

# **Analysis of Open Payment Database for Physician Assistants: Demonstrating Gender Parity in General Payments**

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Nebraska  
Medicine

# Study Team

- Christine C Land MPAS PA-C
- Jacqueline M Jaramillo APRN
- Brooke J Fitzpatrick BA, MPH and PhD student
- Collin Dougherty BS
- Juan Santamaria-Barria MD



# Disclosures

No significant disclosures pertaining to this discussion  
No funding

- Christine Land, Jacqueline Jaramillo, Brooke Fitzpatrick, and Collin Dougherty have no disclosures
- **Juan Santamaria-Barria**
  - Food and beverage from Sientra, Axogen, Hologic, Agendia

**Juan Antonio Santamaria**

**Physician**

National Provider Identifier (NPI) - 1134474141

Allopathic & Osteopathic Physicians | Surgery

111 N 175TH ST  
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# Background

- Affordable Care Act 2010
  - Changes to US healthcare system including need for transparency
- Sunshine Act/Open Payments 2015
  - Anything valued more than \$10 tracked and reported by industry GPO (group purchasing organization)
  - CMS annually publishes data from year prior



# Background:

**Search by type**

Individual Provider ⓘ  Teaching Hospital  Company

**Provider First Name**

**Provider Last Name**

**Country**

**City**

**State**

**Zip/Postal code**

**Provider Type** ⓘ

**Provider Specialty** ⓘ

**National Provider Identifier** ⓘ

**Physicians**

**Non-Physician Providers**

[T](#) Search tool searches millions of records. For some searches the results will take some time to load; please be patient.

[ⓘ Tips for refining your search.](#)

OpenPaymentsData.CMS.gov



# Background

- Inclusion of Non-Physician Providers added in 2021
  - Physician Assistants/Associates
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Certified Nurse Midwives
  - CRNAs (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist)
  - Anesthesiology Assistants



# Background: Prior Publications

- Physician Reporting began 2013
- Types and Distribution of Payments from Industry to Physicians in 2015
  - \$2.4 billion dollars in 2015 to physicians
  - Higher payments to surgeons vs primary care
  - Higher payments to men vs women

## Types and Distribution of Payments From Industry to Physicians in 2015

Kathryn R. Tringale, BS<sup>1</sup>; Deborah Marshall, MAS, MD<sup>2</sup>; Tim K. Mackey, PhD<sup>3</sup>, et al

» Author Affiliations | Article Information

JAMA. 2017;317(17):1774-1784. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.3091

Tringale KR, Marshall D, Mackey TK, Connor M, Murphy JD, Hattangadi-Gluth JA. Types and Distribution of Payments From Industry to Physicians in 2015. *JAMA*. 2017;317(17):1774-1784. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.3091



# Background: Prior Publications

- Comparison of Physician Payments and Advanced Practice Clinicians
  - APPs majority from food and beverage; physicians wider variety of services

## Comparison of Industry Payments to Physicians and Advanced Practice Clinicians

Audrey D. Zhang, MD<sup>1</sup>; Timothy S. Anderson, MD, MAS<sup>2</sup>

Zhang AD, Anderson TS. Comparison of Industry Payments to Physicians and Advanced Practice Clinicians. *JAMA*. 2022;328(24):2452-2455. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.20794





# Background: Prior Publications

- Evaluation of Industry Payments to US Advanced Practice Clinicians in 2021
  - Higher value of payments in regions of lesser restrictions to APPs

JAMA  
Network **Open**™

Original Investigation | Health Policy

Evaluation of Industry Payments to US Advanced Practice Clinicians in 2021

Armaan Singh, BA; Max J. Hyman, BA; Parth K. Modi, MD, MS

Singh A, Hyman MJ, Modi PK. Evaluation of Industry Payments to US Advanced Practice Clinicians in 2021. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2022;5(11):e2242869. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.42869



# Background: Prior Publications

- Geographic Distribution of General Industry Payments to Advanced Practice Clinicians
  - Found payments to APPs were highly variable by state



Qiwei Wilton Sun, Joseph J Cavallo, Howard P Forman, Geographic distribution of general industry payments to advanced-practice clinicians, *Health Affairs Scholar*, Volume 1, Issue 1, July 2023, qxad011, <https://doi.org/10.1093/haschl/qxad011>



# Statistics of Physician Assistants in 2022

- Total PAs in US 2022 – 168,318 per NCCCPA annual report
- Top 5 states with highest number of PAs:
  - New York
  - California
  - Florida
  - Texas
  - Pennsylvania



# Statistics of Physician Assistants in 2022

- Gender Distribution:
  - Male 29.3%
  - Female 70.3%

**NCCCPA**  
Certification. Excellence.<sup>®</sup>  
**Statistical Profile of Board Certified PAs**  
ANNUAL REPORT

Gender	2022 Percent	Percent Change 2018-2022*
Male	29.3%	-1.9%
Female	70.6%	1.8%
Non-binary**	<0.1%	NA
Prefer not to answer**	<0.1%	NA

\*Percent change reflects proportional change from 2018 to 2022.

