

## Introduction

- Advocacy is defined differently amongst PAs.
- PAs advocate effectively for their patients.
- PAs do not advocate for their profession effectively
- Four percent of PAs donate to the Political Action Committee (PAC).
- PA education has recently considered professional advocacy as part of the education curriculum.
- This study was to ascertain thoughts and perceived barriers with professional advocacy for and with PAs.

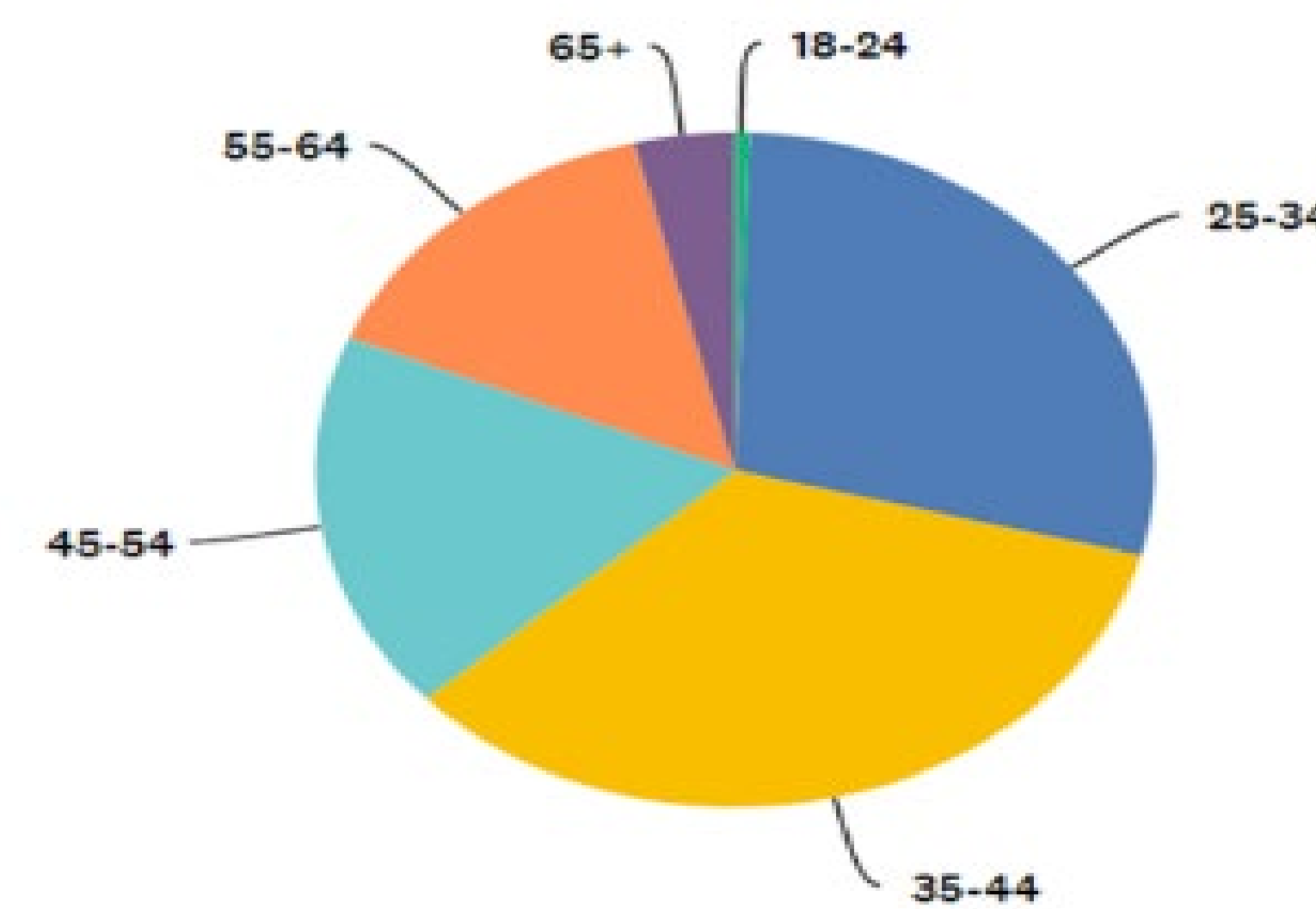
## Methods

- IRB approval was granted from AT Still University
- No prior research findings were discovered regarding PA professional advocacy on an extensive literature search.
- Twenty-five question voluntary electronic survey via social media site frequented by PA only with 100% response rate.
- Participation in the survey served as consent.
- Survey questions included:
- Data analyzed by IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 27).
- Total participants: 361 surveys with 1 exclusion for a sample size total of 360. See table on below for inclusion and exclusion criteria.

**Table 1:** Inclusion and exclusion criteria

<b>Inclusion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Answered yes to being a PA/physician assistant/associate</li> <li>▪ Completed survey</li> </ul>
<b>Exclusions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PA student</li> <li>▪ Answering no to being a physician assistant/associate</li> <li>▪ Incomplete survey</li> </ul>

**Figure 1:** Age range of practicing physician associate respondents



**Table 2:** Percentages of respondents who donate to a PAC by

	Percent
None	65.93
Yes, American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) political action committee (PAC)	11.08
Yes, my state organization political action committee (PAC)	9.42
Yes, both - my state organization political action committee (PAC) and AAPA political action committee (PAC)	11.63
Yes, another state organization political action committee (PAC)	0.83
Yes, my state organization, another state organization, and the AAPA PAC	1.11

Abbreviation: PAC, political action committee; PA, physician assistant

## Results

- Majority (66%) of PAs do not donate to AAPA or state organizations.
- Seventy eight percent of PAs did not receive professional advocacy training during their medical education.
- More PAs are members to the AAPA (75%) than their state organization.
- Majority of respondents were female (75%) and Caucasian (83%).
- Ninety six percent of PAs felt it is their duty to advocate for the patient.
- PAs (79%) state they are able to help patients navigate the health care system.
- PAs that donated to a PAC reached out more frequently to elected officials.

- Fifty three percent stated they were likely to contact an elected official in the future; However, 30% were undecided.

## Conclusion

- Advocacy definition was left up to interpretation of PA.
- PAs felt strongly that professional advocacy should be part of medical education.
- PAs understand opportunities and ability to address the issues despite lack of training.
- PAs know how to advocate for their patients but are unsure how to advocate for their profession.

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