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APPENDIX:

Twenty-Second Annual PAEA National Survey for the 2005-2006 Academic Year

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
IN THE UNITED STATES, 2005-2006

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1972, the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP) serves as the national organization representing physician assistant (P.A.) educational programs in the United States. The Association serves as a conduit for communication among P.A. educators by sponsoring meetings, organizing research studies and providing a forum to conduct the business of the membership. Another important role for the Association is to serve as a resource for individuals and organizations interested in the aspects of the physician assistant profession that pertain to the selection and education of the P.A. students and the characteristics of physician assistant programs. In addition, PAEA provides representation to various bodies that help to chart the course of the P.A. profession, including the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) and the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), among others. In 2005, the association changed its name to Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA).

As the primary organ for collection and dissemination of data about its member physician assistant educational programs, the Association publishes a web-based "Physician Assistant Programs Directory."¹ The Directory provides a listing and description of PAEA member programs. Each listing provides comprehensive information concerning each program's admission requirements, curriculum, institutional affiliates, credentials awarded and other descriptive data. The Directory also provides a summary of postgraduate educational programs for P.A.'s, information about accreditation and P.A. certification. As of November, 2005, there were 134 physician assistant programs accredited (full or provisional) by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.²

In 1984, the process of establishing a national database on P.A. programs was initiated by Denis Oliver, Ph.D., Director of The University of Iowa Physician Assistant Program and then Past-President of the Association. The first national survey was developed and administered in the fall of 1984. The questionnaire requested information on a variety of program "activities" including institutional sponsorship, financial support, program personnel (faculty and support staff), characteristics of applicants and students enrolled, curriculum, student attrition and graduate employment characteristics. The findings from the 1984 survey were published as the First Annual Report on Physician Assistant Educational Programs in the United States, 1984-85 and, to date, a total of twenty-two Annual Reports³⁻²⁴ have been published, including the present Report.

Dr. Oliver retired as author after publication of the eleventh Report. In 1995, the PAEA Board of Directors authorized individuals from the Saint Francis University Department of Physician Assistant Sciences to author future Reports. Data from the annual report has been published in numerous other venues where discussions of the P.A. profession are ongoing. Examples of these publications include the Journal of Medical Education, AAPA News and the Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Selected data have been published in the Annual Reports to the President and Congress on the States of Health Personnel in the United States and in a publication of the Association of Academic Health Centers.

The data presented in the Report over the years represents responses from greater than 85% of the P.A. programs surveyed. This high rate of response leads the authors to present the findings contained herein to be representative of the physician assistant educational programs in the United States. Given that the basic elements of the annual survey have remained consistent over its twenty-two year history, a significant amount of data has been generated that can be used to depict the "typical" or "average" P.A. educational endeavor. The consistency in collection of data has also provided the ability to detect trends or document changes as they occur over time. Identified trends have been analyzed to generate reports on the following items:

- * Characteristics of AMA-accredited P.A. Programs that have Closed.⁵
- * Characteristics of Graduate-Level P.A. Programs.^{6,9}
- * Analysis of Alien and U.S. Unlicensed Medical Graduates Admitted to P.A. Programs.⁸
- * Analysis of P.A. Program Personnel Turnover.¹⁰⁻²²
- * A Review of Program Characteristics by Sponsoring Institution.³

METHODS

The Survey Instruments

Two questionnaires (surveys #1, #2) were administered. The first survey was a total of seven pages in length, mailed in November 2005, to 134 programs that were identified as accredited from databases maintained by PAEA and the ARC-PA. Survey #1 consisted of three major sections (see the Appendix for a copy of the questionnaires):

- A. General Program Information: Includes date of admission of first class, length of program, consortia membership, sponsoring institution, sources of financial support, student expenses and financial aid and credentials earned.
- B. Program Personnel: Includes characteristics of program faculty and staff, clinical activity of P.A. personnel, and an assessment of program personnel turnover, attrition and recruitment.
- C. Student Information: Includes the number, gender, age, ethnicity, residency, academic and health care experience background of students enrolled.

Survey #2 was three pages in length and requested information on:

- A. Graduate Information: includes information on student attrition and deceleration, characteristics of recent graduates and starting salary for recent graduates.

One of the goals of the current authors with the Annual Report was to make it more user friendly. To move closer to this end, the Annual Report application was moved "on-line" five years ago, allowing the member programs to enter data directly over the Internet, facilitating the collection and analysis of data. Seventy-six programs (68% of the respondents) submitted their program's data via this method.

Survey Period and Response Rate

Survey #1 was sent (11/28/2005) to 134 P.A. programs, including three programs enrolling students for the first time in the 2005-2006 academic year. An initial deadline of January 21, 2006 was established. A total of 109 responses were received for a response rate of 81.3%.

The second survey was included with survey #1 (94 received).

A total of 112 programs returned some portion of survey #1 and/or survey #2, for an overall response rate of 83.6%.

Data Entry and Analysis

In the process of editing each questionnaire, obvious misinterpretations or inconsistencies in the responses to specific items were resolved by telephoning or e-mailing the person completing the survey. A series of contingency checks were made to identify invalid characters or extreme values in any field.

In general, analyses of the data consisted of descriptive statistics on the variables of interest, e.g. arithmetic mean, standard deviation, median, and range of values. Medians were listed on tables when they differed significantly from the mean. T-tests were used to determine levels of statistical significance between groups. Regression equations were developed for program budget and student enrollment as well as various parameters associated with personnel salary and certain variables, which were expected to influence salary, i.e., gender, months of experience, academic credentials and academic rank. Data are not reported when only one person is represented in a category.

Tables and figures presented in this report represent aggregate data from the respondents. Due to missing data and/or unusable answers, the number of respondents to a particular questionnaire item varied. In some cases, data

on nonrespondents was obtained from the PAEA Directory or personal communication with nonrespondent programs, in which case a total of 134 programs were represented.

The "Typical" P.A. Program

The data reported herein represents our best estimate of the population value for the variables involved and were used to describe the characteristics of the "typical" P.A. program. Mean and/or median values were reported for each characteristic examined. In calculating mean values, entries with zero values were usually included while 'missing' values were uniformly excluded. When only partial data were available, the number of respondents was identified.

In some cases, totals reported for a given category may not reflect a simple summation of the subcategories. For example, in the table presenting data on enrollee age (Table 54), one program may report the total number of enrollees, but not report data for any of the age subcategories for enrollees. In such a case, means for each of the age groups are reported based on the programs that provided information. The programs that reported only the total number of enrollees were included in the "total" figure (N=105), but not in the subcategory data (N=94). Thus, the number of responding programs upon which the category or subcategory means were based may differ. In addition to reporting aggregate data for the "typical program," program respondents were also compared on the basis of consortia region.

Analysis of Trends Over Time: 1984-2005

In comparing current data to similar data collected in previous years, trends occurring in various aspects of P.A. educational programs were identified. Specific variables for which comparisons have been made include program budget, student expenses and financial aid, salaries of program personnel, number of applicants and students enrolled, student characteristics (age, gender, ethnicity, health related experience, G.P.A. and attrition) and employment characteristics of program graduates (i.e., rate of employment, medical specialty, type of practice, starting salary).

Additional Copies of this Report

Copies of this Report may be purchased by contacting: Physician Assistant Education Association, 300 N. Washington Street, Suite 505, Alexandria, VA 22314-2544 (703-548-5538).

SECTION I. GENERAL PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

Listing of P.A. Programs by Consortia Region

Operational programs are listed by state and PAEA consortium in Table 1. The Northeastern (N=28) region had the largest number of programs, while the Heartland (N=13) had the fewest number of programs. In total, 43 states (including the District of Columbia) currently have an operational P.A. program.

Table 1. Consortium Regions of Operational Physician Assistant Programs

NORTHEASTERN CONSORTIUM (N=28):

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York

Albany-Hudson Valley	NY Institute of Technology	Touro College - Bay Shores
Brooklyn Hosp/L.I. University	Northeastern University	Touro College - Manhattan
CUNY/Sophie Davis	Pace University	Univ. Medicine and Dent.
D'Youville College	Quinnipiac College	Univ. Of New England
Daemen College	Rochester Institute of Tech.	Wagner College/Staten Isl
Hofstra University	St. Vincent's CMC - Brooklyn	Weill Cornell University
LeMoyne College	Seton Hall University	Yale University
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	Springfield College	York College/CUNY
MA College Pharmacy - Manchester	SUNY Downstate	
Mercy College	Stony Brook University	

EASTERN CONSORTIUM (N=19):

Maryland, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia

Anne Arundel Comm. College	George Washington Univ.	Philadelphia University
Arcadia University	Howard University	St. Francis University
Chatham College	King's College	Seton Hill University
DeSales University	Lock Haven University	Towson University
Drexel University	Marywood University	Univ. MD – Eastern Shore
Duquesne University	PA College of Technology	
Gannon University	Philadelphia College of Osteo Med	

SOUTHEASTERN CONSORTIUM (N=25):

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, N.Carolina, S. Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

Alderson-Broaddus College	Jefferson College of Health Science	South University
Barry University	Medical College of Georgia	Trevecca Nazarene University
Bethel College	Medical Univ South Carolina	Univ. of Alabama - Birmingham
Duke University	Methodist College	University of Florida
East Carolina University	Miami-Dade Community College	University of Kentucky
Eastern VA Medical School	Mountain State University	University of South Alabama
Emory University	Nova Southeastern University	Wake Forest University
Harding University	Nova Southeastern - Naples	
James Madison University	Shenandoah University	

MIDWESTERN CONSORTIUM (N=26):

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Augsburg College	Marquette University	University of Iowa
Butler U/Clarian Health	Medical College of Ohio	Univ. of North Dakota
Central Michigan Univ.	Midwestern University	University of St. Francis
Cook County/Malcolm X	Missouri State Univ.	Univ. of South Dakota
Cuyahoga	Rosalind Franklin(Finch) Univ	University of WI - LaCrosse
DesMoines University	St. Louis University	University of WI-Madison
Grand Valley State University	Southern Illinois University	Wayne State University
Kettering College	University of Detroit Mercy	Western Michigan University
Marietta College	University of Findlay	

seven programs were associated with a two-year college; three programs were sponsored by a hospital and one was sponsored by the armed services. Seventy-four percent of programs award a masters degree (N=99). Twenty-five programs award a baccalaureate degree upon graduation (19%). The remaining programs (N=10; 7%) awarded either a certificate or an associate degree as the highest credential granted. Over the past five years, twenty-nine baccalaureate programs converted to masters programs, four programs converted from a certificate to a masters degree and one program converted from a associate to a masters program. Some programs offer a graduate degree on completion of additional courses (e.g., public health, preventive medicine, geriatrics, exercise science). Such programs were not included as “entry-level” masters programs.

Table 2. P.A. Programs by Type of Sponsoring Institution and Credential Awarded*

<u>Type of Sponsoring Institution</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Highest Credential Awarded</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
University	95	70.90	Master	99	73.90
4-Year College	28	20.90	Baccalaureate	25	18.70
Community College	7	5.22	Associate	3	2.20
Hospital**	3	2.24	Certificate	7	5.20
Military**	1	0.75			
Total	134	100.00	Total	134	100.00

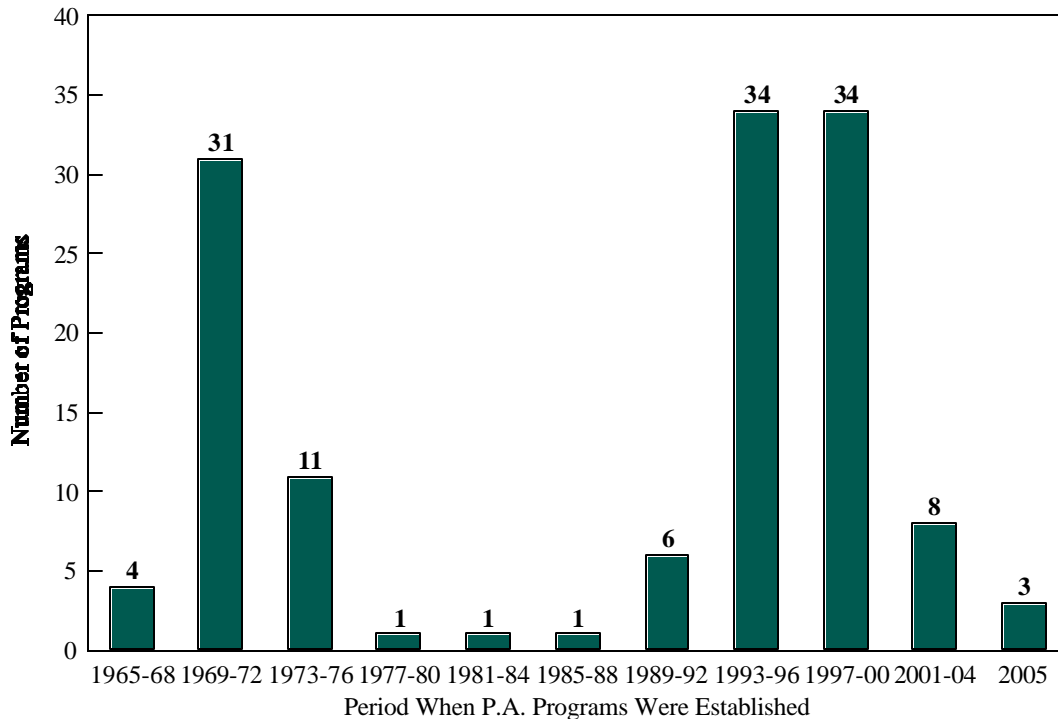
* Nonrespondent information was drawn from PAEA.

** Degrees granted from University/College Affiliates.

Year Current P.A. Programs Were Established, 1965 Through 2005

The distribution of respondent programs by year of their first entering class is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Programs By Year of First Entering Class



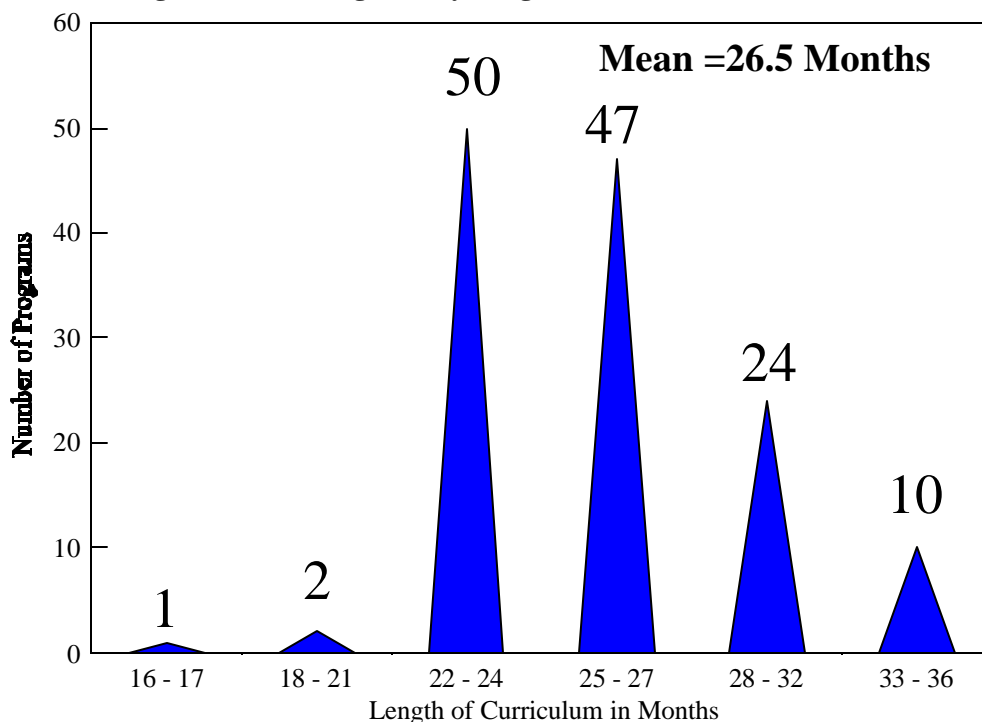
One hundred thirty-four programs are represented, as the data for the nonrespondent programs were obtained from previous Report surveys or from PAEA or ARC-PA. The first P.A. program was established in 1965 at Duke University Medical Center and over the next four years (1965-1968) three additional programs were developed. With the passage by Congress of the Comprehensive Health Manpower Act in 1971, federal training grant support provided the stimulus for the rapid development of the majority of current P.A. programs. Indeed, over the subsequent eight-year period (1969 through 1976), forty-four new programs were established. Over the next twelve years, from 1977 through 1988, only three additional programs were established. In the years 1993-1996, 35 new programs were established and from 1997 to 2000, 34 new programs enrolled students for the first time. From 2001-2005, eight new programs were accredited. Three new programs enrolled students in 2005-2006, however three existing programs did not.

Current P.A. Programs by Length of Curriculum

Historically, the length of the professional P.A. curriculum has varied across programs. For example, at some institutions, the P.A. program is a 5-year masters curriculum that admits students as freshmen. The first three years of this curriculum involves liberal arts and preparatory science courses followed by two years of professional P.A. studies. In some cases, these programs admit students with advanced standing at the beginning of the professional curriculum, typically two years in length. At the other extreme, graduate-level programs admit students who have completed all liberal arts and preparatory science courses and/or have earned a baccalaureate degree prior to admission. The graduate or master's level curriculum typically includes additional courses and/or experiences in research related activities in addition to the professional curriculum.

Figure 3 illustrates the diversity across programs relative to the length of the curriculum. The mean length of the curriculum was 26.5 months (N=134) with a range of 16 to 36 months. For convenience, the programs were organized into six groups. The majority of programs were between 22-24 months (N=50) and 25 to 27 months (N=47) in length. The median was 26 months. The length of the curriculum of P.A. programs has increased in the past several years, for example, in 1986 and 1990, the average length of the curriculum was reported as 23.7 and 24.0 months, respectively. The mean of 26.5 months represents an increase of <1.0% from last year. Non-respondent information was obtained from the PAEA Program Directory⁽¹⁾.

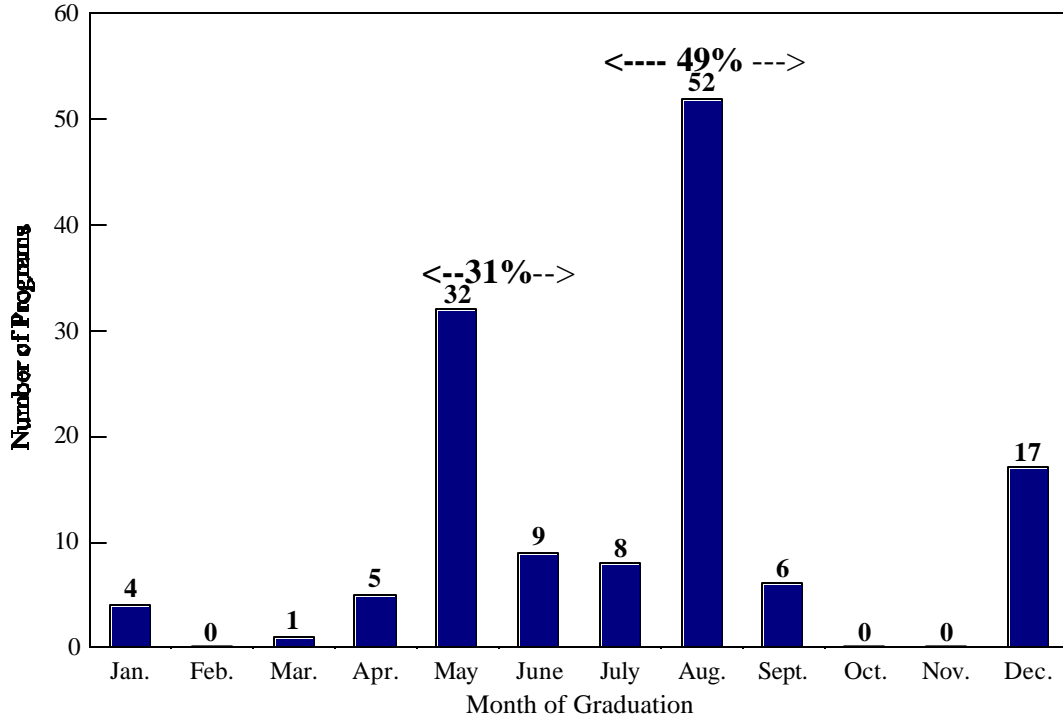
Figure 3. P.A. Programs by Length of Curriculum (N=134)



Current P.A. Programs by Month of Graduation

The distribution of P.A. programs by month of graduation is shown in Figure 4. Data for nonrespondent programs and those that have been newly established were supplemented by information from the 2005 P.A. Program Directory⁽¹⁾.

Figure 4. P.A. Programs By Months of Graduation (N=134)



Currently, a majority (N=107; 79.9%) of programs graduate students over two periods, (a) between May and June (N=41; 30.6%) and (b) July, August and September (N=66; 49.3%). It should be noted that one program graduates three classes per year.

Financial Characteristics of P.A. Programs

Information concerning the sources of financial support for P.A. programs is shown in Table 3 (next page). Only data from those programs reporting financial support from the sources indicated were used to calculate the sample mean and range for each category. The number of programs reporting no support from a particular source (last column) is also shown. Note, data presented in the latter column excludes those programs that did not respond to a specific item. Most programs (N=58) reported support from more than one source, for example, 29 programs reported two sources, 17 programs three sources, 10 programs four sources and 2 programs reported five or more sources of support.

The sources of financial support were classified as either internal or external. Internal support referred to funds available from within the sponsoring institution and/or tuition and fees retained by the program. External support included those funds available from outside the institution, such as federal or state grants, support from public or private foundations, and/or from private industry.

The primary source of internal financial support for the majority (N=88) of programs was the sponsoring institution, providing an average of \$735,508/year/program (S.D.=\$565,755). Twelve programs reported that they received no financial support from their sponsoring institution. Thirty-two respondents indicated that they received substantial support from student tuition and fees paid directly to the program (mean=\$785,474, S.D.=\$863,742). Sixty-eight programs did not receive revenue from student tuition or fees.

Table 3. Sources of Financial Support for Physician Assistant Programs

<u>Source of Financial Support</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u># With No Support</u>
<u>Internal</u>					
Sponsoring Institution	\$735,508	\$671,000	\$ 5,000 - 4,700,000	88	12
Tuition and Fees (Retained by Program)	\$785,474	\$590,500	\$ 5,000 - 3,600,000	32	68
<u>External</u>					
Federal Grants	\$177,408	\$150,000	\$ 5,000 - 1,191,000	37	63
State Grants	\$141,479	\$128,000	\$ 20,000 - 280,000	11	89
Foundations	\$ 24,975	\$ 12,900	\$ 3,000 - 108,000	8	92
Private Donation	\$ 8,750	\$ 7,250	\$ 2,000 - 22,000	6	94
Industry	\$ 52,575	\$ 52,575	-----	2	98
A.H.E.C. Support	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,500 - 160,000	10	90
Other	\$ 66,429	\$ 57,000	\$ 2,000 - 207,000	7	93
Total Program Support	\$990,527	\$820,000	\$186,835 - 5,029,000	100	0

External financial support for programs was primarily from federal training grants from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medicine, Bureau of Health Professions. Thirty-seven programs (37% of the respondents to this item) received federal funds during the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The amount of federal support ranged from \$5,000 to \$1,191,000, averaged \$177,408 per program (S.D.=\$190,903) and accounted for 17.9% of the total budget, higher than the figure (14.1%) reported last year. Sixty-three programs indicated they did not receive federal grant support in 2005-2006. In addition to federal training grants, eleven programs indicated they received state grants averaging \$141,479 per year and seven programs reported financial assistance received from other sources (e.g., clinical income, fund raising, and other grants or partnerships) averaging \$66,429 per program.

The total annual financial support from all sources for the 100 programs reporting averaged \$990,527 per program (median=\$820,000; S.D.=\$699,010). An analysis of the association between total budget and total student enrollment was examined. Two correlations were derived, the first using full-time (F.T.) students enrolled ($r = 0.599$; $p < .001$) and the other utilizing the sum of F.T. and 1/2 of the part-time (P.T.) students ($r = 0.558$ $p < .001$). The results demonstrated a statistically significant relationship between enrollment and program budget.

The following prediction equations were derived from the data using a least squares analysis, estimating program budget and total student enrollment:

(a) Total Program Budget = (137.51) + (10.25 x # F.T. students enrolled) (in \$1,000's)

(b) Total Program Budget = (135.04) + (10.20 x # (F.T. + P.T./2) students enrolled) (in \$1,000's)

Thus, using equation "a" for a program with an enrollment of 50 F.T. students, one would predict a budget of \$650,010 per year while equation "b" predicts, for a program with 50 F.T. and 10 P.T. students, a budget of \$696,040/year.

