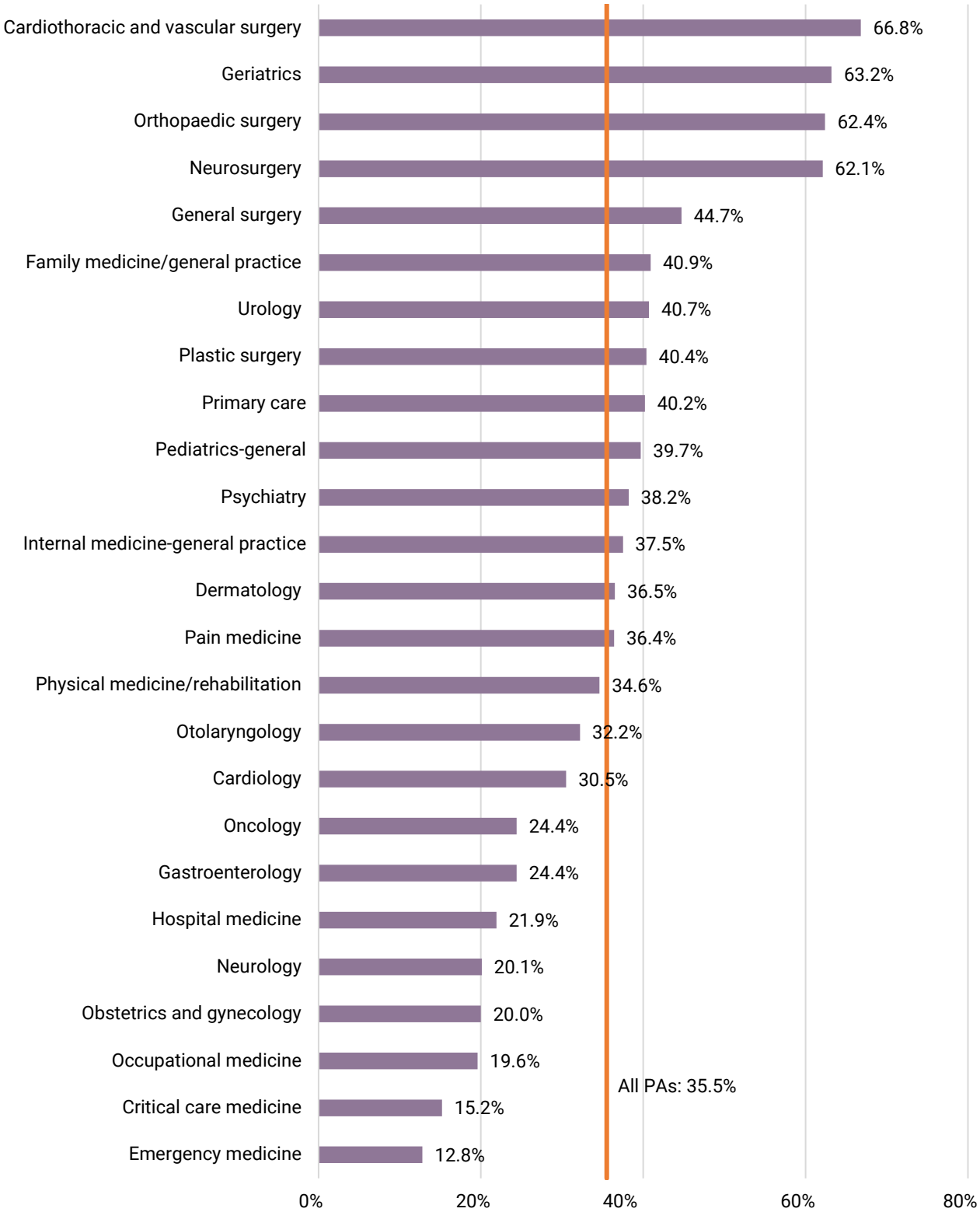


Weekly On-Call Time by Specialty

Specialty	None (I do not take calls)		5 or fewer hours/week		6-10 hours/week		More than 10 hours/week	
	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017
Primary care	59.8%	62.4%	24.2%	21.2%	6.2%	5.8%	9.9%	10.6%
Cardiology	69.5%	70.4%	16.1%	13.7%	5.9%	6.7%	8.4%	9.2%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	33.2%	31.6%	9.4%	8.8%	9.9%	10.5%	47.6%	49.1%
Critical care medicine	84.8%	83.2%	4.9%	4.4%	2.6%	3.3%	7.8%	9.1%
Dermatology	63.5%	64.0%	30.1%	28.3%	2.2%	2.3%	4.2%	5.4%
Emergency medicine	87.2%	89.1%	7.9%	6.2%	2.1%	1.9%	2.7%	2.8%
Family medicine/general practice	59.1%	61.5%	25.5%	22.3%	5.9%	5.8%	9.5%	10.4%
Gastroenterology	75.6%	74.6%	13.5%	12.9%	4.8%	5.7%	6.1%	6.7%
General surgery	55.3%	52.6%	13.9%	13.5%	9.8%	10.7%	21.0%	23.2%
Geriatrics	36.8%	38.1%	26.8%	21.5%	13.3%	15.2%	23.0%	25.2%
Hospital medicine	78.1%	76.4%	7.5%	7.4%	3.7%	4.0%	10.6%	12.3%
Internal medicine-general practice	62.5%	66.0%	20.7%	18.3%	6.4%	5.4%	10.4%	10.3%
Neurology	79.9%	78.9%	11.2%	11.8%	3.4%	3.6%	5.6%	5.6%
Neurosurgery	37.9%	36.1%	15.2%	15.0%	12.8%	12.7%	34.1%	36.1%
Obstetrics and gynecology	80.0%	78.6%	8.9%	8.5%	2.3%	2.5%	8.8%	10.4%
Occupational medicine	80.4%	80.3%	10.6%	10.1%	2.7%	2.9%	6.2%	6.8%
Oncology	75.6%	73.9%	15.1%	14.8%	3.8%	3.9%	5.5%	7.3%
Orthopaedic surgery	37.6%	36.1%	27.4%	26.0%	14.0%	15.2%	21.0%	22.7%
Otolaryngology	67.8%	68.4%	17.7%	13.5%	5.1%	6.4%	9.4%	11.7%
Pain medicine	63.6%	63.5%	27.4%	25.8%	3.4%	3.6%	5.6%	7.1%
Pediatrics-general	60.3%	62.4%	19.4%	17.6%	8.1%	7.6%	12.2%	12.4%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	65.4%	65.9%	19.8%	20.6%	6.6%	5.1%	8.2%	8.4%
Plastic surgery	59.6%	61.0%	22.5%	20.9%	6.1%	6.3%	11.8%	11.9%
Psychiatry	61.8%	60.7%	23.0%	22.5%	5.4%	5.9%	9.7%	11.0%
Urology	59.3%	61.2%	16.4%	13.8%	8.3%	9.6%	15.9%	15.4%

Note: PAs were asked how much on-call time (either on the phone or in person) do they take at their principal clinical position during a typical week.

Percent of PAs who Have On-Call Time in Principal Position by Specialty

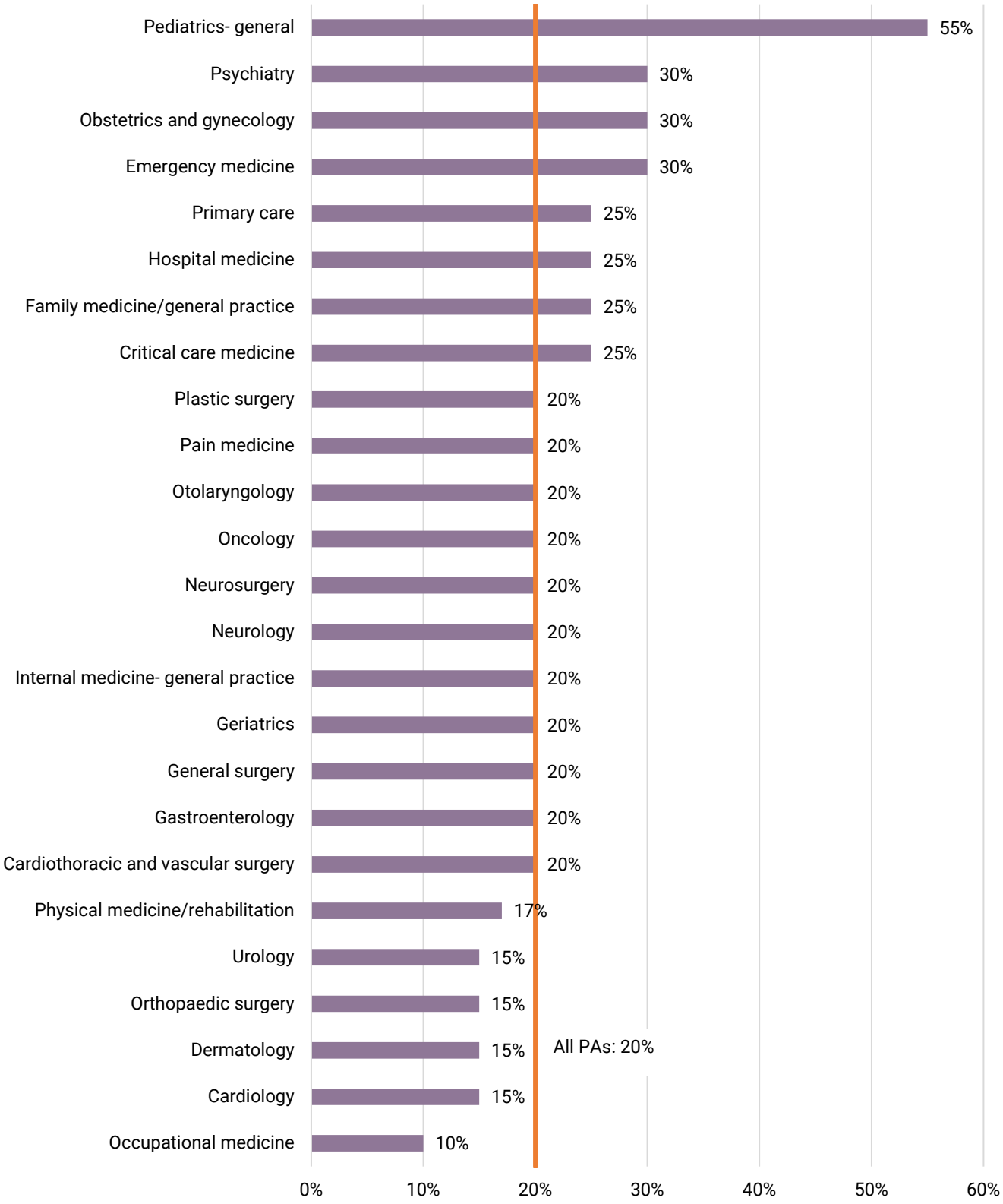


Payer Mix by Specialty (Median Percent)

Specialty	Private insurance		Medicaid		Medicare		Tricare/ CHAMPUS/ VA		Workers compen-sation		Uncompen-sated care		Self-pay and sliding-fee schedule	
	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017
Primary care	40%	40%	25%	25%	25%	25%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Cardiology	30%	30%	15%	15%	50%	50%	5%	5%	3%	2%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	30%	30%	20%	15%	45%	50%	5%	5%	5%	5%	10%	10%	5%	5%
Critical care medicine	30%	30%	25%	20%	30%	33%	8%	6%	5%	5%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Dermatology	50%	50%	15%	15%	30%	30%	5%	5%	1%	2%	2%	3%	5%	5%
Emergency medicine	25%	25%	30%	30%	25%	25%	5%	5%	5%	5%	10%	15%	10%	10%
Family medicine/general practice	40%	40%	25%	25%	25%	20%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Gastroenterology	40%	40%	20%	20%	30%	30%	5%	5%	4%	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%
General surgery	35%	33%	20%	20%	30%	30%	5%	5%	5%	5%	10%	10%	5%	5%
Geriatrics	15%	15%	20%	20%	70%	70%	5%	5%	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Hospital medicine	25%	25%	25%	25%	40%	40%	5%	5%	4%	5%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Internal medicine-general practice	40%	40%	20%	20%	35%	35%	5%	5%	3%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Neurology	40%	40%	20%	20%	30%	30%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Neurosurgery	33%	34%	20%	20%	30%	30%	5%	5%	5%	8%	5%	7%	5%	5%
Obstetrics and gynecology	50%	50%	30%	35%	10%	10%	5%	5%	5%	8%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Occupational medicine	20%	20%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	45%	80%	81%	20%	30%	10%	10%
Oncology	40%	40%	20%	20%	40%	40%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Orthopaedic surgery	40%	40%	15%	15%	30%	30%	5%	5%	10%	10%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Otolaryngology	45%	45%	20%	20%	30%	30%	5%	5%	2%	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%
Pain medicine	30%	30%	20%	20%	30%	30%	5%	5%	6%	10%	3%	4%	5%	5%
Pediatrics-general	35%	30%	55%	60%	30%	30%	5%	5%	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	30%	30%	17%	15%	40%	35%	5%	5%	10%	10%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Plastic surgery	35%	40%	20%	20%	20%	20%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	25%	25%
Psychiatry	30%	25%	30%	37%	20%	25%	5%	5%	2%	3%	10%	10%	5%	6%
Urology	35%	35%	15%	15%	40%	40%	5%	5%	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%

Note: PAs were asked to estimate their current payer mix in their principal clinical position.

