



Physician Assistants (PA) practice medicine under the supervision of physicians. They are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive healthcare services. Specific duties of PAs are determined by their supervising physicians and by State law. Working as members of a healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and X-rays, and make diagnoses. They also treat minor injuries by suturing, splinting, and casting. The PAs record patients' progress, instruct and counsel patients, and order or carry out therapy. They may administer immunizations and injections, perform minor surgery, and assist in surgery. If they meet the legal requirements, PAs may prescribe some medications.

### Wages and Benefits

The median wage for PAs in California is \$102,537 annually, or \$49.29 hourly. \*The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

Annual Wages for 2014	Low (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median* (50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	High (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
California	\$83,386	\$102,537	\$119,362

Source: [EDD/LMID Occupational Employment Statistics Survey](#), 2014.

### Annual Job Openings

In California, an average of 280 new job openings per year is expected for PAs, plus an additional 150 job openings due to net replacement needs, resulting in a total of 430 job openings.

Estimated Average Annual Job Openings Physician Assistants			
Geographic Area (Estimated Year-Projected Growth)	Jobs From Growth	Jobs Due to Net Replacements	Total Annual Job Openings
California (2012-2022)	280	150	430

Source: [EDD/LMID Projections of Employment by Occupation](#)

### Industries Employing PAs

Industry Title	Percent of Total Employment for Occupation in California
Offices of Physicians	51.7%
Employment Services	13.0%
Outpatient Care Centers	11.1%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	10.8%
Federal Government	1.5%

Source: [EDD/LMID Staffing Patterns](#), 2014

### Projections of Employment

Occupational Employment Projections estimate the changes in occupational employment over time resulting from industry growth, technological changes, and other factors. In California, the number of PAs is expected to grow much faster than the average growth rate for all occupations. Jobs for PAs are expected to increase by 33.7%, or 2,800 jobs between 2012 and 2022.



Source: [EDD/LMID Projections of Employment by Occupation](#)

Source: Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (EDD/LMID), 2014.

Note: The "Physician Assistants in California" report was based on a survey and used 2010-2020 and 2012 data from EDD/LMID, so data reported may vary in this Fact Sheet due to different reporting periods.