

Michigan Department of Community Health

Survey of Physician Assistants

Survey Findings 2010

INTRODUCTION

In fall 2010, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) conducted the fourth annual survey of licensed physician assistants (PAs) to gather information about their employment characteristics, education, and work environment.

The MDCH contracted with Public Sector Consultants Inc. (PSC) for development, implementation, and analysis of the survey of physician assistants. The survey was designed in collaboration with the MDCH and the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants.

The survey contained questions about employment status, education, location and setting of main clinical practice site, percentage of time spent with supervising physician, specialty, use of computer technology, professional satisfaction, and plans to continue practicing, as well as a number of demographic questions (age, gender, race/ethnicity). The survey questions and response frequencies are provided in the Appendix.

As of January 2010, a total of 3,353 physician assistants were licensed in Michigan. PAs are required to renew their license every two years from the first year of licensure, thus dividing the universe of PAs into two cohorts of roughly equal size. The sample for this survey was drawn from the Michigan licensure files maintained by the MDCH; 1,796 physician assistants were eligible for license renewal in 2010 and received a copy of the survey instrument with their license renewal form. The survey was also available to PAs completing their license renewal online.

Of those eligible, 1,703 PAs renewed their license; among these 648 responded to the survey either online or by return mail, for a response rate of 38 percent and a margin of error of ± 3.5 percent with 95 percent confidence.¹ The 648 responses include fully and partially completed surveys (i.e., those with information missing for one or more variables), meaning that sample size for individual variables will differ and the margin of error may change slightly depending upon the number of responses for that particular question.

While the results of the 2010 survey of physician assistants are generally consistent with those of the 2007, 2008, and 2009 surveys, differences in the data that fall outside the margin of error are noted. Key survey findings are presented below.

¹ For example, if the answer to a survey question is 60 percent “Yes,” the margin of error and confidence level mean that if this question were asked 100 times, in 95 occurrences the answer of the entire universe of possible respondents would be between 56.5 percent and 63.5 percent (i.e., the ± 3.5 percent margin of error).

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

- Overall, 92 percent of physician assistants licensed in Michigan are *active* in Michigan—that is, they are working part- or full-time in Michigan in physician assistant practice or in a related area (see Exhibit 1). *Unless otherwise noted, data presented in this report are for active, licensed physician assistants working in Michigan.*
 - Among active physician assistants, 88 percent are working 32 hours or more per week in PA practice or a related area and 12 percent are working less than 32 hours per week.
- About 4 percent of physician assistants licensed in Michigan are working as a PA, but not in Michigan.
- About 4 percent of licensed physician assistants are not working as a PA.

EXHIBIT 1

Employment Characteristics of Physician Assistants, 2010

	Percentage of all PAs	Percentage of active PAs in Michigan
32 or more hours per week in PA practice or related area	85%	88%
Less than 32 hours per week in PA practice or related area	12	12
Employed but not as a PA	1	NA
Not employed and seeking employment as a PA or in a related area	1	NA
Not employed and seeking employment outside of PA practice or related area	0	NA
Temporarily not working and not looking for a job	2	NA
Retired, with no plans to return to work	<1	NA
Licensed physician assistants working in PA practice or related area in Michigan	92%	NA
Licensed physician assistants working in PA-related area outside of Michigan	4	NA
Licensed physician assistants not working in PA-related area	4	NA

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.

NOTE: NA = Not applicable.

PRACTICE SETTING CHARACTERISTICS

One in five active physician assistants (20 percent) work for more than one employer, and 37 percent practice at more than one site for their main employer. A majority of PAs (56 percent) say that their supervising physician is with them at their main clinical practice site 76–100 percent of the time. Only 17 percent report having a supervising physician with them at their main clinical practice site 0–25 percent of the time.

Two-thirds of PAs (66 percent) have a main clinical practice in an outpatient site. When asked to identify *all* of their current employment settings, about half of active PAs (51 percent) say they work in a physician’s office and about two-thirds say they work in a

hospital in either an inpatient setting (40 percent) or outpatient setting (24 percent) (see Exhibit 2).

EXHIBIT 2
Current Employment Settings of Physician Assistants, 2010

Setting	Percentage of active PAs in Michigan
Physician's office	51%
Hospital inpatient	40
Hospital outpatient	24
Public/community health	6
Nursing home/long-term care	5
Home health care	2
PA education program	1
Hospice	1
Other	8

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.

NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100 percent because respondents were asked to mark all that apply.

About two-fifths (40 percent) of PAs describe the area of their primary practice as suburban; approximately one-third (32 percent) describe it as urban; and less than one-third (29 percent) say they work in a rural area or small town.

PRACTICE SPECIALTY

Approximately 38 percent of active physician assistants in Michigan specialize in primary care, that is, their primary specialty is family practice, general medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics (see Exhibit 3).

