



2017 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants

ANNUAL REPORT

National Commission on Certification
of Physician Assistants



Table of Contents

Message from the President and CEO	3
About the Data and Collection Methodology	4
Introduction	4
Data Editing and Analysis	4
About NCCPA	4
Geographic Distribution	5-8
Distribution of PAs by State	5
Distribution of PAs per 100,000 Population	6
PAs by State, Number, Percent, and Rate	7-8
Gender and Age	9
Race and Ethnicity	10
Education	11
Language Other Than English Spoken with Patients	12
Clinical Practice	13-18
Top PA Practice Areas (Principal Clinical Position)	13
Principal Clinical Position	14
Primary Care and Non-Primary Care by State	15
Practice Setting	16
Planning to Leave Principal Clinical Position	17
Distribution Working in More Than One Position	18
Non-Clinical Practice	19
Income	20
2018 and Beyond	21



Message from the President and CEO



Dear Colleagues:

This year's *Statistical Report of Certified PAs* represents a milestone for NCCPA, as this is our fifth year publishing this report. We are able to document recent trends in the profession and help inform health care decision-makers regarding the current status of the profession. When I look at the data, it is clear that the PA profession is thriving.

Since 2010, the number of Certified PAs has grown almost 54%. This number speaks volumes about the effective, high-quality care that PAs deliver to millions of patients every week. The ARC-PA reports that the total number of accredited entry-level programs as of April of this year is 235, with the potential for an additional 32 new entry-level programs by January 2020. Just as more college graduates are pursuing the PA profession, the *U.S. News and World Report* has recently ranked PA as #2 in the Best Health Care Jobs of 2018. Each of these data points and the satisfaction rates as reported by PAs, physician and patients, just to name a few, illustrate that the profession is essential to the health of this nation and that PAs are respected providers. I couldn't be more proud to be a PA-C.

The data also indicates that Certified PAs practice medicine everywhere. While the more populous states have greater numbers of Certified PAs, the states with the largest number of Certified PAs per 100,000 population are those that are more rural.

Additionally, the number of Certified PAs working in specialties outside of primary care continues to grow. Most notably, the number of Certified PAs practicing in surgical sub-specialties has grown over 70% since 2013.

NCCPA is able to share this aggregate data thanks to the over 91% of Certified PAs who provide input to their PA Profile. This extremely high percentage lends credibility to this comprehensive profile that may inform healthcare policy and workforce planning. In addition, it can provide evidence for the public and the media on the impact that Certified PAs are making in the nation's health care system every day.

I hope this information is helpful to you. We invite your review and your comments as we strive to provide data that aids meaningful dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Morton-Rias". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D., PA-C
President and CEO

About the Data and Collection 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 another report (*2016 Statistical Profile of Recently Certified Physician Assistants*), first published in 2014 and updated annually.

Data Editing and Analysis

Data reflected in this report includes responses from PAs who were certified as of December 31, 2017 and have made updates to their Profile between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017. In addition, some data was obtained from other NCCPA data collection strategies. As of December 31, 2017, there were 123,089 Certified PAs, and 112,485 provided responses for at least a portion of the PA Professional Profile- yielding an overall response rate of 91.4%.

The data provided in this report has been aggregated from the individual response data provided by PAs through the PA Professional Profile or other NCCPA data gathering efforts. 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 150,000 physician assistants have been certified by NCCPA since 1975.

