

# Physicians working with PAs & NPs: Prevalence & perceived effects on productivity

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## Introduction

- Physicians increasingly work with PAs & NPs
- Yet, little is known about the proportion of physicians that work with PAs or NPs or about physician perceptions of PA & NP influence on productivity
- This study helps address this gap

## Methods

- In 2022, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) surveyed a nationally representative sample of physicians
- Regression models were used to explore relationships between the prevalence of physicians working with PAs or NPs and **physician perceptions of PA/NP influence on productivity** by:
  - physician: specialty, employment type, rurality of practice
  - state (with different levels of PA & NP scope of practice)
  - how many PAs/NPs the physician worked with in the preceding 12 months (intensity)

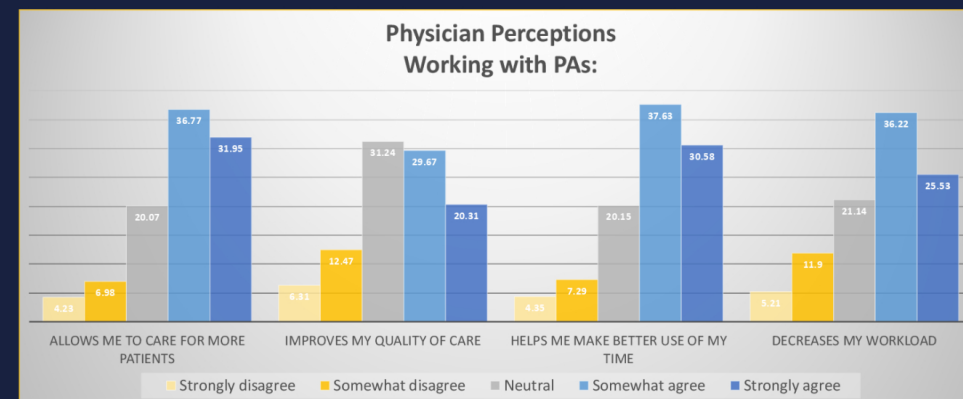
## Survey Items

- During the last 12 months, did you routinely work with PAs or NPs (working with PAs or NPs assessed by separate questions)?
  - If so, how many?
- Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about working with PAs or NPs (assessed separately):
  - allows me to care for more patients
  - improves my quality of care
  - helps me make better use of my time
  - decreases my workload

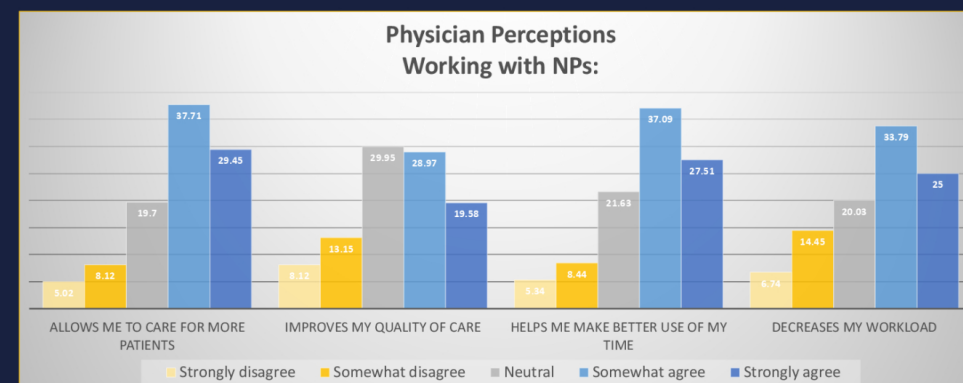


# Most physicians who work with PAs or NPs agree that PAs & NPs positively influence physician productivity.

## Surgeons & practice owners report the highest ratings for PA influence on their productivity.



Bars = percentage of respondents. N = 2551 - 2554



Bars = percentage of respondents. N = 2768 - 2776

## Results

- Of all sampled physicians (N= 5,917), 43.5% & 47.5% reported routinely working with PAs or NPs, respectively
- Physicians reporting working with a median of 3 PAs & 2 NPs.
- 49-68% somewhat/strongly agree that working with PAs increases their productivity
- 48-67% somewhat/strongly agree that working with NPs increases their productivity
- Surgeons rate PAs higher on all 4 measures
- Physician practice owners rate PAs higher on 3 measures
- No association between intensity of working with PAs or NPs & perceptions on productivity identified
- Regression analysis suggests that with covariates controlled:
  - Rural physicians are more likely to work with PAs
  - Physician practice owners are less likely to work with PAs or NPs than physician employees
  - Younger physicians are more likely to work with PAs & NPs.

### INFLUENCE OF PHYSICIAN FACTORS ON ODDS OF WORKING WITH A PA OR NP

Physician factors	Odds ratio	
	PA (n=5759)	NP (n=5729)
Woman	0.641***	0.9
Age	0.988***	0.995*
Employment status		
Employee	1	1
Practice owner	0.451***	0.460***
Independent contractor	0.887	0.851
Other	0.769	0.883
Rural	1.223*	1.172
Specialty		
Medical specialty	1	1
Primary care	0.873	1.072
Surgery	1.003	0.607***
Others	0.942	0.720***
Part-time	0.825**	0.772***

\*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001

## Discussion

- Most physicians perceive PAs & NPs as positively affecting their productivity.
- The absence of a relationship between intensity of working with PAs or NPs & perceived effect on productivity suggests that the impact of working in team-based care on physicians likely depends on other work-related factors.

