

POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

Advanced Practice Provider Survey

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DELAWARE

Advanced Practice Providers: Results of the 2020 Survey



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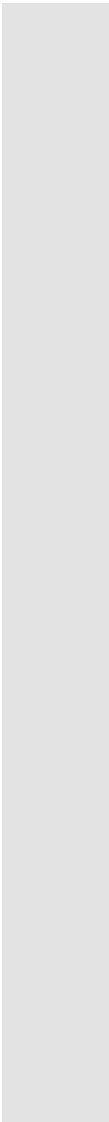
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Objectives of the presentation

1. Review DE APP characteristics
 2. Explore employment activities of DE APPs
 3. Discuss DE APP perceptions of professional strengths and barriers to practice
 4. Examine care of patients with chronic illnesses provided DE APPs
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Background of the Survey

Purpose

The 2020 survey is a follow up to the 1998 survey of Delaware Advanced Practice Providers (APPs). These included Delaware Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners

Expand

Collect data from an expanded group of APPs in 2020 to include:

- Certified Nurse Practitioners
- Certified Nurse Anesthetists
- Certified Nurse Midwives
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Physician Assistants

Goal

Capture more detailed data on:

- Practice activities of APPs
- Preparation for practice
- Working conditions and satisfaction of APPs
- Types of care provided to Delawareans by APPs
- Chronic disease care delivered by APPs in Delaware

Methodology

2,649 APPs were contacted by mail to complete an online survey (March to June 2020)

532 APPs responded for a response rate of 20%

Respondents were contacted up to 3 times and were given additional options of completing a paper survey or an electronic survey (PDF) sent to them via email

Each respondent was assigned a unique identifier number used in place of any personal information that could be used to identify respondents on the master mailing list

The de-identified dataset is stored in an electronic format

Demographics of the respondents

532 APPs

420 employed in Delaware as FT, PT or on-call providers

87% female

13% male

Median age of respondent was 52.6 years

Age breakdown: 16% over 65, 25% were 55-65, 26% were 40-55, 18% were 25-40 (15% did not answer)

63% expect to be active in healthcare delivery five years from now

Only 15% of these are over 65

Employment

About 60% fell within three focus areas:

Family practice (41%),

Pediatric/Child health practice (8%)

Anesthetist (11%)

17% of respondents selected "Other" as an answer choice (responses included Acute care, Emergency Medicine, General Medicine or no specialization)

99% of respondents were licensed in Delaware. Respondents had additional licenses in:

New Jersey (10%)

Pennsylvania (28%)

Maryland (21%)

Virginia (2%)

Other surrounding states including New York (7%)