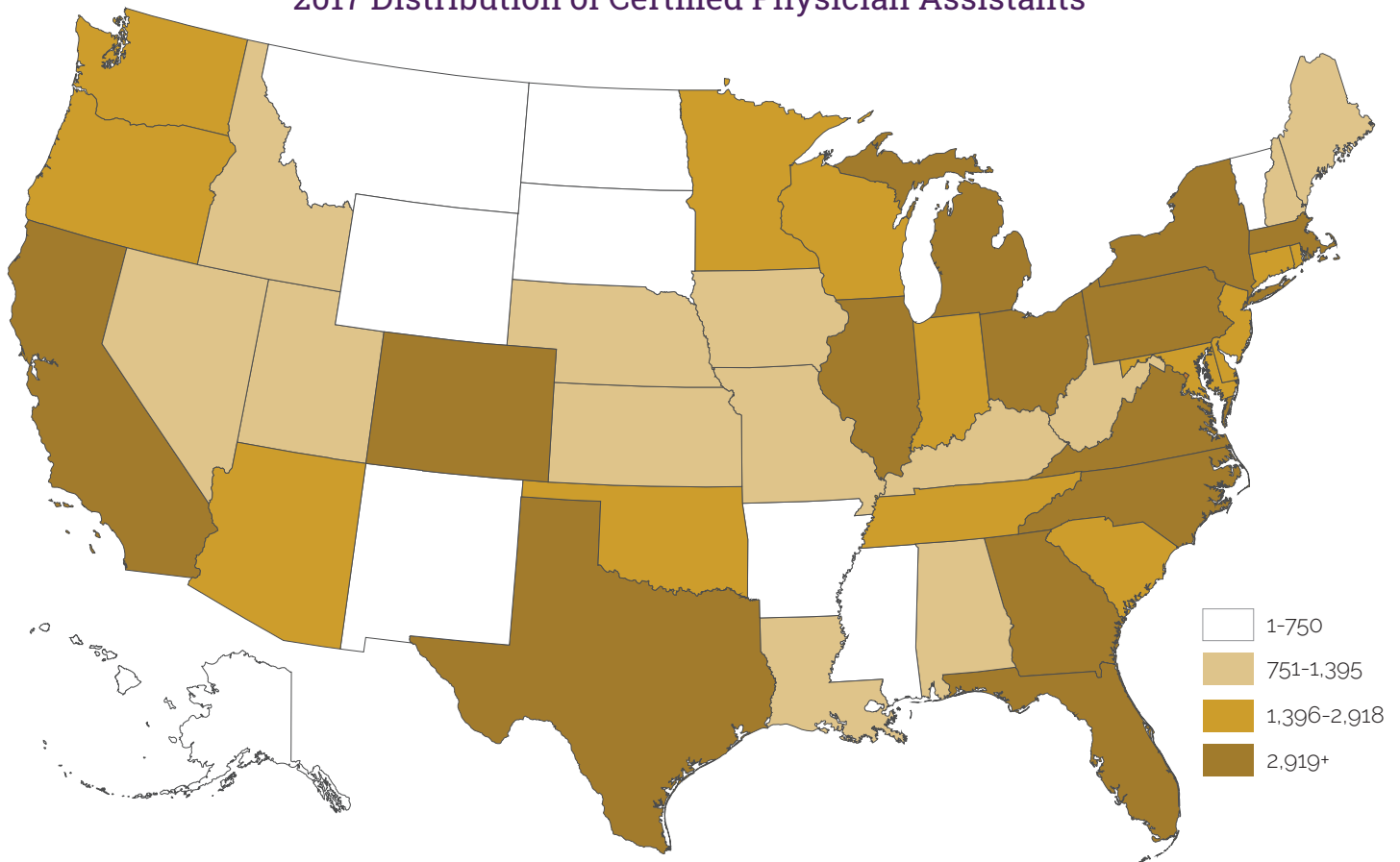


For more information about NCCPA, visit our website: www.nccpa.net

Distribution of Certified Physician Assistants in the U.S.

Number of Certified PAs by state; Rate of Certified PAs per 100,000 population by state (divided by quartiles); Actual number, percentage of total population of Certified PAs, and number per 100,000 people by state with state rankings.

2017 Distribution of Certified Physician Assistants



Distribution of Certified PAs based on reported state of residence.

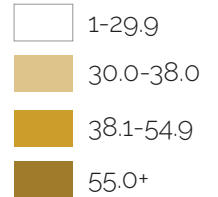
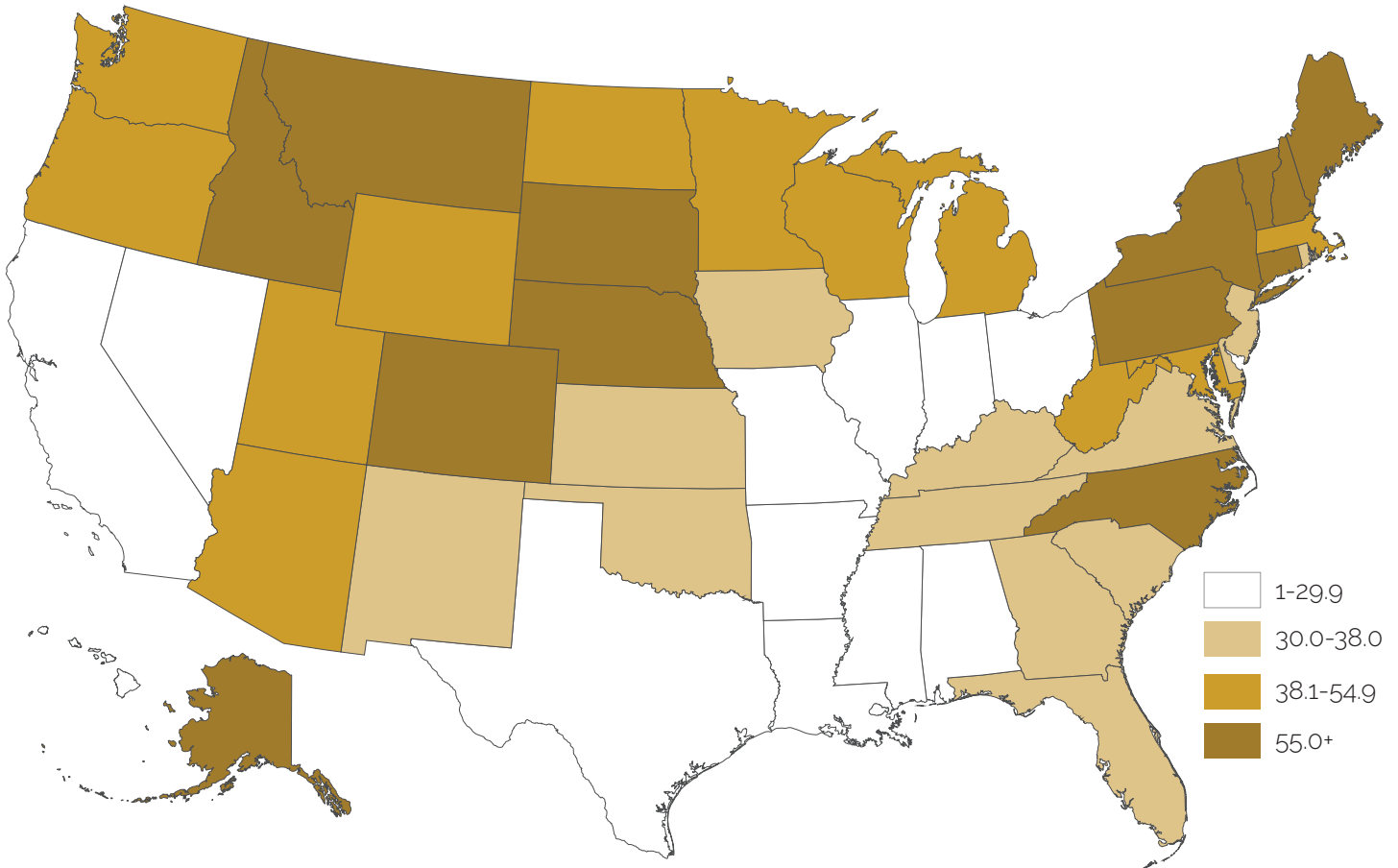


The PA profession **grew 53.8% over seven years**, reaching 123,089 Certified PAs at the end of 2017. **Mississippi** and **Arkansas** experienced the highest percentage growth between 2013 and 2017 (99.1% and 70.7% respectively).

