



2012 AANP Sample Survey

Report on NP Services

The Voice of the Nurse Practitioner®

Introduction

In the fall of 2012, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) completed the fifth iteration of the National Nurse Practitioner (NP) Sample Survey. Previous versions were conducted in 1989, 1999, 2004 and 2009-10. The purpose of this survey was to identify the characteristics and practices of nurse practitioners nationwide. The survey consisted of sixty questions relating to NP education, certification, specialization, practice communities and settings, and prescribing and diagnosis. This report depicts an overview of NP patient characteristics and an overview of services provided.

Methods

In September 2012, AANP sent an email invitation including a link to the online 2012 AANP National NP Sample Survey to a random sample of 29,710 NPs. The sample was drawn from the AANP National NP Database, which houses contact information for almost every NP in the United States. Over a four week period, 5,132 nurse practitioners opened the survey and 4,231 completed it for a response rate of 14.2% and a completion rate of 82.4%. This report is limited to the NP respondents who were in active clinical practice; therefore, 253 respondents were not included in the analysis because they were not currently practicing.

Results

Patient Age, Income and Insurance Types

NPs report seeing patients from all ages, income levels and insurance types. Over 90% of NPs surveyed reported seeing patients between 19-85 years and over three-quarters saw adolescent patients (13-18 years) as well as elderly patients (86 years or more). While just over half of the respondents did not see any patients between 0-12 years, nearly 90% of Pediatric NPs saw patients from these age groups. Figure 1 depicts the percentage of NPs that see patients in each age range and the percentage of total patient population each age range represents.

NPs reported seeing patients from all income ranges. Over three-quarters of NPs reported seeing patients well below the federal poverty level, based on an income for a family of four in 2012 (\$23,050). Respondents who reported more than 75% of their patients with incomes of less than \$16,000 per year most frequently reported working in community health centers (16.2%), hospital outpatient clinics (12.7%) and inpatient hospital units (11.3%). Figure 2 displays the percentage of respondents with patients from each income range and the percentage of their total patient population each income range represents.

Regarding the types of new patients NPs were accepting, the majority (83.3%) of respondents reported accepting new patients with private insurance, 73.5% accepted new patients with Medicare, 71.2% accepted new uninsured patients, 68.0% accepted new patients with Medicaid and less than half accepted new patients for charitable care. Of the respondents who were accepting new patients for charitable care, they most frequently reported working in hospital outpatient clinics (21.7%), in-patient hospital units (18.7%) and private physician practices (18.2%). Figure 3 represents the percentage of respondents who reported accepting new patients from each insurance category.

When asked about the insurance status of their current patients, the majority (94.1%) of respondents had patients with private insurance, 84.9% had patients with Medicare, 83.9% had patients with Medicaid, 81.1% had

NP Services

uninsured/cash paying patients and 58.4% had patients receiving charitable/uncompensated care. Among the 41.6% of respondents who did not have any patients receiving charitable/uncompensated care, they most frequently reported practicing in private physician practices (34.0%), hospital outpatient clinics (11.1%) and private NP practices (6.6%). Figure 4 depicts the percentage of respondents with patients from each insurance type and the percentage of their total patient population each insurance type represents.

Services Provided by NPs

Respondents were presented with a list of common diagnoses and conditions and were asked to select those that were treated in their practice. Figure 5 displays the percentage of all NPs and Family NPs that treat the top 20 diagnoses. The most frequently reported diagnoses treated by all NPs were UTI (70.1%), abdominal pain (69.8%) and GERD / heartburn (69.6%). Family NPs reported more frequently treating each diagnoses than NPs from all specialty areas, which reflects the wide range of services provided in primary care.

