



Statistical Brief

Supply, Distribution, and Demographic
Characteristics of Physician Assistants (PAs)
Practicing Psychiatry in Nebraska 2010-2016

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Aim:

To examine the geographic distribution and demographic characteristics of physician assistants (PAs) actively practicing psychiatry in Nebraska between 2010 and 2016.

Definitions:

PAs practicing psychiatry include those who self-identified psychiatry as their primary or secondary practice specialty. PAs who are board certified in psychiatry hold a national board certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). An “actively participating” provider is one who is currently (at the time of data collection) practicing in and providing behavioral health services to the people of Nebraska.

Data Source:

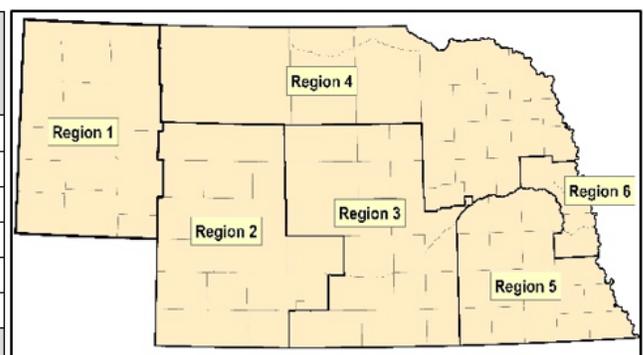
This study used the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, and Health Professions Tracking Service (HPTS) database for the span of 2010-2016.

Supply Trend by Region:

As shown in Table 1, during the period between 2010 and 2016 the total number of PAs with a psychiatry specialty actively practicing in Nebraska increased from 9 to 15 (66.7% increase). During this time period Regions 4, 5 and 6 increased the number of PAs, Regions 1 and 2 had no change, and Region 3 had a decrease.

Table 1. Supply of PAs Practicing in Nebraska: 2010-2016

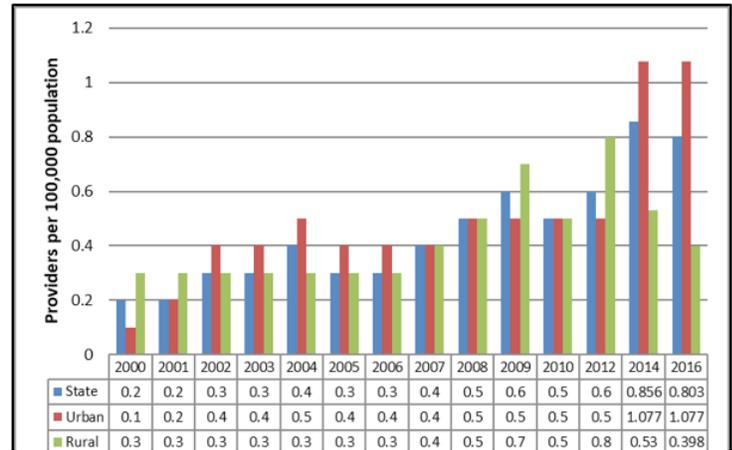
Region	2010	2012	2014	2016	Diff 2010- 2016	% Diff 2010- 2016
1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
2	0	1	0	0	0	0.0%
3	2	3	1	0	-2	-100.0%
4	2	2	3	3	1	+50.0%
5	2	3	4	5	3	+150.0%
6	3	3	8	7	4	+133.3%
Total	9	12	16	15	6	+66.7%



The Number of Providers per 100,000 Residents (Figure 1):

According to the 2016 Health Resources and Services Administration report, there were 0.4 behavioral health physician assistants per 100,000 residents in the US in 2013. The number of PAs per 100,000 residents in Nebraska increased from 0.5 in 2010 to 0.8 in 2016. A decreasing trend from 2012 to 2016 was observed in rural counties, while urban counties had an increasing trend during this time period.

