

Nurse Practitioner Facts



There are over 135,000 nurse practitioners (NPs) practicing in U.S.

NP Facts

- Approximately 8,000 new NPs were prepared in 2008
- 88% of NPs have graduate degrees
- 92% of NPs maintain national certification
- 39% of NPs hold hospital privileges; 13% have long term care privileges
- 96.5% of NPs prescribe medications and write an average of 19 prescriptions/day
- NPs hold prescriptive privilege in all 50 states, including controlled substances in all but 3
- NPs write approximately 556 million prescriptions annually
- The 2008 mean full-time NP base salary is \$84,250 across all specialties and settings
- Average full-time NP total income is \$92,100
- 62% of NPs see three to four patients per hour; 12% see over five patients per hour
- 20% of NPs practice in rural or frontier settings
- 66% of NPs practice in at least one primary care site; 31% practice in at least one nonprimary care site (such as inpatient, emergency, surgical, or specialty practice)
- Malpractice rates remain low; only 1.4% have been named as primary defendant in a malpractice case
- Average NP is female (94.6%) and 48 years old; she has been in practice for 10.5 years as a family NP (49%)

NP Distribution, Mean Years of Practice, Mean Age by Specialty

Specialty	Percent of NPs	Years of Practice	Age
Acute Care	5.3	7.0	45
Adult	17.9	10.9	50
Family	49.2	9.5	48
Gerontological	3.0	11.6	52
Neonatal	2.3	12.3	47
Oncology	0.8	8.3	47
Pediatric	9.4	13.3	49
Psych/Mental Health	2.9	8.5	52
Women's Health	9.1	14.7	49

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Sources:

AANP National NP Database, 2010
AANP National 2008 NP Practice Site Survey
2008 AANP NP Compensation Survey
2004 AANP NP Sample Survey

Additional information is available at the AANP website www.aanp.org.