Distribution of Certified Physician Assistants in the U.S.

2017 Distribution of Certified PAs per 100,000 Population

Based on 2017 U.S. Census Bureau Estimates



In 2017, there were **37 Certified PAs per 100K population** in the U.S. ARC- PA expects that the number of PA educational programs will grow from **229 today to 291 by 2021**¹, thus increasing the Certified PA workforce.

¹ ARC-PA Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education®, <http://www.arc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Projected-Growth-by-State-1.pdf>

Distribution of Certified Physician Assistants in the U.S.

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

State	Number	% of Total (Rank)	Rate* (Rank)
Alabama	785	0.6 % (37)	16.1 (49)
Alaska	574	0.5% (42)	77.6 (1)
Arizona	2,715	2.2% (17)	38.7 (26)
Arkansas	413	0.3% (43)	13.7 (50)
California	9,499	7.8% (2)	24.0 (45)
Colorado	3,268	2.7% (11)	58.3 (11)
Connecticut	2,121	1.7 % (20)	59.1 (9)
Delaware	355	0.3% (46)	36.9 (30)
D.C.	269	0.2% (49)	38.8 (25)
Florida	7,723	6.3% (5)	36.8 (31)
Georgia	3,549	2.9% (8)	34.0 (35)
Hawaii	322	0.3% (47)	22.6 (46)
Idaho	1,041	0.8% (33)	60.6 (5)
Illinois	3,335	2.7% (10)	26.1 (43)
Indiana	1,416	1.2% (25)	21.2 (47)
Iowa	1,132	0.9% (29)	36.0 (32)
Kansas	1,098	0.9% (31)	37.7 (28)
Kentucky	1,351	1.1% (27)	30.3 (39)
Louisiana	1,138	0.9% (28)	24.3 (44)
Maine	819	0.7% (36)	61.3 (4)
Maryland	2,918	2.4% (14)	48.2 (16)
Massachusetts	3,237	2.6% (12)	47.2 (17)
Michigan	5,060	4.1% (7)	50.8 (15)
Minnesota	2,569	2.1% (19)	46.1 (18)
Mississippi	231	0.2% (51)	7.7 (51)
Missouri	1,089	0.9% (32)	17.8 (48)

Bolded states are those that rank in either the top five states by number of Certified PAs or concentration per 100K population.
*Rate per 100,000 population based on 2017 U.S. Census estimate.

Continued on page 8



The top five states ranked by the number of Certified PAs are:

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



The top five states ranked by concentration per 100K population are:

1. Alaska
2. South Dakota
3. Pennsylvania
4. Maine
5. Idaho

Distribution of Certified Physician Assistants in the U.S.

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

State	Number	% of Total (Rank)	Rate* (Rank)
Montana	631	0.5% (40)	60.1 (7)
Nebraska	1,105	0.9% (30)	57.5 (12)
Nevada	820	0.7% (35)	27.4 (42)
New Hampshire	768	0.6% (38)	57.2 (13)
New Jersey	2,796	2.3% (16)	31.0 (37)
New Mexico	750	0.6% (39)	35.9 (33)
New York	12,022	9.8% (1)	60.6 (6)
North Carolina	6,028	4.9% (6)	58.7 (10)
North Dakota	322	0.3% (48)	42.6 (22)
Ohio	3,399	2.8% (9)	29.2 (40)
Oklahoma	1,455	1.2% (24)	37.0 (29)
Oregon	1,721	1.4% (22)	41.5 (23)
Pennsylvania	8,184	6.7% (3)	63.9 (3)
Rhode Island	371	0.3% (45)	35.0 (34)
South Carolina	1,604	1.3% (23)	31.9 (36)
South Dakota	575	0.5% (41)	66.1 (2)
Tennessee	2,073	1.7% (21)	30.9 (38)
Texas	8,159	6.7% (4)	28.8 (41)
Utah	1,395	1.1% (26)	45.0 (19)
Vermont	374	0.3% (44)	60.0 (8)
Virginia	3,220	2.6% (13)	38.0 (27)
Washington	2,914	2.4% (15)	39.3 (24)
West Virginia	988	0.8% (34)	54.4 (14)
Wisconsin	2,606	2.1% (18)	45.0 (20)
Wyoming	248	0.2% (50)	42.8 (21)
TOTAL	122,555	100%	

*Rate per 100,000 population based on 2017 U.S. Census estimate.

