

**2018 Statistical Profile of
Certified Physician Assistants**

ANNUAL REPORT

National Commission on Certification
of Physician Assistants

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Message from the President and CEO



Dear Colleagues:

As I review the data from this year's *Statistical Report of Certified Physician Assistants*, I harken back to what I said on the 50th anniversary of the profession, "Certified PAs are valuable members of health care teams, and the demand for our services continues to grow."

Two years later, I am pleased to note that not only are certified PAs currently meeting that demand by collectively treating 9.1 million patients per week, we are poised to do so well into the future.

From 2013 to 2018 the rate of certified PAs per 100,000 population increased from 31 to 40. This is especially important as 13% of U.S. patients currently live in a county with less than one primary care physician per 2,000 patients. Recent research indicates that this shortage will only worsen in the years to come, as fewer providers choose to enter primary care and more age into retirement.

The increase in the number of PA programs provides some hope in this regard, as the number of PA educational programs increased from 180 in 2013 and to 238 in 2018. The PA workforce continues to grow!

We can report that many of the aforementioned patients are being seen by PAs in a hospital setting, as for the first time since we began this publication six years ago, more certified PAs are choosing to work in hospitals as opposed to office-based private practices.

As the need for certified PAs has grown, compensation for PA services has also increased. Over the last six years, the average salary for certified PAs increased 15.7%, with the average salary being \$110,567 in 2018.

From growing opportunities to provide high quality health care for millions of patients who need it, to more college graduates entering the profession and increased compensation for PA services- the professional outlook for PAs continues to be bright.

NCCPA is able to serve as the most comprehensive aggregate source on the PA profession, due to more than 89% of certified PAs who complete and update their profile throughout the year.

We appreciate PAs for their willingness to help promote greater understanding of the profession.

NCCPA stands with the profession and looks to the year ahead as we continue to demonstrate the positive impact that certified PAs have on the nation's health care system, and why we are indeed essential members of health care teams.

I hope the information in this report is helpful.

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 "MyPractice."

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 (*2017 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, 2018 and have made updates to their Profile between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018. In addition, some data was obtained from other NCCPA data collection strategies. As of December 31, 2018, there were 131,152 certified PAs, and 117,280 provided responses for at least a portion of the PA Professional Profile, yielding an overall response rate of 89.4%.

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 160,000 physician assistants have been certified by NCCPA since 1975.

