



2016 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants

an Annual Report of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

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Message from the President and CEO

Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C



Dear Colleagues:

This year we mark the 50th anniversary of the PA profession, noting that it was in 1967 that the first class of three physician assistants graduated from the inaugural class of the first PA Program---Duke University.

The PA Profession has come a long way.

Today, we have over 115,500 Certified PAs working in every state in the U.S. and practicing in every specialty and clinical setting. Our numbers increased 44% in the last six years alone, and the future continues to be bright.

Physicians and employers depend on Certified PAs to provide expanded access to care, and patients rely on us for treatment during over 8.1 million visits every week. Certified PAs are valuable members of healthcare teams, and the demand for our services continues to grow.

This *2016 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants* provides information on current PA distribution, demographics and specialty and clinical settings in the United States.

With over 94% of Certified PAs contributing to this data set, you can be assured that the numbers are valid and that NCCPA is the most complete source for PA information. We hope that our stakeholders—*the public, employers, insurers, policymakers and PAs*, the media and others who need data about Certified PAs, will look to NCCPA. We trust that this report will contribute to greater understanding of the breadth, depth and positive impact of the PA profession.

Thank you to all PAs for their dedicated efforts to provide high quality health care across the spectrum and for their contributions to this informational resource for the profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Morton-Rias". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the name of the signatory.

Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C

About the Data and Collection Methodology

Introduction

Since certifying the first physician assistants (PAs) in 1975, NCCPA has collected data on the PA profession as PAs completed various processes related to obtaining initial certification and then maintaining certification by earning and logging continuing medical education credits and passing 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 (2013 Statistical Profile of Recently Certified Physician Assistants) and will be updated yearly.

Data Editing and Analysis

Data reflected in this report includes responses from PAs who were certified as of December 31, 2016 and completed at least a portion of the Profile between May 2012 and December 31, 2016. In addition, some data was obtained from other NCCPA data collection strategies. As of December 31, 2016, there were 115,547 certified PAs, and 109,592 provided responses for at least a portion of the PA Professional Profile, yielding an overall response rate of 94.8%.

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

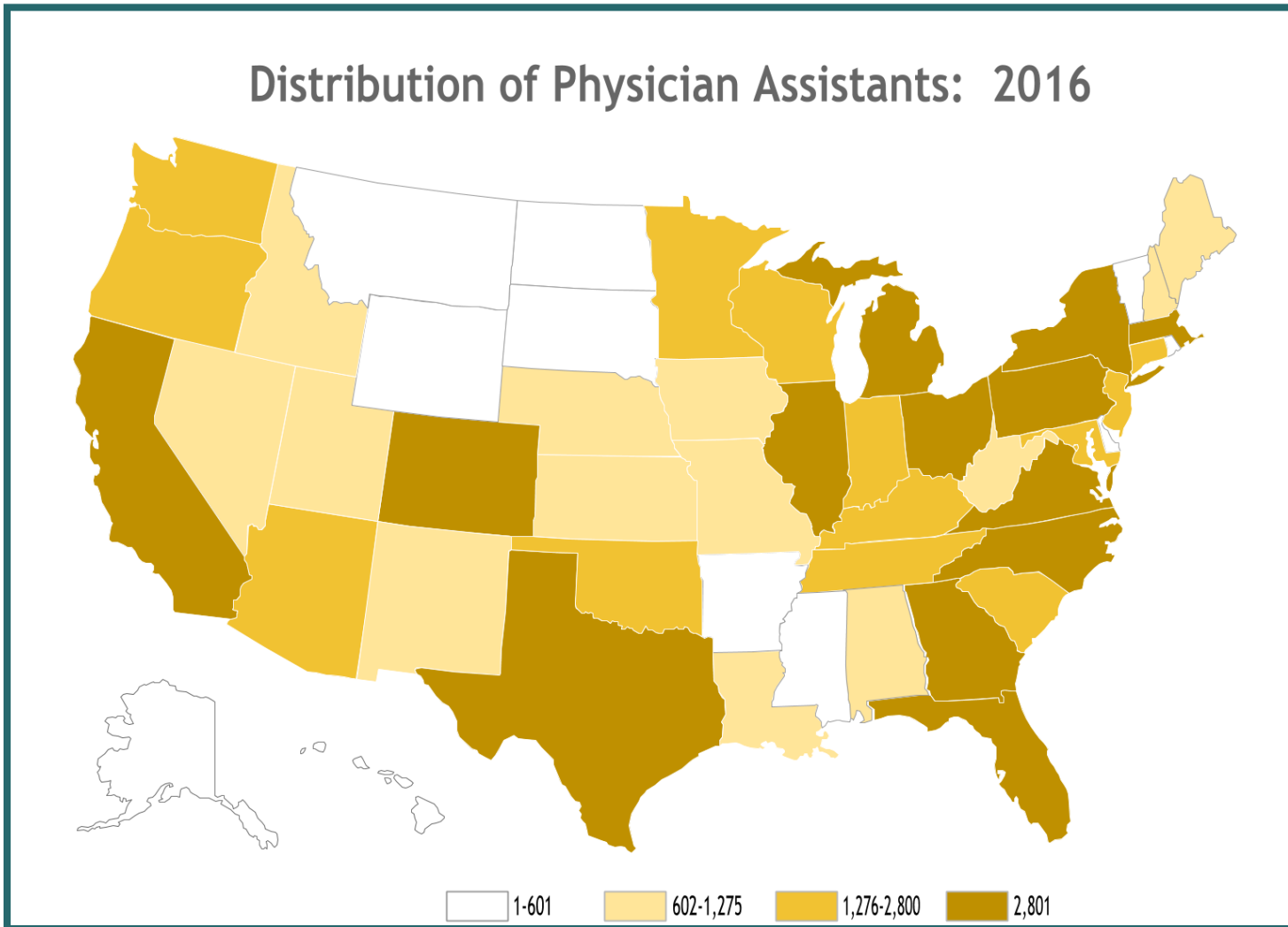
NCCPA is the only certifying organization for PAs in the United States. Established as a not-for-profit organization in 1974, NCCPA is dedicated to providing certification programs that reflect standards for clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning and other medical skills and professional behaviors required 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 licensure or regulation of PAs. More than 140,000 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 PAs by state; Rate of 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.