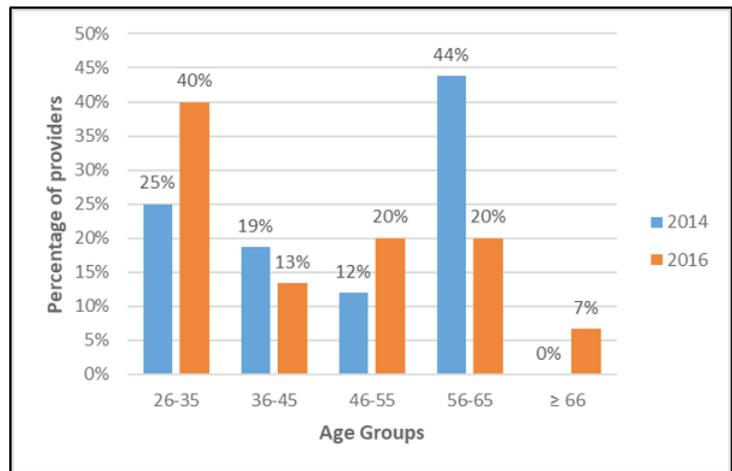
Figure 1. Supply of PAs by Geographic Location per 100,000 Population, Nebraska 2000-2016



Age Distribution (Figure 2):

The aging behavioral health workforce is an issue in Nebraska and in the US overall. In 2016, 47% of the PAs in Nebraska were older than 45 years of age, a decrease from 56% in 2014.

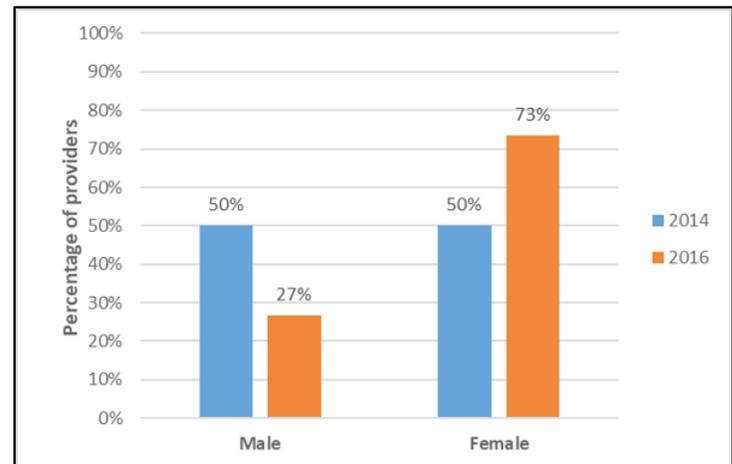
Figure 2. Age Distribution of PAs, Nebraska 2014 vs. 2016



Gender Distribution (Figure 3):

In 2016, of the 15 PAs 73% were females. This is an increase from 50% in 2014.

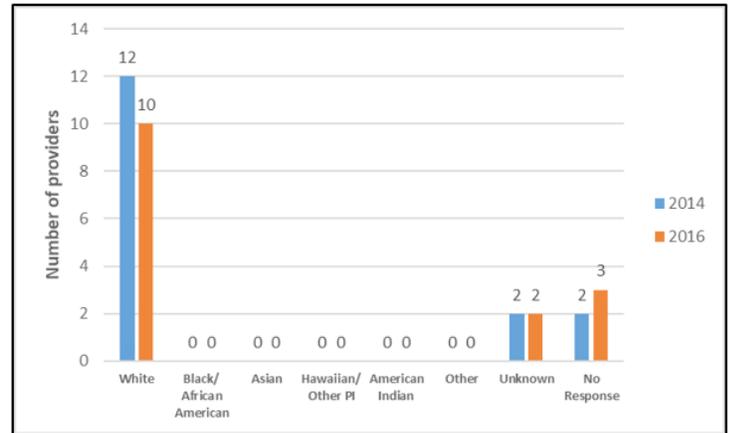
Figure 3. Gender Distribution of PAs, Nebraska 2014 vs. 2016



Race and Ethnicity Distribution (Figure 4):

In 2016, 10 PAs (67%) identified themselves as white. In 2014, 12 PAs (75%) identified themselves as white. This increase reflects the overall increase of PAs in Nebraska, as the number of PAs of an ethnic minority did not change between 2014 and 2016.