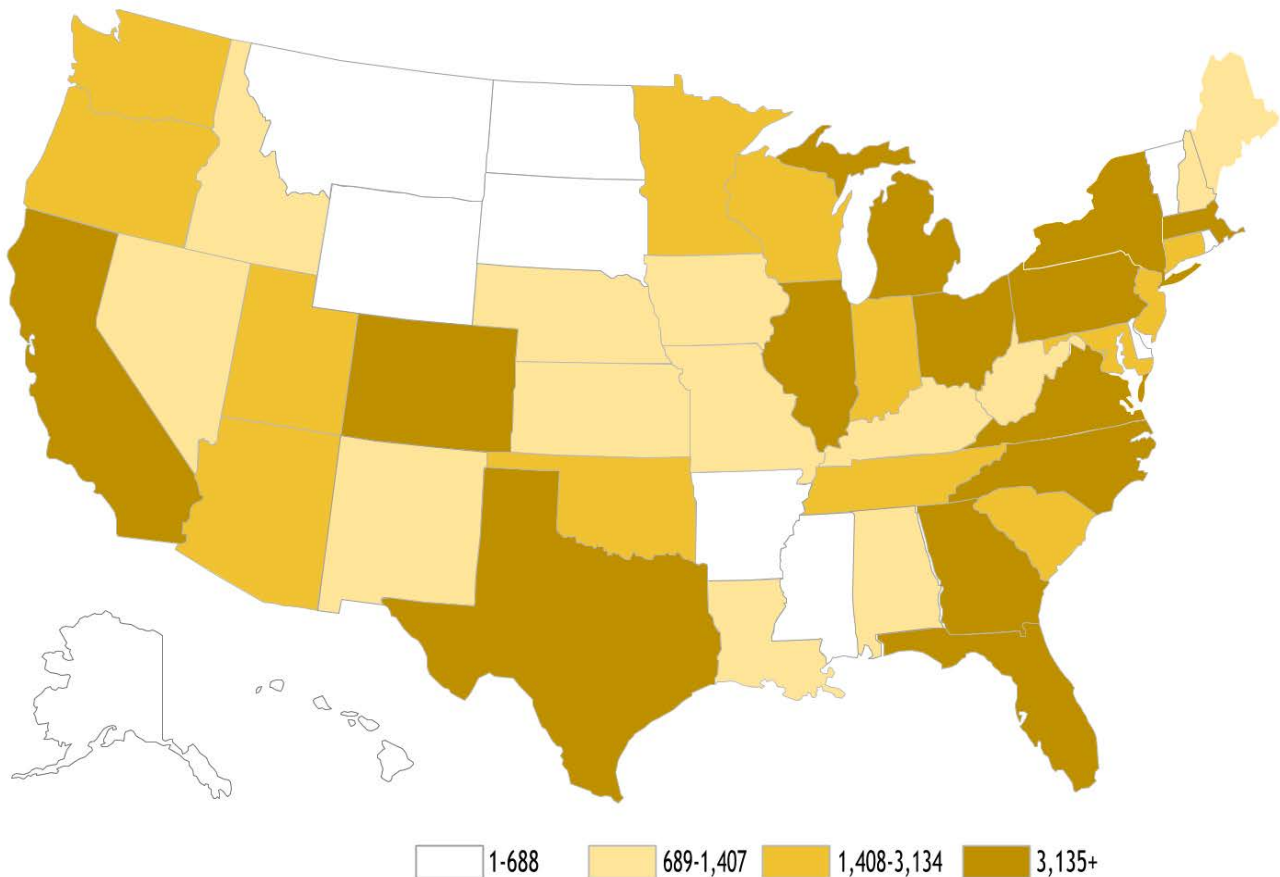


For more information about NCCPA, visit our website: www.nccpa.net

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.

2018 Distribution of Certified Physician Assistants



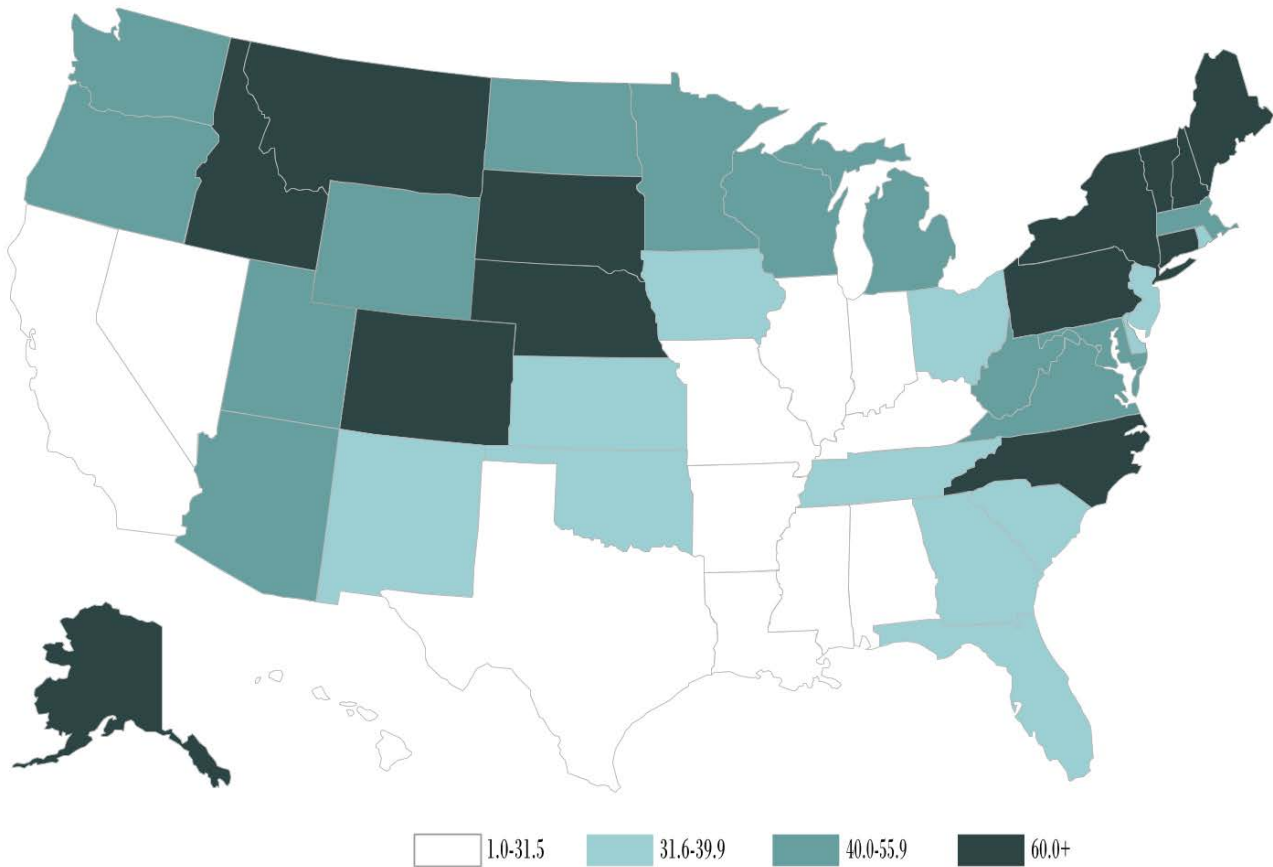
Distribution of certified PAs based on reported state of residence.



The PA profession grew **37.2%** over five years, reaching 131,152 certified PAs at the end of 2018. **Mississippi** and **Arkansas** experienced the highest percentage growth between 2013 and 2018 (115.5% and 90.1%, respectively).

Distribution of Certified Physician Assistants in the U.S.

2018 Distribution of Certified PAs per 100,000 Population
Based on 2018 U.S. Census Bureau Estimates



In 2018, there were **40 certified PAs per 100K population** in the U.S. ARC-PA expects that the number of PA educational programs will grow from 238 today to 300 by 2021¹, 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	843	0.6% (36)	17.2 (49)
Alaska	582	0.4% (42)	78.9 (1)
Arizona	2,902	2.2% (17)	40.5 (25)
Arkansas	460	0.4% (43)	15.3 (50)
California	10,078	7.7% (2)	25.5 (45)
Colorado	3,468	2.7% (12)	60.9 (11)
Connecticut	2,284	1.7% (20)	63.9 (6)
Delaware	384	0.3% (45)	39.7 (28)
District of Columbia	261	0.2% (49)	37.2 (33)
Florida	8,226	6.3% (5)	38.6 (31)
Georgia	3,716	2.8% (8)	35.3 (35)
Hawaii	336	0.3% (48)	23.7 (46)
Idaho	1,113	0.9% (33)	63.4 (7)
Illinois	3,571	2.7% (10)	28.0 (43)
Indiana	1,563	1.2% (24)	23.4 (47)
Iowa	1,191	0.9% (29)	37.7 (32)
Kansas	1,129	0.9% (32)	38.8 (30)
Kentucky	1,407	1.1% (27)	31.5 (40)
Louisiana	1,211	0.9% (28)	26.0 (44)
Maine	843	0.6% (37)	63.0 (8)
Maryland	3,063	2.3% (15)	50.7 (17)
Massachusetts	3,505	2.7% (11)	50.8 (16)
Michigan	5,333	4.1% (7)	53.4 (15)
Minnesota	2,734	2.1% (19)	48.7 (18)
Mississippi	250	0.2% (50)	8.4 (51)
Missouri	1,177	0.9% (31)	19.2 (48)

*Rate per 100,000 population based on 2018 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

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	688	0.5% (40)	64.8 (5)
Nebraska	1,189	0.9% (30)	61.6 (10)
Nevada	913	0.7% (35)	30.1 (42)
New Hampshire	824	0.6% (38)	60.7 (12)
New Jersey	3,040	2.3% (16)	34.1 (36)
New Mexico	765	0.6% (39)	36.5 (34)
New York	12,743	9.8% (1)	65.2 (4)
North Carolina	6,459	4.9% (6)	62.2 (9)
North Dakota	345	0.3% (47)	45.4 (21)
Ohio	3,711	2.8% (9)	31.7 (39)
Oklahoma	1,542	1.2% (25)	39.1 (29)
Oregon	1,859	1.4% (22)	44.4 (22)
Pennsylvania	8,818	6.8% (3)	68.9 (2)
Rhode Island	422	0.3% (44)	39.9 (27)
South Carolina	1,718	1.3% (23)	33.8 (37)
South Dakota	587	0.4% (41)	66.5 (3)
Tennessee	2,199	1.7% (21)	32.5 (38)
Texas	8,682	6.6% (4)	30.2 (41)
Utah	1,502	1.1% (26)	47.5 (20)
Vermont	375	0.3% (46)	59.9 (13)
Virginia	3,443	2.6% (13)	40.4 (26)
Washington	3,134	2.4% (14)	41.6 (24)
West Virginia	1,010	0.8% (34)	55.9 (14)
Wisconsin	2,775	2.1% (18)	47.7 (19)
Wyoming	247	0.2% (51)	42.8 (23)
TOTAL	130,620	100%	

*Rate per 100,000 population based on 2018 U.S. Census estimate.

