



TEXAS ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

TAPA

TEXAS ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

TAPA was established as a non-profit organization in February 1975

PAs function in team-based care with physicians as provided in the Medical Practice Act and the Physician Assistant Practice Act

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

There are currently 6447 licensed PAs in Texas.

Trained in the medical model.

National Certification-retest every 10 years

Practice in all medical settings.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Physician assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision

As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and write prescriptions

Within the physician-PA relationship, physician assistants make medical decisions and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services

A PA's practice may also include education, research, and administrative services

Source: Texas Academy of Physician Assistants website

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT TRAINING

PAs are trained in intensive education programs accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)

PAs are educated in the **medical model** designed to complement physician training.

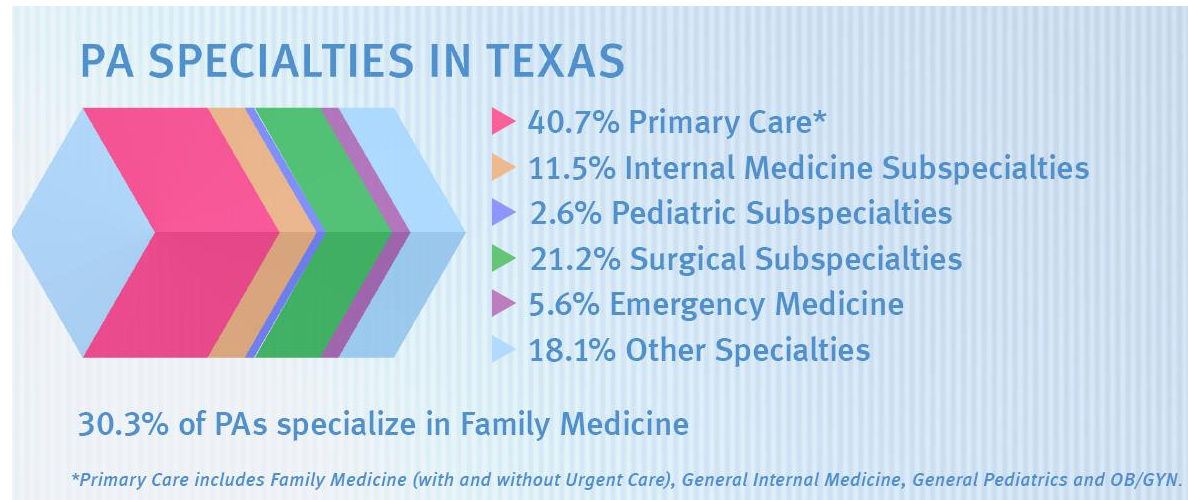
PAs take a national certification examination developed by the National Commission on Certification of PAs (NCCPA)

To maintain certification, PAs must log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and sit for a recertification every ten years

Graduation from an accredited physician assistant program and passage of the national certifying exam are required for state licensure

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Physician assistants (PAs) are found in all areas of medicine. They practice in the areas of primary care medicine - that is family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology -- as well in surgery and the surgical subspecialties.



Source: Texas Academy of Physician Assistants website
American Academy of Physician Assistants

PHYSICIANS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Physicians who have worked with physician assistants like having PAs on staff

The American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Physicians, and other national medical organizations support the physician assistant profession by actively supporting the PA certifying commission and the PA program accrediting agency

Federal Government studies have shown that PAs working with the supervision of physicians provide care that is comparable to physician care. The Eighth Report to the President and Congress on the Status of Health Personnel in the United States (released in 1992) states, "**Physician assistants have demonstrated their clinical effectiveness both in terms of quality of care and patient acceptance.**"

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE

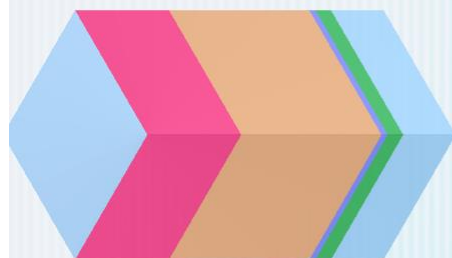
The Texas Physician Assistant Board issues a physician assistant license to qualified individuals to practice in Texas