In terms of the reported program budget, the cost of training the average P.A. student for one year of professional training can be roughly estimated by dividing the program budget by the total number of students enrolled. Thus, for the 2005 academic year, the cost for the typical program was approximately \$11,320 to educate each student (mean budget of \$990,527 divided by an average enrollment of 87.5 students/program). The estimated cost/student is based on number of students enrolled and reported "program" budget. It should be noted, however, that these figures may exclude (1) overhead costs provided by the institution, (2) faculty, other than "core" program faculty (e.g., basic science faculty) that are supported by their respective departments and (3) preceptors responsible for the clinical training of P.A. students.

Program Budget and Federal Support by Region

A comparison of federal support and total program budget by consortia region is shown in Table 4. Programs located in the Western region reported the largest total budget (\$1,334,948/program). The most federal grant support was located in the Northeastern region, averaging \$323,058/program. Programs in the Heartland region reported the smallest total budget (\$814,203/program). Programs in the Midwestern region had the least amount of support from federal training grants (\$134,000/program). The proportion of total program budget derived from federal funds was lowest (11.6%) in the Western region, while programs in the Northeastern region derived 33.9% of their total budgets from federal sources.

Table 4. Total Program Budget and Federal Training Grant Support by Consortia Region

Consortia Region	N	Total Budget		Federal Grants		% of Budget	Fed. Support	
		Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.		Yes	No
Northeastern	24	\$ 951,771	\$536,009	\$323,058	\$429,051	33.9%	6	18
Eastern	14	\$ 878,512	\$448,842	-----	-----	-----	1	13
Southeastern	15	\$1,003,142	\$682,815	\$201,247	\$38,588	20.1%	5	10
Midwestern	20	\$ 927,423	\$985,830	\$134,000	\$66,272	14.4%	9	11
Heartland	11	\$ 814,203	\$195,703	\$141,887	\$74,227	17.4%	7	4
Western	16	\$1,334,948	\$865,505	\$155,366	\$88,845	11.6%	9	7
Total	100	\$ 990,527	\$863,742	\$177,408	\$68,118	17.9%	37	63

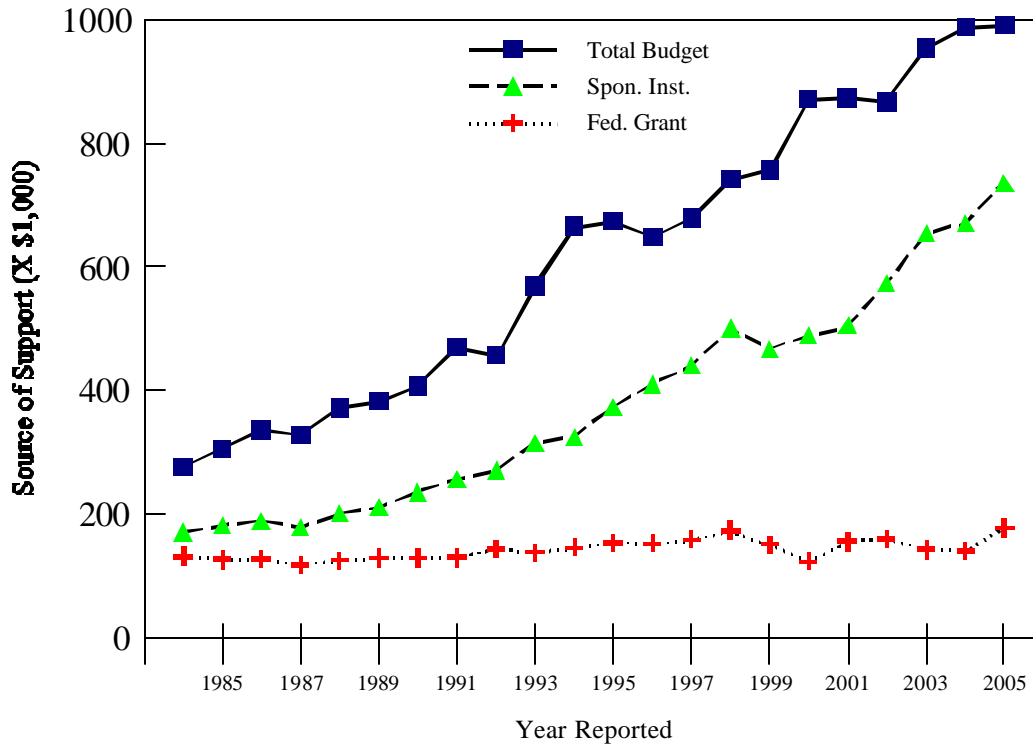
Trends in P.A. program support from 1984 through 2005 are shown in Table 5 and shown graphically in Figure 5 (next page). The total budget column is not a summation of institutional and federal grant support.

Table 5. Trends in Physician Assistant Program Support, 1984 Through 2005

Year	Sponsor. Instit.		Federal Grant		Total Budget		% Budget Fed. Grant	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
1984-85	31	\$169,581	27	\$130,889	37	\$276,919	27	35%
1985-86	35	\$181,171	31	\$125,484	38	\$305,868	31	41%
1986-87	37	\$189,135	25	\$126,457	42	\$334,690	33	39%
1987-88	39	\$178,590	35	\$117,429	45	\$328,444	35	38%
1988-89	40	\$200,700	34	\$125,118	44	\$371,386	34	34%
1989-90	35	\$211,400	33	\$127,600	44	\$381,978	34	33%
1990-91	41	\$235,780	36	\$128,222	47	\$409,745	36	31%
1991-92	44	\$257,182	37	\$129,243	48	\$470,063	37	28%
1992-93	49	\$270,346	35	\$143,514	55	\$457,200	35	31%
1993-94	47	\$315,085	35	\$137,514	55	\$568,564	35	24%
1994-95	54	\$324,889	41	\$144,926	58	\$664,797	41	22%
1995-96	65	\$373,957	37	\$152,514	71	\$673,975	37	23%
1996-97	67	\$410,456	35	\$152,300	77	\$648,871	35	22%
1997-98	85	\$441,129	34	\$157,765	90	\$679,096	34	22%
1998-99	79	\$501,150	37	\$173,030	90	\$740,898	37	23%
1999-00	92	\$466,641	36	\$150,111	103	\$756,946	36	20%
2000-01	89	\$487,739	31	\$123,055	99	\$871,824	31	14%
2001-02	91	\$504,324	33	\$154,834	101	\$873,977	33	18%
2002-03	89	\$574,416	38	\$159,334	103	\$866,612	38	18%
2003-04	89	\$654,339	41	\$141,762	103	\$954,422	41	15%
2004-05	84	\$672,444	36	\$138,982	96	\$986,987	36	14%
2005-06	88	\$735,508	37	\$177,408	100	\$990,527	37	18%

The total budget for 2005 increased by \$3,540 from the previous year. The level of training grants accounted for 18% of the total budget. Overall, the total program budget increased by an average of 6.5% annually and the program support from the sponsoring institution increased by an average of 7.4% annually from 1984 to 2005. Federal support increased by 28% from 2004. The proportion of the total budget from federal training grants has decreased from 41% in 1985 to 18% in 2005. As shown in Figure 5 there has been a sustained increase in both the total program budget and institutional support since 1984. Since 1984, total program budget increased by over 258% while support from the sponsoring institution increased 334%.

Figure 5. Trends in P.A. Program Support: 1984 Through 2005



Student Educational Expenses

For the class entering in 2005, respondents estimated student tuition and educational expenses for the entire length of the program. These results are shown in Table 6. No information was requested concerning living expenses.

Table 6. Tuition and Expenses of P.A. Students

<u>Tuition for Entire Program</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean/Month/Program</u>
Resident Student	\$40,697	\$ 8,000- 79,400	103	\$1,556
Nonresident Student	\$48,549	\$ 13,500- 79,400	102	\$1,852
<u>Books, Fees, and Equipment</u>	\$ 5,254	\$ 1,200- 30,500	104	\$ 201
<u>Total Student Costs: (Tuition, Books, Fees, Equipment)</u>				
Resident Student	\$45,910	\$10,900-87,066	103	\$1,753
Nonresident Student	\$53,843	\$16,400-87,066	101	\$2,052

It should be noted that for the first five Annual Reports, tuition was reported for the student's ENTIRE professional program, for the next eight Annual Reports tuition was reported for the current academic year, however, with the 14th Annual Report, tuition and other educational expenses (e.g., books, fees, equipment) were again reported for the entire professional program.

On average, there was a \$7,852 difference between resident and nonresident tuition among the 103 programs responding. Data are also expressed as the mean cost per student per month. The results of this computation are shown in the right column of Table 6, and indicate that the typical resident student paid an average tuition of \$1,556 per month while the nonresident paid \$1,852 per month, a 19% difference.

Expenses associated with books, equipment and fees averaged \$5,254 per student for their entire professional training. These expenditures represented approximately 11.4% and 9.8% of the total educational expenses for resident and nonresident students, respectively. The total expenses incurred by the typical P.A. student for their entire P.A. education (includes tuition, books, equipment, and fees) averaged \$45,910 for residents and \$53,843 for nonresidents. The average total cost per month was \$1,753 for residents and \$2,052 for nonresident students.

As shown in Table 7, the majority of students (88.6%) received financial aid, which averaged \$24,454 per student per year and accounted for 118% of the costs of tuition, fees, books, and equipment (\$20,789) for the typical resident student. Using these values, one can estimate that the typical resident P.A. student would be indebted approximately \$48,908 (2 X \$24,454) at the conclusion of their professional education.

Table 7. Financial Aid Support Provided P.A. Students

<u>Financial Aid Characteristic</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Number</u>
% Receiving Financial Aid	88.6%	33-100%	96
Amount of Aid Received/Year	\$24,454	\$232-64,250	84

Student Expenses by Consortia Region

Tuition (for the entire curriculum) and total costs for P.A. students during the 2005-2006 academic year are shown by consortia region in Table 8. The average resident tuition and total expenses incurred by P.A. students varied extensively across consortia region. Resident tuition was highest for students enrolled in programs located in the Eastern region (\$47,305/curriculum) and lowest for programs located in the Heartland region (\$22,280/curriculum). Nonresident tuition varied less across regions with a difference of approximately \$10,791 between the highest and lowest values. Total student expenses per month for residents were highest among programs in the Eastern region. Total student expenses per month for nonresidents were highest in the Midwestern region. Total resident and nonresident student expenses were lowest in the Heartland region. The proportion of students receiving financial aid varied from 84.6% in the Heartland region to 90.8% in the Midwestern region.

Table 8. Expenses of P.A. Students by Consortia Region

<u>Consortia Region</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean Tuition</u>		<u>Total Costs/Month</u>		<u>% Receiving Finan.Aid</u>
		<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>	
Northeastern	25	\$46,696	\$48,694	\$1,945	\$2,019	87.7%
Eastern	15	\$47,305	\$49,759	\$2,062	\$2,161	90.4%
Southeastern	17	\$39,650	\$49,237	\$1,792	\$2,148	87.5%
Midwestern	19	\$41,924	\$52,831	\$1,744	\$2,168	90.8%
Heartland	10	\$22,280	\$42,040	\$ 945	\$1,642	84.6%
Western	17	\$36,555	\$45,445	\$1,640	\$2,014	89.6%
Total	103	\$40,697	\$48,549	\$1,556	\$1,852	88.6%

Trends in P.A. Student Expenses

Comparisons between tuition and student expenses, and the proportion of students receiving financial aid from 1984 through 2005, are shown in Table 9 and Figure 6 (next page).

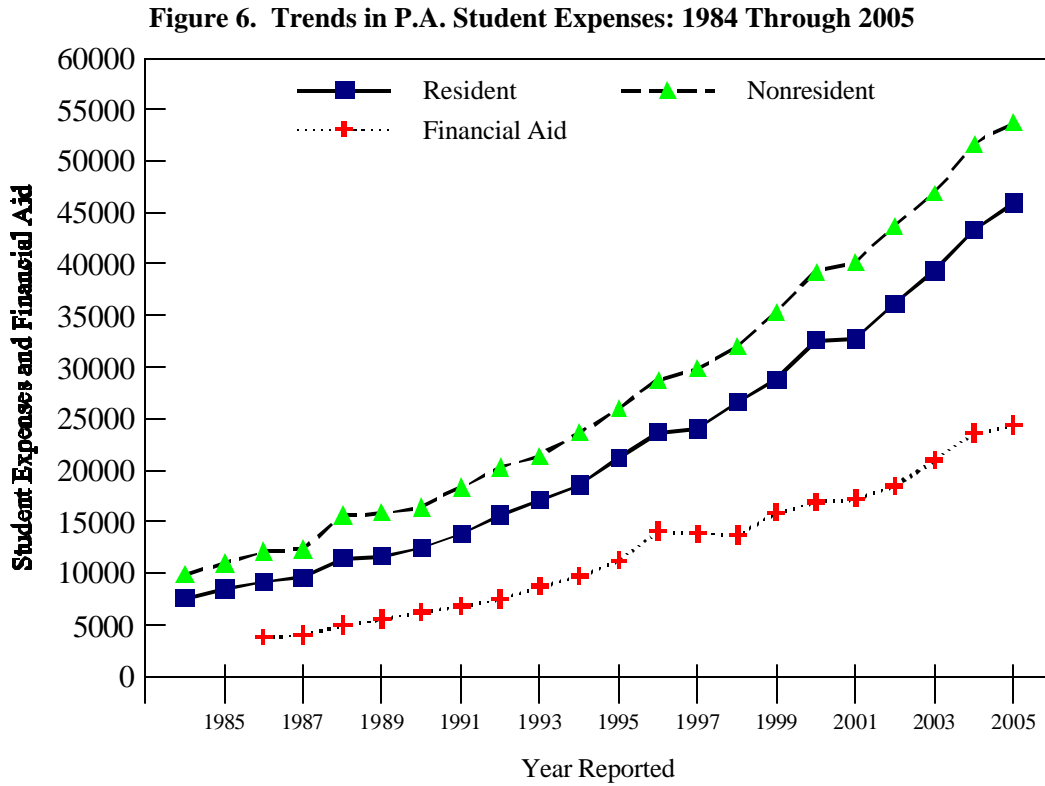
Table 9. Trends in P.A. Student Expenses, 1984 Through 2005

Academic <u>Year</u>	<u>Mean Tuition</u>				<u>Total Expenses</u>				<u>% With</u>		<u>Fin. Aid</u> <u>Received</u>
	<u>Resident</u>		<u>Nonresident</u>		<u>Resident</u>		<u>Nonresident</u>		<u>Fin. Aid</u>	<u>%</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	
1984-1985	37	\$ 6,378	36	\$ 8,986	35	\$ 7,669	34	\$ 9,962	33	65%	N/A
1985-1986	40	\$ 7,098	40	\$ 9,565	40	\$ 8,588	40	\$11,055	40	65%	N/A
1986-1987	46	\$ 7,626	43	\$10,451	45	\$ 9,247	42	\$12,155	39	63%	\$3,866
1987-1988	47	\$ 8,012	47	\$10,775	47	\$ 9,643	47	\$12,494	43	63%	\$4,060
1988-1989	47	\$ 9,472	47	\$13,660	47	\$11,485	47	\$15,681	43	67%	\$5,086
1989-1990	47	\$ 9,978	47	\$14,174	47	\$11,706	47	\$15,902	43	69%	\$5,663
1990-1991	47	\$10,620	47	\$14,614	47	\$12,495	46	\$16,511	42	71%	\$6,268
1991-1992	48	\$11,714	47	\$16,240	48	\$13,890	47	\$18,440	45	71%	\$6,860
1992-1993	55	\$13,092	55	\$17,772	55	\$15,694	55	\$20,375	51	71%	\$7,558
1993-1994	55	\$14,470	55	\$18,774	55	\$17,153	55	\$21,457	49	71%	\$8,755
1994-1995	59	\$16,030	59	\$21,106	59	\$18,676	59	\$23,752	53	77%	\$9,846
1995-1996	69	\$17,872	69	\$22,702	69	\$21,308	69	\$26,132	64	79%	\$11,251
1996-1997	76	\$20,132	76	\$25,088	76	\$23,695	76	\$28,775	68	79%	\$14,114
1997-1998	91	\$20,296	91	\$26,228	91	\$24,057	91	\$29,989	84	85%	\$13,890
1998-1999	92	\$22,428	92	\$27,922	92	\$26,653	92	\$32,147	83	83%	\$13,808
1999-2000	106	\$24,407	105	\$31,001	106	\$28,840	105	\$35,434	94	84%	\$15,909
2000-2001	101	\$28,048	101	\$34,662	101	\$32,684	101	\$39,298	88	86%	\$16,930
2001-2002	105	\$28,036	105	\$35,536	104	\$32,810	104	\$40,310	94	88%	\$17,315
2002-2003	96	\$30,949	97	\$38,423	96	\$36,154	97	\$43,628	93	86%	\$18,477
2003-2004	108	\$34,167	108	\$41,723	107	\$39,360	107	\$46,884	97	89%	\$21,004
2004-2005	105	\$37,823	105	\$46,344	105	\$43,309	105	\$51,730	93	88%	\$23,663
2005-2006	103	\$40,697	102	\$48,549	103	\$45,910	101	\$53,843	96	89%	\$24,454

Tuition has increased 538% and 440% over the past twenty-two years for resident and nonresident students, respectively, an average of 9.3% and 8.5% per year, respectively. Similarly, total student expenses (which includes tuition, books, equipment, and fees over the entire program) increased by 499% and 440% over the twenty-two year period for resident and nonresident students, respectively.

The proportion of students receiving financial aid averaged 77% from 1984 through 2005 and has varied within a narrow range, i.e., 63% to 89%, over time. It should be noted that the data shown in Table 9 and Figure 6 represents the tuition and costs expended by the typical student for the entire professional program and does not include pre-program academic preparation or living expenses. Beginning with the 1986 annual survey, respondents were asked to estimate the amount of financial aid received per student.

Inspection of Figure 6 illustrates that financial aid received by the typical student increased by approximately 533% since 1986; total expenses increased by 396% for resident and 343% for nonresident students during that same period.



SECTION II. PROGRAM PERSONNEL

Classification of Physician Assistant Program Personnel

In 1984, the first PAEA survey yielded information on the "core" personnel employed by P.A. programs. Core personnel were defined as those who devoted at least 50% of their time directly to program-related activities. These findings indicated that a total of 258 individuals were employed by the 36 programs responding (7.2 individuals/program and 6.0 FTE's/program). At that time, the personnel were classified into four categories based on their position: administrative (106; 41%), clerical (45; 18%), educational (96; 37%), and research (11; 4%). The total number of employees per program ranged from 3 to 13 with an average of one employee for every 7.7 students enrolled in the typical program.

Program personnel (excluding clerical persons) were further classified into two groups, those that were credentialed as a P.A. and those that were not (herein referred to as non-P.A.'s). The reader is referred to previous Annual Reports for a more detailed description of these personnel for each year. Based on the personnel data over the past twenty-two years, it has been shown that there are an average of 3.5 to 4.7 physician assistants (P.A.'s) employed per program. This figure excludes program directors, many of whom were P.A.'s.

For purposes of our present personnel analysis, program staff and faculty were divided into three groups: (a) program directors, (b) medical directors, (c) "program personnel" which included P.A.'s (excluding program directors) and non-P.A.'s (excluding program directors). The P.A. and non-P.A. groups were further subdivided into four categories (I, II, III, and IV) on the basis of their position titles as summarized in Table 11. Category I includes program personnel whose responsibilities were generally associated with the first-year curriculum, typically including courses in the basic and behavioral sciences and/or the curriculum associated with

Table 10. Classification of Program Personnel by Category

<u>Category</u>	<u>Typical Position Titles</u>	
I	Lecturer/Instructor Educ./Acad. Coordinator	Educational Specialist Course Coordinator
II	Clinical Coordinator Clinical Instructor	Clinical Skills Coordinator
III	Assoc. or Assist. Director Program Assistant	Executive Assistant Co-Director
IV	Admin. Secretary/Asst. Office Supervisor	Secretary Data Manager

history/physical examination skills as well as components of introduction to clinical medicine courses. Category II personnel were those involved in the second year or clinical rotation phase of the educational program. These individuals generally assumed clinical teaching or evaluation responsibilities and/or coordinated the students' clinical training assignments. Category III describes those individuals who had primarily administrative-level positions, but excluded those that were program or medical directors. Category IV included personnel who were mainly classified as support staff. Category IV personnel were not considered faculty.

It should be appreciated that program faculty and staff often share responsibilities across teaching, administrative and research activities. Despite this limitation, this classification is a useful way to describe and analyze core program personnel. The majority of the tables that follow in this section list Category IV personnel information, however it is not included in the total/mean columns. Please refer to each individual table to determine if it is included or not.

Number of P.A. and Non-P.A. Program Personnel by Category

The number of P.A. and non-P.A. program personnel by category is shown in Table 11. It should be noted that program directors are not included in Tables 11 through 30, unless specifically indicated. Across all four categories, there were 758 (196 Category IV) personnel reported by survey respondents (N=103; 7.4 per program), 448 P.A.'s and 310 non-P.A.'s. One-hundred three programs indicated that they had at least one Category I - III P.A. (mean of 4.3/program) and 68 programs indicated that individuals without a P.A. credential were employed in at least one of the I - III categories (mean of 1.7/program).

Table 11. P.A. and Non-P.A. Program Personnel by Category

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Personnel Category</u>				<u>Categories</u>	
	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>I – III</u>	
<u>Physician Assistants</u>						
Total Number	256	159	33	0	448	448
# of Programs*	91	90	26	0	103	106
Mean #/Program	2.8	1.8	1.3	0.0	4.2**	4.2***
<u>Non-Physician Assistants</u>						
Total Number	63	11	40	196	114	114
# of Programs*	51	9	23	81	68	106
Mean #/Program	1.2	1.2	1.7	2.4	1.7**	1.1***

- * Number of programs reporting at least one P.A. or non-P.A. in a category.
- ** Mean is based on number of programs reporting personnel in a category.
- *** Mean based on all (N=106) programs.

The majority of program personnel in Categories I - III were credentialed as P.A.'s (80%) as compared to non-P.A.'s (20%). Across all programs (N=106), the mean per program is 4.2 P.A.'s and 1.1 non-P.A.'s.

Number of P.A. Program Personnel by Region

The total number of personnel (P.A. and non-P.A. personnel) associated with P.A. programs by consortia region and category is shown in Table 12. Physician assistant programs located in the Eastern region of the United States employed the greatest number of Category I - III P.A.'s and programs located in the Western region employed the largest number of non-P.A.'s per program.

Table 12. P.A. and Non-P.A. Program Personnel by Category and Region

<u>Consortia Region</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Personnel Category</u>				<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean per Program (Cat I-III)</u>
		<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>		
Northeastern	23	37 (12)	46 (0)	5 (4)	0 (35)	88 (51)	3.8/(0.7)
Eastern	17	48 (6)	32 (2)	6 (2)	0 (29)	86 (39)	5.1/(0.6)
Southeastern	18	46 (15)	19 (3)	6 (10)	0 (30)	71 (58)	3.9/(1.6)
Midwestern	20	47 (10)	21 (2)	4 (3)	0 (27)	72 (42)	3.6/(0.8)
Heartland	11	25 (6)	17 (2)	6 (3)	0 (24)	48 (35)	4.4/(1.0)
Western	<u>17</u>	<u>53 (14)</u>	<u>24 (2)</u>	<u>6 (18)</u>	<u>0 (51)</u>	<u>83 (85)</u>	<u>4.9/(2.0)</u>
Total	106	256 (63)	159 (11)	33 (40)	0 (196)	448 (310)	4.2/(1.1)

* # of non-P.A. personnel are in parentheses.

Programs located in the Midwestern region had the fewest number of P.A.'s associated with the program (mean of 3.6/program). Programs in the Eastern region employed the least number of Category I-III non-P.A.'s (0.6/program). Programs in the Western region employed the greatest number of Category IV personnel per program (3.0/program), while programs in the Midwestern region employed the least (1.4/program).

General Characteristics of P.A.'s and Non-P.A.'s Employed by Programs

The general characteristics of physician assistant personnel employed by P.A. programs, by category, excluding non-P.A. program personnel, are shown in Table 13. Across all categories, P.A.'s devoted an average of 93% of their time to the program; the majority was classified as full-time employees.