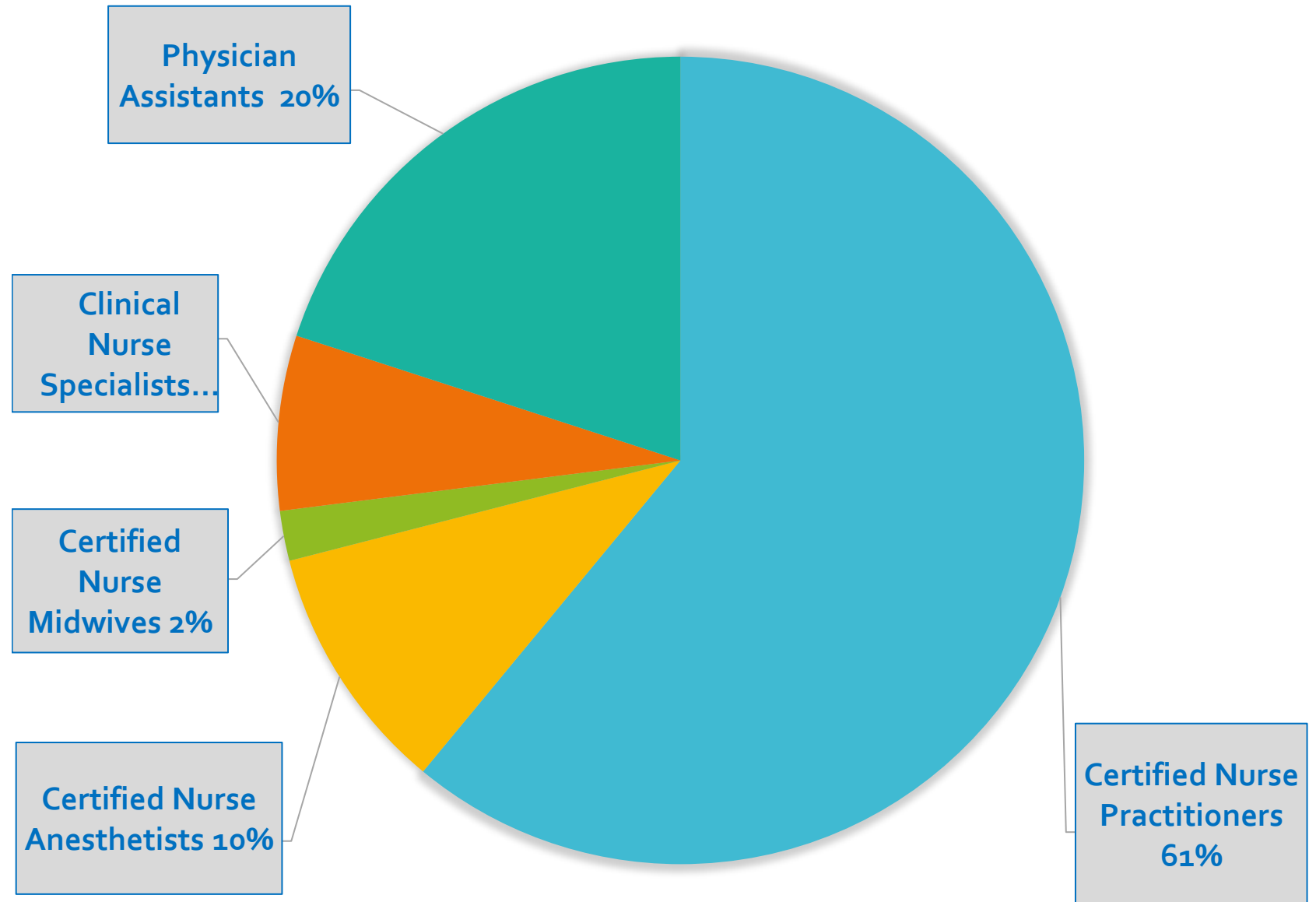
57% report being employed full-time

16% reported working part-time (<36 hours per week)

8% reported working in part-time, temporary/on-call positions (PRN)

Those who reported working in full-time positions in another state accounted for 10% of the respondents. Of these, 2% indicated they were employed in a health-related field, 4% were retired while 2% were simply unemployed.

Certifications of the respondent group



APP hours and patient care

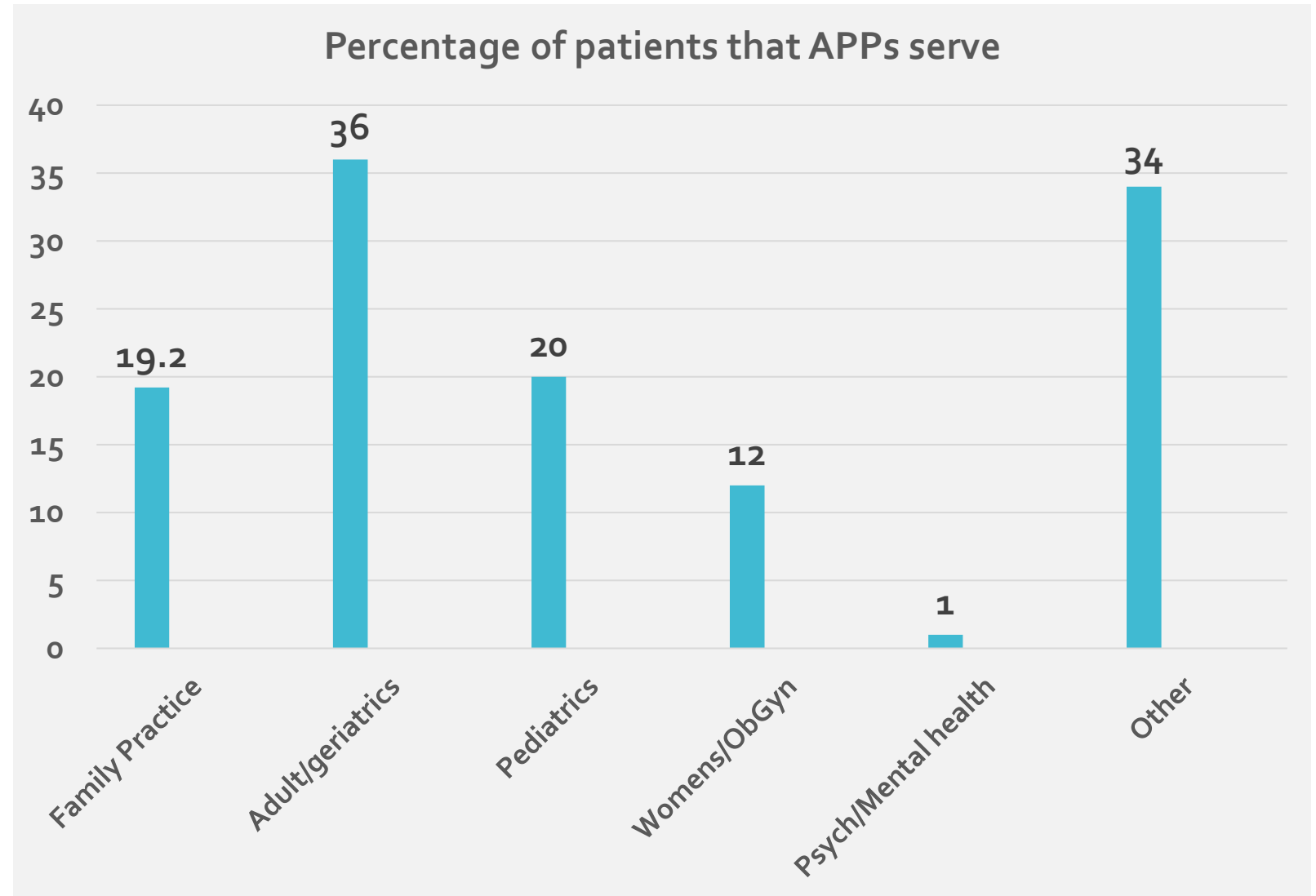
Hours worked per week:

- 27% of respondents worked 30 hours or less
- 33% of respondents worked 31 to 40 hours
- 31% of respondents worked 41 to 50 hours
- 9% of respondents worked more than 50 hours

Time devoted to direct patient care:

- 26% of respondents assigned all their time to primary care
- 39% assigned all their time to specialty care
- 25% split their time between two or three categories

What type of patients do APPs serve?



Other responses include Specialty Care such as Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Orthopedics, Urgent Care, Cardiology, and many others

APP Care Setting

88% of APPs who are working in a clinical setting in DE are providing direct patient care

55% provide care at a single site

25% provide care at 2 sites

20% are at 3 or more sites

31% of APPs are in a hospital setting

21% are in group practices

10% are in individual practices

49% of APPs that work in a DE clinical setting and provide direct care but do not provide primary care

77% of APPs report prescribing controlled substances

14% prescribe MAT

**75% of APPs provide care to patients on Medicare.
87% provide care to patient on Medicaid**

**30% of APPs work in a practice that is part of an
Accountable Care Organization**

**96% report not having any plans to transition to
offer concierge services**

**3% are currently involved in concierge/direct pay
models**

Payment Models

APP perception of practice barriers

31% indicated their salary is lower than other health care related fields

30% feel there is a lack of public knowledge about APPs

30% report a lack of understanding/differentiation of all APP roles by other health professionals

21% feel there is a lack of understanding of the insurance system

80% of APPs selected at least 1 barrier to their practice

Percentage of Respondents	Barriers Faced by Advanced Practice Providers
31.4%	Salary lower than other health care related fields
29.8%	Lack of public knowledge about Advanced Practice Providers
27.9%	Lack of understanding/differentiation of all Advanced Practice Provider roles by other health professionals
21%	Lack of understanding of the insurance system
19.5%	No barriers
16.7%	Resistance from physicians
16%	Expected to assume other/administrative functions
13.1%	Poor reimbursement from commercial payers
12.1%	Legislative barriers to fulfilling Physician Assistant roles
11.9%	Other
11.7%	Poor reimbursement from Medicare
11.7%	Poor reimbursement from Medicaid
11.4%	Inadequate benefits
11.1%	Limitations on types of services reimbursed
9.3%	Lack of positions for Advanced Practice Providers
8.6%	High cost of malpractice insurance
7.1%	Lack of adequate educational preparation to function as expected
6.4%	Lack of experience to function as expected
6.4%	Lack of physician backup
5.5%	Resistance from registered nurses
2.4%	Overabundance of Advanced Practice Providers
1.2%	Surplus of physicians
0.00%	Inability to obtain malpractice insurance

Barriers APPs face when providing care for chronic care patients

66% indicate the “cost of medications” as frequent or constant barriers

66% indicate the patient’s “adherence to resources” as a frequent or constant barrier

67% indicate a patient’s “low health literacy” as a frequent or constant barrier

Language barriers are reported as rare or none by 81% of APPs

54% indicate “insurance restrictions” as a frequent or constant barrier

**APPs
providing care
for children
with complex
medical needs**

I do not provide care for children, only adults (52%)

I am not trained in caring for children with complex medical needs (6%)

I am not comfortable providing specialized care required by children with complex medical needs (7%)