EXHIBIT 3

Distribution of Active Physician Assistants in Michigan, by Specialty, 2010

	Specialty	
	Primary	Secondary
Allergy & Immunology	0%	1%
Anesthesiology	<1	<1
Cardiovascular Disease	4	4
Critical Care Medicine	1	4
Dermatology	3	1
Emergency Medicine	10	9
Endocrinology	<1	<1
Family Practice	22	9
Gastroenterology	1	1
General Medicine	4	5
Geriatrics	2	4
Hospitalist	2	5
Infectious Disease	<1	<1
Internal Medicine (General)	9	14
Nephrology	1	<1
Neurology	1	<1
Neurological Surgery	2	1
Obstetrics & Gynecology	2	2

	Specialty	
	Primary	Secondary
Occupational Medicine	2%	3%
Oncology/Hematology	4	<1
Orthopedic Surgery	7	1
Otolaryngology	1	0
Pediatrics	3	4
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	1	<1
Plastic Surgery	<1	<1
Preventive Medicine	0	3
Psychiatry	2	3
Pulmonary Disease	1	2
Radiology	1	<1
Rheumatology	<1	0
Sports Medicine	0	3
Surgery (General)	4	4
Thoracic Surgery	1	1
Urology	1	<1
Vascular Surgery	1	2
Other	7	10

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.
NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

TIME SPENT PROVIDING PATIENT CARE

- Active physician assistants in Michigan spend an average of 37 hours per week providing patient care.
- One-fourth of these PAs (25 percent) spend 30 hours or less per week providing such care.
- Another 24 percent spend more than 40 hours per week providing patient care.

PROVISION OF CARE TO MEDICAID AND MEDICARE PATIENTS

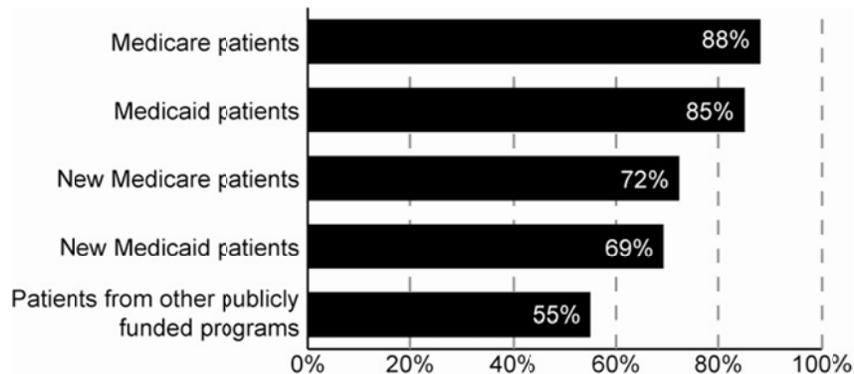
Among active physician assistants in Michigan:

- Almost nine out of ten (88 percent) report currently providing care to Medicare patients.
- About three-quarters (72 percent) are providing care to *new* Medicare patients.
- Nearly nine out of ten (85 percent) report that they are currently providing care to Medicaid patients (see Exhibit 4).
- About two-thirds (69 percent) are providing care to *new* Medicaid patients.

- More than half (55 percent) are providing care to patients from other publicly funded programs.

EXHIBIT 4

Percentage of Active Physician Assistants in Michigan Providing Care to Patients from Publicly Funded Programs, 2010



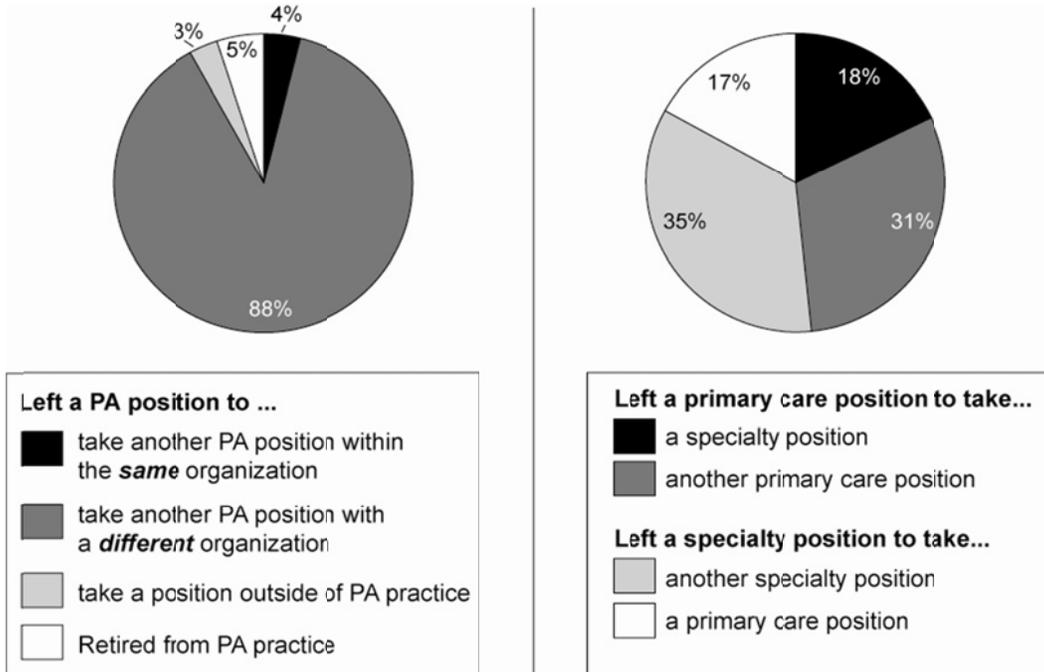
SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.

CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT

Twenty-one percent of *all* licensed physician assistants voluntarily left a PA position within the last two years, which is consistent with findings from past surveys. Among physician assistants who voluntarily left a PA position in the last two years, the vast majority (88 percent) took another PA position with a different organization and 4 percent took another PA position within the *same* organization (see Exhibit 5). This is also consistent with previous survey findings.

In 2010, the percentage of physician assistants who left a primary care position to take a specialty position is nearly identical to the percentage who did the reverse (18 percent compared to 17 percent, see Exhibit 5). This is similar to responses to the same question in 2008, when 15 percent of PAs left a specialty position to take a primary care position and 15 percent did the opposite. In 2007 and 2009, however, slightly more PAs left primary care positions for specialty positions (18 percent and 17 percent, respectively) than those who left specialty positions for primary care positions (11 percent and 12 percent, respectively).

EXHIBIT 5
**Physician Assistants Who Voluntarily Left a
 PA Position within the Last Two Years, 2010**



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.
 NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

FUTURE PRACTICE PLANS

Four out of five active physician assistants in Michigan (80 percent) plan to maintain their present level of patient care hours for the next three years, a proportion that has remained fairly constant since 2007. Future practice plans of active physician assistants are laid out in Exhibit 6.

EXHIBIT 6
Physician Assistant Practice Plans for the Next Three Years, 2010

Practice plan	Percentage of active PAs in Michigan
Maintain the number of patient care hours I currently work	80%
Increase patient care hours	11
Significantly reduce patient care hours	7
Relocate to another state	5
Relocate to another Michigan location	3
Retire	2

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.
 NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100 percent because respondents were asked to mark all that apply.

Of the 9 percent of active physician assistants who plan to retire or reduce their patient care hours “age,” “childbearing/childrearing,” “lifestyle changes,” and “increasing administrative/regulatory burdens” continue to be the most commonly cited factors contributing to this decision (see Exhibit 7).

Of physician assistants who plan to retire or reduce their patient care hours in the next three years, those who responded to the 2010 survey were more likely than 2009 respondents to cite the following job-related factors as influencing their decisions:

- Increasing administrative burden/regulatory burden (22 percent in 2010, compared to 10 percent in 2009)
- Inadequate reimbursement for services from insurers (15 percent in 2010, compared to 0 percent in 2009)
- Inadequate salary/wages (13 percent in 2010, compared to 5 percent in 2009)
- Employer/employee conflict (7 percent in 2010, compared to 0 percent in 2009)

In 2010, about two-fifths (43 percent) of PAs who indicated plans to retire or reduce patient care hours cited age as a factor in the decision. This is similar to findings from the 2009 and 2008 surveys. In 2007, however, only 32 percent indicated age was a factor.

EXHIBIT 7
Distribution of Factors Contributing to Decisions to Retire or Reduce Patient Care Hours, 2010

Factors	Percentage of active PAs in Michigan who plan to retire or reduce patient care hours
Age	43%
Childbearing/childrearing	32
Lifestyle changes	30
Increasing administrative/regulatory burden	22
Personal or family health concerns	17
Inadequate reimbursement for services from insurers	15
General lack of job satisfaction	13
Inadequate salary/wages	13
Moved to management/consulting/teaching/research	7
Employer/employee conflict	7
Other	13

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.
NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100 percent because respondents were asked to mark all that apply.

PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION

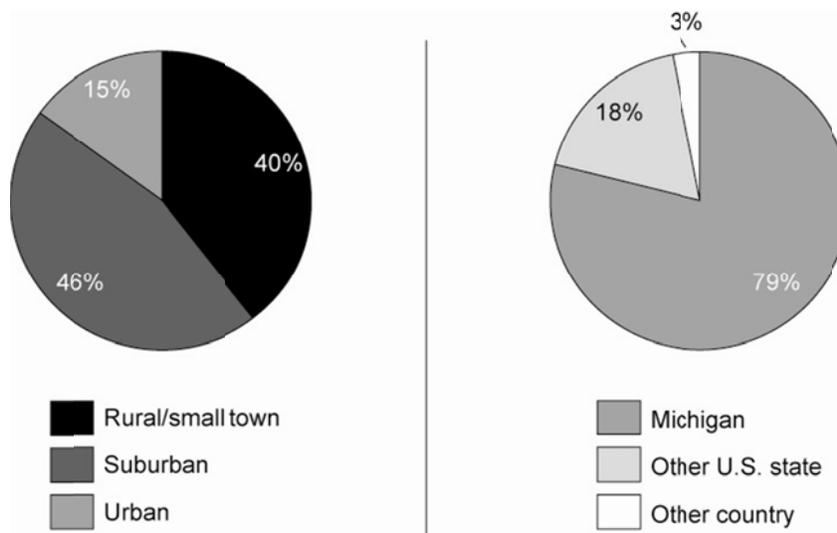
Physician assistants report high levels of professional satisfaction. Nearly all (96 percent) are either extremely satisfied (68 percent) or somewhat satisfied (28 percent) in their work. The level of professional satisfaction among physician assistants has increased

