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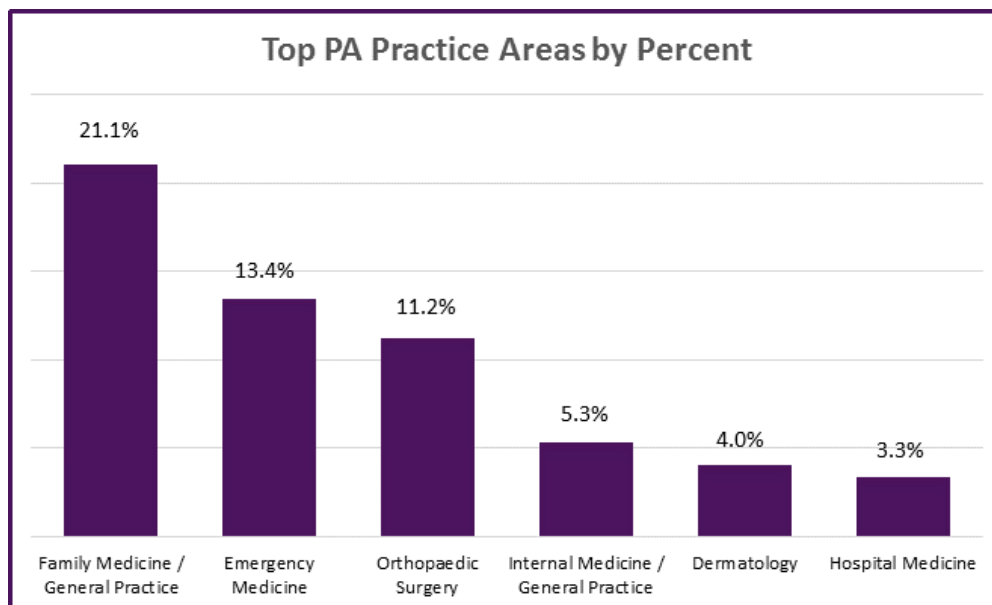
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**NCCPA ANNOUNCES FIRST-EVER WORKFORCE DATA ON
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN 22 SPECIALTIES**
Over 70% of PAs work in specialties other than primary care

Johns Creek, GA, July 13, 2016 – A first-ever practice specialty report, representing data from over 93% of the 108,500 certified physician assistants (PAs) in the U.S., shows that more than 70% now work in non-primary care specialties. The report, developed by the [National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants](#) (NCCPA), also confirms that PAs in all specialties fulfill an important role in improving health care access for patients on Medicaid and Medicare.

The [2015 Statistical Report of Certified Physician Assistants by Specialty](#) includes data on all PAs as compared to those in 22 distinct specialties.

- There are 103 certified PAs for every 1,000 physicians in the U.S., with notably higher ratios in surgical subspecialties (374 PAs for every 1,000 physicians), emergency medicine (291 PAs per 1,000 physicians), and dermatology (275 PAs per 1,000 physicians).



- The median percentage of patients treated by certified PAs in all specialties includes:
 - 30% Medicare patients. PAs in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery see the most Medicare patients (50%) followed by oncology and urology (40%).
 - 20% Medicaid patients. PAs in general pediatrics have the highest percent of Medicaid patients (55%), followed by psychiatry (40%) and obstetrics and gynecology (35%).
 - 10% of patients who do not pay; PAs in emergency medicine provide the most uncompensated care — to 15% of patients.
- Certified PAs in all specialties work an average of 41 hours a week, and over 35% also take call, with the highest call hours in the surgical subspecialties. This corresponds with higher numbers of hours worked in these subspecialties. For example, over 49% of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery PAs work more than 10 hours a week on call and have an average workweek of 47 hours.
- For most of their patients, over 80% of all PAs order, perform and interpret lab tests, x-rays, EKGs and other diagnostic studies; over 81% prescribe medication; and over 78% counsel and educate patients and families.
- While physicians in many specialty areas are nearing retirement age, the median age of certified PAs is 38. As a young profession, only 0.6% plan to retire in 2016.

The report, just released by the NCCPA, is the most comprehensive data available anywhere on PA specialty workforce data.

“The numbers of patients where the payer is Medicare or Medicaid, or where the PA is uncompensated, shows once again how certified PAs contribute greatly to health care equity,” says Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C, president and CEO of NCCPA. “Also, the high percentage of certified PAs employed in surgical subspecialties demonstrates the high degree of trust and confidence that surgeons have in them, relying on certified PAs to perform procedures, provide pre-op and post-op care and serve as first and second assist to the surgeon in the operating room.”

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.

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Note to Editors: For graphics from the report, please contact Mary Rittle at maryr@nccpa.net