\*\*Gender identity choice first included in 2021.

[www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)



# Study Objectives

- To understand the landscape of physician assistants receiving payments from drug and medical device companies during 2021 and 2022
- To learn if gender payment parity exists between men and women physician assistants



# Methods

- All payment data collected for PAs with NPI number for 2021 and 2022 reporting years
  - Provider name
  - NPI Number
  - Location of practice
  - Yearly amount collected from the open payments database
- (Gender not provided within this database)



# Landscape of Payments 2021/2022

Landscape of Payments to Physician Assistants in 2021 and 2022	
Total Payments	\$91,296,747
Mean Payment	\$38.09
Number of Recipients	90,410
Total Payments (Highly Paid >\$5k)	\$42,270,637
Mean Payment (Highly Paid >\$5k)	\$106.94
Number of Recipients (Highly Paid >\$5k)	1,867



# Nature of General Payments

1. Acquisition
2. Charitable contribution
3. Contribution for non-consulting services
4. Compensation for serving as faculty or speaker for medical educational program
5. Consulting fees
6. Current or prospective ownership or investment interest
7. Debt forgiveness
8. Education
9. Entertainment
10. Food and Beverage
11. Gift
12. Grant
13. Honoraria
14. Long term medical supply or device loan
15. Research
16. Royalty or license
17. Space rental or facility fees
18. Travel or lodging

Newly added in 2021  
Considered as research dollars





## Methods: Highly Compensated

- Considered to be if individual PA had total of more than \$5,000 in a year
- This subset was reviewed further and gender was assigned to look at gender parity



# Methods: Gender Assignment

- Gender API
  - Gives percentage for certainty of gender based off name
- Manual Online Search
  - If certainty of gender from name was less than 75%