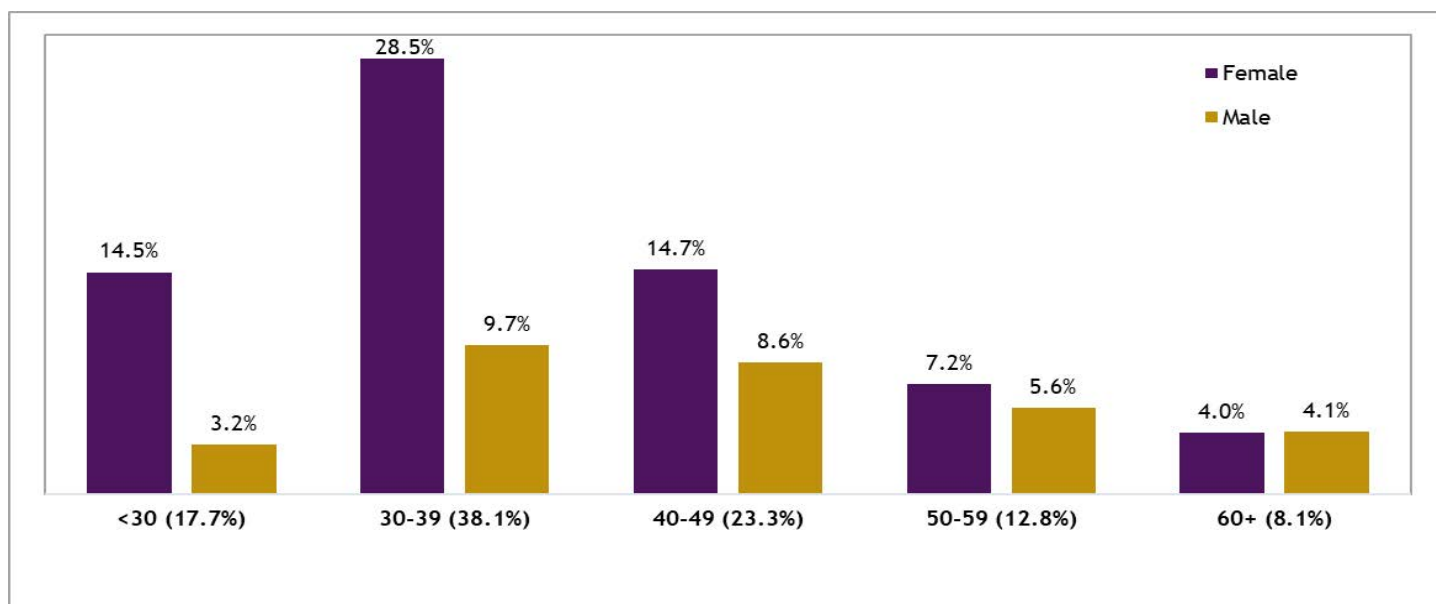


532 certified PAs were living abroad in 2018, bringing the total number of certified PAs to **131,152**.

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	40,900	31.2%
Female	90,239	68.8%
TOTAL	131,139	100.0%

Number of Certified PAs by Age Group

Age Group	Number	Percent
<30	23,175	17.7%
30-39	50,032	38.1%
40-49	30,493	23.3%
50-59	16,821	12.8%
60+	10,631	8.1%
TOTAL	131,152	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 six years, the median age of certified PAs remains at 38. The profession continues to be majority female. In 1980, 36% of PAs were female¹. Today **68.8% of certified PAs identify as female.**

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	94,827	86.9%
Black/African American	3,951	3.6%
Asian	6,295	5.8%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	335	0.3%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	411	0.4%
Other	3,321	3.0%
Total Responses	109,140	100%

The chart above represents PAs who chose one race. 2,298 of respondents chose multiple races. 5,543 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	2,726	2.4%
Puerto Rican	833	0.8%
Cuban	590	0.5%
Other Hispanic, Latino/a, Spanish origin	2,929	2.6%
Total Responses	7,078	6.3%

The chart above represents certified PAs who reported one ethnicity. 299 respondents indicated two or more ethnicities. Of those who responded, 93.7% (104,550) indicated they were not Hispanic, Latino/a, or of Spanish origin. Respondents were able to select multiple ethnicities. 4,925 preferred not to answer the question.



The percentage of Hispanic PAs increased from 3.5% in 2000¹ to 6.3% in 2018, but has remained steady for the past six 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	1,581	1.4%
Associate's degree	1,439	1.2%
Bachelor's degree	22,642	19.3%
Master's degree	88,427	75.5%
PhD	620	0.5%
EdD	59	0.1%
Professional doctorate (e.g., MD, DO, DrPh, PsyD)	1,389	1.2%
Other	947	.8%
TOTAL	117,104	100%



The average PA educational program is 111 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 75.5% in 2018.³

U.S. News and World Report ranked physician assistant as #1 in the Best Health Care Jobs of 2019, and The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the PA profession will grow 37% between 2016 and 2026.⁴

¹ PAEA *Physician Assistant Educational Programs in the United States, By the Numbers: Program Report 33*; 2017.

² ARC-PA *Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education*®, 4th edition. 2010 Approved March 2010, updated March 2018.

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 2019." *U.S. News & World Report*, U.S. News & World Report, money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/best-health-care-jobs Web. 12 Mar. 2018.

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. PAs were able to check multiple languages.



22.8% of certified PAs communicate with patients in a language other than English.

4.0% of certified PAs speak two or more languages other than English.