among those *in the same license renewal cohort*, where 84 percent of active physician assistants in 2008 were either extremely satisfied (57 percent) or somewhat satisfied (27 percent) professionally.

ORIGIN AND EDUCATION BACKGROUND

A large majority (79 percent) of active Michigan-licensed physician assistants grew up in Michigan, 18 percent grew up in another U.S. state, and 3 percent grew up in another country (see Exhibit 8). Nearly half (46 percent) grew up in a suburban area, 40 percent come from a rural area/small town, and 15 percent grew up in an urban area.

EXHIBIT 8
Origin of Active Physician Assistants in Michigan, 2010



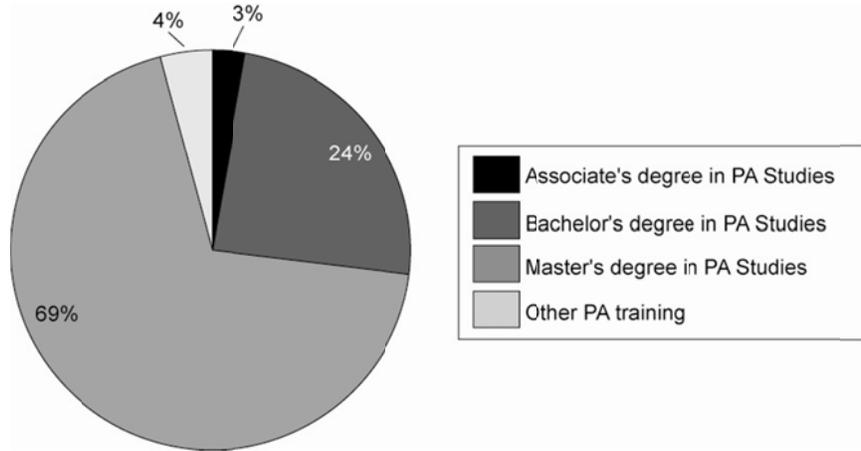
SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.

NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

The highest education level achieved by two-thirds (69 percent) of active physician assistants in Michigan is a master's degree in PA Studies; 24 percent hold a bachelor's degree in PA Studies; 3 percent have completed an associate's degree in PA Studies; and 4 percent do not hold a degree but have received other PA training (see Exhibit 9).

EXHIBIT 9

Highest Degree Achieved by Active Physician Assistants in Michigan, 2010

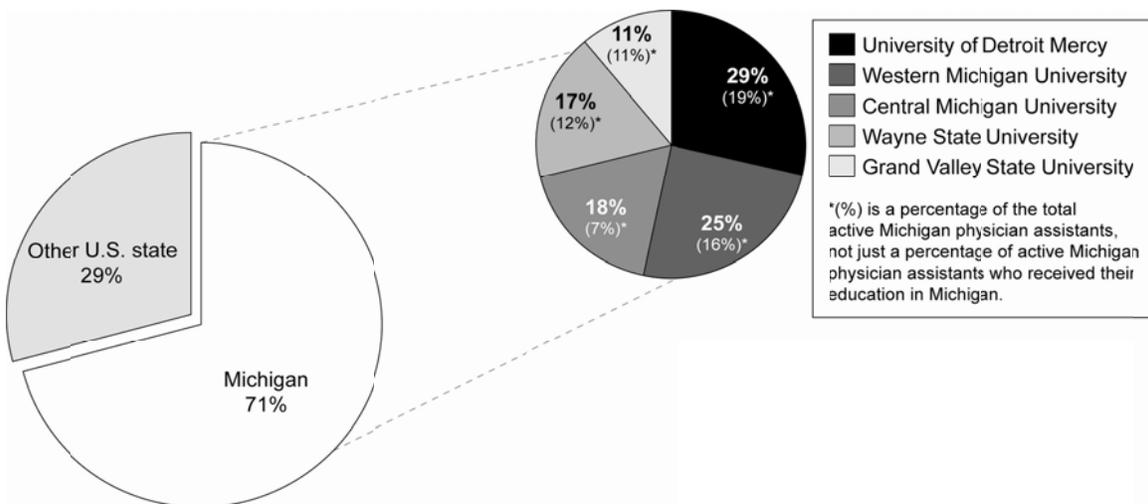


SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.

