



What is a PA?

PAs are medical providers who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare professional.

With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative.

PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

AT A GLANCE

PA profession established in

1967 



140,000
PAs in the U.S.

NCCPA, 2019

PAs have more than

400
MILLION



patient interactions
per year

2019 AAPA Salary Survey,
All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS



250 PA Programs in the U.S.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), 2019



2,000 hours of
clinical rotations



Programs are **27 months or 3 academic years** (bachelor's degree is required for acceptance)



Educated at
MASTER'S DEGREE level

To obtain a license, PAs must:



Graduate from an **accredited PA program**



Pass a **certification exam**

To maintain their certification, PAs must complete:



100 hours of continuing medical education (CME after every two years)

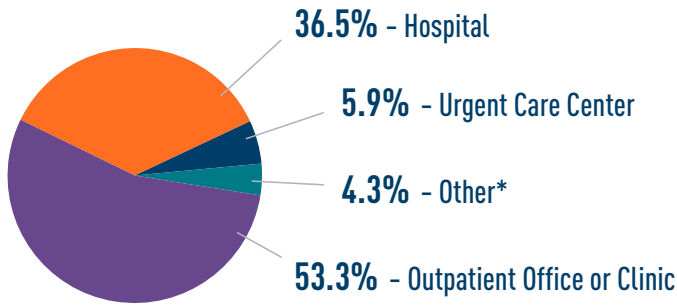


A **recertification exam** every 10 years

CERTIFICATION & LICENSING



PA's practice in every work setting

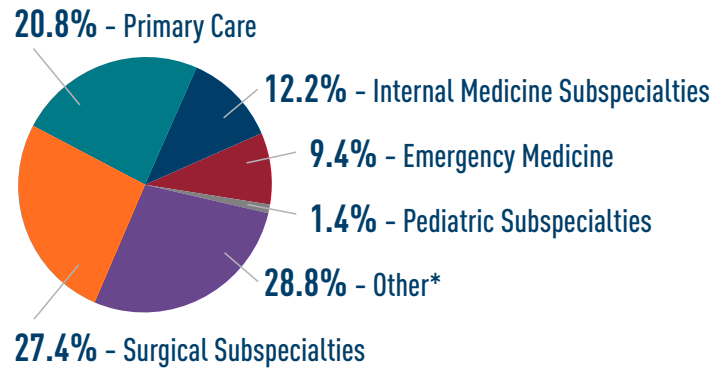


2019 AAPA Salary Survey,
All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

*Other refers to a variety of work settings including but not limited to schools/universities, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and correctional facilities.



PA's practice medicine in all specialties



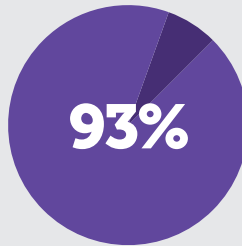
2019 AAPA Salary Survey,
All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

*Other refers to a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, obstetrics and gynecology, addiction medicine, pain management, public health and dermatology.

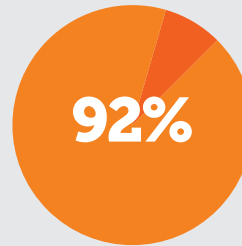
What Patients Say About PAs



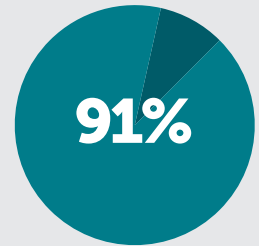
2014 Harris Poll*



PA's are trusted healthcare providers



Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments



PA's improve the quality of healthcare

PA Profession in the News

#3 Best 100 Jobs List
US News & World Report
2020

#2 Best Healthcare Jobs List
US News & World Report
2020

#7 Highest Paying Jobs In America
Forbes
2019

#5 Fastest Growing Jobs In America
Bureau of Labor Statistics
2019



*"Attitudes Toward PAs: A 2014 Survey by the American Academy of PAs." The Harris online survey was conducted September 15–22, 2014 among 1,544 adults age 18 and older living in the US, including an oversample of 680 adults who have seen a PA and/or have accompanied a loved one to see a PA in the past 12 months. For full methodology visit aapa.org/media.