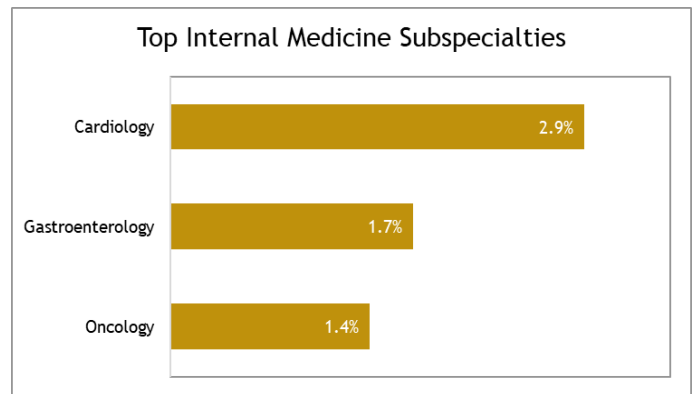
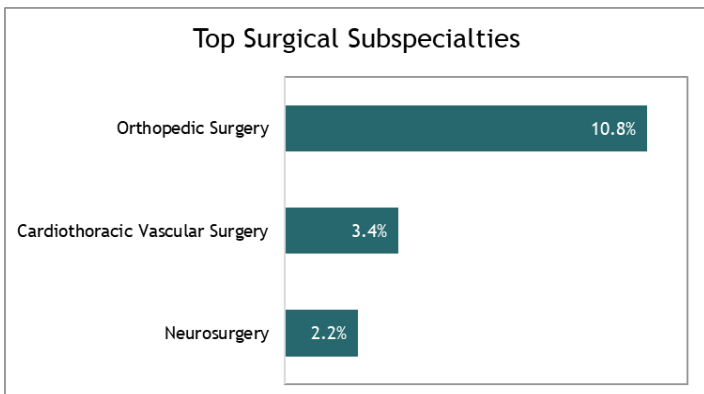
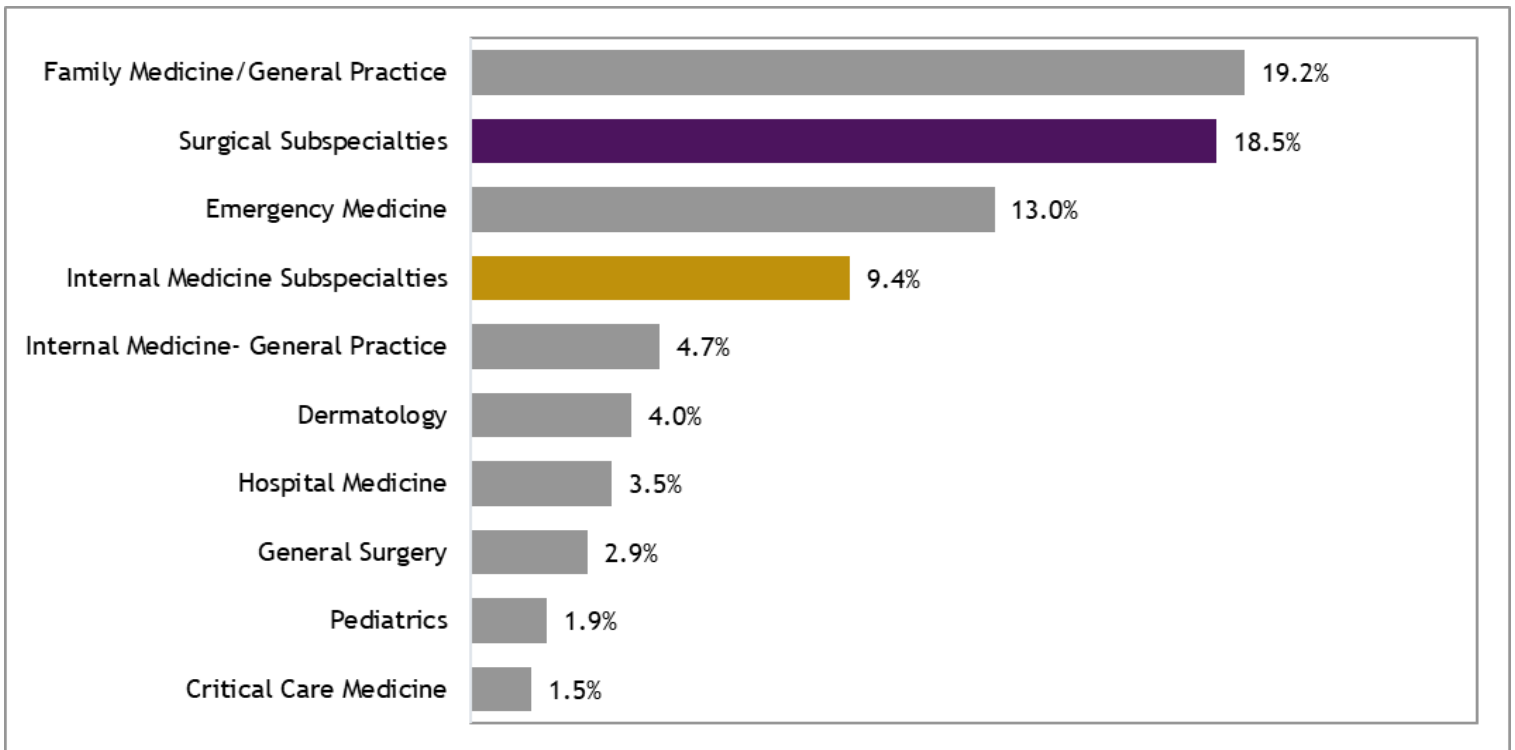
Of the certified PAs who communicate with patients in a language other than English, most do so in **Spanish**

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

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



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. 84.1% of profile respondents indicated their primary practice specialty area.

