

Occupational Profile
Physician Assistants
OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 32511

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
50	70	80	110
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
20	40	30	37.5
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
Yes	0:0	Yes	5:0
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
\$33.84	\$33.63	\$36.14	\$35.77

Job Description:

Physician Assistants (PAs) provide health care services with supervision by physicians. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive health care services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of the health care team, they take medical histories, examine patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, and make diagnoses. They also treat minor injuries by suturing, splinting, and casting. PAs record progress notes, instruct and counsel patients, and order or carry out therapy. PAs may also have managerial duties. Some order medical and laboratory supplies and equipment and may supervise technicians and assistants. Physician assistants always work with the supervision of a physician.

Average Education Required

Most of these occupations require a four- year bachelor's degree.

Related Occupations

Other health workers who provide direct patient care that requires a similar level of skill and training include nurse practitioners, physical therapists, occupational therapists, clinical psychologists, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists.

Industrial Employment Patterns		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
8010	Offices & Clinics Of Medical Doctors	59.6%
8060	Hospitals	16.5%
8040	Offices of Other Health Practitioners	10.6%
9100	Federal Government	5.7%
8030	Offices of Osteopathic Physicians	3.2%

Skills Required

- Active Listening -- Listening to what other people are saying and asking questions as appropriate
- Problem Identification -- Identifying the nature of problems
- Reading Comprehension -- Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
- Speaking -- Talking to others to effectively convey information
- Information Gathering -- Knowing how to find information and identifying essential information
- Science -- Using scientific methods to solve problems
- Critical Thinking -- Using logic and analysis to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches