



INDIANA'S PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WORKFORCE

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
BOWEN CENTER FOR HEALTH
WORKFORCE RESEARCH & POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Over the last several decades there has been a substantial increase in the number of physician assistants (PAs) in the United States, including Indiana¹. The increase of PA training programs is cited as a response to the shortage of physicians, particularly in primary care settings². Information and evaluation of the supply, distribution and characteristics of Indiana's PA workforce is crucial to identifying workforce shortages and understanding this professions ability to ensure the medical needs of Hoosiers are met.

The 2020 Physician Assistant Licensure Survey Data Report presents a snapshot of the PAs workforce in Indiana. The data presented in this report have been collected and prepared for the purpose of informing related workforce development and policy initiatives.

METHODOLOGY

The supplemental survey questions administered to licensed PAs during the 2020 license renewal cycle can be found on the Bowen Portal at <https://bowenportal.org/index.php/resources/>. Supplemental survey data collected during the renewal period and basic licensure data (name, license number, etc.) were extracted and exported into separate text files one (1) month after the close of the license renewal period.

DATA MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Supplemental survey data were cleaned and coded per processes outlined in the Bowen Center data management procedures document (available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1805/25204>). After completing these procedures, the survey data file was merged to the licensure data file by unique license number to create the 2020 PA Workforce Master File. This Master File was then uploaded to the Indiana Health Professions Database. Verification and geocoding of license address and self-reported practice address(es) were provided by Melissa Data, Inc.

Additional variables were created as a result of the data management processes. The first included assignment of full-time equivalency (FTE) based on reported hours in direct patient care, as outlined in Table 1. This FTE assignment was applied to all reported practice locations. Address cleaning and geocoding also resulted in additional variables related to geographic location and rurality based on criteria outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture (more information can be found here: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes/documentation/>).

Table 1. FTE conversion based for reported hours in direct patient care

Reported hours in patient care	Conversion
0 hours in patient care/Not applicable	0.0 FTE
1 - 4 hours in patient care	0.1 FTE
5 - 8 hours in patient care	0.2 FTE
9 - 12 hours in patient care	0.3 FTE
13 - 16 hours in patient care	0.4 FTE
17 - 20 hours in patient care	0.5 FTE
21 - 24 hours in patient care	0.6 FTE
25 - 28 hours in patient care	0.7 FTE
29 - 32 hours in patient care	0.8 FTE
33 - 36 hours in patient care	0.9 FTE
37 - 40 hours in patient care	1.0 FTE
41 or more hours in patient care	1.0 FTE

¹ https://www.in.gov/pla/files/Health-Workforce-Council-Annual-Report-2019_10-28-19-FINAL.pdf

² <https://www.aapa.org/about/history/>

LIMITATIONS

There are notable limitations to this report. First, information presented is largely based on self-reported data which introduces the potential for some level of response bias. However, this bias may be diminished through the requirement for all licensed PAs completing their biennial renewal online to provide employment and practice information during online renewal and attestation that all information provided is accurate. Additionally, because of changes to survey data collected during license renewal, this report can only provide limited longitudinal analysis. Care is being taken to minimize the future changes to supplemental survey questions in order to ensure confidence in future longitudinal analyses. Finally, survey data for a small percentage of those who responded to the supplemental survey was found to be incomplete. This is an error that is to be expected when analyzing supplemental data. This provided limitations to identifying physician assistants who may be actively practicing in medicine.

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report includes two sections of summary data:

Section I: Overall License Renewals includes summary of all licensed physician assistants as of the 2020 license renewal cycle.

Section II: Physician Assistants Reporting Sample includes a summary of licensed PAs actively practicing in Indiana (in person or through telemedicine).

The 2020 Physician Assistants Workforce Data Report provides key information on Indiana's PA workforce. Additional data can be viewed or requested online at www.bowenportal.org.

SECTION I: OVERAL LICENSE RENEWALS

TOTAL LICENSE RENEWALS

Table 1.1 provides information about the status of PAs during the 2020 license renewal period: March 2020 – June 2020. During this license renewal period, 2,106 PAs renewed their license. Nearly two-thirds (65.5%) of licensees completed their renewals online. For these online renewals, PAs were required to complete a supplemental survey. The remaining 34.5% of licenses were renewed offline and therefore did not complete the supplemental survey.

Table 1.1. Survey Status of Licensed Physician Assistants During the 2020 License Renewal Period

Total Associated Licenses	N	%
Total	2,106	
Offline Renewal (no survey)	727	34.5
Online Renewal (survey administered)	1,379	65.5

Source: 2020 Pharmacists License and Supplemental Survey Data

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF INDIANA LICENSED PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

The geographic distribution of Indiana-licensed PAs – based on their license address – can be found in Table 1.2. Most PAs were found to have a license address located in the Indiana (80.6%) or in a contiguous state (14.0%). The remaining survey respondents (5.5%) have an address in another U.S. State or Territory.

Table 1.2. Geographic distribution of licensed physician assistants based on license address

License Address Location	N	%
Indiana	1,697	80.6
Contiguous State	294	14.0
Another U.S. State or Territory	115	5.4
Total	2,106	100.0

Source: 2020 Pharmacists License and Supplemental Survey Data

Note: Contiguous State includes Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Table 1.3 summarizes the reported employment status of Indiana-licensed PAs who responded to the online supplemental survey (n=1,379). The majority (62.2%) of PAs reported actively working in a position that requires a physician assistant license, followed by 1.9% who are not currently working, but are looking for positions that require a physician assistant license.

Table 1.3. Employment Status Among Survey Respondents

Employment Status	N	%
Total	1,379	
Actively working in a position that requires a physician assistant license	1,310	95.0
Actively working in a physician assistant related field that does not require a physician assistant license	10	0.7
Actively working in a field that does not require a physician assistant license	5	0.4
Not currently working, disabled	4	0.3
Not currently working, seeking work in a position that requires a physician assistant license	39	2.8
Not currently working, seeking work in a position that does not require a physician assistant license	1	0.1
Leave of absence or Sabbatical	8	0.6
Retired	2	0.1

Source: 2020 Pharmacist License and Supplemental Survey Data

Note: Employment status only includes total online renewals, it is not collected among offline renewals

SECTION II: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT REPORTING SAMPLE

REPORTING SAMPLE

Figure 2.1 provides an outline of the reporting sample selection criteria for this report. Of the 2,141 PAs who renewed their license in 2020, 1,182 (55.2%) were identified as having an active license, reported actively practicing as a PA in the online supplemental survey, and had a practice in Indiana or reported providing telemedicine to Indiana residents. This reporting sample will be examined in this section.

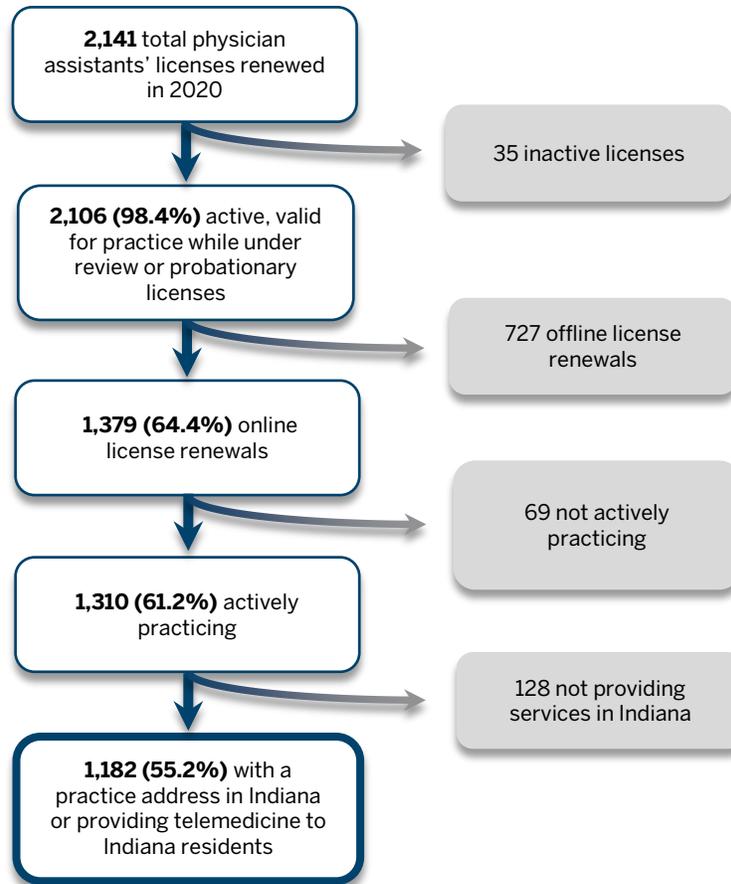


Figure 2.1 Sample selection criteria for Indiana physician assistants

DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 2.1 provides physician assistants' demographic information. The average age of PAs in Indiana is 37.8, with male PAs being older than their female counterparts (average age of 41.7 years for males, compared to 36.3 years for females). Just over half of female PAs are under the age of 35 (51.7%) and just over one-third of male PAs fall into this same age range (34.6%). There is very little racial and ethnic diversity among both male and female PAs. Most female physician assistants identify as white (92.7%) and not Hispanic or Latino (97.7%). Similarly, the majority of male physician assistants identify as White (91.7%) and not Hispanic or Latino (98.1%).

Table 2.1. Physician Assistant Demographic Characteristics

	Female		Male		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	858		324		1,182	
Mean Age	36.3		41.7		37.8	
Age Group						
Under 35	444	51.7	112	34.6	556	47.0
35 - 44	268	31.2	101	31.2	369	31.2
45 - 54	100	11.7	60	18.5	160	13.5
55 - 64	34	4.0	35	10.8	69	5.8
65 and Older	4	0.5	11	3.4	15	1.3
Age Unavailable	8	0.9	5	1.5	13	1.1
Race						
White	795	92.7	297	91.7	1092	92.4
Black or African American	13	1.5	9	2.8	22	1.9
Asian	21	2.4	7	2.2	28	2.4
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.1	2	0.6	3	0.3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
Some Other Race	10	1.2	4	1.2	14	1.2
Multiracial	17	2.0	5	1.5	22	1.9
Ethnicity						
Not Hispanic or Latino	838	97.7	318	98.1	1156	97.8
Hispanic or Latino	20	2.3	6	1.9	26	2.2

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

Notes: Age was calculated by measuring the difference between the survey completion date and the respondent's date of birth provided by IPLA.

EDUCATION

Education characteristics for Indiana PAs are outlined in Table 2.2 and Table 2.3. Overall, more than half of PAs reported completing their qualifying education in Indiana (n=642; 54.3%), followed by 276 (23.4%) completing their degree in another state not contiguous to Indiana. Of the 642 PAs who reported completing their training in Indiana, 77.4% reported qualifying for their license with a Master's degree, followed by 20.6% who reported qualifying with a Bachelor's degree. When asked about post-graduate training, the overwhelming majority of physician assistants reported not completing post-graduate training (92%), though the most common post-graduate training specialty was family medicine and another specialty not listed (1.7% for both) .

Table 2.2. Physician Assistant Education Characteristics

Qualifying Degree	Indiana		Contiguous States		Other US State		Another County (not US)		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Certificate/diploma	10	1.6	16	6.1	16	5.8	1	100.0	43	3.6
Associate degree	2	0.3	16	6.1	3	1.1	0	0.0	21	1.8
Bachelor's degree	132	20.6	33	12.5	50	18.1	0	0.0	215	18.2
Master's degree	497	77.4	198	75.3	207	75.0	0	0.0	902	76.3
Military training certification	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Total	642	100.0	263	100.0	276	100.0	1.0	100.0	1,182	100.0

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

Notes: Contiguous states include Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio.