Figure 1: Distribution of PAs by State (Divided by Quartiles)



Noteworthy:

There were approximately 80,019 Certified PAs at the end of 2010; the profession grew 44.4% over the next 6 years reaching 115,547 Certified PAs at the end of 2016.

Mississippi and New Hampshire experienced the highest percentage growth between 2015 and 2016 (19.8% and 11.6% respectively).

Fig. 1 highlights the states with the greatest numbers of Certified PAs based on state of residence as reported to NCCPA.

On Dec. 31, 2016, there were 115,547 Certified PAs. The number of PAs has grown 6.3% between 2015 and 2016.

Table 1: PAs by State, Number, Percent, Rate and Rank

State	Number	Percent of Total (Rank)	Rate* (Rank)
Alabama	727	0.6 % (38)	14.9 (49)
Alaska	564	0.5% (41)	76.0 (1)
Arizona	2,540	2.2% (17)	36.6 (27)
Arkansas	360	0.3% (43)	12.0 (50)
California	9,042	7.9% (2)	23.0 (45)
Colorado	3,041	2.6% (11)	54.9 (11)
Connecticut	2,018	1.8 % (20)	56.4 (7)
Delaware	330	0.3% (46)	34.7 (32)
D.C.	254	0.2% (49)	37.3 (25)
Florida	7,203	6.3% (5)	34.9 (30)
Georgia	3,398	3.0% (8)	33.0 (34)
Hawaii	311	0.3% (48)	21.8 (46)
Idaho	947	0.8% (34)	56.3 (8)
Illinois	3,122	2.7% (9)	24.4 (43)

State	Number	Percent of Total (Rank)	Rate* (Rank)
Indiana	1,292	1.1% (26)	19.5 (47)
Iowa	1,055	0.9% (30)	33.7 (33)
Kansas	1,071	0.9% (29)	36.8 (26)
Kentucky	1,298	1.1% (25)	29.3 (37)
Louisiana	1,085	0.9% (28)	23.2 (44)
Maine	765	0.7% (35)	57.5 (6)
Maryland	2,754	2.4% (15)	45.8 (16)
Massachusetts	2,960	2.6% (13)	43.5 (17)
Michigan	4,750	4.1% (7)	47.8 (15)
Minnesota	2,389	2.1% (19)	43.3 (18)
Mississippi	206	0.2% (51)	6.9 (51)
Missouri	1,017	0.9% (32)	16.7 (48)
Montana	601	0.5% (40)	57.6 (5)
Nebraska	1,037	0.9% (31)	54.4 (13)

*Rate per 100,000 population based on 2016 US Census estimate

(continued)

Noteworthy:

Certified PAs practice medicine in all 50 states and D.C.

The top five states ranked by the number of

Certified PAs are:

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

The top five states ranked by

concentration per 100,000 population are:

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

Table 1: PAs by State, Number, Percent, Rate and Rank, *continued*

State	Number	Percent of Total (Rank)	Rate* (Rank)
Nevada	755	0.7% (36)	25.7 (42)
New Hampshire	729	0.6% (37)	54.6 (12)
New Jersey	2,598	2.3% (16)	29.0 (38)
New Mexico	726	0.6% (39)	34.9 (31)
New York	11,395	9.9% (1)	57.7 (4)
North Carolina	5,590	4.9% (6)	55.1 (10)
North Dakota	317	0.3% (47)	41.8 (20)
Ohio	3,077	2.7% (10)	26.5 (41)
Oklahoma	1,420	1.2% (24)	36.2 (28)
Oregon	1,565	1.4% (22)	38.2 (23)
Pennsylvania	7,668	6.7% (4)	60.0 (3)
Rhode Island	332	0.3% (45)	31.4 (35)
South Carolina	1,476	1.3% (23)	29.8 (36)
South Dakota	547	0.5% (42)	63.2 (2)

State	Number	Percent of Total (Rank)	Rate* (Rank)
Tennessee	1,893	1.6% (21)	28.5 (39)
Texas	7,767	6.8% (3)	27.9 (40)
Utah	1,275	1.1% (27)	41.8 (22)
Vermont	349	0.3% (44)	55.9 (9)
Virginia	3,010	2.6% (12)	35.8 (29)
Washington	2,767	2.4% (14)	38.0 (24)
West Virginia	954	0.8% (33)	52.1 (14)
Wisconsin	2,415	2.1% (18)	41.8 (21)
Wyoming	246	0.2% (50)	42.0 (19)
TOTAL	115,008	100%	

Noteworthy:
 An additional 539 Certified PAs were living abroad in 2016, bringing the total number of Certified PAs at the end of 2016 to 115,547.

*Rate per 100,000 population based on 2016 US Census estimate

Gender and Age of Certified Physician Assistants

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

Figure 3: Distribution of Certified PAs by Age and Gender

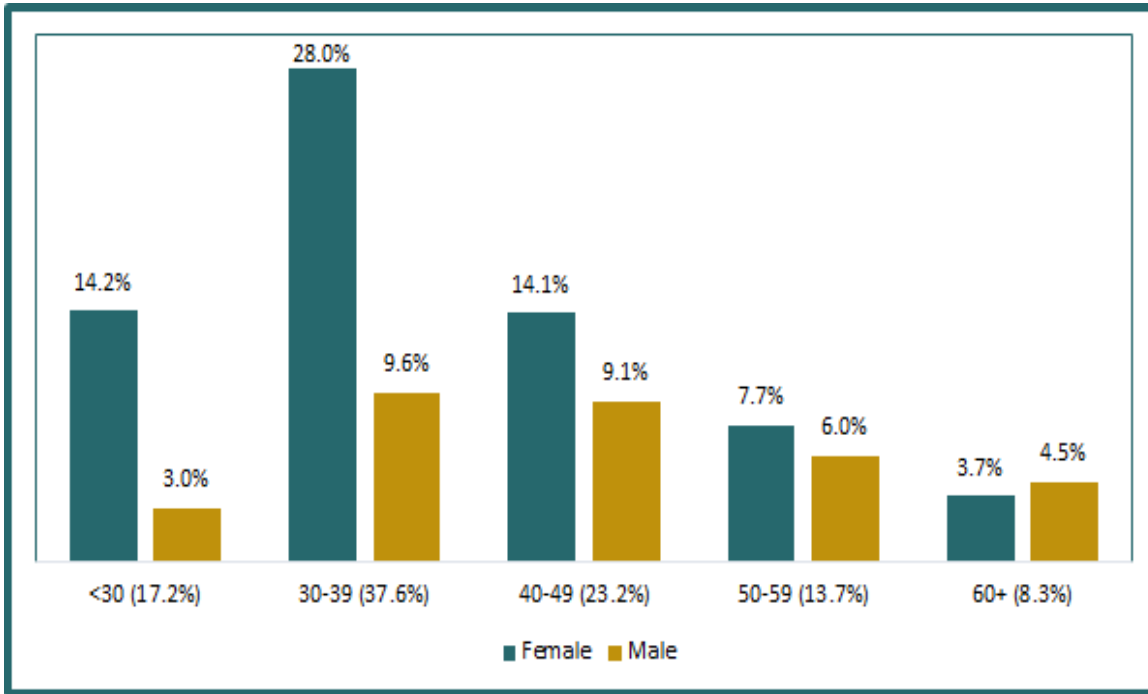


Table 2: Number of PAs by Gender

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	37,286	32.3%
Female	78,247	67.7%
Total	115,533	100.0%

In Table 2, the total numbers are less than the total number of Certified PAs (see Table 3) due to the decision of some not to report a gender.

Noteworthy:

- The median age of Certified PAs was 38 in 2016.
- In 1980 36% of PAs were female.¹
- Today 67.7% of all Certified PAs are female.
- 42.0% of all Certified PAs were female and under 40 years old.

Table 3: Number of PAs by Age Group

Age Group	Number	Percent
<30	19,826	17.2%
30-39	43,434	37.6%
40-49	26,872	23.2%
50-59	15,848	13.7%
60+	9,567	8.3%
TOTAL	115,547	100.0%

¹He, 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 Hum Resour Health* 7.1 (2009): 86. Web

Race and Ethnicity of Certified Physician Assistants

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

Table 4: Number of PAs by Race

Race	Number	Percent
White	88,478	86.7%
Black/African American	3,934	3.9%
Asian	5,560	5.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	367	0.4%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	432	0.4%
Other	3,248	3.2%
Total Responses	102,019	100%

Table 4 represents PAs that chose one race. Of the respondents that chose only one race, 86.7% indicated they were white. Respondents were able to choose multiple races, and 1,993 did so. 5,580 indicated that they preferred not to answer the question.

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

Noteworthy:

In the last four years, there has been a slight increase in the percentage of PAs choosing multiple races (1.4% and 1.9% respectively).

The percentage of Hispanic PAs increased from 3.5% in 2000¹ to 6.2% in 2016.

Table 5: Number of PAs by Ethnicity

Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/a	2,518	2.4%
Puerto Rican	786	0.8%
Cuban	512	0.5%
Other Hispanic, Latino/a, or of Spanish origin	2,619	2.5%
Total Responses	6,435	6.2%

Table 5 represents PAs that chose one ethnicity. 244 respondents chose two or more ethnicities. Of those that responded, 93.8% (97,729) indicated that they were not Hispanic, Latino/a, or of Spanish origin. Respondents were able to choose multiple ethnicities. 4,966 indicated that they preferred not to answer the question.

Educational Profile of Certified Physician Assistants

Number of PAs by highest degree completed.

Table 6: Number of PAs by Highest Degree Completed

Degree	Number	Percent
Certificate program	1,947	1.8%
Associate's degree	1,742	1.6%
Bachelor's degree	25,182	23.0%
Master's degree	77,799	71.0%
PhD	560	0.5%
Ed.D	55	<0.1%
Professional doctorate (e.g., MD, DO, DrPh, PsyD)	1,278	1.2%
Other	1,029	.9%
TOTAL	109,592	100%

Noteworthy:

The average PA educational program is 26.3 months long.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 the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).² This is evident as the percentage of master's degree Certified PAs has increased from 66.2% in 2013 to 71.0% in 2016.³

U.S. News and World Report ranked physician assistant as #3 of the 100 Best Jobs of 2017, and The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the PA profession will grow 30% between 2014 and 2024.

