



# Georgia Physician Assistant Workforce

Based on 2014 - 2015 Licensure Renewal Data



**Georgia Board for Physician Workforce**

**State of Georgia**

Published February 2017

# Acknowledgements

- The report was produced under the direction of LaSharn Hughes, Executive Director, Andrea Pass, Data Analyst, Tommy Kelly, IT Support Specialist, Consultant G.E. Alan Dever, MD PhD and Audra Cochran, MD, Medical Intern.
- The Board would like to thank the Georgia Composite Medical Board for providing physician assistant licensure renewal data.
- This document is provided to the Chairperson Mark G. Hanly, MD and the Georgia Board members on behalf of Executive Director LaSharn Hughes.

# Executive Summary

The 2015 Physician assistant profile marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce (GBPW) has examined the supply and distribution of Georgia's physician assistants using data from license renewals. The physician assistants data are analyzed by the GBPW and the resulting information is reported on a biennial basis.

- There were 3,597 licensed and practicing physician assistants in Georgia.
- There were 35.2 physician assistants per 100,000 population who were actively practicing in the state of Georgia.
- The top 3 practice settings for physician assistants are hospital-clinics 27.6%, solo physician practices 17.2% and multi-specialty physician groups 15.4%.
- In Georgia, whites represented 81% of physicians assistants, blacks represented 11% and asians represented 5%.
- Hispanics represented 2.7% of the physician assistant population in Georgia.
- 1,066 physicians assistants are age 50 and above, of that number 15.2% reported they would retire in 5 years.
- Males represented 39% of physicians assistants in Georgia, while females represented 61%.
- The top three core specialties for physician assistants are family medicine 13.0%, emergency medicine 9.5% and internal medicine 6.0%.
- 22.5% of physician assistants practiced in the anesthesiologist specialty, 13% practice in the family medicine specialty and 9.5% practice in the emergency medicine specialty.
- There are 30 counties in Georgia with no physician assistants, this represents 324,186 population.
- The top 3 ranked counties for physician assistants are Decatur 103.0, Tift 93.2 and Thomas 93.2 per 100,000.
- The bottom 3 ranked counties for physicians assistants are Madison 3.5, Jones 3.5 and Jackson 1.6 per 100,000.
- 83.9% of physician assistants reported they work fulltime, 16.1% reported they do not work fulltime.
- 1.9% of physician assistants reported they work for state government, 3.3% reported they work for county government.

# Methods

The survey consists of data for 2014 and 2015 for physician assistants (PAs) as reported by the Georgia Composite Medical Board. The survey is not mandatory to renew the license. Some physician assistants choose to opt out of the survey. The Georgia Board for Physicians Workforce (GBPW) compiles, validates and analyzes data from the surveys to prepare a report on physician assistant characteristics, supply and demand.

## **Data Set Exclusions**

- Physician assistants licensed but not practicing in Georgia

## **Data Set Inclusions**

- Physician assistants licensed and practicing in Georgia

## **Count of Total Physician Assistants**

The count of total physician assistants methodology was used to determine how many physician assistants are practicing in the state of Georgia.

One (1 ) License Number = One (1 ) Physician Assistant

## **Method:**

If a physician assistant reported that he/she worked in a primary county then he/she was counted as one (1) physician assistant.

If a physician assistant reported that he/she worked in one of the secondary counties but did not work in one of the primary counties then he/she was counted as one (1) physician assistant practicing in the secondary county.

The rate of physician assistants per 100,000 population was then calculated by County.

# Physician Assistants

Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine with supervising physicians and work in all areas of medicine such as: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology and surgery specialties.

**Selected Characteristics of Physician Assistants**

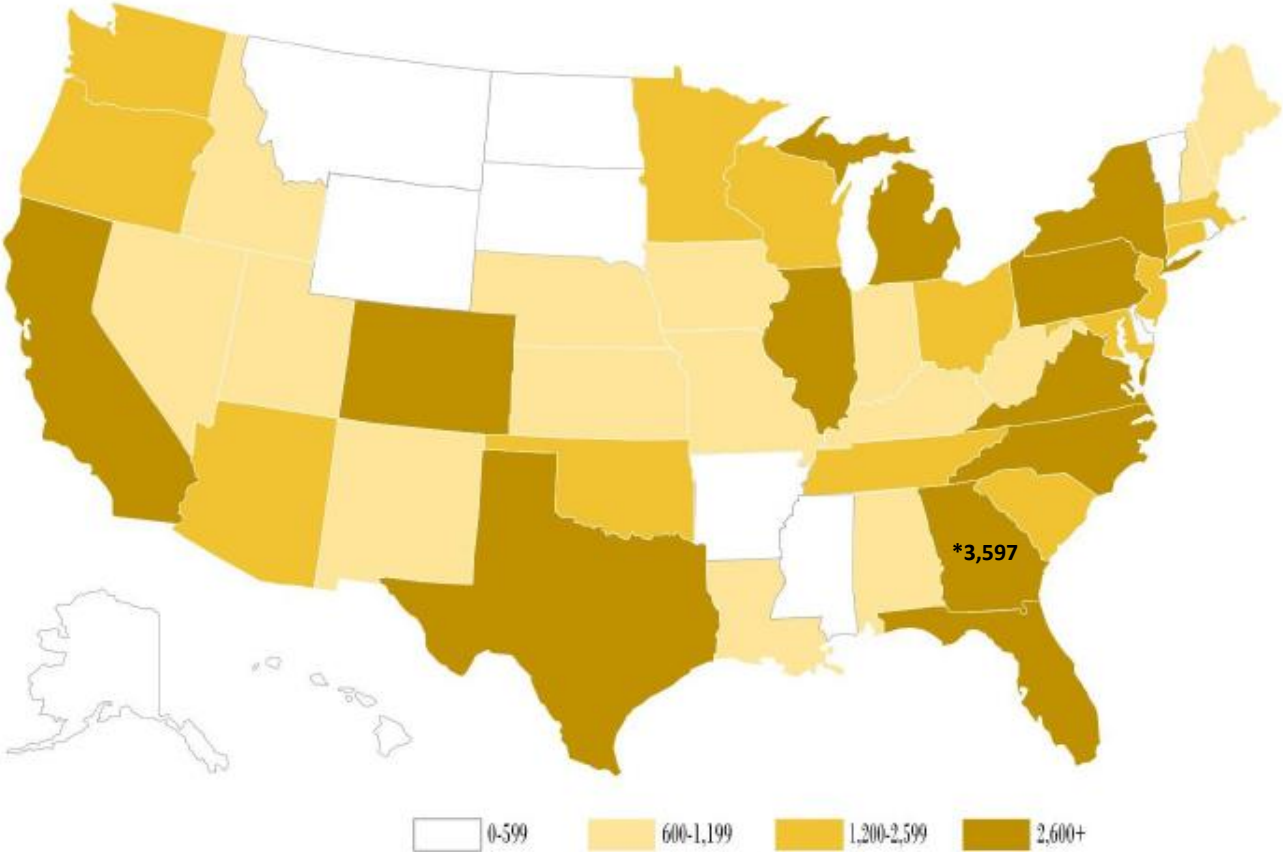
Table 1

2015 Median Pay	\$98,180 per year
Typical Education	Masters degree
Number of Jobs	94,400 nationally
Job Outlook 2014 - 2024	30% growth nationally

Occupational Outlook Handbook-Physician Assistants 2015 (December 2017). Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physician-assistants.htm> on February 2, 2017.

# US Distribution of Physician Assistants by Number 2014

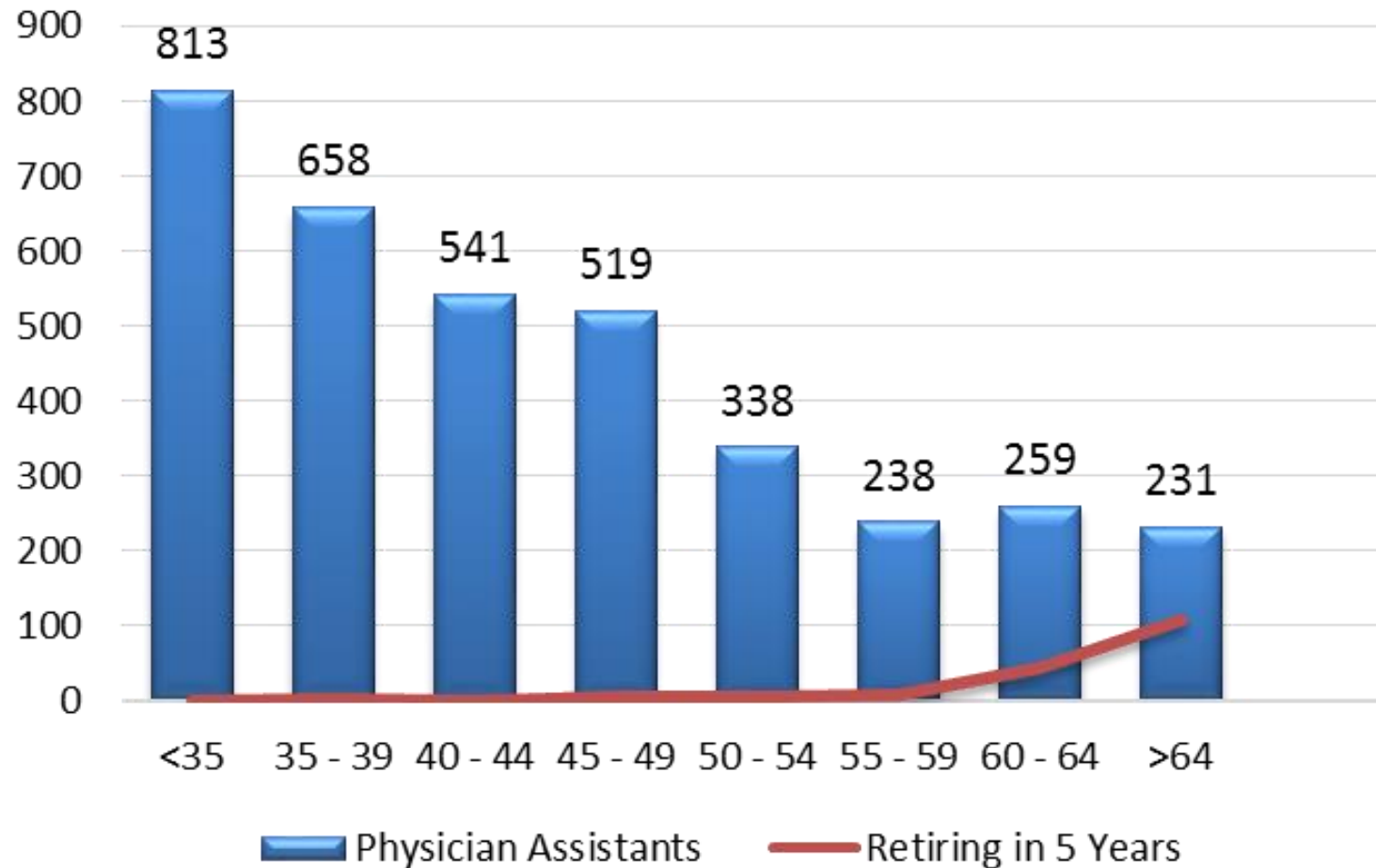
Map 1



\* Number of PAs in Georgia for 2014-2015.  
National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.nccpa.net/news/2014StatisticalReport> on February 2, 2017.

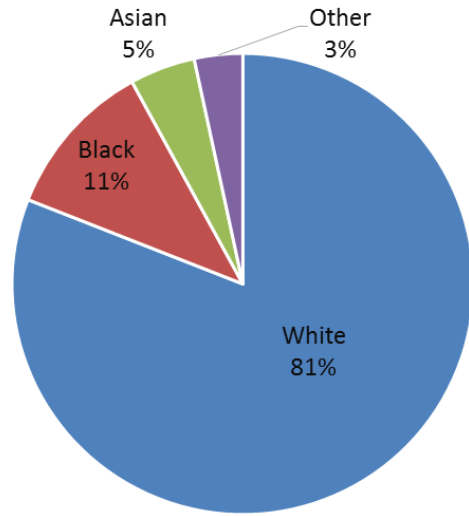
# Physician Assistants by Age Group and Retiring in 5 Years Georgia 2014 - 2015

Chart 1



- The two highest age groups for physician assistants were less than 35 (22.6%) and age group 35-39 (18.3%).
- 29.6% of Georgia's physician assistants were age 50 and above, of that number 15.2% reported they would retire in 5 years.

Chart 2



## Physician Assistants by Race Georgia 2014 - 2015

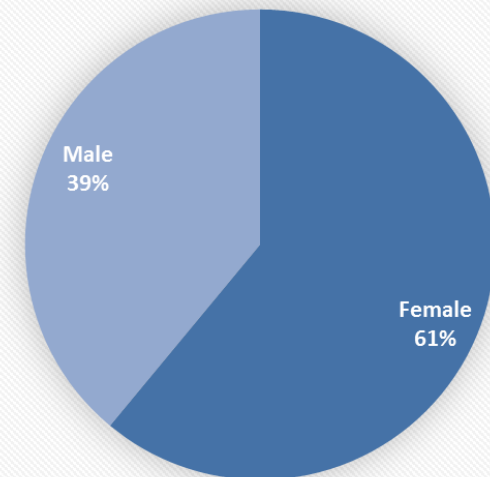
- In 2014 – 2015 whites represented 81% of the physician assistant population.
- Blacks represented 11% of physician assistants.
- Asians represented 5% of physician assistants.

---

## Physician Assistants by Gender Georgia 2014 - 2015

- In 2014 – 2015 61% of physicians assistants in Georgia were female, males represented 39%.

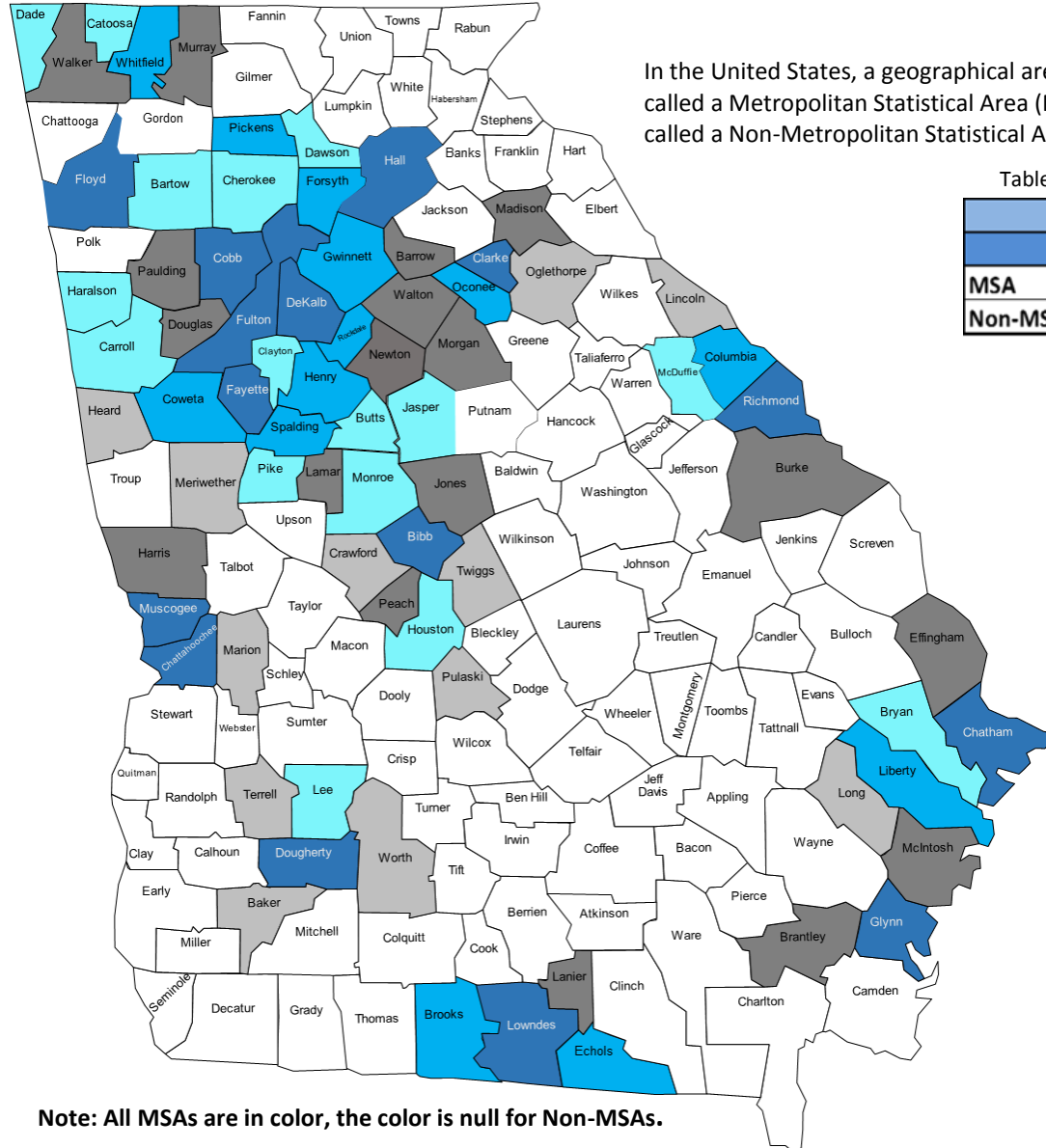
Chart 3





# Distribution of Physician Assistants by MSA and Non-MSA, Georgia 2014 - 2015

Map 2



In the United States, a geographical area with relatively high population density at its core and close economic ties through the area is called a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). An area with low population density and little economic ties to surrounding areas is called a Non-Metropolitan Statistical Area (Non-MSA).