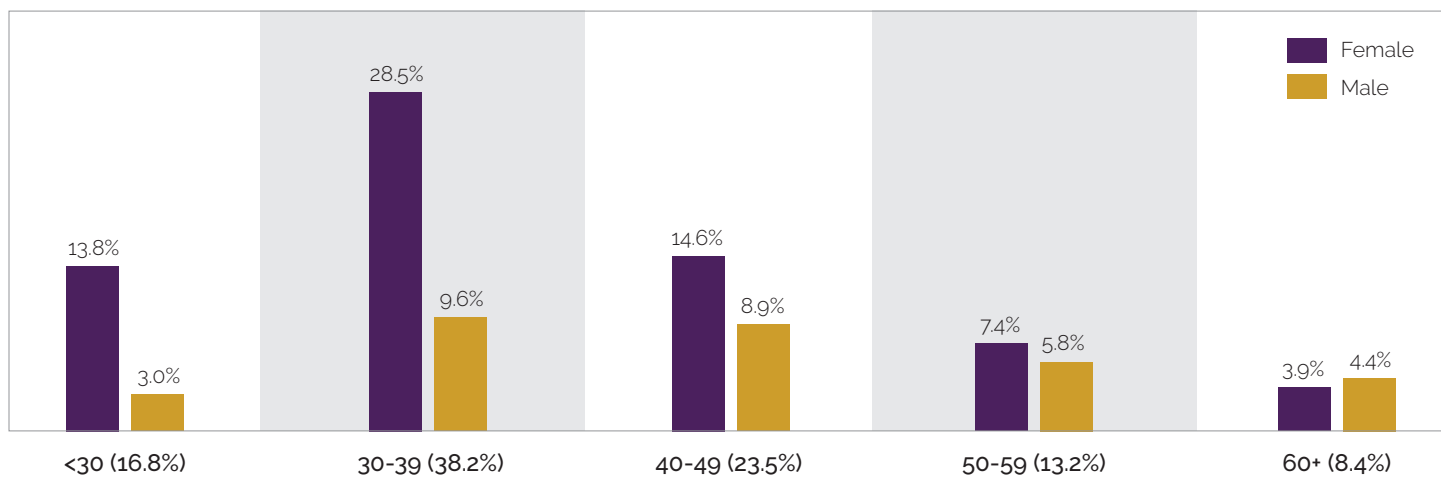


534 Certified PAs were living abroad in 2017, bringing the total number of Certified PAs to **123,089**.

Gender and Age of Certified Physician Assistants

Distribution of Certified PAs by age and gender; Number by gender; Number by age group.

Distribution of Certified PAs by Age and Gender



Number of Certified PAs by Gender

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	39,145	31.8%
Female	83,931	68.2%
TOTAL	123,076	100.0%

Number of Certified PAs by Age Group

Age Group	Number	Percent
<30	20,646	16.8%
30-39	46,971	38.2%
40-49	28,937	23.5%
50-59	16,246	13.2%
60+	10,289	8.4%
TOTAL	123,089	100.0%

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 a gender.



As with the past five years, the median age of Certified PAs remains at 38. The profession continues to be majority female. In 1980, 36% of PAs were female. Today **68.2% of certified PAs identify as female**.¹

¹ He, Xiaoxing Z., Ellen Cyran, and Mark Salling. "National Trends in the United States of America Physician Assistant Workforce from 1980 to 2007." *Human Resources for Health* 7.1 (2009): 86. Web

Race and Ethnicity of Certified Physician Assistants

Number of Certified PAs by race; Number of Certified PAs by ethnicity.

Number of Certified PAs by Race

Race	Number	Percent
White	91,069	86.9%
Black/African American	3,880	3.7%
Asian	5,852	5.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	339	0.3%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	416	0.4%
Other	3,229	3.1%
Total Responses	104,785	100%

The chart above represents PAs who chose one race. 1,944 of respondents chose multiple races. 5,467 Certified PAs who preferred not to answer the question.

Number of Certified PAs by Ethnicity

Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/a	2,581	2.4%
Puerto Rican	798	0.8%
Cuban	544	0.5%
Other Hispanic, Latino/a, Spanish origin	2,726	2.5%
Total Responses	6,649	6.2%

The chart above represents Certified PAs who reported one ethnicity. 236 respondents indicated two or more ethnicities. Of those who responded, 93.8% (107,093) indicated they were not Hispanic, Latino/a, or of Spanish origin. Respondents were able to select multiple ethnicities. 4,849 preferred not to answer the question.



The percentage of Hispanic PAs increased from **3.5% in 2000**¹ to **6.2% in 2017**, but has remained steady for the past five years.

¹ Hooker, Roderick S. and James F. Cawley. *Physician Assistants in American Medicine*. New York: Churchill Livingstone, 2003. Print.

Educational Profile of Certified Physician Assistants

Number of Certified PAs by highest degree completed.

Number of Certified PAs by Highest Degree Completed

Degree	Number	Percent
Certificate program	1,738	1.5%
Associate's degree	1,561	1.4%
Bachelor's degree	23,592	21.0%
Master's degree	82,617	73.5%
PhD	596	0.5%
EdD	62	0.1%
Professional doctorate (e.g., MD, DO, Dr, Ph, PsyD)	1,291	1.1%
Other	974	.9%
TOTAL	112,431	100%



The average PA educational program is 110 weeks long, which includes didactic and clinical instruction.¹ Over time, programs have trended towards the graduate level, and by 2020 all PA programs must confer a graduate degree to be accredited by ARC-PA.² This is evident as the percentage of master's degrees held by Certified PAs has increased from 66.2% in 2013 to 73.5% in 2017.³

U.S. News and World Report ranked physician assistant as #2 in the Best Health Care Jobs of 2018, and The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the PA profession will grow 36% between 2016 and 2026.⁴

¹ PAEA *Physician Assistant Educational Programs in the United States, By the Numbers: Program Report 32*; October, 2017.

² ARC-PA *Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education*®, 4th edition. 2010 Approved March 2010, updated March 2016.

³ NCCPA *2013 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants, An Annual Report of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants*. 2014.

⁴ "Best Healthcare Jobs of 2018." *U.S. News & World Report*, U.S. News & World Report, money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/best-health-care-jobs Web. 08 Mar. 2017.

Languages Other Than English Spoken with Patients

Top 10 languages other than English spoken with patients.