Table 2.3. Physician Assistant Post-Graduate Training Specialty

	N	%
Total	1,182	100
Post-Graduate Training Specialty		
No Post-Graduate Training Completed	1,088	92.0
Family Medicine	20	1.7
Other	20	1.7
Orthopedic Surgery	16	1.4
Emergency Medicine	14	1.2
Neonatology	4	0.3
Surgery	3	0.3
Cardiothoracic	3	0.3
Cardiology	2	0.2
Hospitalist	2	0.2
Internal Medicine	2	0.2
Psychiatry	2	0.2
Urology	1	0.1
Neurosurgery	1	0.1
Otolaryngology	1	0.1
Pediatrics	1	0.1
Hematology/Oncology	1	0.1
Critical Care/Trauma	1	0.1
Acute Care Medicine	0	0.0
Urgent Care	0	0.0
OB-GYN	0	0.0

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

PRACTICE CHARACTERISTICS

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Table 2.4 depicts PAs employment characteristics. Regarding primary field, nearly all (95.9%) reported patient care and documentation as their primary employment activity. When asked about employment plans over the next 12 months, 90.5% of PAs reported no plans to change their current employment status, followed by 6.9% who reported plans to increase hours in the PA field. Furthermore, more than half of PAs reported providing telemedicine services (53%).

Table 2.4. Physician Assistant Employment Characteristics

	N	%
Total	1,182	
Primary Field		
Patient Care/Documentation	1,133	95.9
Teaching/Precepting/Orienting	15	1.3
Supervision/Management/Administration	8	0.7
Research	1	0.1
Other	6	0.5
Not Applicable	19	1.6
Employment Plans		
No planned change	1,070	90.5
Increase hours in the physician assistant field	81	6.9
Decrease hours in the physician assistant field	22	1.9
Leave employment in the field of physician assistant	9	0.8
Provide Telemedicine Services		
Yes	626	53.0
No	556	47.0

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

PRACTICE SPECIALTY

Details on the specialty of PAs' supervising physician can be found in Table 2.5. More than a quarter of surveyed PAs reported their supervising physician's specialty as a surgical subspecialty (28.3%), followed by family medicine/general practice (15.7%), and emergency medicine (15.6%). In addition to this, PAs reported their supervising physician specialty as internal medicine subspecialties (11.3%), hospital medicine (hospitalist) (6.4%) and dermatology (4.7%).

Table 2.5. Physician Assistant, Specialty of Supervising Physician

	N	%
Total	1,182	
Supervising Physician Specialty		
Surgical Subspecialties*	335	28.3
Family Medicine/General Practice	186	15.7
Emergency Medicine	184	15.6
Internal Medicine Subspecialties*	133	11.3
Hospital Medicine (Hospitalist)	76	6.4
Dermatology	55	4.7
Not Applicable	20	1.7
Psychiatry	16	1.4
Occupational Medicine	16	1.4
Pediatric Subspecialties	15	1.3
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation	13	1.1
Obstetrics & Gynecology	13	1.1
Radiology	12	1.0
Otolaryngology	11	0.9
Neurology	11	0.9
Critical Care Medicine	11	0.9

Table 2.5. Physician Assistant, Specialty of Supervising Physician

	N	%
General Pediatrics	6	0.5
Gynecology Only	4	0.3
Radiation Oncology	2	0.2
Adolescent Medicine	1	0.1
Pathology	1	0.1
Anesthesiology	0	0.0
Ophthalmology	0	0.0
Other	61	5.2

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

* See the 2020 Physician Assistant Supplemental Survey for the complete list of internal medicine and surgical subspecialties

PRACTICE SETTING

Practice characteristics are presented in Table 2.6. More than one-fifth of PAs reported their primary practice setting as an office or clinic in a single specialty group (22%), closely followed by those who reported practicing in an inpatient hospital settings (20.2%). Furthermore, 14.4% of PAs reported working in an multi-specialty group office or clinic and 14.2% reported working in the emergency department of a hospital.

In the supplemental survey, PAs were asked two questions regarding their patient care capacity: total number of hours per week at their primary practice and total number of hours per week in direct patient care. While 61.3% of PAs reported spending 37 or more hours per week at their primary practice, less than one-third reported spending 37 or more hours in direct patient care (33.0%).