Table 2

Total Physician Assistants MSA and Non-MSA			
	Physician Assistants	2015 Population	Rate per 100,000
<b>MSA</b>	3,185	8,428,726	37.8
<b>Non-MSA</b>	412	1,786,134	23.1

Rate per 100,000 by MSA

0	12 Counties
1-10	18 Counties
11-19	16 Counties
20-30	13 Counties
30-82	15 Counties

- Based on the renewal data the state of Georgia has 3,597 actively practicing physician assistants.
- The rate for total physicians assistants is 35.2 per 100,000 population.
- There are 12 counties in MSAs with no physician assistants. This represents a population of 146,931.

Note: All MSAs are in color, the color is null for Non-MSAs.

# Distribution of Core Specialties Physician Assistants by MSA and Non-MSA Georgia 2014 - 2015

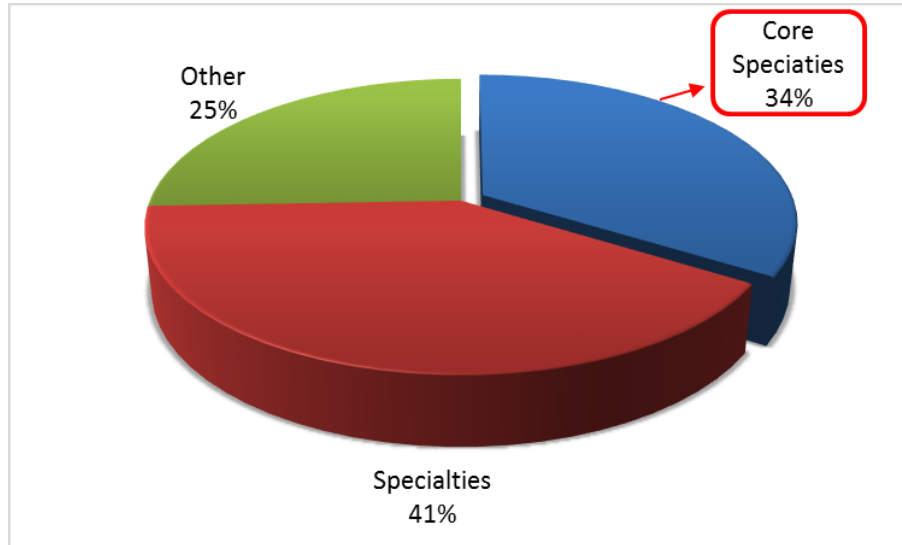
Table 3

Distribution of Core Specialties by MSA/Non-MSA Demographics, Georgia 2014 - 2015					
Specialty	MSA		Non-MSA		Totals by Specialty
	Physician Assistants	Percent	Physician Assisants	Percent	
Pediatrics	63	82.9%	13	17.1%	76
General Surgery	61	82.4%	13	17.6%	74
Emergency Medicine	277	81.0%	65	19.0%	342
Internal Medicine	175	80.6%	42	19.4%	217
OB/GYN	32	76.2%	10	23.8%	42
Family Medicine	340	73.0%	126	27.0%	466
<b>Totals</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>77.9%</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>1,217</b>

- 77.9% of physician assistants practiced in a MSA and 22.1% practiced in a Non-MSA.
- The top 3 core specialties for physicians assistants practicing in a MSA pediatrics 82.9%, general surgery 82.4% and emergency medicine 81.0%.
- The top 3 core specialties for physician assistants practicing in a Non-MSA were family medicine at 27.0%, ob/gyn 23.8% and internal medicine 19.4%.

## Physician Assistant Specialty Mix Georgia 2014 - 2015

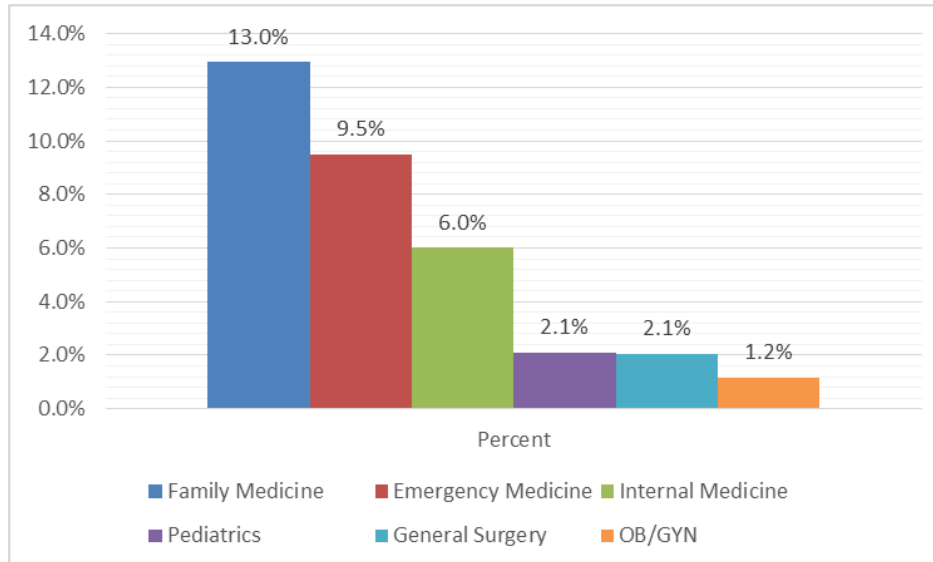
Chart 4



- The specialty mix for physician assistants in core specialties was 34%, in specialties outside of core specialties 41% and other 25%.