¹ PAEA *Physician Assistant Educational Programs in the United States, By the Numbers: Program Report 31; January, 2017.*

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

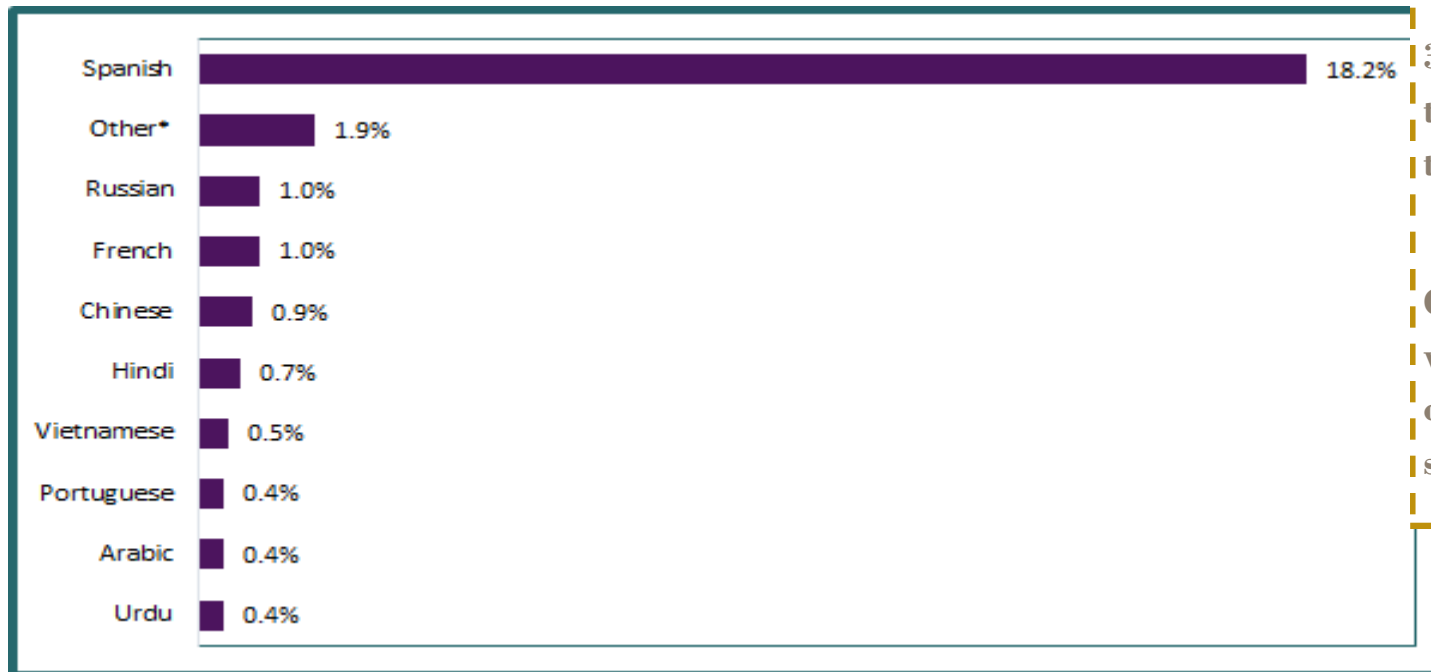
³ NCCPA *2013 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants, An Annual Report of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.* 2014.

⁴ Jobs, The 100 Best. "Physician Assistant Ranks Among Best Jobs of 2017." *U.S. News & World Report.* U.S. News & World Report, n.d.

Languages Other than English Spoken with Patients

Top 10 languages other than English spoken with patients.

Figure 4: Percent of Certified PAs that Communicate with Patients in Other Languages



Noteworthy:

22.8% 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 PAs who communicate with patients in a language other than English, 80.0% do so in Spanish.

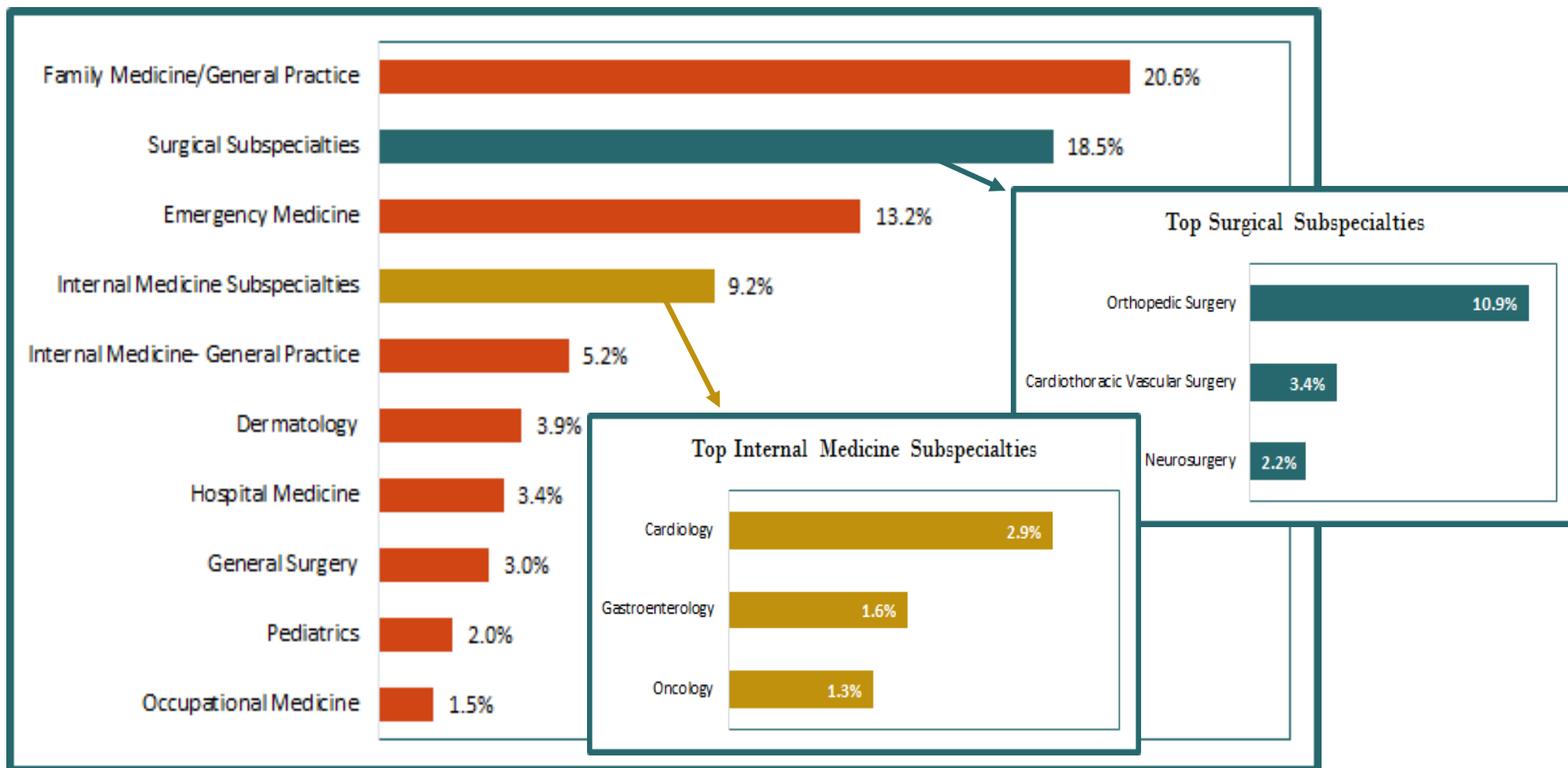
*For PAs that responded “other” to language, the highest number included were: Hebrew, American Sign Language, Farsi, Romanian, Amharic and Malayalam.