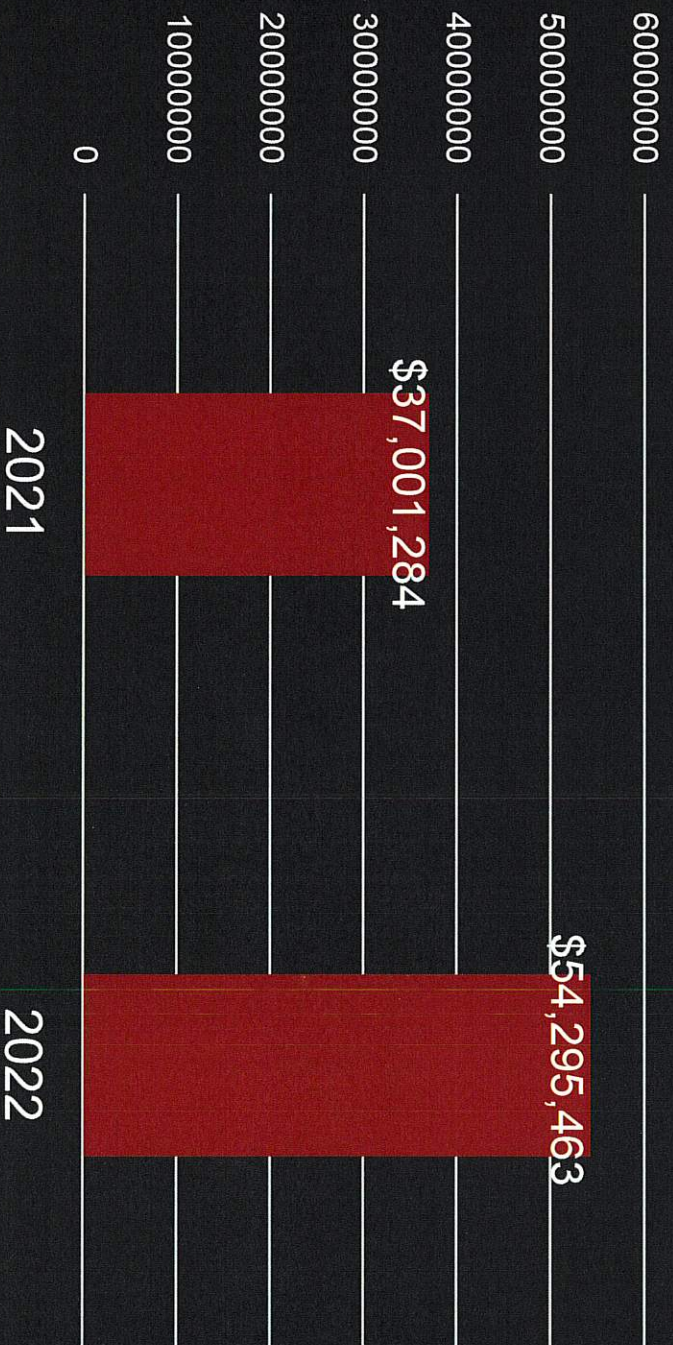
## Gender API

Gender-API is AI powered and helps you to find out whether a first name is more likely be used by males or females.



