

## 2005 AAPA Physician Assistant Census Report

### Introduction

The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) was founded in 1968 and is the only national organization representing physician assistants (PAs) in all medical specialties. The Academy educates the general public about the PA profession, assures competency of PAs through active involvement in the accreditation of PA programs, provides continuing education, and conducts PA-related research. The Academy works to promote quality, cost-effective health care, and the professional and personal growth of PAs.

From 1990 to 1995, the AAPA conducted a census survey of its members. Beginning in 1996, the census survey was expanded to include those PAs who were not members of AAPA. While the survey instrument and the data collection process have undergone some revisions since the inception of the census, the general approach and data elements have remained much the same.

The data collection effort for the 2005 AAPA Physician Assistant Census was conducted between March 15 and September 15, 2005. Survey forms were mailed to all individuals, both AAPA members and non-members, who were believed to be eligible to practice as PAs in the United States as of December 31, 2004 and for whom address information was available. Surveys were not mailed to individuals who had indicated on a previous Census that they were retired or working as a physician. In total, forms were mailed to 62,723 people – accounting for 94.3 percent of the 66,483 individuals eligible to practice as PAs. Completed surveys were received from 22,502 people, representing 33.8 percent of all individuals eligible to practice as PAs and 35.9 percent of the PAs who were mailed a survey form. Of the 28,289 AAPA members who were mailed a form, 15,566 (55.0%) responded; of the 34,434 non-members who were mailed a form, 6,936 (20.1%) responded. This document presents the responses received on the census survey and also includes certain static information derived from the AAPA Masterfile, such as sex, race, and age. It should be noted that these data have not been weighted or adjusted to account for non-response, the number of usable responses for each item varies due to item non-response, and that the percentages displayed in all tables may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

To facilitate locating specific items of interest, an index of the subjects addressed by the tables is provided in addition to a list of tables.

### Highlights of National Statistics

#### **Section I. Characteristics of Respondents and Non-Respondents**

Sex: Females accounted for 62 percent of the respondents to this year's census.

Ethnicity: White PAs comprise 88 percent of the respondents.

PA Education: Just under half (47%) of respondents hold a bachelor's level PA degree; 30 percent of respondents hold a master's level PA degree.

Age: The mean age of census respondents is 42 years (median = 40), the mean age at time of graduation from PA school was 31 years (median = 29), and the mean number of years since graduation from PA school for census respondents is 11 (median = 7).

## **Section II. Professional Status of Respondents**

Practice Status: The vast majority of respondents (89%) are in clinical practice.

Current Profession: Four percent of respondents reported working as a PA educator. This was the most common professional activity other than providing clinical services as a PA.

## **Section III: Information about Respondents in Clinical Practice**

Number of Clinical PA Jobs: Eighty-five percent of respondents reported working exactly one clinical PA job; 15 percent work more than one clinical PA job concurrently.

Employer Type: More than four in ten respondents (43%) are employed by a single or multi-specialty physician group practice while 22 percent are employed by hospitals and 14 percent are employed by solo physician offices.

Government Employment: About 10 percent of respondents work for some type of government agency. The Department of Veterans' Affairs is the single largest government employer of PAs accounting for about three percent of respondents; state governments collectively employ just over two percent of this year's respondents.

Primary Work Setting: The most prevalent "primary" work setting, reported by 36 percent of respondents, is a hospital; the hospital departments cited most frequently as primary settings are hospital emergency rooms (9%), hospital inpatient units (9%), hospital outpatient units (7%), and hospital operating rooms (7%). Physician group practices are the primary work setting for 30 percent of respondents; 21 percent report working in a single-specialty group practice and 9 percent report working in a multi-specialty group practice. Other settings reported as the primary work setting by large numbers of PAs include solo-practice physician offices (14%), and Federally Qualified Health Centers or community health facilities (8%).

### Work Settings where Clinical Services are Provided over the Course of a Typical Month:

Respondents were asked to indicate all of the settings where they provide clinical services for their primary clinical employer over the course of a typical month. The specific work settings reported by at least 20 percent of respondents are hospital inpatient units (34%), hospital emergency rooms (30%), single-specialty physician group practices (29%), hospital operating rooms (22%), hospital outpatient units (22%), and hospital intensive care/critical care units (22%).

Primary Specialty of Practice: While PAs practice in over 60 different specialty fields, 41 percent of this year's respondents reported that their primary specialty was one of the primary care fields: family/general medicine (28%), general internal medicine (8%), general pediatrics (3%), and obstetrics/gynecology (2%). Other prevalent specialties for PAs include general surgery/surgical subspecialties (25%), emergency medicine (10%), and the subspecialties of internal medicine (10%).

Years in Clinical Practice, Years in Position, and Years in Specialty: The mean number of years respondents have been in clinical practice is 9 (median = 6), the mean number of years respondents have worked in their current position is 5 (median = 3), and the mean number of years respondents have worked in their current specialty is 7 (median = 4).

Geographic Distribution: The states with the largest numbers of clinically practicing respondents are: New York (9%), California (8%), Texas (6%), Pennsylvania (6%), Florida (6%), and North Carolina (5%).

