

Recruitment Hotsheet – Physician Assistant

Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine under the supervision of physicians and surgeons, and they have prescribing rights. In rural or inner-city clinics where a physician's presence may be limited to a part-time basis, PAs may be the principal care providers. In 2008, 142 education programs for physician assistants were accredited or provisionally accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. 80%, or 113, of these programs offered the option of a master's degree, 21 of them offered a bachelor's degree, three awarded associate's degrees and five awarded a certificate.

Employment Trends

In 2008, physician assistants held about 74,800 jobs. However, the number of jobs held is greater than the number of practicing PAs, because some hold two or more jobs simultaneously. According to the American Academy of Physician Assistants, about 15% of actively practicing PAs worked in more than one clinical job concurrently in 2008. More than 53% of jobs for PAs were in the offices of physicians, and about 24% were in general medical and surgical hospitals, public or private. The remainder were mostly in outpatient care centers, including health maintenance organizations; the Federal Government; and public or private colleges, universities and professional schools. According to the American Academy of Physician Assistants' 2008 Census Report, median income for physician assistants in full-time clinical practice was \$85,710 in 2008; median income for first-year graduates was \$74,470. Employment of physician assistants is expected to grow by 39% between 2008 and 2018, which is faster than the average for all occupations. Opportunities should be especially promising in rural and inner-city healthcare facilities.

Check out the Latest [American Academy of Physician Assistants Census!](#)

Top Markets

1. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ
2. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA
3. Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH
4. Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI
5. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA

Top Programs

[University of Iowa](#)

[Duke University](#)

[Emory University](#)

[George Washington University](#)

[University of Utah](#)

[University of Texas Southwest Medical Center, Dallas](#)

Online Networks

[Advance for NPs & PAs Facebook](#)

[Advance for NPs & PAs Networking Group LinkedIn](#)

[American Academy of Physician Assistants Facebook Group](#)

[American Academy of Physician Assistants LinkedIn](#)

[Clinician1](#)

[PA-CLife](#)

[PA Forum](#)

Media Spotlight: Blogs

[Advance for Physician Assistants](#)

[Life of a PA](#)

[Physician Assistant Education Community Blog](#)

[PA Gigis](#)

E-Newsletters

[Advance for PAs Digital Edition](#)

[Clinical Advisor Spotlight](#)

[Newsline for Physician Assistants Weekly e-News](#)

Upcoming Events

2nd Annual PA's Guide to the Musculoskeletal Galaxy, February 4-7, 2010, Phoenix, AZ

Heart to Heart 3, Association of PAs in Cardiology, February 13-21, 2010, Port Canaveral, FL

National Women's Health Conference, Association of PAs in Obstetrics and Gynecology, March 4-6, 2010, Las Vegas, NV

Spring CME Conference, Association of Family Practice PAs, March 11-13, 2010, Lake Buena Vista, FL

Pediatrics CME Conference, Society for PAs in Pediatrics, March 12-14, Baltimore, MD

6th Annual Emergency Medicine Conference, Society of Emergency Medicine PAs, March 21-25, 2010, Tucson, AZ

31st Annual Refresher Course, Society of Army PAs, April 26-30, 2010, Fayetteville, NC

AAPA Annual Conference, May 29-June 3, 2010, Atlanta, GA

1st Annual Summer Conference, Society of Dermatology PAs, June 10-13, 2010, Chicago, IL