What is a PA?

PAs (physician associates/physician assistants) are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in every specialty and setting. Trusted, rigorously educated and trained healthcare professionals, PAs are dedicated to expanding access to care and transforming health and wellness through patient-centered, team-based medical practice.

**AT A GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PA profession established in</th>
<th>Approximately 159,000 PAs in the U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>NCCPA, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAs have more than</th>
<th>500 MILLION patient interactions per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NCCPA, 2022. All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS**

- **300** PA Programs in the U.S.
  - The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), 2022

- **2,000** hours of clinical rotations

- **27 months or 3 academic years** (bachelor’s degree is required for acceptance)

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**
PAs practice in every work setting

- 50.9% – Outpatient Office or Clinic
- 37.5% – Hospital
- 5.9% – Urgent Care Center
- 13.33% – Other

PAs practice medicine in all specialties

- 28.05% – Surgical Subspecialties
- 25.65% – Other*
- 19.83% – Primary Care
- 13.33% – Internal Medicine Subspecialties
- 7.45% – Emergency Medicine Subspecialties
- 4.04% – No Specialty
- 1.65% – Pediatric Subspecialties

2022 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.

What Patients Say About PAs

- 93% – PAs are trusted healthcare providers
- 92% – Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments
- 91% – PAs improve the quality of healthcare

2014 Harris Poll*

PA Profession in the News

- #3 Best 100 Jobs List
  U.S. News & World Report 2022
- #2 Best Healthcare Jobs List
  U.S. News & World Report 2022
- #3 Best STEM Jobs List
  U.S. News & World Report 2022

**“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.