In addition to a license, physician assistants in Texas must practice under the supervision of one or more supervising physicians, and if prescribing drugs, must have a prescriptive delegation agreement with their supervising physician(s)

The Licensure Department of the Texas Physician Assistant Board is committed to furthering the mission of the Board by ensuring quality healthcare for the citizens of Texas by upholding the standards set in statute and Board Rule, and by efficiently processing licensure applications.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN TEXAS

PA SETTINGS IN TEXAS



- ▶ 30.1% Hospital Settings*
- ▶ 44.6% Physician Group and Solo Practice
- ▶ 2.1% Community Health Center
- ▶ 4.5% Certified Rural Health Clinic
- ▶ 17.3% Other Settings

5.7% of PAs work in Hospital Emergency Departments

**Hospital Settings include Hospital Emergency Department, Inpatient Unit, Operating Room, Intensive/Critical Care Unit, Outpatient Unit and Other Units of Hospitals.*

WHO DOES THE TYPICAL PA HELP IN TEXAS?

- ▶ 61-70 patients per week
- ▶ 17.2% of patients are uninsured
- ▶ 20.0% of patients are Medicaid beneficiaries
- ▶ 27.8% of patients are Medicare beneficiaries
- ▶ 10.2% of patients are dual-eligible
- ▶ 19.1% of patients live in rural areas

