

SustiNet Health Care Workforce Task Force

Physician Assistants



Who Are We?

- ▶ PAs are licensed health care providers who practice medicine in the physician lead team model.
 - Evaluate, diagnose, treat and manage acute and chronic illness
 - Elicits history and performs physical exam
 - Performs and interprets routine diagnostic studies
 - Performs routine procedures
 - Performs patient rounds, writes progress notes, determines and implements therapeutic plans
 - Prescribes (50 states)
 - Performs independent evaluation and initiates treatment in life-threatening situations
 - Provides counseling to patients regarding lifestyle and diet changes, physical and mental health, growth and development and sexuality.


Growth of the PA Profession

- ▶ In December 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics listed Physician Assistants as one of the fastest growing profession in America with a predicted increase in jobs of 27% in the decade (2006–2016).
 - Total employment in the U.S. only expected to grow at a rate of 10%
 - 1967 Duke University graduated first class of 3 Navy medics/corpsmen
- ▶ In early 2008, there were 83,345 PAs eligible to practice in the U.S., up from 26,660 in 1996

Vital Statistics

- ▶ PAs in clinical practice in 2008
 - 73,893
 - 1,376 PAs in Connecticut
- ▶ Average total annual income from primary employer for practicing PAs in 2008
 - \$85,710
- ▶ Visits to PAs in 2008
 - 257,835,068
 - 3,995,093 in Connecticut
- ▶ Medications prescribed or recommended by PAs in 2008
 - 332,727,751

PA Education

- ▶ Attend an accredited PA program
 - Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant Inc. (ARC-PA)
 - 148 programs in US provisionally or fully accredited by ARC-PA
 - Graduate close to 6,000 PAs a year
 - ▶ Typical student has a bachelor's degree and approximately 4 years of health care experience
 - ▶ Average 27 months of instruction
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PA Curriculum

- ▶ Class and Lab instruction
 - Greater than 400 hours in basic science
 - More than 75 hours in pharmacology
 - Approximately 175 hours in behavioral science
 - Nearly 580 hours of clinical medicine
 - Anatomy Physical Diagnosis
 - Pathology Differential Diagnosis
 - Pharmacology Pathophysiology
 - Biochemistry Medical Ethics
 - Clinical Lab Sciences Behavioral Science
 - Microbiology Physiology

PA Curriculum


▶ Clinical Rotations

- More than 2,000 hours with emphasis on primary care in
 - Ambulatory clinics
 - Physician offices
 - Acute/long-term care facilities
- Core Rotations
 - Family medicine Emergency medicine
 - General surgery Psychiatry
 - Pediatrics Internal medicine
 - Obstetrics/Gynecology

To Practice

- ▶ Pass national PA certification exam administered by the National Commission on Certification of PAs (NCCCPA)
 - Open only to grads of accredited PA program
 - Connecticut PA Programs
 - Quinnipiac University
 - Yale University
 - University of Bridgeport*—in process of applying for provisional accreditation 2010
- ▶ Obtain individual license from state medical or PA licensing board

To Maintain Certification

- ▶ Log 100 Continuing Medical Education credits over 2-year cycle
 - ▶ Reregister every 2 years
 - ▶ Sit for recertification exam every 6 years
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Profile of PAs in Connecticut



Connecticut State Profile

Specialty	# PAs in Practice	Mean visits to each PA per week	Total visits to PAs in 2008
Family/General Medicine	123	81.1	474,140
General Internal Medicine	115	60.79	327,466
General Pediatrics	63	48.63	145,022
OB/GYN	13	54.88	31,243
Emergency Medicine	167	89.76	681,975
General Surgery	111	65.49	327,709
Total* Includes all PAs in all specialties	1,376*		3,995,093*

Profile of New PA Graduates in Connecticut

Quinnipiac University & Yale University



2007 Connecticut Graduates

- ▶ Number of CT graduates
 - 82 graduates total
 - Quinnipiac 49
 - Yale 33
- ▶ Mean age
 - 30.1 years old
- ▶ Gender
 - Male 24.7%
 - Female 75.3%
- ▶ Primary Care (FP, IM, Peds)
 - QU 18%
 - Yale 55%

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage %
White	86.5
Black	2.2
Hispanic/Latino	1.1
Asian	10.1
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0

2007 New Grad Practice Setting

2007 Practice Setting	National %	Connecticut %
Hospital	42.5	75.8
Physician Office	41.5	24.2
Rural/Community Health Center	12.9	0

2008 Connecticut Graduates

- ▶ Number of CT graduates
 - 72 graduates total
 - Quinnipiac 41
 - Yale 31
- ▶ Mean age
 - 27.6 years old
- ▶ Gender
 - Male 26.8%
 - Female 73.2%
- ▶ Primary Care (FP, IM, Peds)
 - QU 15%
 - Yale 36%

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage %
White	89.7
Black	1.2
Hispanic/Latino	6.4
Asian	2.5
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0

2009 Quinnipiac Graduates

- ▶ Number of QU graduates
 - 44 graduates total
 - 24 graduates remain in CT
- ▶ Gender
 - Male 18%
 - Female 82%
- ▶ Primary Care (FP, IM, Peds)
 - 24% all 2009 QU graduates
 - 11% 2009 QU grads in CT
- ▶ Mean Salary* (Grads in CT in Primary Care)
 - \$70,000

Practice Setting	Percent% in CT
Family Practice	5
General Internal Medicine	2
Pediatrics	2
Ob/GYN	2

References

- ▶ American Academy of Physician Assistants
 - 2008 PA Census Survey
 - *PA Facts*
 - ▶ Quinnipiac University PA Program
 - Annual Graduate Employment Survey
 - ▶ Yale University PA Program
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