Only 18 states were consistent with the ADA in their approach to both physical health and mental health/substance use questions within both the initial and renewal applications (see Figure).

35% of PAs would be reluctant to seek help for a mental health or substance use issue due to concerns about repercussions on licensure, compared to 12% for a physical ailment.

PAs in states whose license applications were inconsistent with the ADA were significantly more likely to be reluctant about seeking help due to licensure concerns (p < .05).

Advocacy is needed to reduce stigma of mental health and substance use, and to modernize licensure applications.

References