

# American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners 2015 Membership Survey



American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners website:

<http://aaenp-natl.org/index.php>

The American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (AAENP) promotes high quality, evidence based practice for nurse practitioners providing emergency care for patients of all ages and acuities in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team. More specifically, the Academy seeks to:

- Establish guidelines for quality and safety in emergency health care
- Encourage continuing clinical education of emergency nurse practitioners
- Support training and education in emergency care
- Facilitate research in emergency care
- Collaborate with professional health organizations and academic institutions

For more information about AAENP, visit our website at [www.aaenp-natl.org](http://www.aaenp-natl.org).

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There are currently over 205,000 nurse practitioners (NPs) in the United States and nearly 6% (>12,000) report practicing in emergency care settings (AANP, 2014). These settings include, but are not limited to, emergency departments (EDs), urgent/fast track units, observational units, ambulatory urgent care settings, and correctional care facilities. In 2014, the American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (AAENP) was created to promote high quality, evidence based practice for NPs providing emergency care for patients and as a specialty organization addressing this unique NP role.

In an attempt to capture a snapshot of the early membership demographics, preparation, and needs, an electronic survey consisting of 25 questions was developed and distributed by the American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (AAENP) to current AAENP members. The survey link was also available for completion by non-members using a shared electronic link available through REDCAP. A total of 119 participants (N = 119) completed the survey between September 25, 2015 - October 15, 2015. Of the 119 submitted surveys, 9 were only partially completed.

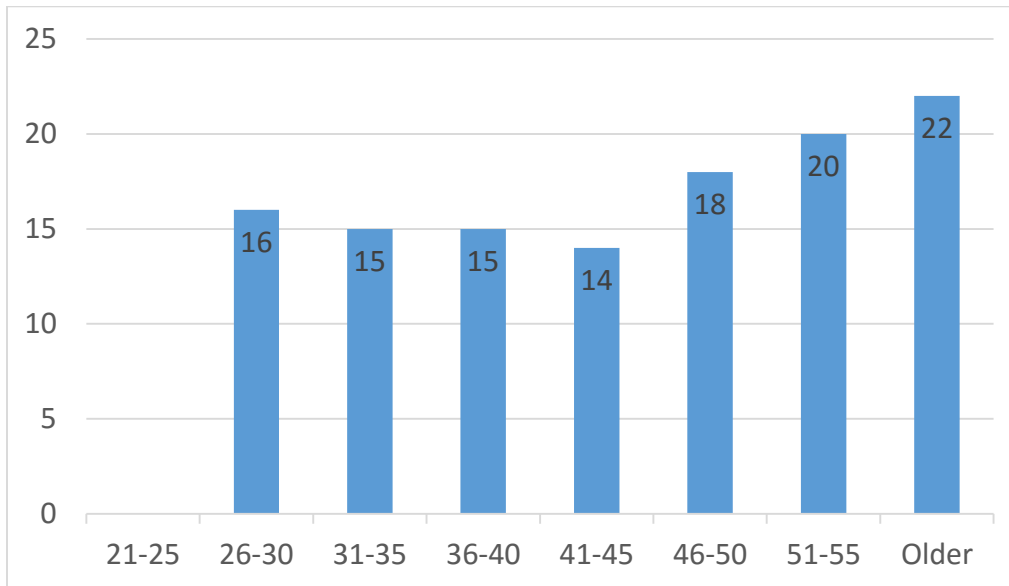
## Demographics of the respondents

- AAENP Membership: 85.2% were AAENP members (n = 98), and the remaining 14.8% were not (n = 17)
- Gender: 74.2% were female (n=89), and 25.8% were male (n=31)
- Geographic practice setting: 27.5% (n=33) practice in Rural Access facilities
- Employment status: ENP positions were considered full-time for 75.2% (n=85) and part-time from 24.8% (n=28)