Median Percent of Medicaid Patients Seen by Specialty

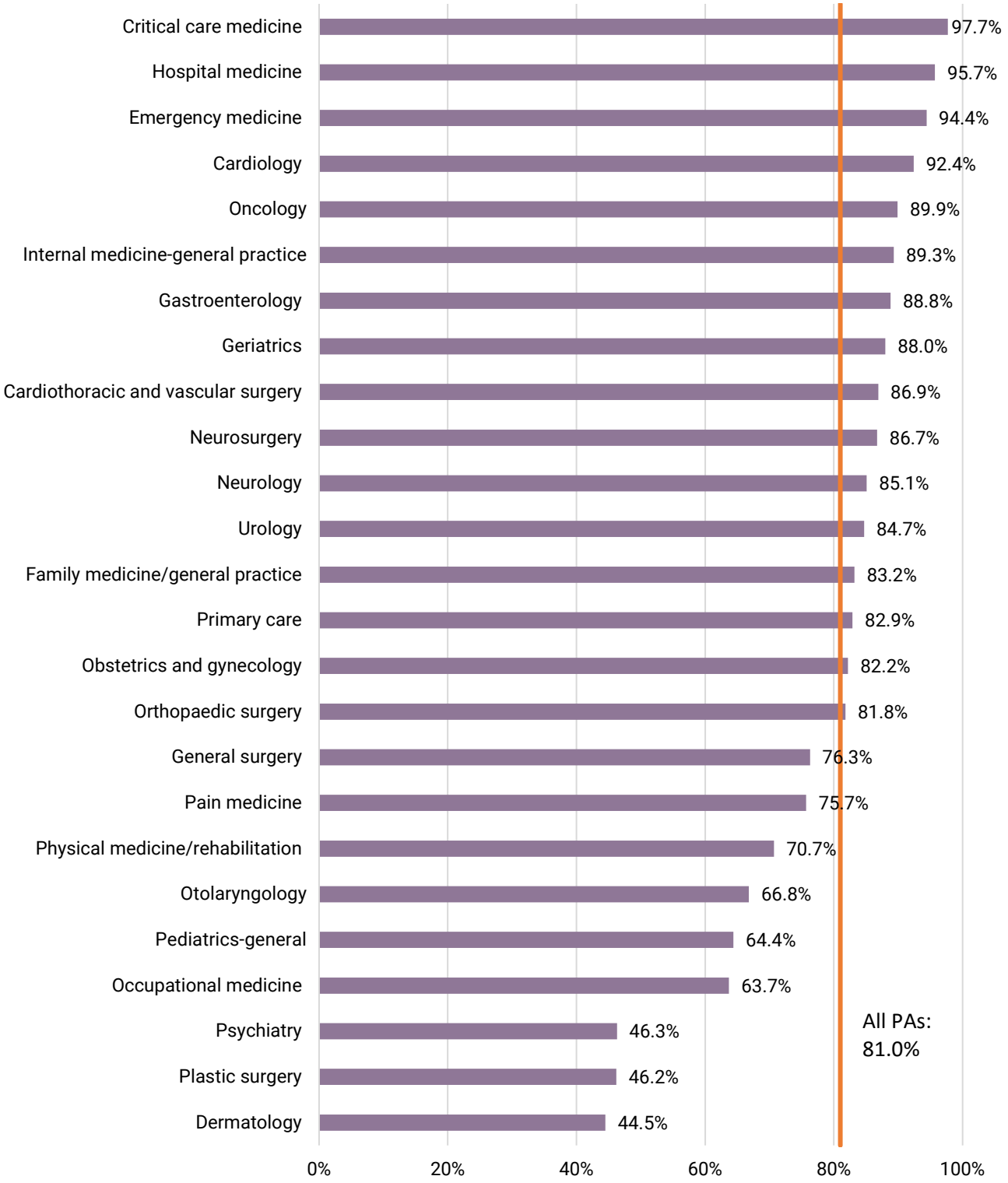


Services Provided in Principal Clinical Position for Most Patients by Specialty

Specialty	Diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute illnesses		Diagnosis, treatment, and management of chronic illnesses		Conduct physical examinations and obtain medical histories		Order, perform, and interpret lab tests, X-rays, EKGs, and other diagnostic studies		Provide preventive care, including screening and immunizations		Perform procedures		Counsel and educate patients and families		Provide care coordination		Make referrals	
	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017
Primary care	87.3%	86.4%	72.9%	70.4%	92.3%	90.5%	82.9%	82.4%	78.2%	76.9%	27.3%	27.4%	85.6%	83.6%	56.8%	54.2%	56.8%	54.2%
Cardiology	70.4%	67.3%	82.2%	81.3%	93.1%	92.2%	92.4%	92.0%	35.9%	35.8%	13.6%	14.1%	86.2%	84.3%	55.3%	53.2%	34.2%	33.0%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	68.4%	67.2%	57.8%	56.4%	80.7%	77.1%	86.9%	85.5%	17.8%	16.4%	65.5%	67.5%	72.1%	70.0%	57.4%	56.1%	34.6%	34.7%
Critical care medicine	95.1%	95.6%	64.3%	63.6%	92.9%	90.6%	97.7%	98.1%	19.8%	19.1%	54.7%	55.3%	73.8%	72.1%	65.1%	62.5%	40.5%	40.6%
Dermatology	76.7%	73.5%	68.3%	64.5%	89.3%	86.6%	44.5%	44.2%	56.9%	55.8%	67.0%	66.3%	89.6%	88.1%	40.1%	37.0%	25.5%	22.9%
Emergency medicine	96.8%	94.4%	36.2%	33.5%	97.3%	96.6%	94.4%	93.8%	21.5%	19.3%	39.3%	37.8%	82.7%	80.6%	41.8%	38.7%	49.5%	48.1%
Family medicine/ general practice	87.5%	86.5%	73.2%	70.2%	92.0%	90.1%	83.2%	82.6%	77.6%	76.4%	28.9%	28.8%	84.9%	82.8%	56.0%	53.4%	56.3%	53.4%
Gastro-enterology	69.2%	66.9%	78.3%	76.6%	96.0%	96.5%	88.8%	87.8%	54.9%	53.4%	9.2%	7.4%	88.1%	85.5%	53.6%	50.1%	34.0%	30.1%
General surgery	65.3%	62.4%	32.9%	31.6%	79.1%	76.5%	76.3%	74.9%	17.1%	15.9%	52.1%	52.0%	67.5%	64.1%	52.3%	49.5%	30.4%	28.9%
Geriatrics	83.4%	82.0%	88.6%	90.9%	93.7%	93.2%	88.0%	91.4%	66.7%	66.9%	19.7%	17.9%	85.3%	81.5%	74.2%	71.5%	63.4%	61.6%
Hospital medicine	93.0%	91.1%	76.0%	77.1%	94.7%	94.3%	95.7%	95.3%	25.7%	26.2%	10.8%	11.0%	81.5%	77.7%	70.9%	70.5%	51.7%	51.3%
Internal medicine-general practice	83.5%	82.0%	82.8%	81.4%	92.1%	90.4%	89.3%	89.2%	77.3%	75.6%	23.7%	24.1%	85.1%	82.9%	62.1%	59.5%	63.4%	61.4%
Neurology	55.7%	53.1%	80.4%	80.3%	95.3%	93.0%	85.1%	85.6%	25.1%	23.6%	18.0%	13.4%	88.8%	87.6%	59.7%	59.5%	45.5%	44.8%
Neurosurgery	65.5%	61.3%	48.3%	45.6%	90.1%	88.7%	86.7%	83.7%	14.3%	13.1%	38.8%	40.4%	78.5%	75.0%	59.0%	55.2%	44.0%	40.6%
Obstetrics and gynecology	76.0%	72.4%	42.5%	39.3%	94.8%	94.7%	82.2%	82.0%	73.4%	73.4%	37.7%	36.7%	89.7%	87.7%	47.5%	45.7%	35.9%	33.7%
Occupational medicine	71.1%	66.1%	24.8%	21.4%	89.7%	87.6%	63.7%	61.4%	35.1%	34.5%	19.2%	18.1%	65.7%	59.5%	37.7%	34.7%	32.4%	29.3%
Oncology	68.4%	63.9%	71.6%	70.5%	92.5%	92.6%	89.9%	89.5%	33.2%	30.7%	14.6%	15.6%	88.6%	86.1%	74.6%	72.0%	52.6%	48.6%
Orthopaedic surgery	64.7%	62.9%	46.5%	45.4%	85.2%	83.2%	81.8%	80.1%	14.2%	13.5%	44.9%	43.5%	75.6%	72.7%	45.2%	43.2%	27.8%	25.4%
Otolaryngology	73.2%	71.1%	64.5%	63.8%	92.4%	90.7%	66.8%	65.9%	23.3%	22.0%	38.7%	36.0%	84.4%	80.1%	44.3%	44.1%	30.5%	26.2%
Pain medicine	40.3%	35.4%	83.4%	86.0%	89.2%	90.2%	75.7%	74.9%	20.9%	18.6%	26.4%	24.5%	81.8%	81.8%	49.4%	49.2%	45.5%	43.7%
Pediatrics-general	94.9%	95.4%	46.6%	44.3%	96.5%	94.6%	64.4%	64.4%	86.1%	86.1%	19.9%	21.0%	93.8%	93.1%	52.6%	49.0%	45.2%	43.7%
Physical medicine/ rehabilitation	55.9%	48.6%	71.2%	69.4%	91.6%	90.9%	70.7%	71.0%	17.8%	18.4%	25.9%	25.4%	79.4%	75.5%	56.6%	52.3%	40.4%	37.7%
Plastic surgery	43.2%	39.5%	21.1%	21.1%	73.4%	71.0%	46.2%	46.0%	12.2%	10.6%	67.4%	68.8%	73.0%	71.4%	48.4%	47.2%	24.9%	22.2%
Psychiatry	64.1%	59.6%	84.6%	82.7%	65.0%	58.1%	46.3%	50.8%	22.1%	23.1%	6.6%	6.2%	89.1%	84.1%	59.4%	56.4%	37.4%	38.4%
Urology	68.5%	66.2%	71.9%	69.4%	90.3%	88.3%	84.7%	84.0%	43.5%	43.9%	23.4%	24.8%	79.8%	78.1%	45.3%	45.0%	25.8%	45.0%

Note: PAs were asked what proportion of their patients do they provide the listed services for in their practice. These percentages are for "most" patients.