Metropolitan Status of Work Site: Seventeen percent of respondents work in counties that are non-metropolitan.

Functions and Responsibilities: PAs can perform a variety of functions for their primary employers. Thirty-seven percent of respondents reported that they manage the care of patients in an inpatient setting, more than half (61%) reported performing minor surgical procedures, and about one-quarter (24%) reported first-assisting at surgery. Nine percent of respondents reported supervising other PAs, and one in five (19%) reported supervising other clinical staff. More than one-third of respondents (35%) indicated that they precept PA students; one-fourth (24%) reported precepting students of other health professions.

Work Status: The majority of clinically practicing respondents (87%) work full-time, defined as more than 32 hours per week, for their primary clinical employer.

#### **Section IV. Information about Respondents in Clinical Practice Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Their Primary Clinical Job**

Hours Worked: The mean number of hours worked by the respondents who work more than 32 hours in a typical week is 44.3; the median is 42 hours.

Patient Visits/Encounters: Due to the variety of work settings and specialty fields in which PAs practice, the types of patients PAs treat are quite varied. The vast majority (86%) of census respondents who work full-time see some outpatients in their primary job; the mean number of patient visits provided per week by PAs who see outpatients exclusively is 97. Over one-third of respondents who work full-time (40%) see some inpatients in their primary job; the mean number of patient encounters provided per week by respondents who see inpatients exclusively is 67. Six percent of full-time PAs reported seeing some nursing home patients in their primary job, and eight percent of respondents report seeing patients who can not be classified as inpatients, outpatients, or nursing home patients.

Hospital Privileges: Respondents to this year's Census were asked to indicate the number of hospitals in which they had privileges granted by the medical staff, and the number in which they had privileges granted by human resources. Of those respondents who indicated having privileges in exactly one hospital, the vast majority (95%) reported that their privileges were granted by the medical staff.

Taking Call: Four in ten respondents (40%) reported taking call for their primary employer. The mean number of hours on call per month for those PAs who reported taking some call but who were not always on call is 96.

Base Pay: The majority of respondents (80%) reported receiving their base pay in the form of a salary; 18 percent indicated that they receive an hourly wage.

Compensation: Respondents reported receiving several additional forms of compensation from their primary employer. The most common form of additional compensation was a bonus or incentive pay based on the PA's productivity or performance, reported by 24 percent of respondents. Eighteen percent of respondents reported receiving a bonus based on something other than productivity or performance while 17 percent reported receiving overtime pay. Almost half of those who reported receiving an incentive based on productivity or performance (44%) indicated that the incentive was based on revenue.

Annual Income: The median total annual income from primary employer for respondents who work at least 32 hours per week for their primary employer and who are not self-employed is \$77,402; the mean is \$81,129. The comparable figures for respondents who graduated in 2004 are \$66,591 and \$68,116, respectively.

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Section I: Characteristics of 2005 AAPA Census Respondents and Nonrespondents

Table 1.1: Number and Percent Distribution of Census Respondents and Nonrespondents

|                | Count | Percent |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| Total          | 66111 | 100.0%  |
| Respondents    | 22502 | 34.0%   |
| Nonrespondents | 43609 | 66.0%   |

Table 1.2: Number and Percent Distribution of Census Respondents and Nonrespondents by Sex

|                |        | Count | Percent |
|----------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Respondents    | Male   | 8573  | 38.4%   |
|                | Female | 13745 | 61.6%   |
| Nonrespondents | Male   | 19434 | 45.4%   |
|                | Female | 23361 | 54.6%   |

Table 1.3: Number and Percent Distribution of Census Respondents and Nonrespondents by Race

|                |                        | Count | Percent |
|----------------|------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents    | Asian/Pacific Islander | 725   | 3.6%    |
|                | Black (Not Hispanic)   | 704   | 3.5%    |
|                | Hispanic/Latino Origin | 762   | 3.7%    |
|                | Amer Indian/Alaskan    | 169   | .8%     |
|                | White (Not Hispanic)   | 18028 | 88.4%   |
| Nonrespondents | Asian/Pacific Islander | 1558  | 4.8%    |
|                | Black (Not Hispanic)   | 2516  | 7.7%    |
|                | Hispanic/Latino Origin | 1836  | 5.6%    |
|                | Amer Indian/Alaskan    | 332   | 1.0%    |
|                | White (Not Hispanic)   | 26403 | 80.9%   |

Table 1.4: Number and Percent Distribution of Census Respondents and Nonrespondents by PA Degrees Held

|                |                                   | Cases | Percent |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents    | Respondents                       | 20819 | 100.0%  |
|                | Certificate from PA school        | 6650  | 31.9%   |
|                | Associate's degree from PA school | 1503  | 7.2%    |
|                | Bachelor's degree from PA school  | 9702  | 46.6%   |
|                | Master's degree from PA school    | 6213  | 29.8%   |
| Nonrespondents | Respondents                       | 28350 | 100.0%  |
|                | Certificate from PA school        | 9912  | 35.0%   |
|                | Associate's degree from PA school | 2517  | 8.9%    |
|                | Bachelor's degree from PA school  | 14398 | 50.8%   |
|                | Master's degree from PA school    | 6200  | 21.9%   |

\*Percentages sum to more than 100 because some PAs received multiple degree types.