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



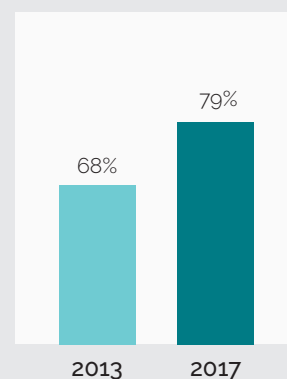
This table shows the percentage of Certified PAs who communicate with patients in languages other than English by the top 10 most frequently identified languages.



22.7% of Certified PAs communicate with patients in a language other than English.

3.9% of Certified PAs speak two or more languages other than English.

Of the Certified PAs who communicate with patients in a language other than English, most do so in **Spanish**.

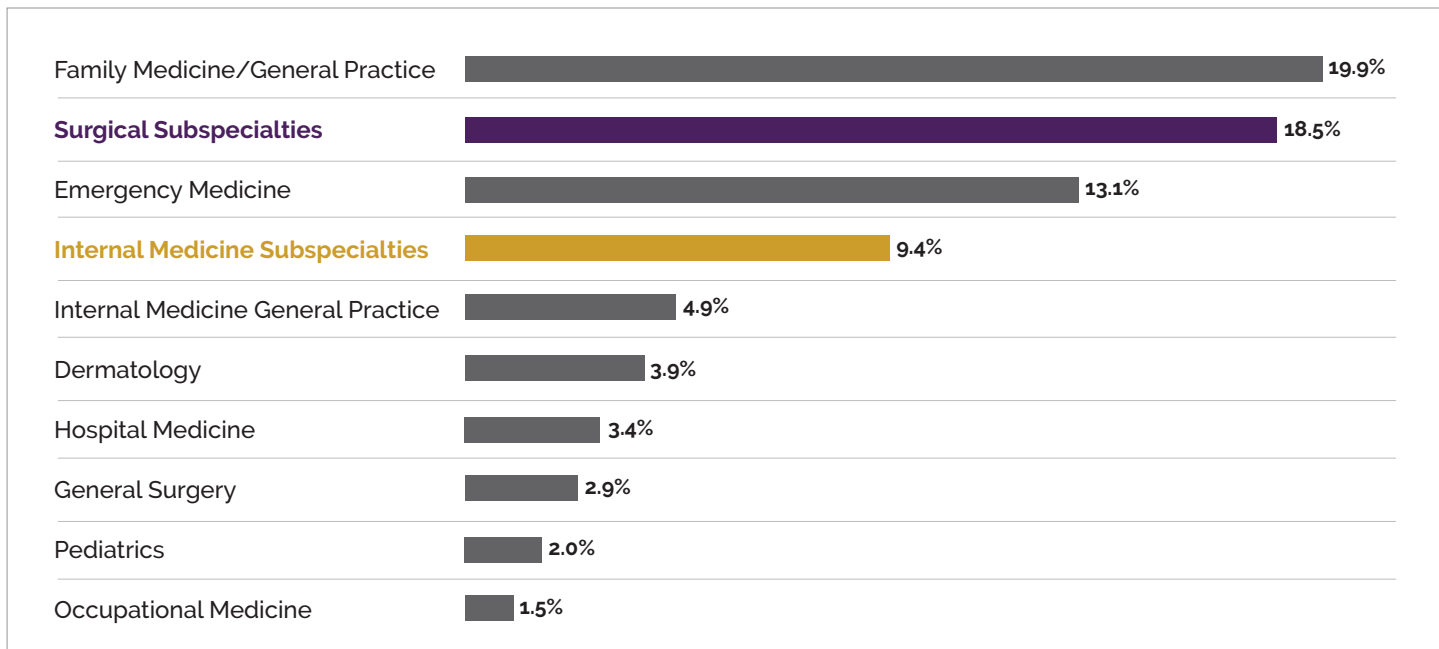


*For Certified PAs who responded "other" to language, the highest number included were: American Sign Language, Hebrew, Farsi, Romanian, Amharic, Hmong and Malayalam.

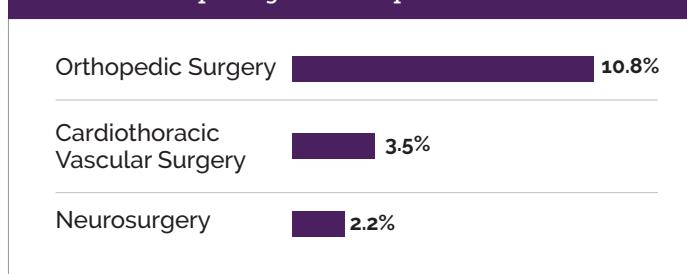
Current Practice Area of Principal Clinical Position

Top 10 practice areas; All practice areas; Primary care vs non-primary care practice by state; Practice setting; Intent to leave clinical practice; Certified PAs employed in more than one position.

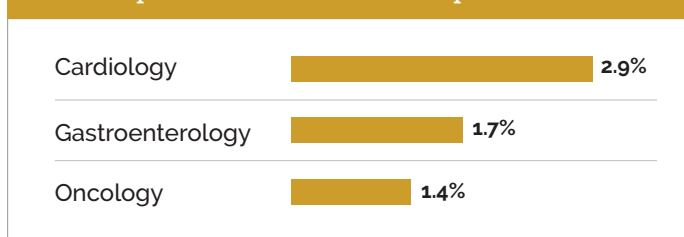
Top Certified PA Practice Areas



Top Surgical Subspecialties



Top Internal Medicine Subspecialties



The Profile asked 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. 94.9% or 100,662 of Profile respondents indicated they practice in at least one clinical position.

