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**NUMBER OF CERTIFIED PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS GROWS OVER 35 PERCENT IN FIVE YEARS**  
***PAs Caring for Over 7 Million Patients Weekly Across Every State and Specialty***

**Johns Creek, GA, April 1, 2016** – A just released report representing data from over 93 percent of all certified PAs in the U.S. points to rapid growth in the profession, which currently has almost 109,000 certified PAs practicing across every state, specialty and clinical setting. Highlights of the [2015 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants](#) include:

- Over 70 percent of certified PAs work in specialties outside of primary care, including over 18 percent in surgical subspecialties and 13 percent in emergency medicine.
- The states with the largest number of PAs per capita are Alaska, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Maine and New York, showing that they are in high demand in both populous and rural areas.
- It is a young profession and the median age of certified PAs is 38.
- Over 22 percent of PAs communicate with patients in a second language. Over 81 percent of those PAs are speaking to patients in Spanish.
- Full time PAs treat an average of 75 patients a week in their principal clinical position. All PAs cumulatively care for over 7 million patients weekly.
- More than 13 percent of certified PAs work in a second clinical position, averaging 10 hours a week and treating 22 patients in that position.

The report, released by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), is the most comprehensive data available anywhere, with profile information compiled from over 101,000 certified PAs.

“What it tells us is that certified PAs are an integral part of today’s healthcare system, opening up much-needed access to care for all populations,” says Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C, president and CEO of NCCPA. “The ever increasing demand, as evidenced by the fact that PA degree programs are expected to grow from 199 today to 273 in 2020, means that certified PAs will continue to step up and fill the healthcare gaps wherever they exist. “

**About the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants**

The [National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants \(NCCPA\)](#) is the only certifying organization for physician assistants (PAs) in the United States. The PA-C credential is awarded by NCCPA to PAs who fulfill certification, certification maintenance and recertification requirements. There are more than 108,500 certified PAs in the U.S. today. For additional information visit [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)

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