

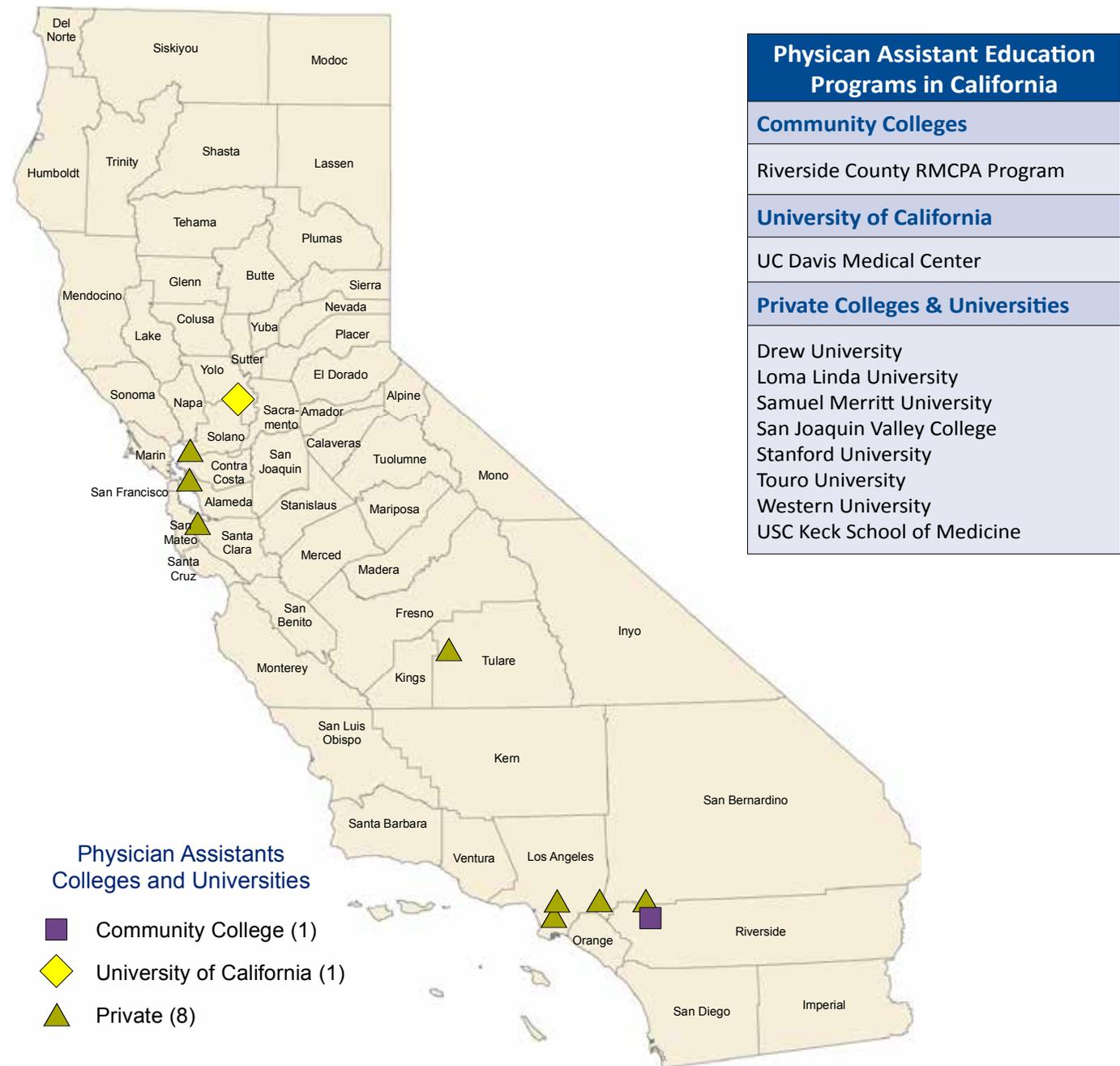
Survey Snapshot: Physician Assistants

In partnership with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), the California Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) developed a workforce survey for Physician Assistants (PA). CAPA distributed and collected data from 8,947 PAs via the survey from March through July 2013. CAPA gathered quantitative and qualitative data from 3,405 respondents. This report documents some of the findings and statistics collected.

EDUCATION

Physician Assistant Education Programs

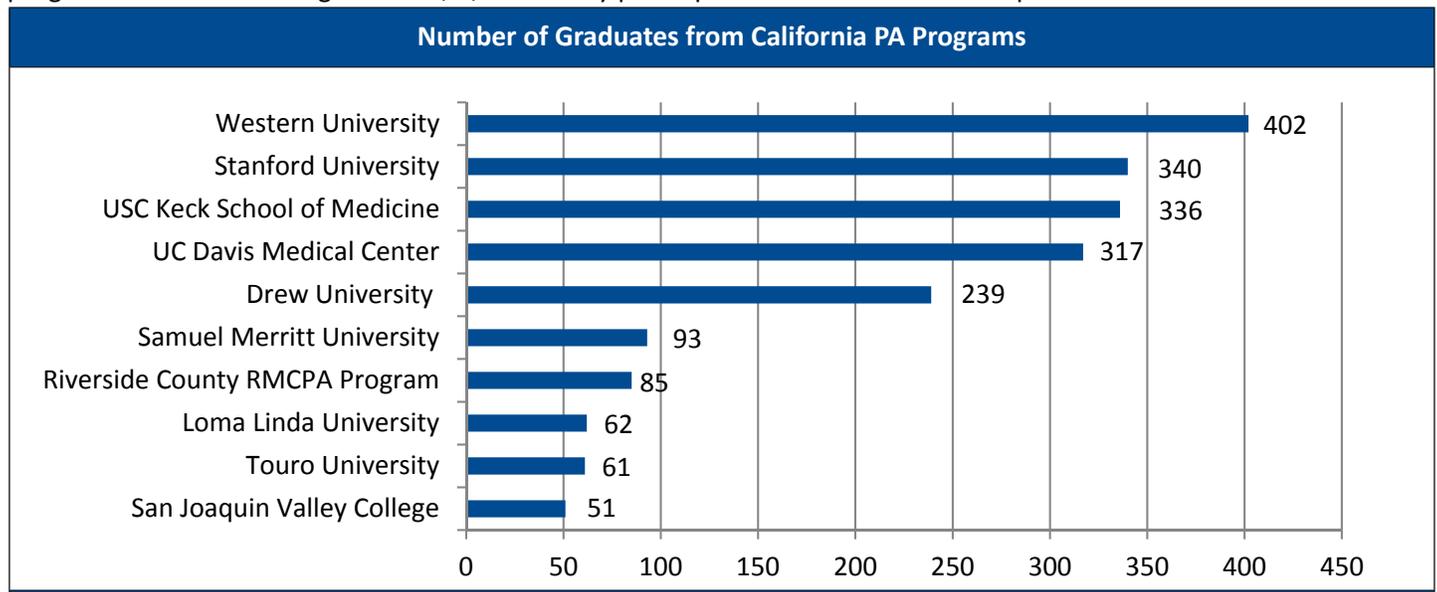
There are ten colleges and universities that offer PA education programs in California. According to the survey, 1,996 PAs graduated from a program in California, 956 PAs graduated from a program outside of California and 453 participants did not provide a response. The table and map below show the colleges and universities that offer PA programs in California.