Order, Perform, and Interpret Lab Tests, X-rays, EKGs, and other Diagnostic Studies by Specialty



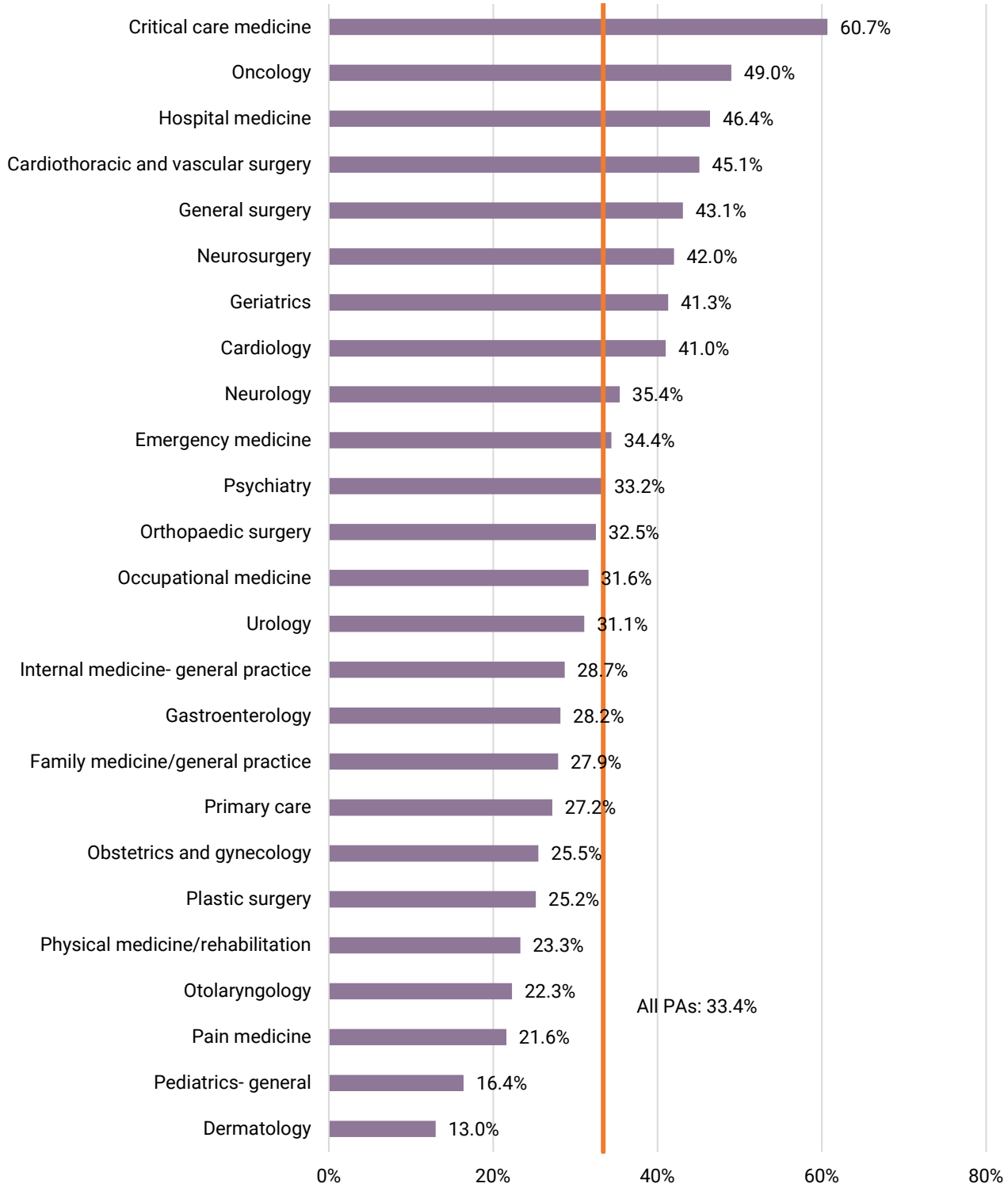
Supply and Demand by Specialty

Specialty	Primary place of employment is recruiting/ hiring PAs	Number of months positions have remained unfilled*					
		1 month	2 months	3 months	4 months	5 months	6 or more months
Primary care	27.2%	36.2%	15.1%	18.2%	3.9%	1.4%	25.2%
Cardiology	41.0%	39.7%	17.0%	22.2%	3.9%	1.0%	16.1%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	45.1%	29.7%	13.9%	19.2%	3.9%	2.2%	31.1%
Critical care medicine	60.7%	35.5%	16.2%	18.0%	4.1%	1.1%	25.2%
Dermatology	13.0%	52.0%	15.8%	13.7%	1.9%	0.6%	16.1%
Emergency medicine	34.4%	46.1%	16.9%	15.6%	3.9%	1.5%	16.0%
Family medicine/general practice	27.9%	36.2%	14.9%	17.9%	3.9%	1.3%	25.8%
Gastroenterology	28.2%	41.8%	18.1%	17.7%	3.4%	2.2%	16.8%
General surgery	43.1%	38.4%	18.9%	17.7%	5.2%	1.9%	17.9%
Geriatrics	41.3%	41.4%	14.0%	20.2%	4.4%	0.0%	19.9%
Hospital medicine	46.4%	43.4%	18.9%	17.1%	3.8%	1.3%	15.4%
Internal medicine-general practice	28.7%	34.7%	15.8%	20.2%	4.3%	1.7%	23.4%
Neurology	35.4%	36.9%	19.0%	19.3%	2.6%	2.3%	19.9%
Neurosurgery	42.0%	37.0%	18.5%	19.2%	4.3%	2.2%	18.8%
Obstetrics and gynecology	25.5%	43.6%	21.2%	12.1%	5.2%	1.0%	16.9%
Occupational medicine	31.6%	32.9%	19.6%	17.4%	5.5%	2.9%	21.7%
Oncology	49.0%	45.2%	18.7%	19.1%	4.5%	1.7%	10.9%
Orthopaedic surgery	32.5%	43.9%	19.7%	16.6%	3.6%	1.3%	14.9%
Otolaryngology	22.3%	40.7%	22.9%	13.4%	5.2%	0.9%	16.9%
Pain medicine	21.6%	43.9%	16.7%	14.4%	3.5%	1.9%	19.6%
Pediatrics-general	16.4%	42.9%	17.2%	14.5%	1.4%	1.0%	23.0%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	23.3%	55.6%	15.8%	15.8%	2.3%	0.8%	9.8%
Plastic surgery	25.2%	42.3%	23.7%	15.4%	2.1%	2.1%	14.5%
Psychiatry	33.2%	40.0%	15.3%	15.8%	3.7%	1.5%	23.7%
Urology	31.1%	37.5%	16.3%	18.6%	4.9%	1.6%	21.2%

Note: PAs were asked if their primary place of employment is currently recruting/hiring PAs. If yes, they were asked how long the PA positions have remained unfilled.

*Percent derived from the number of Certified PAs who said their principal employer is currently recruiting/hiring PAs.

Principal Place of Employment Hiring/Recruiting PAs by Specialty



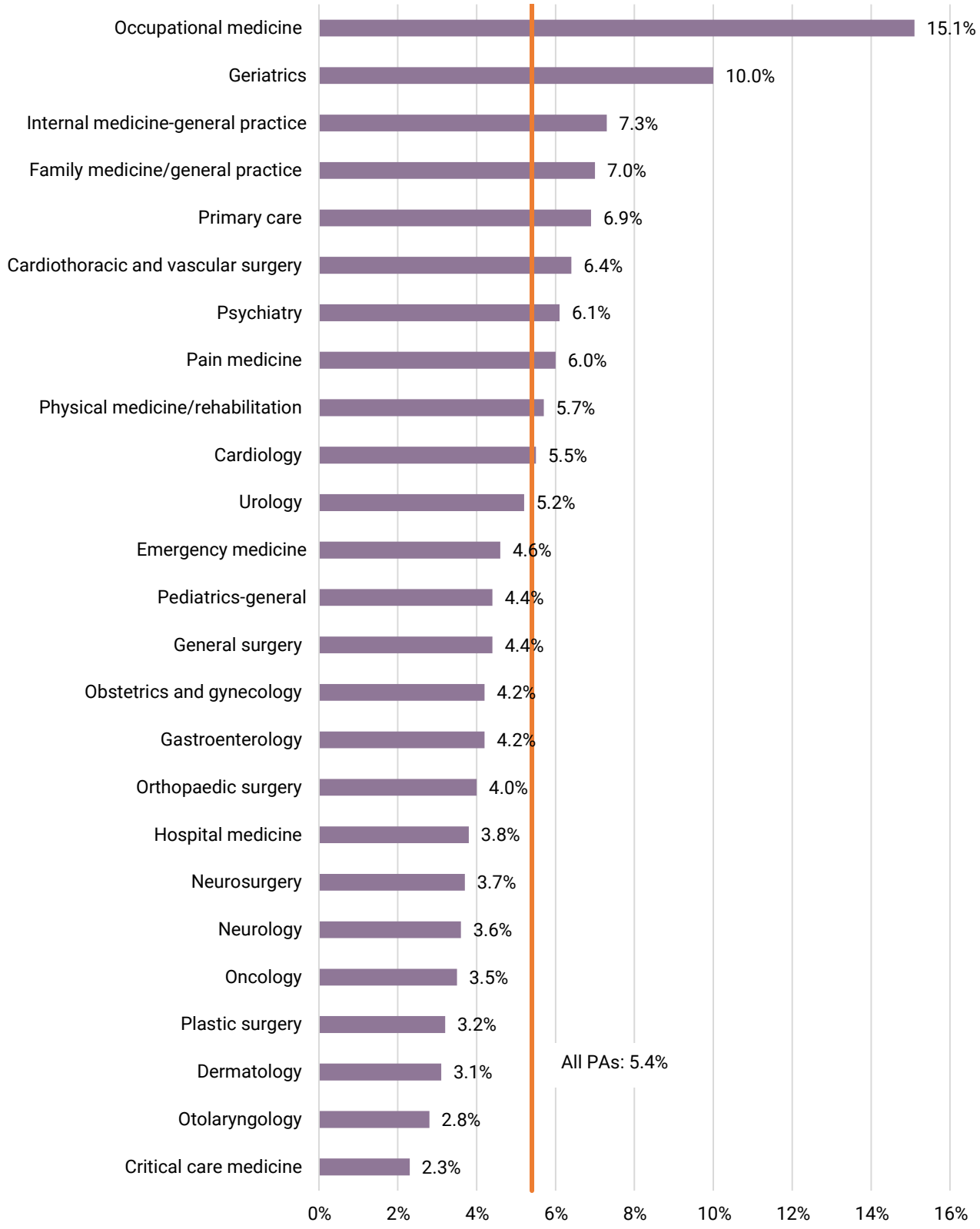
Percent Who Plan to Change Positions and Plan to Retire by Specialty

Specialty	Plan to leave principal position in the next 12 months		Plan to retire from the PA workforce in the next five years:
	2021	2017	2021*
Primary care	8.2%	6.9%	6.9%
Cardiology	6.7%	5.0%	5.5%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	7.4%	4.9%	6.4%
Critical care medicine	8.5%	5.8%	2.3%
Dermatology	5.2%	3.6%	3.1%
Emergency medicine	8.3%	6.3%	4.6%
Family medicine/general practice	8.3%	7.3%	7.0%
Gastroenterology	7.2%	5.7%	4.2%
General surgery	7.7%	6.8%	4.4%
Geriatrics	8.6%	7.2%	10.0%
Hospital medicine	9.4%	7.6%	3.8%
Internal medicine-general practice	8.4%	6.5%	7.3%
Neurology	8.2%	5.0%	3.6%
Neurosurgery	7.4%	6.5%	3.7%
Obstetrics and gynecology	6.5%	4.3%	4.2%
Occupational medicine	10.9%	8.9%	15.1%
Oncology	6.4%	6.0%	3.5%
Orthopaedic surgery	5.7%	5.1%	4.0%
Otolaryngology	6.4%	5.9%	2.8%
Pain medicine	10.2%	7.2%	6.0%
Pediatrics-general	6.2%	4.3%	4.4%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	7.7%	6.7%	5.7%
Plastic surgery	6.9%	4.4%	3.2%
Psychiatry	8.1%	6.8%	6.1%
Urology	5.7%	5.2%	5.2%

Note: PAs were asked if they plan to change their principal position in the next 12 months and asked if they plan to retire in the next five years.

