

Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants by State

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Introduction:

Since certifying the first physician assistants (PAs) in 1975, NCCPA has collected data on the PA profession as PAs completed various processes related to obtaining initial certification and then maintaining certification by earning and logging continuing medical education credits and passing recertification examinations. In May 2012, NCCPA’s data gathering efforts were significantly enhanced with the launch of the PA Professional Profile. This data gathering instrument is presented to PAs through a secure portal within NCCPA’s website. The Profile was launched with two modules: “About Me” and “My Practice.” In December 2012, NCCPA added a “Recently Certified” module delivered online to PAs who have been certified (for the first time) for less than six months. This poster highlights the data collected from all modules. The full report is available at <http://www.nccpa.net/research>.

Data Preparation and Analysis:

Data reflected includes responses from PAs who were certified as of December 31, 2018 and have made updates to their profile between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018. As of December 31, 2018, there were 117,280 certified PAs who provided responses out of the 131,152 certified PAs (89.4% 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. Responses were examined for consistency and potential errors. In cases of obvious error or inconclusive data, the responses were not included in the analysis. The number of responses to individual items varies due to differing response rates or due to the data being removed for reasons previously noted. Analyses of the data consist primarily of descriptive statistics.

About NCCPA:

NCCPA is the only certifying organization for physician assistants in the United States. Established as a not-for-profit organization in 1974, NCCPA is dedicated to providing certification programs that reflect standards for clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning and other medical skills and professional behaviors required upon entry into practice and throughout the careers of physician assistants. All U.S. states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories have decided to rely on NCCPA certification as one of the criteria for licensure or regulation of PAs. More than 160,000 PAs have been certified by NCCPA since 1975, and more than 139,000 are certified today.

Table 1: Highest and Lowest Percentage of Certified PAs Communicating with Patients in a Language Other than English by State

State/Area		Percent
Highest Percentage	California	52.9%
	New Mexico	38.8%
	Texas	36.9%
	Nevada	34.3%
	New Jersey	31.8%
Lowest Percentage	Ohio	8.3%
	Missouri	8.0%
	South Dakota	6.9%
	West Virginia	4.9%
	North Dakota	4.8%

22.7% of all Certified PAs indicated they can communicate with patients in another language. Most common languages include: Spanish, Russian and Chinese.

Figure 1: Highest and Lowest Percentage of Certified PAs Working in Primary Care by State

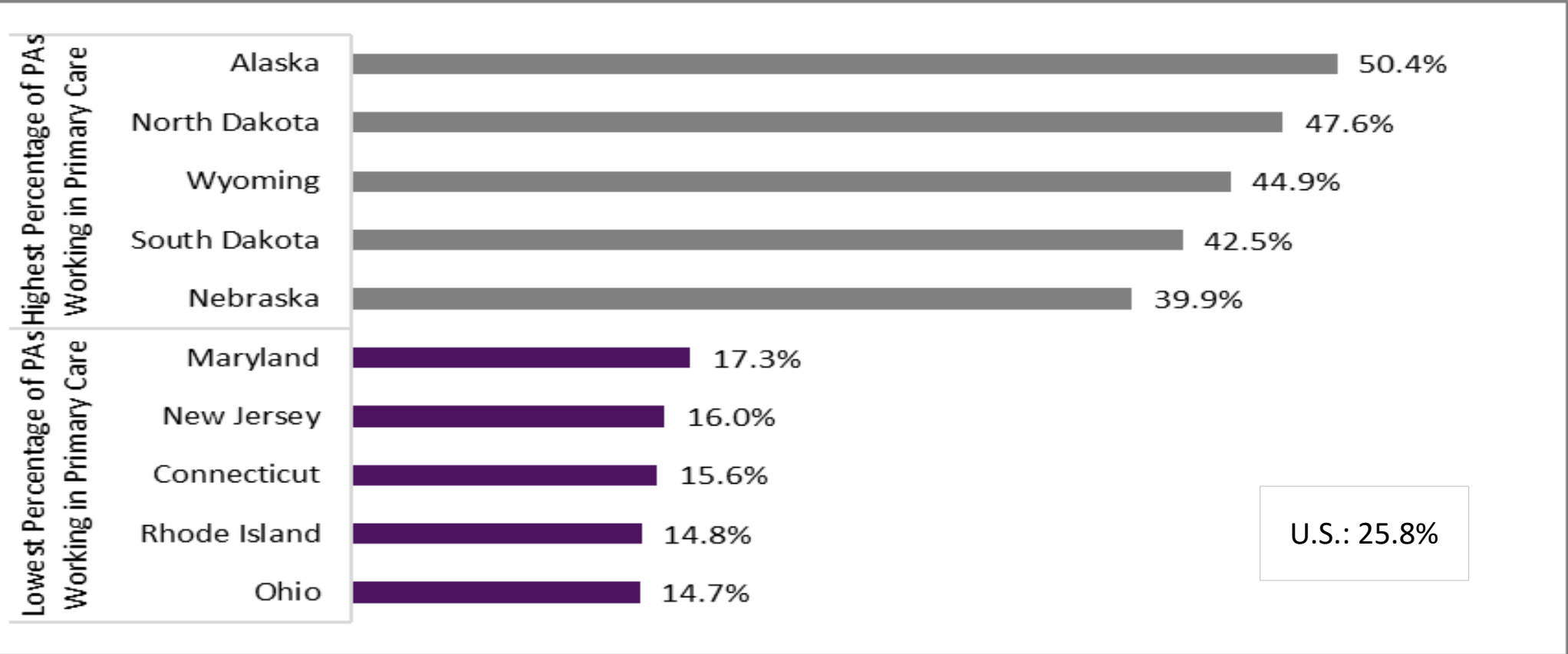


Figure 2 : Distribution of Certified PAs per 100,000 Population

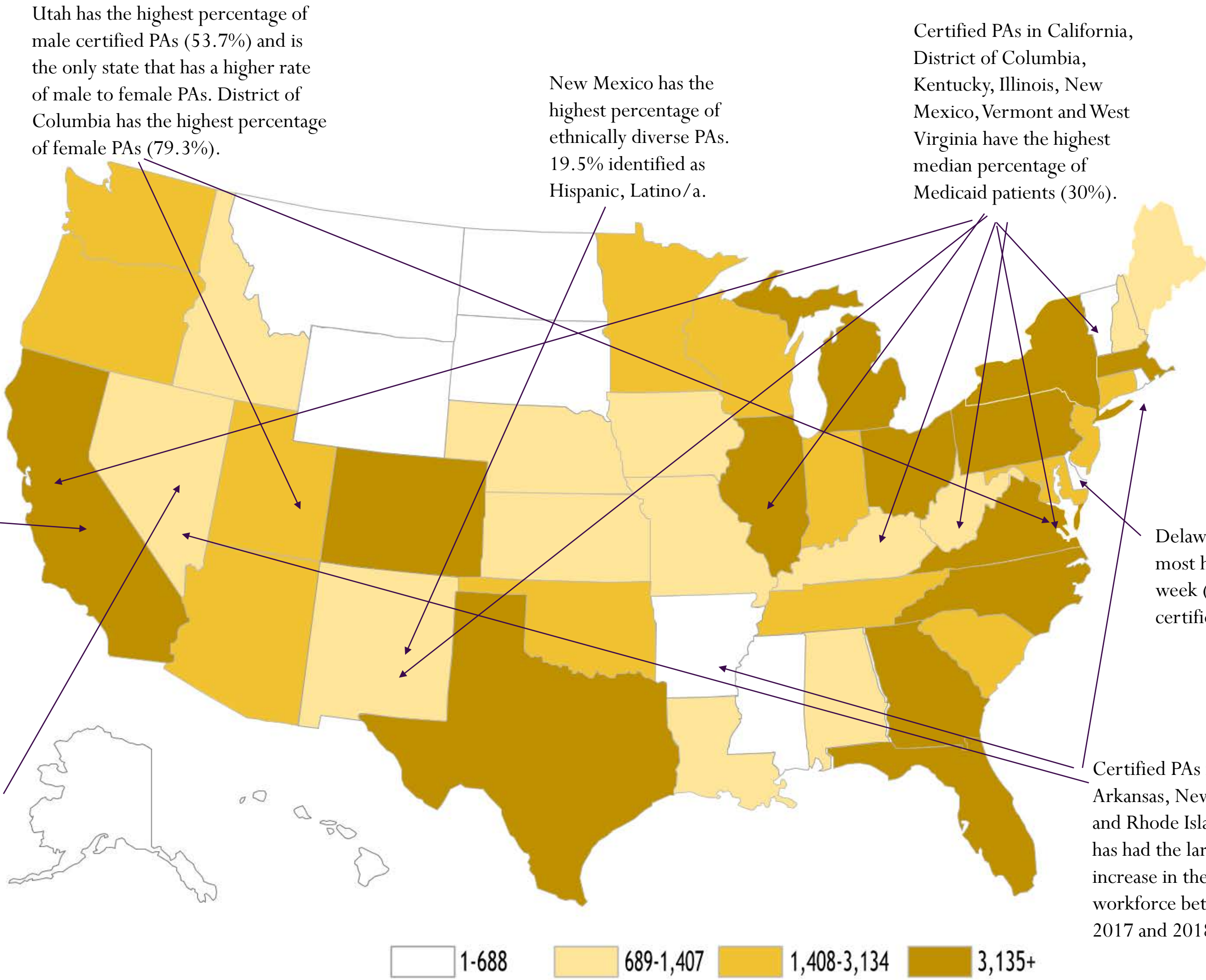


Table 2 : Highest and Lowest Percentage Working in a Hospital Setting

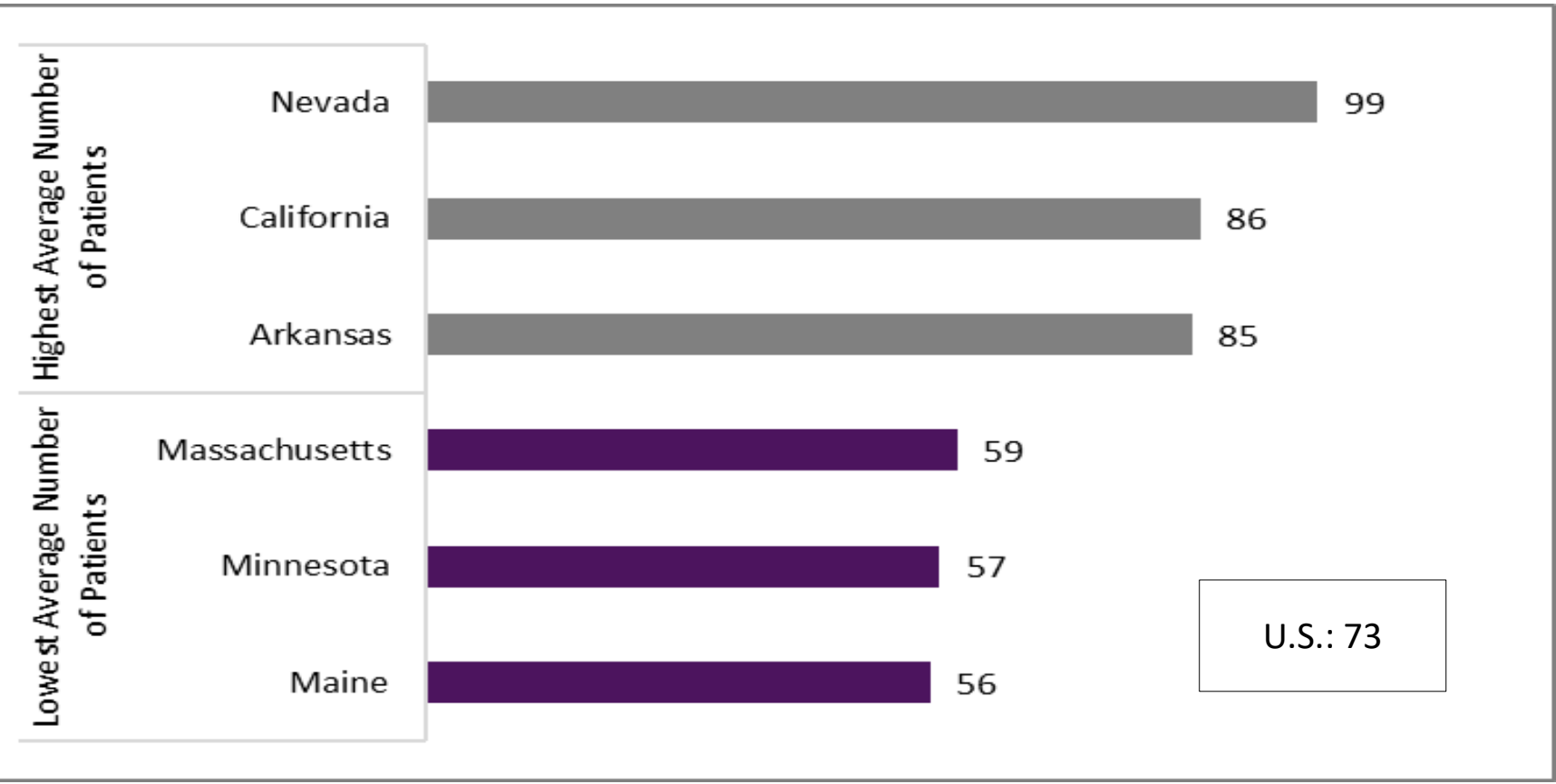
State/Area		Percent Working in Hospital Setting
Highest in Hospital Setting	Maine	57.4%
	New York	57.2%
	Massachusetts	57.0%
	Connecticut	56.4%
	District of Columbia	55.7%
Lowest in Hospital Setting	Wyoming	26.5%
	South Dakota	24.1%
	Hawaii	23.3%
	Nevada	22.1%
	Alaska	7.7%

Table 3 : Highest and Lowest Mean Educational Debt by State/Area

State/Area		Mean Debt
Highest Debt	New Hampshire	\$149,219
	Nevada	\$148,661
	Maine	\$146,711
	Oregon	\$144,508
	Connecticut	\$139,773
Lowest Debt	Idaho	\$92,500
	Texas	\$91,919
	Kansas	\$80,938
	Alaska	\$77,778
	Hawaii	\$29,167

EDUCATIONAL DEBT of recently certified PAs in the U.S.: Median: \$112,500 / Mean debt: \$116,705

Figure 3: Highest and Lowest Average Number of Patients Seen Per Week by Certified PAs who Work Full-time* by State



*40 hours or more in their principal position

To view the full report, click [here](#).

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