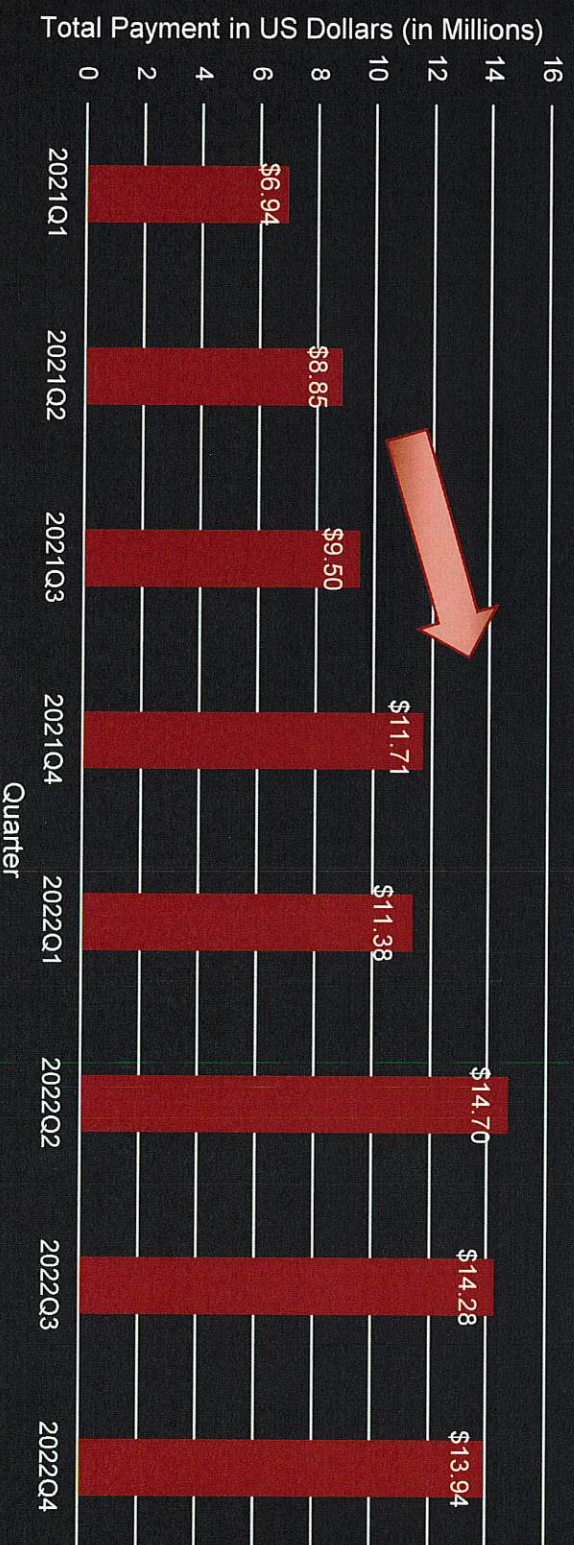
# Results: Total Payments to PAs

Total Payments to Physician Assistants 2021 and 2022



# Results: Payments per Quarter

Total Payments per Quarter ins 2021/2022 to PAs



# Results: By State

US States with Highest Paid Dollars to PAs 2021/2022



# Results: Top Paying Companies

Top 5 Companies with Industry Payments to PAs



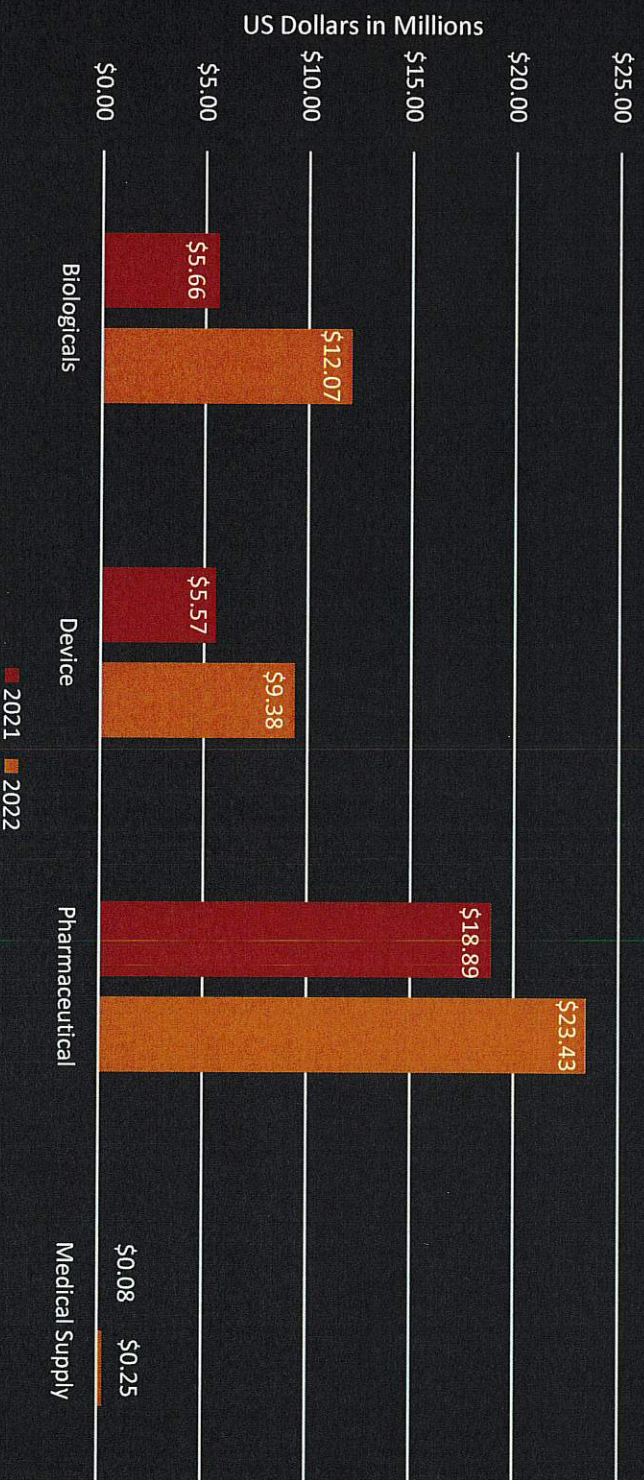
# Results: Top Paying Companies

- AbbVie – Immunology, Oncology, Eye, Aesthetics
- Allergan (now part of AbbVie) - Aesthetics
- Galderma – Dermatology (Botox, etc)
- Janssen Biotech (now part of J&J)
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals (now part of J&J)



# Results: Device, Drug, Biological

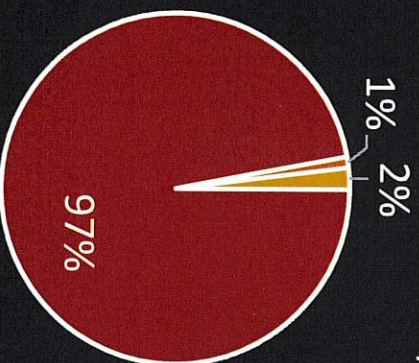
Nature of Payments to PAs in 2021/2022





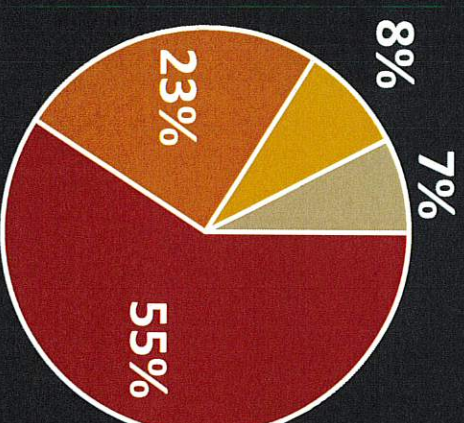
# Results: Breakdown Nature of Payments in General Payments and Highly Paid PAs