## Physician Assistants by Core Specialties Georgia 2014 – 2015

Chart 5



- The top three core specialties for physician assistants were family medicine 13.0%, emergency medicine 9.5% and internal medicine 6.0%.

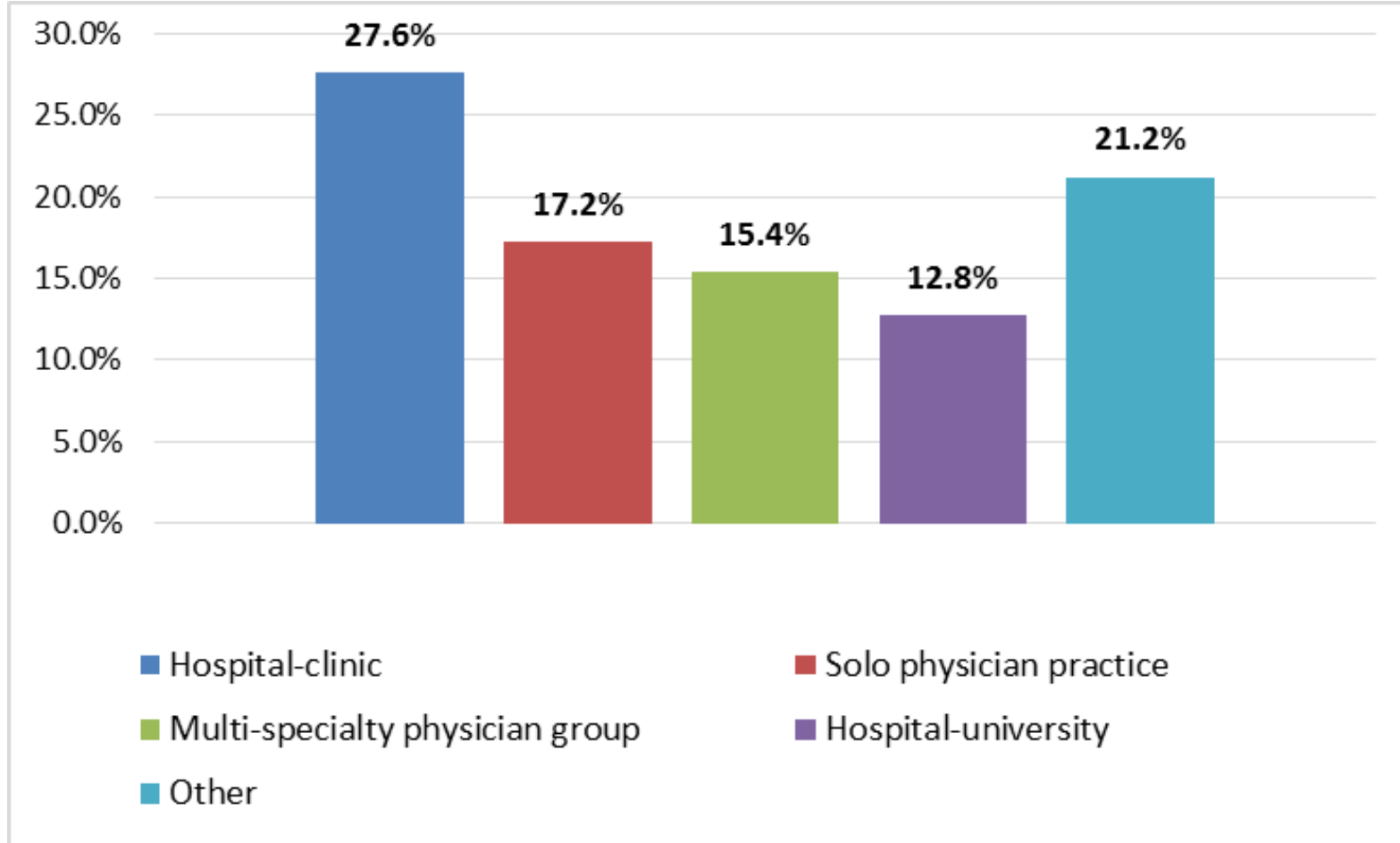
# Physician Assistants by Practice Setting Georgia 2014 - 2015

Table 4

Practice Setting	Number	Percent
Hospital-Clinic	994	27.6%
Solo physician practice	620	17.2%
Multi-specialty physician group	555	15.4%
Hospital-University	459	12.8%
Physician practice management organization	76	2.1%
Community Health Center	71	2.0%
College/University	28	0.8%
HMO	14	0.4%
Nursing home or LTC facility	12	0.3%
Home Health Agency	5	0.1%
Other	763	21.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3597</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Physician Assistants by Top 5 Practice Settings Georgia 2014 - 2015

Chart 6



➤ The top 5 practice settings for physician assistants were hospital-clinics, solo physician practice, multi-specialty physician groups, hospital-universities and other.

