

Nurse Practitioner Facts



There are over 140,000 nurse practitioners (NPs) practicing in U.S.

- Approximately 9300 new NPs completed their academic programs in 2009-2010
- 93% of NPs have graduate degrees
- 97% of NPs maintain national certification
- 18% of NPs practice in rural or frontier settings
- 88% of NPs are prepared in primary care; 68% of NPs practice in at least one primary care site
- 87% of NPs see patients covered by Medicare and 84% by Medicaid
- 43% of NPs hold hospital privileges; 15% have long term care privileges
- 96.5% of NPs prescribe medications, averaging 20 prescriptions/day
- NPs hold prescriptive privilege in all 50 states, with controlled substances in 48
- The 2009 mean full-time NP base salary was \$89,450, with average full-time NP total income \$97,340
- 60% of NPs see three to four patients per hour; 7% see over five patients per hour
- Malpractice rates remain low; only 2% have been named as primary defendant in a malpractice case
- Average NP is female (96%) and 48 years old; she has been in practice for 12.8 years as a family NP (49%)

Distribution, Mean Years of Practice, Mean Age by Population Focus

Population	Percent of NPs	Years of Practice	Age
Acute Care	5.6	7.0	45
Adult ⁺	19.3	10.9	50
Family ⁺	48.3	9.5	48
Gerontological ⁺	3.2	11.6	52
Neonatal	2.0	12.3	47
Oncology	1.0	8.3	47
Pediatric ⁺	8.5	13.3	49
Psych/Mental Health	3.0	8.5	52
Women's Health ⁺	9.0	14.7	49

⁺ Primary care focus

Sources:

AANP National NP Database, 2009, 2010
AANP National 2008 NP Practice Site Survey
2009 AANP Membership Survey
2009-2010 AANP NP Sample Survey

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

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