Primary Care and Non-Primary

Number and Percent of Certified PAs by Principal Clinical Position*

Area of Practice	Number	Percent
Addiction Medicine	296	0.3%
Adolescent Medicine	140	0.1%
Anesthesiology	274	0.3%
Critical Care Medicine	1,502	1.5%
Dermatology	3,940	4.0%
Emergency Medicine	12,860	13.0%
Family Medicine/General Practice	18,941	19.2%
Gynecology	352	0.4%
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	96	0.1%
Hospital Medicine	3,436	3.5%
Internal Medicine-General Practice	4,625	4.7%
Internal Medicine-Subspecialty	9,300	9.4%
Neurology	834	0.8%
Obstetrics and Gynecology	1,156	1.2%
Occupational Medicine	1,415	1.4%
Ophthalmology	74	0.1%
Otolaryngology	921	0.9%
Pain Management	1,358	1.4%
Pathology	6	< .1%
Pediatrics	1,921	1.9%
Pediatrics- Subspecialties	1,194	1.2%
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation	651	0.7%
Preventive Medicine/Public Health	139	0.1%
Psychiatry	1,470	1.5%
Radiation Oncology	175	0.2%
Radiology	675	0.7%
Surgery-General	2,890	2.9%
Surgery-Subspecialties	18,274	18.5%
Urology	992	1.0%
Other	8,718	8.8%
TOTAL	98,625	100.0%



25.8% 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 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 pain management has increased 138% since 2016, when it was added to the profile.

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

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	134 (21.7%)	483 (78.3%)	617	Montana	181 (33.8%)	355 (76.2%)	536
Alaska	229 (50.4%)	225 (49.6%)	454	Nebraska	382 (39.9%)	575 (60.1%)	957
Arizona	631 (29.0%)	1,546 (71.0%)	2,177	Nevada	211 (30.4%)	484 (69.6%)	695
Arkansas	107 (33.1%)	216 (66.9%)	323	New Hampshire	165 (24.9%)	497 (75.1%)	662
California	2,280 (31.1%)	5,059 (68.9%)	7,339	New Jersey	348 (16.0%)	1,833 (84.0%)	2,181
Colorado	966 (34.9%)	1,799 (65.1%)	2,765	New Mexico	232 (39.0%)	363 (61.0%)	595
Connecticut	271 (15.6%)	1,461 (84.4%)	1,732	New York	1,615 (17.5%)	7,618 (82.5%)	9,233
Delaware	55 (18.7%)	239 (81.3%)	294	North Carolina	1,413 (28.9%)	3,476 (71.1%)	4,889
Dist. of Columbia	41 (21.2%)	152 (78.8%)	193	North Dakota	129 (47.6%)	142 (52.4%)	271
Florida	1,265 (21.1%)	4,728 (78.9%)	5,993	Ohio	405 (14.7%)	2,347 (85.3%)	2,752
Georgia	648 (22.8%)	2,196 (77.2%)	2,844	Oklahoma	374 (31.0%)	834 (69.0%)	1,208
Hawaii	91 (34.7%)	171 (65.3%)	262	Oregon	474 (33.0%)	964 (67.0%)	1,438
Idaho	329 (37.1%)	558 (62.9%)	887	Pennsylvania	1,380 (20.8%)	5,247 (79.2%)	6,627
Illinois	635 (24.2%)	1,988 (75.8%)	2,623	Rhode Island	43 (14.8%)	247 (85.2%)	290
Indiana	204 (17.9%)	938 (82.1%)	1,142	South Carolina	293 (23.0%)	980 (77.0%)	1,273
Iowa	365 (39.2%)	566 (60.8%)	910	South Dakota	203 (42.5%)	275 (57.5%)	478
Kansas	320 (35.7%)	576 (64.3%)	896	Tennessee	492 (30.8%)	1,106 (69.2%)	1,598
Kentucky	303 (27.9%)	783 (72.1%)	1,086	Texas	2,267 (34.1%)	4,380 (65.9%)	6,647
Louisiana	161 (17.7%)	747 (82.3%)	908	Utah	367 (32.1%)	775 (67.9%)	1,142
Maine	177 (26.3%)	495 (73.7%)	672	Vermont	103 (33.2%)	207 (66.8%)	310
Maryland	406 (18.0%)	1,846 (80.0%)	2,252	Virginia	596 (23.1%)	1,979 (76.9%)	2,275
Massachusetts	455 (17.8%)	2,095 (82.2%)	2,550	Washington	758 (31.4%)	1,655 (68.6%)	2,413
Michigan	1,049 (25.6%)	3,054 (74.4%)	4,103	West Virginia	281 (34.8%)	527 (65.2%)	808
Minnesota	624 (29.1%)	1,524 (70.9%)	2,148	Wisconsin	545 (25.1%)	1,623 (74.9%)	2,168
Mississippi	41 (23.7%)	132 (76.3%)	173	Wyoming	92 (44.9%)	113 (55.1%)	205
Missouri	190 (21.5%)	692 (78.5%)	882	TOTAL*	25,487 (25.8%)	73,138 (74.2%)	98,625

Primary care includes: family medicine/general practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics. Total includes all certified PAs.

Practice Setting

Number of Certified PAs by Principal Clinical Practice Setting

Practice Setting	Number	Percent
Hospital	39,935	40.5%
Office-based private practice	38,968	39.5%
Federal government facility/hospital/unit	5,378	5.5%
Urgent Care	4,062	4.1%
Community health center	3,015	3.1%
Rural health clinic	1,946	2.0%
Public or community health clinic (non-federally qualified)	1,065	1.1%
Occupational health setting	897	0.9%
School-based or college-based health center or school clinic	872	0.9%
Extended care facility/nursing home	694	0.7%
Behavioral/mental health facility	537	0.5%
Ambulatory surgical center	327	0.3%
Rehabilitation facility	313	0.3%
Retail clinic	203	0.2%
Free clinic	202	0.2%
Home healthcare agency	146	0.1%
Hospice	9	<0.1%
TOTAL	98,569	100.0%



The majority of certified PAs (80.0%) practice in either a **hospital** or an **office-based private practice** setting. For the first time, hospital setting has the greatest number of certified PAs.