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Graduation Statistics

The chart below displays the responses received from 1,986 PAs when asked from which of the following California PA programs each individual graduated; 1,419 survey participants did not answer this question.



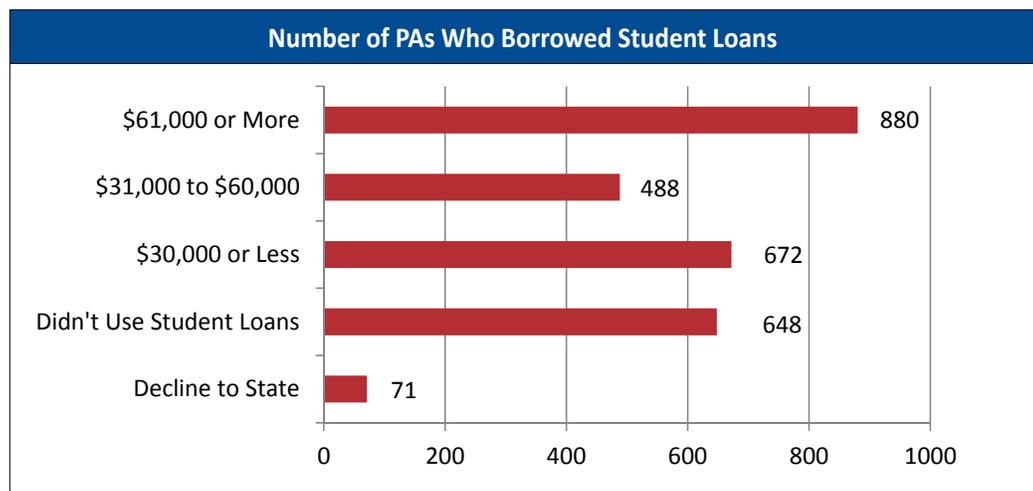
In addition to educational institutions, the survey collected data on the year of graduation from a PA program. The results from 2,929 PAs can be seen in the following table; 476 survey participants did not answer this question.

Number of PAs Graduated by Year

Year	PAs								
1965	1	1978	20	1986	22	1994	72	2002	106
1968	1	1979	37	1987	20	1995	67	2003	127
1972	3	1980	47	1988	39	1996	66	2004	105
1973	8	1981	41	1989	33	1997	77	2005	115
1974	17	1982	46	1990	24	1998	91	2006	118
1975	17	1983	48	1991	34	1999	133	2007	124
1976	36	1984	54	1992	49	2000	106	2008	113
1977	45	1985	57	1993	48	2001	137		

Student Loans

The survey collected data related to the amount of money borrowed via student loans to fund either a portion or all of the PA education programs. The chart to the right shows the amount borrowed by 2,759 respondents. In addition to the information charted, 646 survey participants did not answer this question.



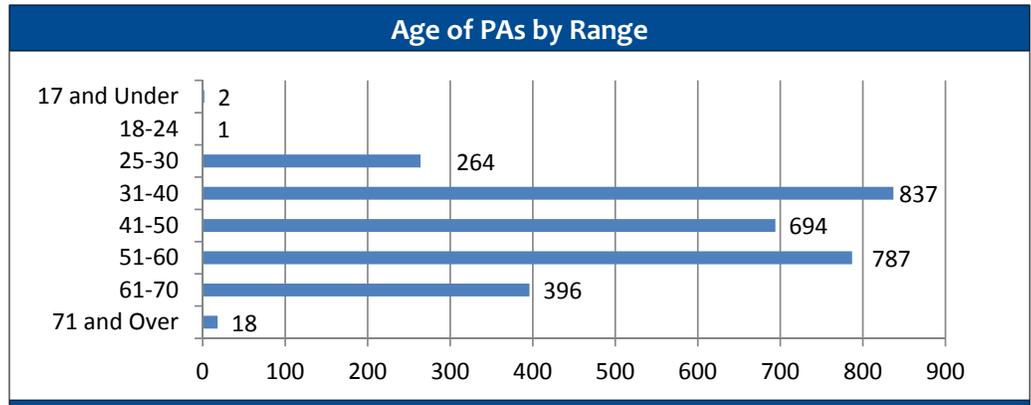
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DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

The survey collected data for year of birth. The following table and chart display the number of PAs by age range for 2,999 individuals, as calculated from their year of birth. In addition to the information charted, 406 survey participants did not answer this question.