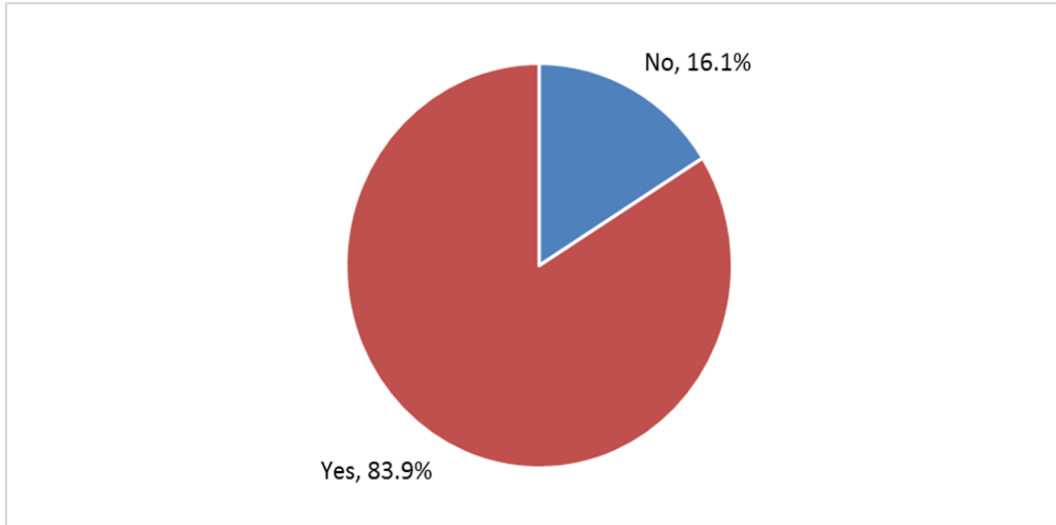
# Distribution of Physician Assistants by Practice Setting and Core Specialty, Number and Percent Georgia 2014 - 2015

Table 5

<b>Core Specialty and Percent</b>	<b>Hospital-Clinic</b>	<b>Solo Physician Practice</b>	<b>Multi-Specialty Physician Group</b>	<b>Hospital University</b>
<b>Family Medicine</b>	49	159	70	4
<b>Percent</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>56.4%</b>	<b>44.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
<b>Internal Medicine</b>	32	61	39	18
<b>Percent</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>21.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>19.8%</b>
<b>Pediatrics</b>	8	30	11	5
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>OB/GYN</b>	7	19	3	0
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Emergency Medicine</b>	161	7	6	59
<b>Percent</b>	<b>58.5%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>64.8%</b>
<b>General Surgery</b>	18	6	29	5
<b>Percent</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>18.4%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	275	282	158	91
<b>Percent</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Physician Assistants Fulltime Status Georgia 2014 - 2015

Chart 7

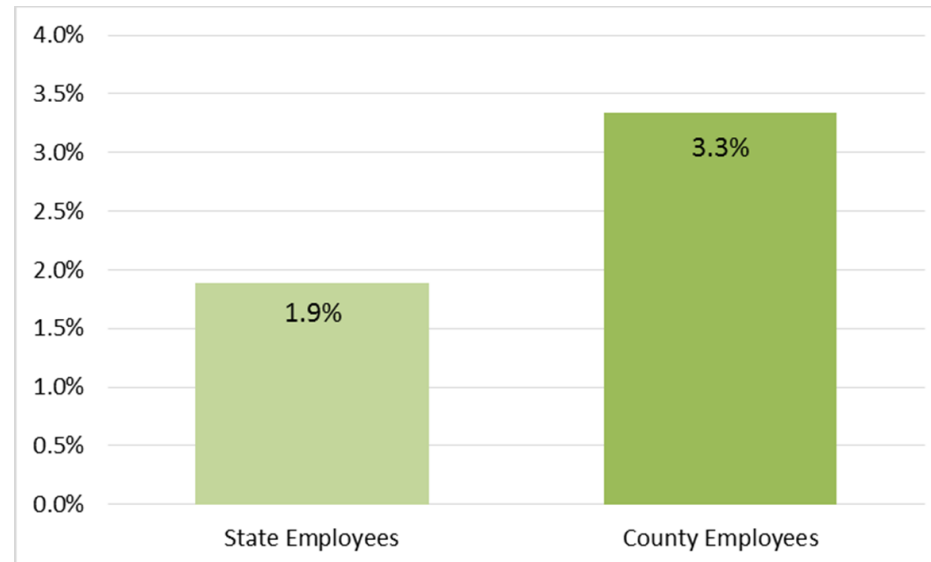


- 83.9% of physician assistants worked fulltime, 16.1% reported they did not work fulltime.
- In Rural Georgia 228 physician assistants reported they work fulltime, 39 reported they do not work fulltime.
- In Non-Rural Georgia 2791 physician assistants reported they work fulltime, 539 reported they do not work fulltime.

