



# Program Director Characteristics in Emergency Medicine PA Postgraduate Programs



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## BACKGROUND

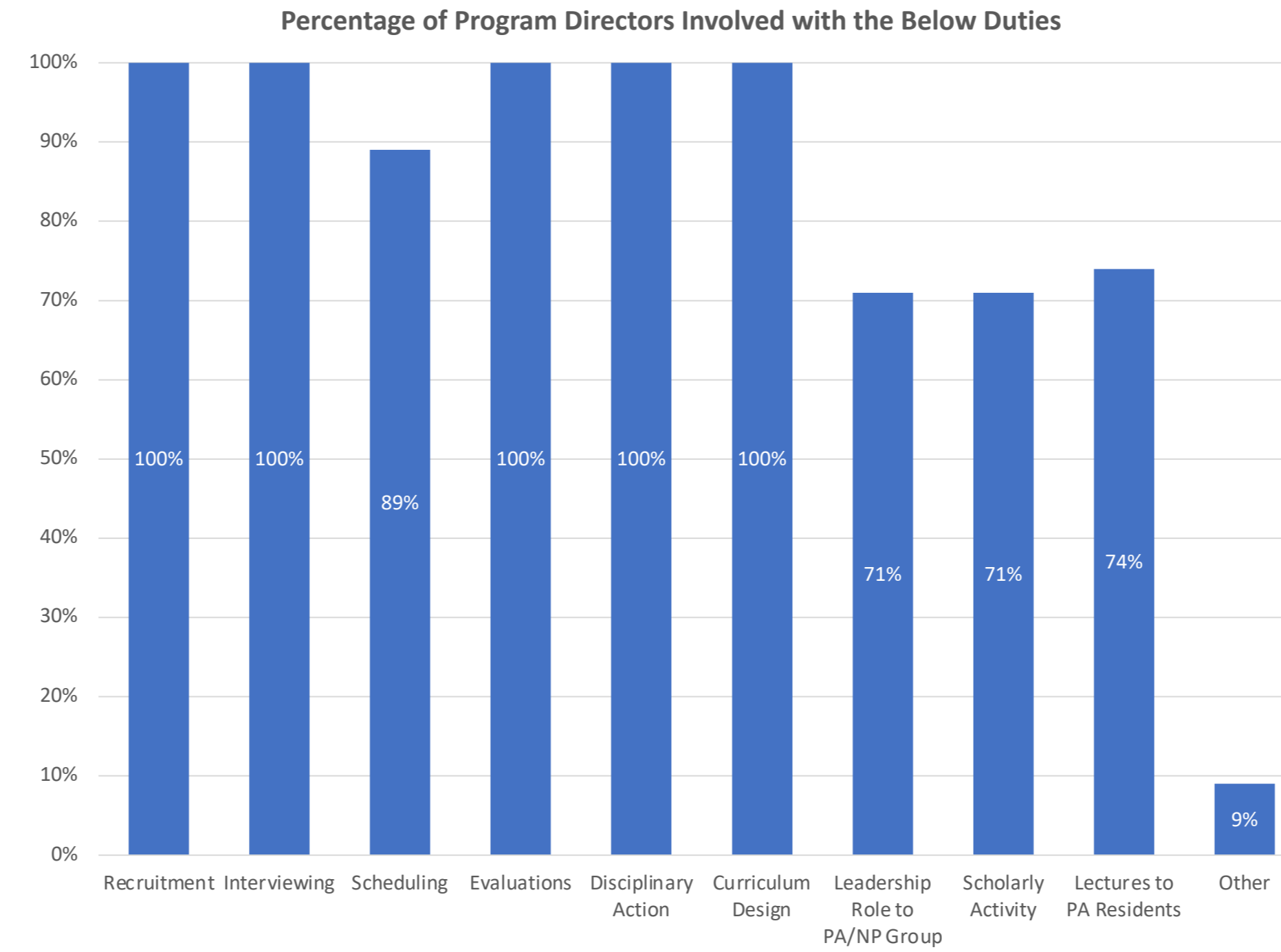
- Physician assistant (PA) postgraduate education programs, commonly referred to as residencies or fellowships, provide PAs the opportunity to advance their education and skills in a specific specialty.
- There has been significant expansion in postgraduate educational opportunities for PAs in emergency medicine.<sup>1</sup>
- Similar to physician postgraduate education, these programs are managed by a program director (PD).
- The PD is responsible for the administrative components of the program.
- Prior research has identified characteristics of emergency medicine physician PDs such as compensation, protected time, job satisfaction, role, and other traits.<sup>2</sup>
- However, little is known about the characteristics of PA PDs (compensation, satisfaction, qualifications, etc.).
- PDs within emergency medicine PA postgraduate programs were surveyed to determine these characteristics.