*Plan to retire was added to the profile in 2018.

Plan to Retire in Next Five Years by Specialty



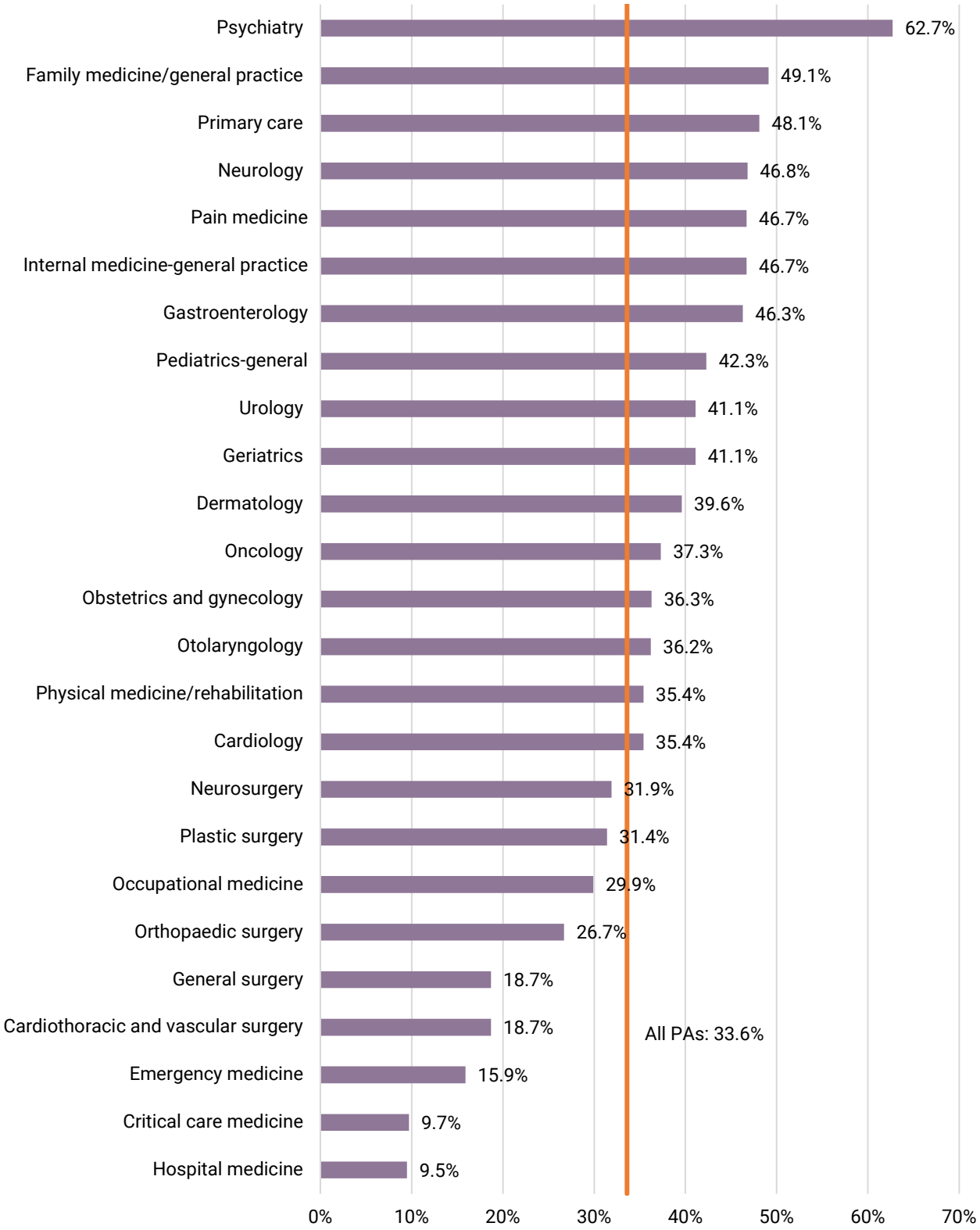
Participate in Telemedicine and Hours of Participation by Specialty

Specialty	Participates in telemedicine		Hours per week participating in telemedicine										Does not participate in telemedicine but practice or institution does*
			Less than 10		10 to 19		20 to 29		30 to 39		40 or more		
	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	2021	2017	
Primary care	48.1%	9.1%	72.2%	89.1%	17.7%	6.2%	6.4%	1.9%	2.3%	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	70.5%
Cardiology	35.4%	7.5%	80.2%	81.0%	12.8%	8.0%	3.7%	4.4%	2.7%	0.7%	0.7%	5.8%	76.9%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	18.7%	6.1%	88.2%	82.8%	8.1%	11.9%	2.7%	1.5%	0.4%	1.5%	0.6%	2.2%	66.5%
Critical care medicine	9.7%	10.2%	75.0%	73.1%	12.5%	11.8%	5.5%	4.3%	4.0%	4.3%	3.0%	6.5%	54.0%
Dermatology	39.6%	5.9%	92.5%	94.2%	4.4%	1.9%	1.1%	1.3%	0.9%	0.6%	1.1%	1.9%	62.1%
Emergency medicine	15.9%	13.4%	84.3%	92.8%	10.2%	3.8%	2.9%	1.2%	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%	0.8%	42.9%
Family medicine/general practice	49.1%	9.8%	72.1%	89.7%	17.9%	6.3%	6.3%	1.7%	2.4%	1.3%	1.3%	1.0%	70.8%
Gastroenterology	46.3%	5.7%	68.4%	90.5%	14.9%	4.8%	9.6%	4.8%	5.1%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	75.8%
General surgery	18.7%	5.0%	83.2%	83.7%	11.7%	9.2%	3.6%	2.0%	0.5%	2.0%	1.0%	3.1%	61.8%
Geriatrics	41.1%	8.9%	73.9%	81.8%	14.7%	11.4%	6.7%	2.3%	1.9%	4.5%	2.8%	0.0%	71.1%
Hospital medicine	9.5%	7.4%	85.1%	82.4%	9.1%	8.8%	2.3%	4.4%	1.6%	0.6%	1.8%	3.8%	55.6%
Internal medicine-general practice	46.7%	8.2%	68.6%	86.1%	19.3%	6.0%	7.7%	2.8%	2.5%	1.6%	1.9%	3.6%	70.3%
Neurology	46.8%	8.3%	65.5%	85.1%	19.1%	8.5%	9.6%	2.1%	4.9%	4.3%	1.0%	0.0%	78.4%
Neurosurgery	31.9%	7.0%	85.2%	84.2%	10.4%	5.9%	3.1%	4.0%	0.9%	3.0%	0.3%	3.0%	70.5%
Obstetrics and gynecology	36.3%	6.0%	87.2%	81.2%	10.3%	8.3%	1.7%	2.1%	0.6%	8.3%	0.2%	0.0%	62.6%
Occupational medicine	29.9%	6.3%	84.6%	91.9%	7.6%	3.2%	4.8%	3.2%	0.9%	1.6%	2.1%	0.0%	55.1%
Oncology	37.3%	5.5%	83.2%	83.0%	10.5%	7.5%	5.4%	5.7%	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	3.8%	78.2%
Orthopaedic surgery	26.7%	6.3%	92.3%	85.5%	5.4%	8.6%	1.7%	4.2%	0.4%	0.9%	0.2%	0.9%	66.8%
Otolaryngology	36.2%	3.9%	91.2%	79.2%	8.1%	8.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%	4.2%	0.0%	8.3%	70.4%
Pain medicine	46.7%	4.7%	64.1%	85.4%	17.4%	4.9%	9.3%	7.3%	5.8%	2.4%	3.5%	0.0%	61.5%
Pediatrics-general	42.3%	4.7%	83.4%	89.6%	10.9%	4.8%	4.4%	3.2%	0.8%	3.2%	0.5%	0.0%	68.1%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	35.4%	5.1%	75.3%	91.7%	15.1%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	2.7%	4.2%	1.8%	4.2%	56.4%
Plastic surgery	31.4%	8.9%	88.7%	91.5%	9.0%	6.4%	2.1%	2.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	60.7%
Psychiatry	62.7%	21.3%	31.4%	73.4%	16.8%	13.5%	17.8%	7.3%	18.7%	2.6%	15.4%	3.1%	70.1%
Urology	41.1%	6.8%	81.5%	91.5%	11.7%	4.3%	4.6%	2.1%	0.9%	0.0%	1.3%	2.1%	73.8%

Note: PAs were asked if they participate in telemedicine as a substitute for in-person encounters. If yes, they were asked how many hours per week they engage in telemedicine. PAs who indicated they did not participate in telemedicine were asked if their practice or institution participates.

*Question added in 2020. Of the PAs who did not participate in telemedicine, the percent whose practice or institution does.