Breakdown % in General Payments



- Food and Beverage
- Travel and Lodging
- Other (all other categories)

Breakdown % for Highly Paid Physician Assistants

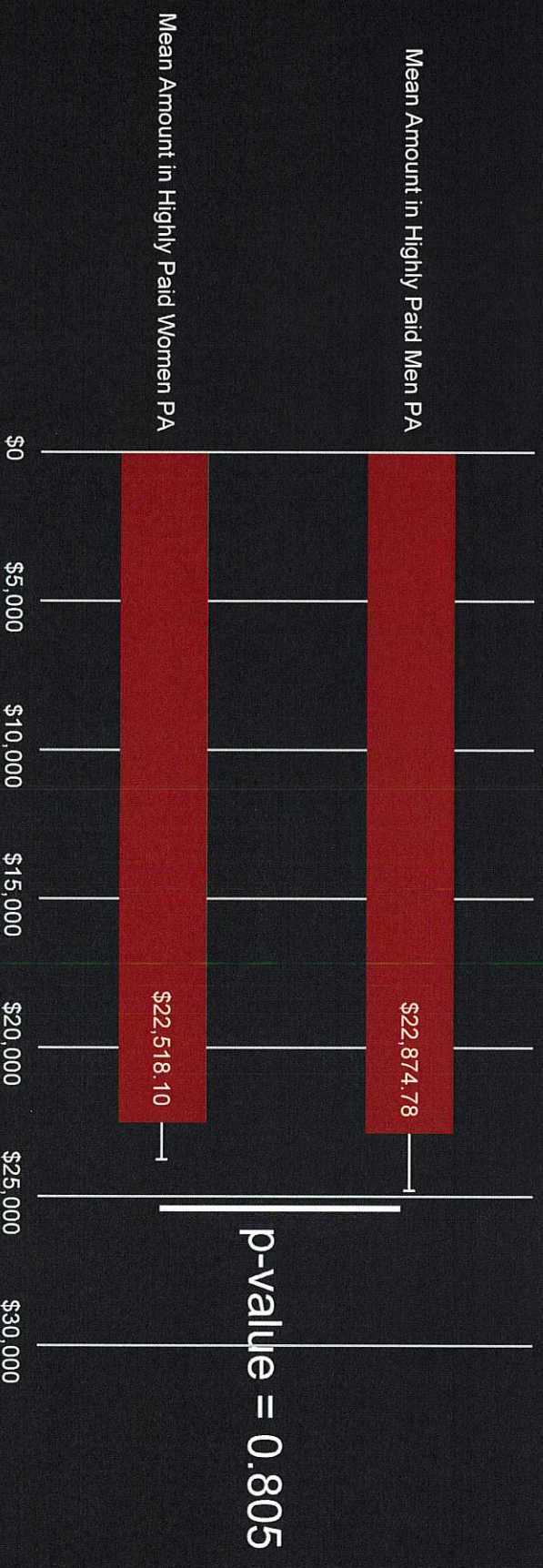


- Food and Beverage
- Services other than consulting
- Travel and Lodging
- Consulting



# Results: Gender Comparison of Highly Paid PAs

Mean Total Dollars Between Highly Paid Women and Men PAs



# Limitations

- Gender – online searches to include online sources like LinkedIn Bios, workplace bios, and pronoun usages on hospital/clinic website
  - Gender self-assigned and is a limitation when WE needed to assign; however, we believe Gender API to be highly accurate
- Highly paid – \$5k+ amount was set by us
- Anytime looking at Open Payment Data there is an assumption of compliance for reporting



# Discussion

- There is a substantial amount of money paid to PAs from industry
  - Non-research nearing \$100 million between 2021 and 2022 to just PAs
- Majority of individual payments were for food and beverage in general payments and also in highly paid PAs but much wider variety in payments for highly paid PAs



# Discussion: Gender Breakdown

- Payments in highly paid PAs there is parity in gender ratio
  - 1,867 PAs that received over \$5,000 from industry
  - 1,224 were women (66%)
  - 643 were men (34%)
- Mean average of payments between men and women
  - \$22,518 for women
  - \$22,875 for men