**Table 1.5: Summary Measures of Age for Census Respondents and Nonrespondents**

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|                |                    |       |
|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents    | Count              | 22442 |
|                | Mean               | 41.5  |
|                | Standard deviation | 10.9  |
|                | 10th p-tile        | 28.0  |
|                | 25th p-tile        | 32.0  |
|                | Median             | 40.0  |
|                | 75th p-tile        | 50.0  |
|                | 90th p-tile        | 57.0  |
| Nonrespondents | Count              | 42260 |
|                | Mean               | 43.7  |
|                | Standard deviation | 10.9  |
|                | 10th p-tile        | 30.0  |
|                | 25th p-tile        | 35.0  |
|                | Median             | 43.0  |
|                | 75th p-tile        | 52.0  |
|                | 90th p-tile        | 58.0  |

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**Table 1.6: Summary Measures of Age During Year of Graduation from PA School for Census Respondents and Nonrespondents**

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|                |                    |       |
|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents    | Count              | 22443 |
|                | Mean               | 30.8  |
|                | Standard deviation | 6.9   |
|                | 10th p-tile        | 24.0  |
|                | 25th p-tile        | 26.0  |
|                | Median             | 29.0  |
|                | 75th p-tile        | 34.0  |
|                | 90th p-tile        | 41.0  |
| Nonrespondents | Count              | 42256 |
|                | Mean               | 30.9  |
|                | Standard deviation | 6.7   |
|                | 10th p-tile        | 24.0  |
|                | 25th p-tile        | 26.0  |
|                | Median             | 29.0  |
|                | 75th p-tile        | 34.0  |
|                | 90th p-tile        | 41.0  |

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**Table 1.7: Summary Measures of Years since Graduation from PA School for Census Respondents and Nonrespondents**

|                |                    |       |
|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents    | Count              | 22502 |
|                | Mean               | 10.8  |
|                | Standard deviation | 9.2   |
|                | 10th p-tile        | 1.0   |
|                | 25th p-tile        | 3.0   |
|                | Median             | 7.0   |
|                | 75th p-tile        | 17.0  |
|                | 90th p-tile        | 26.0  |
| Nonrespondents | Count              | 43605 |
|                | Mean               | 13.0  |
|                | Standard deviation | 9.5   |
|                | 10th p-tile        | 2.0   |
|                | 25th p-tile        | 5.0   |
|                | Median             | 10.0  |
|                | 75th p-tile        | 21.0  |
|                | 90th p-tile        | 28.0  |

**Section II: Professional Status of Respondents**

**Table 2.1: Number and Percent Distribution of Respondents by Clinical Practice Status**

|                          | Count | Percent |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents              | 22502 | 100.0%  |
| In clinical practice     | 20019 | 89.0%   |
| Not in clinical practice | 2483  | 11.0%   |

**Table 2.2: Number and Percent Distribution of Respondents by Current Professional Status\***

|   | Count | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| Respondents                                 | 22502 | 100.0%  |
| Clinically practicing PA                    | 20019 | 89.0%   |
| Clinically practicing physician or resident | 98    | .4%     |
| Clinically practicing NP                    | 174   | .8%     |
| Other clinically practicing provider        | 181   | .8%     |
| PA educator                                 | 954   | 4.2%    |
| Other health professions educator           | 293   | 1.3%    |
| Health care professional-administrator      | 397   | 1.8%    |
| Health care professional-researcher         | 180   | .8%     |
| Health care professional-lawyer             | 5     | .0%     |
| Health care professional-public health      | 79    | .4%     |
| Health care professional-other              | 458   | 2.0%    |
| Other non-health professional               | 270   | 1.2%    |
| Student in post-graduate PA program         | 131   | .6%     |
| Medical student                             | 36    | .2%     |
| Other student                               | 70    | .3%     |
| Not employed by choice                      | 519   | 2.3%    |
| Employed, seeking PA job                    | 103   | .5%     |
| Unemployed, seeking PA job                  | 210   | .9%     |
| Unemployed, seeking non-PA job              | 51    | .2%     |
| Retired                                     | 412   | 1.8%    |
| Other                                       | 270   | 1.2%    |

\*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents were instructed to mark all that apply.