Participates in Telemedicine by Specialty

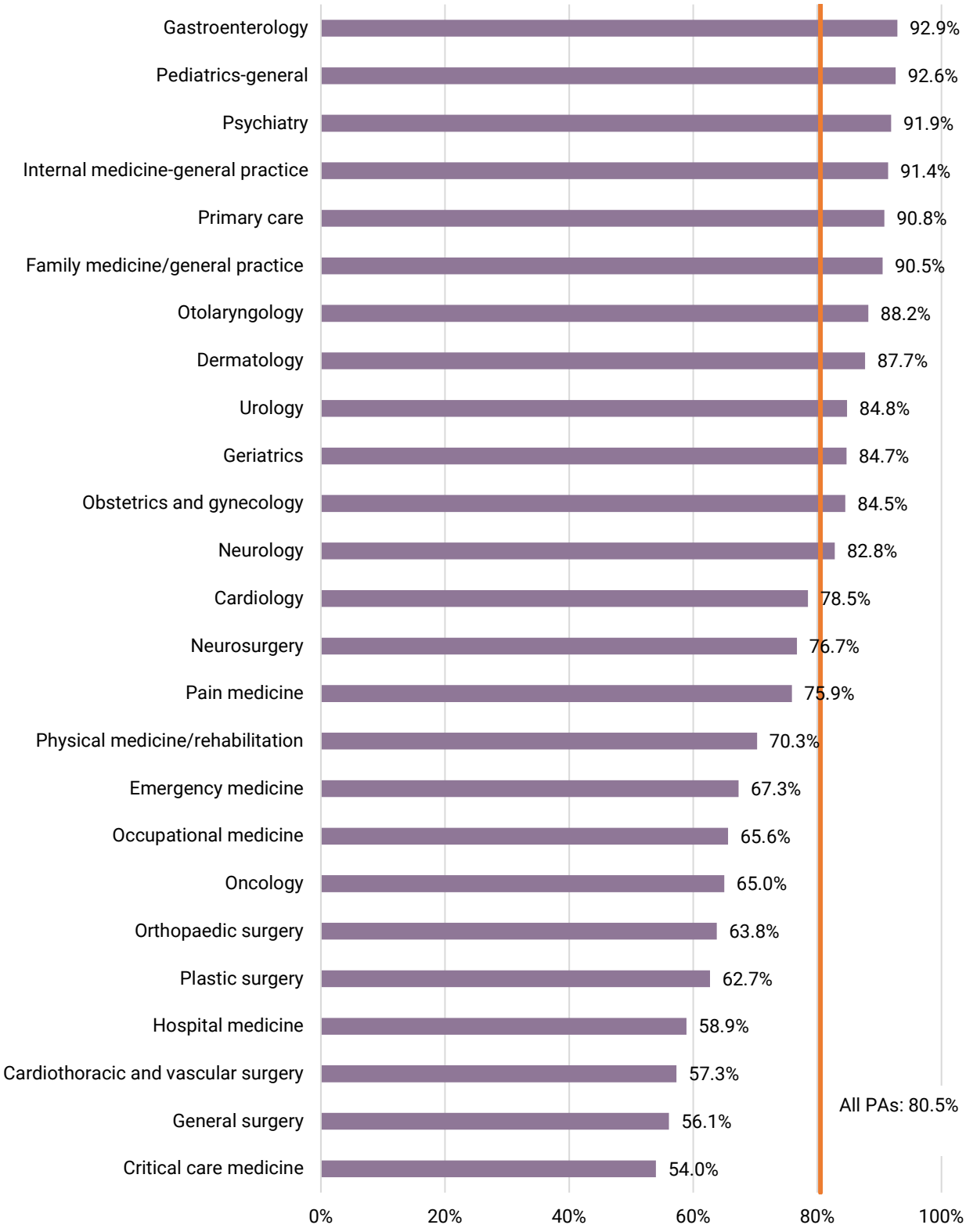


Functions and Modalities of Telemedicine by Specialty

Specialty	Functions of telemedicine				Modalities of telemedicine		
	Follow-up with patients	Diagnosing or treating patients	Managing patients with chronic disease	Collaborating with another provider	Video-conferencing	Remote patient monitoring	Storing and forwarding data
Primary care	88.9%	90.8%	79.3%	28.0%	89.4%	19.6%	9.2%
Cardiology	93.6%	78.5%	88.6%	33.7%	87.2%	43.1%	10.5%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	89.9%	57.3%	47.7%	31.7%	84.0%	19.5%	8.6%
Critical care medicine	40.5%	54.0%	30.5%	56.0%	69.0%	42.5%	11.0%
Dermatology	92.1%	87.7%	73.6%	19.3%	93.1%	11.9%	13.3%
Emergency medicine	37.2%	67.3%	18.1%	36.6%	79.6%	13.5%	9.3%
Family medicine/ general practice	88.9%	90.5%	79.7%	28.4%	88.5%	19.7%	9.6%
Gastroenterology	95.4%	92.9%	91.0%	48.2%	92.7%	13.2%	6.5%
General surgery	92.7%	56.1%	31.5%	25.4%	84.8%	18.7%	8.4%
Geriatrics	84.4%	84.7%	82.8%	41.1%	92.2%	20.6%	7.8%
Hospital medicine	50.3%	58.9%	37.0%	48.2%	75.0%	26.8%	12.5%
Internal medicine-general practice	90.1%	91.4%	85.6%	29.8%	92.2%	23.1%	9.0%
Neurology	92.4%	82.8%	85.8%	34.3%	94.0%	15.4%	7.4%
Neurosurgery	94.4%	76.7%	48.2%	33.8%	88.3%	18.0%	8.6%
Obstetrics and gynecology	93.3%	84.5%	52.1%	22.3%	87.4%	16.6%	6.3%
Occupational medicine	86.9%	65.6%	20.9%	22.5%	83.5%	18.3%	11.7%
Oncology	95.9%	65.0%	78.3%	31.8%	94.8%	18.1%	5.5%
Orthopaedic surgery	94.6%	63.8%	35.0%	22.4%	89.0%	15.1%	6.7%
Otolaryngology	95.8%	88.2%	69.4%	25.0%	93.4%	12.5%	6.1%
Pain medicine	96.8%	75.9%	84.3%	30.0%	92.2%	18.3%	4.4%
Pediatrics-general	86.4%	92.6%	58.6%	19.1%	93.3%	10.4%	5.3%
Physical medicine/ rehabilitation	95.4%	70.3%	68.5%	30.6%	91.8%	14.2%	5.5%
Plastic surgery	90.1%	62.7%	20.6%	26.6%	89.3%	19.4%	6.3%
Psychiatry	94.1%	91.9%	82.0%	49.8%	94.6%	19.5%	8.6%
Urology	95.2%	84.8%	82.4%	29.5%	92.8%	12.6%	7.8%

Note: PAs were asked if they participate in telemedicine as a stubstitute for in-person encounters. If yes, PAs were asked to indicate which function(s) they engage in and what modalities of telemedicine they use. Percentages only include PAs who indicate they participate in telemedicine.

Diagnoses or Treats Patients through Telemedicine by Specialty



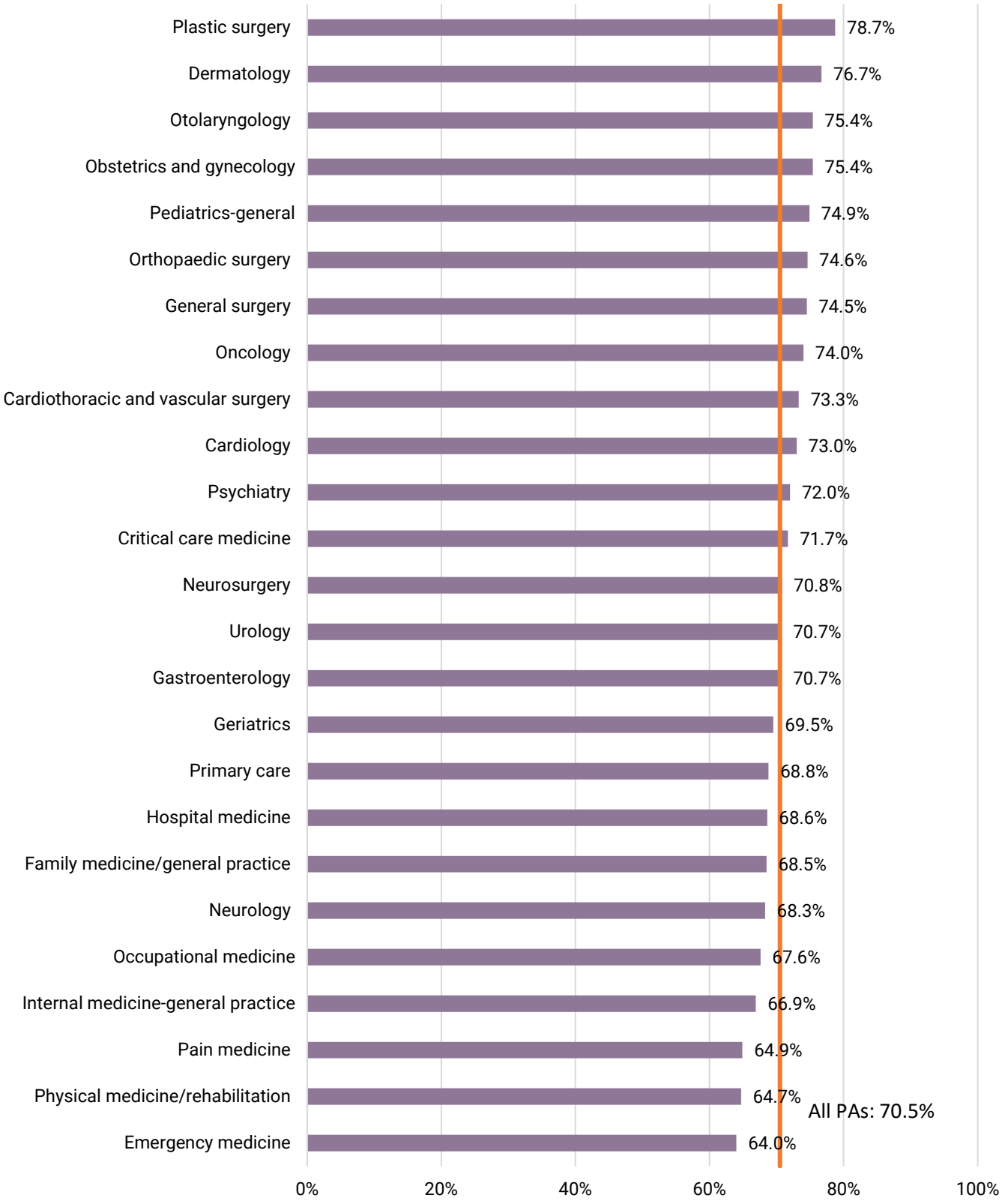
Note: Percentages only include PAs who indicate they participate in telemedicine.

Job Satisfaction by Specialty

Specialty	Satisfaction with present job							Completely and mostly satisfied combined
	Completely satisfied	Mostly satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Mostly dissatisfied	Completely dissatisfied	
Primary care	16.0%	52.8%	15.5%	3.5%	6.1%	4.8%	1.3%	68.8%
Cardiology	15.6%	57.4%	14.2%	2.6%	4.8%	4.1%	1.3%	73.0%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	17.8%	55.5%	13.6%	3.2%	5.1%	3.9%	1.1%	73.3%
Critical care medicine	16.0%	55.7%	14.8%	3.0%	5.7%	3.8%	1.0%	71.7%
Dermatology	26.2%	50.5%	10.9%	2.5%	4.0%	4.3%	1.6%	76.7%
Emergency medicine	12.1%	51.9%	17.5%	4.5%	7.6%	5.0%	1.3%	64.0%
Family medicine/general practice	15.8%	52.7%	15.0%	1.9%	4.4%	3.7%	0.9%	68.5%
Gastroenterology	14.6%	56.1%	13.9%	3.4%	7.2%	3.8%	1.0%	70.7%
General surgery	17.5%	57.0%	12.9%	3.8%	4.5%	3.0%	1.4%	74.5%
Geriatrics	16.5%	53.0%	15.3%	3.3%	5.3%	5.7%	0.9%	69.5%
Hospital medicine	13.9%	54.7%	15.4%	4.2%	6.2%	4.6%	1.1%	68.6%
Internal medicine-general practice	15.3%	51.6%	16.1%	3.8%	6.5%	5.3%	1.4%	66.9%
Neurology	15.7%	52.6%	15.2%	4.2%	7.1%	4.6%	0.6%	68.3%
Neurosurgery	18.4%	52.4%	15.1%	3.8%	5.5%	3.8%	1.0%	70.8%
Obstetrics and gynecology	20.6%	54.8%	14.9%	1.6%	4.1%	3.3%	0.7%	75.4%
Occupational medicine	17.5%	50.1%	13.9%	5.0%	6.2%	5.4%	1.9%	67.6%
Oncology	16.2%	57.8%	14.6%	2.1%	4.2%	3.8%	1.4%	74.0%
Orthopaedic surgery	19.4%	55.2%	12.9%	3.1%	4.4%	4.0%	1.1%	74.6%
Otolaryngology	19.7%	55.7%	12.3%	2.7%	3.5%	4.4%	1.6%	75.4%
Pain medicine	15.3%	49.6%	17.3%	5.5%	5.6%	5.0%	1.7%	64.9%
Pediatrics-general	18.7%	56.2%	13.4%	2.6%	4.4%	3.9%	0.8%	74.9%
Physical medicine/ rehabilitation	16.5%	53.2%	14.0%	4.4%	6.3%	4.7%	0.9%	64.7%
Plastic surgery	23.5%	55.2%	11.1%	2.3%	3.2%	3.1%	1.6%	78.7%
Psychiatry	17.8%	54.2%	13.9%	4.0%	4.5%	4.4%	1.1%	72.0%
Urology	15.2%	55.5%	14.6%	4.1%	5.0%	4.1%	1.5%	70.7%

Note: PAs were asked how satisfied they are with their present job.