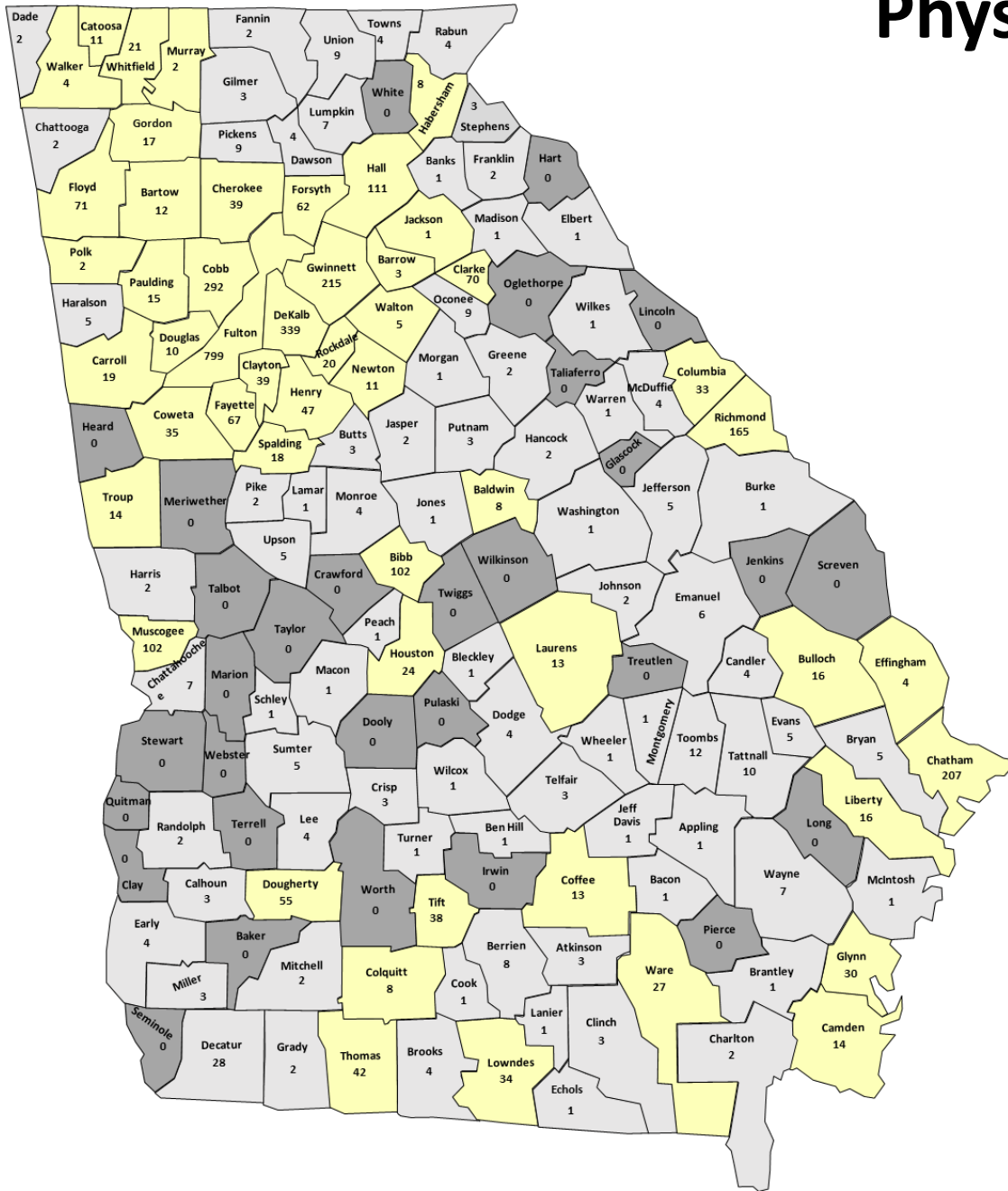
---

## Physician Assistants Employed by the State or County Georgia 2014 - 2015

Chart 8



Map 3



# Physician Assistants by County Georgia 2014 - 2015

There are 35.2 physicians assistants per 100,000 population in Georgia.

Legend

	Non-Rural with PAs
	*Rural with PAs
	*Rural No PAs

\*Rural represents population of 35,000 or less

### Top 3 Counties by Rank

County	Physician Assistants	Pop	Rate	Rank
Decatur	28	27,174	103.0	1
Tift	38	40,764	93.2	2
Thomas	42	45,063	93.2	3

### Bottom 3 Counties by Rank

County	Physician Assistants	Pop	Rate	Rank
Madison	1	28,441	3.5	127
Jones	1	28,494	3.5	128
Jackson	1	63,360	1.6	129



Table 6 - Georgia Physician Assistants by County						
Georgia County Name	Primary Care Service Area	Total			Rate per 100,000	Rank
		Physician Assistants	2015 Population			
Georgia	-	3,597	10,214,860	35.2		-
Appling	91	1	18,454	5.4		117
Atkinson	88	3	8,398	35.7		30
Bacon	90	1	11,299	8.9		100
Baker	76	0	3,180	0.0		130
Baldwin	47	8	45,459	17.6		66
Banks	10	1	18,495	5.4		119
Barrow	27	3	75,370	4.0		125
Bartow	17	12	102,747	11.7		89
Ben Hill	87	1	17,403	5.7		113
Berrien	85	8	18,963	42.2		22
Bibb	46	102	153,721	66.4		9
Bleckley	63	1	12,243	8.2		102
Brantley	93	1	18,455	5.4		118
Brooks	81	4	15,658	25.5		43
Bryan	52	5	35,137	14.2		79
Bulloch	53	16	72,651	22.0		54
Burke	50	1	22,745	4.4		124
Butts	37	3	23,593	12.7		83
Calhoun	76	3	6,479	46.3		18
Camden	96	14	52,102	26.9		40
Candler	55	4	10,886	36.7		27
Carroll	19	19	114,545	16.6		71
Catoosa	1	11	66,050	16.7		70
Charlton	95	2	12,965	15.4		75
Chatham	52	207	286,956	72.1		8
Chattahoochee	43	7	11,368	61.6		10
Chattooga	18	2	24,922	8.0		103
Cherokee	15	39	235,900	16.5		72
Clarke	27	70	123,912	56.5		14
Clay	76	0	3,141	0.0		130
Clayton	39	39	273,955	14.2		78
Clinch	83	3	6,893	43.5		21
Cobb	21	292	741,334	39.4		25
Coffee	88	13	43,108	30.2		32
Colquitt	78	8	45,844	17.5		67
Columbia	31	33	144,052	22.9		51
Cook	80	1	17,124	5.8		112
Coweta	41	35	138,427	25.3		44
Crawford	46	0	12,388	0.0		130

