



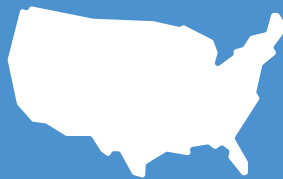
What is a PA?

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

PA profession established in

1967 



Approximately
159,000
PAs in the U.S.

NCCPA, 2022.

PAs have more than

500
MILLION



patient interactions
per year

NCCPA, 2022.
All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS



300 PA Programs in the U.S.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), 2022



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



2,000 hours of clinical rotations



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)

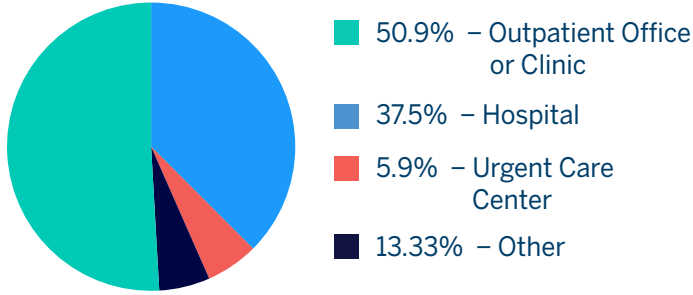


A **recertification exam** every 10 years

CERTIFICATION & LICENSING



PA's practice in every work setting

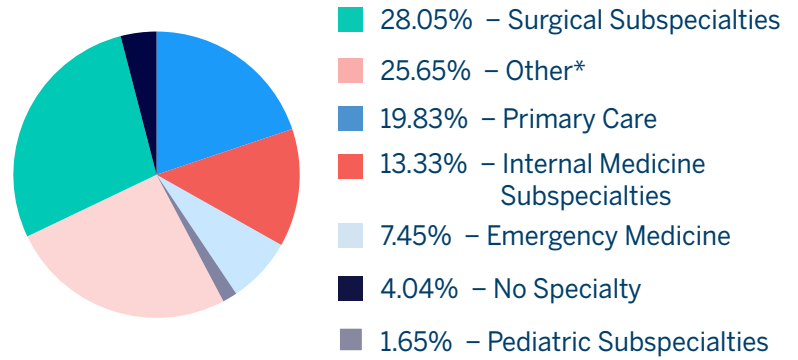


2022 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

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



PA's practice medicine in all specialties

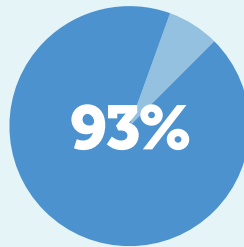


2022 AAPA Salary Survey, All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

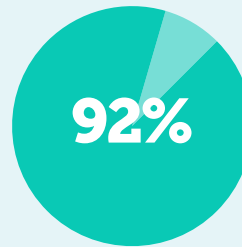
*Other refers to a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, obstetrics and gynecology, addiction medicine, pain management, public health and dermatology.

What Patients Say About PAs

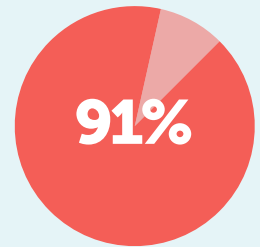
2014 Harris Poll*



PAs are trusted healthcare providers



Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments



PAs improve the quality of healthcare

PA Profession in the News



#4
Best 100 Jobs List

U.S. News & World Report 2023



#2
Best Healthcare Jobs List

U.S. News & World Report 2023



#4
Best STEM Jobs List

U.S. News & World Report 2023



aapa.org

*"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.