## Age

There was a wide range in ages reported by ENPs, including categories from 26-30 years to greater than 55 years. The largest numbers of ENPs were aged 51 years and older, while the 41-45 age group was the most underreported (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Age of Nurse Practitioners members in AAENP**

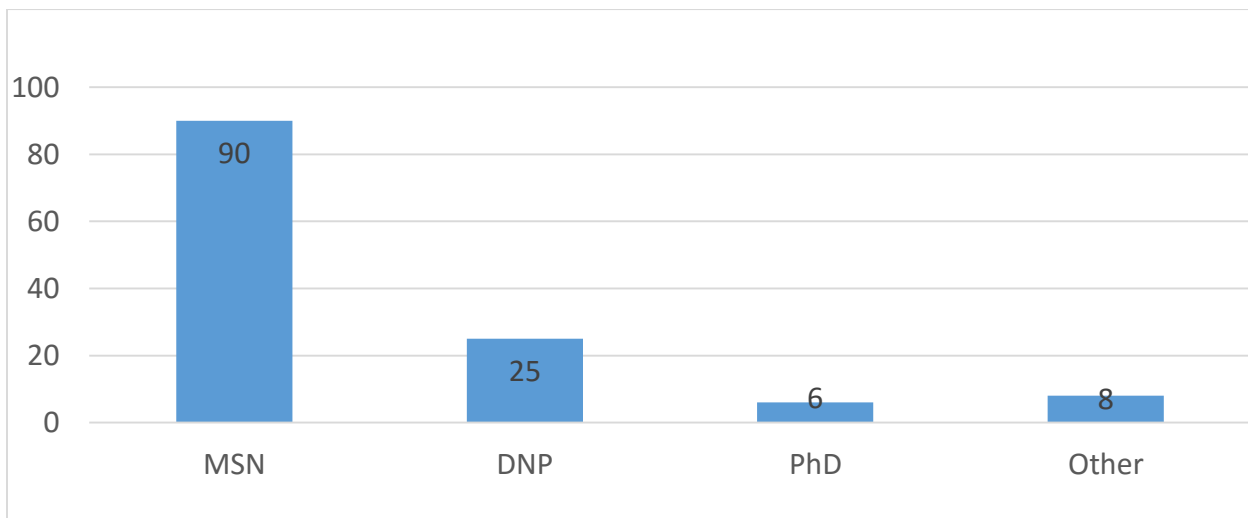


Data Source: 2015 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners Membership Survey.

## Academic Preparation

By far, the Masters' degree was the most common highest degree earned (see Figure 2). One-quarter of respondents had earned Doctoral degrees (20.7% with a DNP, and 5% with a PhD).