Table 13. General Characteristics of Physician Assistant Personnel

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Personnel Category</u>			
	<u>I</u> N = 256*	<u>II</u> N = 159	<u>III</u> N = 32	<u>Total</u> N = 447
<u>Mean % Time</u>	91.7%	93.9%	96.7%	92.9%
<u>Annual Salary</u>	N = 236	N = 154	N = 32	N = 422
Mean**	\$71,381	\$70,534	\$80,590	\$71,771
Range	\$32,500-\$129,700	\$32,500-\$99,000	\$65,288-\$101,900	\$32,500-\$129,700
<u>Months in Position</u>	N = 251	N = 157	N = 33	N = 441
Mean	61.2	50.1	94.7	59.8
Median	48.0	32.0	48.0	42.0
Range	1-312	1-291	3-368	1-368

* Number of P.A.'s in category.

** Salaries adjusted to 1 FTE

There were some differences between categories in the percent of time the P.A. worked. Twenty-seven of the 32 P.A.'s in Category III were employed on a full-time basis, whereas P.A.'s in Categories I averaged 0.92 FTE. The mean annual salary across all categories was \$71,771 with a range from \$32,500 to \$129,700. On average, individuals had been in their position for 59.8 months (range 1-368 months). There was some difference in mean salary across categories, ranging from \$70,534 for Category I to \$80,590 for Category III, a 14.3% increase. P.A.'s in Category III had held their positions for the longest period of time, averaging 94.7 months, while the majority of P.A.'s in Category II had been associated with the program for the least amount of time (50 months).

Clinical Activity of Physician Assistant Personnel

General characteristics of the clinical activity of P.A. personnel are shown in Table 14 (next page). Note, P.A. credentialed program directors were **also** included in this analysis, however medical directors **were not**. The following information was requested of respondents: the number of personnel that were clinically active, mean number of hours worked per week, number that were reimbursed for their clinical services, the amount paid for said services (mean hourly wage) and whether their clinical earnings were included in the salary reported in the personnel table. Based on the data reported, the amount and percent of annual salary derived from clinical service was calculated. Lastly, for those personnel who received earnings through their clinical service in addition to their regular salary, a gross salary (combining program and clinical sources) was calculated. Almost half (47%) of

the program personnel that were credentialed as P.A.'s had clinical responsibilities, in addition to their program activities. This proportion varied across the three categories and was greatest for those in Category I (52%). Thirty-four percent of program directors (P.A.'s) also had clinical responsibilities.

Table 14. General Characteristics of Clinically Active Physician Assistant Personnel

Characteristic	P.A. Personnel Category			Program Directors N=101	Total N=549
	I N=256	II N=159	III N=33		
Clinically Active P.A.'s	134(52%)	78(49%)	12(36%)	34(34%)	258(47%)
<u>Hrs Worked/Week</u>					
Mean	11.8	9.2	10.3	6.1	10.2
(N)	(134)	(78)	(12)	(33)	257
Range	0.5-40	2-24	4-30	0.5-10	0.5-40
<u>Number (%) Paid for Services</u>					
	116(88%)	74(95%)	8(67%)	23(70%)	221(87%)
<u>Mean Wage/Hour</u>					
	\$40.31	\$39.37	\$42.25	\$43.19	\$40.40
(N)	(100)	(68)	(8)	(23)	(199)
<u>Annual Amount*</u>					
	\$20,769	\$16,993	\$16,320	\$13,041	\$18,407
<u>Adjust. Salary**</u>					
	\$92,587	\$88,782	\$92,759	\$102,887	\$92,484
<u>% Salary From Clinical Earnings</u>					
	20.7%	19.1%	17.0%	12.9%	19.1%

* Estimated at 48 weeks per year.

** Base Salary + Clinical Earnings for those clinically active.

On average, P.A.'s in Categories I-III spent 10.2 hours per week providing patient care; program directors who were P.A.'s spent an average of 6.1 hours per week. The range in time spent was very broad, from one-half hour per week to 40 hours per week. Eighty-seven percent of P.A. personnel received additional compensation for their clinical services. The mean hourly wage averaged \$40.40/hour and varied from \$39.37 for Category II to \$43.19 per hour for program directors.

Given the mean number of hours worked per week, the average hourly wage and, assuming an average of 48 weeks were worked per year, the annual earnings from patient care services of the P.A.'s with clinical responsibility was estimated. On average, these individuals earned \$18,407 from their clinical activity. Program Directors had the lowest additional income (\$13,041) and those in Category I had the highest (\$20,769).

An "adjusted" annual income (base salary + clinical earnings) was determined for those indicating they received earnings from both sources. On average, there was a 26% increase over base salary for those personnel that were clinically active. And, clinical earnings accounted for almost one-fifth of the personnel salary. In subsequent tables, salary figures will not include clinical earnings.

General characteristics of non-P.A. credentialed personnel by category is shown in Table 15 (next page). Across categories, the typical non-P.A. in Categories I - III devoted 92% of their time to the program; the majority were classified as full-time employees.

Table 15. General Characteristics of Non-P.A. Personnel

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Personnel Category</u>				<u>Total (Cat. I - III)</u>
	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	
	<u>N = 63</u>	<u>N = 11</u>	<u>N = 37</u>	<u>N = 196</u>	<u>N = 111</u>
<u>Mean % Time</u>	90.0%	100.0%	91.6%	94.7%	91.5%
<u>Annual Salary*</u>	<u>N = 57</u>	<u>N = 11</u>	<u>N = 36</u>	<u>N = 190</u>	<u>N = 104</u>
<u>Mean</u>	\$69,162	\$56,908	\$48,289	\$32,612	\$60,641
<u>Median</u>	\$67,134	\$65,000	\$46,272	\$30,000	\$61,750
<u>Range</u>	\$24,200- \$120,000	\$25,000- \$86,000	\$24,500- \$145,000	\$13,000 - \$68,000	\$24,200- \$145,000
<u>Months in Position</u>	<u>N = 62</u>	<u>N = 11</u>	<u>N = 38</u>	<u>N = 190</u>	<u>N = 111</u>
<u>Mean</u>	68.1	37.5	97.8	63.7	75.2
<u>Median</u>	40.0	30.0	64.5	36.0	47.0
<u>Range</u>	1 – 360	4 – 144	1 - 786	1 – 793	1 – 786

* Salaries adjusted to 1 FTE

The mean salary for non-P.A.'s across Categories I - III was \$60,641, ranging from \$24,200 to \$145,000. On average, these individuals had been employed 75.2 months (median of 47, range of 1-786 months). Non-P.A.'s in Category I earned the highest average salary (\$69,162). Non-P.A.'s in Category III had the lowest average salary (\$48,289). Based on the median, Category II non-P.A.'s had been associated with the program for the shortest period of time, while Category III non-P.A.'s, on average, had been employed over twice as long. Overall, non-P.A.'s had a lower average annual salary than did personnel who were P.A.'s. Category IV personnel had a mean salary of \$32,612 with a broad range of \$13,000 to \$68,000. Category IV personnel had been in their position an average of 63.7 months (median: 36 months).

Characteristics of program personnel in Categories I - III, by ethnicity and gender, are shown in Table 16. It should be noted that data on P.A. and non-P.A. program personnel were combined for the analyses in Tables 16 and 20.

Table 16. Salary and Months in Position of Category I - III P.A. and Non-P.A. Personnel by Ethnicity and Gender

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Number of Personnel</u>			<u>Mean Annual Salary</u>		<u>Mean Months in Position</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
White/Non-Hisp.	174	294	468	\$74,583	\$67,234	69.1	62.8
Black/African-Amer.	11	13	24	\$71,853	\$68,219	64.5	82.5
Latin/Hisp/Mex. Am.	9	16	25	\$77,874	\$61,574	54.8	34.5
Asian	1	7	8	-----	\$63,114	-----	47.7
Asian Subpopulation	1	3	4	-----	\$72,567	-----	12.3
Native Haw./Other PI	0	2	2	-----	\$74,707	-----	62.5
Amer. Ind./Alaskan	2	2	4	\$57,500	\$58,600	19.5	20.5
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	-----	<u>\$69,507</u>	-----	<u>31.3</u>
Total	198	340	538	\$74,147	\$67,135	66.7	61.6

Proportionately, there were more women (63%) among the P.A. and non-P.A. personnel; 63% of the white (294/468) and 65.7% of the non-white personnel (46/70) were women. In total, 70 P.A. program staff and/or faculty from 39 programs were identified as members of an ethnic minority (24 Black/African-American, 25 Latino/Hispanic, eight Asian, four Asian Subpopulation, two Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, four

American Indian/Alaskan Native and three Other). This constitutes 13.0% (70/538) of the total number of faculty and staff and 39% of the programs responding. On average, males earned higher annual salaries than their female counterparts. Males were employed longer in their current position than females.

Characteristics of program personnel in Category IV, by ethnicity and gender, are shown in Table 17. Category IV personnel consisted mainly of females (91.0%). Fifty-six (30%) Category IV P.A. program staff from 34 programs were identified as members of an ethnic minority. Females were employed longer in their current position than males, 63.6 and 37.4 months, respectively.

Table 17. Salary and Months in Position of Category IV Personnel by Ethnicity and Gender

Ethnicity	Number of Personnel			Mean Annual Salary		Mean Months in Position	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
White/Non-Hisp.	11	120	131	\$38,356	\$31,717	45.5	70.1
Black/African-Amer.	4	23	27	\$30,076	\$33,986	21.5	64.6
Latin/Hisp/Mex. Am.	1	18	19	-----	\$32,308	-----	33.2
Asian	1	4	5	-----	\$43,134	-----	32.7
Asian Subpopulation	0	4	4	-----	\$34,229	-----	84.3
Native Haw./Other PI	0	0	0	-----	-----	-----	-----
Amer. Ind./Alaskan	0	1	1	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	17	170	187	\$36,172	\$32,020	37.4	63.6

The relationship between salary, percent time, and months in position for P.A. and non-P.A. personnel by gender is shown in Table 18.

Table 18. Analysis of Salary, Percent Time and Months in Position of P.A. and Non-P.A. Personnel by Gender

Categories	Mean Annual Salary				Mean % Time				Mean Months in Position			
	Male	N	Female	N	Male	N	Female	N	Male	N	Female	N
<u>Cat. I</u>												
P.A.	\$73,823	83	\$70,251	146	93.9	95	90.6	154	67.1	94	58.8	151
Non-P.A.	\$76,455	30	\$60,137	26	88.3	34	91.6	28	54.3	34	84.9	28
<u>Cat. II</u>												
P.A.	\$72,508	52	\$69,335	101	95.3	52	93.2	106	51.5	52	49.4	105
Non-P.A.	\$71,054	3	\$51,604	8	100.0	3	100.0	8	20.0	3	44.1	8
<u>Cat. III</u>												
P.A.	\$78,435	13	\$82,064	19	99.6	13	94.7	19	124.2	13	75.6	20
Non-P.A.	\$85,967	3	\$44,820	32	76.7	3	92.7	33	446.5	2	78.9	35
<u>Cat. IV</u>												
Non-P.A.	\$36,172	17	\$32,020	175	92.6	17	94.9	181	37.4	16	63.6	175
<u>Cat. I - III</u>												
P.A.	\$73,766	148	\$70,747	266	94.8	160	91.9	279	66.7	159	56.4	276
Non-P.A.	\$76,798	36	\$51,676	66	88.3	40	93.1	69	71.7	39	77.4	71

On average, male personnel earned higher annual salaries than female personnel. For Categories I - III, non-P.A. personnel had been in their positions substantially longer than P.A. personnel.

Personnel by Region: Salary, Months in Position and Ethnicity

Data regarding salary and time in position for P.A. and non-P.A. personnel by consortia region is presented in Table 19. P.A.'s associated with programs located in the Heartland region reported the highest annual salaries. The lowest mean P.A. salary was in the Eastern region. Non-P.A.'s in the Eastern region had the highest salaries, while those in the Southeastern region had the lowest salaries. P.A.'s salaries were higher than Non-P.A.'s in each region except the Eastern. Non-P.A.'s were employed for more months. There was a statistically significant correlation ($r = 0.27$; $p < .05$) between time in position and salary.

Table 19. Program Personnel: Salary and Time in Position by Region

Consortia Region	Mean Salary: Categories I - III				Months in Position	
	<u>P.A.</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Non-P.A.</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>P.A.</u>	<u>Non-P.A.</u>
Northeastern	\$72,798	79	\$62,298	9	53.4	57.8
Eastern	\$67,945	76	\$72,694	9	68.0	41.4
Southeastern	\$73,045	67	\$54,167	27	49.2	73.3
Midwestern	\$70,151	69	\$63,167	14	61.8	46.7
Heartland	\$76,834	48	\$70,151	11	68.0	171.4
Western	<u>\$71,685</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>\$58,035</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>57.8</u>	<u>76.1</u>
Total	\$71,771	422	\$60,641	104	59.8	75.2

The salaries of Category I - III P.A. program personnel (P.A.'s and non-P.A.'s) by ethnicity and consortia region are shown in Table 20. Mean salaries of Latino/Hispanic personnel were higher than their White counterparts in the Northeastern, Eastern and Western regions. Black/African-American personnel had higher average salaries than Latino/Hispanic in the Northeastern and Southeastern regions.

Table 20. Analysis of Program Personnel by Consortia Region and Ethnicity
Category I - III

Consortia Region	Mean Annual Salary					
	<u>White</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Black/ African-Amer</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Lat/Hisp</u>	<u>N</u>
Northeastern	\$70,925	75	\$83,866	3	\$76,094	5
Eastern	\$68,588	70	\$67,863	3	\$69,700	2
Southeastern	\$67,456	77	\$67,286	8	\$57,150	4
Midwestern	\$69,166	76	\$70,000	2	-----	1
Heartland	\$76,210	50	-----	0	-----	1
Western	<u>\$68,661</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>\$67,970</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>\$69,164</u>	<u>11</u>
Total	\$69,772	439	\$69,885	24	\$67,687	24

The salaries of Category IV P.A. program personnel (P.A.'s and non-P.A.'s) by ethnicity and consortia region are shown in Table 21 (next page). Mean salaries of Black/African-American personnel were higher than their White counterparts in four of the six regions. On average, Latino/Hispanics personnel had lower salaries than their Black/African-American counterparts.

Table 21. Analysis of Program Personnel by Consortia Region and Ethnicity Category IV

Consortia Region	Mean Annual Salary					
	White	N	Black/African- American	N	Lat/Hisp	N
Northeastern	\$32,065	21	\$37,182	6	\$28,967	3
Eastern	\$29,820	16	\$31,156	9	-----	0
Southeastern	\$30,653	22	\$35,546	5	-----	0
Midwestern	\$30,333	24	\$28,529	2	-----	0
Heartland	\$34,266	15	\$38,504	2	\$31,754	5
Western	<u>\$35,356</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>\$30,143</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>\$34,261</u>	<u>11</u>
Total	\$32,270	129	\$33,545	27	\$32,766	19

Trends in P.A. Program Personnel Salaries from 1985 Through 2005

Trends in P.A. personnel salary from 1985 through 2005 are shown in Table 22. Note, salary data was not available for 1987-88. There has been a 158% increase in P.A. salaries (all categories combined) from 1985-86 to 2005-2006, an average of 5.2% per year. Proportionately, the largest annual increase in salary (10.9%) for all categories occurred between 1989 and 1990.

Table 22. Salary and Months in Position for P.A. Personnel, 1985 Through 2005

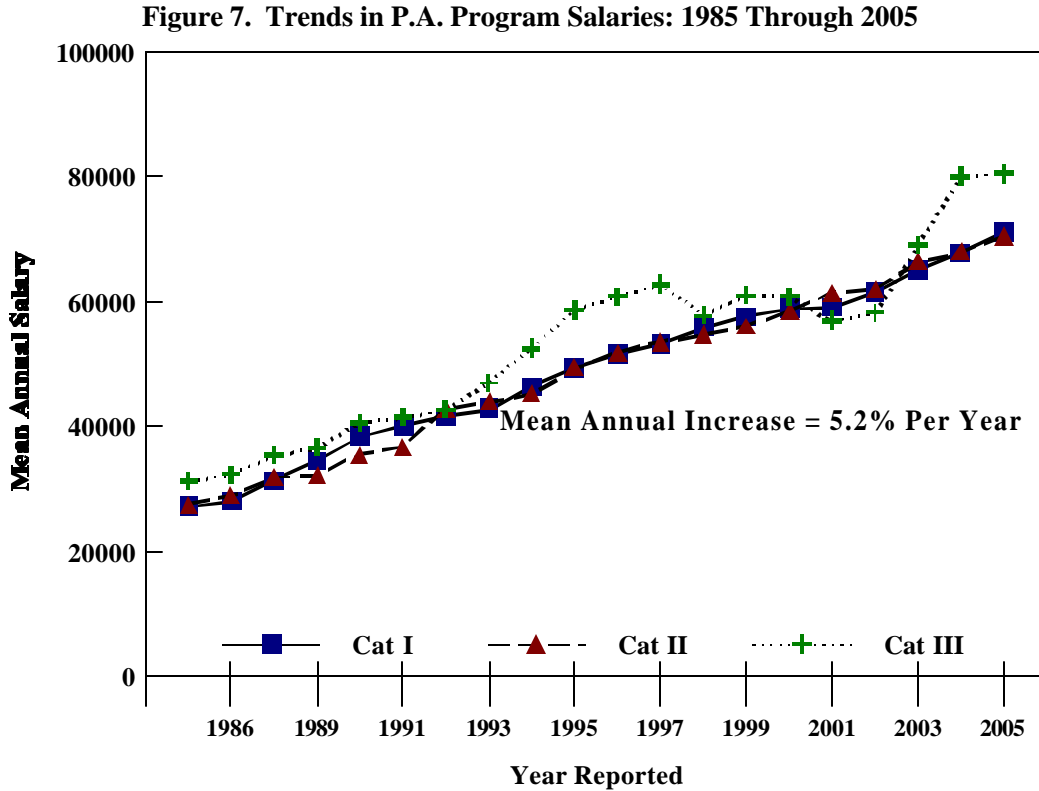
Categories	Cat. I	Cat. II	Cat. III	All Cat.	Months in Position
1985-86	\$27,264	\$27,553	\$31,298	\$27,769	36.6
1986-87	\$28,129	\$29,060	\$32,451	\$29,010	36.3
1988-89	\$31,362	\$32,054	\$35,547	\$32,099	39.9
1989-90	\$34,610	\$32,300	\$36,756	\$33,723	43.9
1990-91	\$38,547	\$35,578	\$40,661	\$37,404	40.1
1991-92	\$40,280	\$36,807	\$41,552	\$39,192	51.4
1992-93	\$41,689	\$42,885	\$42,719	\$42,471	42.0
1993-94	\$42,945	\$44,127	\$47,038	\$43,956	41.6
1994-95	\$46,498	\$45,357	\$52,578	\$46,549	42.5
1995-96	\$49,510	\$49,589	\$58,720	\$50,469	39.0
1996-97	\$51,662	\$51,906	\$60,973	\$52,550	41.6
1997-98	\$53,314	\$53,730	\$62,849	\$54,164	38.9
1998-99	\$55,964	\$54,943	\$57,878	\$55,729	46.5
1999-00	\$57,687	\$56,164	\$61,033	\$56,539	44.3
2000-01	\$59,013	\$58,556	\$60,973	\$59,108	54.8
2001-02	\$59,208	\$61,568	\$57,003	\$59,757	55.1
2002-03	\$61,679	\$62,161	\$58,376	\$61,400	53.9
2003-04	\$65,107	\$66,449	\$69,166	\$65,804	52.0
2004-05	\$67,926	\$68,037	\$80,074	\$68,648	56.2
2005-06	\$71,381	\$70,534	\$80,590	\$71,771	59.8

Months in position did not vary substantially, averaging 45.8 months over the 20-year period (range of 36.3 to 59.8).

An analysis of variance (ANOVA) of salary was conducted to investigate the effects of the following parameters (data for P.A.'s and non-P.A.'s were combined): personnel category, gender and consortia region. Main effects

were found for gender ($F=27.44$; $p<0.01$; men higher than women); consortia region ($F=2.78$ $p<0.05$; Heartland higher than the Eastern and Western regions); category ($F=5.48$; $p<0.01$; Category I higher than Category III).

Trends in salary for all categories of program personnel (P.A.'s only) from 1985 through 2005 are illustrated in Figure 7. Salaries for personnel in Category I and II consistently increased each year with the largest increase occurring in 1988 for Cat I and 1992 for Cat II. Category III salaries steadily increased through 1997. Since then, Cat III salaries have fluctuated, with the largest increase occurring in 2003.



Program Personnel: Academic Classification

The number of Category I - III personnel (P.A.'s and non-P.A.'s) classified as faculty and staff, as well as the tenure track status of those in faculty positions, are shown in Table 23.

Table 23. Program Personnel: Classification and Tenure Track Status

	Personnel Category						Total	
	I		II		III		Number	(%)
<u>Classification</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Faculty	297	93.7%	152	89.4%	35	47.3%	484	86.3%
Staff	20	6.3%	18	10.6%	39	52.7%	77	13.7%
<u>Tenure Status</u>								
In Tenure Track*	82	27.6%	31	20.4%	7	20.0%	120	24.8%
Faculty Tenured**	13	4.4%	4	2.6%	1	2.9%	18	3.7%

* Percent of TOTAL faculty in tenure track.

** Percent of TOTAL faculty tenured (e.g., 18/484 = 3.7%)

For all categories combined, more than three fourths (N=484; 86%) of personnel were classified as faculty. This distribution of individuals classified as faculty varied greatly between 47% for Category III and 94% for Category I. Category III includes typically administrative-type personnel who may be less likely to be appointed to an academic level position.

Overall, almost one-fourth (24.8%) of the faculty were on the tenure track. However, only 3.7% of the faculty were tenured. Viewed in another way, 15% of those faculty in a tenure track were tenured, with the highest proportion of these tenured faculty in Category I (16%).

Table 24 shows the academic classification and tenure status of Category I - III personnel by gender. The proportion of men holding faculty rank was higher than the proportion of women (96% versus 81%, respectively). A higher percentage of males were on tenure track versus females, 28.6% and 22.0%, respectively. Although very few faculty were tenured (3.8%), more male faculty were tenured (5.2%) as compared to female faculty (2.8%).

Table 24. Program Personnel: Classification and Tenure Track Status by Gender

Personnel Classification	Female		Male		Total	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Faculty Appointment	286	81.3%	192	95.5%	478	86.4%
Staff Appointment	66	18.7%	9	4.5%	75	13.6%
Tenure Status						
Tenure Track Faculty	63	22.0%	55	28.6%	118	24.7%
Tenured Faculty*	8	2.8%	10	5.2%	18	3.8%

* Percent of TOTAL faculty tenured.

A summary of the highest degree held by each category of program personnel is shown in Table 25. All but 1.2% of Category I - III program personnel were reported to have earned a bachelors or higher degree. Less than one-fifth of the P.A. and non-P.A. personnel held a baccalaureate degree (16%) as their highest degree. Over two-thirds of the personnel held a master's degree (N=341; 67.7%). Seventy-six individuals (15.1%) were identified as having earned a doctorate. Proportionately, Category I personnel tended to have more doctorate degrees than those in Category II or III.

Table 25. Program Personnel: Highest Degree Held

Highest Degree	Program Personnel Categories								Categories I - III	
	#	I (%)	#	II (%)	#	III (%)	#	IV (%)	#	(%)
Doctorate	64	22.0%	8	5.3%	4	6.5%	0	0.0%	76	15.1%
Masters	190	65.3%	112	74.2%	39	62.9%	13	12.6%	341	67.7%
Bachelors	36	12.4%	31	20.5%	14	22.6%	64	62.1%	81	16.1%
Associate	<u>1</u>	<u>0.3%</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8.1%</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>25.2%</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1.2%</u>
Total	291	100.0%	151	100.0%	62	100.0%	103	100.0%	504	100.0%

The number and academic rank of program faculty, by category, are shown in Table 26. Over half of the P.A. and non-P.A. faculty hold the academic rank of assistant professor (N=265; 58.2%).

Table 26. Program Personnel: Academic Rank of Faculty

	Program Personnel Categories						Total	
	I		II		III			
<u>Academic Rank</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Full Professor	10	3.6%	0	0.0%	1	3.0%	11	2.4%
Associate Prof.	28	10.2%	18	12.2%	9	27.3%	55	12.1%
Assistant Prof.	163	59.3%	86	58.5%	16	48.5%	265	58.2%
Instructor/Lect.	<u>74</u>	<u>26.9%</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>29.3%</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>21.2%</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>27.3%</u>
Total	275	100.0%	147	100.0%	33	100.0%	455	100.0%

P.A. and Non-P.A. Personnel Salary Analysis

Salaries for Category I - III P.A. and non-P.A. program personnel by academic classification are shown in Table 27. The mean annual salary of faculty-level personnel was \$71,974 (N=451), 35% higher than those appointed to staff positions (\$53,423; N=66). In general, the annual salaries of non-P.A. personnel with faculty rank (\$72,059, N=63) were higher than the salaries of P.A. personnel with faculty appointments (\$71,960; N=358). Faculty salaries differed substantially between categories with Category III faculty earning the highest annual income.