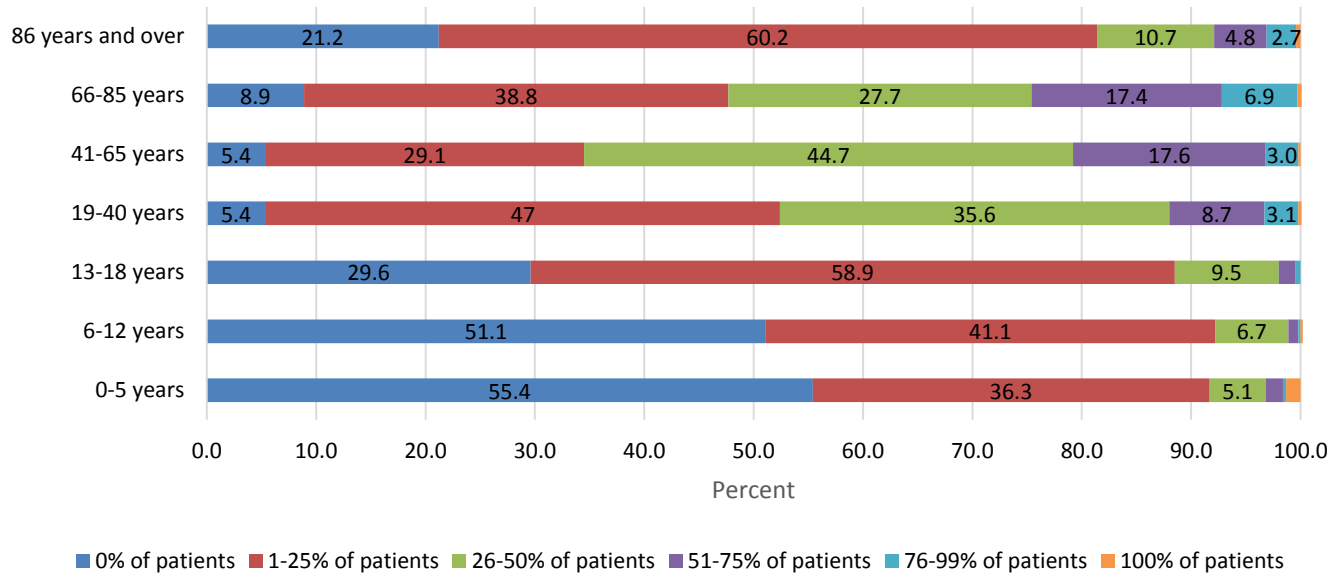
Respondents who worked in an acute or emergency setting were asked to select which, out of a list of common acute care procedures, they performed. Figure 6 depicts the percentage of respondents who perform these procedures. The procedures most frequently reported were wound care and debridement (59.7%), incisions and drainage (59.6%) and interpretation of radiologic studies (56.4%).

Limitations

The 2012 National AANP Sample Survey was conducted solely by email solicitation, limiting responses to those who had working email addresses and access to a computer and Internet. Results may not be generalizable to the national NP population due to a lower than expected response rate and should not be compared to previous sample surveys due to the change in methods. Data were not weighted to adjust for potential unexpected or disproportionate effects.