Among active physician assistants in Michigan about 71 percent received their highest physician assistant degree from a PA program in Michigan and 29 percent attended a PA program in another state (see Exhibit 10). Among those who received their degree from a PA program in Michigan, 29 percent attended University of Detroit Mercy, 25 percent attended Western Michigan University, 18 percent attended Central Michigan University, 17 percent attended Wayne State University, and 11 percent attended Grand Valley State University. Five percent of physician assistants are either enrolled in or have completed a postgraduate physician assistant residency program.

EXHIBIT 10

Education Background of Active Physician Assistants in Michigan, 2010



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.

NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Active physician assistants are involved in a variety of professional activities outside of clinical practice, including teaching, research, and administration (see Exhibit 11).

EXHIBIT 11

Distribution of Professional Activities of Active Physician Assistants, 2010

Professional activity	Percentage of active PAs in Michigan
Teaching	29%
Research	8
Administration in a private practice	7
Administration in PA education program, hospital, health plan, nursing home, or clinic	6

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.

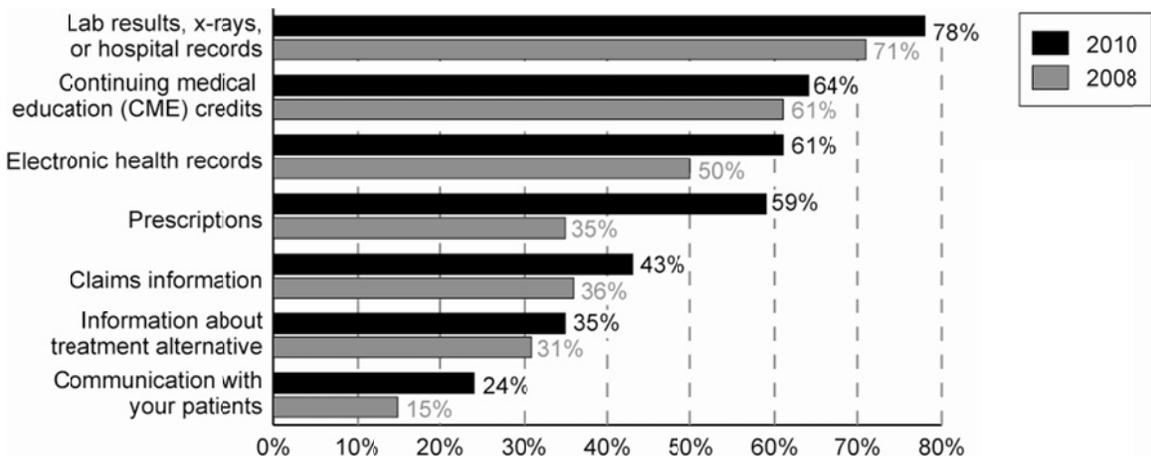
USE OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

The use of computer technology for receiving or transmitting information has increased significantly *within the same license renewal cohort* of physician assistants (see Exhibit 12). Notable increases have occurred in:

- Electronic prescribing
- Electronic health records
- Communication with patients
- Lab results, x-rays, or hospital records
- Claims information

EXHIBIT 12

Percentage of Practices Using Computer Technology to Receive or Transmit Information (Active Physician Assistants)



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.

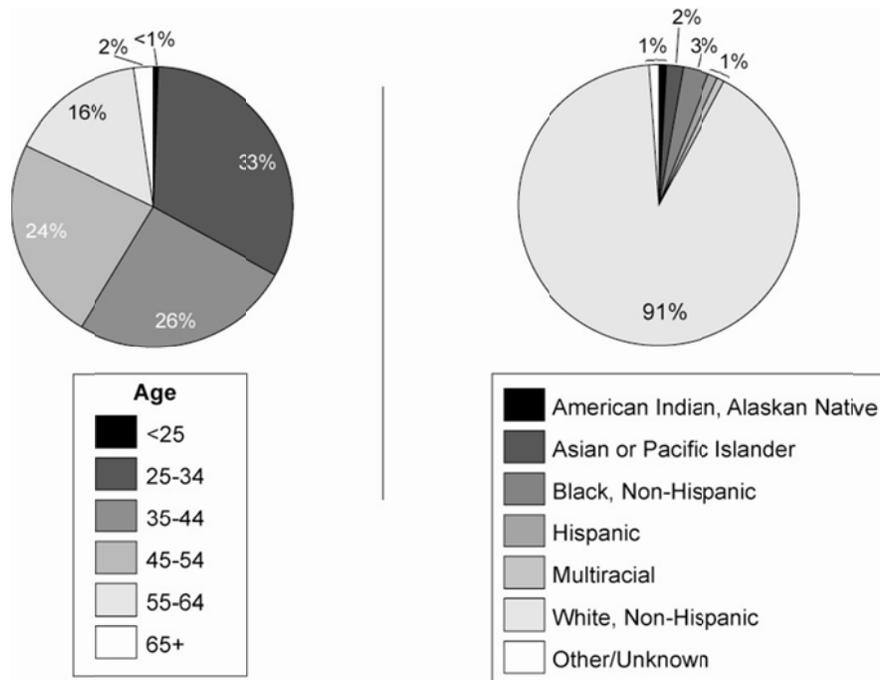
GENDER, AGE, RACE, AND ETHNICITY

Among active physician assistants in Michigan:

- Thirty-two percent are male; 69 percent are female, similar to the 2008 figures. In 2007 and 2009, a larger percentage of those surveyed were male (38 percent and 37 percent, respectively), which suggests a slight difference in the gender distribution in the two licensure renewal cohorts.
- Eighteen percent are aged 55 or older; 59 percent are under the age of 45 (see Exhibit 13).
- Ninety-one percent are white; 3 percent are black, non-Hispanic; 2 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander; 1 percent are American Indian/Alaskan Native; and another 1 percent are Hispanic.

EXHIBIT 13

Age, Race, and Ethnicity of Active Physician Assistants in Michigan, 2010



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Community Health Survey of Physician Assistants 2010.

NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Appendix

Survey Questions and Response Frequencies* (N=648)

1. In what year were you born?

Age	2007	2008	2009	2010
<25	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
25–34	34.2	35.7	31.4	32.9
35–44	23.6	21.0	23.8	25.5
45–54	23.6	26.1	23.0	23.6
55–64	17.2	14.1	19.9	15.9
65+	1.3	0.8	2.0	1.9

2. What is your current employment status? (Mark **one**)

	Percentage of all physician assistants				Percentage of active physician assistants in Michigan			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. 32 or more hours per week in PA practice or related area	84.4%	84.1%	83.0%	84.5%	87.8%	88.0%	86.5%	87.7%
b. Less than 32 hours per week in PA practice or related area	11.8	11.7	13.0	11.6	12.2	12.0	13.5	12.3
c. Employed but not as a PA	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.6	NA	NA	NA	NA
d. Not employed and seeking employment as a PA or in a related area	1.4	1.0	1.8	1.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
e. Not employed and seeking employment outside of PA practice or related area	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
f. Temporarily not working and not looking for a job	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
g. Retired, with no plans to return to work	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	NA	NA	NA	NA

3. What is your gender?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Female	62.0%	70.3%	63.3%	68.5%
b. Male	38.0	29.7	36.7	31.5

* Unless otherwise noted, all frequencies are for *active* physician assistants. NA = Not applicable. Percentages in tables may not total 100 percent due to rounding.

4. What is your race/ethnicity?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. American Indian, Alaskan Native	0.4%	1.4%	0.0%	0.7%
b. Asian or Pacific Islander	2.8	1.4	2.5	2.4
c. Black, Non-Hispanic	2.6	3.1	2.3	3.1
d. Hispanic	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.0
e. Multiracial	0.6	1.2	0.6	0.7
f. White, Non-Hispanic	91.5	91.3	91.7	90.8
g. Other/Unknown	0.9	0.6	1.3	1.4

5. Where do you live? (Mark **one**)

	Percentage of all licensed physician assistants			
	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Michigan	94.4%	93.6%	94.4%	95.2%
b. Other U.S. state	5.2	6.1	5.3	4.5
c. Canada	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3
d. Other country	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0

6. Where is your primary place of employment?

	Percentage of all licensed physician assistants			
	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Michigan	95.4%	94.0%	96.1	95.9%
b. Other U.S. state	4.3	5.6	3.7	3.9
c. Canada	0.3	0.0	0	0.2
d. Other country	0	0.2	0.2	0

7. Please indicate the ZIP Code for your main clinical practice site. _____

8. Do you work for more than one employer?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Yes	19.9%	17.3%	17.5%	19.7%
b. No	80.1	82.7	82.5	80.3

9. Do you practice at more than one site for your main employer?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Yes	35.1%	34.2%	33.8%	37.3%
b. No	64.9	65.8	66.2	62.7

10. Approximately what percentage of the time is your supervising physician at your main clinical practice site when you are?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. 0–25 percent	12.9%	14.8%	14.5%	16.6%
b. 26–50 percent	10.8	9.2	10.8	11.7
c. 51–75 percent	16.3	19.1	16.4	15.3
d. 76–100 percent	60.1	56.7	58.3	56.4

11. Is your main clinical practice an outpatient or inpatient site?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Outpatient	65.6%	66.9%	67.1%	66.2%
b. Inpatient	32.5	30.0	31.0	32.1
c. Not applicable	1.9	3.1	1.9	1.7