Fig. 4 shows the percentage of Certified PAs who communicate with patients in languages other than English by the top 10 most frequently identified languages. A total of 22.8% of respondents indicated they could communicate with patients in a language other than English.

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; PAs employed in more than one position.

Figure 5: Top PA Practice Areas by Percent



The Profile asked PAs to identify their practice area and other practice characteristics for both a principal clinical position and — for those working in more than one clinical setting — for a secondary clinical position. The data shown in this section is based only on responses to the question regarding the principal clinical position. 94.8% or 93,354 of Profile respondents indicated they practice in at least one clinical position.

Table 7: Number and Percent of PAs by Principal Clinical Position *

Area of Practice	Number	Percent
Adolescent Medicine	180	0.2%
Anesthesiology	356	0.4%
Critical Care Medicine	1,241	1.3%
Dermatology	3,589	3.9%
Emergency Medicine	12,152	13.2%
Family Medicine / General Practice	18,944	20.6%
Gynecology	367	0.4%
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	37	<0.1
Hospital Medicine	3,086	3.4%
Internal Medicine– General Practice	4,778	5.2%
Internal Medicine– Subspecialty	8,487	9.2%
Neurology	755	0.8%
Obstetrics and Gynecology	1,117	1.2%
Occupational Medicine	1,378	1.5%
Ophthalmology	71	0.1%

Area of Practice	Number	Percent
Otolaryngology	808	0.9%
Pain Management	571	0.6%
Pathology	10	<.1%
Pediatrics	1,879	2.0%
Pediatrics– Subspecialties	1,022	1.1%
Physical Medicine / Rehabilitation	789	0.8%
Preventive Medicine / Public Health	159	0.2%
Psychiatry	1,201	1.3%
Radiation Oncology	155	0.2%
Radiology	625	0.7%
Surgery– General	2,791	3.0%
Surgery– Subspecialties	17,009	18.5%
Urology	996	1.1%
Other	7,329	8.0%
TOTAL	91,882	100.0%

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

Table 7 shows the number percentage of Certified PAs by principal clinical position. Neonatal-perinatal medicine and pediatric emergency medicine were the two largest pediatric subspecialties with 272 and 216 respectively. Surgical subspecialties with the highest number of PAs include: orthopedic surgery (9,991), cardiothoracic vascular surgery (3,158) and neurosurgery (2,001).

Noteworthy:
27.8% of Certified PAs work in primary care: family medicine/general practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics.
The internal medicine subspecialties with the greatest number of PAs include: cardiology (2,631), gastroenterology (1,495), oncology (1,220), and geriatrics (669).

Table 8: Number and Percent of PAs Practicing in Primary Care and Non-Primary Care by State

State	Primary Care* Number (percent)	Non-Primary Care Number (percent)	Total
Alabama	119 (21.2%)	441 (78.8%)	560
Alaska	260 (56.5%)	200 (43.5%)	460
Arizona	621 (30.6%)	1,406 (69.4%)	2,027
Arkansas	102 (37.0%)	174 (63.0%)	276
California	2,403 (34.1%)	4,650 (65.9%)	7,053
Colorado	968 (38.0%)	1,582 (62.0%)	2,550
Connecticut	256 (15.7%)	1,373 (84.3%)	1,629
Delaware	57 (21.8%)	204 (78.2%)	261
D.C.	45 (22.8%)	152 (77.2%)	197
Florida	1,270 (22.8%)	4,304 (77.2%)	5,574
Georgia	686 (25.0%)	2,056 (75.0%)	2,742
Hawaii	95 (36.7%)	164 (63.3%)	259
Idaho	297 (38.7%)	471 (61.3%)	768
Illinois	634 (25.6%)	1,838 (74.4%)	2,472