Table 2.6. Physician Assistant Practice Characteristics

	N	%
Total	1,182	100.0
Primary Practice Setting		
Office/Clinic – Single Specialty Group	260	22.0
Hospital – Inpatient	239	20.2
Office/Clinic – Multi Specialty Group	170	14.4
Hospital – Emergency Department	168	14.2
Office/Clinic – Partnership	94	8.0
Hospital – Outpatient	89	7.5
Office/Clinic – Solo Practice	70	5.9
Other	27	2.3
Hospital – Ambulatory Care Center	16	1.4
Not Applicable	13	1.1
Federal/State/Community Health Center(s)	12	1.0
Nursing Home or Extended Care Facility	9	0.8
Telemedicine	3	0.3
Federal Government Hospital	3	0.3
Home Health Setting	3	0.3
Medical School	3	0.3
Local Health Department	3	0.3
Research Laboratory	0	0.0
Hospice Care	0	0.0
Volunteer in a Free Clinic	0	0.0

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

Table 2.7. Physician Assistant Hours per Week

	N	%
Total	1,182	100.0
Total hours per week at primary practice		
0 hours per week	0	0.0
1-4 hours per week	10	0.8
5-8 hours per week	18	1.5
9-12 hours per week	22	1.9
13-16 hours per week	8	0.7
17-20 hours per week	38	3.2
21-24 hours per week	45	3.8
25-28 hours per week	58	4.9
29-32 hours per week	99	8.4
33-36 hours per week	134	11.3
37-40 hours per week	481	40.7
41 or more hours per week	244	20.6
Not Applicable	25	2.1
Hours spent in Direct Patient Care		
0 hours per week	5	0.4
1-4 hours per week	15	1.3
5-8 hours per week	24	2.0
9-12 hours per week	38	3.2
13-16 hours per week	25	2.1
17-20 hours per week	72	6.1
21-24 hours per week	84	7.1
25-28 hours per week	94	8.0
29-32 hours per week	180	15.2
33-36 hours per week	229	19.4
37-40 hours per week	297	25.1
41 or more hours per week	93	7.9
Not Applicable	26	2.2

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

Note: PA's were asked two separate questions regarding both total hours per week at primary practice and total hours per week in patient care.

POPULATIONS SERVED

Table 2.8 outlines populations served by physician assistants providing telemedicine services. Overall, 1,170 PA (around 99% of the reporting sample) identified the populations they serve. The highest number of PAs reported serving adult patients (n=1,134) followed by geriatrics (n=994), adolescents (n=769), and children ages 2 - 10 (n=626). The PAs that reported serving inmates reported the highest participation in telemedicine services (64.3%), followed by those who reported serving individuals in recovery (55.2%).

Table 2.8. Populations Served by Physician Assistants, by Primary Field

Telemedicine	Newborns		Children (ages 2 - 10)		Adolescents (ages 11 - 19)		Adults		Geriatric		Pregnant Women		Inmates		Disabled Persons		Individuals in Recovery		Unique Count of PAs Providing these Services	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	192	53.5	301	48.1	358	46.6	539	47.5	482	48.5	284	53.1	220	64.3	317	50.6	187	55.2	621	53.0
No	167	46.5	325	51.9	411	53.4	595	52.5	512	51.5	251	46.9	122	35.7	309	49.4	152	44.8	549	47.0
Total	359	100	626	100	769	100	1,134	100	994	100	535	100	342	100	626	100	339	100	1,170	100

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

SERVICES PROVIDED

Addiction related services and other services provided by PAs' self-reported telemedicine status are displayed in Table 2.9a – 2.9b. A total of 126 PAs reported provided services related to the treatment of addiction or substance use disorder. The primary addiction related service provided by PAs was addiction counseling, with 95 licensees reporting they provide this service. Another 51 PAs reported providing screening for addiction services. Of PAs reported providing addiction counseling, 46.3% also reported participating in telemedicine, and 27.5% who reporting providing screening for addiction services reported telemedicine participation.

With regards to other services that Indiana PAs reported providing, the greatest number reported dementia/alzheimers care (n=85), followed by Hepatitis C treatment/management (n=40). PAs that reported providing HIV/AIDS Treatment and Management had the highest reported telemedicine participation (44.71%).

