



AAPA-Morning Consult Survey: Physicians' Attitudes & Perceptions on Physician Associates

The American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) commissioned Morning Consult to conduct online interviews among a national sample of attending physicians from January 2 - 15, 2025. Highlights from the survey are found below.

PHYSICIAN-REPORTED CHALLENGES IN THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

- Physicians rank administrative burdens, insurance, and cost as the top three challenges in the U.S. healthcare system.
 - **Greater autonomy and decision making for healthcare providers is seen as one of the top solutions to address system challenges.**
- Over half of all **physicians say there aren't enough providers to meet overall patient need** in their community – this rises to 57% of physicians when asked about availability of specialty providers in their community.
- **1 in 3 physicians report that their patient load is unmanageable**, and nearly half (47%) report that they do not have enough time to spend with their patients.

PHYSICIAN PERCEPTIONS OF PA PROVIDED CARE

- An overwhelming **9 in 10 physicians say PAs are important to enhancing care delivery.**
- **93% of physicians** who work with PAs agree they help to **expand access to care.**
- **8 in 10 physicians** who work with PAs agree that **PAs provide safe and effective patient care.**
- More than **three-fourths of physicians (78%)** agree PAs are trained and qualified to oversee and supervise healthcare services and staff within their scope of practice.
- **77% of physicians** who work with PAs report **PAs provide cost-effective care.**



PHYSICIAN PERCEPTIONS ON BARRIERS TO PA-PROVIDED CARE

- **A majority of physicians agree that PAs face administrative barriers in providing care.** And the top 5 reasons physicians support modernizing PA practice laws are:
 - Easing provider shortages,
 - Reducing wait times for patients,
 - Providing more access to care in underserved areas,
 - Expanding access to care regardless of the location, and
 - Reducing costs to the healthcare system overall.
- More than half (55%) of **physicians say removing barriers to PA practice would reduce patient wait times.**

THE TRUE NATURE OF THE PA-PHYSICIAN RELATIONSHIP

- **Physicians confirm PAs see patients autonomously in primary and specialty care settings.** Overall, half (49%) report that PAs already see patients autonomously and ask for input when needed.
- **63% of all physicians report they are never or rarely (a few times a year) in the room during PA-patient interactions.**
- **More than 8 in 10 (83%) of physicians report that they spend a quarter or less of their time actively monitoring the PAs they work with.**