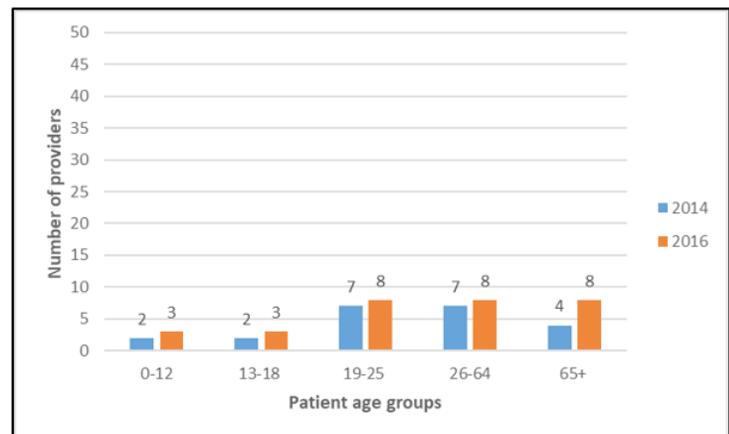
Figure 4. Race and Ethnicity Distribution of PAs, Nebraska 2014 vs. 2016



Patient Age (Figure 5):

The HPTS survey asks providers to indicate the age group(s) of patients they see. 8 PAs reported that they see young adults (19-25 years), and 8 reported that they see adults aged 26-64 years. 3 PAs reported that they see adolescents (13-18 years). The distribution was similar in 2014. Note that providers can indicate more than one age category.

Figure 5. Age Distribution of Patients Seen by PAs, Nebraska 2014 vs. 2016

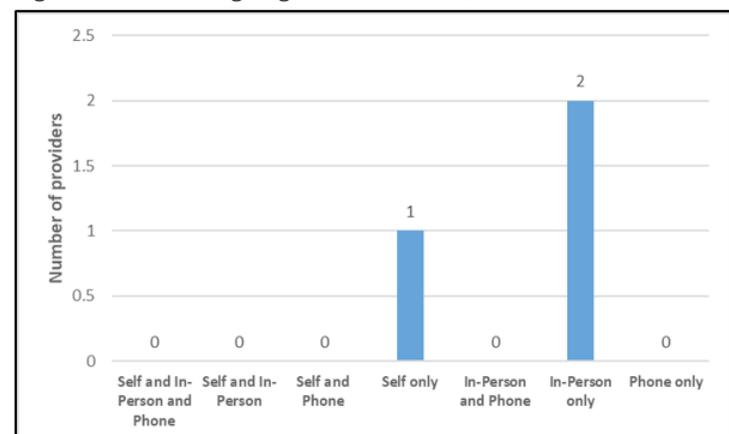


Providers can indicate more than one age category

Language Services (Figure 6):

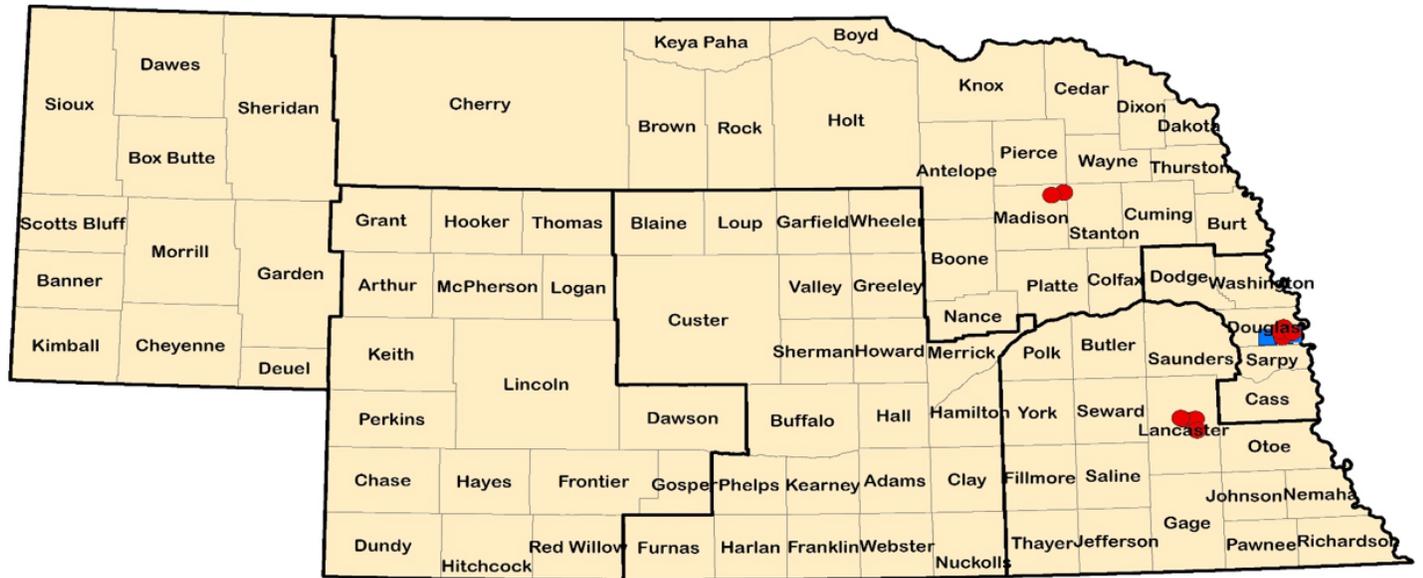
In 2016, 31% of PAs reported serving people who spoke languages other than English. Of these, 40% served Spanish speakers. The HPTS survey also asks whether the provider speaks the language (“self-interpreter”) or uses phone or in-person interpreters. Both self and in-person translators were used.

