

# Statistical Profile of Certified PAs by State

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## Background

- Since certifying the first PAs in 1975, NCCPA has collected data on the PA profession as PAs completed various processes 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 (six months or less).

## Method

- Data reflected includes responses from PAs who were certified as of December 31, 2020, and have made updates to their profile between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2020.
- As of December 31, 2020, there were 127,560 certified PAs who provided responses out of the 148,560 certified PAs (85.9% response rate).
- 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.

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## Results

### Percent of Certified PAs in Primary Care by State

Highest Percentage	Alaska	47.9%
	North Dakota	44.0%
	Wyoming	43.9%
	South Dakota	40.3%
	Nebraska	37.8%
Lowest Percentage	New Jersey	15.7%
	Louisiana	15.7%
	Rhode Island	15.6%
	Connecticut	14.8%
	Ohio	13.6%

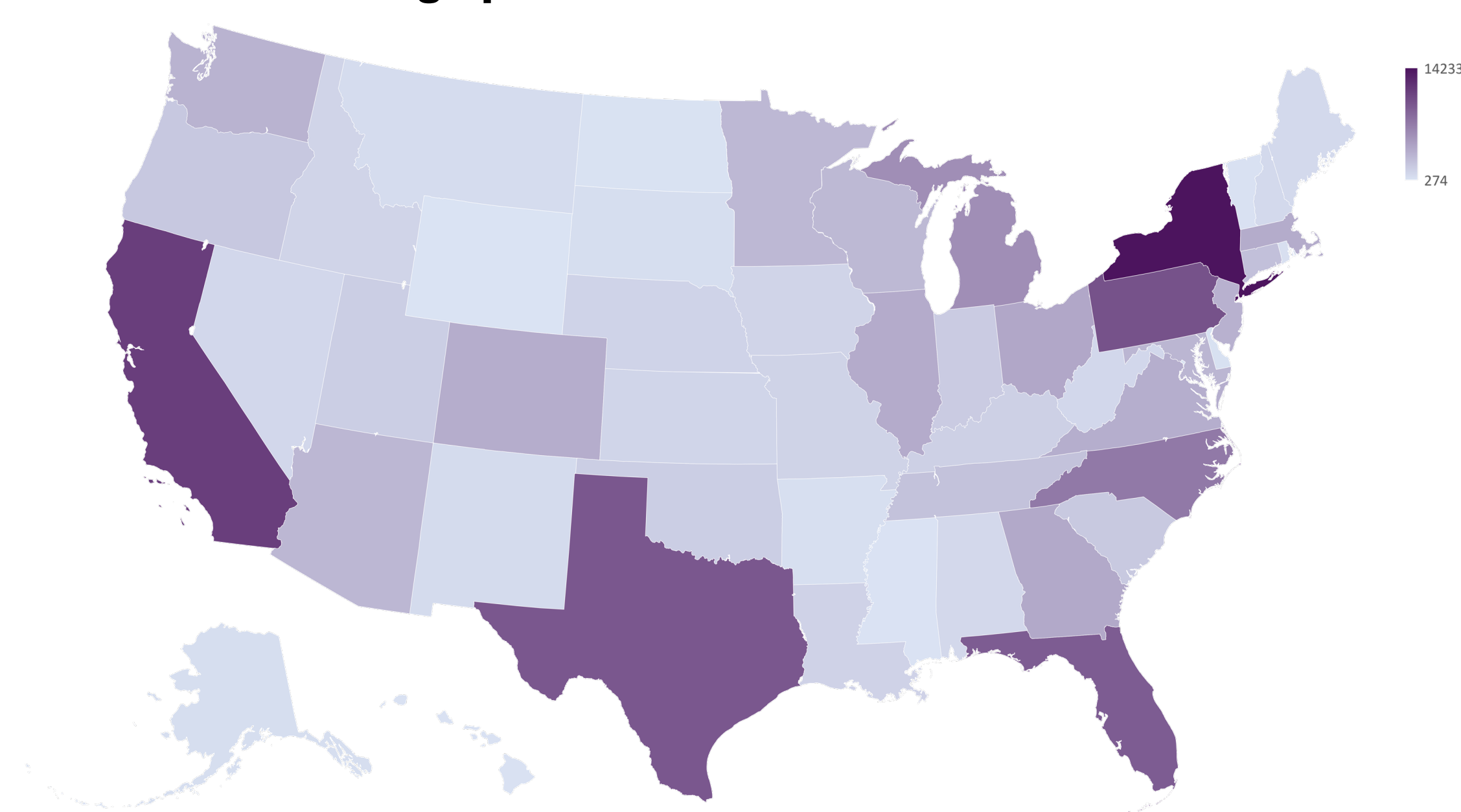
24.3% of U.S. PAs practice in primary care. Primary care includes family medicine/general practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics.