Job Satisfaction: Completely or Mostly Satisfied by Specialty



Level of Burnout[1,2] by Specialty

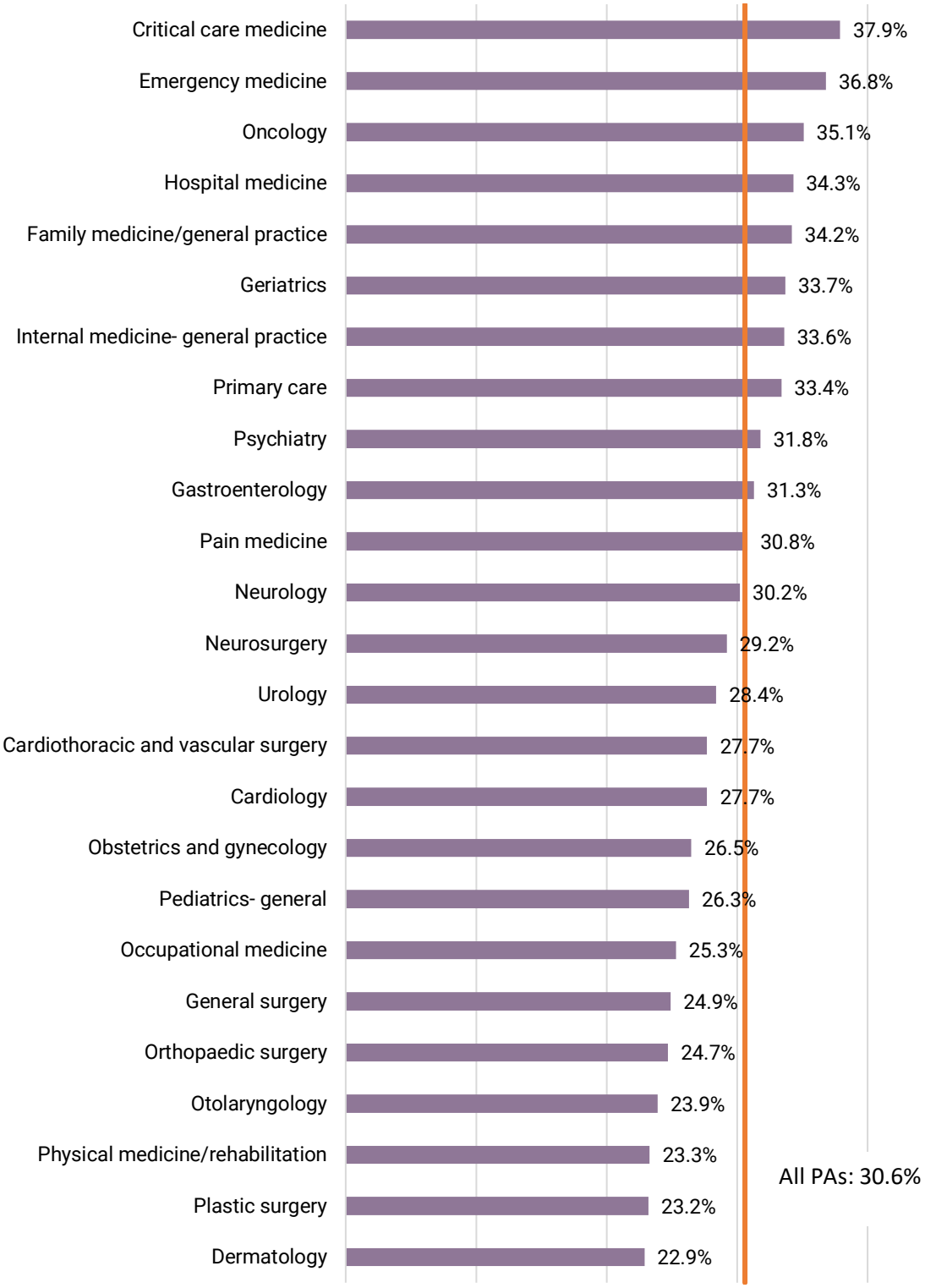
Specialty	No symptoms of burnout	One or more symptoms of burnout
Primary care	66.6%	33.4%
Cardiology	72.3%	27.7%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	72.3%	27.7%
Critical care medicine	62.1%	37.9%
Dermatology	77.1%	22.9%
Emergency medicine	63.2%	36.8%
Family medicine/general practice	65.8%	34.2%
Gastroenterology	68.7%	31.3%
General surgery	75.1%	24.9%
Geriatrics	66.3%	33.7%
Hospital medicine	65.7%	34.3%
Internal medicine-general practice	66.4%	33.6%
Neurology	69.8%	30.2%
Neurosurgery	70.8%	29.2%
Obstetrics and gynecology	73.5%	26.5%
Occupational medicine	74.7%	25.3%
Oncology	64.9%	35.1%
Orthopaedic surgery	75.3%	24.7%
Otolaryngology	76.1%	23.9%
Pain medicine	69.2%	30.8%
Pediatrics-general	73.7%	26.3%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	76.7%	23.3%
Plastic surgery	76.8%	23.2%
Psychiatry	68.2%	31.8%
Urology	71.6%	28.4%

Note: PAs were asked to rate their level of burnout based on their own definition of burnout. Burnout was measured with a scale from no symptoms of burnout to completely burned out.

[1]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

[2]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.

Reporting One or More Symptoms of Burnout by Specialty

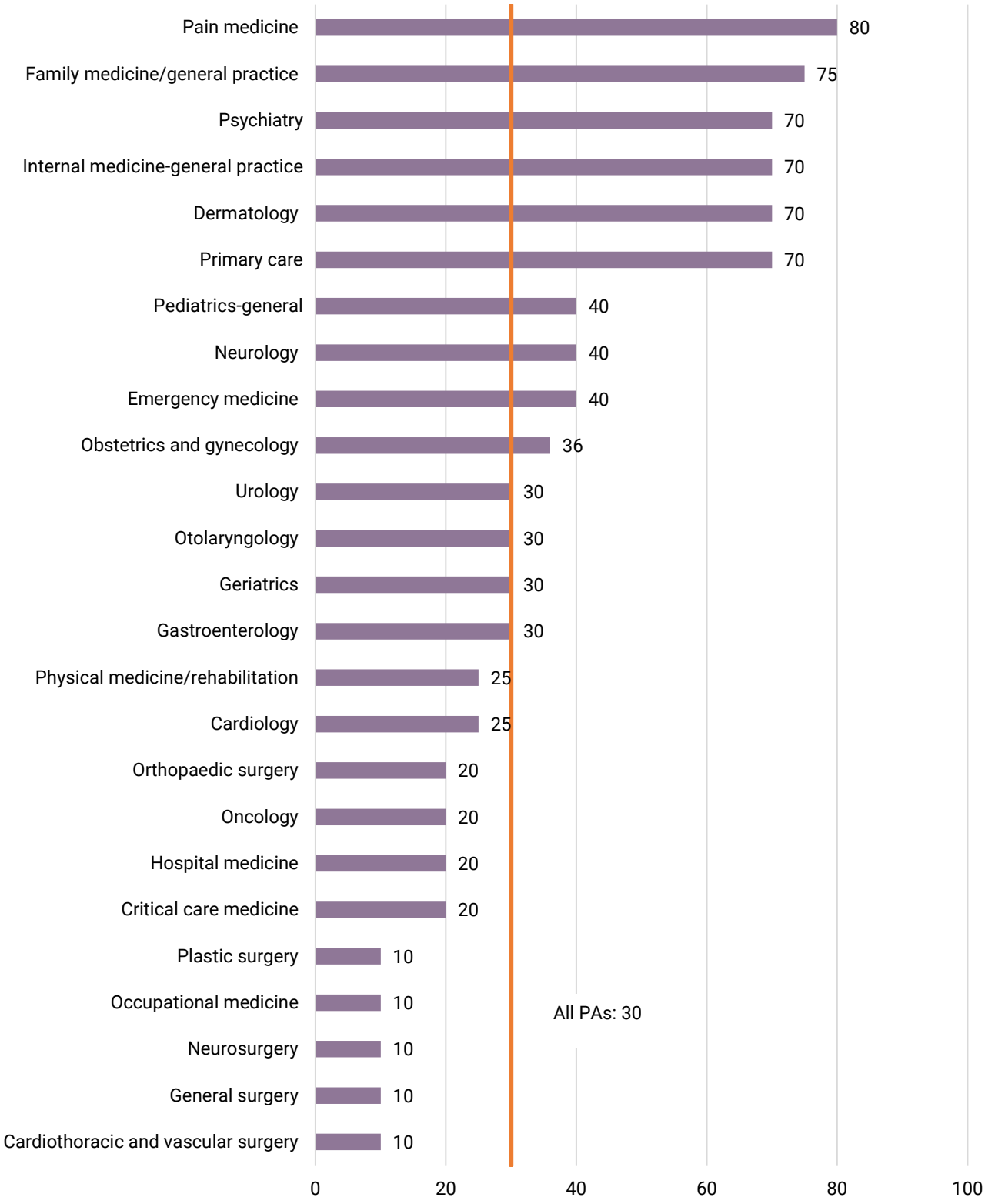


Prescribing by Specialty

Specialty	Prescribe pharmacologic agents for patients	Average number of prescriptions written per week	Median number of prescriptions written per week
Primary care	98.0%	101	70
Cardiology	96.3%	41	25
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	91.7%	22	10
Critical care medicine	76.6%	44	20
Dermatology	98.0%	84	70
Emergency medicine	98.7%	58	40
Family medicine/general practice	98.2%	106	75
Gastroenterology	96.9%	42	30
General surgery	91.7%	21	10
Geriatrics	95.1%	48	30
Hospital medicine	92.3%	38	20
Internal medicine-general practice	97.2%	105	70
Neurology	94.5%	52	40
Neurosurgery	96.8%	21	10
Obstetrics and gynecology	98.3%	47	36
Occupational medicine	87.8%	24	10
Oncology	97.9%	29	20
Orthopaedic surgery	96.9%	27	20
Otolaryngology	98.0%	43	30
Pain medicine	95.7%	105	80
Pediatrics-general	97.8%	52	40
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	91.1%	46	25
Plastic surgery	94.4%	15	10
Psychiatry	97.4%	103	70
Urology	98.6%	45	30

Note: PAs were asked if they prescribe pharmacological agents for patients and if so, how many prescriptions/refills they write per week.