State	Primary Care* Number (percent)	Non-Primary Care Number (percent)	Total
Indiana	188 (18.9%)	808 (81.1%)	996
Iowa	364 (41.5%)	513 (58.5%)	877
Kansas	334 (37.3%)	562 (62.7%)	896
Kentucky	299 (28.9%)	736 (71.1%)	1,035
Louisiana	151 (18.1%)	681 (81.9%)	832
Maine	182 (28.0%)	467 (72.0%)	649
Maryland	410 (18.7%)	1,782 (81.3%)	2,192
Massachusetts	431 (18.7%)	1,872 (81.3%)	2,303
Michigan	1,015 (26.7%)	2,791 (73.3%)	3,806
Minnesota	598 (30.5%)	1,360 (69.5%)	1,958
Mississippi	41 (28.3%)	104 (71.7%)	145
Missouri	186 (22.8%)	630 (77.2%)	816
Montana	182 (38.5%)	291 (61.5%)	473
Nebraska	387 (43.7%)	498 (56.3%)	885

Table 8: Number and Percent of PAs Practicing in Primary Care and Non-Primary Care by State (continued)

State	Primary Care* Number (percent)	Non-Primary Care Number (percent)	Total
Nevada	211 (35.0%)	391 (65.0%)	602
New Hampshire	156 (26.4%)	436 (73.6%)	592
New Jersey	345 (17.0%)	1,637 (83.0%)	1,982
New Mexico	250 (42.2%)	342 (57.8%)	592
New York	1,662 (19.1%)	7,055 (80.9%)	8,717
North Carolina	1,387 (30.7%)	3,125 (69.3%)	4,512
North Dakota	129 (48.9%)	135 (51.1%)	264
Ohio	381 (15.9%)	2,013 (84.1%)	2,394
Oklahoma	376 (32.6%)	778 (67.4%)	1,154
Oregon	460 (35.8%)	824 (64.2%)	1,284
Pennsylvania	1,342 (22.0%)	4,766 (78.0%)	6,108
Rhode Island	44 (16.5%)	222 (83.5%)	266
South Carolina	299 (25.4%)	876 (74.6%)	1,175
South Dakota	214 (45.9%)	252 (54.1%)	466

State	Primary Care* Number (percent)	Non-Primary Care Number (percent)	Total
Tennessee	481 (33.5%)	953 (66.5%)	1,434
Texas	2,314 (36.9%)	3,961 (63.1%)	6,275
Utah	358 (35.2%)	658 (64.8%)	1,016
Vermont	99 (33.2%)	199 (66.8%)	298
Virginia	624 (26.2%)	1,754 (73.8%)	2,378
Washington	748 (33.3%)	1,500 (66.7%)	2,248
West Virginia	306 (37.8%)	504 (62.2%)	810
Wisconsin	523 (26.0%)	1,492 (74.0%)	2,015
Wyoming	118 (55.9%)	93 (44.1%)	211
TOTAL	25,408 (27.8%)	66,076 (72.2%)	91,484

Noteworthy:

- 137 Certified U.S. military PAs responded. 90 (65.7%) were practicing primary care, and 47 (34.3%) were practicing in a non-primary care specialty.
- 279 Certified PA practicing abroad responded. 103 (36.9%) were practicing primary care and 176 (63.1%) were practicing in a non-primary care specialty.

*Primary Care: Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, and General Pediatrics

Table 9: Number of PAs by Principal Clinical Practice Setting

Practice Setting	Number	Percent
Office-based private practice	38,377	42.2%
Hospital	35,400	38.9%
Federal government facility/hospital/unit	5,302	5.8%
Community health center	3,073	3.4%
Rural health clinic	2,038	2.2%
Urgent Care*	1,553	1.7%
Public or community health clinic (non-federally qualified)	1,245	1.4%
Occupational health setting	953	1.0%
School-based or college-based health center or school clinic	853	0.9%
Extended care facility/nursing home	659	0.7%
Behavioral/mental health facility	449	0.5%
Ambulatory surgical center	351	0.4%
Rehabilitation facility	293	0.3%
Free clinic	239	0.3%
Home health care agency	118	0.1%
Hospice	10	<0.1%
TOTAL	90,913	100.0%

*Urgent care appeared on the survey for the first time in 2016

Noteworthy:

The majority of PAs (81.1%) practice in either an office-based private practice or a hospital setting.

Average number of hours worked per week for all PAs in their principal clinical position: 40.64

Average number of patients seen per week for all full-time (40+ hours per week) PAs who see patients in their principal clinical position: 74