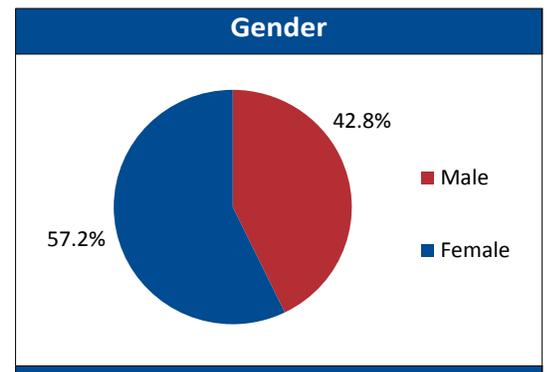
Number of PAs by Age Range	
Age Range	PAs
71 and Over	18
61-70	396
51-60	787
41-50	694
31-40	837
25-30	264
18-24	1
17 and Under	2



Gender

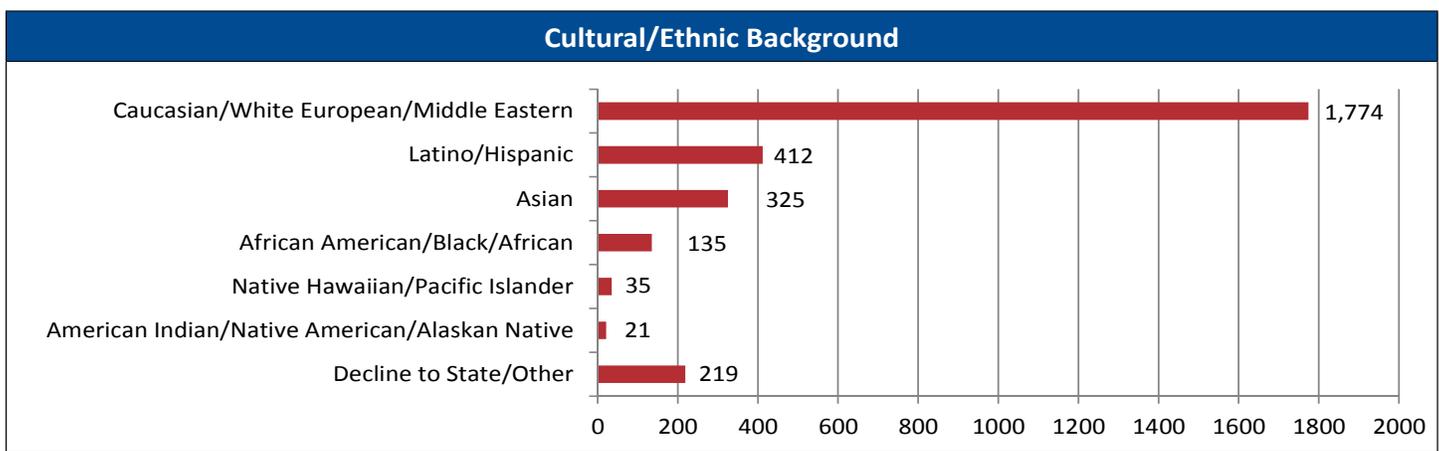
The survey collected data related to the gender of PAs. The available answers included male and female. The table and chart to the right displays the data gathered for gender distribution from 2,926 respondents. In addition to the information charted, 479 survey participants did not answer this question.

Gender		
Male	1,251	42.8%
Female	1,675	57.2%



Cultural/Ethnic Background

There were seven cultural/ethnic background categories with which a PA may identify on the survey. A licensee could elect more than one cultural/ethnic background selection, resulting in duplicate counts for a single licensee. Of those who responded, the majority of PAs identified as Caucasian/White/Middle Eastern. The results for 2,921 PAs can be seen in the following table and chart; 484 participants survey did not answer this question.



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Foreign Language

Out of 2,917 respondents, 1,204 PAs indicated that they were fluent in a language other than English and 1,713 were not; 488 survey participants did not answer this question.

Additionally, there were 91 foreign language options on the survey which a PA may indicate verbal and/or written fluency. A licensee may elect more than one language selection, resulting in duplicate counts for a single licensee. Of those who responded to this question, the most predominate language spoken and written is Spanish. The survey results for verbal and written fluency of a foreign language are displayed in the following table.