Median Number of Prescriptions Written per Week by Specialty

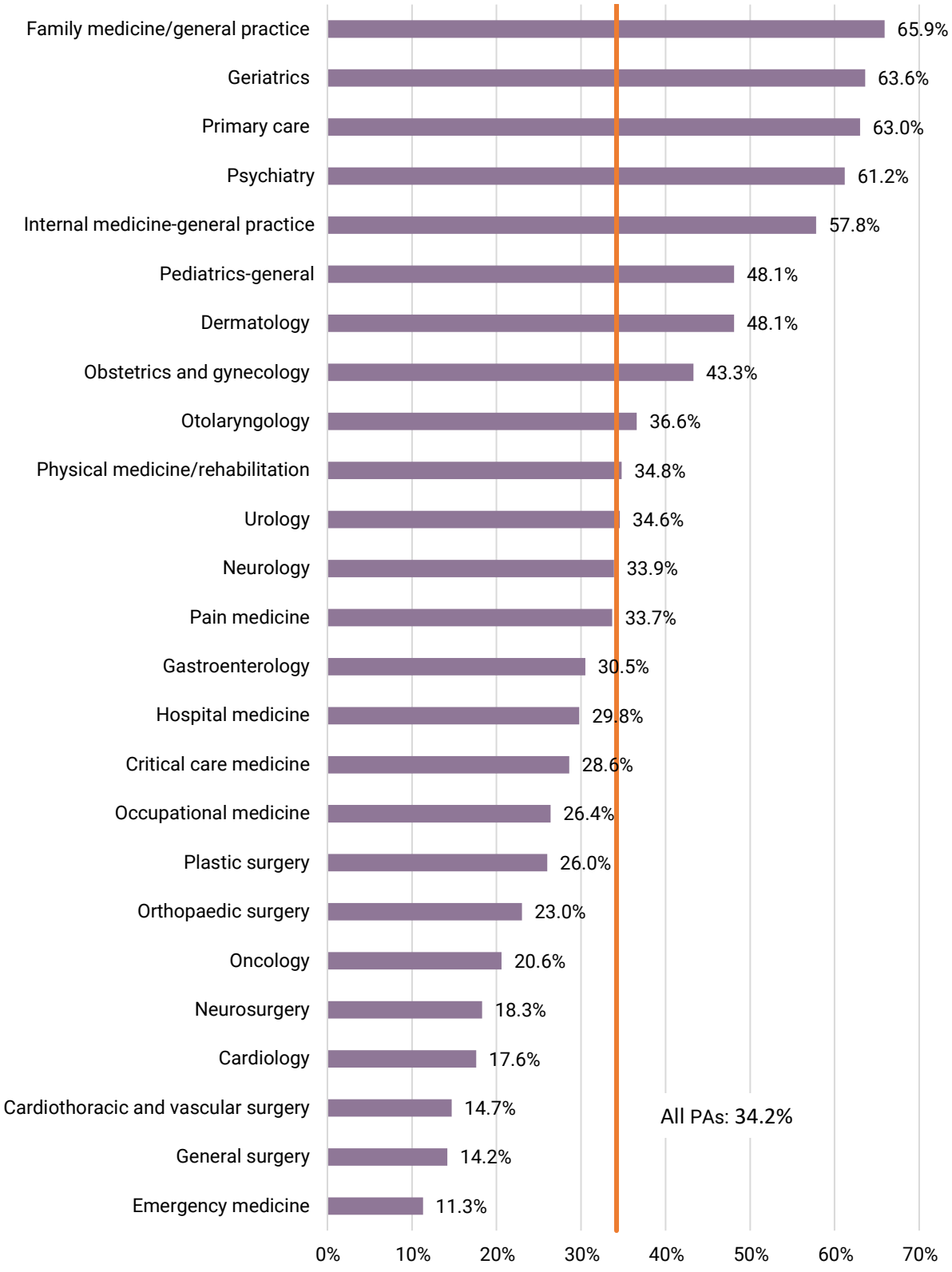


Patient Panels by Specialty

Specialty	Has own patient panel		Median number of patients managed in patient panel	
	2021	2017	2021	2017
Primary care	63.0%	62.2%	400	300
Cardiology	17.6%	16.6%	50	50
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	14.7%	13.6%	15	15
Critical care medicine	28.6%	24.0%	10	10
Dermatology	48.1%	46.3%	250	200
Emergency medicine	11.3%	10.6%	25	25
Family medicine/general practice	65.9%	65.2%	450	355
Gastroenterology	30.5%	29.0%	100	95
General surgery	14.2%	13.2%	20	20
Geriatrics	63.6%	60.7%	102	100
Hospital medicine	29.8%	25.7%	12	14
Internal medicine- general practice	57.8%	56.8%	300	240
Neurology	33.9%	32.7%	100	100
Neurosurgery	18.3%	15.5%	25	25
Obstetrics and gynecology	43.3%	41.7%	100	100
Occupational medicine	26.4%	26.9%	100	80
Oncology	20.6%	20.6%	30	25
Orthopaedic surgery	23.0%	22.3%	50	50
Otolaryngology	36.6%	33.8%	100	75
Pain medicine	33.7%	34.0%	200	200
Pediatrics- general	48.1%	45.0%	100	116
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	34.8%	34.4%	50	87
Plastic surgery	26.0%	26.4%	40	43
Psychiatry	61.2%	58.8%	200	200
Urology	34.6%	34.1%	100	100

Note: PAs were asked if they manage a patient panel at their principal practice, and if so, how many patients are in their panel.

PAs with a Patient Panel by Specialty



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 website at: **www.nccpa.net/resources/nccpa-research/**

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

- *Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants*
- *Statistical Profile of Recently Certified Physician Assistants by State*
- *Specialty Supplement Report on Secondary Specialty*
- *Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants by State*

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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 45C.F.R. §46.101(b).

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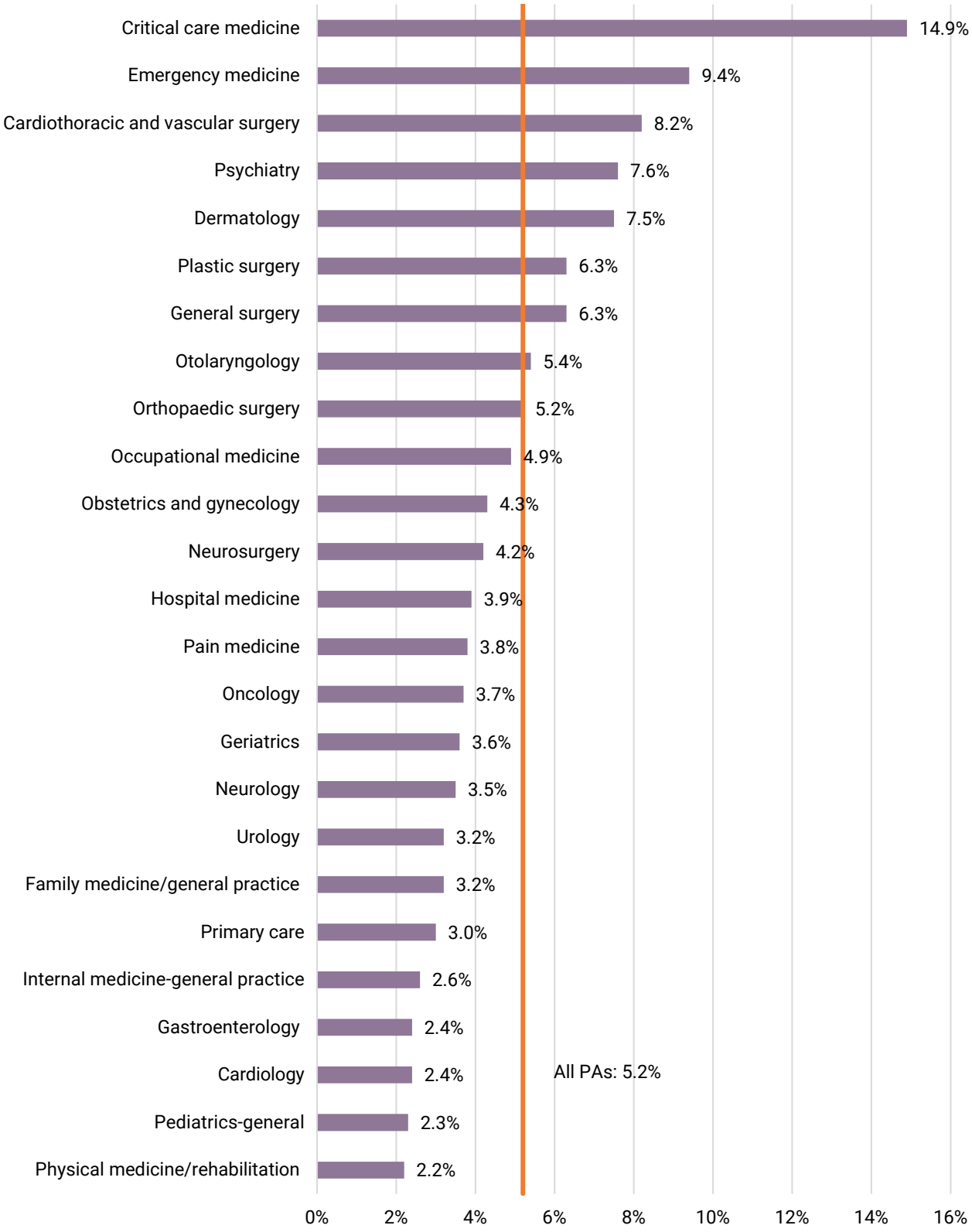
Appendix

Postgraduate Training by Specialty

Specialty	Completed postgraduate training program (residency or fellowship)	Practice area of postgraduate training program same as current principal practice area
Primary care	3.0%	49.2%
Cardiology	2.4%	27.5%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	8.2%	32.3%
Critical care medicine	14.9%	69.3%
Dermatology	7.5%	81.9%
Emergency medicine	9.4%	85.6%
Family medicine/general practice	3.2%	46.3%
Gastroenterology	2.4%	28.2%
General surgery	6.3%	75.8%
Geriatrics	3.6%	17.9%
Hospital medicine	3.9%	60.3%
Internal medicine-general practice	2.6%	24.3%
Neurology	3.5%	55.9%
Neurosurgery	4.2%	22.2%
Obstetrics and gynecology	4.3%	75.0%
Occupational medicine	4.9%	25.8%
Oncology	3.7%	63.8%
Orthopaedic surgery	5.2%	69.0%
Otolaryngology	5.4%	50.0%
Pain medicine	3.8%	16.1%
Pediatrics-general	2.3%	45.2%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	2.2%	15.4%
Plastic surgery	6.3%	10.0%
Psychiatry	7.6%	79.5%
Urology	3.2%	21.9%

Note: PAs were asked if they completed a PA postgraduate training program and if yes, in what practice area was the program in.