Table 27. Faculty and Staff Salaries by Category

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Program Personnel Categories</u>						<u>Categories I - III</u>	
	<u>I</u>		<u>II</u>		<u>III</u>			
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>
<u>Faculty</u>								
P.A.	\$71,534	219	\$70,741	140	\$81,062	29	\$71,960	388
Non-P.A.	<u>\$71,456</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>\$70,621</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>\$82,416</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>\$72,059</u>	<u>63</u>
Total	\$71,519	271	\$70,735	147	\$81,226	33	\$71,974	451
<u>Staff</u>								
P.A.	\$68,467	12	\$67,925	12	\$76,029	3	\$69,066	27
Non-P.A.	<u>\$41,750</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>\$32,910</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>\$43,951</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>\$42,592</u>	<u>39</u>
Total	\$61,788	16	\$59,172	16	\$46,781	34	\$53,423	66

Among the personnel classified as staff, those that were P.A.'s earned a substantially higher (62%) salary (\$69,066) than non-P.A.'s (\$42,592). In comparison to the previous year (2004-2005), there was over a 4.2% increase in the faculty salaries and a 1.2% decrease in staff salaries.

The relationship between salary and gender of P.A. and non-P.A. faculty and staff is summarized in Table 28 (next page). Salaries for male faculty were 6.1% higher than those of female faculty (\$74,512 versus \$70,224, respectively). Male staff earned substantially higher salaries than did female staff, \$72,000 vs. \$51,121, respectively.

Table 28. Program Personnel: Salary of Faculty and Staff in Categories I - III by Gender

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>
<u>Faculty</u>				
P.A.	\$70,806	244	\$73,844	139
Non-P.A.	\$64,963	27	\$77,164	35
Total	\$70,224	271	\$74,512	174
<u>Staff</u>				
P.A.	\$69,305	19	\$73,333	6
Non-P.A.	\$42,029	38	-----	1
Total	\$51,121	57	\$72,000	7

Compared to the previous year (2004-2005), faculty salaries have increased 5.4% for females and 2.1% for males, while staff salaries increased by 14.2% for males and decreased by 1.2% for females.

Annual salary of program personnel by highest degree earned for all categories is shown in Table 29. Doctoral-level personnel (N=67) earn the highest salary (overall for Categories I - III =\$71,849) and associate degree level individuals the lowest (\$55,708). Category I personnel with a doctorate degree earned the highest salary.

Table 29. Salary of Faculty and Staff Personnel by Highest Degree Held

<u>Highest Degree</u>	<u>Program Personnel Categories</u>									
	<u>I</u>		<u>II</u>		<u>III</u>		<u>IV</u>		<u>Categories I - III</u>	
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>
Doctorate	\$72,302	56	\$71,117	8	\$65,341	3	-----	0	\$71,849	67
Masters	\$71,509	182	\$70,276	110	\$69,715	38	\$39,281	13	\$70,892	330
Bachelors	\$66,171	32	\$66,579	28	\$61,281	13	\$35,260	62	\$65,456	73
Associate	-----	1	-----	0	\$43,606	4	\$33,320	26	\$55,708	5
Not Reported	\$67,675	33	\$68,859	22	\$55,382	14	\$29,522	99	\$65,558	69
Total	\$70,784	304	\$69,514	168	\$63,773	72	\$32,429	200	\$69,464	544

The salary of personnel classified as faculty is shown by academic rank and category in Table 30 (next page). Full professor had the highest average salary (\$86,033). The range of mean salaries was broad, \$66,388 at the rank of instructor in Category II to \$88,629 for those at the Instructor level in Category III.

Table 30. Salary of Program Faculty by Academic Rank and Category

	I		II		III		Total	
<u>Academic Rank</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>N</u>
Full Professor	\$86,919	7	-----	0	-----	1	\$86,033	8
Associate Prof.	\$75,271	25	\$73,862	18	\$86,476	9	\$76,723	52
Assistant Prof.	\$72,348	150	\$71,771	83	\$77,987	16	\$72,518	249
Instructor/Lect.	\$67,141	69	\$66,388	41	\$88,629	7	\$68,163	117
Not Reported	<u>\$71,162</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>\$70,596</u>	<u>7</u>	-----	<u>1</u>	<u>\$71,314</u>	<u>32</u>
Total	\$71,575	275	\$70,488	149	\$82,539	34	\$72,035	458

Program Directors of Physician Assistant Programs

The general characteristics of program directors are shown in Table 31 and include percent of time, annual salary and months in position for P.A. and non-P.A. directors by gender and highest degree held. On average, program directors devoted 97.5% of their time to program-related activities. While the percentage of time ranged from 60% to 100%, the majority of the directors (N=89; 88%) were working full-time. Ninety percent of the directors were P.A.'s (N=81).

Table 31. Characteristics of Program Directors

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>S.D.</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>		
Percent Time	97.5%	7.8	60% - 100%	101		
<u>Annual Salary</u>	<u>\$97,206</u>	<u>\$17,078</u>	<u>\$ 61,000 - 187,000</u>	<u>93</u>		
P.A.	\$96,100	\$14,505	\$ 61,000 - 125,443	81		
Non-P.A.	\$104,504	\$33,759	\$ 77,250 - 187,000	9		
Male	\$99,525	\$18,772	\$ 61,000 - 187,000	54		
Female	\$93,583	\$13,951	\$ 67,246 - 122,544	38		
Doctorate	\$101,122	\$18,772	\$ 77,250 - 187,000	12		
Masters	\$95,551	\$14,832	\$ 61,000 - 125,443	70		
Bachelors	\$102,567	\$17,771	-----	2		
<u>Months in Position</u>	<u>76.8</u>	<u>81.0</u>	<u>1-414</u>	<u>99</u>		
P.A.	77.1	76.8	2-384	85		
Non-P.A.	75.4	114.1	1-414	12		
Male	75.8	78.6	4-384	57		
Female	78.7	86.2	1-414	41		
<u>Highest Degree Held</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Doctorate*	11	35.5%	20	64.5%	31	34.1%
Masters	27	47.4%	30	52.6%	57	62.6%
Baccalaureate	1	33.3%	2	66.7%	3	3.3%

* Includes Ph.D., Ed.D., J.D., D.H.Sc. and M.D. Degrees

The mean average salary for program directors was \$97,206, ranging from \$61,000 to \$187,000. Program directors who were non-P.A.'s earned a higher salary in comparison to those who were P.A.'s (\$104,504 and \$96,100, respectively). The average months in position was 76.8 months.

Male program directors had higher average salaries (\$99,525) than did female directors (\$93,583). The mean time in position of female directors exceeded that of male directors by three months (79 versus 76 months, respectively). In comparison to the 2004-2005 data, mean salaries increased by 5.9% (\$97,206 versus \$91,767).

Program Director Salaries: Regional Differences

A summary of program directors’ salary and months in position by consortia region is shown in Table 32. Program directors associated with programs located in the Eastern and Midwestern regions had lower mean salaries (\$92,645 and \$92,785, respectively) compared with the rest of the regions. Directors in the Western region had the highest mean salaries (\$104,141). The lowest individual salary for a program director was in the Midwestern region (\$61,000). Program directors in the Heartland region had been employed in their positions the longest time, over nine years (114 months) and those in the Midwestern region the shortest period of time (47.6 months).

Table 32. Salary and Months in Position of Program Directors by Region

<u>Consortia Region</u>	<u>Program Director Salary</u>			<u>Months in Position</u>			
	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Range</u>
Northeastern	18	\$ 95,328	\$72,100- 125,443	22	103.0	60.0	14-414
Eastern	15	\$ 92,645	\$76,714- 118,000	16	64.4	46.0	7-169
Southeastern	15	\$ 99,346	\$75,000- 120,000	16	62.8	31.0	4-269
Midwestern	18	\$ 92,785	\$61,000- 116,513	18	47.6	41.0	1-120
Heartland	11	\$100,726	\$74,360- 123,000	11	113.6	103.0	6-360
Western	<u>16</u>	<u>\$104,141</u>	<u>\$74,714- 187,000</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>74.9</u>	<u>59.5</u>	<u>6-228</u>
Total	93	\$ 97,206	\$61,000-187,000	99	76.8	51.0	1-414

Medical Directors of Physician Assistant Programs

The characteristics of P.A. program medical directors are shown in Table 33. Percent time data were available for 97 medical directors, of which seven were employed as such on a full-time basis. On average, medical directors devoted less than one-third (30.1%) of their time to program-related activities. The mean annual salary of the medical directors reporting (N=88) was \$87,661 but varied extensively, ranging from \$5,000 to \$380,000. Male medical directors (N=69) earned a lower annual mean salary (\$84,608) than did female medical directors (\$104,804).

Table 33. Characteristics of Program Medical Directors

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>S.D.</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>
<u>Percent Time</u>	30.1	26.1	20.0	2% -100%	97
<u>Annual Salary</u>	\$87,661	\$73,981	\$80,000	\$ 5,000-380,000	88
Female	\$104,804	\$49,208	\$100,852	\$ 5,000-200,000	14
Male	\$84,608	\$79,153	\$58,000	\$ 5,000-380,000	69
<u>Months in Position</u>	72.0	65.1	52.5	1-324	95
Female	58.4	53.9	36.0	4-180	16
Male	75.1	68.0	53.5	1-324	76

Overall, medical director salaries decreased by 7.3% from the previous year. Respondents which originally had not made corrections for full-time equivalent were contacted in order to clarify figures. The majority of medical directors were male (76; 83%). The average months in position is higher for male directors (75 months).

Data concerning medical director salaries, months in position and consortia region are shown in Table 34. Medical directors of those programs in the Heartland region had the highest mean salaries (\$142,758). Those directors in the Northeastern had the lowest salaries (\$66,748). Medical directors in the Eastern region were in their positions for the longest period of time (95.3 months). It should be noted that the range in both salaries (range of \$5,000 to \$380,000) and months in position (from 1 to 324 months) was extensive.

Table 34. Salary and Months in Position of Medical Directors by Region

<u>Consortia Region</u>	<u>Medical Director's Salary*</u>				<u>Months in Position</u>			
	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Range</u>
Northeastern	16	\$ 66,748	\$ 53,833	\$15,000-175,000	20	84.1	66.0	3-324
Eastern	16	\$ 80,248	\$ 87,740	\$10,000-200,000	15	95.3	60.0	7-287
Southeastern	16	\$ 95,287	\$ 77,680	\$ 5,000-380,000	17	66.1	46.0	20-180
Midwestern	16	\$ 75,129	\$ 35,500	\$ 5,000-229,800	17	50.6	36.0	1-136
Heartland	8	\$142,758	\$115,050	\$ 7,000-300,000	10	88.1	98.5	5-192
Western	16	\$ 93,347	\$105,402	\$ 7,000-187,000	16	53.8	36.0	5-228
Total	88	\$ 87,,661	\$ 80,000	\$ 5,000-380,000	95	72.0	65.1	1-324

* Corrected for full-time equivalent.

The medical specialties of P.A. program medical directors are shown in Table 35. The majority of medical directors (N=45; 72.6%) were practicing in primary care specialties, predominantly family medicine (N=23; 37%) and internal medicine (N=19; 31%). Only seventeen medical directors were in non-primary care specialties.

Table 35. Medical Specialties of P.A. Program Medical Directors

<u>Primary Care</u>			<u>Non-Primary Care</u>		
<u>Medical Specialty</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Medical Specialty</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Family Medicine	23	37.1%	Cardiology	4	6.5%
Internal Medicine	19	30.6%	Emergency Med.	5	8.1%
Pediatrics	3	4.8%	Other	8	12.9%
Total	45	72.6%	Total	17	27.4%

Comparisons between Medical and Program Directors

A comparison between medical and program directors' salaries from 1984-85 through 2005-2006 is shown in Table 36 (next page). Note, information concerning the characteristics of medical directors was not available in 1987-88. Between 1984 and 2005, there has been a 159% increase in the mean salary for program directors and a 44% increase for medical directors. The mean time in position has increased for program directors over this period (64.5 to 76.8 months).

Table 36. Trends in Directors' Salaries and Months in Position from 1984 Through 2005

Academic Year	Program Director			Medical Director		
	Mean	Months	N	Mean	Months	N
1984-1985	\$37,499	64.5	31	\$ 61,000	69.1	23
1985-1986	\$36,491	69.3	32	\$ 66,900	70.1	21
1986-1987	\$39,939	68.8	38	\$ 66,300	63.9	29
1987-1988	\$41,324	67.9	38	N/A		
1988-1989	\$41,730	90.3	42	\$ 74,056	75.3	36
1989-1990	\$42,800	88.8	36	\$ 76,168	78.8	32
1990-1991	\$50,824	85.5	41	\$ 85,646	69.1	36
1991-1992	\$54,266	98.9	38	\$ 75,071	72.3	39
1992-1993	\$56,206	91.4	51	\$ 98,288	69.3	39
1993-1994	\$57,241	85.2	50	\$ 95,882	53.8	33
1994-1995	\$63,115	89.9	55	\$107,617	67.3	32
1995-1996	\$67,437	88.0	67	\$102,509	61.7	55
1996-1997	\$69,808	91.7	72	\$ 89,186	64.5	55
1997-1998	\$70,031	68.3	90	\$ 99,372	54.8	75
1998-1999	\$73,048	73.6	80	\$101,066	62.5	62
1999-2000	\$76,709	70.3	88	\$ 98,214	62.2	71
2000-2001	\$79,878	75.6	88	\$108,575	64.0	72
2001-2002	\$83,771	75.8	91	\$104,355	65.1	81
2002-2003	\$85,780	70.9	85	\$ 99,190	64.6	74
2003-2004	\$87,348	71.9	92	\$105,244	70.2	77
2004-2005	\$91,767	80.9	102	\$ 94,561	71.3	82
2005-2006	\$97,206	76.8	93	\$ 87,661	72.0	88
22-yr Mean	\$63,828	79.3	64	\$ 90,327	66.8	53

On average, in 2005, program directors earned an annual salary approximately 11% higher than the typical medical director (\$97,206 versus \$87,661). Over the twenty-two year period, the medical directors earned an annual salary of approximately 42% higher than the typical program director (\$90,327 versus \$63,828). Trends in salary for the program and medical directors from 1984 through 2005 are in Figure 8 (next page) and clearly illustrates the variation in directors' salaries since 1984.

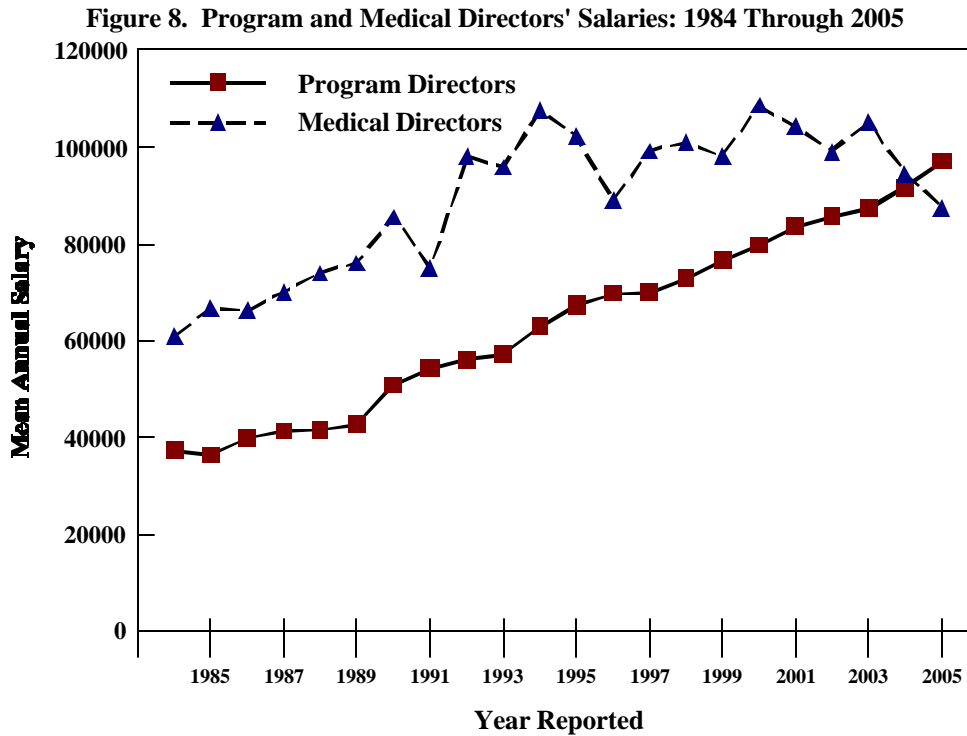
A comparison of academic position and tenure status between the directors is shown in Table 37. The majority of medical and program directors held faculty level positions with 7% of these directors classified as staff.

Table 37. Program and Medical Directors: Position and Tenure Track Status

Level of Position	Program Director		Medical Director	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Staff Appointment	6	6.1%	8	8.5%
Faculty Appointment	92	93.9%	86	91.5%
Total	98	100.0%	94	100.0%
Tenure Status				
Tenure Track Faculty	34	37.0%	19	22.1%
Faculty Tenured*	16	17.4%	10	11.6%

* Percent of TOTAL faculty tenured

More program directors than medical directors in faculty-level positions were on a tenure track and less than one-fifth of the faculty directors were tenured. In 2005 over 90% of the directors were faculty. The proportion of faculty directors on the tenure track was 37% and 22%.



A comparison between the academic rank of medical and program director faculty is shown in Table 38. Less program directors (92%) held professorial rank than medical directors (93.0%) held professorial rank (Assistant to Full Professor).

Table 38. Program and Medical Directors: Academic Rank

<u>Academic Rank of Faculty</u>	<u>Program Director</u>		<u>Medical Director</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Full Professor	14	16.3%	18	26.9%
Associate Professor	36	41.9%	24	35.8%
Assistant Professor	29	33.7%	20	29.9%
Instructor/Lecturer	<u>7</u>	<u>8.1%</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7.5%</u>
Total	86	100.0%%	67	100.0%

Regression Analysis of Salaries

Linear regression analysis was used to describe the relationship between salary and months in position for all core program faculty and staff. The resulting regression equations provide a means of determining salary while correcting for months in position. Table 39 (next page) identifies regression equations for each of the four P.A. and non-P.A. personnel categories, and for program and medical directors.

Equations from Table 39 will "predict" salary within and across each category using the number of months as the independent variable. For example, one would predict that the salary of a Category I individual who has been in

his or her position for 61.2 months would be around \$70,804 (i.e. \$68,521 + \$2,283), a value similar to that reported in Table 13 for the average Category I individual (i.e. \$71,381) having been employed for a mean of 61.2 months.

Table 39. Regression Equations for Salary and Months in Position for P.A. Program Personnel

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>+ (Constant</u>	<u>x Months)</u>	<u>N</u>
Category I	\$ 68,521	+ (\$ 37.30	x _____)	292
Category II	\$ 66,105	+ (\$ 63.50	x _____)	166
Category III	\$ 55,123	+ (\$ 93.80	x _____)	68
Category IV	\$ 28,695	+ (\$ 55.10	x _____)	189
Categories I- III	\$ 65,902	+ (\$ 57.10	x _____)	525
Program Directors	\$ 91,663	+ (\$ 71.30	x _____)	92
Medical Directors	\$ 77,463	+ (\$153.00	x _____)	85

P.A. Program Personnel Turnover

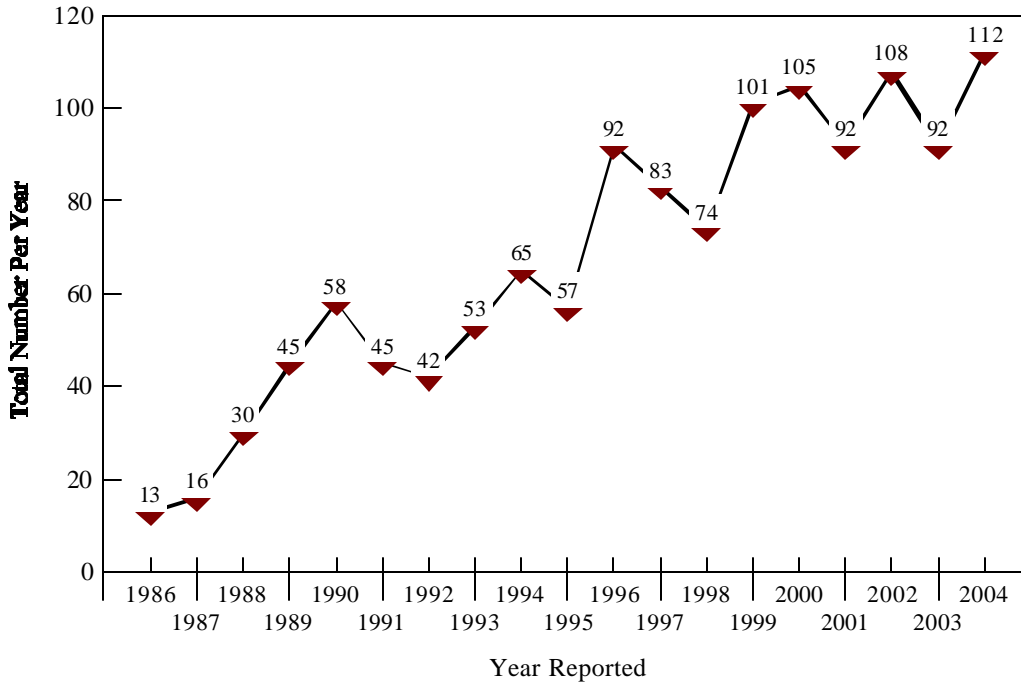
The 2005 survey requested updated information on personnel turnover for the period September 2004 through August 2005. Program respondents were asked to provide data on the type, frequency and characteristics of personnel terminating and those employed to fill the position. Reported herein is the turnover activity for 2004-2005 as well as the cumulative data for the nineteen-year period (1986-2004) in Table 40. Data are expressed as both total number and mean number of individuals per program for the time period identified. Over the nineteen year-period examined, respondents reported that 1,283 personnel left their positions. As shown in Figure 9 (next page), there has been an overall increase in turnover since 1986, with decreases in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2001 and 2003.

Table 40. Program Personnel Turnover 1986 Through 2004

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Total Number</u>	
	<u>Departing</u>	<u>Mean/Program</u>
1986-1987	13	0.3
1987-1988	16	0.3
1988-1989	30	0.6
1989-1990	45	0.9
1990-1991	58	1.2
1991-1992	45	0.8
1992-1993	42	0.8
1993-1994	53	0.9
1994-1995	65	0.9
1995-1996	57	0.7
1996-1997	92	1.0
1997-1998	83	0.9
1998-1999	74	0.7
1999-2000	101	1.1
2000-2001	105	1.1
2001-2002	92	0.9
2002-2003	108	1.0
2003-2004	92	0.8
2004-2005	<u>112</u>	<u>1.1</u>
19-year Mean	67.5	0.8

During the 2004-2005 academic year, 112 P.A. program personnel departed (N=106 programs reported information) for an average of 1.1 per program. The overall 19-year mean is 67.5 personnel departing per year, an average of 0.8 persons departing/program.