**Figure 2. Academic Preparation – Highest Degree Earned in Nursing**

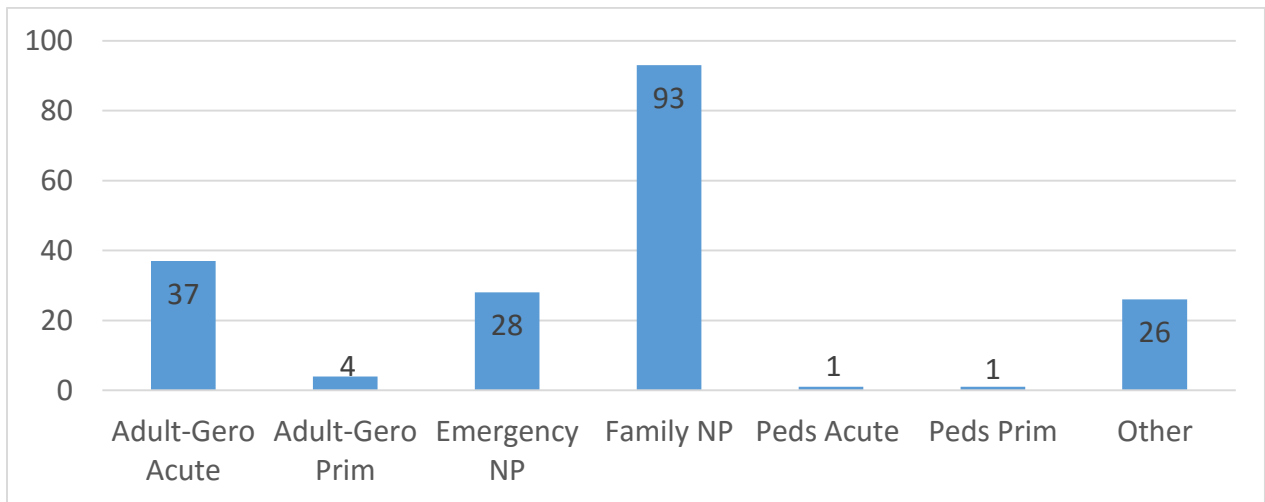


Data Source: 2015 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners Membership Survey.

## Certifications

The Family Nurse Practitioner certification was the most common certification held (77.5%) among ENP respondents (see Figure 3). The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care was the second most common (30.8%). The percentage of respondents with this certification is even higher when considering the free-text answers of Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (n=14), the precursor certification to AG-ACNP which is now a retired certification (represented within the “other” category). Twenty-eight individuals (23.3%) reported certification as an Emergency Nurse Practitioner.

**Figure 3. Certifications Held** (Note: more than one answer was allowed)

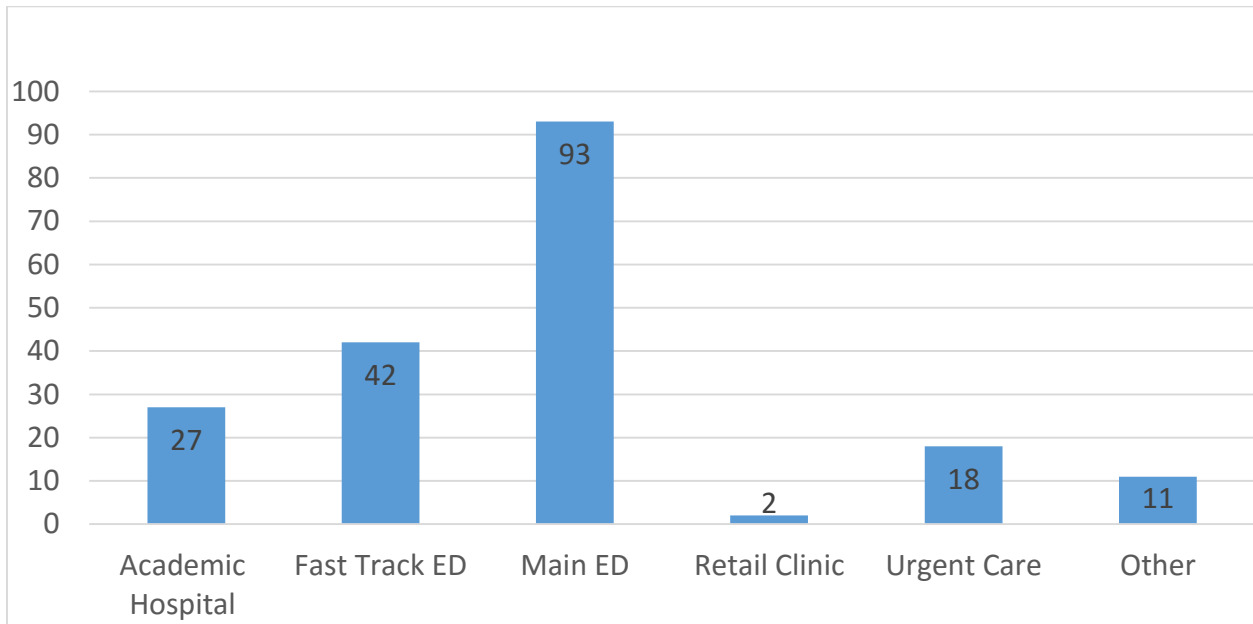


Data Source: 2015 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners Membership Survey.