The average number of hours worked per week for all certified PAs in their principal clinical position is **40.4**.

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**.

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	3,477
Insufficient wages given the workload and responsibilities involved	2,059
Relocating to another geographic area	1,777
Work is not professionally challenging or satisfying	1,462
Other	1,344
Family responsibilities interfere with ability to continue working	916
Plan to retire from the active workforce	585
Want to pursue additional education	445
Desire a non-clinical health-related position	252
Want to work in a health professional training program position	263
Desire a position outside of health care	240
My health does not allow me to continue working as a PA	110

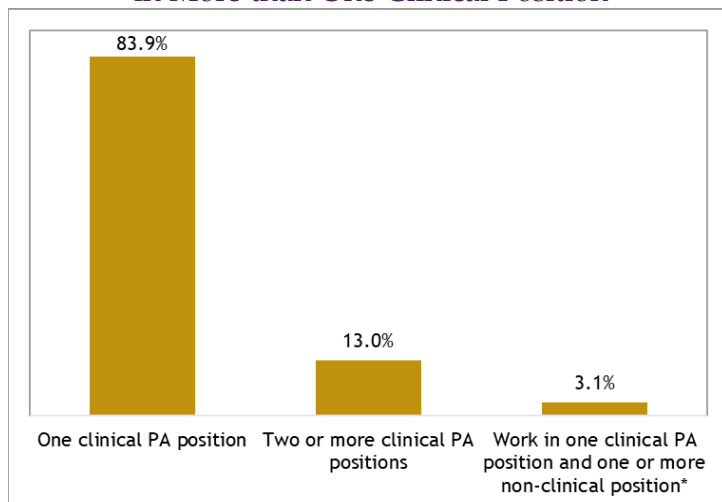
This table shows responses given by 5,529 certified PAs who first answered affirmatively to the question: "Are you planning to leave your principal clinical PA position in the next 12 months?" PAs could choose multiple factors and then rate them either "Very Important", "Somewhat Important", or "Not Important".



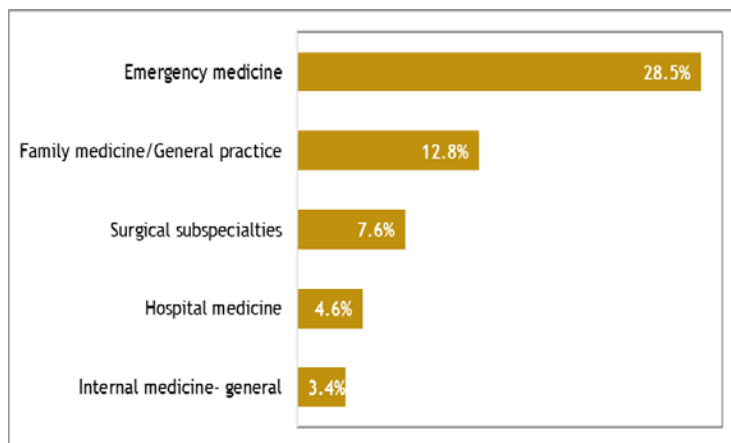
5.6% of certified, clinically-employed PAs indicated they are planning to leave their current principal clinical PA position in the next **12 months**. However, 62.9%, of those leaving their current position, cited "seeking another clinical position" as their reason for leaving their current position. "**Insufficient wages given the workload and responsibilities involved**" was the next most frequently selected reason certified PAs are planning to leave their current position (37.2%).

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



17.7% of PAs working in a secondary clinical position are working in a primary care specialty in that position.