### Percent of Certified PAs Participating in Telemedicine by State

Highest Percentage	Alaska	39.2%
	South Dakota	33.9%
	Hawaii	33.0%
	Wyoming	29.4%
	Oregon	28.6%
Lowest Percentage	Illinois	16.5%
	New Jersey	16.4%
	New York	16.2%
	Connecticut	16.2%
	Indiana	15.3%

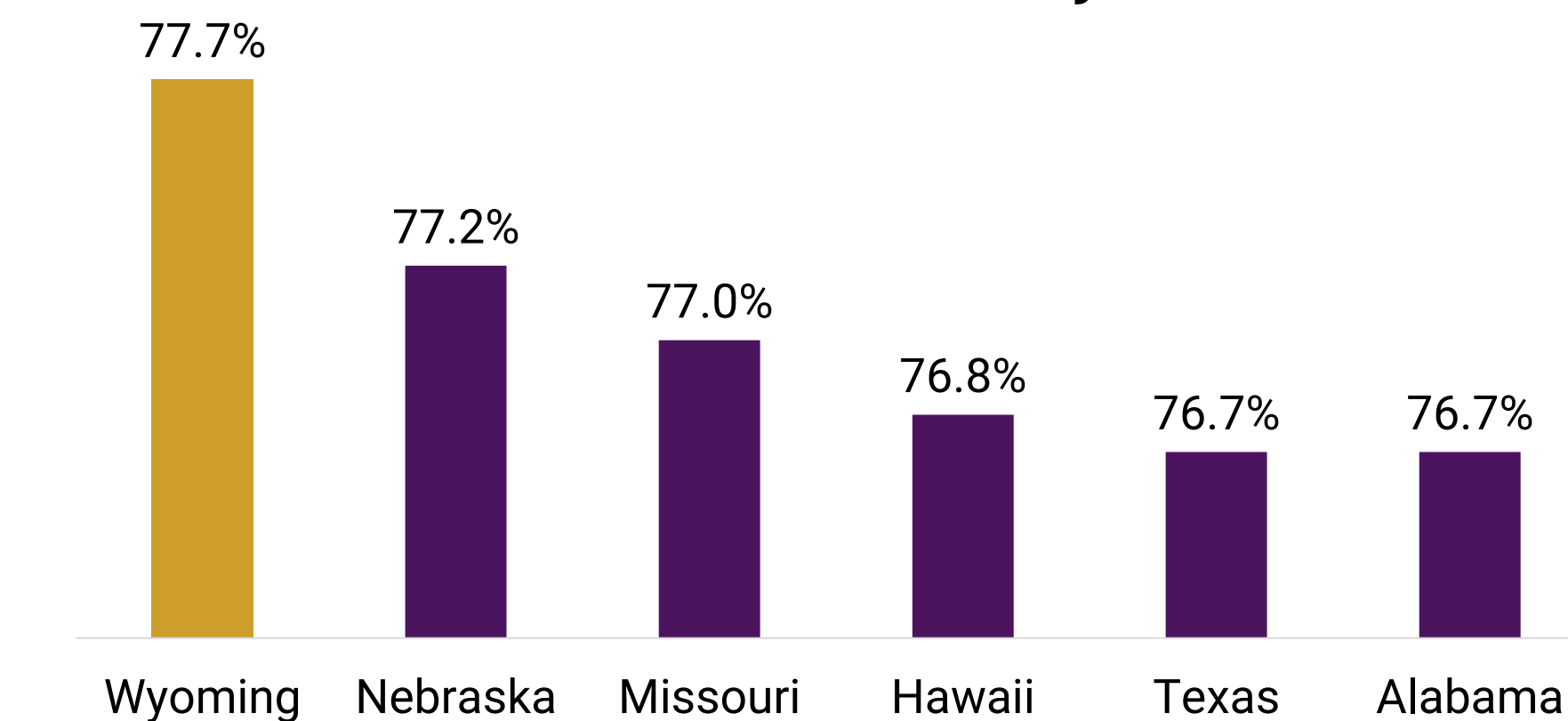
20.7% of U.S. PAs participate in telemedicine. Modalities PAs use when participating in telemedicine include videoconferencing, remote patient monitoring, and storing and forwarding data. Of the PAs who are participating in telemedicine, Wyoming had the highest percentage participating in videoconferencing (84.6%).

