

# **Physician Assistant & Nurse Practitioner Ambulatory Care & Chronic Disease Management**

**PAEA Annual Conference 2013**



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# Background



- Physician shortage
- NP & PA movements
- Ambulatory care
- Chronic disease

# Purpose



- Examine the national experience of NPs and PAs in ambulatory care (& chronic disease management)
- Does a division of labor exist between the 3 providers?

# Methods



- National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS), 2001-2010
- Weighted hospital outpatient visits to each provider type examining multiple visit characteristics
- 14 chronic diseases
  - Arthritis, Asthma, Cancer, Cerebrovascular disease, CHF, Chronic renal failure, COPD, Depression, Diabetes, Hyperlipidemia, Hypertension, Ischemic heart disease, Obesity, Osteoporosis

# Number of Hospital Outpatient Department Visits and the Percentage of Visits by Provider Type, 2001 – 2010

Data from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

Year	Physician		PA		NP/CNM		Total
	Est. Visits	Percent Share of Visits	Est. Visits	Percent Share of Visits	Est. Visits	Percent Share of Visits	
<b>2001</b>	<b>5,800,000</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>340,000</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>510,000</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6,700,000</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>7,200,000</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>460,000</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>910,000</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8,500,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	68,000,000	<b>86</b>	4,200,000	<b>5</b>	7,200,000	<b>9</b>	79,000,000