Figure 9. Trends in Personnel Turnover: 1986 Through 2004



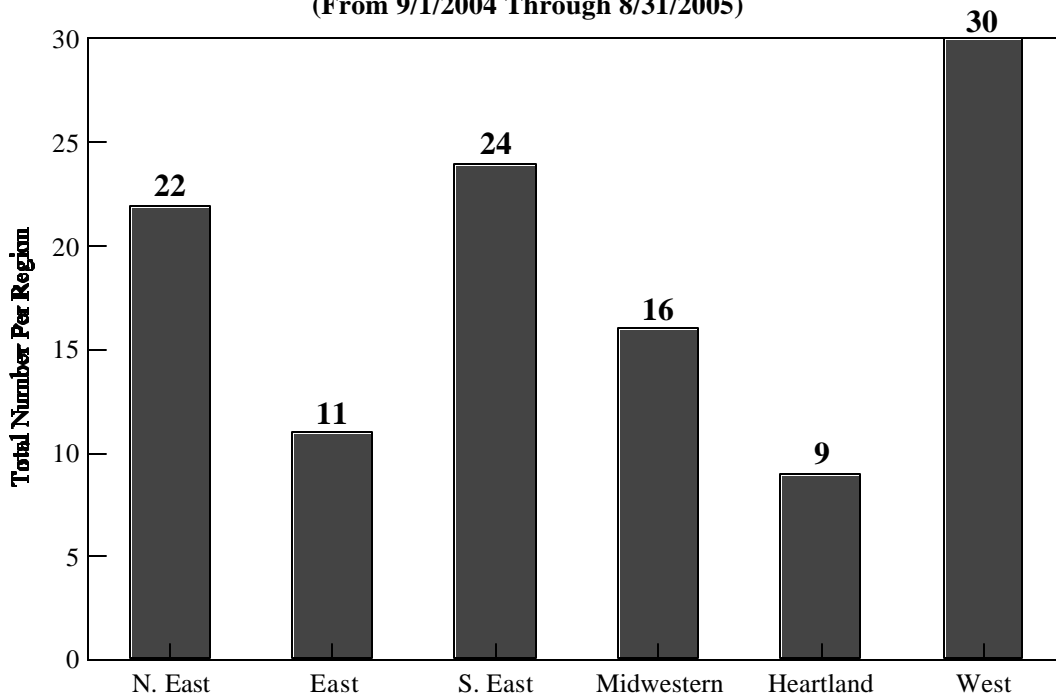
Our best estimate of the mean number of core program personnel is 9.7 per program, and includes one program and medical director, 4.2 P.A.'s and 1.1 non-P.A.'s and 2.4 Category IV personnel. Given the average turnover per year we estimate that 8.2% of program personnel departed this year (0.8/9.7).

The number of personnel (and mean/program) that departed over the past nineteen years and those departing in 2004, by region, is shown in Table 41 and illustrated in Figure 10 (next page). Turnover varied by region. For example, programs in the Western region reported the highest turnover (1.76 per program) while programs in the Eastern region had the lowest rate of turnover (0.65 per program).

Table 41. Program Personnel Turnover by Region, 1986 Through 2004

Consortia <u>Region</u>	Number <u>in 19 Years</u>	Number <u>in 2004</u>	2004 Mean/ <u>Program</u>	<u>N</u>
Northeastern	240	22	0.96	23
Eastern	159	11	0.65	17
Southeastern	206	24	1.33	18
Midwestern	230	16	0.80	20
Heartland	175	9	0.82	11
Western	<u>273</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>1.76</u>	<u>17</u>
Total	1,283	112	1.06	106

Figure 10. Personnel Turnover By Region: 2004-2005
 (From 9/1/2004 Through 8/31/2005)



A comparison of the number and category of personnel departing, those employed, percent of positions unfilled and mean number of weeks to fill the position are shown in Table 42. Overall, 112 program personnel (sixteen Category IV) departed in 2004 with turnover highest among Category I personnel and least for medical directors. On average 9.7 weeks were required to fill a position. Filling program director positions averaged 15.2 weeks while medical director positions were filled immediately.

Table 42. Comparison of Personnel Turnover in 2004 by Category

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number Departed</u>	<u>Number Employed</u>	<u>Percent Unfilled</u>	<u>Weeks to Fill Position</u>
I	41	25	39.0%	9.3
II	26	23	11.5%	9.9
III	15	15	0.0%	11.5
IV	16	9	43.8%	6.3
Program Director	11	10	9.1%	15.2
Medical Director	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>66.7%</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Total	112	83	25.9%	9.7

Table 43 (next page) shows the characteristics of personnel departing and those employed. On average, personnel departed in 2004 were slightly older (1.3 years) than those employed. More males than females were employed as departed. A higher percentage of non-white personnel were employed than departed.

Table 43. Characteristics of Personnel Departed and Employed in 2004
Program Personnel

Characteristic	Departed		Employed	
	(%)	N	(%)	N
Mean Age (yrs)	43.5		42.2	
Range	22-65		22-64	
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	36.6%	41	42.7%	35
Female	63.4%	71	57.3%	47
<u>Ethnicity</u>				
White	86.8%	92	83.3%	65
Non-White	13.2%	14	16.7%	13

The academic characteristics of personnel departing and those filling the vacated positions are shown in Table 44. Doctorate includes Ph.D., D.H.Sc., D.O. and M.D. As indicated in Table 44, the majority of personnel employed held a masters degree (72.7%) as their highest credential. Of those departing, 56 held a masters degree (58.3%) and 14 held a doctorate degree (14.6%). In addition, the majority of personnel departing were P.A.'s (61.5%) and those employed to fill these positions were also P.A.'s (72.5%).

Table 44. P.A. Program Personnel Turnover in 2004: Academic Characteristics

Highest Degree	Program Personnel			
	N	Departed	N	Employed
Associate/Certificate	2	2.1%	1	1.5%
Baccalaureate	24	25.0%	11	16.7%
Masters	56	58.3%	48	72.7%
Doctoral	14	14.6%	6	9.1%
P.A. Credentialed	67	61.5%	58	72.5%

The reasons cited for personnel turnover during 2004 and the nineteen-year totals, are shown in Table 45. In 2004, 23 of the individuals departing did so for career advancement (25%). Eight were terminated. Over the nineteen-year period, career advancement was the primary reason for departing followed by return to clinical practice and geographic relocation.

Table 45. P.A. Program Personnel Turnover:
Reasons for Termination in 2004 Compared to the Nineteen-Year Totals

Reasons for Terminating	2004		19-Year Totals	
	N	(%)	N	(%)
Career Advancement	23	25.3%	236	21.9%
Return to Clinical Practice	15	16.5%	192	17.8%
Geographic Relocation	10	11.0%	170	15.8%
Retired	5	5.5%	69	6.4%
Termination	8	8.8%	64	5.9%
Job Dissatisfaction	4	4.4%	51	4.7%
Returned to School	4	4.4%	44	4.1%
Family Obligations	5	5.5%	39	3.6%
Salary Dissatisfaction	1	1.1%	33	3.1%
Other	16	17.6%	179	16.6%
Total	91	100%	1077	100.0%

A comparison of salaries and months in position between personnel departing and those employed is shown for each year in Table 46. On average, over the nineteen-year period, there has been a mean salary increase of 3% for newly employed individuals as compared to those departing.

Table 46. Salaries of Departing and Newly Employed Personnel,
1986 Through 2004

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Salary Departing</u>	<u>Months in Position</u>	<u>Salary New Employee</u>	<u>Months Prior Position</u>
1986-1987	13	\$30,868	41.3	\$30,000	35.0
1987-1988	16	\$30,900	73.1	\$33,500	57.4
1988-1989	30	\$33,000	43.5	\$34,000	38.1
1989-1990	45	\$34,000	41.8	\$38,000	55.5
1990-1991	58	\$38,200	22.7	\$40,000	52.3
1991-1992	45	\$38,960	39.4	\$38,450	47.2
1992-1993	40	\$44,748	48.1	\$43,151	54.7
1993-1994	46	\$43,857	31.5	\$44,667	52.3
1994-1995	58	\$44,118	48.4	\$45,536	45.3
1995-1996	43	\$46,771	35.0	\$51,127	39.6
1996-1997	78	\$47,523	48.9	\$51,533	46.6
1997-1998	75	\$48,926	42.0	\$53,366	45.7
1998-1999	64	\$51,402	46.4	\$55,479	40.1
1999-2000	94	\$48,523	42.1	\$47,899	26.5
2000-2001	79	\$53,881	46.0	\$49,997	36.0
2001-2002	72	\$52,775	39.2	\$53,718	48.4
2002-2003	85	\$59,280	48.3	\$57,456	45.3
2003-2004	80	\$58,624	55.1	\$61,574	39.8
2004-2005	99	\$60,089	47.0	\$62,137	53.7
19-Year Mean	1,120	\$45,602	44.2	\$46,926	45.2

The greatest salary differences between departing and newly employed personnel were in 1989-90 (11.8%) and 1995-96 (9.3%). Overall, personnel departing had been in their positions an average of 44 months, while those employed had been in their previous position one month longer (45 months).

SECTION III. P.A. STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Physician Assistant Student Enrollment

The maximum capacity and current enrollment of P.A. students in the most recently enrolled classes, 2005-2006 (first-year class), 2004-2005 (second-year class) and 2003-2004 (third-year class) are shown in Table 47. The proportion of maximum capacity that remained unfilled and the resident status of the students are also presented. The dates in parentheses indicate the academic year of admission and the number indicates the programs responding.

Table 47. Maximum Class Capacity and Current Enrollment in Physician Assistant Programs

		<u>Maximum Capacity</u>	<u>Current Enrollment</u>	<u>% Capacity Unfilled</u>	<u>% Residents</u>
<u>First-Year Class</u> (2005-2006)	Mean	41.9	40.8	4.2%	70.1%
	Median	37.5	36.0	0.0%	69.4%
	Range	(12-112)	(12-112)	(0-46%)	(12-100%)
	Number	104	105	95	81
<u>Second-Year Class</u> (2004-2005)	Mean	39.7	37.0	8.8%	72.4%
	Median	36.0	34.0	0.0%	73.5%
	Range	(12-98)	(9-97)	(0-65%)	(0-100%)
	Number	102	103	93	79
<u>Third-Year Class</u> (2003-2004)	Mean	34.4	32.3	9.2%	73.6%
	Median	30.5	30.0	0.0%	78.4%
	Range	(10-61)	(7-69)	(0-65%)	(8-100%)
	Number	34	34	30	25
<u>All Classes</u>	Mean	93.2	87.5	6.2%	70.6%
	Median	86.5	79.0	1.2%	72.2%
	Range	(24-235)	(16-235)	(0-55%)	(8-100%)
	Number	102	105	94	81

* Includes both full- and part-time students.

The mean maximum capacity for the first-year class increased slightly from last year (41.7) and is reported as 41.9; the mean maximum capacity for the second-year class also increased from last year (from 39.3 to 39.7); and the mean maximum capacity for the third-year class increased from 32.8 to 39.4 students. The maximum capacity for all classes increased by 1.3 students per program from last year. It should be noted that some of the programs with students in a “third year” were cases where there was a 1-6 month overlap between the second and third year of the curriculum (i.e., programs that were 25, 28, 30 months in length).

The medians for the maximum capacity and current enrollment of the classes are listed on the table. Note that the medians are lower than the mean in each category except resident status.

The percent of capacity unfilled for the first-year class was 4.2% and 8.8% for the senior class (the latter figure likely reflects factors like attrition during the previous year). Maximum capacity of P.A. programs varied extensively for both first- and second-year classes, ranging from 12 to 112. The maximum capacity for all classes

averaged 93.2 students and with a mean enrollment of 87.5 students, approximately 6.2% of the maximum capacity (all classes) remained unfilled.

Current enrollment in the first-year class averaged 40.8 students per program (105 programs; range 12 to 112) and 37.0 students/program in the second-year class. In comparison, the number of first- and second-year students in the previous year was 40.2 and 35.8, respectively. It should be noted that the enrollment figures include both full-time and part-time students, the latter accounting for only 1.8% of the enrollment. On average, approximately 70% of the students in the first-year and 72% of the second-year class were residents of the state in which the program was located.

The current enrollment for all classes by gender and full- and part-time student status is shown in Table 48. The majority of both full-time and part-time students were female, averaging around 74%. Thirty-four programs reported that a "third-year class" was enrolled.

Table 48. Current Enrollment by Gender and Class-Year

	<u>1st Year Class (N=105)</u>			<u>2nd Year Class (N=103)</u>			<u>3rd Year Class (N=34)</u>		
<u>Full-Time</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Range</u>
Male	10.8	27.0%	0-44	9.7	26.7%	0-36	7.7	24.1%	2-23
Female	<u>29.2</u>	<u>73.0%</u>	7-83	<u>26.6</u>	<u>73.3%</u>	4-71	<u>24.3</u>	<u>75.9%</u>	5-50
Total	40.0	100%		36.3	100%		32.0	100%	
	<u>1st Year Class (N=15)</u>			<u>2nd Year Class (N=8)</u>			<u>3rd Year Class (N=2)</u>		
<u>Part-Time</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Range</u>
Male	1.7	31.5%	0-7	3.5	41.7%	0-12	1.0	20.0%	-----
Female	<u>3.7</u>	<u>68.5%</u>	0-19	<u>4.9</u>	<u>58.3%</u>	0-17	<u>4.0</u>	<u>80.0%</u>	-----
Total	5.4	100%		8.4	100%		5.0	100%	

It should be noted that respondents were asked to identify only those classes enrolled in the "professional" component of the curriculum, thus, a 4-year program may only have two years of "P.A.-specific" curriculum. Fifteen programs reported they enrolled part-time students in the first year; eight programs also indicated they had part-time students in the second year of the program and two programs reported part-time students in the third-year.

Trends in Maximum Capacity and Student Enrollment

The mean maximum class capacity, total student enrollment and percent of capacity unfilled from 1984 through 2005 are shown in Table 49 (next page). Maximum capacity over the past twenty-two years averaged 76.1 students for all classes and ranged from 56.1 to 93.2. The percent of capacity that remained unfilled varied around a mean of 11.1%, however has remained below the mean since 1990. The trends in enrollment, maximum and unfilled capacity are illustrated in Figure 11 (page 40). Total enrollment from 1984 through 1993 averaged 53.76 students/program. In the subsequent twelve years (1994-2005) enrollment averaged 80 and varied between 76.0 students to 87.5 students. This current year has seen an increase in the current enrollment/program by 2.8%.

Table 49. Total Student Enrollment of All Classes, 1984 Through 2005

Academic Year	Programs Responding	Maximum Capacity All Classes	Current Enrollment All Classes	Percent Capacity Unfilled
1984-1985	39	58.2	47.0	17.8%
1985-1986	44	60.4	46.7	21.3%
1986-1987	47	61.9	49.1	18.8%
1987-1988	48	57.4	47.3	19.6%
1988-1989	48	56.1	45.6	16.3%
1989-1990	45	58.9	50.2	14.8%
1990-1991	50	68.1	56.6	16.9%
1991-1992	50	69.7	62.1	9.2%
1992-1993	57	71.8	65.1	8.9%
1993-1994	56	72.7	67.9	5.1%
1994-1995	61	85.4	78.6	5.5%
1995-1996	68	83.2	79.4	6.1%
1996-1997	77	83.6	77.3	7.3%
1997-1998	95	84.1	81.3	9.8%
1998-1999	96	87.4	82.5	8.5%
1999-2000	105	83.3	76.7	9.0%
2000-2001	102	86.5	78.8	7.1%
2001-2002	105	82.8	76.0	8.2%
2002-2003	103	86.7	75.9	10.4%
2003-2004	109	89.8	80.3	9.3%
2004-2005	110	91.9	85.1	8.2%
2005-2006	<u>105</u>	<u>93.2</u>	<u>87.5</u>	<u>6.2%</u>
22-Yr. Mean	73.6	76.1	68.0	11.1%

First-Year Students Enrolled

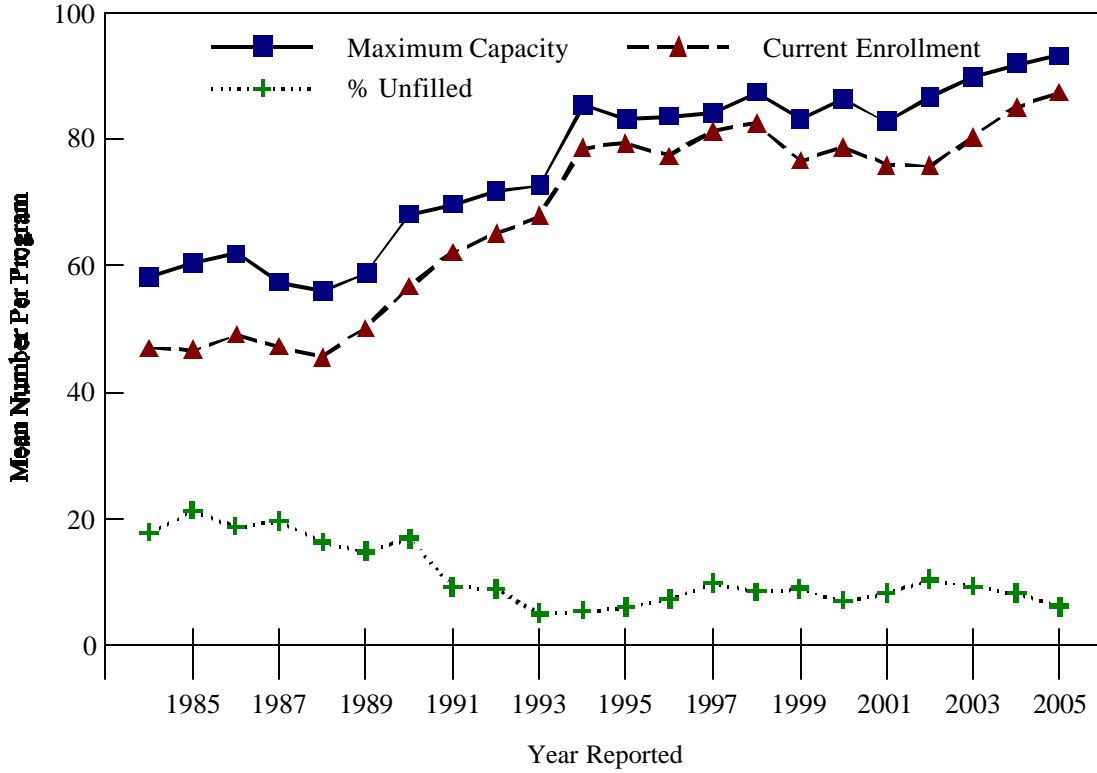
The number of those enrolled in the most recent P.A. class (2005-2006) is shown in Table 50. In addition, information on the mean number of full- and part-time students is also provided. On average, 40.8 students per program were enrolled in the first-year class (105 programs; range from 12-112); only 2% were part-time students (0.8/program). These findings mark an increase (16.6%) in first-year enrollment over the 22-year average (i.e., 40.8/program versus an average of 35.0/program).

Table 50. Student Characteristics, Class of 2005-2006

	<u>Number Enrolled</u>		
	<u>F.T.*</u>	<u>P.T.*</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mean	40.0	0.8	40.8
Median	36.0	0.0	36.0
Range	12-105	0-25	12-112
# Programs	105	105	105

* F.T. = Full-Time; P.T. = Part-Time

Figure 11. Trends in Enrollment: 1984 Through 2005



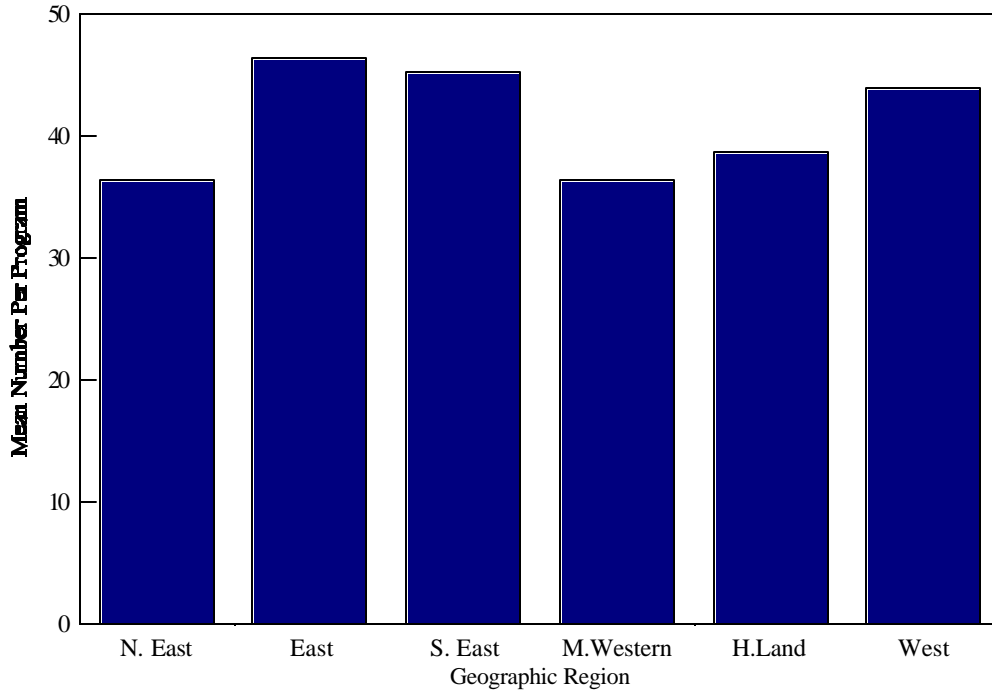
First-Year Students Enrolled by Consortia Region

A comparison between the mean number of students enrolled by consortia region is shown in Table 51 and Figure 12 (next page), ‘N’ indicates the number of programs responding. The largest number of enrollees was in the Eastern region (46.5) and the smallest numbers were in the Midwestern and Northeastern regions (36.4).

Table 51. Number of Enrollees by Region

Consortia <u>Region</u>	<u>Enrollees</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>Total</u>
Northeastern	25	36.4
Eastern	15	46.5
Southeastern	18	45.2
Midwestern	20	36.4
Heartland	10	38.8
Western	<u>17</u>	<u>43.9</u>
Total	105	40.8

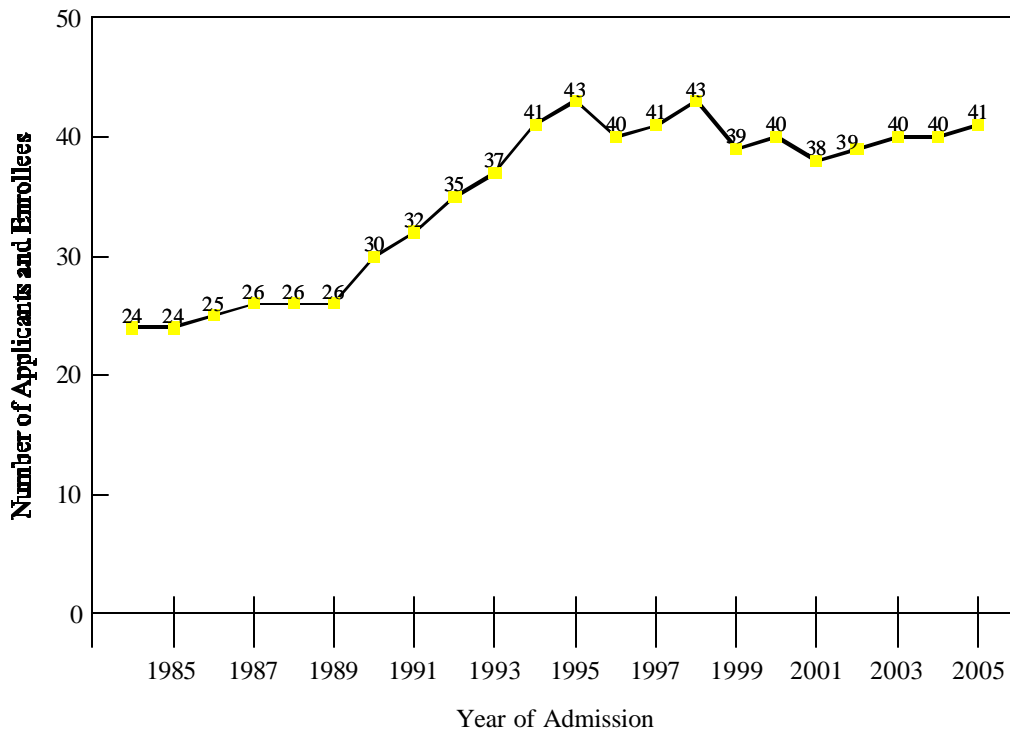
Figure 12. Applicants and Students Enrolled by Region, 2005-2006



Trends in First Year P.A. Student Enrollment, 1984 Through 2005

The number of first year students enrolled in P.A. programs for the twenty-two year period from 1984 through 2005 is shown in Table 52 (next page) and Figure 13.

Figure 13. Trends of Students Enrolled: 1984 Through 2005



There was a systematic increase in enrollees from 1984 through 1995. Since then, the mean number enrolled has varied around a mean of 40 students/program. The average number of enrollees over the twenty-two year period is 35.0 students/program.