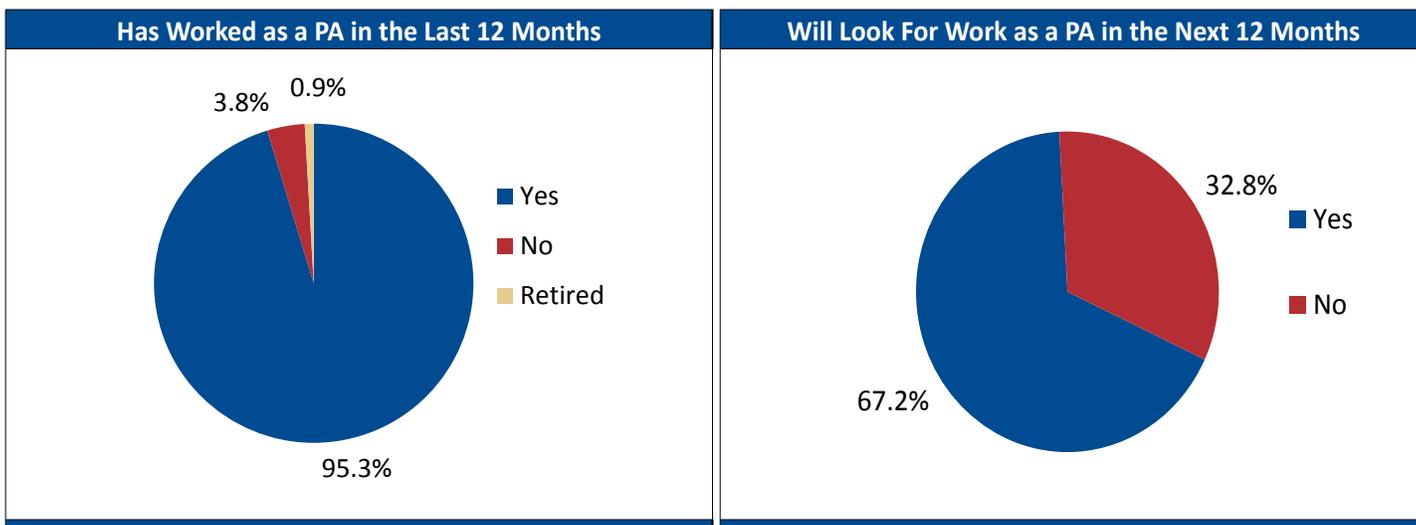
Foreign Languages Spoken and Written								
Language	Verbal Fluency	Written Fluency	Language	Verbal Fluency	Written Fluency	Language	Verbal Fluency	Written Fluency
Afrikaans	4	4	Hebrew	6	4	Patois	0	0
Albanian	1	0	Hindi	34	17	Persian	9	3
American Sign Language	9	1	Hmong	2	1	Polish	1	1
Amharic	2	1	Hsiang (Xiang Chinese)	1	0	Portuguese	19	14
Apache	1	0	Hungarian	0	0	Rumanian	4	4
Arabic	18	6	Ibo	2	2	Russian	28	27
Armenian	15	10	Ilocano/Iloko	1	0	Samoan	0	0
Bantu	0	0	Indonesian	4	4	Sebuano	1	1
Bengali	0	0	Italian	24	13	Serbian	0	0
Bisayan	2	2	Japanese	9	5	Serbo-Croatian	2	1
Bulgarian	0	0	Kannada	0	0	Sinhalese	3	2
Burmese	1	1	Keres	0	0	Slovak	0	0
Cajun	0	0	Korean	14	7	Spanish	848	575
Cambodian	10	4	Kru	0	0	Swahili	4	3
Cantonese (Yue Chinese)	40	15	Kurdish	0	0	Swedish	9	5
Chamorro	0	0	Lao	2	2	Syriac	0	0
Cherokee	1	0	Lettish	0	0	Tagalog	40	27
Croatian	0	0	Lithuanian	0	0	Tamil	0	0
Czech	1	1	Macedonian	0	0	Telugu	3	0
Dakota	0	0	Malayalam	0	0	Thai	6	3
Danish	4	2	Mandarin	39	25	Tonga	0	0
Dutch	4	3	Mande	0	0	Turkish	6	2
Farsi	40	18	Marathi	3	0	Ukrainian	7	5
Fijian	1	1	Marshallese	1	0	Urdu	19	3
Finnish	1	0	Mien (Lu Mien)	0	0	Vietnamese	41	20
French	70	41	Mon-Khmer	0	0	Yiddish	3	0
French Creole	1	0	Norwegian	1	0	Yoruba	3	2
German	35	16	Navajo	0	0	Other (Not Listed)	31	10
Greek	4	1	Nepali	0	0	Declined to State	20	
Gujarati	9	1	Panjabi (Punjabi)	21	10	Did Not Respond	2,208	
Haitian Creole	1	1	Pashto	6	5			

Survey Snapshot: Physician Assistants

PROVIDER INFORMATION

Employment Status

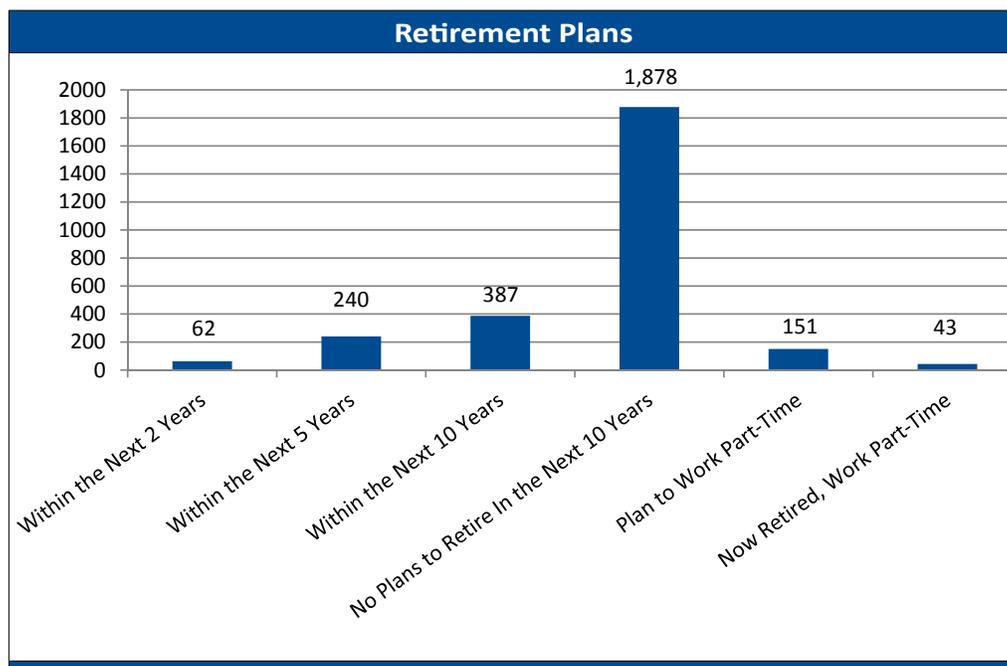
Out of 3,189 respondents, 3,040 PAs indicated that they have worked as a PA in the past 12 months, 121 had not and 28 were retired. In addition, 216 survey participants did not answer this question related to their current employment status. Furthermore, 82 PAs responded that they are currently looking or plan on looking to work as a PA in the next 12 months and 40 were not; 3,283 survey participants did not answer this subsequent question. The following two charts display the responses related to current and prospective work status.



Retirement Plans

In addition, 2,761 respondents provided data related to their retirement plans while 644 survey participants did not answer this question. The majority of respondents indicated that they plan on retiring within the next ten years. The data depicting retirement plans can be seen in the following table and chart.