≈ 79 million weighted visits

NP/CNMs and PAs 11.4 million

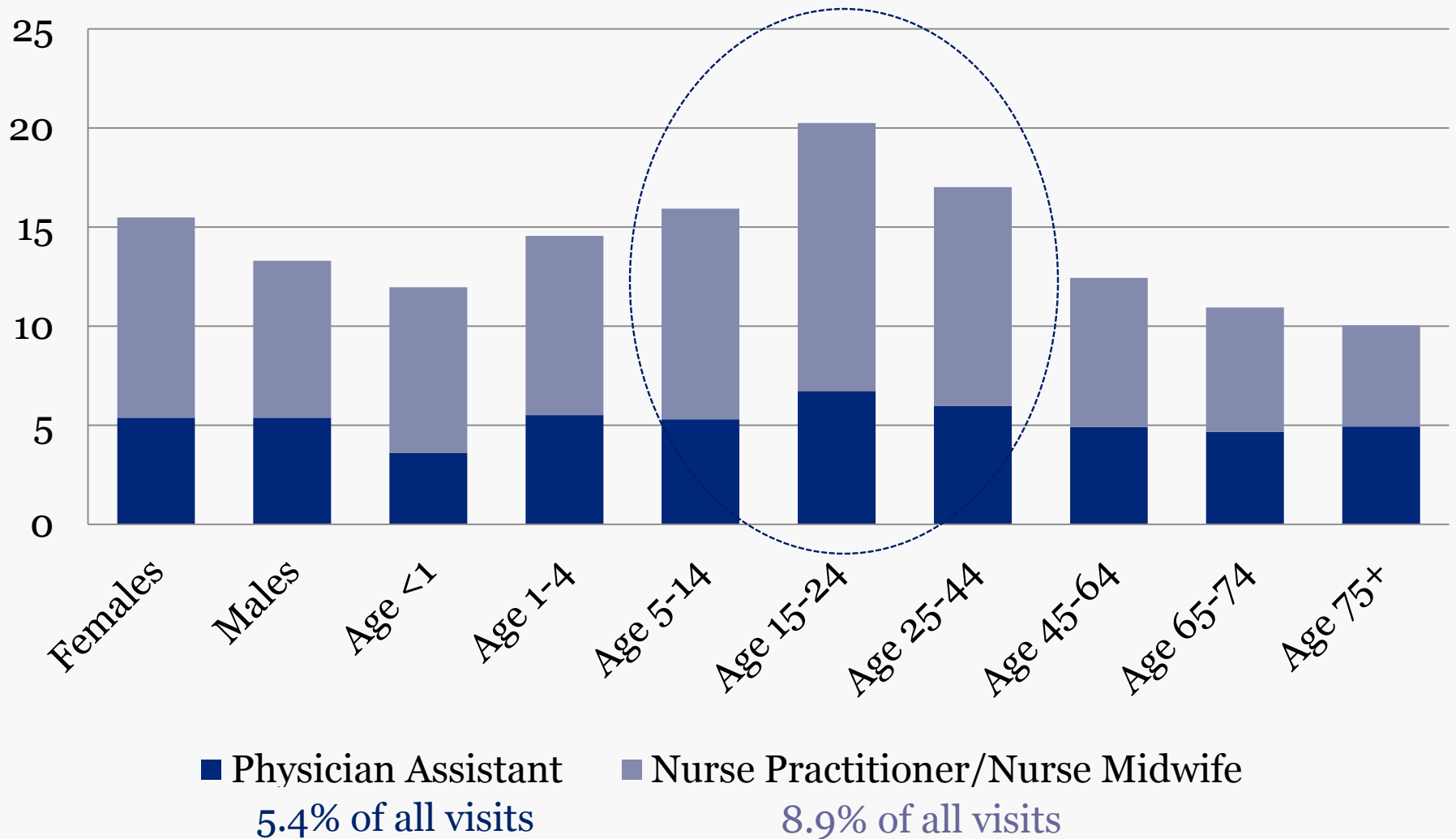
24% ↑ in physician visits

35% ↑ in PA visits

78% ↑ increase in NP visits

# Percent Share of Outpatient Department Visits by Patient Gender and Age Group, 2001-2010

(NPs & PAs 14% of all visits)



Data from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

# Characteristics of Outpatient Department Visits, Percent Share of Visits by Provider Type, 2001-2010

Data from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

	Physician	PA	NP/CNM	Total
<b>Metropolitan Area Status</b>				
MSA	89.8	2.9	7.3	60,000,000
Non-MSA	64.4	17.3	18.4	13,000,000
Total	85.4	5.4	9.2	73,000,000
Total (Percentages)	85.5	5.4	9.1	100.0
Total (Visits)	62,000,000	3,900,000	6,700,000	79,000,000