SOURCE: American Academy of Physician Assistants Census Data

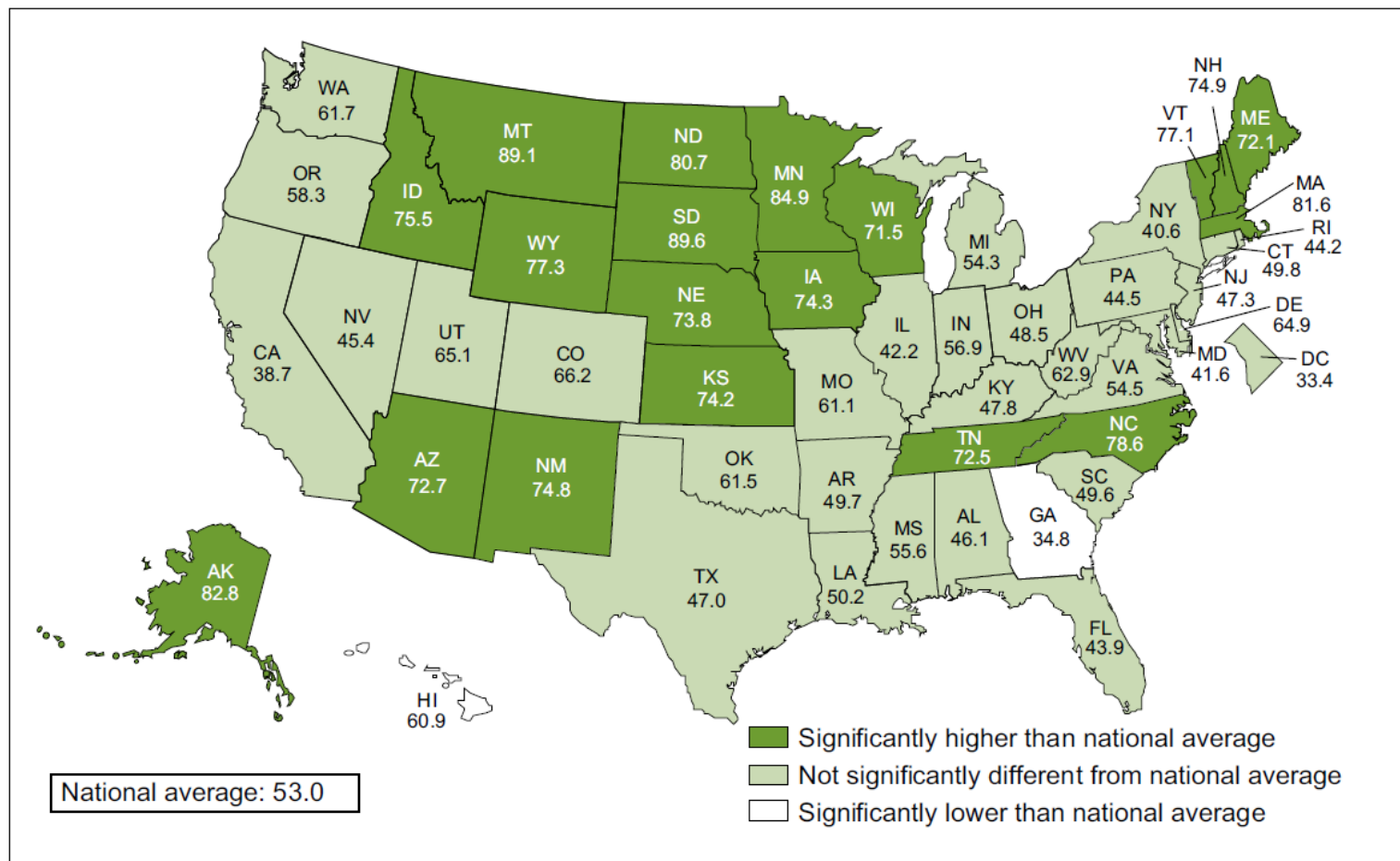
PA PROGRAMS AND GRADUATES IN TEXAS

| PA PROGRAM | TOTAL | AVERAGE GRADUATES PER YEAR |
|---|-------|----------------------------|
| Baylor College of Medicine | 120 | 40 |
| Texas Tech University PA Program, Midland | 180 | 60 |
| University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth | 210 | 70 |
| University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg | 150 | 50 |
| University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio | 135 | 45 |
| University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston | 270 | 90 |
| University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas | 108 | 36 |
| Total | 1173 | 391 |

Approximately 88% of Texas PA graduates remain in Texas to practice

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN TEXAS, WORKING WITH PAS

Figure 3. Percentage of office-based primary care physicians with physician assistants or nurse practitioners in their practices: United States, 2012