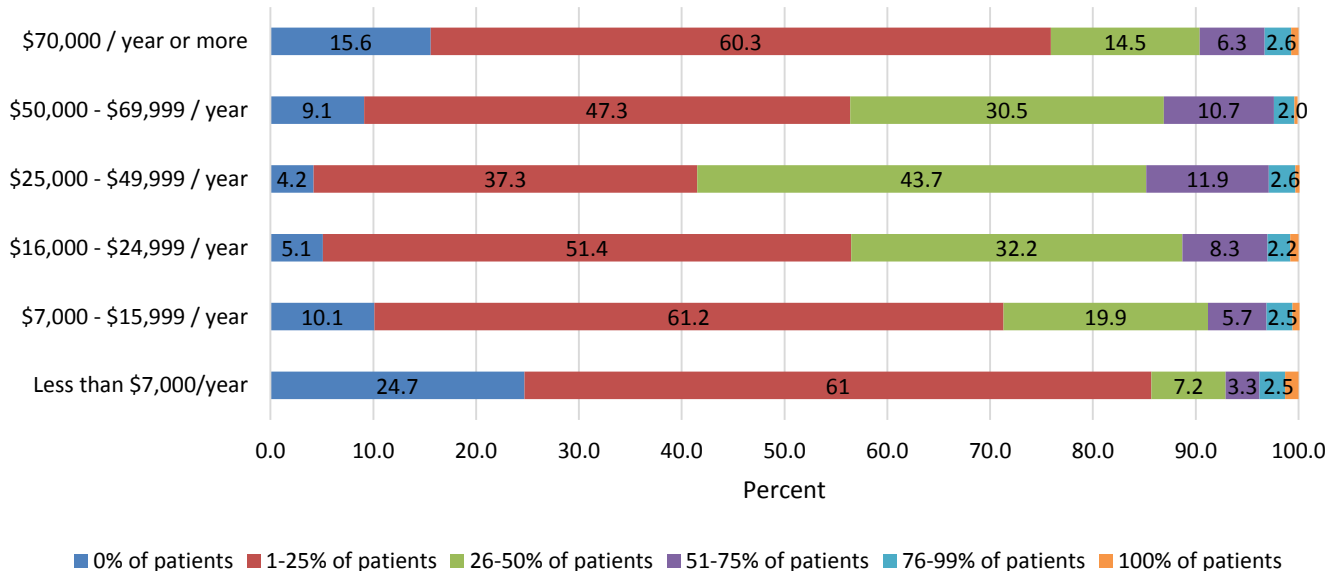
NP Services

Figure 1 NP Patients by Age Category



*unlabeled values fall below 2.0%

Figure 2 NP Patients by Family Income Range



*unlabeled values fall below 2.0%

NP Services

Figure 3 Percentage of NPs Accepted New Patients by Insurance Type

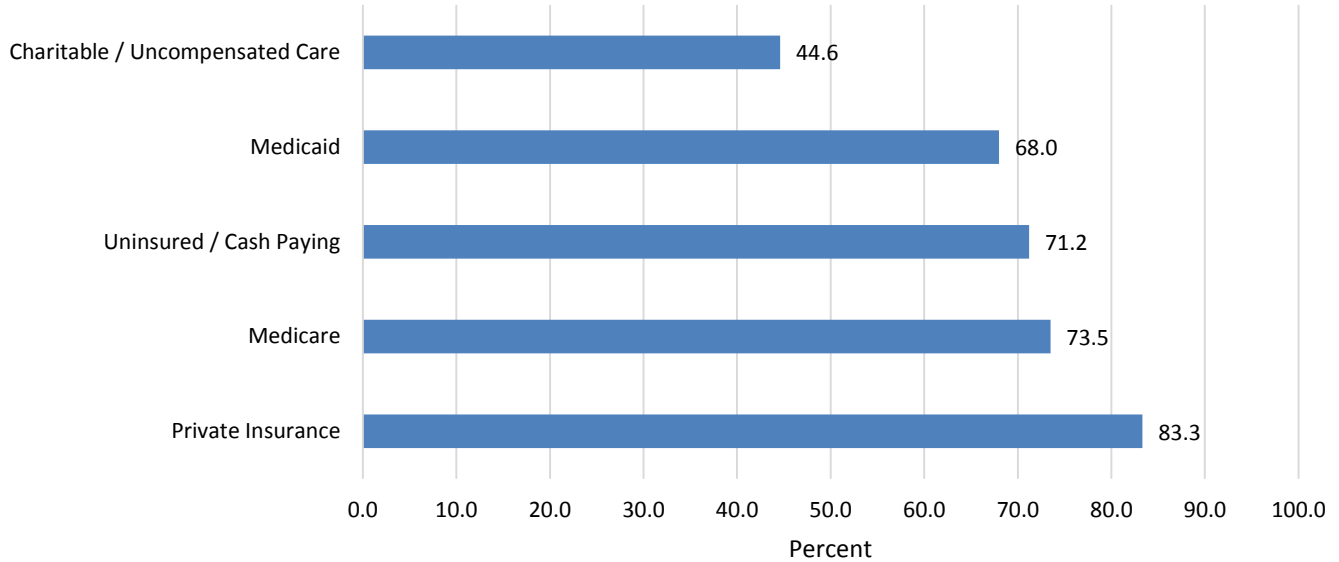
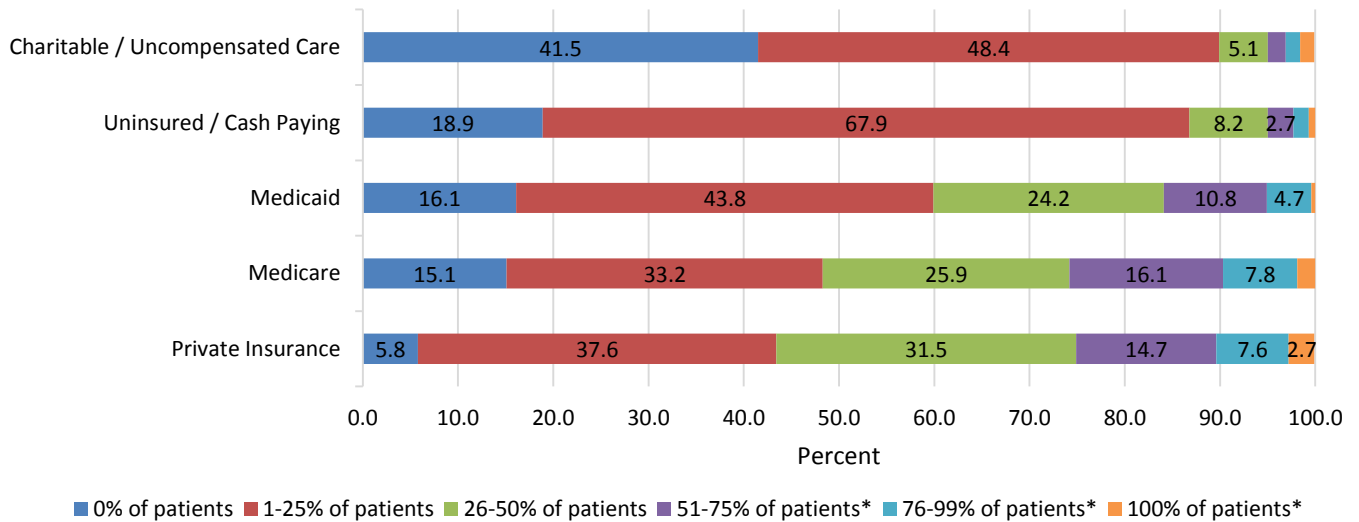