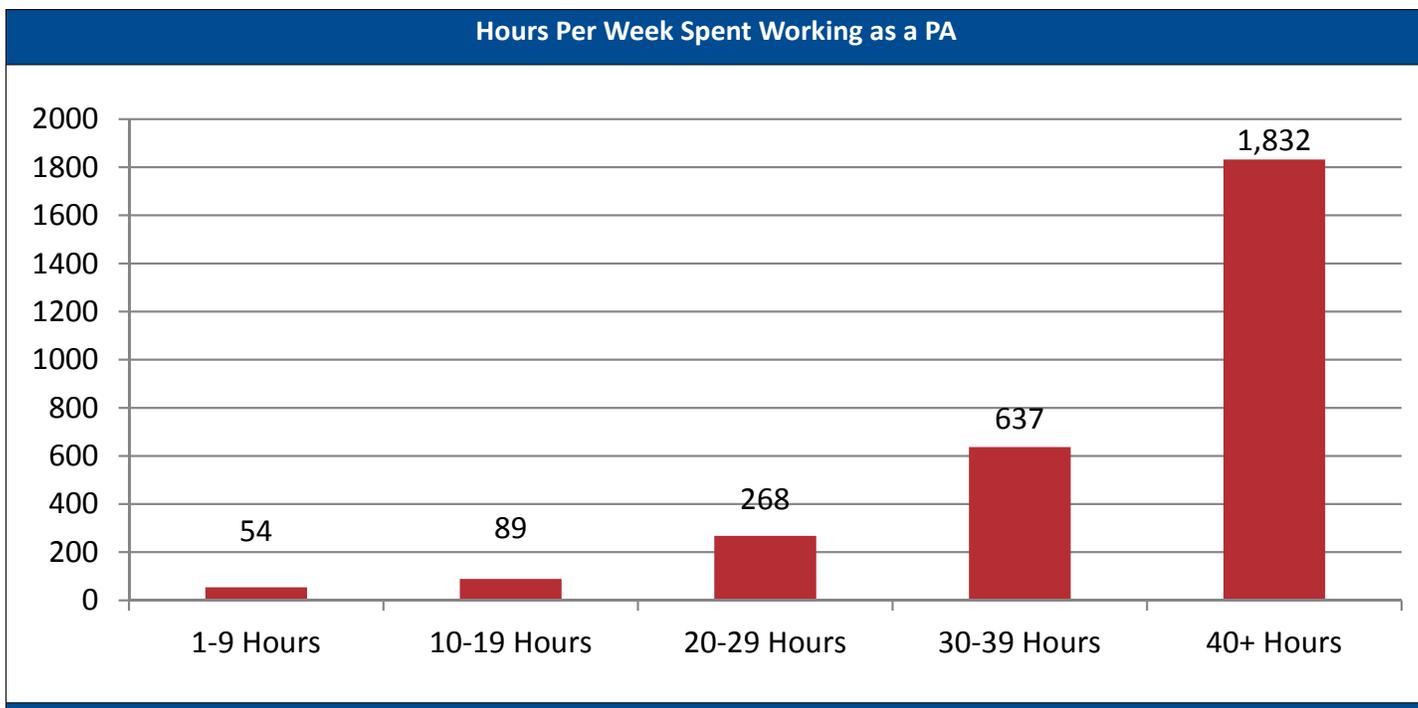
Retirement Plans	
Timeframe	Number of PAs
In the Next 2 Years	62
In the Next 5 Years	240
In the Next 10 Years	387
No Plans to Retire in Next 10 Years	1,878
Plan to Work Part-Time	151
Now Retired, Work Part-Time	43
Total	2,761



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Work Hours

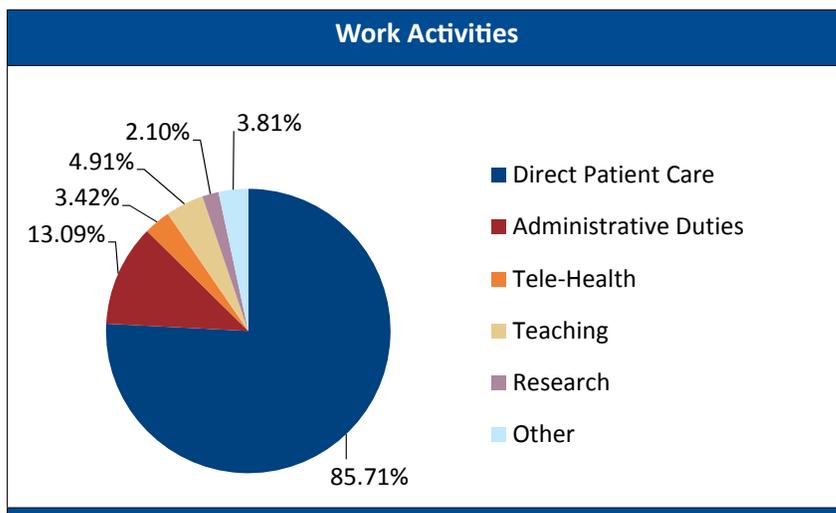
Survey participants were asked how many hours they spend weekly working as a PA. The majority of respondents indicated that they work full-time, more than 40 hours per week. The following chart provides detailed information related to the number of hours spent working as a PA for 2,880 respondents. In addition to the information charted, 525 survey participants did not answer this question.



Work Activities

Furthermore, 2,808 respondents provided data on how they spend their work hours. Overall, the majority of time is spent providing direct patient care. The following chart displays the average time spent on the following work-related activities, as a calculation of all responses received; 597 survey participants did not answer this question.

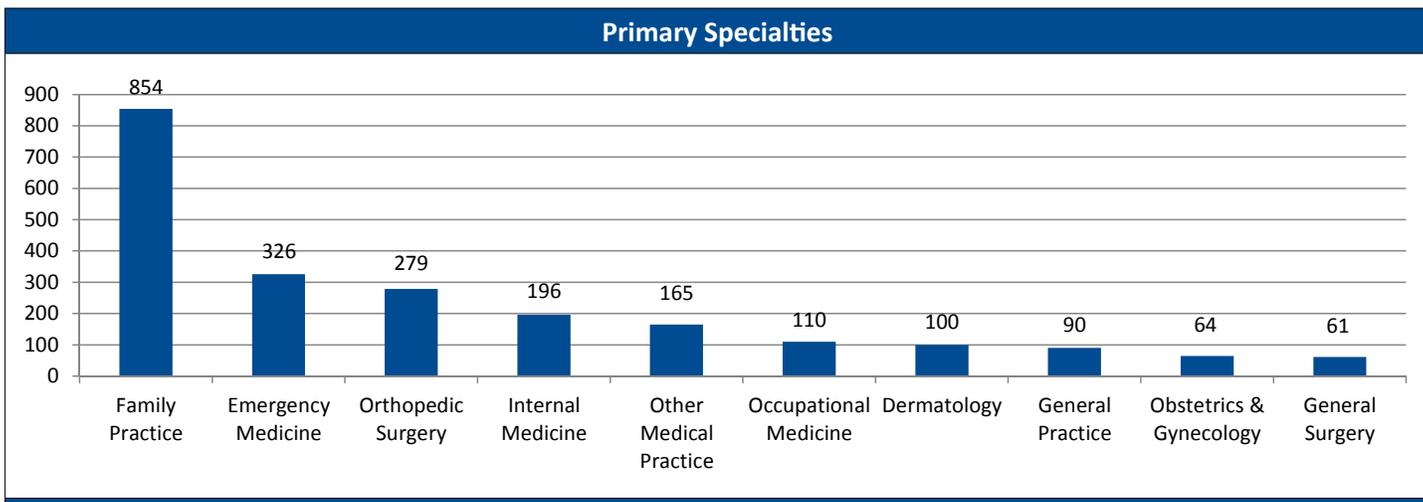
Work Activities	
Work Activities	Percentage of Work Time
Direct Patient Care	85.71%
Administrative Duties	13.09%
Tele-Health	3.42%
Teaching	4.91%
Research	2.10%
Other	3.81%



