

2015 UKAPA Census Results
Tamara S. Ritsema MPH, MMSc, PA-C

Introduction:

The census was administered in May and June 2015. We believe there are 414 people (223 PAs and 191 students) who live in the UK who are eligible to respond. 137 PAs and 132 PA students living in the UK responded.

Overall Response Rate:

Graduate PAs - 211 graduates + 12 US graduates = 223 PAs. 137 responded (61%)
Student PAs – 191 students. 132 students responded (69%)

Response Rate by University:

	Aberdeen	Birmingham	Hertfordshire	Plymouth	St. George's	Wolverhampton	Worcester
Alumni	15/25 (60%)	28/50 (56%)	6/14 (43%)	None	54/72 (75%)	22/50 (44%)	None
Students	19/24 (79%)	45/76 (59%)	None	14/17 (82%)	39/52 (75%)	0/4 (0%)	15/18 (83%)

Current Practice Status of the 137 who are not PA students: (note – each respondent was allowed to choose more than one status):

- 121 Practicing as a PA
- 4 Practicing as a PA in a training post
- 14 PA Educators (9 these also chose “Practicing as a PA”).
- 2 Researcher (1 of these also chose “Practicing as a PA”)
- 5 “Working but not as a PA”
- 1 Currently seeking work as a PA (this person also reported being a PA Educator)
- 2 “Taking time off for personal reasons”

Hours, Call, and Home Visits:

Mean number of hours worked per week is 38.3. Median is 39 hours per week. Range is 10 – 55h/week.

8 PAs perform home visits.

13 PAs take call for their practice / service

Primary Practice Settings in which PAs work: (many PAs work in more than one setting – for example, Theatre and Inpatient Ward)

- 28 GP surgery
- 28 A and E

- 51 Hospital Inpatient Ward
- 6 Hospital Intensive Care Unit
- 11 Hospital Operating Theatre –
- 14 Hospital Outpatient Department
- 16 Medical Assessment Unit or Acute Medical Unit
- 2 Rehabilitation Facility
- 2 Specialist surgery – multiple doctors
- 2 Specialist surgery – solo doctor
- 3 Walk in centre / out of hours
- 1 Hospital based liaison psychiatry service
- 2 Other psychiatry service

Location:

PAs are clustered in London and in the West Midlands (around universities which have or had PA courses) with a growing contingent in Scotland.

	England	Isle of Man	Scotland	No Answer	Total
Graduate PAs	120	1	16	0	137
Student	114	0	19	0	133
Total	234	1	35	0	270

Gender of PAs and PA students:

Gender	Graduate PAs	PA Students
Female	95	96
Male	39	37
Prefer not to answer	3	0

Ethnicity of PAs and PA students:

Ethnicity	Graduate PAs	PA Students
Asian	24	36
Black	6	18
Chinese	0	3
Mixed	5	5
Other Ethnic Group	3	7
Prefer not to answer	2	1
White: British	97	63
Total	137	133

Tasks and Procedures Performed by Currently Practicing PAs regardless of specialty, sorted in order of frequency

Take medical history
Perform physical examination
Perform patient education
Interpret ECG
Take bloods / perform venipuncture
Perform psychiatric assessment
Pelvic examination (palpation of cervix, uterus, adnexae)
Perform IV cannulation
Arterial blood gas
Urinary catheterisation
Suturing
NG tube placement
Joint aspiration / injection
Nerve blocks
Cervical smear
Incision and drainage of abscesses
Dislocation reduction
Fracture reduction
Casting / splinting
Mole removal
Skin biopsy
Surgical first assisting
Lipoma removal
Chest tube insertion
Fetal heart tones
Contraceptive implant placement
Contraceptive implant removal
General newborn examination
IUD removal
Intubation
FAST Ultrasound for Trauma
Lumbar puncture
Haematoma blocks
Paracentesis
Thoracentesis
Antenatal care
Fitting of diaphragm
IUD placement
Pulmonary function testing

Central line insertion
Arterial line insertion
Bier blocks
Port placement
Participate in cardiac catheterisation
Perform cardiac stress testing
Perinatal care
Antenatal ultrasound
Skin cancer removal
DEXA scanning
OGD

Limitations of our data

These data have several limitations. First, participants were allowed to opt out at any time in the survey, and some did, completing only partial surveys. Others did not answer individual questions, giving us shifting denominators. Second, some participants had difficulty generating a UCID (unique ID which will allow us to track individual career paths over time).

We had a worrying decline in student participation this year for the second year in a row. Two years ago, 95% of students participated. This year, only 69% participated. Hopefully, we can increase this number again in 2016 as having baseline data on students is essential. I would encourage those working on PA courses to exhort their students to participate as a way to contribute to the forward progress of the profession. One program had no participation by students at all whilst the 2 new programs both had participation rates of greater than 80%! Well done, Plymouth and Worcester!

However, overall, I do feel that the data reflect a fairly accurate snapshot of PA practice in the UK. This data continues to be used by universities, students, workforce planners, the FPA, and doctor advocates for the PA role in a wide variety of settings. We could not continue to have up-to-date data to use for these purposes without your help. Thank you!

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