

# Statistical Profile of Board Certified PAs by State

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National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

## Background

- Since certifying the first PAs in 1975, NCCPA has collected data on the PA profession as PAs completed administrative tasks related to obtaining initial certification and logging CME
- In May 2012, NCCPA launched the *PA Professional Profile* to enhance data gathering efforts
- The Profile was launched with two modules: “About Me” and “My Practice”
- In December 2012, NCCPA added a “Recently Certified” module for PAs certified for the first time (for less than six months)

## Method

- Data reflected includes responses from PAs who were Board Certified as of December 31, 2022, and have made updates to their profile in the last 3 years (between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2022)
- As of December 31, 2022, there were 140,815 Board Certified PAs who provided responses out of the 168,318 Certified PAs (83.7% response rate)
- In 2022, new questions were added to the profile. The response rate for the new items is ≤56% as of December 31, 2022
- The data provided has been aggregated from the individual responses provided by PAs through the PA Professional Profile or other NCCPA data gathering efforts
- The number of responses to individual items varies due to differing response rates or inconclusive data
- Analyses of the data consists primarily of descriptive statistics

Email questions to Colette Jeffery at [colettej@nccpa.net](mailto:colettej@nccpa.net)

## Results

### Percent of PAs who Changed Specialties Two or More Times During Career by State

Highest Percentage	State	Percentage
	West Virginia	40.9%
	Maine	39.6%
	Hawaii	36.4%
	Maryland	35.7%
	Idaho	35.7%
Lowest Percentage	Iowa	24.8%
	Massachusetts	24.7%
	Rhode Island	23.6%
	Minnesota	22.8%
	D.C.	20.4%

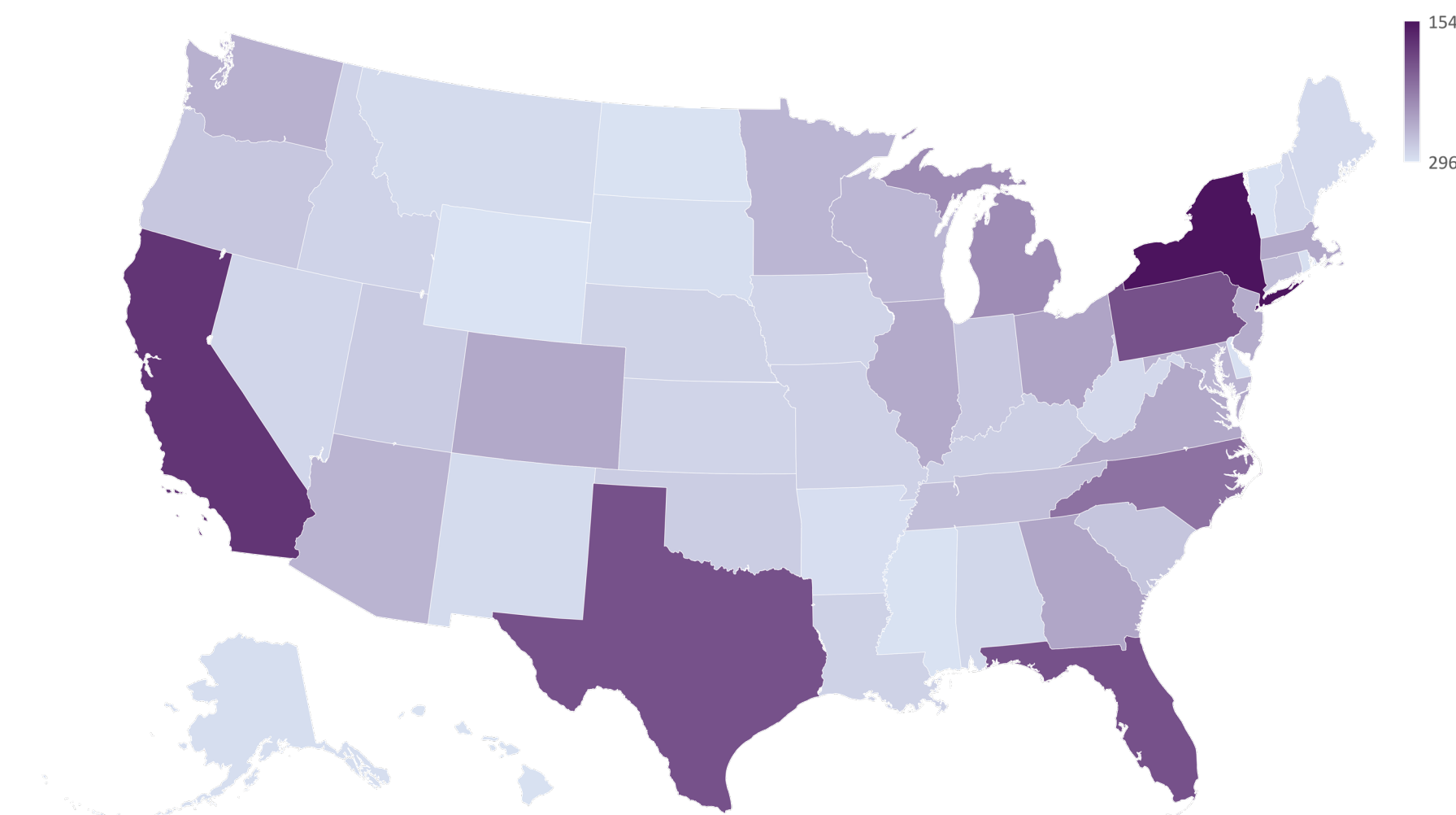
The flexibility of changing specialties has been a hallmark of the PA profession. Our data shows that 53.5% of PAs indicated that they changed specialties at least once during their career as a PA. 30.8% of PAs in the US reported changing their specialty two or more times.