Figure 6. PAs Language Service Use, Nebraska 2016



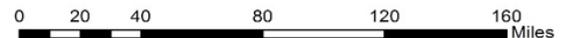
Providers can indicate more than one mode

Primary and Satellite Locations of PAs:



- Primary Location
- Satellite
- Regions
- County

Data Sources: UNMC Health Professions Tracking Service, Nebraska. Behavioral Health Regions Described by Nebraska State Legislature, 2004 (LB 1083). Federal Office of Management and Budget Designation of Metropolitan and Micropolitan. National Center for Frontier Communities Definition.



Annex 1: Region and County Level Distribution of PAs, Nebraska 2016

Region	Year		2010	2012	2014	2016	Diff	% Diff
	County	Total					2010-2016	2010-2016
1	Banner		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Box Butte		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Cheyenne		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Dawes		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Deuel		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Garden		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Kimball		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Morrill		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Scotts Bluff		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Sheridan		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Sioux		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
2	Arthur		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Chase		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Dawson		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Dundy		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Frontier		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Gosper		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Grant		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Hayes		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Hitchcock		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Hooker		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Keith		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Lincoln		0	1	0	0	0	N/A
	Logan		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	McPherson		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Perkins		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Red Willow		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	
Thomas		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	
3	Adams		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Blaine		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Buffalo		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Clay		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Custer		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Franklin		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Furnas		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Garfield		0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Greeley		0	0	0	0	0	N/A

	Year	2010	2012	2014	2016	Diff 2010-2016	% Diff 2010-2016
	Hall	2	3	1	0	-2	-100.0%
	Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Harlan	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Howard	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Kearney	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Loup	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Merrick	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Nuckolls	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Phelps	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Sherman	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Valley	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Webster	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Wheeler	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
4	Antelope	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Boone	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Boyd	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Brown	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Burt	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Cedar	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Cherry	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Colfax	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Cuming	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Dixon	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Holt	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Keya Paha	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Knox	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Madison	2	2	2	3	1	50.0%
	Nance	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Pierce	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Platte	0	0	1	0	0	N/A
	Rock	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Stanton	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Thurston	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	
5	Butler	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Fillmore	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Gage	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Johnson	0	0	0	0	0	N/A

	Year	2010	2012	2014	2016	Diff 2010-2016	% Diff 2010-2016
	Lancaster	2	3	4	5	3	150.0%
	Nemaha	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Otoe	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Pawnee	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Polk	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Richardson	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Saline	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Saunders	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Seward	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Thayer	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	York	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
6	Cass	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Dodge	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Douglas	3	3	7	7	4	133.3%
	Sarpy	0	0	1	0	0	N/A
	Washington	0	0	0	0	0	N/A