Principal Clinical Position

Number and Percent of Certified PAs by Principal Clinical Position*

Area of Practice	Number	Percent
Addiction Medicine**	152	0.2%
Adolescent Medicine	145	0.2%
Anesthesiology	296	0.3%
Critical Care Medicine	1,371	1.4%
Dermatology	3,755	3.9%
Emergency Medicine	12,519	13.1%
Family Medicine/General Practice	18,965	19.9%
Gynecology	353	0.4%
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	81	0.1%
Hospital Medicine	3,223	3.4%
Internal Medicine–General Practice	4,659	4.9%
Internal Medicine–Subspecialty	8,972	9.4%
Neurology	797	0.8%
Obstetrics and Gynecology	1,128	1.2%
Occupational Medicine	1,400	1.5%
Ophthalmology	74	0.1%
Otolaryngology	861	0.9%
Pain Management	1,126	1.2%
Pathology	8	<.1%
Pediatrics	1,897	2.0%
Pediatrics– Subspecialties	1,141	1.2%
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation	690	0.7%
Preventive Medicine/Public Health	146	0.2%
Psychiatry	1,327	1.4%
Radiation Oncology	173	0.2%
Radiology	648	0.7%
Surgery– General	2,807	2.9%
Surgery– Subspecialties	17,649	18.5%
Urology	992	1.0%
Other	8,053	8.4%
TOTAL	95,408	100.0%



26.7% of Certified PAs work in primary care: family medicine/general practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics. The percentage of Certified PAs practicing primary care has slightly decreased in the past five years. In 2013, 27.7% of Certified PAs reported they worked in a primary care specialty.

The percentage of Certified PAs practicing in a surgical subspecialty has increased 70.1% since 2013.

*All clinical specialties are listed and are in alphabetical order.

**Addiction medicine appeared on the profile for the first time in 2017.

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 Care (%)	Total	State	Primary* Care (%)	Non-Primary Care (%)	Total
Alabama	132 (22.4%)	458 (77.6%)	590	Montana	177 (35.8%)	318 (64.2%)	495
Alaska	245 (53.3%)	215 (46.7%)	460	Nebraska	386 (41.6%)	543 (58.4%)	929
Arizona	612 (29.4%)	1,469 (70.6%)	2,081	Nevada	208 (32.7%)	429 (67.3%)	637
Arkansas	95 (31.0%)	211 (69.0%)	306	New Hampshire	162 (26.0%)	462 (74.0%)	624
California	2,335 (32.4%)	4,876 (67.6%)	7,211	New Jersey	342 (16.6%)	1,720 (83.4%)	2,062
Colorado	988 (36.8%)	1,694 (63.2%)	2,682	New Mexico	239 (39.9%)	360 (60.1%)	599
Connecticut	268 (15.9%)	1,420 (84.1%)	1,688	New York	1,620 (18.2%)	7,265 (81.8%)	8,885
Delaware	56 (19.7%)	228 (80.3%)	284	North Carolina	1,387 (29.4%)	3,324 (70.6%)	4,711
D.C.	50 (24.6%)	153 (75.4%)	203	North Dakota	129 (49.2%)	133 (50.8%)	262
Florida	1,288 (21.7%)	4,638 (78.3%)	5,926	Ohio	404 (15.5%)	2,201 (84.5%)	2,605
Georgia	660 (23.6%)	2,138 (76.4%)	2,798	Oklahoma	369 (31.6%)	799 (68.4%)	1,168
Hawaii	96 (36.4%)	168 (63.6%)	264	Oregon	452 (33.2%)	908 (66.8%)	1,360
Idaho	314 (37.9%)	515 (62.1%)	829	Pennsylvania	1,362 (21.4%)	5,001 (78.6%)	6,363
Illinois	625 (24.3%)	1,951 (75.7%)	2,576	Rhode Island	44 (16.3%)	226 (83.7%)	270
Indiana	187 (17.5%)	883 (82.5%)	1,070	South Carolina	304 (24.7%)	928 (75.3%)	1,232
Iowa	367 (40.3%)	543 (59.7%)	910	South Dakota	213 (44.1%)	270 (55.9%)	483
Kansas	333 (37.2%)	563 (62.8%)	896	Tennessee	496 (32.7%)	1,023 (67.3%)	1,519
Kentucky	308 (28.7%)	766 (71.3%)	1,074	Texas	2,273 (35.4%)	4,155 (64.6%)	6,428
Louisiana	157 (18.2%)	708 (81.8%)	865	Utah	353 (32.6%)	730 (67.4%)	1,083
Maine	177 (26.3%)	495 (73.7%)	672	Vermont	100 (31.4%)	218 (68.6%)	318
Maryland	406 (18.0%)	1,846 (80.0%)	2,252	Virginia	606 (24.6%)	1,854 (75.4%)	2,460
Massachusetts	443 (18.2%)	1,994 (81.8%)	2,437	Washington	744 (32.0%)	1,579 (68.0%)	2,323
Michigan	1,048 (26.4%)	2,926 (73.6%)	3,974	West Virginia	291 (36.6%)	504 (63.4%)	795
Minnesota	604 (29.5%)	1,446 (70.5%)	2,050	Wisconsin	539 (25.9%)	1,542 (74.1%)	2,081
Mississippi	34 (22.1%)	120 (77.9%)	154	Wyoming	104 (50.5%)	102 (49.5%)	206
Missouri	192 (22.7%)	652 (77.3%)	844	TOTAL	25,417 (26.7%)	69,674 (73.3%)	95,091

Primary care: Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, and General Pediatrics

Practice Setting

Number of Certified PAs by Principal Clinical Practice Setting

Practice Setting	Number	Percent
Office-based private practice	38,698	40.6%
Hospital	38,079	40.0%
Federal government facility/hospital/unit	5,300	5.6%
Urgent Care	3,044	3.2%
Community health center	2,991	3.1%
Rural health clinic	1,983	2.1%
Public or community health clinic (non-federally qualified)	1,137	1.2%
Occupational health setting	916	1.0%
School-based or college-based health center or school clinic	867	0.9%
Extended care facility/nursing home	689	0.7%
Behavioral/mental health facility	481	0.5%
Ambulatory surgical center	336	0.4%
Rehabilitation facility	310	0.3%
Free clinic	218	0.2%
Home health care agency	136	0.1%
Retail clinic*	122	0.1%
Hospice	8	<0.1%
TOTAL	95,315	100.0%



The majority of Certified PAs (80.6%) practice in either an **office-based private practice** or a **hospital** setting. The percentage of Certified PAs working in a hospital has increased from **36.5% in 2013 to 40.0% in 2017**.