Table 52. First Year P.A. Students Enrolled, 1984 Through 2005

<u>Academic</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Mean Number</u> <u>Enrolled</u>	<u>(N)</u>
1984-1985	24.1	43
1985-1986	24.3	42
1986-1987	24.9	47
1987-1988	25.6	47
1988-1989	25.9	46
1989-1990	26.1	46
1990-1991	29.6	49
1991-1992	32.2	47
1992-1993	35.0	57
1993-1994	37.0	55
1994-1995	41.4	58
1995-1996	42.9	71
1996-1997	39.6	76
1997-1998	40.5	91
1998-1999	42.6	92
1999-2000	39.3	105
2000-2001	40.1	101
2001-2002	38.4	105
2002-2003	38.5	99
2003-2004	39.9	98
2004-2005	40.2	104
<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>40.8</u>	<u>105</u>
22-Yr. Mean	35.0	72

The mean number and relative proportion of male and female students enrolled in P.A. programs over the past twenty-three years are shown in Table 53 (next page). The proportion of female and male students remained relatively constant from 1983-1995, average of 61% and 39% respectively. Since then, the percentage of female students has increased to 73% and male students have decreased to 27%. These figures include part-time students.

Table 53. First-Year Class Enrollment, 1983 Through 2005

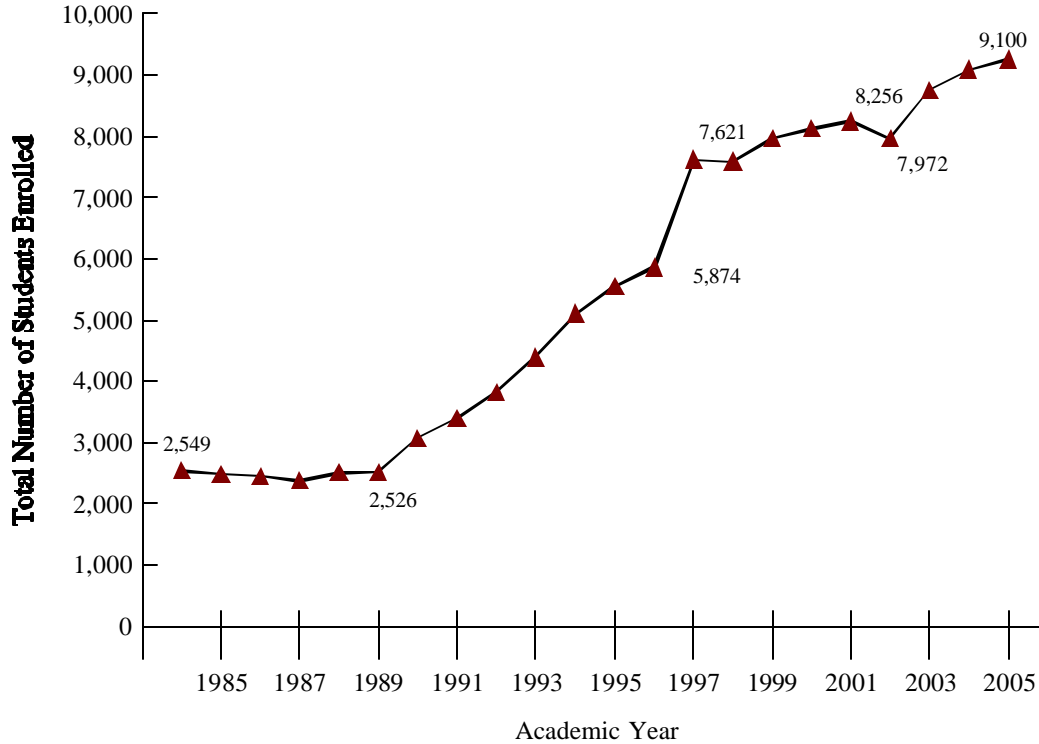
Academic Year	N	Female		Male		Total	
		Mean	(%)	Mean	(%)	Mean	N
1983-1984	39	13.6	58.4%	9.7	41.6%	24.0	43
1984-1985	39	14.6	61.6%	9.1	38.4%	24.1	43
1985-1986	42	15.3	63.0%	9.0	37.0%	24.3	41
1986-1987	44	15.5	62.2%	9.4	37.8%	24.9	47
1987-1988	47	15.7	61.6%	9.9	38.4%	25.6	47
1988-1989	46	16.2	62.3%	9.8	37.7%	25.9	46
1989-1990	46	16.4	62.8%	9.7	37.2%	26.1	46
1990-1991	47	16.3	55.1%	13.3	44.9%	29.6	49
1991-1992	47	19.4	60.2%	12.8	39.8%	32.2	47
1992-1993	55	20.7	59.8%	13.9	40.2%	35.0	56
1993-1994	55	22.2	61.5%	13.9	38.5%	37.0	55
1994-1995	60	24.4	60.2%	16.1	39.8%	41.1	55
1995-1996	71	22.8	58.2%	16.4	41.8%	39.2	71
1996-1997	77	23.5	61.4%	14.8	38.6%	38.3	77
1997-1998	95	24.4	61.9%	15.0	38.1%	39.4	95
1998-1999	91	25.0	62.5%	15.0	37.5%	40.0	91
1999-2000	103	24.0	62.8%	14.2	37.2%	40.2	103
2000-2001	102	24.8	64.9%	13.4	35.1%	38.2	102
2001-2002	105	26.7	68.1%	12.5	31.9%	39.2	105
2002-2003	103	24.7	69.6%	10.8	30.4%	35.5	103
2003-2004	108	26.9	70.4%	11.3	29.6%	38.2	108
2004-2005	104	28.4	70.6%	11.8	29.4%	40.2	104
<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>29.8</u>	<u>73.0%</u>	<u>11.0</u>	<u>27.0%</u>	<u>40.8</u>	<u>105</u>
23-Yr Mean	71	21.4	63.1%	12.3	36.9%	33.9	71

Total Enrollment in P.A. Programs

Figure 14 (next page) illustrates the trends in total student enrollment from 1984 through 2005. Estimates of total enrollment are based on summing mean values for enrollment in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year classes, then multiplying by the number of programs represented. For the 105 programs we estimate total enrollment to be 9,267 in 2005. (The calculations were as follows, 1st yr. 105x40.8=4,284, 2nd yr. 105x37.0=3,885 and 3rd yr. 34 x 32.3=1,098). If one would estimate 1st year enrollment based upon 134 programs, first year enrollment would be 134x40.8=5,467 an increase of 1,183 students.

Total enrollment remained relatively constant from 1984 through 1989. Subsequently, there had been a linear and relatively steep sustained increase until 1996. In 1997, there was a dramatic increase of 30%. Since then, there has been a 19% increase. In addition, since 1984 the number of P.A. programs has changed as follows: 53 (1984); 51 (1985); 49 (1986); 50 (1987); 51 (1988 and 1989); 55 (1990 and 1991) 59 (1992); 63 (1993); 67 (1994); 81 (1995); 89 (1996); 104 (1997); 107 (1998); 120 (1999); 126 (2000), 130 (2001), 132 (2002), 133 (2003), 134 (2004) and 134 in 2005.

Figure 14. Trends in Student Enrollment: 1984 Through 2005



First-Year Students Enrolled by Age

The age distribution of enrolled students for the first-year class is shown in Table 54. The data are expressed as the mean number of individuals per program within each of the age categories examined. Over one-fourth of the students enrolled in the first-year class were over 30 years of age; over one-half were between the ages of 20 and 26 and 1.7% were under 20 years of age.

Table 54. Enrollees by Age, Class of 2005-2006

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number Enrolled</u>	
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Under 20	0.7	1.7%
20-23	13.7	33.1%
24-26	10.7	25.8%
27-29	5.9	14.3%
30-33	4.2	10.1%
Over 33	6.2	15.0%
Total	41.4	100.0%

(N=94)

(N=105)*

* Number of programs reporting.

First-Year Students Enrolled by Age and Consortia Region

The distribution of students enrolled in the 2005-2006 class by age and consortia region is shown in Table 55 (next page). The table reports the percentage of students per program (N=91 programs) in each age category. Students enrolled in those programs located in the Eastern region tended to be younger than those in other

regions, 53.1% were 23 years of age or less. Conversely, students in the Western region were notably older than P.A. students in other regions, 47.3% were over 30 years of age.

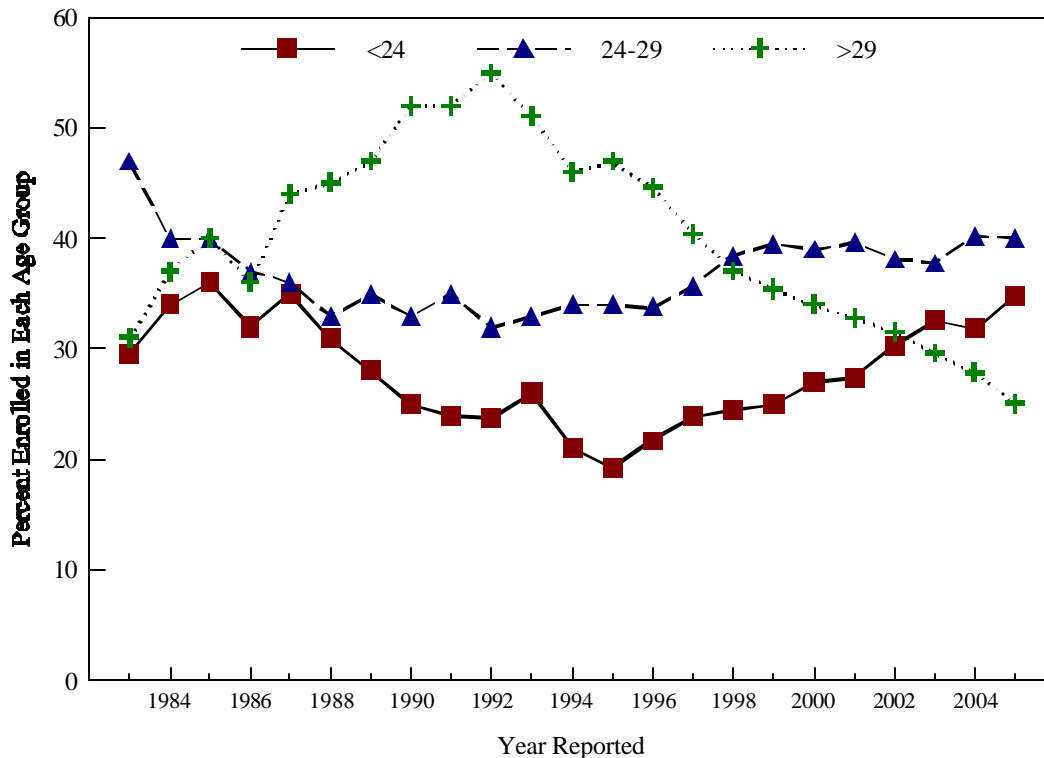
Table 55. P.A. Student Enrollment by Age and Region, Class of 2005-2006

	Age at Application					
	< 20	20-23	24-26	27-29	30-33	>33
Consortia	3.1%	38.4%	25.2%	13.6%	7.0%	12.8%
<u>Region</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Northeastern	3.1%	38.4%	25.2%	13.6%	7.0%	12.8%
Eastern	2.9%	50.2%	20.9%	8.8%	7.2%	10.0%
Southeastern	0.0%	36.4%	29.5%	14.1%	10.0%	10.0%
Midwestern	3.5%	29.6%	28.4%	13.1%	9.1%	16.3%
Heartland	0.5%	29.2%	28.7%	19.7%	10.8%	11.0%
Western	0.0%	12.6%	22.4%	17.7%	17.9%	29.4%
Total	1.7%	33.1%	25.8%	14.3%	10.1%	15.0%

Trends in Enrollment by Age

Trends in the age of enrolled students from 1983 to 2005 are shown in Figure 15. The data were grouped into the following three age categories: under 24 years of age, those between 24 and 29 years and those over 29 years of age. The proportion of enrollees less than 24 years of age increased to 34.8% in 2005, from a pattern of decrease through 1995. Those between the ages of 24 and 29 initially decreased from 1983 to 1992; since then, there has been a gradual increase to the current value of 40.1%. The enrollment of students that were over 29 years of age had systematically increased over time beginning at 32% of the enrollees in 1983, peaking in 1992 (56%) and then decreasing to the current level of 25.1% of enrollees. This is the third year that the percentage of students over 29 years of age was less than both under 24 years of age and the 24 to 29 year old group.

Figure 15. Trends in Enrollee Age: 1983 Through 2005



Average Age of First-Year Enrolled Students

The survey included questions asking the average age of currently enrolled full- and part-time students. As a result of these questions, the average full-time student age was 27.2 and the average age for the part-time student was 33.6.

Table 56 lists average ages of these categories by consortia region. The Western region had the highest average age of full-time students (30.9). The Eastern region had the lowest average age of full-time students (25.4).

Table 56. Average Age of Enrollees by Region

Consortia Region	Enrollees Full-Time		Enrollees Part-Time	
	<u>N</u>	<u>Average Age</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Average Age</u>
Northeastern	20	26.5	2	30.5
Eastern	13	25.4	1	-----
Southeastern	18	26.2	0	-----
Midwestern	18	27.4	4	30.7
Heartland	9	26.6	1	-----
Western	<u>13</u>	<u>30.9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>36.3</u>
Total	91	27.2	11	33.6

First-Year Students Enrolled by Ethnicity

The ethnicity of students enrolled in the first-year class is shown in Table 57. The data are expressed as the mean number and percentage of enrollees per program from each ethnicity category. Over three-fourths of the enrolled students (77.2%) were White/Non-Hispanic; 5.9% were Black/African-American, 6.6% were Latino/Hispanic, 6.4% were Asian.

Table 57. Students Enrolled by Ethnicity

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Number Enrolled</u>		<u># of Programs</u>
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>w/o Minorities</u>
	(N=92)		(N=92)
White/Non-Hispanic	32.8	77.2%	0
Black/African-American	2.5	5.9%	32
Latino/Hispanic/Mex. Am.	2.8	6.6%	31
Asian	2.7	6.4%	28
Asian Subpopulation	0.4	0.9%	70
Native Hawaiian/Other P.I.	0.1	0.2%	83
American Ind./Alaskan	0.4	0.9%	75
Other	<u>0.8</u>	<u>1.9%</u>	<u>63</u>
Total (N=105)	40.8	100%	6

Thirty-two of the 92 program respondents (34.8%) did not enroll any Black/African-American students and thirty-one programs did not enroll any Hispanic students. Six programs (6.5%) did not enroll any type of minority student in 2005.

Ethnic Representation of First Year Enrollees by Consortia Region

The mean number and proportion of P.A. students enrolled in the first-year class on the basis of both ethnicity and consortia region is in Table 58.

Table 58. Enrollees by Ethnicity and Consortia Region

<u>Consortia Region</u>	<u>Enrollees</u>			
	<u>White</u>		<u>Non-White</u>	
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>
Northeastern	25.0	64.1%	14.0	35.9%
Eastern	39.1	85.0%	6.9	15.0%
Southeastern	36.2	82.1%	7.9	17.9%
Midwestern	33.4	88.9%	4.2	11.1%
Heartland	34.3	73.8%	12.1	26.2%
Western	33.6	70.9%	13.8	29.1%
Total	32.8	77.2%	9.7	22.8%

For purposes of comparing across regions, minorities were grouped into a single category and designated non-white. There was considerable variation in the proportion of minorities enrolled in programs across regions. The Northeastern region enrolled the largest percentage (35.9%) of non-white students. Programs in the Midwestern region had the fewest number of non-white enrollees (11.1%).

The number and percent of programs reporting no minority students enrolled in the first-year class is shown in Table 59. Six programs, in separate regions, had no minority students enrolled.

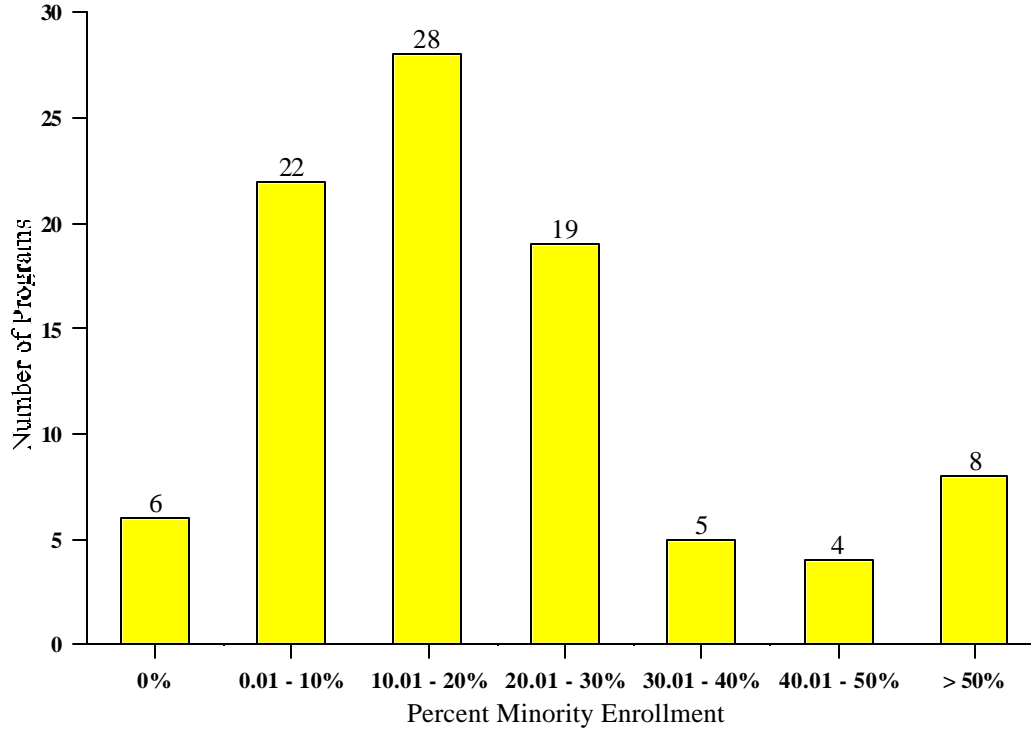
Table 59. Number of Programs with No Minority Enrollment by Consortia Region

<u>Consortia Region</u>	<u>N</u>	<u># of Programs</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Northeastern	22	1	4.5%
Eastern	12	2	16.7%
Southeastern	18	1	5.6%
Midwestern	19	2	10.5%
Heartland	7	0	0.0%
Western	14	0	0.0%
Total	92	6	6.5%

Number of Programs versus Percent First Year Minority Student Enrollment

Figure 16 (next page) represents the number of programs with certain percentages of minority enrollment. There are 29 programs that have a larger percentage of minority enrollment than the mean of 22.8%; 63 programs have less. The average minority enrollment for programs with greater than 20% or more is 37.3%; for programs with less than 20% minority enrollment, 9.4%.

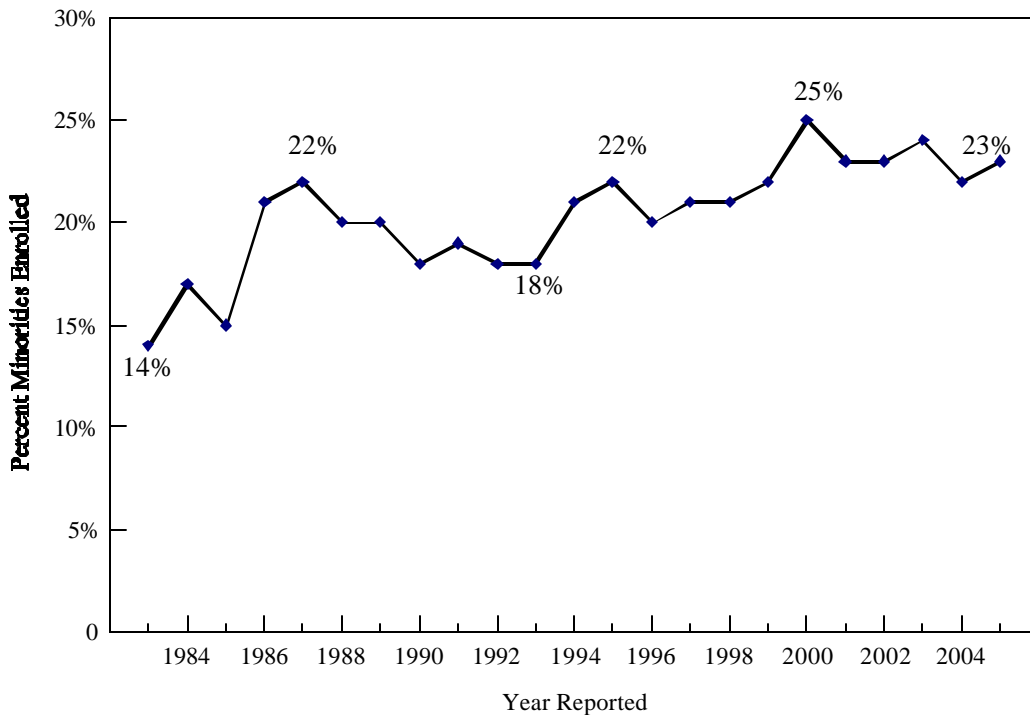
Figure 16. Number of Programs vs. Percentage of Minority Enrollment



Trends in First-Year Minority Student Enrollment, 1983 Through 2005

The proportion of minority and non-minority students enrolled in P.A. programs over a twenty-three year period (1983-1984 through 2005-2006) is shown in Table 60 (next page) and Figure 17. The proportion of non-white students in the first-year class fluctuated between 14% in 1983 and 25% in 2000-2001.

Figure 17. Trends in Minority Student Enrollment: 1983 Through 2005



Expressed differently, the number of minority students has more than doubled from a mean of 4.0/program in 1983 to 9.7/program in 2005.

Table 60. Ethnicity of P.A. Students Enrolled from 1983 Through 2005

Academic Year	N	White		Non-White		First Yr. Enrollment
		Mean	%	Mean	%	
1983-1984	39	20.7	86.2%	4.0	13.8%	24.0
1984-1985	39	20.3	83.4%	4.1	16.6%	24.5
1985-1986	41	20.9	85.3%	3.6	14.7%	24.6
1986-1987	47	19.6	78.8%	5.3	21.1%	24.9
1987-1988	47	19.7	77.7%	5.9	22.3%	25.6
1988-1989	46	20.8	79.7%	5.3	20.3%	25.9
1989-1990	46	20.9	80.1%	5.2	19.9%	26.1
1990-1991	48	24.6	82.3%	5.3	17.7%	29.9
1991-1992	47	26.0	81.0%	6.1	19.0%	32.1
1992-1993	56	26.9	82.5%	5.7	17.5%	32.6
1993-1994	55	29.3	82.3%	6.3	17.7%	35.6
1994-1995	58	33.2	77.5%	8.8	20.9%	42.0
1995-1996	69	32.4	77.7%	9.3	22.3%	41.5
1996-1997	76	31.3	79.6%	8.0	20.4%	39.6
1997-1998	91	32.4	79.2%	8.5	20.8%	40.6
1998-1999	89	32.9	78.9%	8.8	21.1%	42.6
1999-2000	103	30.7	77.9%	8.7	22.1%	39.3
2000-2001	102	30.2	75.1%	10.0	24.9%	40.1
2001-2002	105	29.0	77.3%	8.5	22.7%	38.0
2002-2003	99	29.8	77.4%	8.7	22.6%	38.5
2003-2004	98	30.1	75.6%	9.7	24.4%	39.9
2004-2005	102	33.1	77.9%	9.4	22.1%	40.2
<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>32.8</u>	<u>77.2%</u>	<u>9.7</u>	<u>22.8%</u>	<u>40.8</u>
23-yr. Mean	69	27.3	79.6%	7.2	20.3%	34.3

First-year minority student enrollment over twenty-three years has averaged 20.3% per year (mean of 7.2 students/program).

Academic Characteristics of First-Year P.A. Students

The academic profile of students at the time of enrollment are shown in Table 61 (next page). Over three-fourth (82.6%) of the students enrolled in 2005 had earned at least a baccalaureate degree (76.3% as their highest degree) while less than one-fifth (12.9%) entered with no academic degree. Only 4.4% of the enrollees had earned an associate level degree prior to entry. Of the full-time students, 6.2% were admitted with a graduate-level degree, predominantly a master's degree (5.0%).

Table 61. Academic Characteristics of P.A. Students Enrolled in 2005

Highest Academic Credential Earned	Full-Time		Part-Time		Total	
	Mean	%	Mean	%	Mean	%
No Academic Degree	5.2	12.9%	0.1	12.5%	5.3	12.9%
Associate Degree	1.8	4.5%	0.0	0.0%	1.8	4.4%
Baccalaureate Degree	30.7	76.4%	0.6	75.0%	31.3	76.3%
Masters Degree	2.0	5.0%	0.1	12.5%	2.1	5.1%
Doctoral Degree	0.5	1.2%	0.0	0.0%	0.5	1.2%
Total	40.2	100.0%	0.8	100.0%	41.0	100.0%

Academic Characteristics of First-Year Enrolled P.A. Students by Consortia Region

A comparison of the academic degrees earned by entering students across regions is shown in Table 62. The data are expressed as the percentage of students per program in each degree category. Each of the regions had more than 60% of students entering with a baccalaureate degree. The Eastern region had the largest number of enrollees with no degree (24.9%). The Southeastern region had 7.5% of its enrollees with a master’s degree.