## METHODOLOGY

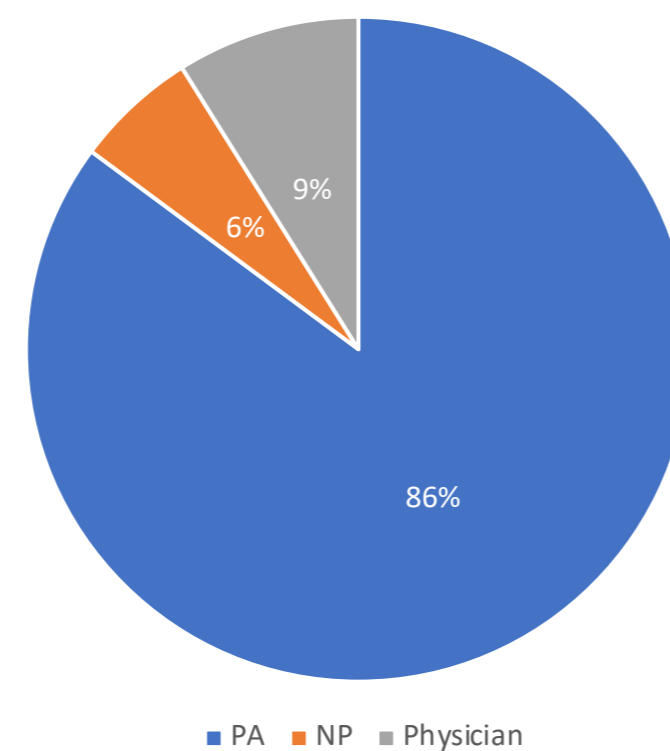
- Emergency medicine PA postgraduate programs were identified by an internet search and by organizational listings.
- A survey was created to determine characteristics of PDs within emergency medicine PA postgraduate programs.
- Qualtrics, an online research survey instrument, hosted the survey.
- PA PDs were sent a link to the voluntary survey with reminder notifications sent twice.
- Descriptive statistics will be performed to analyze the data.