Table 2.9a. Addiction Related Services Provided by Physician Assistants, by Primary Field

Telemedicine	Screening for Addiction (ex: SBIRT)		Addiction Counseling		MAT Treatment - Methadone		MAT Treatment - Buprenorphine		MAT Treatment - Naltrexone		Treatment for OUD-affected Pregnancies		Unique Count PA's Providing these Services	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	14	27.5	44	46.3	1	25	4	16	2	9.5	2	16.7	73	58.0
No	37	72.5	51	53.7	3	75	21	84	19	90.5	10	83.3	53	42.0
Total	51	100	95	100	4	100	25	100	21	100	12	100	126	100

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

Table 2.9b. Other Services Provided by Physician Assistants, by Primary Field

Telemedicine	Dementia/ Alzheimer's Care		Hepatitis C Treatment/ Management		HIV/AIDS Treatment/ Management		Screening for High-Risk Pregnancies		High-Risk Pregnancy Services		Labor and Delivery Services		Pre-Natal Services		Post-Natal Services		Unique Count PA's Providing these Services	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	38	44.71	17	42.5	16	80	4	26.67	6	42.86	2	28.57	10	34.48	9	29.03	116	63.0
No	47	55.29	23	57.5	4	20	11	73.33	8	57.14	5	71.43	19	65.52	22	70.97	69	37.0
Total	85	100	40	100	20	100	15	100	14	100	7	100	29	100	31	100	185	100

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

County level distribution of Indiana's physician assistant workforce is presented in Table 2.10. A total of 29 out of 92 (31.5%) Indiana counties have no reported PA FTE. Additionally, 12 other counties within the state reported an FTE less than 1 indicating a possible lack of physician assistants within the area. Moreover, nearly 45% of the state either lack physician assistant capacity and have no direct access to a physician assistant. This disparity in distribution can also be seen in Map 2.1.

Table 2.10. Physician Assistant Workforce Capacity and Distribution

County Name	Population	Total PAs	Total PA FTE	Population per PA FTE
Adams	35,777	4	3.0	11,925
Allen	379,299	122	97.0	3,910
Bartholomew	83,779	17	11.6	7,222
Benton	8,748	0	0.0	-
Blackford	11,758	0	0.0	-
Boone	67,843	14	7.9	8,587
Brown	15,092	0	0.0	-
Carroll	20,257	0	0.0	-
Cass	37,689	0	0.0	-
Clark	118,302	11	7.8	15,166
Clay	26,225	0	0.0	-
Clinton	32,399	0	0.0	-
Crawford	10,577	0	0.0	-
Daviess	33,351	9	4.9	6,806
Dearborn	49,458	7	1.9	26,030
Decatur	26,559	2	1.5	17,706
DeKalb	43,475	3	1.7	25,573
Delaware	114,135	17	12.4	9,204
Dubois	42,736	9	5.3	8,063
Elkhart	206,341	10	7.8	26,453
Fayette	23,102	1	0.2	115,510
Floyd	78,522	28	17.4	4,512
Fountain	16,346	0	0.0	-
Franklin	22,758	5	2.8	8,127
Fulton	19,974	1	0.9	22,193
Gibson	33,659	2	1.2	28,049
Grant	65,769	3	2.0	32,884
Greene	31,922	2	0.8	39,902
Hamilton	338,011	89	57.4	5,888
Hancock	78,168	9	6.2	12,607
Harrison	40,515	1	0.8	50,643
Hendricks	170,311	45	32.4	5,256
Henry	47,972	13	3.7	12,965
Howard	82,544	9	4.5	18,343
Huntington	36,520	4	3.0	12,173
Jackson	44,231	13	9.6	4,607
Jasper	33,562	0	0.0	-
Jay	20,436	0	0.0	-
Jefferson	32,308	4	2.1	15,384
Jennings	27,735	1	1.0	27,735
Johnson	158,167	39	24.0	6,590
Knox	36,594	8	4.2	8,712
Kosciusko	79,456	10	6.6	12,038
LaGrange	39,614	4	2.9	13,660
Lake	485,493	82	48.2	10,072
LaPorte	109,888	3	2.7	40,699

