

The Important Role and Contributions of Physician Assistants/Associates in Hospital Settings

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Background

- Demand for health services is skyrocketing given the number of insured patients, the aging population with multiple comorbidities, and the availability of new therapies, procedures, and treatments
- The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating health workforce shortages putting immense strain on hospitals throughout the US
- Overcoming health workforce challenges such as staffing shortages in hospital settings is more important now than ever
- The PA profession was created to help fill care gaps and extend the availability of healthcare services for patients

Objective & Method

- The study's objective was to characterize the Board Certified PA workforce engaged in providing care to patients in hospital settings and guantify their contributions
- Data were derived from National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) PA Professional Profile
- NCCPA data from 2022 included responses from 117,465 PAs who provided or updated their information or certified that their responses are up to date within the past three years and shared their practice setting
- We compared demographic, practice, and other important attributes of PAs practicing in hospitals (n=48,943) vs. other settings (n=68,522)
- Analysis of the data consisted of descriptive statistics and bivariate analyses conducted using SPSS
 - Email guestions to Kasey Puckett at kaseyk@nccpa.net

Gender:FemaleMaleRace:WhiteAsianBlack/African AmericanMultiple RacesOtherEthnicity:Hispanic/LatinoNon-Hispanic/LatinoNon-Hispanic/LatinoNon-Hispanic/LatinoNon-Hispanic/LatinoNon-Hispanic/LatinoNortheastSouthMidwestWestYears certified:Up to 1011 - 2021+Postgraduate training:YesNoSurgery - subspecialtiesEmergency medicineInternal medicine - subspecialtiesSurgery - generalOtherPatients seen per week:MedianMeanPatients seen per week:None (I do not take calls)So r less hours/week6-10 hours/weekParticipate in telemedicine:YesNoInterquartile range (IQR)\$110500Intention to retire:YesNoSurgery ferenceJob Satisfaction:	racticing in spitals 99.8% 00.2% 5.1% 6.5% 3.3% 2.1% 2.9% 5.5% 44.5% 5.5% 44.5% 5.8% 0.1% 1.1% 3.3% 3.3% 3.3% 3.3% 3.3%	PAs practicing in all other settings 69.5% 30.5% 84.0% 6.1% 3.5% 2.4% 3.9% 7.7% 92.3% 18.9% 37.6% 18.4% 25.0% 47.4% 31.7% 20.9% 4.5% 95.5% 15.5% 3.7% 9.0% 0.3%	P-value <0.001 <0.001 <0.001 <0.001 <0.001
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Participate in telemedicine: Yes No Income: Median Interquartile range (IQR) \$10500 Intention to leave clinical position: Yes No Intention to retire: Yes No Job Satisfaction:	5.6%	6.2%	
Yes 2 No 1 Income: 5 Median \$10500 Interquartile range (IQR) \$10500 Intention to leave clinical position: 7 Yes 1 No 9 Job Satisfaction: 9	3.4%	9.9%	
NoIncome:Income:Income:Median\$1Interquartile range (IQR)\$10500Intention to leave clinical position:IntentionYesIntention to retire:Intention to retire:YesYesNoYesJob Satisfaction:Intention to retire:	6.6%	50.0%	
Income: Income: Median \$1 Interquartile range (IQR) \$10500 Intention to leave clinical position: Intertion Yes Intention to retire: Yes Yes No Yes Job Satisfaction: Intertion	3.4%	50.0%	<0.001
Interquartile range (IQR) \$10500 Intention to leave clinical position: Yes No 29 Intention to retire: Yes No 29 Job Satisfaction:			
Intention to leave clinical position: Yes No Intention to retire: Yes No Job Satisfaction:	25000	\$115000	<0.001
Yes No Set	0 - \$145000	\$95000 - \$135000	
No State Intention to retire:		0.00	
Intention to retire: Yes No Job Satisfaction:	0.70	8.8% 91.2%	0.530
Yes No Job Satisfaction:	8.7%	91.270	
No Job Satisfaction:	8.7%)1.3%	6.8%	
Job Satisfaction:	1.3%	93.2%	<0.001
)1.3% 4.3%	20.210	
)1.3% 4.3%	83.7%	0 160
Secondary position:	91.3% 4.3% 95.7%		0.169
No, I work in only one clinical	91.3% 4.3% 95.7% 93.4%	83.7%	0.169
position	91.3% 4.3% 95.7% 93.4%	83.7%	0.169
Yes, I also work in a position where I do not provide direct patient care	91.3% 4.3% 95.7% 93.4% 6.6%	83.7% 16.3%	0.169
Yes, I work in two or more clinical	91.3% 4.3% 95.7% 93.4% 6.6%	83.7% 16.3%	0.169 <0.001

Burnout Symptoms (p<0.001)



34.0% of PAs practicing in hospital settings reported one or more symptoms of burnout.





PAs in hospital settings are younger than PAs practicing in all other settings (median age 37 vs. 40; p<0.001).

Highest Degree Obtained (p<0.001)



PAs in hospital settings are more likely to have a master's degree vs. PAs in all other practice settings (83.5% vs. 78.8%; p<0.001).

Place of Employment Hiring/Recruiting (p<0.001)



place of employment is currently hiring/recruiting.

Results











Breakdown of Hospital Practice Setting

Number of PAs
22.5%
49.0%
28.4%

Growth of Board Certified PAs in Hospital Settings



The percentage of PAs practicing in hospital settings has grown from 36.5% in 2013 to 41.7% by the end of 2022, indicating a 14% growth.

Services provided in principal position of PAs practicing in hospitals vs. all other settings					
	PAs practicing in hospital settings who indicated service provided for "Most Patients"	PAs practicing in all other settings who indicated service provided for "Most Patients"	P-value		
iagnosis, treatment, and nanagement of acute illness	78.7%	75.5%	<0.001		
iagnosis, treatment, and nanagement of chronic Iness	53.0%	62.8%	<0.001		
onduct physical xaminations and obtain nedical histories	90.2%	89.6%	<0.001		
rder, perform, and interpret ıb tests, X-rays, EKGs, and ther diagnostic studies	87.5%	75.9%	<0.001		
rovide preventive care, icluding screening and nmunizations	25.2%	49.6%	<0.001		
erform procedures	37.0%	32.2%	<0.001		
ounsel and educate patients nd families	80.6%	83.1%	<0.001		
rovide care coordination	56.0%	49.8%	<0.001		
lake referrals	42.1%	42.1%	0.746		

Key Findings and Conclusion

- The percentage of PAs practicing in hospital settings has grown by 14% from 2013 to 2022
- PAs are increasingly shifting away from working in office-based private practices to hospital settinas
- Despite PAs in hospital settings vs. all other settings being more likely to report one or more burnout symptoms (34.0% vs. 31.0%; p<0.001), they were equally satisfied with their positions (83.4% vs. 83.7%; p=0.169)
- PAs in hospital settings provide indispensable services, including diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with acute conditions, conducting physical examinations, and obtaining medical histories, ordering, performing, and interpreting lab tests and diagnostic studies, performing procedures, and providing care conditions
- PAs practicing in hospital settings were less likely to retire in 5 years compared to all other practice settings (4.3% vs. 6.8%; p<0.001)
- A better understanding of the utilization of PAs in hospital settings can inform more precise workforce planning and projections
- There is great potential for greater use and integration of PAs to meet hospital staffing needs to deliver accessible, affordable, and guality care

References

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