### Percent of PAs Satisfied with Career as a PA by State

Highest Percentage	State	Percentage
	Oklahoma	90.7%
	D.C.	90.5%
	Ohio	89.3%
	Utah	89.2%
	Louisiana	89.2%
Lowest Percentage	West Virginia	76.6%
	Wisconsin	75.6%
	Virginia	72.8%
	Wyoming	69.8%
	Washington	69.8%

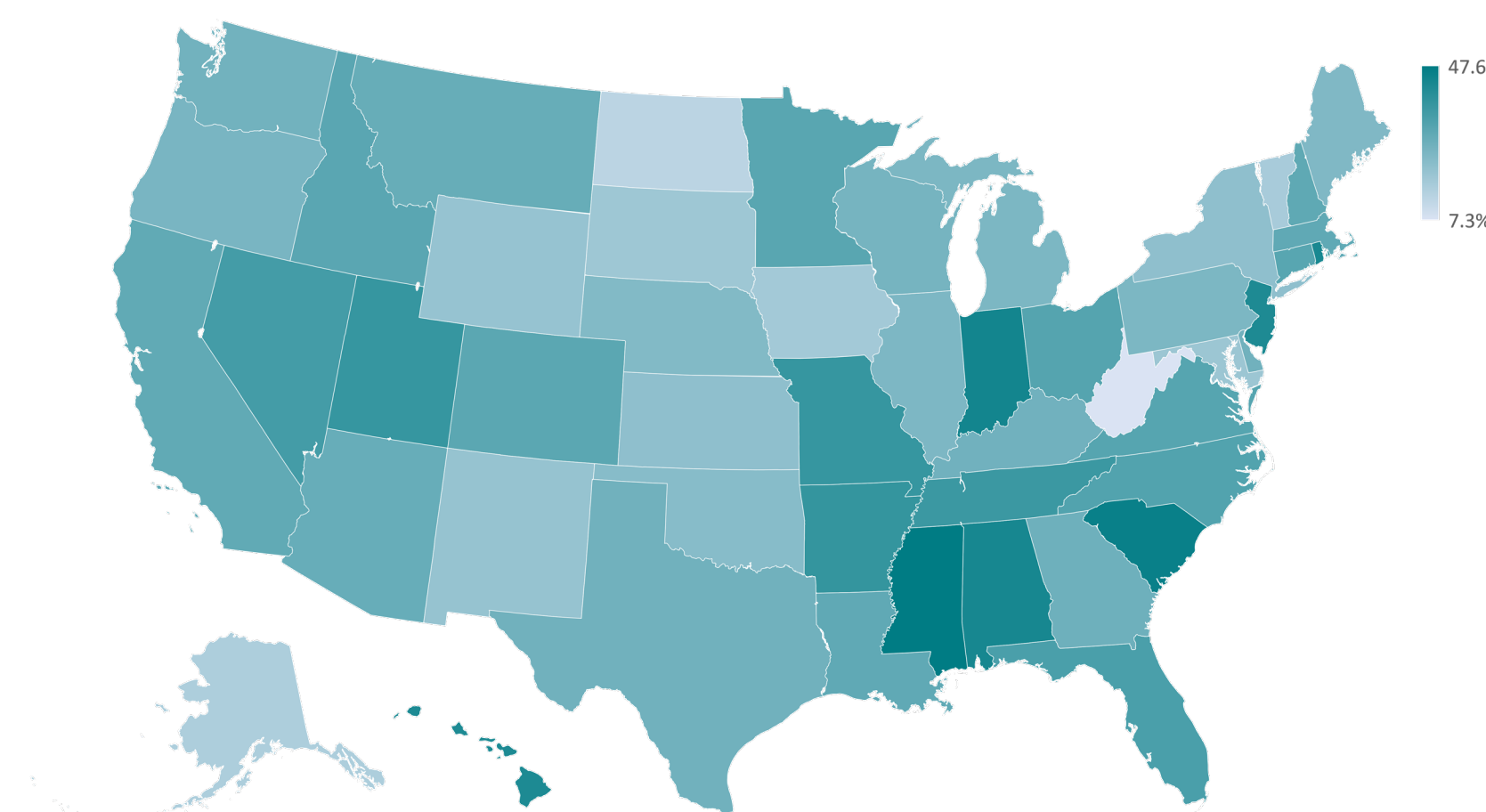
86.7% of PAs in the United States reported that they are satisfied with their career as a PA. Satisfied includes responses of completely satisfied, mostly satisfied, and somewhat satisfied.

### Geographic Distribution of PAs



The top five states ranked by number of PAs are New York (15,449), California (13,068), Texas (11,008), Florida (11,011) and Pennsylvania (10,999).

### Percent Change in Number of Certified PAs 2018-2022



The top states with the highest percent change in number of Board Certified PAs from 2018 to 2022 are Mississippi (47.6%), South Carolina (45.9%), Indiana (44.1%), Alabama (43.4%), and Rhode Island (42.9%).

### Percent of PAs who Provide Care to Patients in Designated HPSAs or MUAs by State

Highest Percentage	State	Percentage
	Alaska	53.8%
	New Mexico	53.6%
	Montana	44.2%
	West Virginia	42.9%
	Mississippi	41.3%
Lowest Percentage	New Hampshire	17.9%
	Indiana	17.6%
	Virginia	17.1%
	Pennsylvania	16.6%
	Florida	13.9%

22.8% of PAs reported that they provide care to patients in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and/or Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs).

### Percent Change of PAs Participating in Telemedicine by State 2018-2022

Highest Percentage	State	Percentage
	Utah	43.3%
	Wyoming	42.5%
	Oregon	42.0%
	Idaho	38.5%
	California	37.5%
Lowest Percentage	Indiana	26.0%
	D.C.	25.6%
	New Jersey	24.8%
	South Dakota	23.9%
	New York	21.8%

40.3% of PAs reported that they participate in telemedicine. The states with most telemedicine participation are Alaska (59.3%), Hawaii (54.6%), and Oregon (54.2%).

## Key Findings and Conclusion

- The PA profession has grown by 28% between 2018 and 2022, reaching 168,318 Board Certified PAs at the end of 2022
- The rate of certified PAs per 100,000 population has increased from 40 in 2018 to 50 in 2022
- Similarly, the number of current PA licenses issued by state regulatory boards has grown by 29%, reaching a total of 203,924 in 2022, recognizing that some PAs hold more than one state license
- In Alaska and New Mexico, 54% of the PAs provide care to patients in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas and/or Medically Underserved Areas
- The use of telemedicine has increased dramatically in all states since 2018, growing from 9% to 40% nationwide
- Despite facing an unprecedented healthcare crisis and increased burnout in 2021, 87% of PAs remain content with their career, with satisfaction rates reaching 91% in Oklahoma and 89% in Ohio
- Similarly, 84% of PAs are satisfied with their present job, and 71% are satisfied with their current work/life balance
- The 2022 data shows that PAs are making gains financially, with the majority of PAs in 13 states having income over \$120,000, compared with 7 states in 2021.
- The five states with the highest percentage of PAs with an income over \$120,000 were California (67.9%), Washington (62.1%), Nevada (61.8%), Alaska (61.8%), and Connecticut (61.2%)

## References

- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, Inc. (2024). 2022 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants by State. Retrieved from <http://www.nccpa.net/resources/nccpa-research/>
- Federation of State Medical Boards, 2022 licensure data