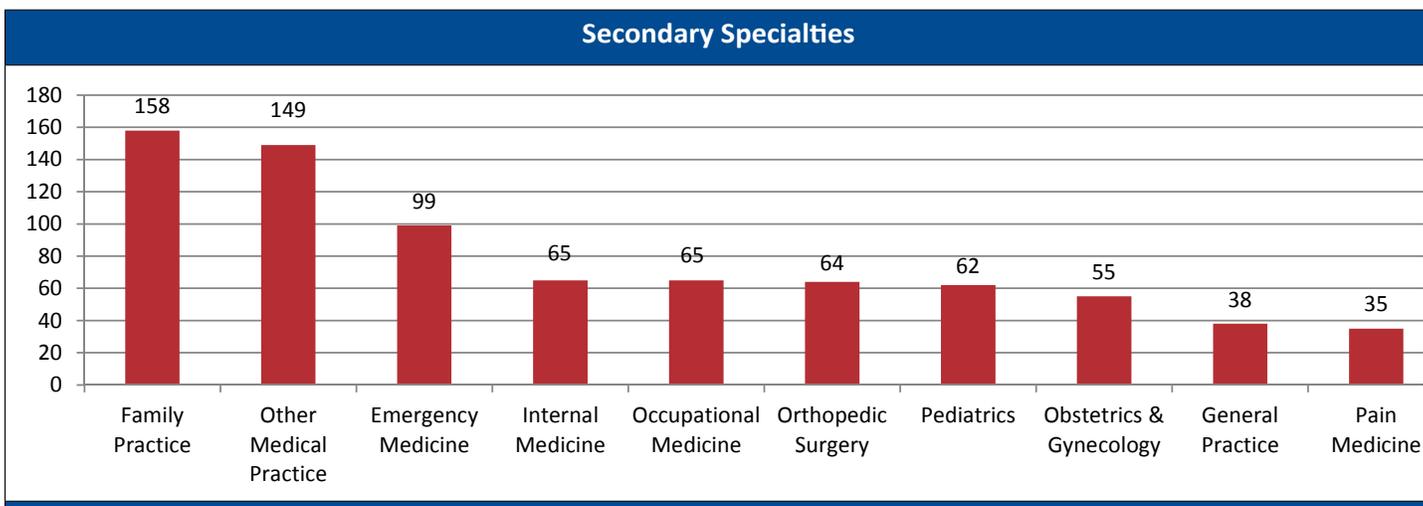
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Primary and Secondary Specialties

The survey recognized 50 different PA specialties. Data gathered from 2,815 respondents revealed the top ten primary specialties in the following chart below; 590 survey participants did not answer this question.



In addition, 810 PAs indicated that they work in more than one specialty and 2,003 do not; 592 survey participants did not answer this question. The survey allowed each licensee to elect more than one secondary specialty, resulting in duplicate counts for a single licensee. The top ten secondary specialties are displayed in the following chart.



Number of Specialties

When asked how many different medical specialties each participant has practiced since graduating from a PA school, 2,811 participants provided a response; 594 survey participants did not answer this question. The table to the right outlines the data received.

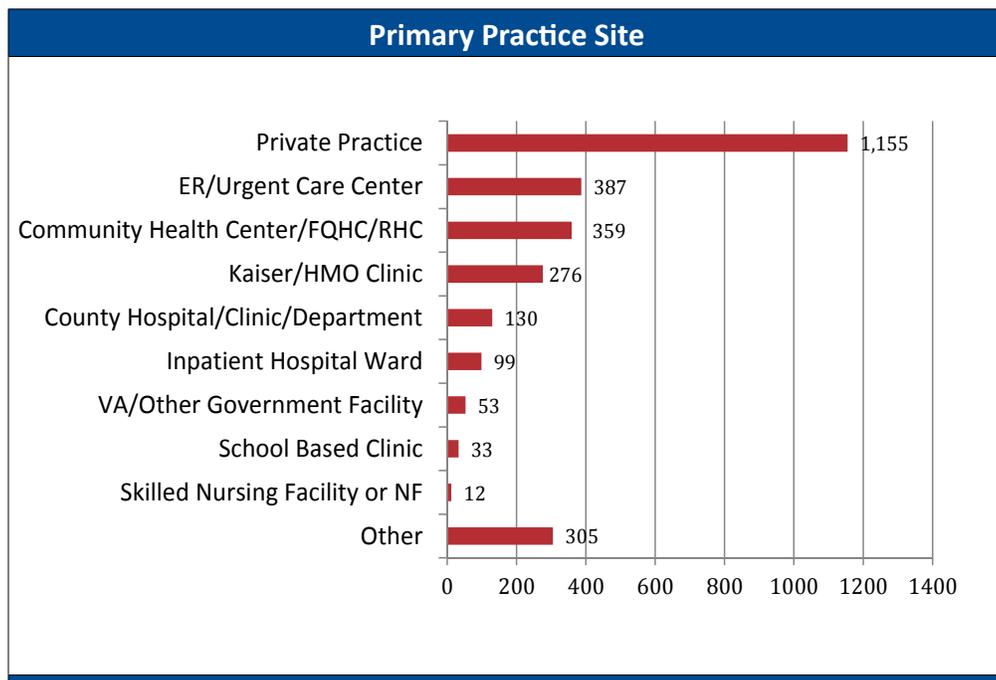
Specialties	PAs
1	800
2	877
3	632
4	276
5	99
More Than 5	127
Total	2,811