## RESULTS

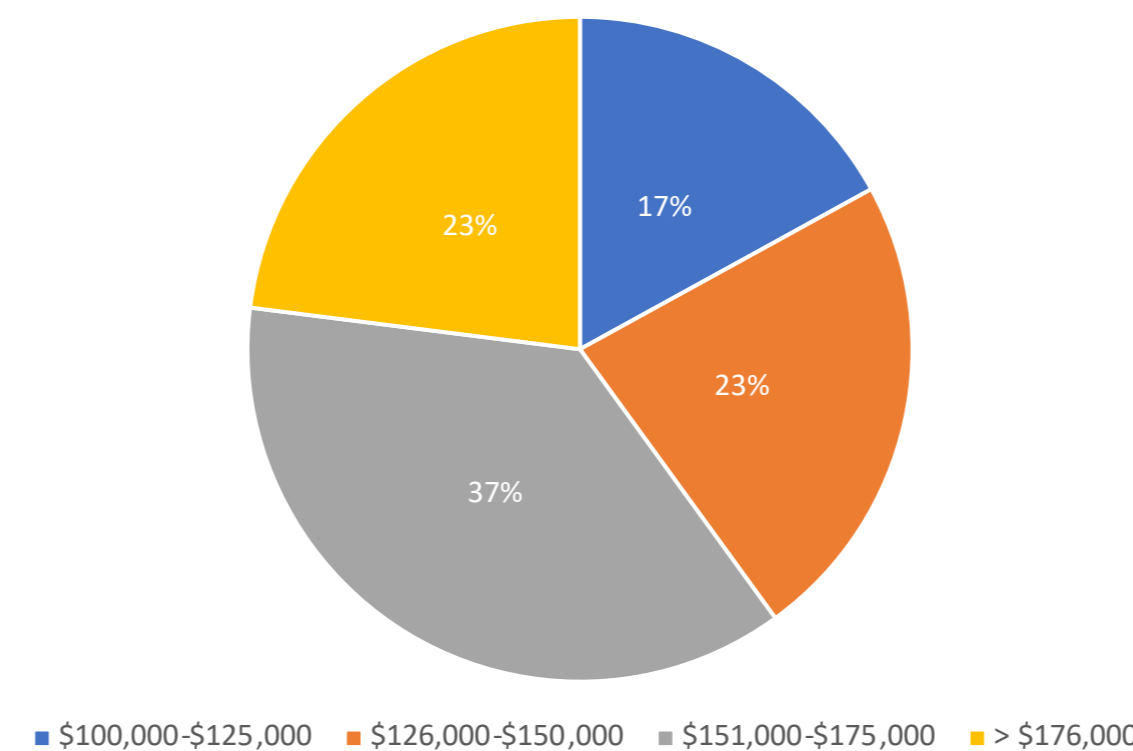
- 54 emergency medicine PA postgraduate programs were identified.
- 65% (35) of the identified programs completed the survey.
- 37% of PDs were employed by hospitals, compared to 31% employed by an university and 23% were employed by contract management groups.
- 57% of respondents were female.
- The majority (63%) of respondents reported serving as PD between 1-5 years.
- Most respondents were based out of the Northeast.
- Most programs (44%) are based out of community teaching hospitals.



Program Director Clinical License



Program Director Annual Salary



## RESULTS cont.

- 86% reported their clinical license as PA and 80% reported their highest degree as a masters.
- Most responding PDs reported 16+ years of clinical experience, perform scholarly activity with protected time, lecture to their learners, have administrative support staff, do not have a faculty appointment, and did not complete a postgraduate program themselves.
- The majority of respondents reported their PD role as 0.25 full-time equivalent.
- 51% reported working between 6-10 clinical shifts per month.
- Most respondents reported their PD duties to include recruitment, interviewing, scheduling, evaluations, curriculum design, disciplinary, and a leadership role within the staff PA/Nurse Practitioner group.
- Most (37%) respondents reported their annual income between \$151,000-\$175,000.
- The majority (66%) of programs are affiliated with a physician residency and 56% oversee a maximum of 2-4 PAs per year.
- Respondents reported an 8.1 average when ranking their happiness as PD on a scale from 1 (least happy) to 10 (most happy).

## CONCLUSIONS

- The majority of responding emergency medicine PA postgraduate programs were hospital based.
- These programs were most often directed by female PAs.
- Most respondents were fairly new to their role as PD, though most reported significant clinical experience.
- Their duties appeared similar to physician faculty but most of the respondents reported not having a faculty appointment.
- Overall, the responding PDs appeared happy in their role.
- The findings in this study may help current and future PDs define their role and expectations.

## REFERENCES

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- Beeson MS, Gerson LW, Weigand JV, Jwayyed S, Kuhn GJ. Characteristics of emergency medicine program directors. *Acad Emerg Med.* 2006;13(2):166-172. doi:10.1197/j.aem.2005.08.010