What is a PA?

PAs are medical providers who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare professional. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

AT A GLANCE

PA profession established in

1967

131,000+

PAs in the U.S.

NCCPA, 2018

PAs have more than

400 MILLION

patient interactions per year

*2018 AAPA Salary Survey,
All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.*

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

238 PA Programs in the U.S.
The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), 2019

2,000 hours of clinical rotations

Programs are **27 months or 3 academic years** (bachelor's degree is required for acceptance)

Educated at **MASTER'S DEGREE** level

CERTIFICATION & LICENSING

To obtain a license, PAs must:

Graduate from an **accredited PA program**

Pass a **certification exam**

To maintain their certification, PAs must complete:

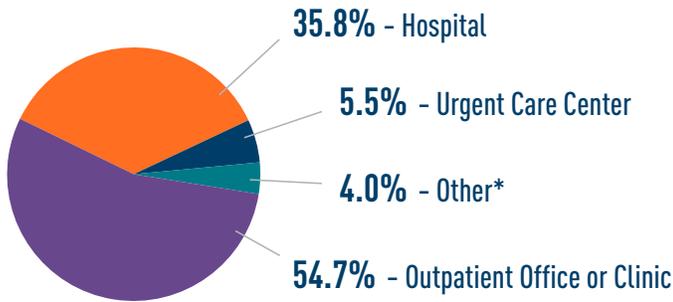**100 hours** of continuing medical education (CME every two years)

A **recertification exam** every 10 years

PAs practice in every work setting

35.8% - Hospital

5.5% - Urgent Care Center

4.0% - Other*

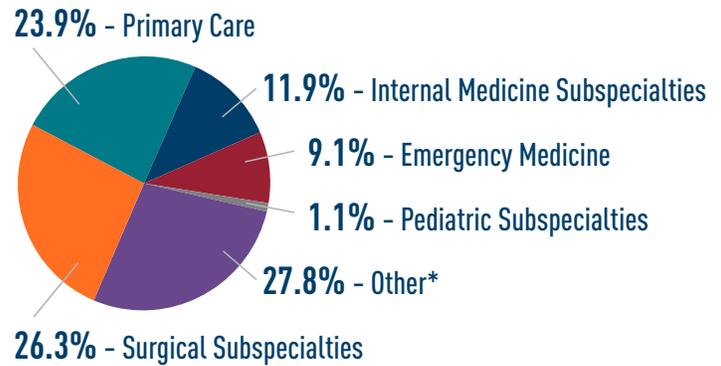54.7% - Outpatient Office or Clinic

*2018 AAPA Salary Survey,
All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.*

*Other refers to a variety of work settings including but not limited to schools/universities, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and correctional facilities.

PAs practice medicine in all specialties

23.9% - Primary Care

11.9% - Internal Medicine Subspecialties

9.1% - Emergency Medicine

1.1% - Pediatric Subspecialties

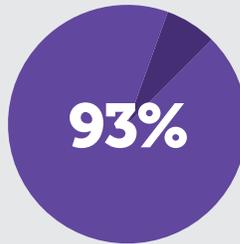27.8% - Other*

26.3% - Surgical Subspecialties

*2018 AAPA Salary Survey,
All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.*

*Other refers to a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, obstetrics and gynecology, addiction medicine, pain management, public health and dermatology.
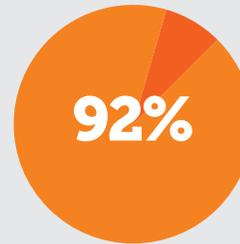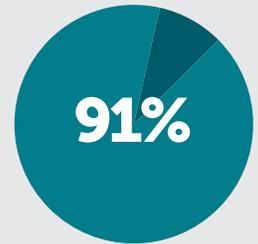
What Patients Say About PAs

*2014 Harris Poll**

93% PAs are trusted healthcare providers

92% Having a PA makes it easier to get medical appointments

91% PAs improve the quality of healthcare

PA Profession in the News

#3 **Best 100 Jobs List**
US News & World Report
2019

#1 **Best Healthcare Jobs List**
US News & World Report
2019

#7 **Highest Paying Jobs In America**
Forbes
2018

#5 **Fastest Growing Jobs In America**
Bureau of Labor Statistics
2018

AAPA | aapa.org

Updated January 2019