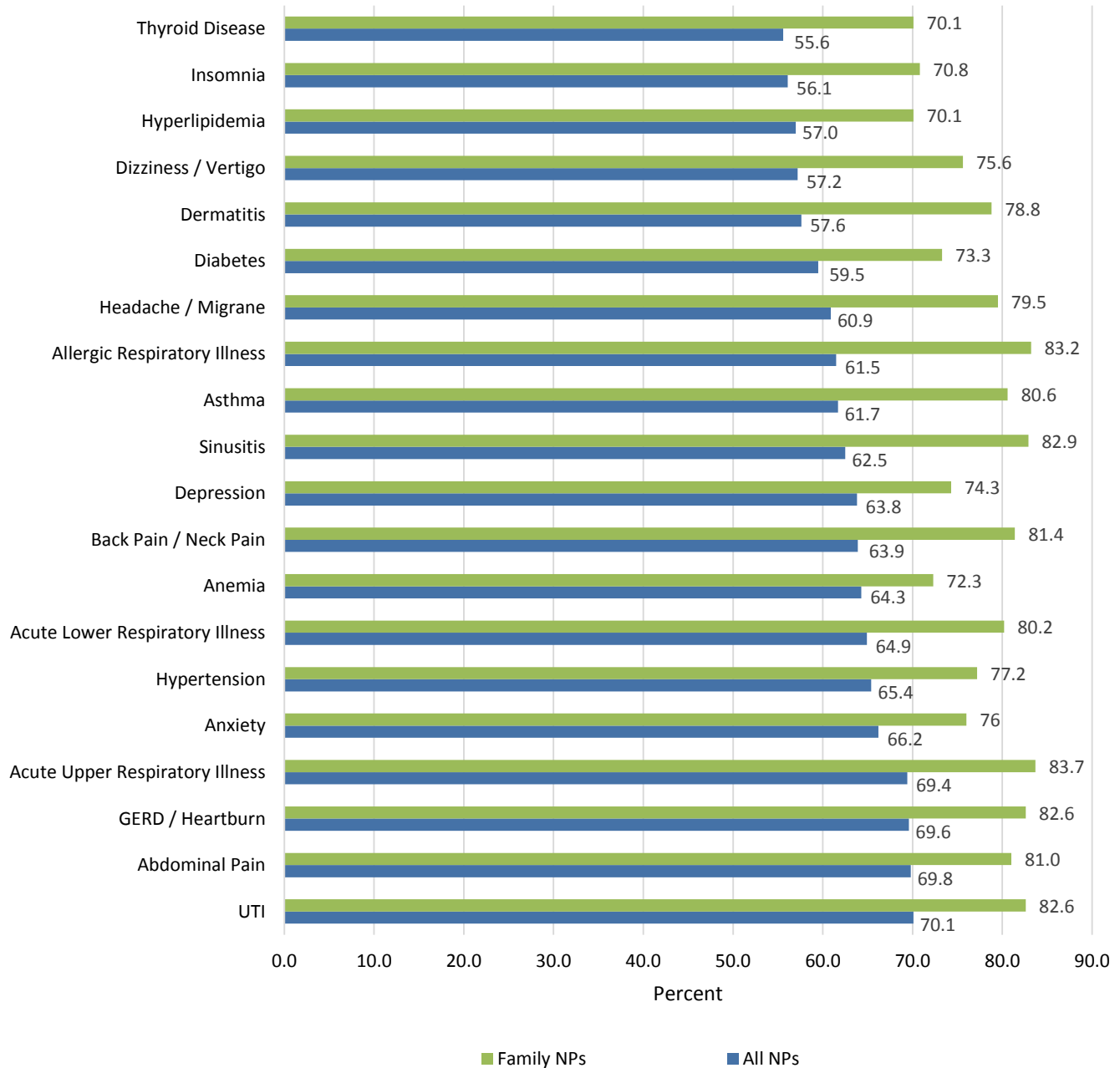
Figure 4 NP Patients by Insurance Type



*unlabeled values fall below 2.0%

NP Services

Figure 5 Percentage of NPs that Treat the following Diagnoses in Practice



NP Services

Figure 6 Procedures Performed by NPs working in Acute or Emergency Settings