**Section III: Information about Respondents in Clinical Practice**

**Table 3.1: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by Number of Concurrent PA Jobs**

|                                | Count | Percent |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents                    | 20019 | 100.0%  |
| One                            | 17016 | 85.0%   |
| Two                            | 2462  | 12.3%   |
| Three                          | 347   | 1.7%    |
| More than three                | 77    | .4%     |
| Self-employed w/mult contracts | 117   | .6%     |

**Table 3.2: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by Type of Primary Employer**

|                                  | Count | Percent |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents                      | 19987 | 100.0%  |
| Self-employed                    | 620   | 3.1%    |
| Solo physician practice          | 2691  | 13.5%   |
| Single-specialty physician group | 6121  | 30.6%   |
| Multi-specialty physician group  | 2453  | 12.3%   |
| University hospital              | 1503  | 7.5%    |
| Other hospital                   | 2988  | 14.9%   |
| Freestanding urgent care center  | 366   | 1.8%    |
| Freestanding surgical center     | 22    | .1%     |
| Nursing home or LTC facility     | 47    | .2%     |
| Home health agency               | 3     | .0%     |
| Hospice                          | 1     | .0%     |
| HMO                              | 457   | 2.3%    |
| Community health center          | 1215  | 6.1%    |
| Medical staffing agency          | 66    | .3%     |
| Physician practice mngmt org     | 277   | 1.4%    |
| Integrated health system         | 258   | 1.3%    |
| Corrections system               | 218   | 1.1%    |
| Other                            | 681   | 3.4%    |

**Table 3.3: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by Primary Employer's Government Affiliation**

|                               | Count | Percent |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents                   | 19942 | 100.0%  |
| Not government employed       | 18001 | 90.3%   |
| Air Force                     | 107   | .5%     |
| Army                          | 285   | 1.4%    |
| Navy                          | 108   | .5%     |
| Coast Guard                   | 14    | .1%     |
| Dept. of Veterans Affairs     | 508   | 2.5%    |
| Federal Bureau of Prisons/DOJ | 38    | .2%     |
| Indian Health Service         | 81    | .4%     |
| Federal Public Health Service | 75    | .4%     |
| Other Federal Government      | 74    | .4%     |
| State Government              | 451   | 2.3%    |
| Local Government              | 200   | 1.0%    |

**Table 3.4: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by Primary Work Setting**

|  | Count | Percent |
|--|-------|---------|
| Respondents                                | 19951 | 100.0%  |
| Intensive/critical care unit of hospital   | 403   | 2.0%    |
| Inpatient unit of hospital (not ICU/CCU)   | 1848  | 9.3%    |
| Outpatient unit of hospital                | 1435  | 7.2%    |
| Hospital emergency room                    | 1863  | 9.3%    |
| Hospital operating room                    | 1350  | 6.8%    |
| Other unit of hospital                     | 237   | 1.2%    |
| Federally Qualified Rural Health Center    | 778   | 3.9%    |
| Other FQHC                                 | 306   | 1.5%    |
| Other community health center/facility     | 526   | 2.6%    |
| Freestanding urgent care facility          | 575   | 2.9%    |
| Freestanding surgical facility             | 82    | .4%     |
| Solo practice physician office             | 2742  | 13.7%   |
| Single-specialty physician group practice  | 4287  | 21.5%   |
| Multi-specialty physician group practice   | 1753  | 8.8%    |
| HMO facility                               | 332   | 1.7%    |
| Nursing home or LTC facility               | 167   | .8%     |
| University/college student health facility | 120   | .6%     |
| School-based health facility               | 66    | .3%     |
| Other freestanding outpatient facility     | 406   | 2.0%    |
| Correctional facility                      | 243   | 1.2%    |
| Industrial facility/work site              | 102   | .5%     |
| Mobile health unit                         | 10    | .1%     |
| Patients' homes                            | 29    | .1%     |
| Other                                      | 291   | 1.5%    |

**Table 3.5: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by Types of Practice Settings where Time is Spent For Primary Employer\***

|  | Count | Percent |
|--|-------|---------|
| Respondents                                | 19972 | 100.0%  |
| Intensive/critical care unit of hospital   | 4459  | 22.3%   |
| Inpatient unit of hospital (not ICU/CCU)   | 6716  | 33.6%   |
| Outpatient unit of hospital                | 4337  | 21.7%   |
| Hospital emergency room                    | 6067  | 30.4%   |
| Hospital operating room                    | 4463  | 22.3%   |
| Other unit of hospital                     | 1713  | 8.6%    |
| Federally Qualified Rural Health Center    | 1052  | 5.3%    |
| Other FQHC                                 | 472   | 2.4%    |
| Other community health center/facility     | 801   | 4.0%    |
| Freestanding urgent care facility          | 962   | 4.8%    |
| Freestanding surgical facility             | 1081  | 5.4%    |
| Solo practice physician office             | 3175  | 15.9%   |
| Single-specialty physician group practice  | 5696  | 28.5%   |
| Multi-specialty physician group practice   | 2415  | 12.1%   |
| HMO facility                               | 492   | 2.5%    |
| Nursing home or LTC facility               | 1229  | 6.2%    |
| University/college student health facility | 252   | 1.3%    |
| School-based health facility               | 192   | 1.0%    |
| Other freestanding outpatient facility     | 667   | 3.3%    |
| Correctional facility                      | 374   | 1.9%    |
| Industrial facility/work site              | 181   | .9%     |
| Mobile health unit                         | 71    | .4%     |
| Patients' homes                            | 402   | 2.0%    |
| Other                                      | 528   | 2.6%    |

\*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents were instructed to mark all that apply.