## ENP Employment Setting

Many of the respondents are employed in more than one setting. The majority of ENPs reported working in a main hospital Emergency Department (n=93, 78.2%). Forty-two percent are employed within a fast-track ED setting, 22% in an academic or tertiary care facility, and 18% in urgent care settings. Other reported settings included internal medicine, international sites (Guam), and the military.

**Figure 4. ENP Employment Setting** (Note: more than one answer was allowed)

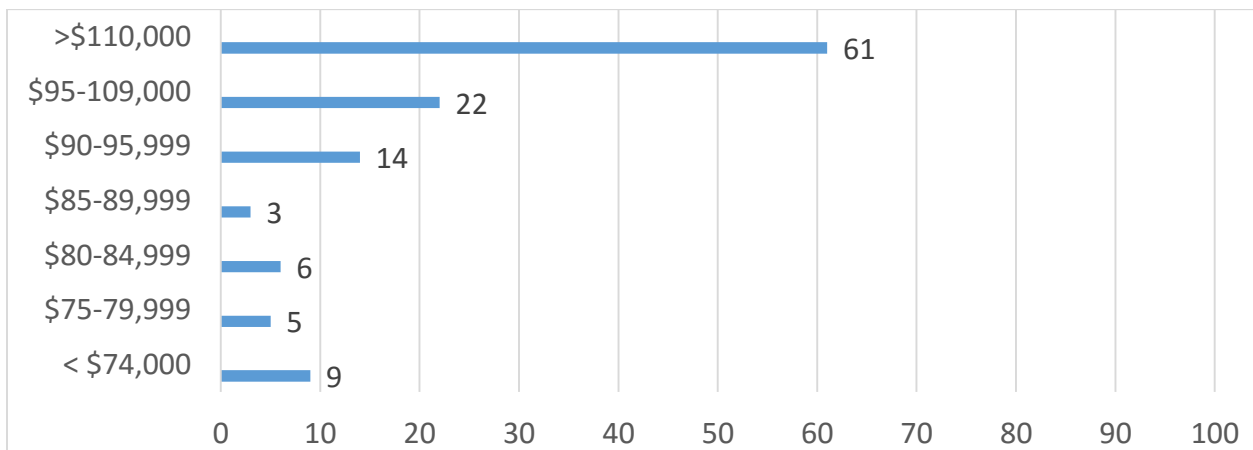


Data Source: 2015 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners Membership Survey.

## Salary

The majority of respondents (61%) reported salaries in excess of \$110,000 annually.