Completed a Postgraduate Training Program by Specialty

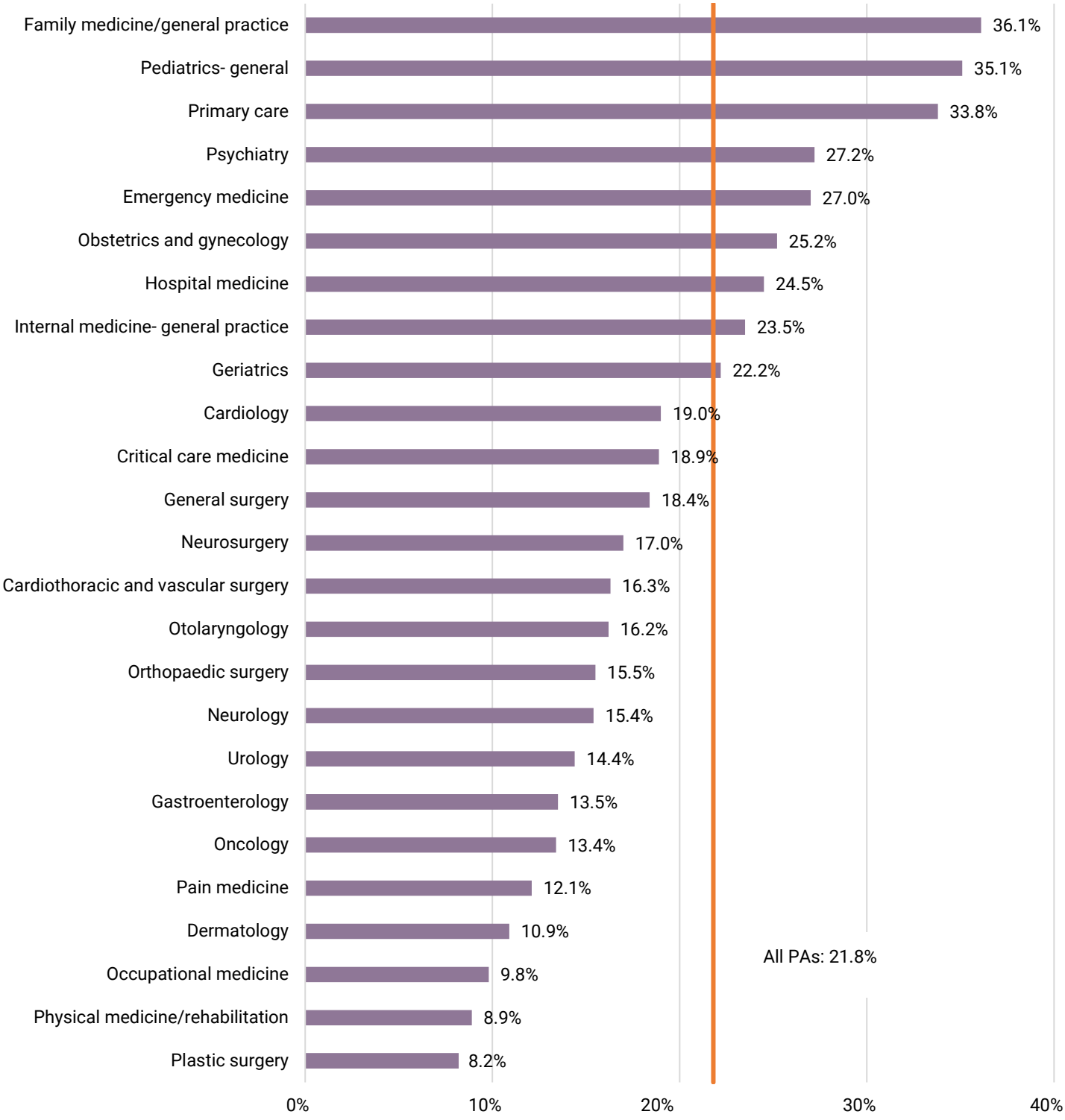


Provide Care to Patients in Designated HPSAs or MUAs by Specialty

Specialty	Yes	No	Not sure
Primary care	33.8%	46.0%	20.2%
Cardiology	19.0%	52.4%	28.6%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	16.3%	53.5%	30.2%
Critical care medicine	18.9%	44.9%	36.2%
Dermatology	10.9%	67.4%	21.7%
Emergency medicine	27.0%	41.0%	32.0%
Family medicine/general practice	36.1%	44.9%	19.0%
Gastroenterology	13.5%	58.8%	27.6%
General surgery	18.4%	52.4%	29.2%
Geriatrics	22.2%	51.7%	26.1%
Hospital medicine	24.5%	44.0%	31.5%
Internal medicine-general practice	23.5%	53.3%	23.2%
Neurology	15.4%	55.0%	29.5%
Neurosurgery	17.0%	51.5%	31.4%
Obstetrics and gynecology	25.2%	49.5%	25.2%
Occupational medicine	9.8%	73.2%	16.9%
Oncology	13.4%	57.0%	29.6%
Orthopaedic surgery	15.5%	58.6%	25.9%
Otolaryngology	16.2%	56.9%	26.9%
Pain medicine	12.1%	60.3%	27.6%
Pediatrics-general	35.1%	39.9%	25.0%
Physical medicine/rehabilitation	8.9%	66.3%	24.8%
Plastic surgery	8.2%	73.4%	18.4%
Psychiatry	27.2%	42.1%	30.7%
Urology	14.4%	58.7%	26.9%

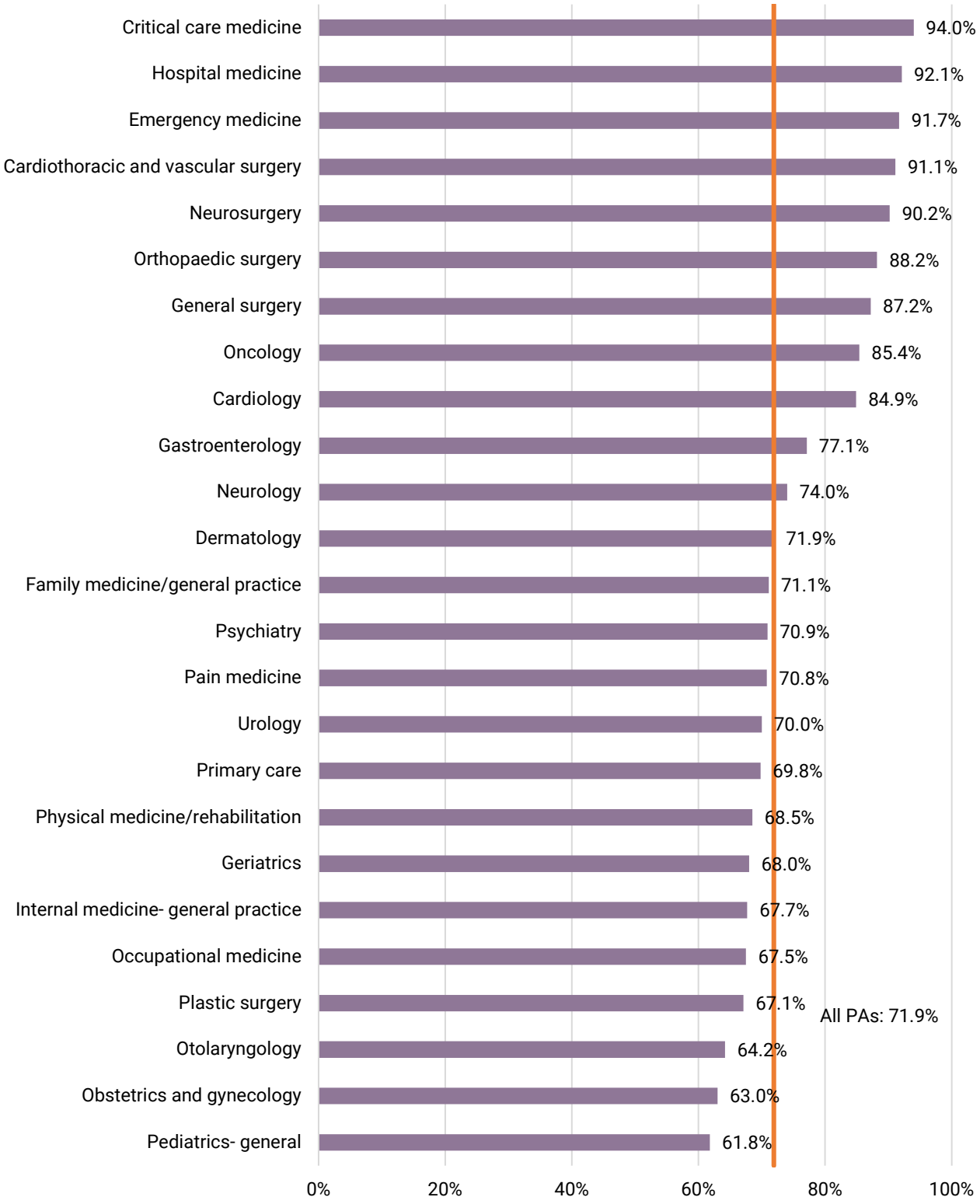
Note: PAs were asked if they provide care to patients who live in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and/or a Medically Underserved Area (MUA)

Provides Care to Patients in Designated HPSA or MUA by Specialty



Working with Other Health Professionals by Specialty

Specialty	Solo practitioner with an off-site physician	Physician(s)	Other PAs	Advanced practice nurse(s)	Registered nurse(s)	Other levels of nurse(s) (LPN, CNA)	Mental health providers (social workers, psychologists, etc.)	Dentist or hygienist	Pharmacist	Radiology technician	Physical therapist	Occupational therapist	Speech therapist
Primary care	6.5%	92.2%	69.8%	65.7%	52.6%	24.0%	36.4%	11.4%	27.8%	21.1%	7.3%	3.6%	2.2%
Cardiology	0.8%	98.9%	84.9%	84.4%	80.6%	25.1%	33.7%	2.1%	50.5%	31.1%	14.9%	12.8%	10.2%
Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery	0.6%	98.2%	91.1%	81.9%	83.3%	22.3%	45.1%	6.8%	61.1%	42.1%	24.8%	22.8%	20.0%
Critical care medicine	0.9%	97.9%	94.0%	90.9%	91.5%	26.1%	69.0%	5.0%	86.3%	59.2%	40.3%	38.9%	38.1%
Dermatology	4.9%	95.7%	71.9%	37.6%	33.0%	16.1%	2.2%	0.5%	4.9%	2.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Emergency medicine	4.4%	96.1%	91.7%	79.2%	86.4%	21.2%	67.8%	7.5%	67.9%	64.4%	9.5%	5.3%	2.8%
Family medicine/ general practice	7.4%	91.0%	71.1%	65.7%	52.3%	24.4%	36.9%	12.4%	28.3%	22.9%	7.5%	3.2%	1.6%
Gastroenterology	0.7%	99.1%	77.1%	70.2%	68.8%	25.0%	19.6%	1.2%	28.1%	14.9%	6.6%	5.0%	9.1%
General surgery	0.4%	97.9%	87.2%	71.2%	82.6%	28.3%	48.5%	4.1%	57.3%	43.2%	25.5%	23.0%	19.8%
Geriatrics	8.7%	91.2%	68.0%	75.6%	70.5%	31.7%	59.1%	12.1%	45.6%	15.6%	26.5%	25.1%	23.0%
Hospital medicine	1.2%	98.3%	92.1%	89.3%	89.0%	35.1%	73.7%	6.2%	82.5%	53.2%	40.5%	38.6%	37.5%
Internal medicine-general practice	4.5%	95.5%	67.7%	64.8%	54.6%	22.2%	38.0%	9.3%	32.5%	19.0%	8.4%	5.7%	4.4%
Neurology	0.9%	98.7%	74.0%	70.2%	67.7%	29.4%	44.5%	2.1%	36.2%	24.8%	21.1%	19.5%	19.2%
Neurosurgery	0.5%	98.7%	90.2%	76.1%	77.1%	26.0%	41.7%	2.6%	48.9%	46.5%	28.8%	25.8%	22.8%
Obstetrics and gynecology	1.5%	97.6%	63.0%	73.9%	65.7%	23.4%	29.7%	3.4%	21.1%	20.5%	3.9%	1.7%	0.9%
Occupational medicine	16.1%	82.8%	67.5%	55.5%	44.7%	20.3%	16.1%	3.8%	10.4%	30.2%	17.7%	7.5%	0.5%
Oncology	0.2%	98.7%	85.4%	86.9%	93.4%	27.9%	68.1%	5.5%	78.8%	24.8%	16.6%	14.1%	12.4%
Orthopaedic surgery	0.8%	98.5%	88.2%	56.7%	67.0%	21.7%	20.2%	1.4%	30.3%	54.5%	25.0%	18.3%	2.9%
Otolaryngology	2.1%	98.5%	64.2%	38.3%	53.0%	23.7%	8.3%	4.5%	13.3%	11.9%	6.7%	3.0%	16.0%
Pain medicine	3.4%	96.6%	70.8%	59.6%	45.5%	19.5%	23.6%	1.0%	13.5%	23.5%	12.2%	3.8%	0.9%
Pediatrics-general	3.2%	96.4%	61.8%	67.4%	50.5%	23.7%	27.7%	5.7%	12.2%	8.4%	2.9%	2.7%	2.6%
Physical medicine/ rehabilitation	5.8%	93.7%	68.5%	57.1%	53.5%	25.2%	39.9%	1.6%	29.4%	23.3%	32.0%	23.6%	21.1%
Plastic surgery	2.1%	97.4%	67.1%	51.8%	74.0%	23.8%	22.0%	6.3%	26.6%	17.3%	12.9%	12.3%	7.0%
Psychiatry	5.9%	91.6%	70.9%	70.5%	53.1%	24.3%	82.3%	3.5%	34.2%	4.4%	5.9%	6.4%	3.5%
Urology	1.1%	98.2%	70.0%	58.9%	64.3%	27.7%	14.8%	1.6%	21.7%	19.6%	7.5%	4.1%	2.3%

Note: PAs were asked if they work with other health professionals in their primary clinical position. PAs could select multiple health professionals.

Works with Other PAs in Principal Practice by Specialty