

There are more than 270,000 nurse practitioners (NPs) licensed in the U.S. ¹

- More than 28,700 new NPs completed their academic programs in 2017–2018.²
- 99.1% of NPs have graduate degrees.³
- 87.1% of NPs are certified in an area of primary care, and 72.6% of all NPs deliver primary care.³
- 82.9% of full-time NPs are accepting Medicare patients and 80.2% are accepting Medicaid patients.³
- 41.7% of full-time NPs hold hospital privileges; 11.7% have long-term care privileges.³
- 95.7% of NPs prescribe medications, and those in full-time practice write an average of 20 prescriptions per day.³
- NPs hold prescriptive privileges, including controlled substances, in all 50 states and D.C.
- In 2018, the mean, full-time base salary for NPs was \$105,903.³
- The majority of NPs (57.4%) see three or more patients per hour.³
- Malpractice rates remain low; only 1.1% have been named as primary defendant in a malpractice case.³
- NPs have been in practice an average of 10 years.³
- The average age of NPs is 49 years.³

DISTRIBUTION, TOP PRACTICE SETTING AND CLINICAL FOCUS AREA BY AREA OF NP CERTIFICATION ³

Certification*	Percent of NPs	Top Practice Setting	Top Clinical Foci
Family^	66.9	Hospital Outpatient Clinic (13.5%)	Primary Care (37.7%)
Adult^	12.0	Hospital Outpatient Clinic (17.9%)	Primary Care (17.4%)
Adult–Gerontology Primary Care^	6.0	Hospital Outpatient Clinic (14.4%)	Primary Care (25.5%)
Acute Care	4.8	Hospital Inpatient Unit (50.8%)	Cardiology (16.9%)
Pediatrics–Primary Care^	4.0	Hospital Outpatient Clinic (31.1%)	Primary Care (51.6%)
Adult–Gerontology Acute Care	3.1	Hospital Inpatient Unit (53.6%)	Critical Care (16.4%)
Women’s Health^	2.7	Private Group Practice (23.6%)	OB/GYN (66.5%)
Psychiatric/Mental Health–Family	2.1	Psych/Mental Health Facility (24.2%)	Psychiatric (67.6%)
Psychiatric/Mental Health	2.0	Psych/Mental Health Facility (28.7%)	Psychiatric (66.2%)
Gerontology^	1.8	Long-Term Care Facility (20.5%)	Primary Care (31.4%)

* NPs may be certified in more than one area

^ Primary Care Focus

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¹ AANP National Nurse Practitioner Database, 2019.

² American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (2019). *2018–2019 Enrollment and Graduations in Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs in Nursing*. Washington DC: AACN.

³ 2018 AANP National Nurse Practitioner Sample Survey.