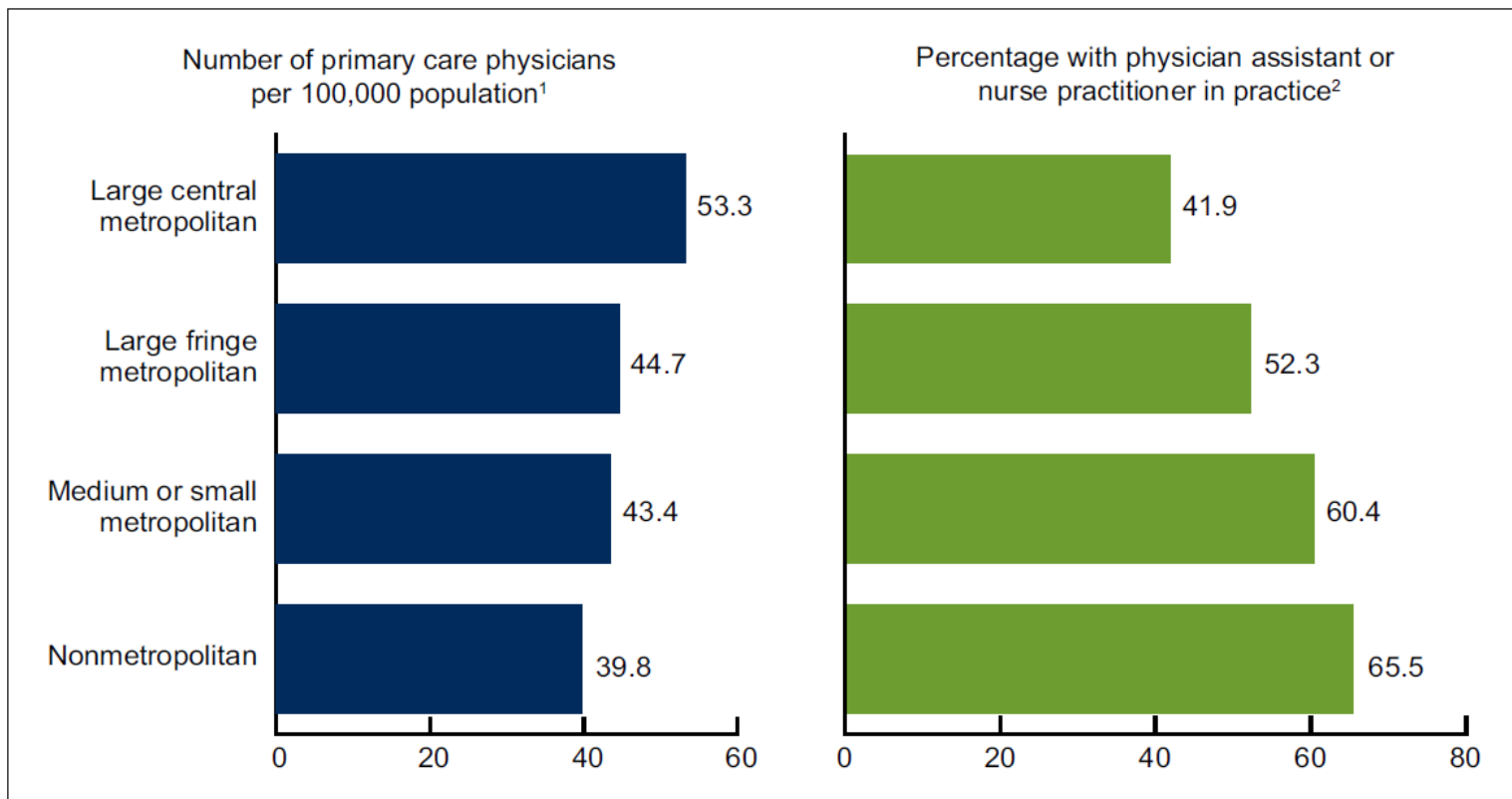


NOTES: Primary care physicians include those in family and general practice, internal medicine, geriatrics, and pediatrics. Data omit 2.8% of physicians for whom information on physician assistants or nurse practitioners was missing. Significance was tested at the $p < 0.05$ level.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, Electronic Health Records Survey.

PHYSICIANS IN RURAL AREAS RELY ON PAS

Figure 4. Availability of primary care physicians and percentage of primary care physicians working with physician assistants or nurse practitioners, by urbanicity of physician's office location: United States, 2012