12. Identify your current employment setting(s). (Mark **all** that apply)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Hospital Inpatient	40.7%	41.3%	40.5%	39.5%
b. Hospital outpatient	26.9	26.8	26.1	23.5
c. Physician's office	51.7	51.2	52.1	50.8
d. Nursing home/long-term care facility	5.9	3.5	5.2	5.4
e. Home health care	1.5	0.6	1.7	1.7
f. Public/community health	4.3	5.0	2.9	5.7
g. Hospice	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.5
h. PA education program	2.2	1.5	1.7	1.2
i. Other	7.4	6.9	8.2	8.4
j. None or not active as a physician assistant	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0

13. How many *hours per week* do you spend providing direct patient care?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Mean in hours	37.34	36.79	36.19	37.11

14. Overall, how would you rate your professional satisfaction as a physician assistant?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Extremely satisfied	66.0%	57.4%	70.8%	67.7%
b. Somewhat satisfied	31.2	27.3	26.3	28.0
c. Neutral	1.9	2.3	1.7	2.9
d. Somewhat dissatisfied	0.9	4.3	0.8	1.2
e. Extremely dissatisfied	0.0	8.7	0.4	0.2

15. What is the highest physician assistant degree you have achieved? (Mark **one**)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Associate's degree in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies	4.8%	2.5%	3.6%	3.2%
b. Bachelor's degree in PA Studies	26.3	26.6	25.5	24.0
c. Master's degree in PA Studies	66.2	67.8	67.8	69.0
d. Other PA training	2.6	3.1	3.1	3.7

16. Are you involved in any of the following professional activities? (Mark **all** that apply)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Research	10.0%	11.0%	9.5%	8.1%
b. Teaching	33.3	32.4	33.4	29.2
c. Administration in a private practice	7.6	5.0	7.1	6.6
d. Administration in a PA education program, hospital, health plan, nursing home, or clinic	4.4	5.0	5.9	6.1

17. Are you currently providing care to...

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Medicaid patients?	83.1%	82.0%	86.5%	85.3%
b. New Medicaid patients?	71.1	64.5	68.7	68.9
c. Medicare patients?	88.0	85.5	89.1	88.0
d. New Medicare patients?	77.8	67.2	73.9	72.3
e. Patients from other publicly funded programs?	60.4	53.9	56.5	55.2

18. Mark the practice specialty(ies) in which you spend most of your professional time. Mark **ONE primary** and, if applicable, **ONE secondary** specialty.

	Specialty							
	Primary				Secondary			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
1. Allergy & Immunology	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	1.2%
2. Anesthesiology	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.4
3. Cardiovascular Disease	3.8	6.9	6.0	4.4	2.8	2.4	4.3	3.7
4. Critical Care Medicine	1.3	1.0	0.4	1.4	3.9	3.9	3.2	4.1
5. Dermatology	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.8
6. Emergency Medicine	11.4	9.6	11.4	10.3	13.5	13.1	9.7	9.1
7. Endocrinology	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4
8. Family Practice	21.4	24.0	21.8	22.3	6.2	10.7	8.6	9.1
9. Gastroenterology	2.1	1.4	1.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.6	1.2
10. General Medicine	3.2	2.4	2.9	3.7	7.3	2.9	2.7	5.0
11. Geriatrics	0.4	1.2	0.6	1.6	4.5	1.5	7.6	4.1
12. Hospitalist	2.8	3.0	4.1	2.3	1.7	2.9	1.6	4.6

	Specialty							
	Primary				Secondary			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
13. Infectious Disease	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.4
14. Internal Medicine (General)	9.3	8.1	8.1	9.1	18.0	14.1	19.5	14.1
15. Nephrology	1.1	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.4
16. Neurology	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.4
17. Neurological Surgery	3.0	2.2	3.1	1.6	0.0	1.5	1.6	0.8
18. Obstetrics & Gynecology	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.6	0.0	3.9	2.7	2.1
19. Occupational Medicine	3.2	2.8	2.3	2.3	7.3	3.4	3.2	3.3
20. Oncology/Hematology	3.4	3.9	1.9	3.7	1.1	0.0	0.5	0.4
21. Orthopedic Surgery	6.8	5.7	7.5	7.0	5.1	3.4	2.2	0.8
22. Otolaryngology	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	0
23. Pediatrics	1.7	3.5	2.1	3.0	4.5	2.4	6.5	3.7
24. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	1.9	0.8	1.5	1.4	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.4
25. Plastic Surgery	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.9	0.0	0.4
26. Preventive Medicine	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.9	0.5	2.5
27. Psychiatry	1.5	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.7	5.3	2.7	3.3
28. Pulmonary Disease	0.2	0.4	0.0	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.5	1.7
29. Radiology	1.1	0.8	1.5	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.4
30. Rheumatology	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
31. Sports Medicine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	2.4	3.8	2.9
32. Surgery (General)	4.6	4.3	3.7	4.0	1.7	2.4	0.5	4.1
33. Thoracic Surgery	1.7	1.2	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.5	2.2	1.2
34. Urology	0.9	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
35. Vascular Surgery	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.9	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.1
36. Other	4.0	4.1	6.0	6.8	7.3	11.2	9.2	10.0