Table 10: Factors Influencing PAs Planning to Leave Principal Clinical Position

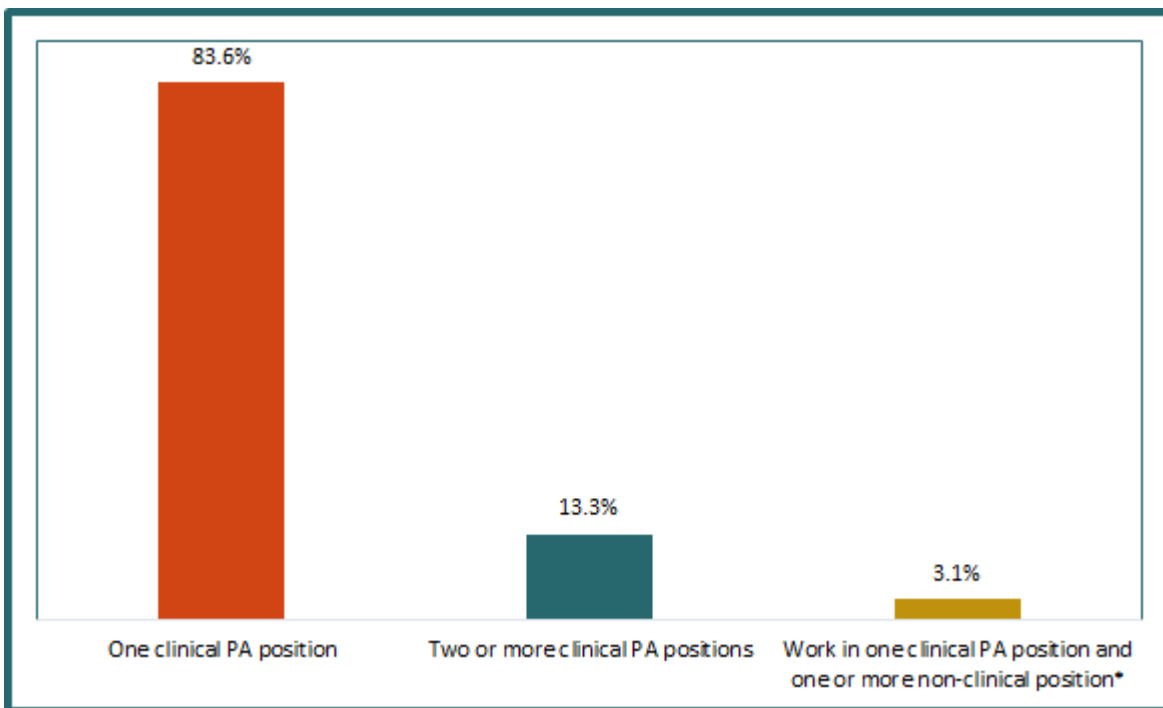
Factors Influencing Decision to Leave Principal Clinical Position	Number Who Indicated Factor was “Very Important”
Seeking another clinical PA position	4,027
Insufficient wages given the workload and responsibilities involved	2,286
Relocating to another geographic area	2,016
Work is not professionally challenging or satisfying	1,636
Other	1,532
Family responsibilities interfere with ability to continue working	920
Plan to retire from the active workforce	547
Want to pursue additional education	506
Want to work in a health professional training program	307
Desire a non-clinical health-related position	275
Desire a position outside of health care	226
My health does not allow me to continue working as a PA	109

Noteworthy:

6.4% of certified, clinically-employed PAs indicated they are planning to leave their current principal clinical PA position in the next 12 months. However, 64.0%, 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 PAs are planning to leave their current position (36.4%).

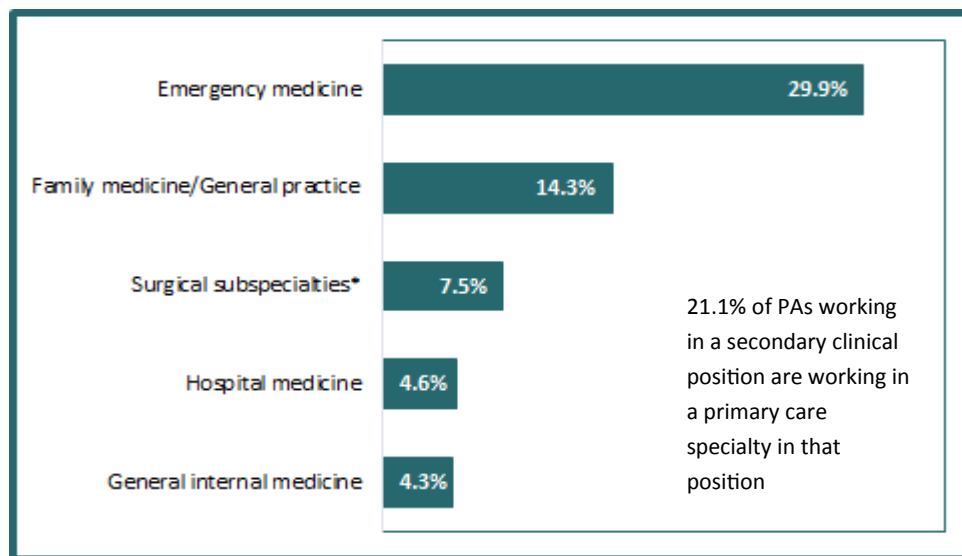
Table 10 shows responses given by 6,289 PAs who first answered affirmatively to the question: “Are you planning to leave your principal clinical PA position in the next 12 months?” PAs could choose multiple factors and then rate them either “Very Important”, “Somewhat Important”, or “Not Important”.