Table 62. Academic Characteristics of Enrollees by Region, Class of 2005-2006

Consortia Region	N	Degree Characteristics					Total Mean
		No Degree	Associate Degree	Bacc. Degree	Masters Degree	Doctoral Degree	
Northeastern	20	23.9%	6.1%	62.7%	5.4%	1.8%	38.3
Eastern	13	24.6%	2.8%	69.6%	2.2%	0.9%	44.8
Southeastern	18	2.2%	1.8%	88.2%	7.5%	0.4%	43.8
Midwestern	19	13.4%	3.3%	77.7%	4.9%	0.7%	36.6
Heartland	9	5.6%	3.1%	86.2%	4.8%	0.3%	39.3
Western	17	6.7%	8.4%	77.4%	5.1%	2.4%	44.1
Total	96	12.9%	4.4%	76.3%	5.1%	1.2%	40.8

An analysis of grade point average (GPA) and mean number of months of health care experience by consortia region is shown in Table 63.

Table 63. Grade Point Average and Mean Number of Months of Health Care Experience by Region, Class of 2005-2006

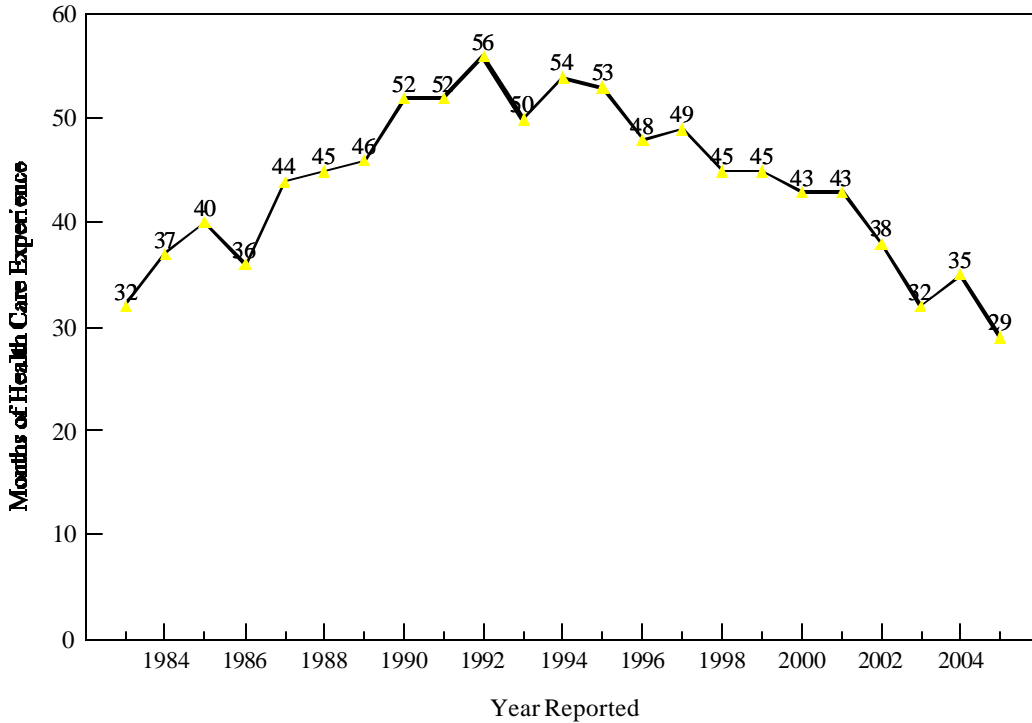
Consortia Region	Grade Point Average			Months of H.C.E.		
	N	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean	S.D.
Northeastern	24	3.33	0.14	16	19.7	11.1
Eastern	15	3.42	0.12	9	28.7	21.9
Southeastern	18	3.39	0.12	15	21.6	16.2
Midwestern	20	3.42	0.15	19	30.9	21.6
Heartland	10	3.54	0.14	8	24.1	11.9
Western	16	3.30	0.29	14	45.7	27.2
Total	103	3.39	0.17	81	28.6	20.9

The cumulative GPA of entering students ranged from 2.70 to 3.72 with a mean of 3.39. Programs in the Heartland regions reported the highest GPA for entering students. The average number of months of health related

experience prior to admission varied extensively across regions (range of 0-97 months). For example, students in programs located in the Northeastern region had completed an average of 19.7 months of health-related experience while those entering programs in the Western regions had 45.7 months of health care experience. The average for all programs was less than three years (28.6 months).

As shown in Figure 18, the months of health care experience systematically increased from 1983 through 1992 to a high of 56 months. Since that time, H.C.E. has had an overall decrease to a low of 29 months in 2005.

Figure 18. Trends in Health Care Experience of Enrollees: 1983 Through 2005



SECTION IV. GRADUATE INFORMATION

Number and Attrition of Students by Gender

The number and gender of students graduating during the 2005-2006 academic year, and those withdrawing and decelerating prior to graduation, are shown in Table 64. The mean number of 2005 graduates was 34.5/program and represented 89.8% of the students originally enrolled in this class. We estimate that there was a total of 4,416 P.A.'s graduated from all programs graduating class in 2005 (128 programs x 34.5/program). It should be noted that six of the programs did not graduate students in 2005. As in previous years, the majority (71.6%) of 2005 graduates were women.

Table 64. Number of Graduates and Students Withdrawn or Decelerated in 2005-2006 by Gender

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Number Graduated</u>		<u>Attrition of Students</u>		<u>Students Decelerated</u>	
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>
Female	24.7	91.1%	1.3	4.8%	1.1	4.1%
Male	9.8	86.7%	1.0	8.8%	0.5	4.4%
Total/Program	34.5	89.8%	2.3	6.0%	1.6	4.2%

* Proportion withdrawing or decelerating was calculated as:

$$\frac{\sum_{P=1}^N (G_p W_p \text{ or } D_p)}{\sum_{P=1}^N (G_p + W_p + D_p)}$$

where: G_p = number graduated from program "p".
 W_p = number withdrew from program "p".
 D_p = number decelerated from program "p".

The mean number of students withdrawing prior to graduation was 2.3 students/program for an overall attrition rate of 6.0%. The attrition rate for males was higher than the attrition rate for females, 8.8% and 4.8% respectively. The attrition rate is lower than in 2004 (6.2%) and lower than the average of 7.4% over the previous twenty-two years.

On average, the rate of deceleration was 4.2%. A decelerated student was defined as one who was enrolled, experienced academic, personal, and/or financial difficulty, but remained a student in the program on a part-time basis and/or was on a temporary leave of absence.

The reasons cited for withdrawal are presented in Table 65. There were a total of 208 students withdrawing from the 2005 graduating class (as reported by 65 programs). The most common reason for withdrawal was academic (55.3%). It should be noted that program staff provided the reasons cited for withdrawal, rather than the students involved.

Table 65. Reasons for Student Withdrawal from the Program

<u>Reason Given</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>Reason Given</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Academic	115	55.3%	Career Change	5	2.4%
Personal	73	35.1%	Medical	5	2.4%
Financial	1	0.5%	Other	9	4.3%
			Total	208	100.0%

Attrition Rates of Students by Consortia Region

The mean number of graduates, attrition rates, and students decelerated by consortia region are shown in Table 66. Programs in the Western region had the largest graduating class with a mean of 42.8 students per program, while programs in the Midwestern region had the smallest graduating class (27.7/program).

Table 66. Number Graduated, Withdrawn and Decelerated by Consortia Region

Consortia <u>Region</u>	<u>N</u>	Mean # <u>Graduated</u>	Mean and Rate <u>of Attrition</u>		Mean and Rate <u>of Deceleration</u>	
Northeastern	19	29.7	2.8	8.1%	1.9	5.5%
Eastern	13	36.9	3.3	7.2%	5.4	11.8%
Southeastern	14	37.9	2.1	5.1%	0.8	2.0%
Midwestern	19	27.7	1.2	4.0%	1.3	4.3%
Heartland	11	38.4	3.5	8.1%	1.2	2.8%
Western	<u>12</u>	<u>42.8</u>	<u>1.6</u>	<u>3.5%</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>2.6%</u>
Total	88	34.5	2.3	6.0%	1.6	4.2%

The highest attrition rates occurred in those programs located in the Northeastern and Heartland region (8.1%) while programs in the Western region had the lowest attrition rates (3.5%). In comparison to the previous year, the number graduated/ program in 2005 has increased (1.8%). The rate of attrition decreased in two of the six regions (Eastern and Heartland); deceleration increased in four regions (Northeastern, Eastern, Southeastern and Midwestern). Programs in the Eastern region reported the largest rate of deceleration (11.8%), while programs in the Southeastern region had the lowest rate of deceleration (2.0%).

The reasons for withdrawal by region are shown in Table 67. Programs in the Midwestern region had the highest percentage of students withdraw for academic reasons (64.3%) while programs in the Western region cited academic reasons for withdrawal 47.4% of the time. In the Heartland region, 51.3% of the programs withdrawals were for personal reasons as compared with 26.7% in the Southeastern region.

Table 67. Reasons for Withdrawal by Consortia Region

Consortia <u>Region</u>	Reasons for Withdrawal from Program						<u>Total</u>
	<u>Academic</u>		<u>Personal</u>		<u>Other</u>		
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	
Northeastern	33	58.9%	18	32.1%	0	0.0%	56
Eastern	18	50.0%	13	36.1%	3	8.3%	36
Southeastern	18	60.0%	8	26.7%	2	6.7%	30
Midwestern	18	64.3%	8	28.6%	1	3.6%	28
Heartland	19	48.7%	20	51.3%	0	0.0%	39
Western	<u>9</u>	<u>47.4%</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>31.6%</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15.8%</u>	<u>19</u>
Total	115	55.3%	73	35.1%	9	4.3%	208

Graduation, Attrition, and Deceleration of Students by Age

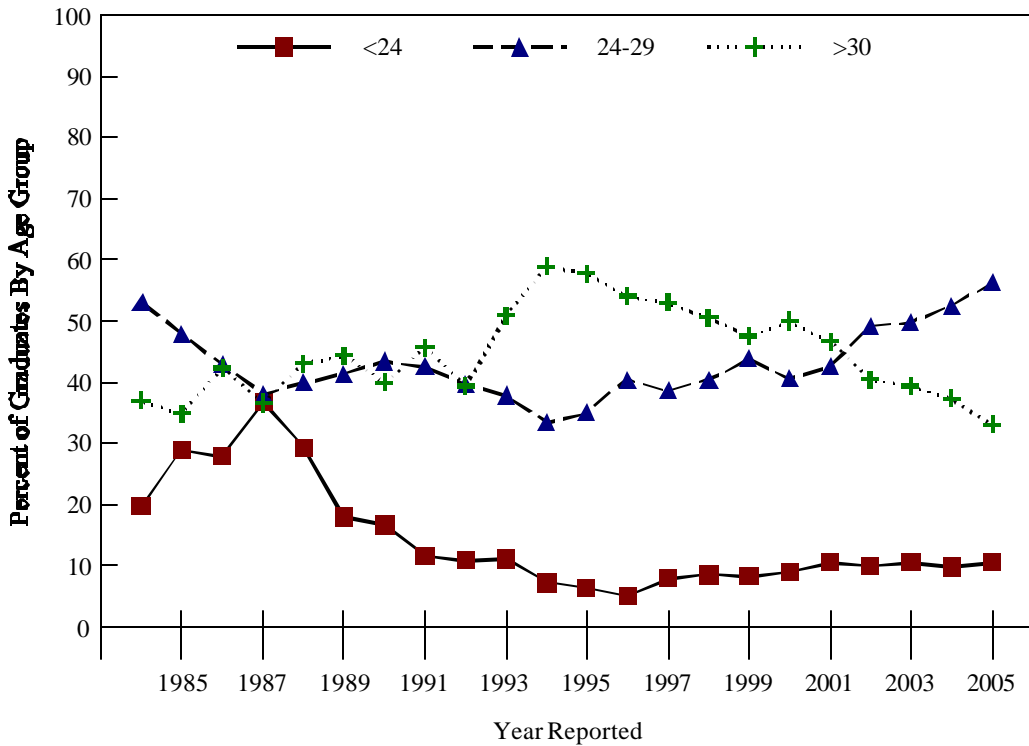
The mean number of graduates, attrition rates, and students decelerated for each age category is shown in Table 68. Almost one-half (46.1%) of the graduates were between the ages of 20 and 26 upon graduation and 33.2% were 30 years of age or older. Attrition was highest for those over 33 years of age. Deceleration rates were highest for students between the ages of 30 and 33 and least for those between 20 and 23 and 27 and 29.

Table 68. Number Graduated, Decelerated and Attrition Rates of 2005 Graduates by Age

<u>Age at Graduation</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Number Graduated</u>		<u>Withdrew Prior To Graduation</u>		<u>Attrition Rate</u>	<u>Students Decelerated</u>	
		<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Under 20	86	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
20-23	86	3.6	10.6%	0.2	10.0%	5.1%	0.1	2.6%
24-26	86	12.1	35.5%	0.3	15.0%	2.3%	0.4	3.1%
27-29	86	7.1	20.8%	0.4	20.0%	5.2%	0.2	2.6%
30-33	86	5.0	14.7%	0.4	20.0%	6.9%	0.4	6.9%
Over 33	86	6.3	18.5%	0.7	35.0%	9.5%	0.4	5.4%
Total/Program	88	34.5	100%	2.3	100.0%	6.0%	1.6	4.2%

Figure 19 shows the trends in age from 1984 through 2005. The proportion of recent graduates in the youngest age group (<24) has generally decreased over time, with a slight increase over the previous nine years. Conversely, the middle age group (24 - 29) has increased 67.6% since 1994. The graduates in the older age group (>30) have decreased 43.7% since 1994.

Figure 19. Trends in the Age of Graduates: 1984 Through 2005



The mean number of graduates, withdrawals, decelerated students and attrition rates for the 2005 graduating class by ethnicity is shown in Table 69. The majority of the recent graduates were White/Non-Hispanic (80%), less than one-fourth (20%) were minorities.

Table 69. Number and Attrition Rates of 2005 Graduates by Ethnicity

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean Number Graduated</u>		<u>Withdrew Prior to Graduation</u>		<u>Attrition Rate</u>	<u>Students Decelerated</u>	
		<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Rate</u>
White/Non-Hispanic	88	27.8	79.9%	1.6	66.7%	5.2%	1.1	3.6%
Black/African-Amer.	88	1.7	4.9%	0.3	12.5%	13.0%	0.3	13.0%
Latino/Hispanic/Mex. Am.	88	1.8	5.2%	0.2	8.3%	9.5%	0.1	4.8%
Asian	88	1.8	5.2%	0.2	8.3%	10.0%	0.0	0.0%
Asian Subpopulations	88	0.6	1.7%	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Native Haw./Other P.I.	88	0.1	0.3%	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
American Ind./Alaskan	88	0.3	0.9%	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Other/Unknown	88	0.7	2.0%	0.1	4.2%	12.5%	0.0	0.0%
Total/Program	88	34.5	100.0%	2.3	100.0%	6.0%	1.6	4.2%

Within the minority groups graduating, 24.3% were Black/African-American, 25.7% were Latino/Hispanics, 25.7% were Asian and the remainder were classified as Asian Subpopulation, Alaskan/Native American or Other/Unknown. Sixty percent (N=53) of the 88 programs reported at least one Black/African-American among their 2005 graduates. Forty-eight (48%) programs also graduated at least one Latino/Hispanic.

The Black/African-American students had the highest rate of attrition (13.0%), followed by Asian students (10.0%). The White/Non-Hispanics had an attrition rate of 5.2%. Proportionately, minority students were more likely to be decelerated, particularly the Black/African-American students (13.0%) as compared to White students (3.6%).

Trends in Student Attrition: 1984 Through 2005

Figure 20 (next page) shows the relative attrition rates from 1984 through 2005 for all students and for white and non-white students. Attrition rates have averaged 7.4% over the past twenty-two years, ranging from a high of 14% in 1988 to a low of 3.9% in 1999. The 2005 attrition rate for white students was 5.2% and 9.8% for non-white students; the latter represents an increase from 2004. Before 1990, decelerated students were included in the attrition rates. If decelerated students were included this year, the adjusted attrition rate would be 10.2%.

Gender and Ethnicity of 2005 P.A. Graduates by Consortia Region

The mean number and proportion of 2005 graduates by gender, ethnicity, and consortia region are shown in Table 70 (next page). Proportionately, more minority students graduated from programs in the Western region (29%) than from programs located in the Eastern region (11.1%). The Western region had the highest proportion of male graduates (34.1%) and the Midwestern region the highest proportion of female graduates (76.5%).

Figure 20: Trends in Student Attrition: 1984 Through 2005

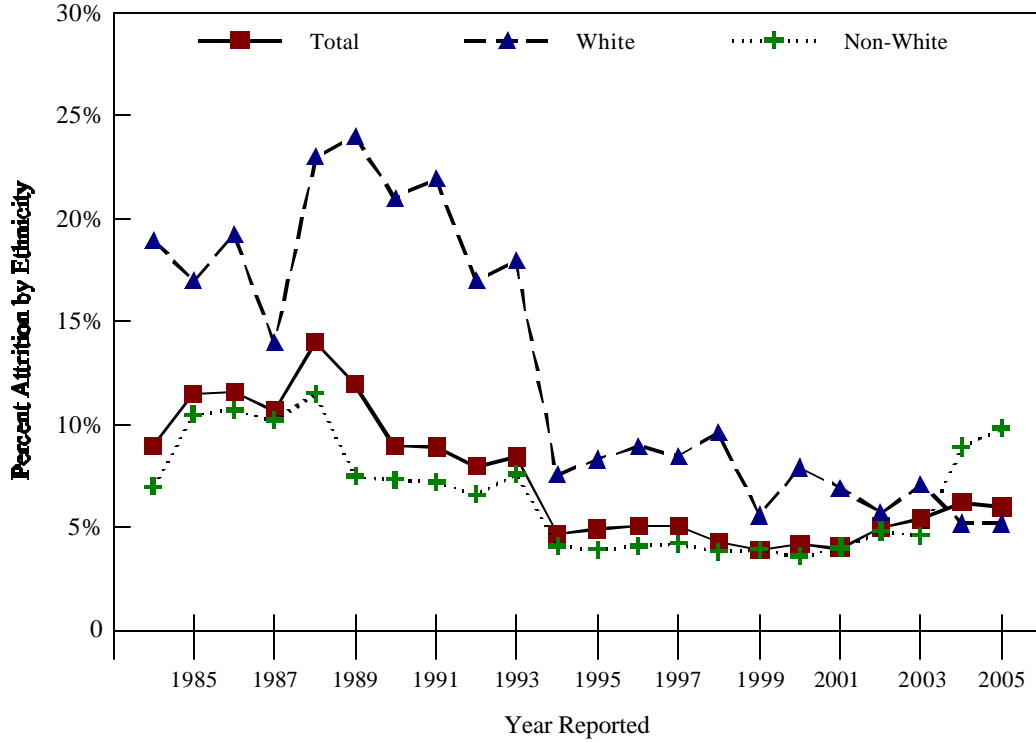


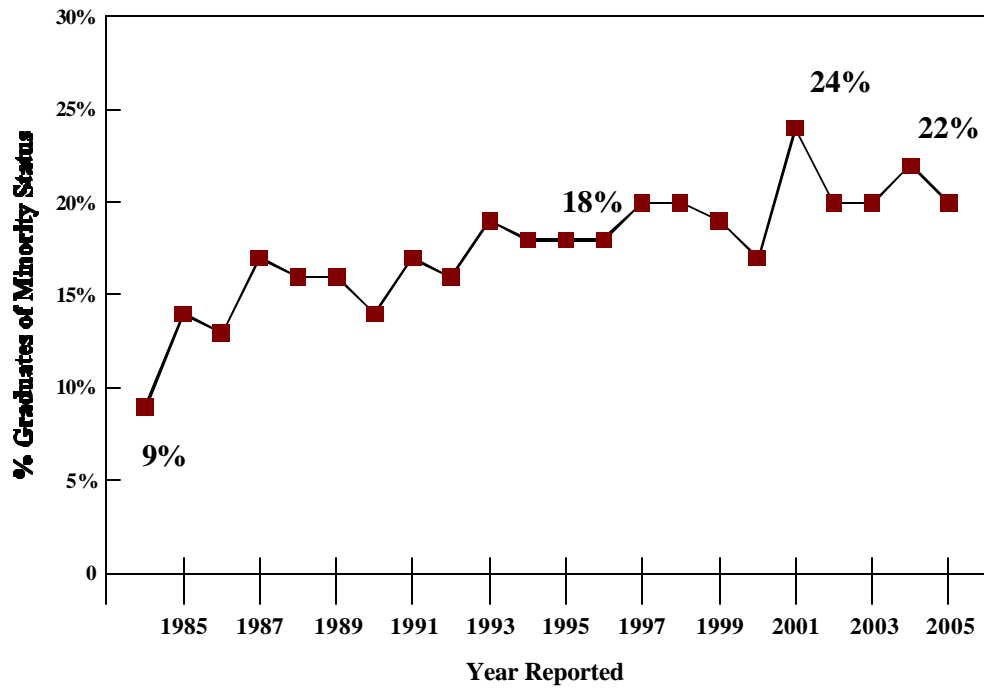
Table 70. 2005 Graduates by Gender, Ethnicity, and Consortia Region

Consortia Region	N	Mean # of Graduates	Gender		Ethnicity				
			Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other
Northeastern	19	29.7	27.6%	72.4%	75.0%	7.4%	5.7%	8.5%	3.4%
Eastern	13	36.9	25.2%	74.8%	88.9%	4.0%	1.3%	2.9%	2.9%
Southeastern	14	37.9	28.5%	71.5%	84.5%	6.2%	4.7%	2.1%	2.5%
Midwestern	19	27.7	23.5%	76.5%	82.6%	4.0%	2.3%	3.8%	7.4%
Heartland	11	38.4	32.0%	68.0%	79.0%	4.1%	7.1%	4.9%	4.9%
Western	12	42.8	34.1%	65.9%	71.4%	3.1%	9.9%	8.0%	7.6%
Total	88	34.5	28.4%	71.6%	79.9%	4.9%	5.2%	5.2%	4.8%

Trends in the Graduation of Minorities

The graduation of minority P.A.'s has been monitored since 1984. Figure 21 (next page) shows the proportion of non-white P.A. graduates over the past twenty-two years. During the twenty-two year period for which data was available, the graduation of non-white students averaged 17.6%, ranging from a high of 24% in 2001 to a low of 9.0% in 1984. The reader is referred to Figure 17 concerning enrollment of minority students, which over the past twenty-three years, has averaged 20.3% (Table 60).

Figure 21. Trends in Minority P.A. Graduates: 1984 Through 2005



Employment Status of 2005 P.A. Graduates

A summary of the employment status of the recent graduates, as reported by 80 programs, is shown in Table 71. It should be noted that the time elapsed between a program's graduation date and the date the survey was completed varied.

Table 71. Employment Characteristics of 2005 P.A. Graduates

<u>Employment Status</u>	<u>Mean Number Per Program</u>	<u>S.D.</u>	<u>Relative Frequency</u>
Employed:			
As a P.A.	23.4	10.5	67.6%
Not as a P.A.	0.2	0.9	0.8%
Unemployed	1.3	3.2	3.8%
Continued with Education	0.1	0.3	0.3%
Unknown	<u>9.6</u>	<u>15.4</u>	<u>27.7%</u>
Total (N=80)	34.6	16.3	100.0%

The majority (67.6%) of recent graduates were employed as a physician assistant, a 2.5% decrease from 2004 graduates (69.3%). Almost one-third of the graduates were either unemployed or their employment status was unknown.

Number of Recent Graduates by State

The number of 2005 graduates, by state, is shown in Table 72 and includes the number of programs reporting from each state. Those states with the largest number of programs are those with the largest number of graduates, e.g., CA, NY, PA, TX. A total of 2,758 students from 80 programs completed their training in 2005. However, if we consider all programs that graduated P.A.'s in 2005 (i.e., 128 programs) we estimate that the total number of graduates would be approximately 4,416 (128 x 34.5).