**Figure 5. Range of Salary**



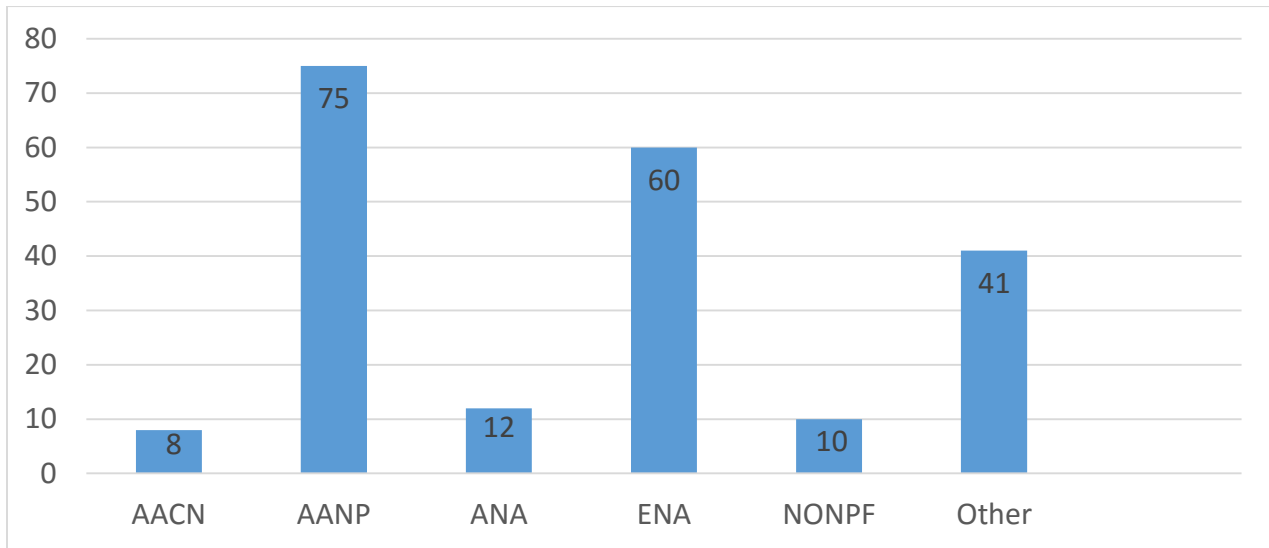
Data Source: 2015 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners Membership Survey.

## Membership in Other Organizations

ENP respondents reported diverse organizational memberships which were representative of their certification and practices areas. Most commonly, memberships were held with the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA). Figure 6 demonstrates other organizations in which respondents hold memberships.

Additional organizations mentioned included state level organizations, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, and Sigma Theta Tau International among others.

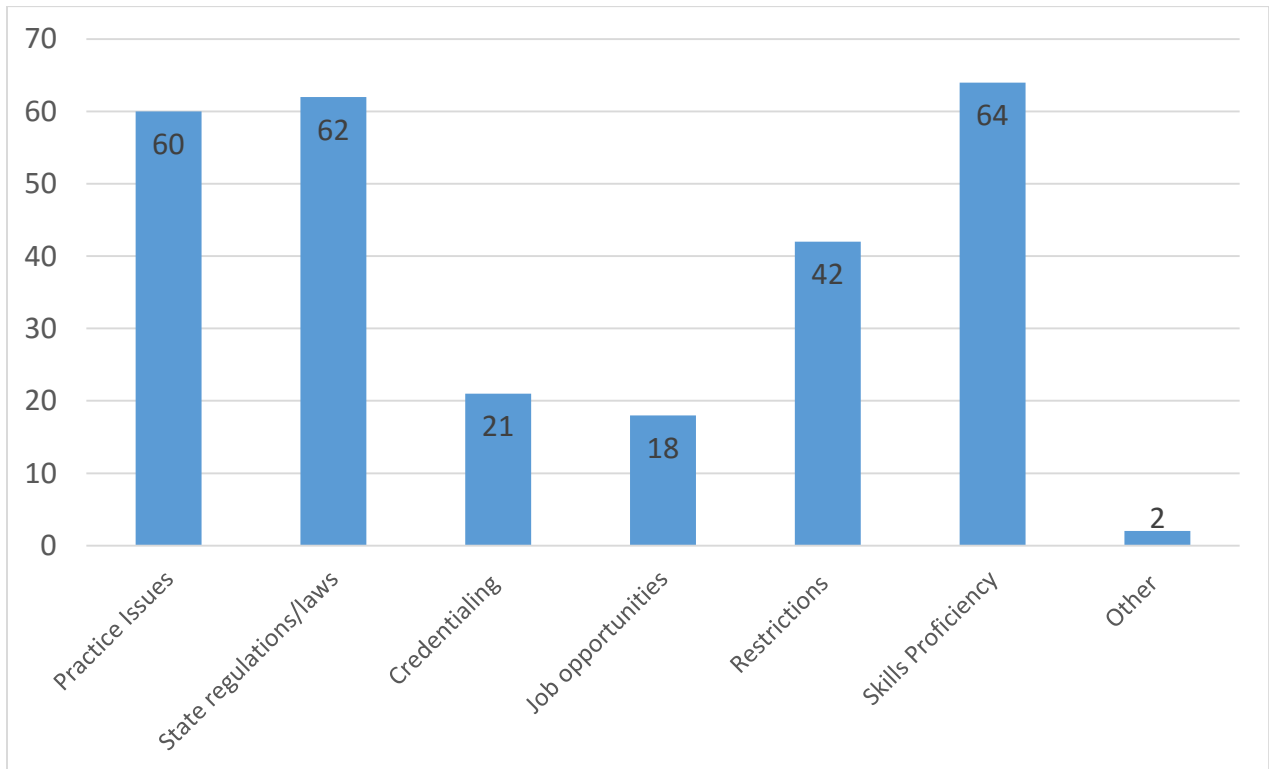
**Figure 6. Membership in Other Organizations** (Note: more than one answer was allowed)



