

# Future Forecast: The Growing Impact of PAs in Healthcare



Education and technology trends facing physician assistants in the US



## Most PAs want more hands-on training before they start working.

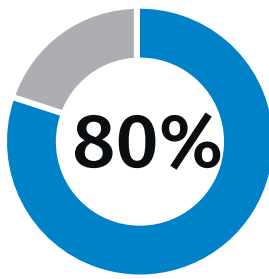
Over three in five PAs (**62%**) wish they had more clinical experience during their education.



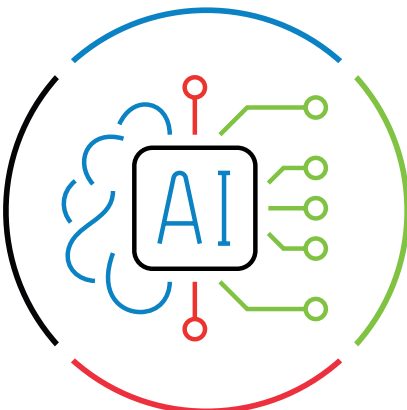
## PAs feel ready to work with patients but are less prepared for documentation and prescribing.



Almost all PAs (**96%**) felt prepared for patient interactions when they started practicing,

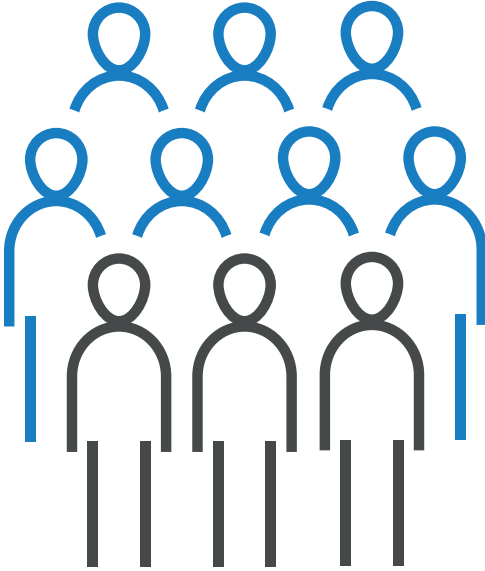


but only **80%** felt ready for documentation tasks.



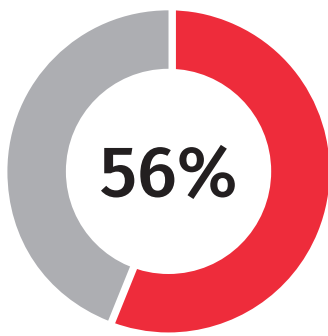
## The job has changed a lot, especially with insurance and AI.

Seven in ten PAs (**70%**) agree their profession has changed over the past three years. The biggest changes are dealing with insurance companies (42%) and artificial intelligence (40%).

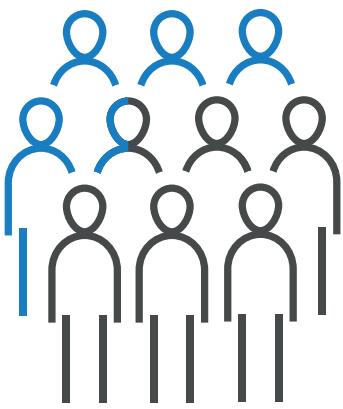


## More than half of PAs use AI, but almost all need more training.

While **56%** of PAs currently use AI in their practice—mainly for documentation (61%) and patient notes (48%)—nearly nine in ten (87%) say they need to learn more about using AI.



## PAs want better recognition and clearer roles.



While 99% are called physician assistants, **almost half (45%)** prefer the title physician associate. It is worth noting that the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) has begun officially using the name physician associates.



**Less than half of PAs (43%)** believe their patients understand the difference between doctors, PAs, and nurse practitioners on their care team.



## Despite challenges, PAs are satisfied with their careers.

Nearly all PAs (97%) are satisfied with their ability to practice at the top of their profession, and 96% say they have autonomy in their practice.

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