19. In your practice, does someone use a computer or computer-like device (e.g., PDA) to receive or transmit... (Mark **all** that apply)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. lab results, x-rays, or hospital records?	73.5%	71.2%	74.2%	77.9%
b. prescriptions?	34.6	35.1	52.9	58.8
c. claims information?	34.6	35.7	36.5	43.2
d. electronic health records?	50.0	49.6	59.0	61.3
e. communication with your patients	16.9	15.4	17.6	23.6
f. information about treatment alternatives	35.0	31.1	31.9	35.1
g. continuing medical education (CME) credits?	57.8	60.8	63.5	63.5

20. How would you describe the area where you grew up? (Please mark an answer in both sections A & B).

SECTION A				
	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Rural/small town	38.6%	39.0%	40.8%	39.9%
b. Suburban	43.9	47.1	44.7	45.5
c. Urban	17.4	13.9	14.5	14.6
SECTION B				
	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Michigan	80.3%	78.2%	80.9%	79.4%
b. Other U.S. state	17.9	19.7	17.8	18.0
c. Other country	1.8	2.1	1.2	2.6

21. How would you describe the area of your primary practice?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Rural/small town	Not asked	26.8%	26.6%	28.5%
b. Suburban	Not asked	40.5	42.7	39.6
c. Urban	Not asked	32.5	30.7	31.8

22. A. Please indicate where you received your highest physician assistant degree.

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Michigan	75.3%	70.1%	75.0%	70.6%
b. Other U.S. state	24.7	29.7	25.0	29.4
c. Other country	0	0.2	0	0

B. If in Michigan, please specify the school.

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Central Michigan University	13.3%	17.5%	16.4%	17.7%
b. Grand Valley State University	11.0	10.7	10.8	11.1
c. University of Detroit Mercy	32.0	33.5	28.8	28.8
d. Wayne State University	16.5	16.3	17.7	17.4
e. Western Michigan University	27.3	22.0	26.4	25.0

23. Are you enrolled in or have you completed a postgraduate physician assistant residency program?

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Yes	4.7%	4.5%	4.6%	4.9%
b. No	95.3	95.3	95.4	95.1

24. Have you voluntarily left a physician assistant position within the last two years?

	Percentage of all licensed PAs			
	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Yes	25.2%	25.0%	23.2%	21.4%
b. No	74.8	74.8	76.8	78.6

25. If you voluntarily left a physician assistant position within the last two years, was it to... (Mark **one**)

	Percentage of licensed PAs who voluntarily left a PA position within the last two years			
	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. take another PA position within the same organization?	8.5%	5.3%	7.1%	3.8%
b. take another PA position with a different organization?	85.1	89.4	88.9	87.9
c. take a position outside of PA practice?	5.0	1.5	0.0	3.0
d. retire from PA practice?	1.4	3.8	4.0	5.3

26. If you voluntarily left a physician assistant (PA) position within the last two years to take another PA position, did you...

	Percentage of licensed PAs who left a PA position to take another PA position			
	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. leave a primary care position to take a specialty position?	18.2%	15.3%	16.7%	17.8%
b. leave a primary care position to take another primary care position?	Not asked	29.0	27.5	30.5
c. leave a specialty position to take another specialty position?	54.5	40.3	44.2	34.7
d. leave a specialty position to take a primary care position?	10.6	14.5	11.7	16.9

27. In the next three years, I plan to... (Mark **all** that apply)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. maintain the number of patient care hours I currently work.	79.8%	78.4%	82.8%	80.2%
b. increase patient care hours.	9.3	9.8	9.4	10.5
c. significantly reduce patient care hours.	7.4	7.3	6.1	7.1
d. relocate to another Michigan location.	5.9	5.6	3.6	3.4
e. relocate to another state.	4.6	6.2	4.6	5.2
f. retire.	2.4	1.9	1.5	2.4

28. If you are retiring or reducing your patient care hours, what are the factors that led to this decision? (Mark **all** that apply)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
a. Age	31.9%	40.4%	40.0%	42.6%
b. General lack of job satisfaction	21.3	14.9	10.0	13.0
c. Childbearing/childrearing	31.9	31.9	45.0	31.5
d. Lifestyle changes	42.6	40.4	20.0	29.6
e. Inadequate salary/wages	Not asked	Not asked	5.0	13.0
f. Medical malpractice insurance cost	0.0	10.6	Not asked	Not asked
g. Personal or family health concerns	17.0	19.1	10.0	16.7

	2007	2008	2009	2010
h. Increasing administrative/regulatory burden	19.1	17.0	10.0	22.2
i. Employer/employee conflict	0.0	4.3	0.0	7.4
j. Inadequate reimbursement for services from insurers	21.3	17.0	0.0*	14.8
k. Moved to management/ consulting/ teaching/ research	6.4	4.3	7.5	7.4
l. Other	19.1	12.8	12.5	13.0

*Prior to 2009, this response option read "Inadequate reimbursement for services." In 2009, the phrase "from insurers" was added.