



Attitudes Toward Physician Assistants:
A 2014 Survey by the American Academy of PAs
Methodology and Partial Data Set, October 2014

Background and Methodology

In the summer of 2014, the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) commissioned Harris Poll to conduct a survey that measured Americans' attitudes toward and perceptions of physician assistants (PAs) and the healthcare they deliver, along with their personal experiences accessing services from the healthcare industry overall.

The survey was conducted online within the United States between September 15 and 22, 2014, among 1,544 adults age 18+ including 680 adults who have interacted with a PA in the last year (meaning either they personally saw a PA or were present for the visit of someone they care for).

The following data tables provide additional background details to survey results. Percentages may not always add up to 100% because of computer rounding or the acceptance of multiple responses.

Inquiries

For questions regarding this information, please contact the AAPA communications team at communications@aapa.org.

About AAPA

Founded in 1968, the American Academy of PAs is the national professional society for PAs. It represents a profession of more than 123,000 PAs across all medical and surgical specialties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories with the exception of Puerto Rico. Since the profession's inception, PAs have also practiced within the uniformed services. AAPA advocates and educates on behalf of the profession and the patients PAs serve. It works to ensure the professional growth, personal excellence and recognition of PAs and to enhance their ability to improve the quality, accessibility and cost-effectiveness of patient-centered healthcare.

Visit www.aapa.org to learn more.



ALL US RESPONDENTS 18+

Q203 Thinking about your personal experiences accessing healthcare services, what do you think is working well?
Please select up to three items you think are working well from the list below.

	Total
BASE	1544
ANY (NET)	85%
I have good insurance coverage.	26%
I found a primary healthcare provider who I like and trust.	24%
My chosen healthcare providers are covered by my insurance plan.	21%
I can get an appointment when I need one.	21%
My healthcare provider takes the time that is needed to fully answer my questions.	18%
I have a good choice of healthcare providers where I live.	16%
I trust the advice and treatment recommendations made by my healthcare providers.	16%
The cost I have to pay is reasonable.	16%
I feel like I can be totally honest with all of my healthcare providers.	13%
It's easy and convenient for me to get to my healthcare providers.	13%
I can see whichever healthcare providers I want to without a referral.	11%
I don't have to wait too long in the waiting room to see my healthcare providers.	11%
My healthcare provider understands all of my health issues.	8%
My healthcare providers make good use of my time.	7%
My healthcare is coordinated among all of my providers (i.e., I rarely have to get duplicate tests or tell different providers the same information).	6%
Other	1%
None of the above	15%



BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENT AND HAS SEEN A PA IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Q550 How much do you agree or disagree with the following?

SUMMARY TABLE OF TOP 2 “AGREE” BOXES (NET): INCLUDES A SELECTION OF KEY FINDINGS

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
PAs are trusted healthcare providers.	93%
PAs provide excellent patient service.	93%
PAs are going to be part of the solution to address the shortage of healthcare providers.	93%
PAs add value to healthcare teams.	93%
PAs improve health outcomes for patients.	91%
PAs improve the quality of healthcare.	91%

INDIVIDUAL TABLES

PAs add value to healthcare teams.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	93%
(4) Strongly agree	55%
(3) Somewhat agree	38%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	7%
(2) Somewhat disagree	6%
(1) Strongly disagree	1%

PAs are trusted healthcare providers.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	93%
(4) Strongly agree	48%
(3) Somewhat agree	45%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	7%
(2) Somewhat disagree	5%
(1) Strongly disagree	1%



PAs improve the quality of healthcare.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	91%
(4) Strongly agree	44%
(3) Somewhat agree	47%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	9%
(2) Somewhat disagree	8%
(1) Strongly disagree	1%

PAs provide excellent patient service.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	93%
(4) Strongly agree	51%
(3) Somewhat agree	42%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	7%
(2) Somewhat disagree	5%
(1) Strongly disagree	2%

PAs are going to be part of the solution to address the shortage of healthcare providers.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	93%
(4) Strongly agree	53%
(3) Somewhat agree	40%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	7%
(2) Somewhat disagree	5%
(1) Strongly disagree	2%



PAs improve health outcomes for patients.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	91%
(4) Strongly agree	42%
(3) Somewhat agree	49%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	9%
(2) Somewhat disagree	7%
(1) Strongly disagree	2%

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENT AND HAS SEEN A PA IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Q551 How much do you agree or disagree with the following?

SUMMARY TABLE OF TOP 2 BOX (NET): LISTS THE TOP 7 RESPONSES

	Has Seen a PA
BASE	680
PAs explain things about my health or treatment in ways I/my loved one understand.	93%
Having a PA at a practice makes it easier for a patient to get an appointment.	92%
I/my loved one has a good relationship with the PA/PAs I/they see.	91%
The healthcare I/my loved one receives from PAs focuses on my needs and values/loved one's needs and values.	90%
I/my loved one can count on high quality services every time I/my loved one see(s) a PA.	87%
PAs increase my satisfaction as a patient/loved one's satisfaction as a patient.	83%
The PA/PAs I/my loved one have seen have educated me about how to stay well and prevent illness.	82%



PAs increase my satisfaction as a patient/loved one's satisfaction as a patient.

	Has Seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	83%
(4) Strongly agree	34%
(3) Somewhat agree	50%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	17%
(2) Somewhat disagree	13%
(1) Strongly disagree	4%

PAs explain things about my health or treatment in ways I/my loved one understand.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	93%
(4) Strongly agree	42%
(3) Somewhat agree	51%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	7%
(2) Somewhat disagree	5%
(1) Strongly disagree	2%

Having a PA at a practice makes it easier for a patient to get an appointment.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	92%
(4) Strongly agree	49%
(3) Somewhat agree	42%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	8%
(2) Somewhat disagree	5%
(1) Strongly disagree	3%



I/my loved one has a good relationship with the PA/PAs I/they see.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	91%
(4) Strongly agree	45%
(3) Somewhat agree	46%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	9%
(2) Somewhat disagree	8%
(1) Strongly disagree	1%

The PA/PAs I/my loved one have seen have educated me about how to stay well and prevent illness.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	82%
(4) Strongly agree	35%
(3) Somewhat agree	47%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	18%
(2) Somewhat disagree	14%
(1) Strongly disagree	4%

The healthcare I/my loved one receives from PAs focuses on my needs and values/loved one's needs and values.

	Has seen a PA
BASE	680
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	90%
(4) Strongly agree	40%
(3) Somewhat agree	50%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	10%
(2) Somewhat disagree	7%
(1) Strongly disagree	4%