# Discussion: Gender Breakdown

- Gender parity between male and female PAs in 2021 and 2022
- Not seen in physician counterparts
  - Santamaria-Barria, Juan A. MD<sup>1</sup>; Nelson, Hannah BS<sup>1</sup>; Jiang, Heng MBBS<sup>1</sup>; Dougherty, Collin E. BS<sup>1</sup>; Jadhav, Snehal BS<sup>1</sup>; Watanabe-Galloway, Shinobu PhD<sup>1</sup>; Mammen, Joshua M. V. MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Mercer, David W. MD<sup>1</sup>. Open Payments Data Analysis of General and Fellowship-trained Surgeons Receiving Industry General Payments From 2016 to 2020: Payment Disparities and COVID-19 Pandemic Impact. *Annals of Surgery* 278(3):p 396-407, September 2023. | DOI: 10.1097/SLA.0000000000005951
  - Meredith G Moore, Kyle W Singerman, William J Kitzmiller, Ryan M Gobble, Gender Disparity in 2013-2018 Industry Payments to Plastic Surgeons, *Aesthetic Surgery Journal*, Volume 41, Issue 11, November 2021, Pages 1316–1320, <https://doi.org/10.1093/as/sjlaa367>



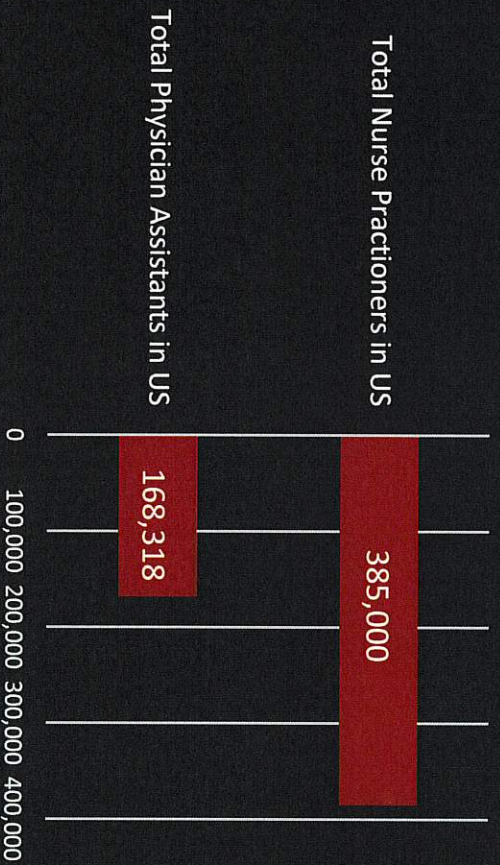
# Discussion: Comparison Between Provider Groups

- According to OPD Database:
  - Total US Dollars in 2022 \$12.58 billion
  - Payments to physicians in 2022 \$2.46 billion
  - Payments to non-physician providers in 2022 \$168.46 million

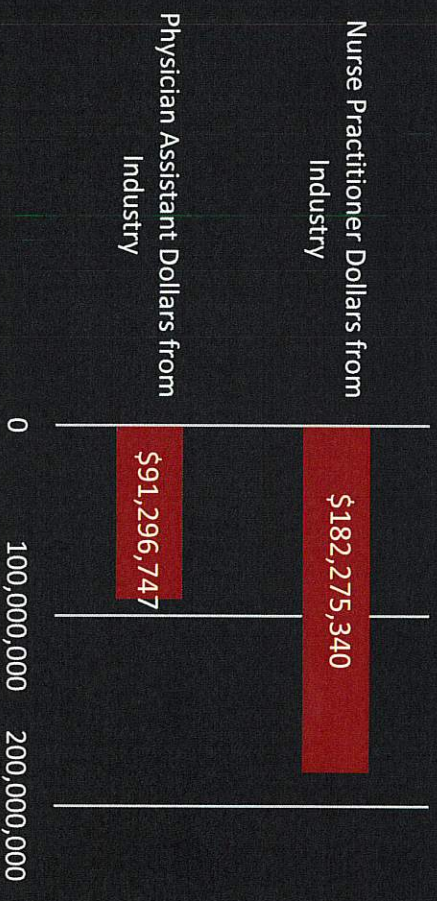


# Discussion: Comparison PAs and NPs in 2021 and 2022

## Comparison Total PAs and NPs



## Comparison Dollars from Industry to PA and NPs





# Discussion: What to Look to Next

- Continuing to watch trends for Physicians, PAs and NPs
- Ethics of PAs receiving industry dollars
- Trends in payments depending on changing laws of autonomy for APPs
- Looking into race difference of payments to APPs



# Questions?

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