

# 2012 AANP Membership Survey

## Introduction

AANP conducted the 2012 AANP Membership Survey online over a two-week period in April 2012, with 3837 responses. The survey replicated membership surveys conducted in 2003, 2006, and 2009, with some adaptations.

## Results

Respondents had some significant differences from the general AANP membership in specialty and years of experience. Family NPs made up the largest category of respondents (48.0%), with adult NPs (28.5%) being the second largest category. Approximately 32.0% of respondents had been an NP for five or fewer years and over 23.9% had 16 or more years of NP experience. Most reported graduate degree as highest earned degree, with 14.6% reporting a doctorate in nursing or another discipline. Almost all (96.8%) of respondents were nationally certified.

Compared to previous surveys, the most common clinical setting continues to be private physician practice. The distribution across several commonly selected settings is depicted below, with comparisons against the 2009 membership survey.

Setting	2012	2009
Private Physician Office	26.2	26.3
Hospital Outpatient Clinic	13.0	9.4
Hospital Inpatient Clinic	9.1	9.5
Rural Health Clinic	6.0	5.6
Emergency Dept./Urgent Care	5.9	4.8
Private NP Practice	5.4	3.4
Long Term Care Facility	3.4	3.0
Retail-Based Clinic	3.1	3.4

Reported employment status was also similar to that seen in previous surveys. Almost 67.8% of respondents described themselves as salaried employees and over 6.0% reported that they were either practice owners or independent contractors.

An area of growing interest is to know the type of mobile technology/digital devices used by members. The majority of respondents used at least one of these devices. Most frequently, respondents identified use of iPhones (44.7%), Android phones (24.7%), and iPads (24.7%). As in 2009, these devices were most often used to look up drug information (67.0%).

The majority of respondents indicated that they had learned about AANP either from their NP program (64.8%) or colleague/another NP (21.3%). About 18.1% learned about AANP through the AANP website.

Asked why they first chose to join AANP, the reasons provided were similar to those identified in earlier membership surveys. The top six reasons are listed below.

**Reason Joined AANP**

<b>Reason to Join</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2009</b>
Support Profession	65.4	70.0
Stay Abreast of Profession	59.6	64.3
CE/Education	56.6	54.2
Health Policy Work	43.9	27.4
Certification Discount	36.9	33.1
Conference Discount	30.8	27.5

Most respondents (73.2%) indicated that they were personally responsible for their membership dues and almost 3% indicated that their employers shared some portion of the membership dues. Respondents were asked which, if any, other NP, nursing, or specialty nursing organizations they belonged. Most frequently, they identified their state (45.9%) or local (30.6%) organizations. As in the past, the most frequently selected national organization was ANA (23.8%). AANP was considered the main membership organization by approximately 81.0% of respondents.

Asked to rate the importance of various issues on which AANP should focus, the top rated areas were clinical issues (77.5%), CE/education (75.4%) and legislation/regulation (66.4%). About 1 in 4 respondents (28.2) selected marketing/role recognition and/or reimbursement as important issues.

Members most frequently identified access to free/discounted CE (57.0%) and health policy representation (43.9%) as the reasons for maintaining membership in AANP. The following table compares the 2009 responses with those from earlier surveys.

**Maintenance of Membership**

<b>Reason to Maintain Membership</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2009</b>
Free/Discounted CE	57.0	57.1
Health Policy Representation	43.9	44.7
JAANP	43.6	41.7
Health Policy Information	42.3	40.3
Reduced AANP Conf Fees	39.6	33.9
Information Resource	36.2	43.4
Reduced Certification Fees	35.4	27.3
Access to Research/Survey Data	34.0	29.3
Networking Opportunities	31.5	30.9
AANP Career Center	15.6	13.9
Practice/Policy Consultation	14.5	18.0
Discounted Malpractice Coverage	10.7	4.7
NP Finder	5.8	8.1
AANPF Scholarships and Grants	5.6	5.8

Responses to the item regarding which difficulties members encountered in practice identified ordering of home health as the top difficulty, identified by almost 30.0% of respondents. Recognition as primary care provider was selected by 26.5%. An area with significant increase from prior surveys was Health IT, identified by approximately 16.5% of respondents.

As noted above, the JAANP is one reason that over 43.0% of AANP members cite for maintenance of their membership. Asked the types of JAANP articles they found most useful, the majority of members selected clinical articles (84.8%). Case studies (55.7%), CE articles (51.4%), and health policy (33.9%) also were frequently selected. While the journal is available online to members, 89.8% indicated that they usually read the hard-copy version. The two types of articles respondents most frequently indicated they would like to see more of were CE articles (59.9%) and topical issues (46.3%).

Two separate items asked respondents to rate the usefulness of AANP resources. The most frequently selected options identified as “very useful” from both items were CE (71.1%) and SmartBrief (56.9%). Asked about interest in select new services, the ones with the greatest amount of interest were hotel/car rental discounts (30.2%), disability insurance (26.0%), and long term care insurance (21.6%).

Regarding attendance at professional conferences, only 48.2% indicated that their employers covered the cost of registration and 56.6% indicated the employer covered time off. By far, the general educational content was identified as the most important variable in determining whether to attend a conference, with 96.7% rating this as “extremely important”. As in 2009, a sizeable percentage of respondents identified interest in specialty conferences. The four most frequently selected options were dermatology and endocrinology/diabetes (both at 35.7%), cardiovascular (32.6%) and orthopedics (26.7%).

Because there has been increasing interest expressed by NPs in specialty practice areas for an enhanced focus on these specialty areas, the survey offered specialty NPs an opportunity indicate the level of interest in participating in formalized specialty interest groups or communities of learning. Approximately 80.0% of the participating specialty NPs were interested in the options, most frequently with a purpose of promoting best practice in the specialty (47.9%), specialty education (41.9%), and evidence-based specialty practice (36.1%).

## **Summary**

The 2012 AANP Membership Survey responses demonstrated that the respondents were extremely satisfied with their membership and generally represented broad users of the various resources available to members. Responses and interests may vary based on population focus. Further analysis will be completed to compare responses by factors such as role, setting, and years of experience, to ensure that AANP continues to provide the services needed by our members.