



# What is a PA?

Physician associates/physician assistants (PAs) are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in every specialty and setting. Trusted, rigorously educated and trained healthcare professionals, PAs are dedicated to expanding access to care and transforming health and wellness through patient-centered, team-based medical practice.

## AT A GLANCE

PA profession established in

**1967**



Approximately

**178,700**

PAs in the U.S.

*NCCPA 2024*

North Carolina PAs typically complete

**60**

patient interactions per week

*AAPA 2024 Salary Survey*

**10,000+**  
PAs in North Carolina

*North Carolina Medical Board (NCMB)*



Number of PA programs in North Carolina

**12**

TO OBTAIN A LICENSE, PAs MUST:



Graduate from an accredited PA program



Pass a certification exam

TO MAINTAIN THEIR NCCPA CERTIFICATION, PAs MUST COMPLETE:



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

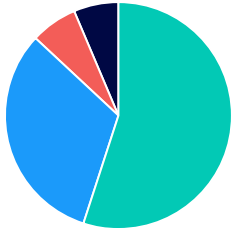


A recertification exam every 10 years

## CERTIFICATION & LICENSING



## PAs practice in every work setting in North Carolina



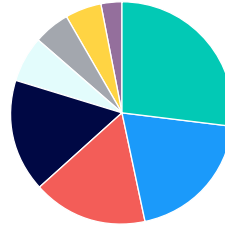
- 55.2% – Physician Office or Clinic
- 32% – Hospital Settings
- 6.6% – Urgent Care Center
- 6.2% – Other Settings

2024 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 in North Carolina



- 27% – All Other Specialties
- 19.7% – Surgical Subspecialties
- 16.7% – Family Medicine
- 16.5% – Internal Medicine Subspecialties
- 6.6% – Urgent Care Center
- 5.4% – Emergency Medicine
- 5.1% – General Peds, General IM
- 3% – No Specialty

2024 AAPA Salary Survey,  
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*\*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.*

# IN NORTH CAROLINA

**12.9%** of PAs serve in rural areas

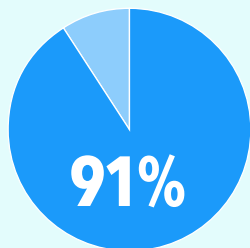
A typical PA is on call

**38** hours per month

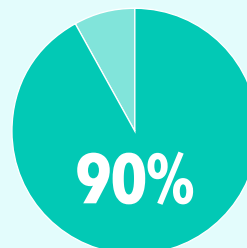
**44.2%** of PAs are employed by a physician group or Solo Practice

**21.7%** of PAs specialize in primary care

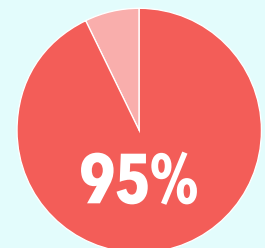
## WHAT PATIENTS SAY ABOUT PAS



Agree PAs are part of the solution to healthcare workforce shortages



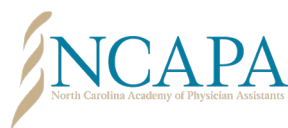
PAs improve health outcomes for patients



PAs add value to healthcare teams



American Academy of Physician Associates



North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants

*\*The research was conducted online in the U.S. by The Harris Poll on behalf of AAPA among 2,519 adults age 18+. The survey was conducted from February 23 – March 9, 2023. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.*