## Regional differences

- **NP/CNMs**

Highest percentage (11.2%) – South

Lowest (6%) – West

- **PAs**

Highest percentage (7.8%) – West

Lowest (3.7%) – Northeast

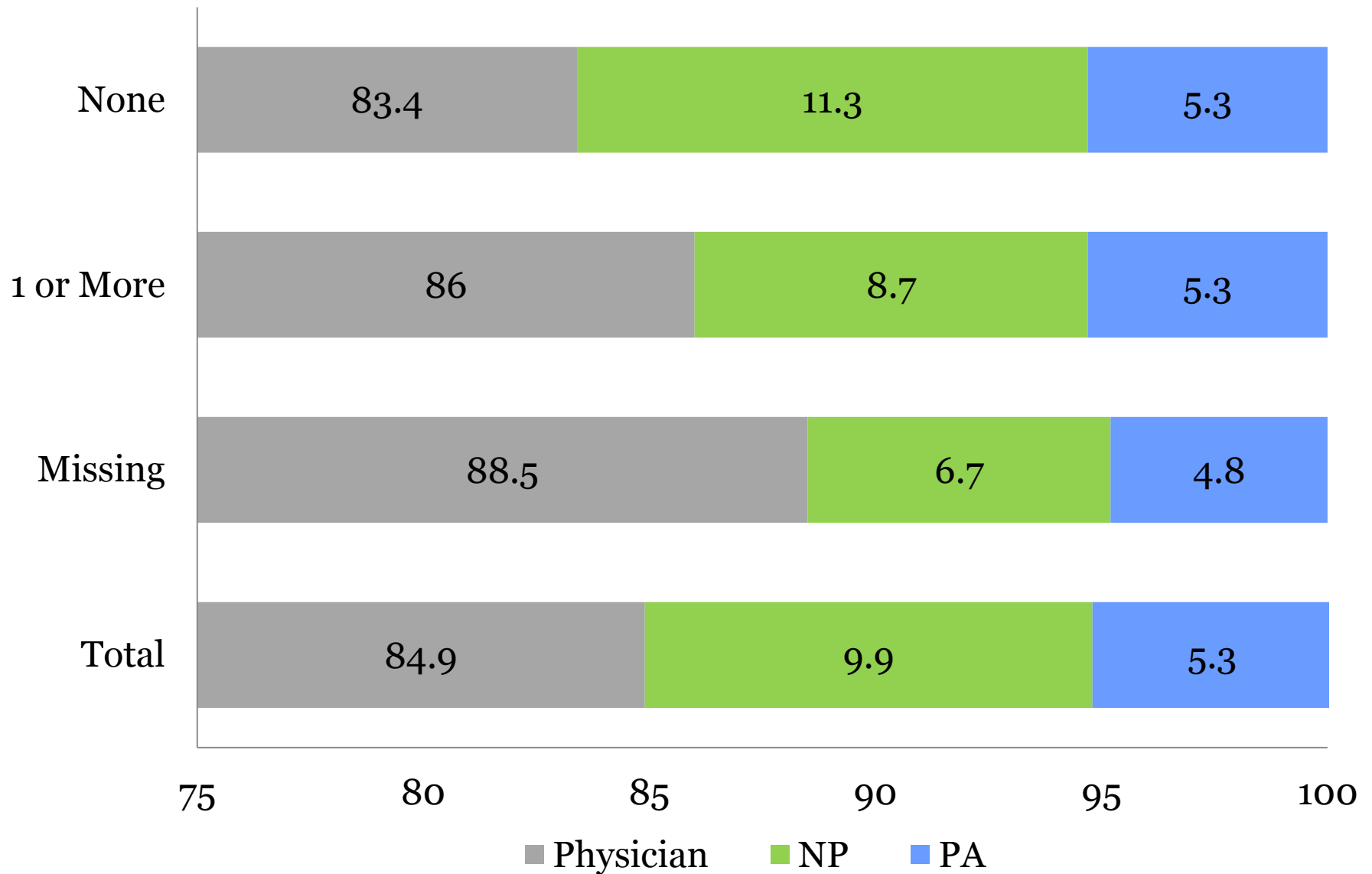
# Characteristics of Outpatient Department Visits, Percent Share of Visits by Provider Type, 2001-2010

	Physician	PA	NP/CNM	Total
Type of Clinic				
General Medicine	81.9	7.7	10.4	48,000,000
Surgery	95.4	2.5	2.0	10,000,000
Pediatric	92.8	1.0	6.2	9,800,000
Obstetrics /Gynecology	82.0	1.8	16.3	6,500,000
Substance Abuse	93.5	0.3	6.2	150,000
Other	90.3	1.9	7.8	4,600,000
<b>Total (Percentages)</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total (Visits)</b>	<b>62,000,000</b>	<b>3,900,000</b>	<b>6,700,000</b>	<b>79,000,000</b>