Table 2.10. Physician Assistant Workforce Capacity and Distribution

County Name	Population	Total PAs	Total PA FTE	Population per PA FTE
Lawrence	45,370	1	0.9	50,411
Madison	129,569	22	15.9	8,148
Marion	964,582	424	308.0	3,131
Marshall	46,258	1	1.0	46,258
Martin	10,255	0	0.0	-
Miami	35,516	0	0.0	-
Monroe	148,431	29	24.1	6,158
Montgomery	38,338	2	0.8	47,922
Morgan	70,489	10	7.0	10,069
Newton	13,984	0	0.0	-
Noble	47,744	5	3.1	15,401
Ohio	5,875	0	0.0	-
Orange	19,646	0	0.0	-
Owen	20,799	1	0.6	34,665
Parke	16,937	0	0.0	-
Perry	19,169	0	0.0	-
Pike	12,389	0	0.0	-
Porter	170,389	15	7.4	23,025
Posey	25,427	0	0.0	-
Pulaski	12,353	0	0.0	-
Putnam	37,576	7	5.1	7,367
Randolph	24,665	0	0.0	-
Ripley	28,324	3	1.9	14,907
Rush	16,581	0	0.0	-
Scott	23,873	2	1.7	14,042
Shelby	44,729	13	10.1	4,428
Spencer	20,277	0	0.0	-
St. Joseph	271,826	46	31.5	8,629
Starke	22,995	0	0.0	-
Steuben	34,594	5	1.8	19,218
Sullivan	20,669	0	0.0	-
Switzerland	10,751	0	0.0	-
Tippecanoe	195,732	18	14.0	13,980
Tipton	15,148	1	0.3	50,493
Union	7,054	0	0.0	-
Vanderburgh	181,451	37	24.9	7,287
Vermillion	15,498	1	0.3	51,660
Vigo	107,038	31	22.3	4,799
Wabash	30,996	5	3.3	9,392
Warren	8,265	1	1.0	8,265
Warrick	62,998	8	6.0	10,499
Washington	28,036	2	0.1	280,360
Wayne	65,884	19	13.8	4,774
Wells	28,296	2	0.8	35,370
White	24,102	0	0.0	-
Whitley	33,964	2	0.9	37,737

Source: Indiana Physician Assistant Re-Licensure Survey, 2020; Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties in Indiana: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019 (CO-EST2019-ANNRES-18).

Notes: UPopulation to provider ratio could not be counted in counties where there was no reported physician assistant FTE.