**Table 3.6: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by General Specialty Practiced for Primary Employer**

|                                  | Count | Percent |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents                      | 19884 | 100.0%  |
| Family/general medicine          | 5639  | 28.4%   |
| General internal medicine        | 1518  | 7.6%    |
| Emergency medicine               | 1927  | 9.7%    |
| General pediatrics               | 505   | 2.5%    |
| General surgery                  | 563   | 2.8%    |
| Internal medicine subspecialties | 2055  | 10.3%   |
| Pediatric subspecialties         | 296   | 1.5%    |
| Surgical subspecialties          | 4345  | 21.9%   |
| Obstetrics and gynecology        | 485   | 2.4%    |
| Industrial/occupational medicine | 457   | 2.3%    |
| Other                            | 2094  | 10.5%   |

**Table 3.7: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by Specialty Practiced for Primary Employer**

|                                     | Count | Percent |
|-------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents                         | 19884 | 100.0%  |
| Addiction medicine                  | 88    | .4%     |
| Allergy                             | 116   | .6%     |
| Anesthesiology                      | 40    | .2%     |
| Dermatology                         | 659   | 3.3%    |
| Emergency medicine                  | 1927  | 9.7%    |
| Family practice w/o urgent care     | 2152  | 10.8%   |
| Family practice wt urgent care      | 3487  | 17.5%   |
| Genetics                            | 8     | .0%     |
| Geriatrics                          | 124   | .6%     |
| Obstetrics/gynecology               | 485   | 2.4%    |
| Occupational medicine               | 457   | 2.3%    |
| Ophthalmology                       | 19    | .1%     |
| Pain management                     | 215   | 1.1%    |
| Pathology                           | 3     | .0%     |
| Physical med rehab                  | 149   | .7%     |
| Psychiatry                          | 195   | 1.0%    |
| Public health                       | 42    | .2%     |
| Radiation oncology                  | 47    | .2%     |
| Radiology                           | 141   | .7%     |
| General surgery                     | 563   | 2.8%    |
| Surg: cardiovascular/cardiothoracic | 666   | 3.3%    |
| Surg: colon & rectal                | 16    | .1%     |
| Surg: hand                          | 43    | .2%     |
| Surg: neurology                     | 430   | 2.2%    |
| Surg: oncology                      | 58    | .3%     |
| Surg: orthopedics                   | 2066  | 10.4%   |
| Surg: otorhinolaryngology           | 161   | .8%     |
| Surg: pediatric                     | 24    | .1%     |
| Surg: plastic                       | 142   | .7%     |
| Surg: thoracic                      | 32    | .2%     |
| Surg: transplant                    | 46    | .2%     |
| Surg: trauma                        | 85    | .4%     |
| Surg: urology                       | 257   | 1.3%    |
| Surg: vascular                      | 133   | .7%     |
| Surg: bariatric                     | 46    | .2%     |
| Surg: other                         | 140   | .7%     |
| General pediatrics                  | 505   | 2.5%    |
| Ped: adolescent medicine            | 43    | .2%     |
| Ped: allergy                        | 4     | .0%     |
| Ped: cardiology                     | 15    | .1%     |
| Ped: critical care                  | 15    | .1%     |
| Ped: endocrinology                  | 8     | .0%     |
| Ped: gastroenterology               | 10    | .1%     |
| Ped: hematology/oncology            | 7     | .0%     |
| Ped: infectious disease             | 4     | .0%     |
| Ped: neonatal-perinatal             | 72    | .4%     |
| Ped: nephrology                     | 3     | .0%     |
| Ped: neurology                      | 12    | .1%     |
| Ped: pulmonology                    | 7     | .0%     |
| Ped: rheumatology                   | 3     | .0%     |
| Ped: oncology                       | 19    | .1%     |
| Ped: other                          | 74    | .4%     |
| General internal medicine           | 1518  | 7.6%    |
| IM: cardiology                      | 691   | 3.5%    |
| IM: critical care                   | 62    | .3%     |
| IM: endocrinology                   | 84    | .4%     |
| IM: gastroenterology                | 326   | 1.6%    |
| IM: hematology/oncology             | 27    | .1%     |
| IM: infectious disease              | 115   | .6%     |
| IM: nephrology                      | 126   | .6%     |
| IM: neurology                       | 114   | .6%     |
| IM: pulmonology                     | 70    | .4%     |
| IM: rheumatology                    | 74    | .4%     |
| IM: oncology                        | 272   | 1.4%    |
| IM: other                           | 94    | .5%     |
| Other                               | 248   | 1.2%    |

**Table 3.8: Summary Measures of Years in Clinical Practice as PA for Clinically Practicing Respondents**

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents        | 19981 |
| Mean               | 9.2   |
| Standard deviation | 8.7   |
| 10th percentile    | .0    |
| 25th percentile    | 3.0   |
| Median             | 6.0   |
| 75th percentile    | 14.0  |
| 90th percentile    | 24.0  |