Table 72. Number of 2005 Graduates by State

<u>State</u>	<u>Number Prog.</u>	<u>Number Grads</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Number Prog.</u>	<u>Number Grads</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Number Prog.</u>	<u>Number Grads</u>
AL	1	34	KS	1	41	NM	1	11
AZ	2	138	LA	1	24	NY	12	323
CA	3	152	MA	3	81	OH	4	97
CO	2	60	ME	1	43	OK	1	48
CT	1	49	MI	2	65	OR	1	28
FL	2	143	MN	1	27	PA	10	383
GA	2	82	NH	1	27	SD	1	19
IA	2	60	NC	4	150	TX	5	166
ID	1	29	ND	1	9	VA	4	99
IL	2	83	NE	2	58	WA	1	74
IN	2	53	NJ	1	44	WI	<u>2</u>	<u>58</u>
Total							80	2758

2005 Program Graduates: Employment Status by Consortia Region

The employment of recent graduates varied depending on the region where their program was located. Employment data are shown in Table 73. Programs located in the Northeastern region reported that 83% of their 2005 graduates had secured employment at the time the program reported. Programs in the Western and Heartland regions had the lowest proportion of graduates employed (54%). The overall proportion of recent graduates who were unemployed, including the "Other" category, averaged 32.4% across the regions.

Table 73. Employment Characteristics of 2005 Graduates by Consortia Region

<u>Consortia Region</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Employed</u>		<u>Unemployed</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Total Mean</u>
		<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	
Northeastern	19	24.7	82.9%	0.5	1.8%	4.6	15.5%	29.8
Eastern	10	25.8	67.4%	0.9	2.3%	11.6	30.3%	38.3
Southeastern	13	26.3	67.3%	1.7	4.3%	11.3	28.9%	39.1
Midwestern	17	21.0	75.8%	0.5	1.7%	6.2	22.7%	27.7
Heartland	10	18.2	54.0%	4.1	12.2%	11.4	33.8%	33.7
Western	<u>11</u>	<u>24.1</u>	<u>53.9%</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>2.2%</u>	<u>19.6</u>	<u>43.9%</u>	<u>44.7</u>
Total	80	23.4	67.6%	1.3	3.8%	9.9	28.6%	34.6

Trends in Medical Specialty Selection of Recent Graduates, 1985 Through 2005

A comparison of the employment of recent graduates in primary and non-primary care medicine from 1985 through 2005 is shown in Table 74 (next page) and illustrated in Figure 22 (primary care includes F.M., G.I.M., Ob/Gyn, Peds) (page 60). From 1985 through 2005 there was an overall decrease in the proportion of graduates

entering primary care practice, from 60% in 1985 to a low of 34% in 2003. In the past twenty-one years, an average of 52% of the graduates have selected primary care medical specialties.

Table 74. Employment of Recent Graduates in Primary and Non-Primary Care Medicine, 1985 Through 2005

Academic Year	Primary Care		Non-Primary Care		Total
	N	%	N	%	N
1985-1986	399	59.9%	278	41.1%	677
1986-1987	404	55.6%	322	44.4%	726
1987-1988	418	56.4%	323	43.6%	741
1988-1989	422	52.2%	387	47.8%	809
1989-1990	398	48.2%	427	51.8%	825
1990-1991	508	58.1%	367	41.9%	875
1991-1992	511	53.5%	444	46.5%	955
1992-1993	674	55.7%	537	44.3%	1211
1993-1994	826	58.0%	597	42.0%	1423
1994-1995	852	55.5%	684	44.5%	1536
1995-1996	817	52.2%	702	44.8%	1566
1996-1997	970	62.3%	588	37.7%	1558
1997-1998	1046	56.9%	792	43.1%	1838
1998-1999	1113	54.5%	928	45.5%	2041
1999-2000	1176	53.7%	1015	46.3%	2191
2000-2001	1143	53.9%	977	46.1%	2120
2001-2002	1014	46.5%	1166	53.5%	2180
2002-2003	964	49.0%	1003	51.0%	1967
2003-2004	623	33.7%	1228	66.3%	1851
2004-2005	837	38.3%	1346	61.7%	2183
<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>35.2%</u>	<u>1214</u>	<u>64.8%</u>	<u>1874</u>
21-Yr. Mean	751	51.9%	724	47.9%	1477

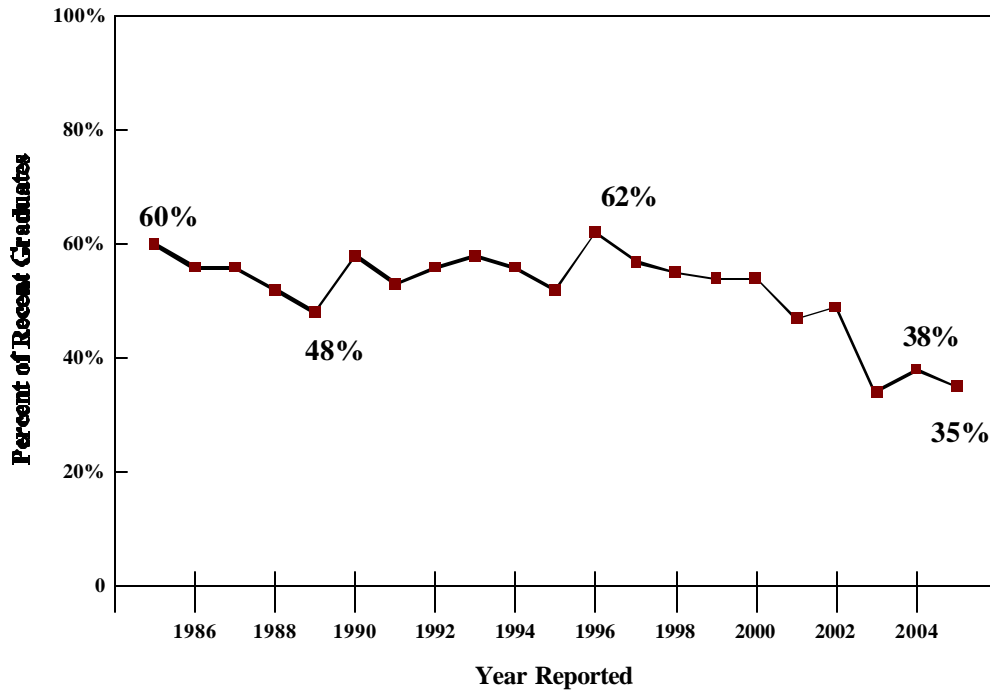
Employment of Recent Graduates in Primary and Non-Primary Care by Consortia Region

The relative proportion of 2005 graduates entering primary and non-primary care medical specialties by region is shown in Table 75. Graduates from programs in the Western region had the highest level of employment in primary care medical specialties (51%). Graduates from the Eastern region had the highest level of employment in non-primary care specialties (75%).

Table 75. Employment of 2005 Graduates in Primary and Non-Primary Care Medicine, by Consortia Region

Consortia Region	N	Primary Care		Non-Primary Care	
		Mean	%	Mean	%
Northeastern	19	7.9	32.0%	16.8	68.0%
Eastern	10	6.5	25.2%	19.3	74.8%
Southeastern	13	9.2	35.0%	17.1	65.0%
Midwestern	17	6.8	32.4%	14.2	67.6%
Heartland	10	7.3	40.1%	10.9	59.9%
Western	<u>11</u>	<u>12.3</u>	<u>51.0%</u>	<u>11.8</u>	<u>49.0%</u>
Total	80	8.3	35.2%	15.2	64.8%

Figure 22. Recent Graduate Employment in Primary Care: 1985 Through 2005



The distribution of recent graduates selecting primary care medical specialties from 1993 through 2005 is shown in Table 76. Over the period analyzed, family medicine and general internal medicine remained the primary care specialties of choice. This year, pediatrics and general internal medicine increased. The ten-year average was 69% for family medicine and 19% for general internal medicine. The selection of both obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics also varied over time, ranging from 3.0% to 8.0% and 5.3% to 9.2%, respectively.

Table 76. Trends in the Primary Care Medical Specialty Selection of Recent Graduates, 1995 Through 2005

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Clinical	(57)*	(68)	(74)	(77)	(76)	(82)	(73)	(75)	(88)	(80)
<u>Specialty</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Fam Md	73.1	73.2	75.1	74.9	67.3	67.4	70.1	63.7	65.4	61.2
Int Med	16.9	17.7	16.3	14.8	21.5	17.0	16.4	20.5	22.5	26.8
Gen Ped	6.4	5.3	5.6	6.8	5.5	9.2	7.3	7.7	6.8	7.7
Ob/Gyn	3.6	3.8	3.0	3.4	5.7	6.4	6.2	8.0	5.7	4.3

* Number of Programs responding

Trends in the graduates' selection of non-primary care medicine over the past ten years shown in Table 77 (next page). Surgery (plus sub-specialties) and medicine sub-specialties accounted for almost three-fourths (72.1%) of the positions selected by recent graduates in non-primary care.

Table 77. Trends in the Non-Primary Care Medical Specialty Selection of Recent Graduates, 1995 Through 2005

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Clinical	(57)*	(68)	(74)	(77)	(76)	(82)	(73)	(75)	(88)	(80)
<u>Specialty</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Surgery	34.1	35.1	36.2	31.4	40.4	38.6	41.2	46.6	48.5	47.8
Med	30.6	29.1	28.4	23.3	18.6	22.4	20.7	33.2	29.0	24.3
Em Med	28.7	32.3	33.3	37.7	36.5	32.6	29.4	17.5	19.2	25.2
Psych.	1.0	1.5	0.7	3.3	2.1	2.7	2.9	1.7	1.9	1.2
Ind Med	5.6	2.0	1.4	4.3	2.4	3.7	5.8	1.0	1.3	1.5

* Number of Programs responding

A list of the specific internal medicine subspecialties selected by 2005 graduates is shown in Table 78, along with the number of graduates and programs represented. A total of 247 recent graduates from sixty-seven programs were employed among the subspecialties. The largest number of recent graduates selected cardiology (n=84; 47 programs).

Table 78. Internal Medicine Subspecialties Selected by 2005 Graduates

<u>Medical Area</u>	<u># of Graduates</u>	<u># of Programs</u>	<u>Medical Area</u>	<u># of Graduates</u>	<u># of Programs</u>
Cardiology	84	47	Neurology	19	16
Dermatology	41	28	Gastroenterology	24	19
Oncology	27	17	AIDS/Inf. Diseases	6	6
			Other	46	31
			Total	247	67

A list of surgical subspecialties selected by the recent graduates is in Table 79. A total of 384 recent graduates from seventy-four P.A. programs selected surgical sub-specialty areas as their first position. Proportionately, these graduates were employed most commonly in orthopedics (n=228; 59%).

Table 79. Surgical Subspecialties Selected by 2005 Graduates

<u>Surgical Area</u>	<u>Number of Graduates</u>	<u>Number of Programs</u>	<u>Surgical Area</u>	<u>Number of Graduates</u>	<u>Number of Programs</u>
Orthopedics	228	67	Plastic	8	7
CV/CT	57	35	Organ Transplant	3	3
Neurosurgery	44	35	Other Surg. Spec.	44	30
			Total	384	74

Medical Specialty Selection of Recent Graduates by Consortia Region

A comparison of medical specialty selection of recent graduates by consortia region is shown in Table 80 (next page). The data are presented as the mean number of recent graduates per program employed in each area. Medical specialties in which the largest proportion of recent graduates was employed is shown and include, family medicine, internal medicine (including subspecialties), and surgery (including subspecialties).

Table 80. Medical Specialties Selected by 2005 Graduates by Consortia Region

<u>Consortia Region</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Family Medicine</u>		<u>Internal Medicine*</u>		<u>Surgery*</u>	
		<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>%</u>
Northeastern	19	3.1	18.6%	6.3	37.7%	7.3	43.7%
Eastern	10	4.7	24.9%	5.2	27.5%	9.0	47.6%
Southeastern	13	6.5	33.9%	6.9	35.9%	5.8	30.2%
Midwestern	17	4.3	28.9%	5.0	33.6%	5.6	37.6%
Heartland	10	4.7	35.6%	4.4	33.3%	4.1	31.1%
Western	<u>11</u>	<u>10.2</u>	<u>56.0%</u>	<u>3.7</u>	<u>20.3%</u>	<u>4.3</u>	<u>23.6%</u>
Total	80	5.3	31.5%	5.4	32.1%	6.1	36.3%

* Includes the sub-specialties

Please note the "other" category is not included in the table. Graduates from the Western region selected family medicine preferentially (56%) and those from the Northeastern region had the least percentage entering family medicine (18.6%). Conversely, graduates from programs in the Northeast selected internal medicine (37.7%) more frequently than did graduates from other regions.

Regional Variation and Trends in New Graduate Starting Salaries

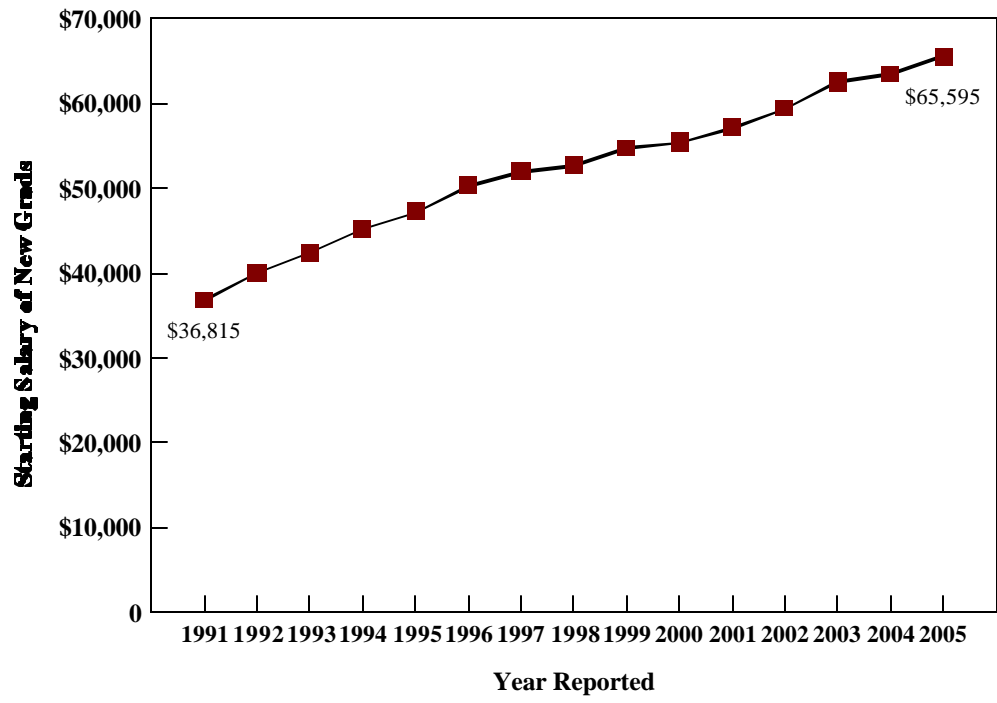
Table 81 shows the estimated starting salary of recent graduates in 2005 by region. The overall average was \$65,595, an increase of 3.3% from the 2004 average of \$63,497. Mean salaries were above \$65,000 for graduates from programs located in all but the Eastern region.

Table 81. Program Directors' Perceptions of Starting Salaries for P.A. Graduates by Consortia Region

<u>Consortia Region</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Change from 2004</u>
Northeastern	16	\$66,612	\$66,857	+ 4.2%
Eastern	9	\$59,827	\$60,000	- 0.5%
Southeastern	11	\$66,641	\$66,600	+ 9.4%
Midwestern	17	\$65,317	\$65,000	+ 1.5%
Heartland	10	\$68,092	\$69,500	+ 3.6%
Western	<u>10</u>	<u>\$65,983</u>	<u>\$65,000</u>	<u>+ 6.9%</u>
Total	73	\$65,595	\$65,000	+ 3.3%

Salaries of graduates from programs located in the Southeastern region marked the greatest increase from 2004 (9.4%). These data are also shown in Figure 23 (next page). Thus, starting salaries have increased each year by an average of 4.3% and there has been an overall increase in salaries of 78.2% since 1991.

Figure 23. Trends in Starting Salary for New Graduates: 1991 Through 2005



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This report presents an update of physician assistant educational programs in the United States for the 2005-2006 academic year. This is the twenty-second annual report to be published since 1984 and is based upon data drawn from the 2005 national survey of P.A. programs and includes APAP member programs and those enrolling students for the first time in 2005. Two surveys were administered. The surveys were mailed in November to 134 programs. The response rate for survey #1 was 81% (109 programs) and for survey #2 was 73%. Highlights of the findings are provided in this summary and includes a description of the "typical" P.A. program. Comparisons were also made across programs by consortia region.

As we have data extending from 1984, we were able to also examine trends which have occurred over the past twenty years for certain variables. Trends were analyzed relative to program budget and student expenses, personnel salaries and turnover, student and graduate characteristics, and salaries for recent graduates.

SECTION I. General Characteristics of P.A. Programs

The majority of programs (N=123; 91.8%) were associated with either a University or 4-year College. Ninety-nine programs (74%) awarded graduates a master's degree and twenty-five (19%) awarded graduates a baccalaureate degree; the remainder awarded either an associate degree or only a certificate of completion. The majority (N=85; 63.4%) of the current P.A. Programs were established since 1989; thirty-one percent of the programs were established in the period 1969 through 1976, an average of 5.25 programs/year. From 1977 through 1988 (12 years) only three new programs were developed. The "typical" P.A. curriculum was 26.5 months in length and ranged from 16 to 36 months. The majority of programs graduated their seniors over two periods, between May-June (N=41) and August-September (N=58).

P.A. programs received the majority of their financial support from the sponsoring institution, averaging \$735,508 (74% of the budget) and federal training grants, averaging \$177,408 (18% of the budget). Thirty-seven programs (37%) reported they received federal training grant support in 2005-2006. The average cost per program to educate a P.A. student was estimated to be \$11,320/student/year, a figure derived by dividing the total budget by the total number of students enrolled. This value does not include other costs, for example, clinical preceptors and other educators whose wages are not included in the program's budget. Programs located in the Western region had the highest total budget (\$1,334,948 per program). Programs located in the Northeastern region had the highest level of federal training grant support (\$323,058 per program). Programs in the Heartland region had the lowest total budget, averaging \$814,203 per program. Programs in the Midwestern region had the lowest level of federal training grant support (\$134,000).

The typical resident student paid an average of \$45,910 for tuition, books, fees, and equipment for their entire professional education in a P.A. program, the non-resident student paid \$53,843. Eighty-nine percent of the students received financial aid averaging \$24,454 per student per year. Students enrolled in programs located in the Eastern region had the highest resident tuition (\$47,305/student/curriculum), while programs in the Heartland region had the lowest resident tuition (\$22,280/student/curriculum). Ninety-one percent of the students in programs located in the Midwestern region received financial aid, while 85% of the students in the Heartland region received financial aid.

Trends from 1984 Through 2005

Total program budget increased an average of 6.5% annually from 1984 through 2005, a total increase of 258% over the past twenty-two years. During this period, institutional support for the typical program increased an average of 7.4% per year, while federal training grant support remained relatively unchanged and accounted for an average of 25% of the total program budget. Since 1984, both tuition and total student expenses have increased by over 4400% while the proportion of students receiving financial assistance has increased to 89%. Since 1986, the amount of financial aid provided to students has increased by 533%, from \$3,866/student/year to \$24,454/student/year in 2005.

SECTION II. Program Personnel

In order to conduct an analysis of P.A. program personnel, the faculty and staff were divided into three major groups as follows: (1) program directors, (2) medical directors and (3) those faculty and staff associated with the educational and/or administrative aspects of the program (referred herein as program personnel). The latter group was subdivided on the basis of whether they were P.A.'s or non-P.A.'s and organized across four categories (I, II, III, IV) based on job titles and program responsibilities.

The typical P.A. program employed one medical (0.30) and one program director (0.975) and, on average, 4.2 P.A. credentialed and 1.1 non-P.A. faculty, and 2.4 Category IV personnel. Thus, the "core" personnel for the typical program amounted to approximately 9.7 FTE's including clerical and/or other types of support personnel. General characteristics were reported for directors and program faculty and staff, including, percent time working with the program, months in position, annual salary, highest degree held, academic classification and tenure track status, gender, and ethnicity. Annual salary was shown to vary by job category, consortia region, gender, ethnicity, academic classification, and highest degree held.

In comparison to the Category I - III personnel data gathered in 2004-2005, salaries for P.A. program personnel increased by 4.5%. Eighty-six percent of the Cat I - III personnel were classified as faculty. Twenty-five percent were on a tenure track and 15% of the tenure track faculty were tenured. Sixty-eight percent of the Category I - III program personnel had earned a masters degree and 15.1% held a doctorate as their highest degree.

On average, 47% of the P.A. credentialed staff and faculty (including program directors) provided 10.2 hours per week of clinical practice in addition to their educational activities. Eighty-seven percent were paid for their clinical service which averaged \$40.40 per hour. Clinical earnings accounted for 19% of their salary.

In comparison to the 2004 data, the proportion of program directors who were credentialed as P.A.'s decreased from 88% to 87%, salaries increased by 5.9% and months in position decreased from 81 to 77 months. The majority of program (93.9%) and medical (91.5%) directors were classified as faculty and were on a tenure track. Less than one-fifth were tenured. Fourteen percent of the program directors had doctoral-level degrees (typically the Ph.D. or Ed.D.). Since 1984, there has been a 159% increase in mean salary for program directors and 44% increase for medical directors. The time in position for both medical and program directors has fluctuated extensively over the twenty-two year period.

Respondents also provided data on personnel turnover over the past year. For the period September 2004 through August 2005, turnover averaged 0.8 individual per program. Turnover across all programs was highest among Category I personnel (41/year) and lowest among the Medical Directors. Ten program director positions were filled during this period. Departing personnel had been in their positions an average of 47 months, those filling the position were in their previous position 54 months and were typically 1.3 years younger than their predecessors.

Vacated positions were filled within 9.7 weeks and were filled by individuals with similar academic and personal characteristics as those departing. The three primary reasons cited for the departure of personnel included, in descending order, career advancement, return to clinical practice and geographic relocation. In this past year, the salary of those filling the vacated position was 3.4% higher than the salary of the person leaving the position.

SECTION III. P.A. Student Characteristics

In 2005, the average size of the entering P.A. class was 41.9 students, 74% of whom were women. The senior class averaged 39.7 students per program with 8.8% of the maximum capacity of the class unfilled (due largely to attrition from the program). Using the mean values of the responding programs, the total enrollment (all classes) across all 105 programs was estimated to be 9,267 (167 more students than the previous year). Similarly, the estimated first-year enrollment was 4,284 students with only 1.8% enrolled as part-time students. The Eastern region had the largest number of students enrolled (46.5/program). Programs in the Midwestern region had the fewest number of students enrolled (36.4/program).

The typical entering student was described as a white/non-Hispanic female, 27 years of age, with a grade point average of 3.39 and 28.6 months of health care experience prior to admission.

The proportion of minority students enrolled in the first-year class has increased from 13.8% in 1983-84 to 22.8% in the current year. All but six programs reported that at least one minority student was enrolled in the 2005 class.

SECTION IV. Graduate Information

The average size of the 2005 graduating class was 34.5/program and was highest for programs located in the Western region (42.8/program) and lowest in the Midwestern region (27.7/program). The majority of recent graduates were female (72%) and non-minority (80%). The attrition rates across programs averaged 6.0% (2.3 students per program) and the reasons for withdrawal were most frequently due to academic (55.3%). The attrition rate reported in 2005 was lower than the previous year (6.2%). Attrition was highest among minorities and older students. Students from programs in the Northeastern and Heartland regions had the highest attrition rate (8.1%) and those from programs in the Western region the lowest attrition (3.5%).

On average, 1.6 students per program were decelerated for a deceleration rate of 4.2%. These students were not considered "withdrawn" and therefore not included in the attrition figures. Deceleration occurred more frequently among minorities and older students. The highest deceleration rates were reported by programs located in the Eastern region (11.8%) and lowest for programs in the Southeastern region (2.0%).

The proportion of 2005 graduates employed in primary care specialties decreased from the previous year (35% versus 38% in 2004) and those so employed remained principally in family medicine or general internal medicine. The most common non-primary care specialties selected by recent graduates were surgery (including subspecialties) and emergency medicine. The most common medicine subspecialties was cardiology, while orthopedic surgery was the most common surgical specialties selected.

Based on responses from program directors, starting salaries continued to increase, averaging \$65,595, 3.3% above that reported for the 2004 academic year (\$63,497). Programs in the Northeastern region had the highest percent of employment (82.9%) while programs in the Western had the lowest percent of employment of recent graduates.

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