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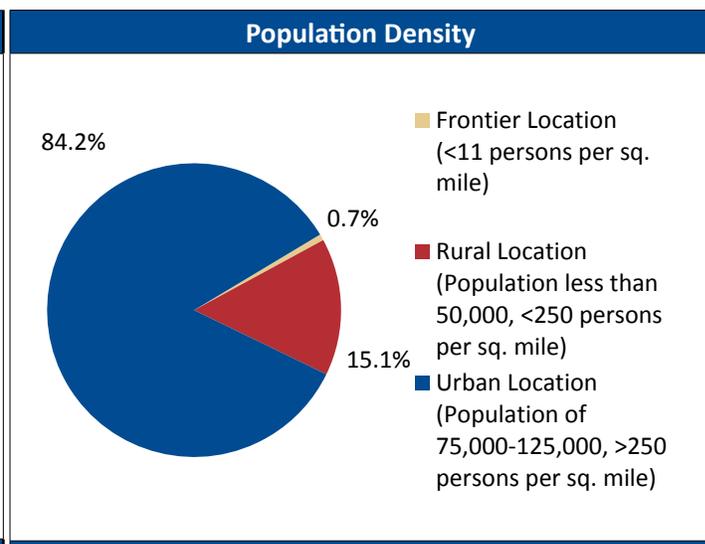
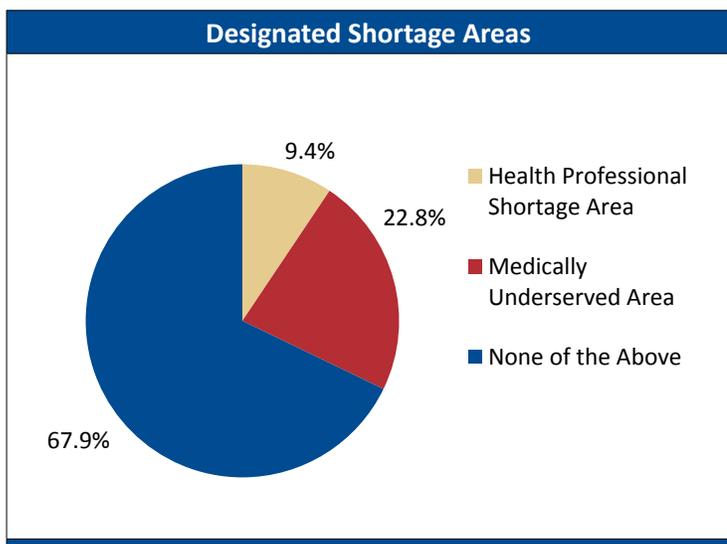
Primary Practice Sites

Survey participants were asked to describe their primary practice site as one of ten categories, including the fill-in option of "Other." The following table and chart displays the responses received from 2,809 PAs. In addition to the information charted, 596 survey participants did not answer this question.

Primary Practice Site	
Type of Site	Number of PAs
Private Practice Site	1,155
ER/Urgent Care Center	387
Community Health Center/FQHC/RHC	359
Kaiser/HMO Clinic	276
County Hospital/Clinic/Department	130
Inpatient Hospital Ward	99
VA/Other Government Facility	53
School-Based Clinic	33
Skilled Nursing Facility or NF	12
Other	305



The following two charts provide more detailed information related to the primary practice site locations. The chart below on the left displays data as it relates to what percentage of primary practice sites are located in designated shortage areas. The chart below on the right displays data regarding the population density for the primary practice site locations. In addition to the information charted below, 598 survey participants did not respond to the question related to designated shortage areas and 599 survey participants did not respond to the question related to population density.