**Table 3.9: Summary Measures of Years in Current Position for Clinically Practicing Respondents**

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents        | 19951 |
| Mean               | 4.8   |
| Standard deviation | 5.7   |
| 10th percentile    | .0    |
| 25th percentile    | 1.0   |
| Median             | 3.0   |
| 75th percentile    | 6.0   |
| 90th percentile    | 12.0  |

**Table 3.10: Summary Measures of Years in Current Specialty for Clinically Practicing Respondents**

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents        | 19915 |
| Mean               | 6.5   |
| Standard deviation | 7.1   |
| 10th percentile    | .0    |
| 25th percentile    | 1.0   |
| Median             | 4.0   |
| 75th percentile    | 9.0   |
| 90th percentile    | 17.0  |

**Table 3.11: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by AAPA Region in Which Employed**

|               | Count | Percent |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents   | 19547 | 100.0%  |
| Northeast     | 4500  | 23.0%   |
| Southeast     | 4624  | 23.7%   |
| North Central | 4019  | 20.6%   |
| South Central | 2709  | 13.9%   |
| West          | 3695  | 18.9%   |

**Table 3.12: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by State/Geographic Location in Which Employed**

|                      | Count | Percent |
|----------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents          | 19547 | 100.0%  |
| Alaska               | 136   | .7%     |
| Alabama              | 94    | .5%     |
| Arkansas             | 20    | .1%     |
| Arizona              | 457   | 2.3%    |
| California           | 1573  | 8.0%    |
| Colorado             | 531   | 2.7%    |
| Connecticut          | 406   | 2.1%    |
| District Of Columbia | 67    | .3%     |
| Delaware             | 67    | .3%     |
| Florida              | 1088  | 5.6%    |
| Georgia              | 578   | 3.0%    |
| Guam                 | 4     | .0%     |
| Hawaii               | 52    | .3%     |
| Iowa                 | 305   | 1.6%    |
| Idaho                | 135   | .7%     |
| Illinois             | 539   | 2.8%    |
| Indiana              | 205   | 1.0%    |
| Kansas               | 274   | 1.4%    |
| Kentucky             | 252   | 1.3%    |
| Louisiana            | 146   | .7%     |
| Massachusetts        | 463   | 2.4%    |
| Maryland             | 458   | 2.3%    |
| Maine                | 180   | .9%     |
| Michigan             | 910   | 4.7%    |
| Minnesota            | 374   | 1.9%    |
| Missouri             | 186   | 1.0%    |
| Mississippi          | 37    | .2%     |
| Montana              | 125   | .6%     |
| North Carolina       | 1021  | 5.2%    |
| North Dakota         | 86    | .4%     |
| Nebraska             | 263   | 1.3%    |
| New Hampshire        | 123   | .6%     |
| New Jersey           | 271   | 1.4%    |
| New Mexico           | 149   | .8%     |
| Nevada               | 134   | .7%     |
| New York             | 1722  | 8.8%    |
| Ohio                 | 467   | 2.4%    |
| Oklahoma             | 313   | 1.6%    |
| Oregon               | 257   | 1.3%    |
| Pennsylvania         | 1137  | 5.8%    |
| Rhode Island         | 68    | .3%     |
| South Carolina       | 184   | .9%     |
| South Dakota         | 162   | .8%     |
| Tennessee            | 306   | 1.6%    |
| Texas                | 1239  | 6.3%    |
| Utah                 | 191   | 1.0%    |
| Virginia             | 395   | 2.0%    |
| Vermont              | 63    | .3%     |
| Washington           | 557   | 2.8%    |
| Wisconsin            | 522   | 2.7%    |
| West Virginia        | 181   | .9%     |
| Wyoming              | 74    | .4%     |



**Table 3.13: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by Metropolitan Status and Degree of Rurality of County of Primary Work Site\***

|   | Count | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| Respondents   | 19350 | 100.0%  |
| Not metro   |       |         |
| NonMetro, with urban pop >20K and adjacent to metro area      | 903   | 4.7%    |
| NonMetro, with urban pop >20K, not adjacent to metro area     | 484   | 2.5%    |
| NonMetro, with urban pop 2.5K-20K, adjacent to metro area     | 830   | 4.3%    |
| NonMetro, with urban pop 2.5K-20K, not adjacent to metro area | 611   | 3.2%    |
| NonMetro, with urban pop < 2,500, adjacent to metro area      | 110   | .6%     |
| NonMetro, with urban pop <2,500, not adjacent to metro area   | 258   | 1.3%    |
| Metro   |       |         |
| Metro, >1M Population   | 9123  | 47.1%   |
| Metro, 250K-1M Population                                     | 4750  | 24.5%   |
| Metro, <250K Population                                       | 2281  | 11.8%   |

Zip Code of primary work site was linked to County Rural-Urban Continuum Code from the Area Resource File obtained through the Bureau of Health Professions, US-DHHS.