Figure 6: Distribution of PAs Working in More than One Clinical Position



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

Figure 7: Top Five Specialty Areas of PAs with More than One Clinical Position



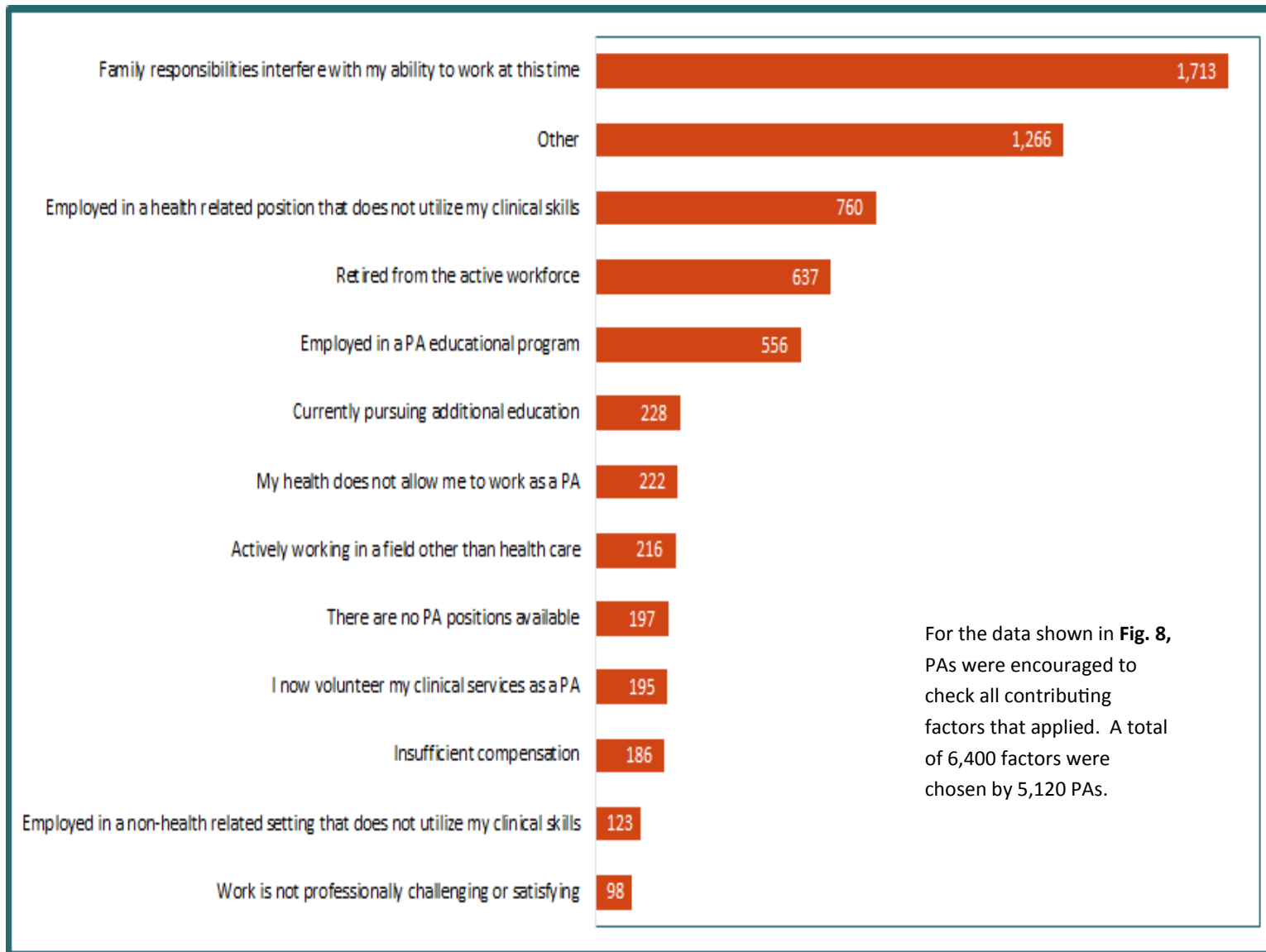
Noteworthy:

Certified PAs are overwhelmingly employed in only one clinical position (83.6%). The number one reason cited by PAs who are employed in more than one clinical position was to supplement their earnings (43.9%).

PAs that 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.

PA^s Not in Clinical Practice

Figure 8: Why PAs Do Not Practice Clinically



Noteworthy:

The most selected reason for not working in clinical practice was due to family responsibilities. For those who chose “other”, the most common reason was they were currently searching for a clinical position.

Of the 5,123 PAs who indicated they were not employed as a PA in a clinical position, 12.4% indicated they are retired from the active workforce.

Income from PA Positions by Principal Clinical Position

Table 11: Total Income in Last Calendar Year from PA Positions

Specialty	Number	Mean	Median
Adolescent Medicine	168	\$81,607	\$85,000
Anesthesiology	329	\$98,435	\$95,000
Critical Care Medicine	1,151	\$114,235	\$105,000
Dermatology	3,205	\$118,145	\$115,000
Emergency Medicine	11,171	\$116,661	\$115,000
Family Medicine / General Practice	17,716	\$96,468	\$95,000
Gynecology	345	\$87,609	\$85,000
Hospice and Palliative Medicine	36	\$97,778	\$95,000
Hospital Medicine	2,856	\$105,413	\$105,000
Internal Medicine– General Practice	4,433	\$96,575	\$95,000
Internal Medicine– Subspecialty	8,000	\$97,245	\$95,000
Neurology	710	\$95,606	\$95,000
Obstetrics and Gynecology	1,028	\$89,942	\$85,000
Occupational Medicine	1,281	\$101,924	\$105,000
Ophthalmology	66	\$94,545	\$95,000
Otolaryngology	758	\$96,451	\$95,000

Specialty	Number	Mean	Median
Pain Management	531	\$103,154	\$105,000
Pathology	10	\$119,000	\$110,000
Pediatrics	1,735	\$88,764	\$85,000
Pediatrics– Subspecialties	959	\$98,733	\$95,000
Physical Medicine / Rehabilitation	739	\$96,231	\$95,000
Preventive Medicine / Public Health	147	\$93,231	\$95,000
Psychiatry	1,101	\$101,630	\$95,000
Radiation Oncology	142	\$100,211	\$95,000
Radiology	590	\$103,932	\$105,000
Surgery– General	2,579	\$106,504	\$105,000
Surgery– Subspecialties	15,097	\$113,752	\$105,000
Urology	917	\$102,197	\$105,000
Other	6,730	\$103,027	\$105,000

Noteworthy:

The average salary of Certified PAs was \$104,131 with the highest paid to those working in pathology, dermatology, emergency medicine, critical care medicine and surgical subspecialties.

2017 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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