### Geographic Distribution of Certified PAs



The top five states ranked by number of certified PAs are New York (14,233), California (11,380), Pennsylvania (10,064), Texas (9,697), and Florida (9,381).

### Job Satisfaction of PAs by State



The top states with the highest percent of PAs who stated that they are completely or mostly satisfied with their jobs are Wyoming (77.7%), Nebraska (77.2%), Missouri (77.0%), Hawaii (76.8%), Texas (76.7%), and Alabama (76.7%).

### Percent of Certified PAs with a Patient Panel by State

Highest Percentage	North Dakota	51.9%
	Wyoming	49.8%
	Iowa	45.5%
	Alaska	45.2%
	Idaho	43.7%
Lowest Percentage	Wisconsin	28.0%
	Massachusetts	25.9%
	Louisiana	25.6%
	Indiana	25.1%
	Ohio	24.4%

33.8% (over 36,000) of clinically practicing Certified PAs indicated they have a patient panel for which they are the primary provider.

### Percent of Principal Place of Employment Recruiting PAs by State

Highest Percentage	Connecticut	44.0%
	New York	41.4%
	Maine	40.4%
	Wisconsin	39.5%
	Massachusetts	38.6%
Lowest Percentage	Arkansas	20.0%
	Kentucky	18.6%
	Tennessee	18.0%
	Alabama	17.2%
	Wyoming	15.1%

69.7% of certified PAs reported that their primary place of employment is currently recruiting/hiring PAs.

## Key Findings and Conclusion

- The PA profession grew 28.6% between 2016 and 2020, reaching 148,560 Certified PAs at the end of 2020.
- Wyoming, Florida, Delaware, and Alaska average the most hours worked per week (42 hours) for certified PAs.
- Nevada has the highest average of patients seen per week (96 patients) for certified PAs.
- New Mexico has the highest percentage of ethnically diverse PAs. 21.3% identified as Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin.
- California has the highest percentage (52.7%) of certified PAs that speak another language in addition to English with their patients.
- The top three states where PAs work in a hospital practice setting are Maine (57.6%), New York (57.5%), and Massachusetts (57.4%).
- Certified PAs in West Virginia, Vermont, Louisiana, Kentucky, D.C., and California have the highest median percentage of Medicaid patients (30%).
- Utah has the highest percentage of male certified PAs (53.1%). D.C. has the highest percentage of female certified PAs (79.3%).
- West Virginia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Nevada, and Kentucky have the highest median number of prescriptions written per week (50 prescriptions) for certified PAs.
- Hawaii had the highest percentage of certified PAs who have ever served in the US Armed Forces (31.3%), followed by Alaska (30.0%).

## References

- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, Inc. (2022). 2020 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants by State. Retrieved from <http://www.nccpa.net/resources/nccpa-research/>