**Table 3.14: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents Who Perform Select Functions at Primary Clinical Job\***

|   | Count | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| Respondents   | 19991 | 100.0%  |
| Minor surgical procedures   | 12099 | 60.5%   |
| First assisting at surgery  | 4839  | 24.2%   |
| Manage the care of patients in an inpatient setting                       | 7406  | 37.0%   |
| Serve on the quality assurance committee                                  | 1627  | 8.1%    |
| Serve on the utilization review committee                                 | 609   | 3.0%    |
| Participate in the conduct of clinical trials                             | 2259  | 11.3%   |
| Serve on formulary/pharmaceutical selection committee                     | 535   | 2.7%    |
| Decision making about procurement of medical/surgical equipment/supplies  | 3989  | 20.0%   |
| Supervisory/managerial responsibilities for other PAs                     | 1803  | 9.0%    |
| Supervisory/managerial responsibilities for clinical staff other than PAs | 3861  | 19.3%   |
| Supervisory/managerial responsibilities for non-clinical staff            | 1758  | 8.8%    |
| Precept PA students   | 7076  | 35.4%   |
| Precept students of other health professions                              | 4853  | 24.3%   |

\*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents were instructed to mark all that apply.

**Table 3.15: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents By Whether Primary Employer Receives Grants To Provide Medical Care To Populations In Underserved Communities**

|   | Count | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| Respondents                                   | 20019 | 100.0%  |
| Employer does not receive grants              | 10280 | 51.4%   |
| PHS Migrant Health Service grant              | 165   | .8%     |
| PHS Health Care for the Homeless grant        | 189   | .9%     |
| PHS Public Housing Primary Care Program grant | 34    | .2%     |
| PHS School Based Health Center grant          | 139   | .7%     |
| Other PHS Community Health Center grant       | 600   | 3.0%    |
| Indian Health Service grant                   | 132   | .7%     |
| Other PHS grant                               | 221   | 1.1%    |
| Other federal grant                           | 895   | 4.5%    |
| State-funded grant                            | 842   | 4.2%    |
| Local-level grant                             | 339   | 1.7%    |
| Private grant                                 | 305   | 1.5%    |
| Don't know whether employer receives grant    | 7937  | 39.6%   |

\*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents were instructed to mark all that apply.

**Table 3.16: Number and Percent Distribution of Clinically Practicing Respondents by Hours Worked per Week at Primary Clinical Job**

|                    | Count | Percent |
|--------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents        | 20019 | 100.0%  |
| 32 or more hours   | 17338 | 86.6%   |
| Less than 32 hours | 2597  | 13.0%   |
| Hours not reported | 84    | .4%     |

**Section IV: Information about Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Their Primary Clinical Job**

**Table 4.1: Number and Percent Distribution of Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job by Types of Patients Treated\***

|                                | Count | Percent |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents                    | 11102 | 100.0%  |
| See some inpatients            | 4483  | 40.4%   |
| See some outpatients           | 9488  | 85.5%   |
| See some nursing home patients | 638   | 5.7%    |
| See some other patients**      | 874   | 7.9%    |

\*Data represent only respondents who reported complete information about both hours and visits for all patient types. Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents may see multiple types of patients.

\*\*Other patients are those who were not classified as either outpatients, inpatients, or nursing home patients.

**Table 4.2: Summary Measures of Total Hours Worked per Week for Primary Clinical Employer by Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job**

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents        | 17338 |
| Mean               | 44.3  |
| Standard deviation | 7.8   |
| 10th percentile    | 36.0  |
| 25th percentile    | 40.0  |
| Median             | 42.0  |
| 75th percentile    | 50.0  |
| 90th percentile    | 55.0  |

**Table 4.3: Summary Measures of Hours Providing Direct Inpatient Care per Week for Respondents Who See Inpatients Exclusively for a Minimum of 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job\***

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Respondents        | 989  |
| Mean               | 43.3 |
| Standard deviation | 7.3  |
| 10th percentile    | 36.0 |
| 25th percentile    | 40.0 |
| Median             | 40.0 |
| 75th percentile    | 48.0 |
| 90th percentile    | 50.0 |

\*Excludes time spent performing tasks other than providing direct patient care to inpatients.

**Table 4.4: Summary Measures of Inpatient Encounters per Week for Respondents Who See Inpatients Exclusively for a Minimum of 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job**

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents        | 989   |
| Mean               | 67.3  |
| Standard deviation | 44.8  |
| 10th percentile    | 20.0  |
| 25th percentile    | 40.0  |
| Median             | 60.0  |
| 75th percentile    | 90.0  |
| 90th percentile    | 120.0 |

**Table 4.5: Summary Measures of Hours Providing Direct Outpatient Care per Week for Respondents Who See Outpatients Exclusively for a Minimum of 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job\***

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Respondents        | 4680 |
| Mean               | 39.2 |
| Standard deviation | 5.5  |
| 10th percentile    | 33.0 |
| 25th percentile    | 35.0 |
| Median             | 40.0 |
| 75th percentile    | 40.0 |
| 90th percentile    | 45.0 |

\*Excludes time spent performing tasks other than providing direct patient care to outpatients.

