Burnout can have a detrimental impact on both medical providers and patients. We sought to quantify burnout in the PA workforce using a robust national dataset from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). We assessed the association of burnout with PA demographic and practice characteristics and explored burnout as a predictor of intending to leave principal clinical position in the next 12 months while adjusting for covariates.

**Methods**

- NCCPA data from 2021 included responses from 111,726 Certified PAs who worked in at least one clinical position and updated their information or certified that their responses are up-to-date within the past three years.

**Results**

- Overall, 30.6% of Certified PAs had at least one symptom of burnout.
- Almost 8% indicated planning to leave their principal clinical position in the next year.
- In bivariate analyses, all 14 PA demographic and practice characteristics were significantly associated with burnout.
- Strongest predictors of burnout included workload, census divisions, age, specialties and practice settings.
- After controlling for 14 covariates related to PA personal and practice characteristics, having one or more burnout symptoms was associated with over three-and-a-half higher odds of planning to leave principal position in the next 12 months.

**Discussion**

- Burnout levels among providers has been increasing.
- Understanding PAs' burnout levels is vital to ensuring support to optimize their utility, retention, and sustainability to provide high-quality patient care.
- Multivariate analysis revealed that burnout was a strong independent determinant of planning to leave principal clinical position in the next year.

**References**