Data Source: 2015 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners Membership Survey.

## Top Challenges faced by ENPs

**Figure 7. ENP Challenges**

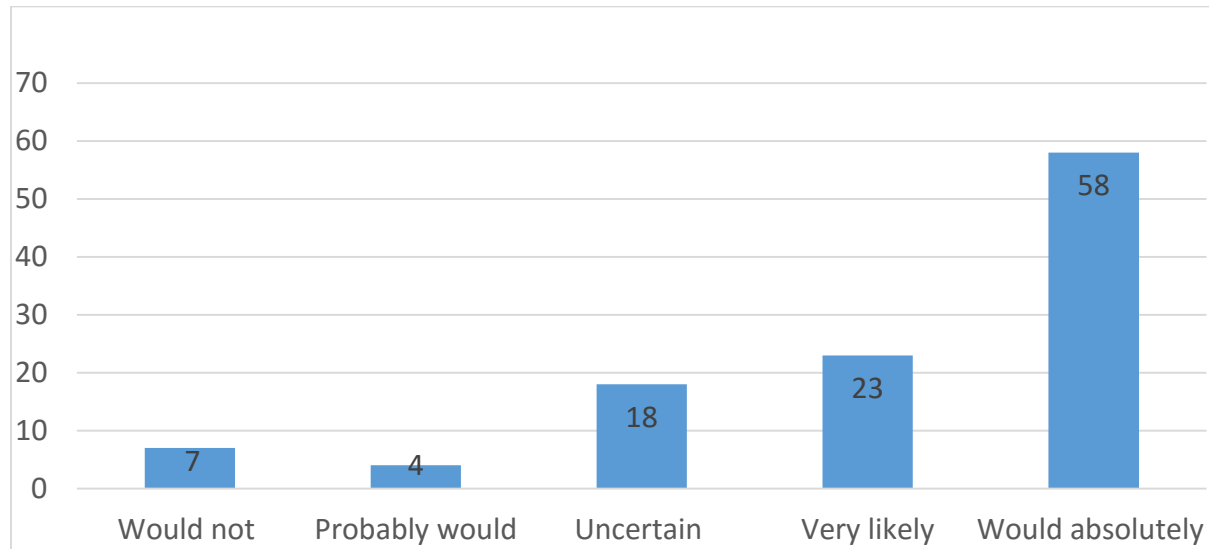


Data Source: 2015 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners Membership Survey.

## Interest in an ENP Certification Exam

**Figure 8. If an ENP Certification was available, would you take it?**

The majority of respondents (n = 73.6%) were likely to take an ENP certification exam should one become available. Only 6% reported that they would not plan to take an exam.



Data Source: 2015 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners Membership Survey.

### *References*

American Association of Nurse Practitioners (2014). National NP database. Retrieved from <http://www.aanp.org/all-about-nps/np-fact-sheet>