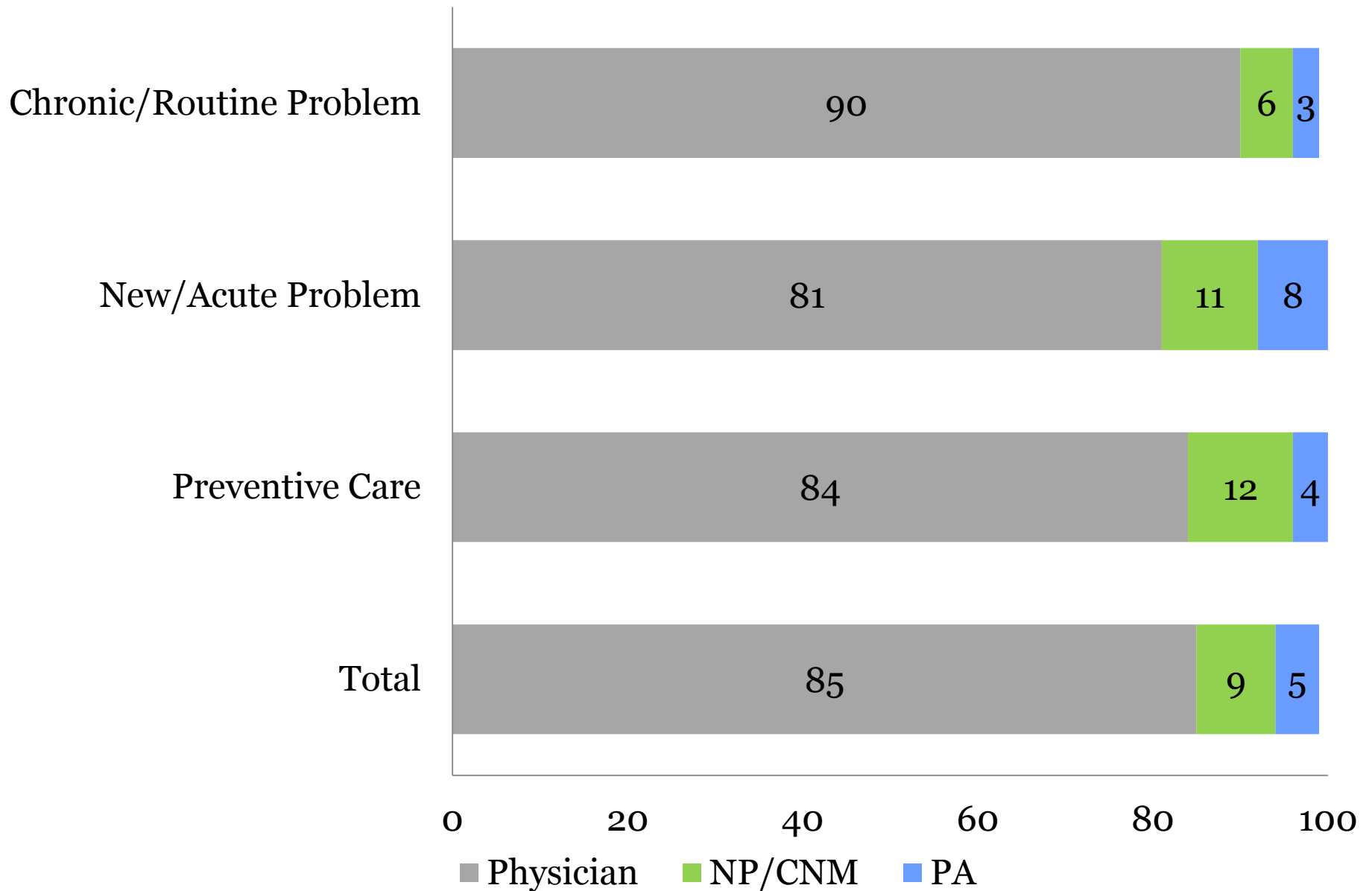
Data from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey



# Percent Share of Outpatient Department Visits by Number of Chronic Conditions, 2005-2010 (All Ages)

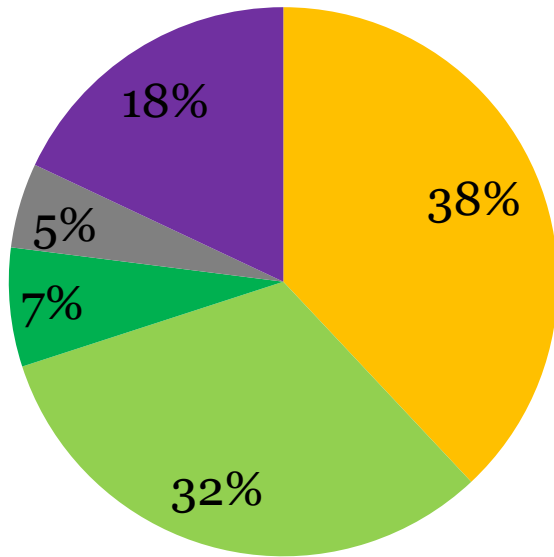


# Distribution of Visits by Major Reason for Visit Category (NHAMCS), 2001-2010

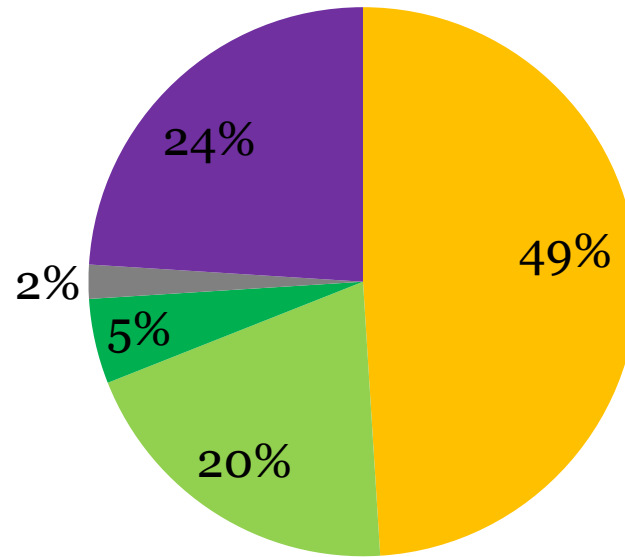


# Each Provider Distribution of Visits by Major Reason for Visit Category (NHAMCS), 2001-2010

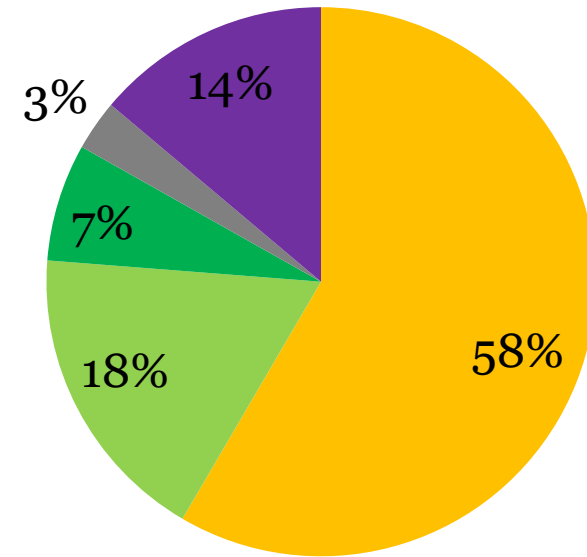
## Physician



## NP/CNM

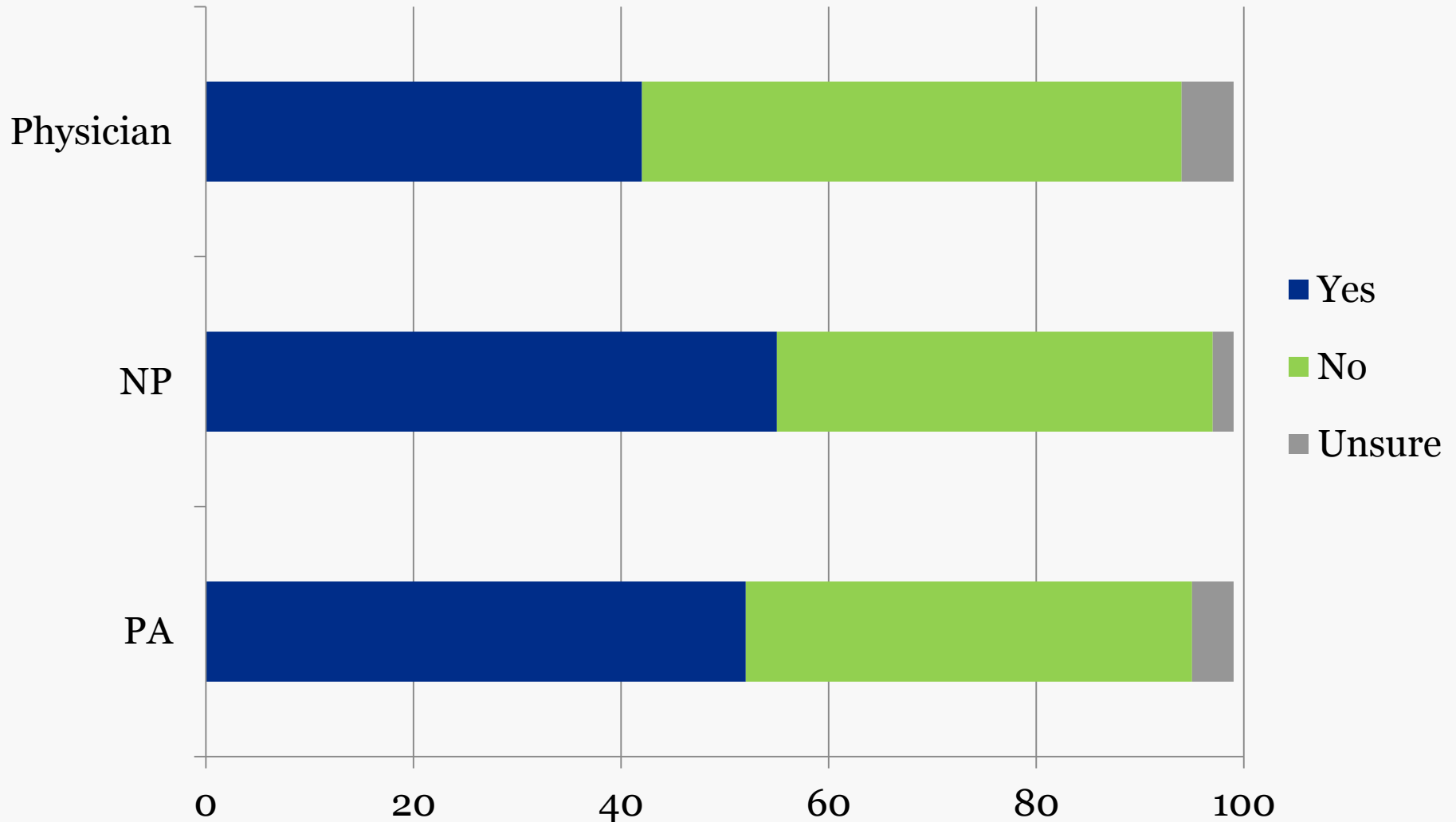


## PA



- New/Acute Problem
- Chronic/Routine Problem
- Flare-up Chronic Problem
- Pre/Post Surgery
- Preventive Care

# Are you the patient's primary care provider? 2005 – 2006



# Results



- Diabetes and hypertension
  - 2-4% for each provider
- NPs & PAs proportionally *less* likely to attend insurance visits, *more* likely to attend “self pay” visits
- PAs more likely to attend worker compensation visits
- Overall
  - Physicians – older patients (complex chronic disease)
  - NPs – preventive care
  - PAs – acute care
  - PAs & NPs – non-metropolitan areas

# Discussion/Limitations/Future



- **Discussion**
  - Division of labor
  - Meeting need in medically underserved areas
- **Limitations**
  - Not longitudinal
  - Addressed primary diagnoses only
  - No chronic disease score
  - No health outcomes
- **Future**
  - Optimal strategies
  - Regional, rural differences
- **Thank you to the Physician Assistant Education Association**