**Table 4.6: Summary Measures of Outpatient Visits per Week for Respondents Who See Outpatients Exclusively for a Minimum of 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job**

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents        | 4680  |
| Mean               | 96.5  |
| Standard deviation | 39.3  |
| 10th percentile    | 50.0  |
| 25th percentile    | 72.0  |
| Median             | 100.0 |
| 75th percentile    | 120.0 |
| 90th percentile    | 150.0 |

**Table 4.7: Number and Percent Distribution of Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job and Have Hospital Privileges in Exactly One Hospital by Source of Hospital Privileges**

|  | Count | Percent |
|--|-------|---------|
| Respondents                                  | 4718  | 100.0%  |
| Hospital privileges granted by medical staff | 4479  | 94.9%   |
| Hospital privileges granted by HR            | 239   | 5.1%    |

**Table 4.8 Number and Percent Distribution of Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job by Whether Call is Taken**

|                          | Count | Percent |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents              | 17338 | 100.0%  |
| Do not take call         | 10329 | 59.6%   |
| Take some call           | 6045  | 34.9%   |
| Take call, hours unknown | 150   | .9%     |
| Always on call           | 814   | 4.7%    |

**Table 4.9 Number and Percent Distribution of Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job by Types of Call Taken\***

|                                | Cases | Percent |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents                    | 17338 | 100.0%  |
| Emergency department call      | 1849  | 10.7%   |
| Surgical assisting call        | 2097  | 12.1%   |
| In-house call                  | 2061  | 11.9%   |
| Other call                     | 3679  | 21.2%   |
| Do not take call               | 10329 | 59.6%   |
| Call taken, type not indicated | 61    | .4%     |

\*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents were instructed to mark all that apply.

**Table 4.10: Summary Measures of Call Hours per Month for Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job\***

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Respondents        | 6045  |
| Mean               | 96.2  |
| Standard deviation | 89.6  |
| 10th percentile    | 12.0  |
| 25th percentile    | 30.0  |
| Median             | 72.0  |
| 75th percentile    | 130.0 |
| 90th percentile    | 200.0 |

\*Includes only PAs who report taking call, but are not always on call.

**Table 4.11: Number and Percent Distribution of Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job by Type of Base Pay Received\***

|                | Count | Percent |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| Respondents    | 16131 | 100.0%  |
| No base pay    | 221   | 1.4%    |
| Salary         | 12866 | 79.8%   |
| Hourly wage    | 2926  | 18.1%   |
| Other base pay | 118   | .7%     |

\*Excludes self-employed PAs.

**Table 4.12: Number and Percent Distribution of Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job by Types of Additional Compensation Received\***

|  | Count | Percent |
|--|-------|---------|
| Respondents                            | 15863 | 100.0%  |
| No additional pay                      | 5194  | 32.7%   |
| Surgical assisting fees                | 310   | 2.0%    |
| Overtime pay                           | 2692  | 17.0%   |
| Administrative pay                     | 407   | 2.6%    |
| Pay for on-call availability           | 1321  | 8.3%    |
| Pay for on-call services/events        | 1307  | 8.2%    |
| Bonus not based on performance         | 2888  | 18.2%   |
| Bonus based on performance of practice | 2044  | 12.9%   |
| Bonus based on performance of PA       | 3804  | 24.0%   |
| Bonus based on something else          | 1051  | 6.6%    |

\*Excludes self-employed PAs. Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents were instructed to mark all that apply.

**Table 4.13: Number and Percent Distribution of Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job and Receive Incentive Pay Based on Productivity or Performance by Measures on Which Incentive is Based\***

|   | Count | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| Respondents                                   | 4985  | 100.0%  |
| Bonus based on charges                        | 1031  | 20.7%   |
| Bonus based on revenues                       | 2191  | 44.0%   |
| Bonus based on relative value units           | 637   | 12.8%   |
| Bonus based on profit                         | 1290  | 25.9%   |
| Bonus based on number of visits or panel size | 914   | 18.3%   |
| Bonus based on quality of care                | 719   | 14.4%   |
| Bonus based on patient satisfaction           | 719   | 14.4%   |
| Bonus based on other factors                  | 404   | 8.1%    |

\*Excludes self-employed PAs. Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents were instructed to mark all that apply.

**Table 4.14: Summary Measures of Total Annual Income from Primary Employer for Respondents Who Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job\***

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Respondents        | 16305     |
| Mean               | \$81,129  |
| Standard deviation | \$21,254  |
| 10th percentile    | \$60,184  |
| 25th percentile    | \$67,128  |
| Median             | \$77,402  |
| 75th percentile    | \$90,402  |
| 90th percentile    | \$106,705 |

\*Excludes self-employed PAs.

**Table 4.15: Summary Measures of Total Annual Income from Primary Employer for Respondents Who Graduated in 2004 and Work at Least 32 Hours per Week at Primary Clinical Job\***

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Respondents        | 1866     |
| Mean               | \$68,116 |
| Standard deviation | \$13,077 |
| 10th percentile    | \$54,716 |
| 25th percentile    | \$60,571 |
| Median             | \$66,591 |
| 75th percentile    | \$73,891 |
| 90th percentile    | \$83,555 |

\*Excludes self-employed PAs.