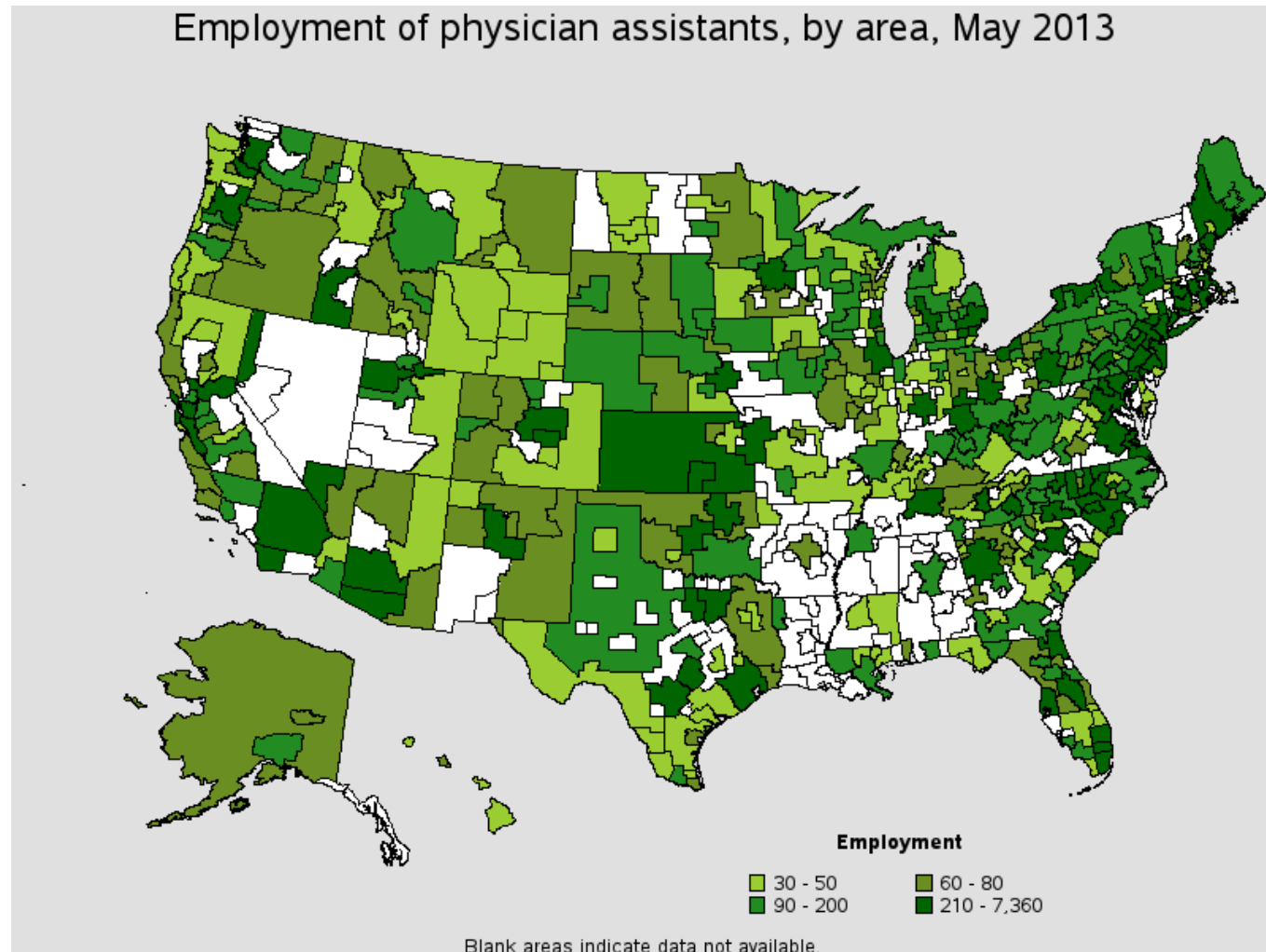
¹Significant increasing linear trend by urbanicity ($p < 0.05$).

²Significant association between percentage with physician assistant or nurse practitioner and urbanicity ($p < 0.05$).

NOTES: Primary care physicians include those in family and general practice, internal medicine, geriatrics, and pediatrics. Data omit 2.8% of physicians for whom information on physician assistants or nurse practitioners was missing.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, Electronic Health Records Survey.

OPPORTUNITY TO INCENTIVIZE PAS TO MOVE INTO MORE COUNTIES IN TEXAS



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

WORK FORCE SHORTAGE

PROJECTED SHORTAGE:

38% Projected increase in demand for physician assistants over the next eight years

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

WORK FORCE SHORTAGE

2011-2016 Texas State Health Plan:

Called for increasing MD services by the use of PAs and NPs, and preparing faculty for their roles in higher education

2009 publication of the Texas Health Care Policy

Called for greater use of PAs and NPs to alleviate the shortage of physicians and increase access to care.

SOLUTIONS FOR TEXAS HEALTH CARE

Increase the number of PA Graduates

Increase the number of PA programs

Increased funding to support and expand existing PA programs

- Preceptors**
- Clinical Training Sites**

Incentivize PAs to continue to practice in rural areas and critical access specialties with loan forgiveness programs

Strengthen the physician-PA team by reducing needless regulatory burdens