The average number of hours worked per week for all Certified PAs in their principal clinical position is **40.49**.

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 **73**.

*Retail clinic appeared on the profile for the first time in 2016.

Planning to Leave Principal Clinical Position

Factors Influencing Certified PAs Planning to Leave Principal Clinical Position

Factors Influencing Decision to Leave Principal Clinical Position	Number Who Indicated Factor was "Very Important"
Seeking another clinical PA position	3,783
Insufficient wages given the workload and responsibilities involved	2,200
Relocating to another geographic area	1,909
Work is not professionally challenging or satisfying	1,576
Other	1,466
Family responsibilities interfere with ability to continue working	943
Plan to retire from the active workforce	589
Want to pursue additional education	494
Want to work in a health professional training program	305
Desire a non-clinical health-related position	265
Desire a position outside of health care	237
My health does not allow me to continue working as a PA	135

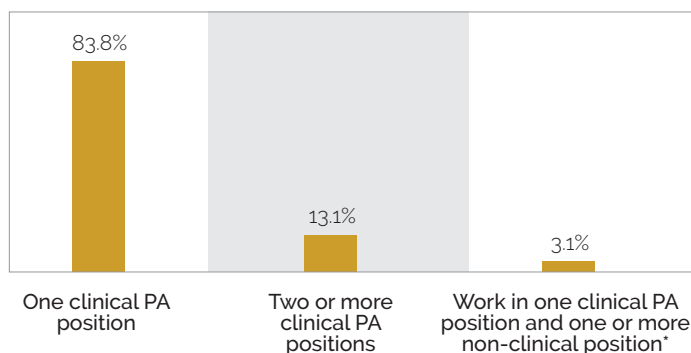
This table shows responses given by 5,902 Certified PAs who first answered affirmatively to the question: "Are you planning to leave your principal clinical PA position in the next 12 months?" PAs could choose multiple factors and then rate them either "Very Important", "Somewhat Important", or "Not Important".



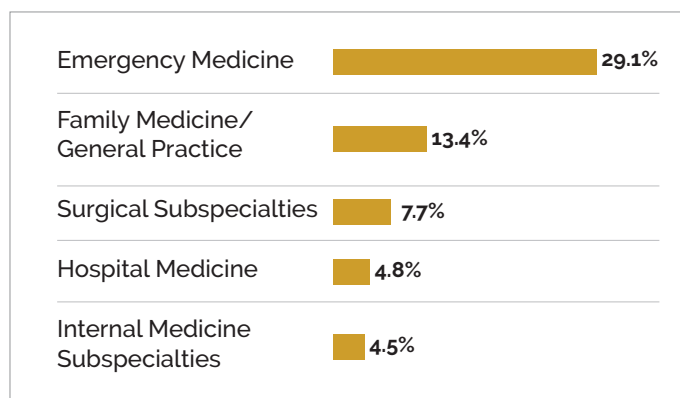
6.2% of certified, clinically-employed PAs indicated they are planning to leave their current principal clinical PA position in the next **12 months**. However, 64.1%, of those leaving their current position, cited **"seeking another clinical position"** as their reason for leaving their current position. **"Insufficient wages given the workload and responsibilities involved"** was the next most frequently selected reason Certified PAs are planning to leave their current position (37.3%).

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



18.6% of PAs working in a secondary clinical position are working in a primary care specialty in that position.