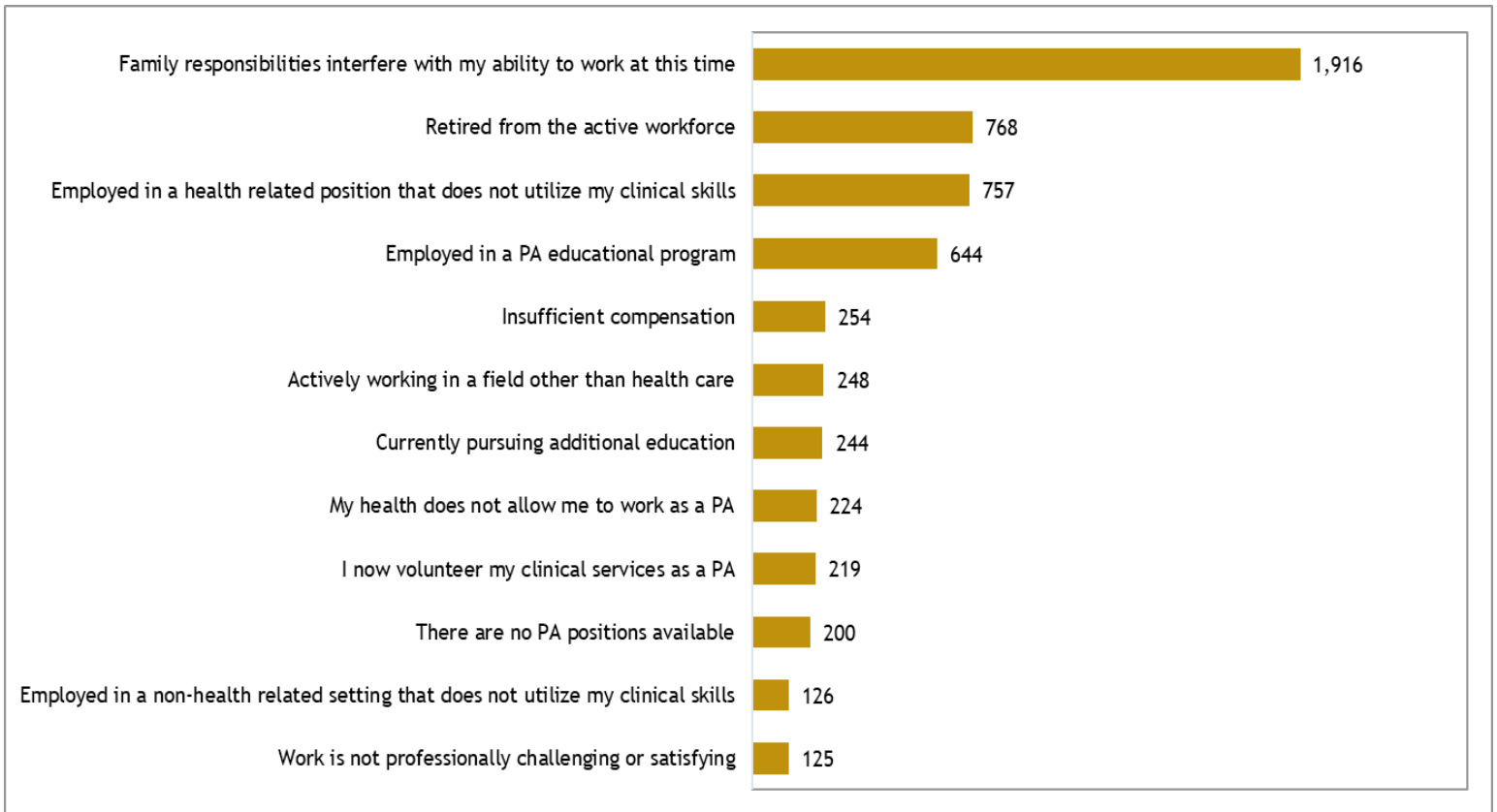
Certified PAs are overwhelmingly employed in only one clinical position (83.9%). The number one reason cited by certified PAs who are employed in more than one clinical position was to **supplement their earnings** (44.0%).

Certified PAs who have a secondary position work an average of **10.8 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 2018, 94.8% of certified PAs were practicing clinically.

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

Of the 5,436 certified PAs who indicated they were not employed as a PA in a clinical position, 13.7% 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	274	\$108,686	\$105,000
Adolescent Medicine	136	\$90,588	\$95,000
Anesthesiology	249	\$103,795	\$105,000
Critical Care Medicine	1,410	\$122,957	\$115,000
Dermatology	3,606	\$126,084	\$115,000
Emergency Medicine	12,031	\$123,006	\$115,000
Family Medicine/ General Practice	17,987	\$102,674	\$105,000
Gynecology	335	\$94,731	\$95,000
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	94	\$106,276	\$105,000
Hospital Medicine	3,246	\$111,426	\$105,000
Internal Medicine- General Practice	4,362	\$102,442	\$105,000
Internal Medicine- Subspecialty	8,869	\$103,541	\$105,000
Neurology	793	\$101,091	\$95,000
Obstetrics and Gynecology	1,085	\$96,244	\$95,000

Specialty	Number	Mean	Median
Occupational Medicine	1,329	\$107,897	\$105,000
Ophthalmology	68	\$96,471	\$95,000
Otolaryngology	886	\$103,510	\$105,000
Pain Management	1,280	\$109,273	\$105,000
Pathology	5	\$111,000	\$115,000
Pediatrics	1,814	\$92,194	\$95,000
Pediatrics- Subspecialties	1,139	\$105,044	\$105,000
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation	610	\$101,344	\$105,000
Preventive Medicine/Public Health	137	\$94,124	\$95,000
Psychiatry	1,385	\$110,466	\$105,000
Radiation Oncology	163	\$103,221	\$105,000
Radiology	639	\$110,556	\$105,000
Surgery- General	2,708	\$112,396	\$105,000
Surgery- Subspecialties	17,262	\$119,852	\$115,000
Urology	934	\$107,837	\$105,000
Other	8,180	\$109,325	\$105,000



The average total income of certified PAs was \$110,567, and the median salary was \$115,000. Certified PAs working in **dermatology** and **critical care medicine** had the highest salaries. The average salary has increased 15.7% in the last six years.

2019 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

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

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