Georgia Physician Assistants by County						
Georgia County Name	Primary Care Service Area	Total			Rate per 100,000	Rank
		Physician Assistants	2015 Population			
Crisp	65	3	22,881	13.1		82
Dade	1	2	16,264	12.3		85
Dawson	11	4	23,312	17.2		69
Decatur	73	28	27,174	103.0		1
DeKalb	23	339	734,871	46.1		19
Dodge	62	4	20,882	19.2		60
Dooly	66	0	14,035	0.0		130
Dougherty	76	55	91,332	60.2		12
Douglas	20	10	140,733	7.1		107
Early	71	4	10,575	37.8		26
Echols	82	1	4,040	24.8		46
Effingham	52	4	57,106	7.0		108
Elbert	29	1	19,364	5.2		120
Emanuel	57	6	22,708	26.4		41
Evans	56	5	10,787	46.4		17
Fannin	4	2	24,303	8.2		101
Fayette	40	67	110,714	60.5		11
Floyd	18	71	96,504	73.6		7
Forsyth	13	62	212,438	29.2		36
Franklin	9	2	22,311	9.0		98
Fulton	22	799	1,010,562	79.1		5
Gilmer	3	3	29,400	10.2		94
Glascock	32	0	3,065	0.0		130
Glynn	93	30	83,579	35.9		28
Gordon	16	17	56,574	30.0		34
Grady	74	2	25,205	7.9		104
Greene	34	2	16,710	12.0		87
Gwinnett	25	215	895,823	24.0		48
Habersham	10	8	43,996	18.2		65
Hall	11	111	193,535	57.4		13
Hancock	33	2	8,551	23.4		50
Haralson	19	5	28,854	17.3		68
Harris	43	2	33,381	6.0		110
Hart	28	0	25,534	0.0		130
Heard	42	0	11,539	0.0		130
Henry	38	47	217,739	21.6		55
Houston	67	24	150,033	16.0		74
Irwin	86	0	9,245	0.0		130
Jackson	27	1	63,360	1.6		129
Jasper	36	2	13,635	14.7		77

Table 6 cont'd. - Georgia Physician Assistants by County					
Total					
Georgia County Name	Primary Care Service Area	Physician Assistants	2015 Population	Rate per 100,000	Rank
Jeff Davis	89	1	14,920	6.7	109
Jefferson	49	5	16,106	31.0	31
Jenkins	54	0	8,957	0.0	130
Johnson	48	2	9,656	20.7	56
Jones	46	1	28,494	3.5	128
Lamar	44	1	18,201	5.5	116
Lanier	84	1	10,312	9.7	97
Laurens	60	13	47,731	27.2	39
Lee	76	4	29,202	13.7	81
Liberty	52	16	62,467	25.6	42
Lincoln	31	0	7,673	0.0	130
Long	92	0	17,731	0.0	130
Lowndes	82	34	112,865	30.1	33
Lumpkin	12	7	31,408	22.3	53
Macon	66	1	13,632	7.3	105
Madison	27	1	28,441	3.5	127
Marion	43	0	8,761	0.0	130
McDuffie	32	4	21,540	18.6	62
Mcintosh	93	1	13,969	7.2	106
Meriwether	42	0	21,190	0.0	130
Miller	72	3	5,854	51.2	15
Mitchell	76	2	22,574	8.9	99
Monroe	45	4	27,103	14.8	76
Montgomery	58	1	8,951	11.2	91
Morgan	27	1	18,046	5.5	115
Murray	2	2	39,565	5.1	121
Muscogee	43	102	200,579	50.9	16
Newton	36	11	105,473	10.4	93
Oconee	27	9	35,965	25.0	45
Oglethorpe	27	0	14,871	0.0	130
Paulding	21	15	152,238	9.9	96
Peach	46	1	26,720	3.7	126
Pickens	14	9	30,309	29.7	35
Pierce	94	0	19,103	0.0	130
Pike	37	2	17,941	11.1	92
Polk	18	2	41,524	4.8	122
Pulaski	64	0	11,396	0.0	130
Putnam	35	3	21,353	14.0	80
Quitman	70	0	2,302	0.0	130
Rabun	7	4	16,281	24.6	47

Georgia Physician Assistants by County					
Total					
Georgia County Name	Primary Care Service Area	Physician Assistants	2015 Population	Rate per 100,000	Rank
Randolph	70	2	7,193	27.8	38
Richmond	31	165	201,793	81.8	4
Rockdale	24	20	88,856	22.5	52
Schley	68	1	5,168	19.3	59
Screven	51	0	14,162	0.0	130
Seminole	72	0	8,647	0.0	130
Spalding	37	18	64,051	28.1	37
Stephens	8	3	25,586	11.7	88
Stewart	69	0	5,851	0.0	130
Sumter	68	5	30,779	16.2	73
Talbot	43	0	6,337	0.0	130
Taliaferro	30	0	1,639	0.0	130
Tattnall	56	10	25,229	39.6	24
Taylor	46	0	8,330	0.0	130
Telfair	61	3	16,400	18.3	64
Terrell	76	0	9,113	0.0	130
Thomas	75	42	45,063	93.2	3
Tift	79	38	40,764	93.2	2
Toombs	58	12	27,241	44.1	20
Towns	6	4	11,182	35.8	29
Treutlen	60	0	6,785	0.0	130
Troup	42	14	69,763	20.1	58
Turner	79	1	8,214	12.2	86
Twiggs	46	0	8,390	0.0	130
Union	5	9	22,267	40.4	23
Upson	44	5	26,368	19.0	61
Walker	1	4	68,066	5.9	111
Walton	26	5	88,399	5.7	114
Ware	94	27	35,370	76.3	6
Warren	32	1	5,460	18.3	63
Washington	48	1	20,816	4.8	123
Wayne	92	7	29,534	23.7	49
Webster	69	0	2,648	0.0	130
Wheeler	59	1	7,903	12.7	84
White	11	0	28,319	0.0	130
Whitfield	2	21	104,216	20.2	57
Wilcox	64	1	8,857	11.3	90
Wilkes	30	1	9,867	10.1	95
Wilkinson	46	0	9,155	0.0	130
Worth	77	0	20,699	0.0	130



The 2015 Physician Assistant document can be viewed and downloaded on the internet at [gbpw.georgia.gov](http://gbpw.georgia.gov).

The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce welcomes comments and suggestions for future editions of this report. Please send comments to [gbpw@dch.ga.gov](mailto:gbpw@dch.ga.gov).