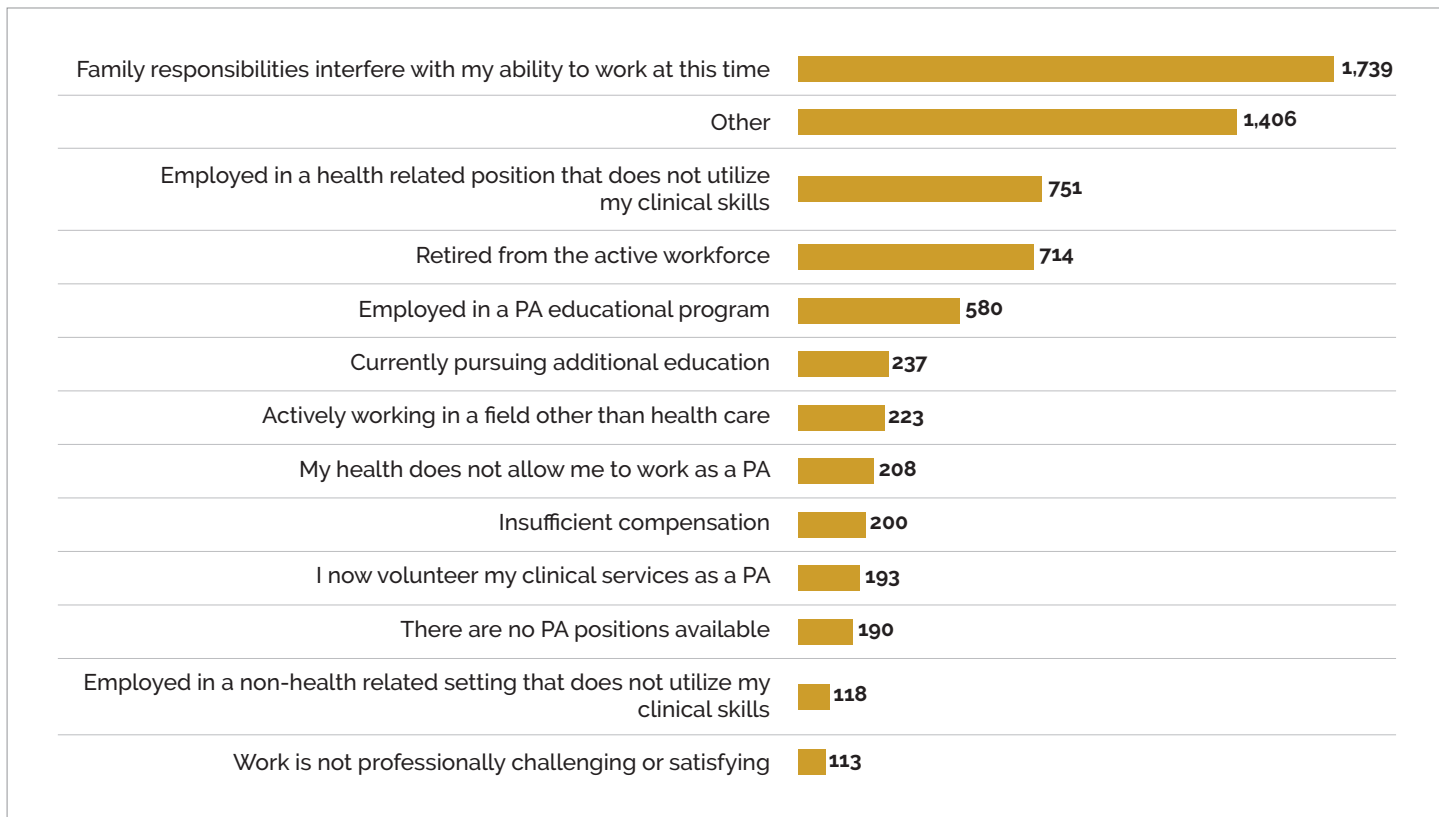
Certified PAs are overwhelmingly employed in only one clinical position (83.8%). The number one reason cited by Certified PAs who are employed in more than one clinical position was to **supplement their earnings** (44.0%).

Certified PAs who have a secondary position work an average of **10.9 hours per week** and see an average of **22 patients per week** in their secondary clinical position.

*Non-clinical position does not provide direct patient care (i.e. education, research, administration)

Certified PAs Not in Clinical Practice

Why Certified PAs Do Not Practice Clinically



For the data presented above, PAs were encouraged to check all contributing factors that applied.



In 2017, **95.4%** of Certified PAs were practicing clinically.

In the last five years, the most common reason for not practicing clinically has been **“Family responsibilities interfere with my ability to work at this time.”**

Of the 5,132 Certified PAs who indicated they were not employed as a PA in a clinical position, **13.9%** indicated they are retired from the active workforce.

Income from PA Positions by Principal Clinical Position

Total Income in Last Calendar Year from PA Positions

Specialty	Number	Mean	Median
Addiction Medicine	141	\$106,277	\$105,000
Adolescent Medicine	136	\$86,103	\$85,000
Anesthesiology	271	\$101,494	\$95,000
Critical Care Medicine	1,280	\$118,531	\$115,000
Dermatology	3,405	\$122,413	\$115,000
Emergency Medicine	11,656	\$120,238	\$115,000
Family Medicine/ General Practice	17,923	\$99,696	\$95,000
Gynecology	345	\$87,609	\$85,000
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	79	\$103,734	\$105,000
Hospital Medicine	3,013	\$108,797	\$105,000
Internal Medicine– General Practice	4,381	\$99,638	\$95,000
Internal Medicine– Subspecialty	8,503	\$100,649	\$95,000
Neurology	758	\$98,259	\$95,000
Obstetrics and Gynecology	1,045	\$94,053	\$95,000

Specialty	Number	Mean	Median
Occupational Medicine	1,309	\$104,740	\$105,000
Ophthalmology	66	\$95,152	\$95,000
Otolaryngology	823	\$100,310	\$95,000
Pain Management	1,066	\$106,698	\$105,000
Pathology	8	\$122,500	\$120,000
Pediatrics	1,775	\$90,234	\$85,000
Pediatrics– Subspecialties	1,085	\$101,894	\$105,000
Physical Medicine/ Rehabilitation	648	\$98,827	\$95,000
Preventive Medicine/ Public Health	138	\$94,638	\$95,000
Psychiatry	1,237	\$107,078	\$105,000
Radiation Oncology	161	\$103,012	\$105,000
Radiology	610	\$107,066	\$105,000
Surgery– General	2,606	\$110,123	\$105,000
Surgery– Subspecialties	16,531	\$117,149	\$115,000
Urology	929	\$104,742	\$105,000
Other	7,507	\$106,649	\$105,000



The average salary of Certified PAs was **\$107,718** and the median salary was **\$105,000** with the highest paid to those working in **pathology and dermatology**. The average salary has increased **12.7%** in the last five years.

2018 and Beyond

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>.

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 Physician Assistants
- Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants by State
- Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants by Specialty

Please cite this report as follows:

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, Inc. (2018, May). *2017 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants: An Annual Report of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants*. Retrieved Date, from <http://www.nccpa.net/research>

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).

NCCPA would like to acknowledge the following contributors:

Colette Jeffery, M.A., *Research Analyst*

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

Sheila Mauldin, M.N.M., *Vice President, Research and Exam Programs*

Please address questions or comments to PAPProfile@nccpa.net