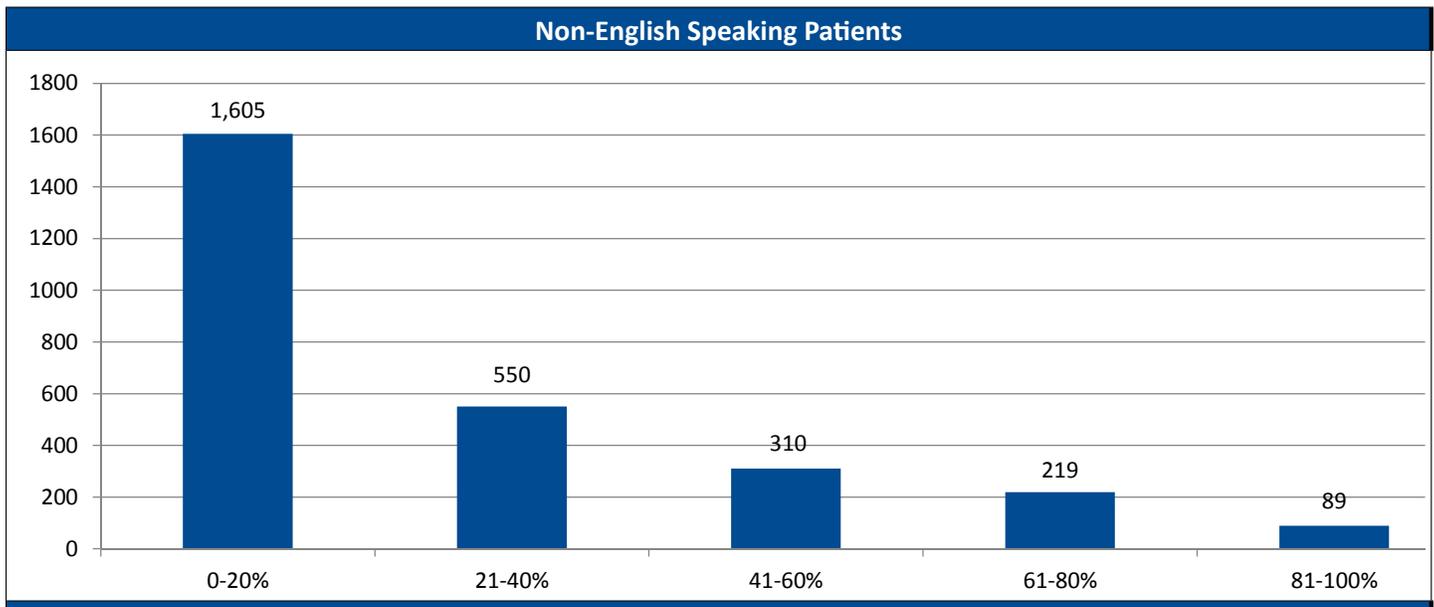


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PATIENT INFORMATION

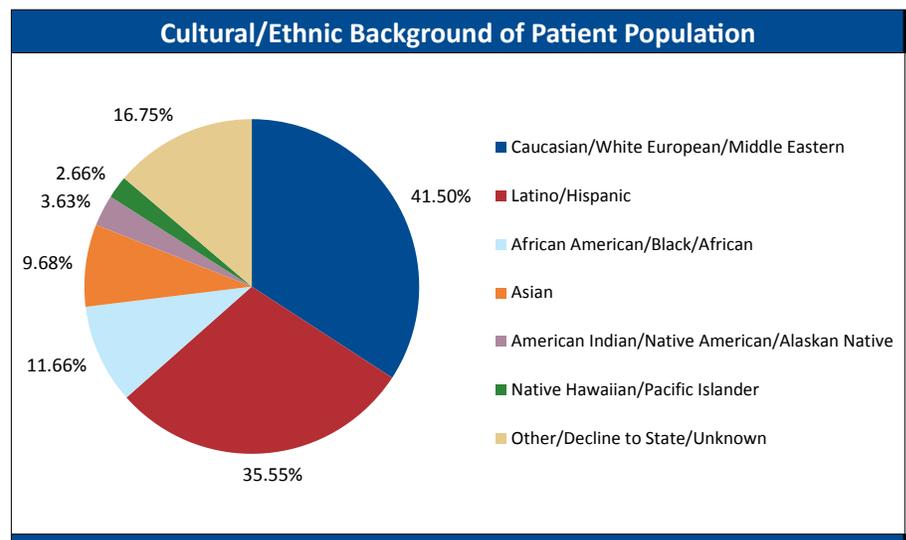
Non-English Speaking

The survey collected data from PAs related to the percentage of their patient population that does not speak English. The following chart displays the responses from 2,773 PA, grouped by spans of 20%; 632 survey participants did not answer this question.



Cultural/Ethnic Background

There were seven cultural/ethnic background categories on the survey that PAs could identify their patient population to be. The chart to the right displays the average percentage reported for each cultural/ethnic background category, as a calculation of all responses received from 2,777 PAs. Of the information collected, the largest reported patient population is Caucasian/White European/Middle Eastern. In addition to the information charted, 628 survey participants did not answer this question.



Uninsured and Medi-Cal

Finally, PAs were asked what percentage of their patients are uninsured and/or have Medi-Cal, California's version of the federal Medicaid program. The chart to the right displays the average for both categories, as a calculated percentage of all responses received from 2,759 PAs; 646 survey participants did not answer this question.

Uninsured and Medi-Cal	
Insurance Type	Percentage of Patients
Uninsured	21.76%
Have Medi-Cal	28.25%

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LIMITATIONS AND METHODOLOGY

The following limitations and methodologies were identified for this data set:

- The survey was sent to 8,947 Physician Assistants, including all those individuals whom CAPA had either an e-mail or mailing address.
- As part of the survey design, all questions were not mandatory and therefore, survey participants were given the opportunity to skip questions.
- Each question displayed in this report represents a subset of all survey participants.
- The tables and charts do not include the responses for those individuals who did not provide an answer for each question. However, the number of non-respondents was identified in the report text.
- The total respondents for each question varied significantly.
- Some information is displayed as an average response, meaning that the actual data are a calculation of all responses received.

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used throughout this document:

- ER – Emergency Room
- FQHC – Federally Qualified Health Center
- HMO – Health Maintenance Organization
- NF – Nursing Facility
- PA – Physician Assistant
- Riverside County RMCPA Program – Riverside County Regional Medical Center Physician Assistant Program
- RHC – Rural Health Clinic
- USC – University of Southern California
- VA – Veterans Administration

ABOUT OSHPD

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) is a department of the California Health and Human Services Agency. OSHPD was created in 1978 to provide the State with an enhanced understanding of the structure and function of its healthcare delivery systems. Since that time, OSHPD's role has evolved to include delivery of various services designed to advance access to safe, quality healthcare environments.

As California's Primary Care Office, OSHPD's Healthcare Workforce Development Division (HWDD) supports the state's healthcare workforce through strategies focused on pipeline development, training and placement, financial incentives, systems redesign, as well as research and policy. Specifically, HWDD:

- Provides grants to organizations supporting underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students' pursuit of careers in health care
- Deploys primary care practitioners to health professional shortage areas via loan repayments
- Provides grants to primary care and family practice health training programs to increase the number and distribution of primary care practitioners in underserved areas
- Remedies the shortage of mental health practitioners in the public mental health system via education and training programs
- Allows organizations to test, demonstrate and evaluate new or expanded roles for health professionals or new health delivery alternatives before changes in licensing laws are made by the Legislature
- Designates health professional shortage areas
- Engages stakeholders on federal/state health workforce development activities and provides analysis of health reform initiatives
- Serves as the state's central repository of health workforce and education information via the collection, analysis and distribution of educational, licensing and employment data and trends.

ABOUT CAPA

The Mission of the California Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) is to represent and serve PAs statewide. As an advocate of its members for quality healthcare and for their valued, unique alliance with supervising physicians, CAPA will enhance, educate and empower PAs for the ultimate benefit of their patients.