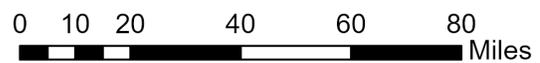
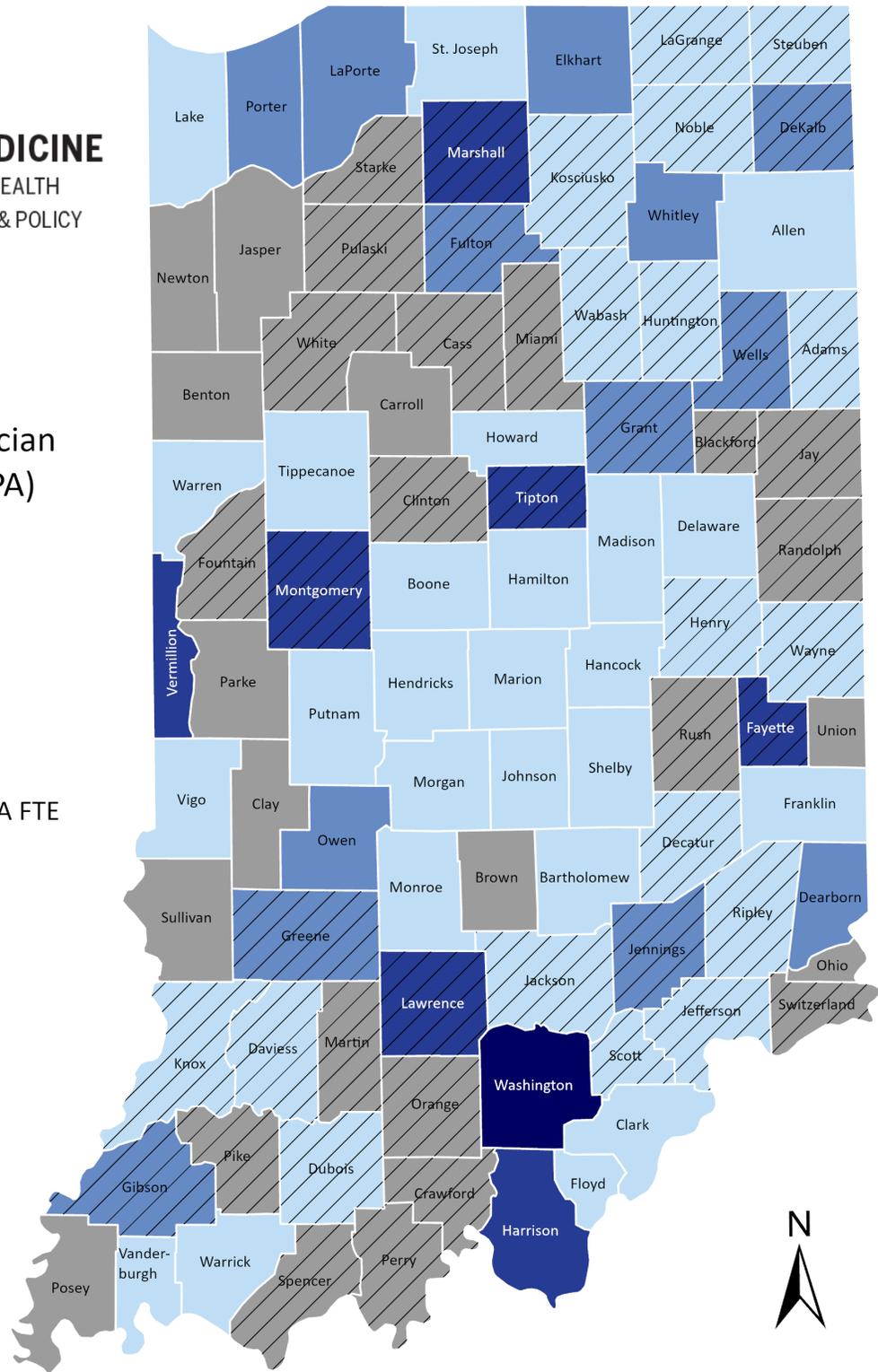
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

BOWEN CENTER FOR HEALTH
WORKFORCE RESEARCH & POLICY

Indiana Physician Assistants (PA)

Population per One PA FTE

- ≤19,218
- 19,218 - 40,699
- 40,700 - 115,510
- 115,511 - 280,360
- No Reported FTE
- Rural County



Source: Indiana Physician Assistant License and Supplemental Survey Data, 2020. US Department of Agriculture, Rural-Urban Continuum codes, 2019.

Map 2.1. Geographic Distribution of Indiana Physician Assistant Workforce Capacity

CONCLUSION

This report provides information on the supply, distribution, and characteristics of Indiana's licensed physician assistants, specifically with regards to demographics, education, practice and employment characteristics, and geographic distribution. A total of 2,141 PAs renewed their Indiana State license in 2020. Among these, 1,182 PAs completed a supplemental survey while renewing their license online in 2020. Over 50% of practicing physician assistants received their educational training in Indiana and almost all are actively working in a position that requires a physician assistant license. Additionally, the majority of PAs reported no plans to change their current employment status, which demonstrates Indiana's ongoing initiative to sustain Indiana's health workforce.

Demographically, Indiana's physician assistants are predominantly female, not Hispanic or Latino and White. In contrast to other healthcare professionals, the physician assistant workforce is considerably younger, with almost half of the surveyed population under the age of 35. Most physician assistants primarily practice in patient care with no plans to change their work hours in the next year. Furthermore, half of physician assistants report providing various services through telemedicine. However, almost half of Indiana counties either lack sufficient provider capacity or report no physician assistant FTE.

The 2020 Physician Assistant Survey Data Report provides key information which may be used for workforce planning. Requests for more information can be submitted at www.bowenportal.org.