No children with complex medical needs have presented in my practice (20%)

Other (14%)

When discussing typical cancer screenings with patients, APPs report “sometimes” or “usually” in response to patients’ perceptions:

Breast cancer screenings

70% report that the patient perceives this kind of cancer as a serious threat

28% report patients refuse breast cancer screening discussions

Cervical cancer screenings

60% report that the patient perceives this kind of cancer as a serious threat

37% report patients don’t understand information about this screening

Lung cancer screenings

76% report the patient perceives this kind of cancer as a serious threat

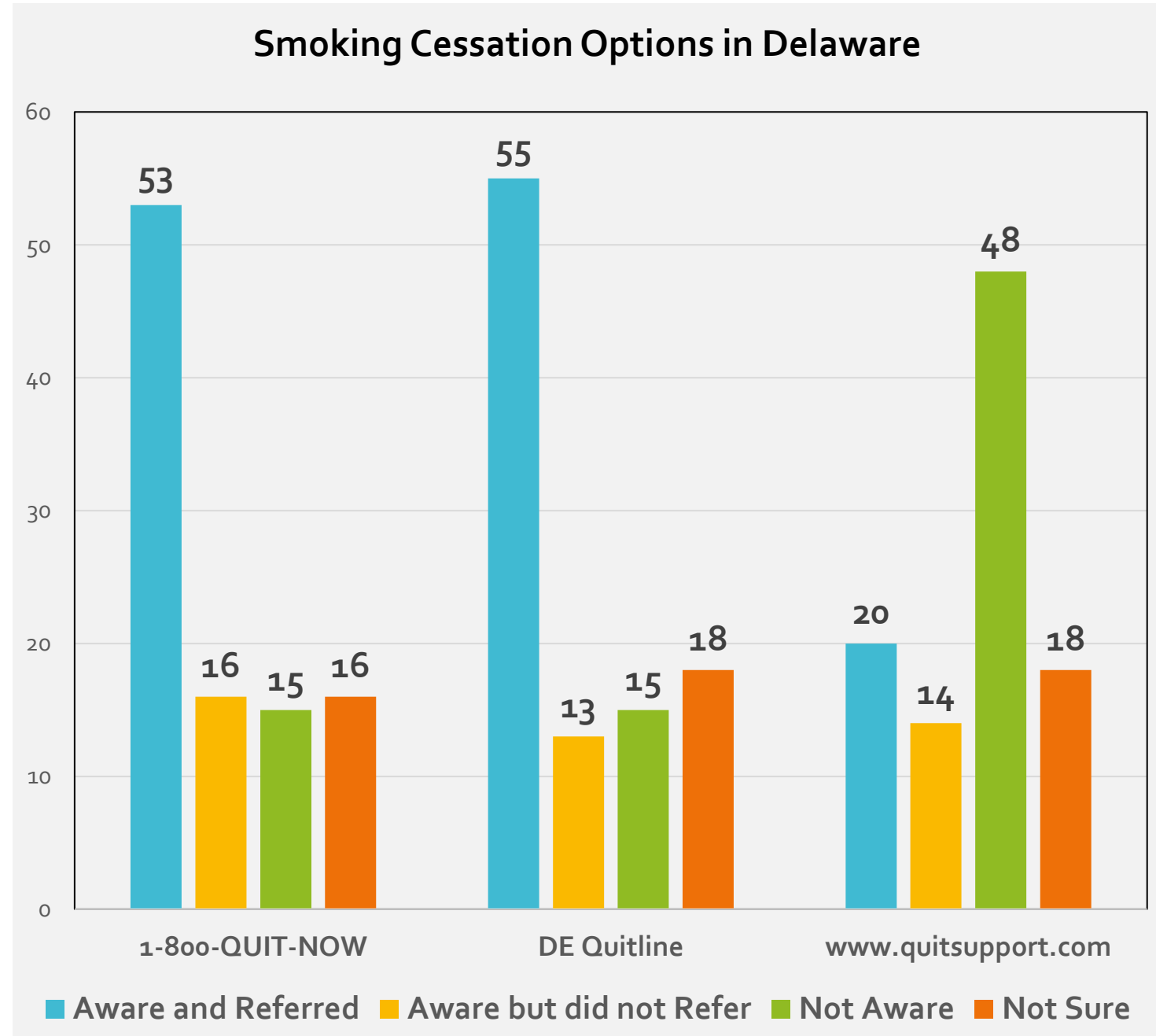
65% report patients are unaware of lung cancer screenings

Colorectal cancer screenings

67% that the patient perceives this kind of cancer as a serious threat

49% report patients refuse colorectal screening discussions

APP Knowledge of Smoking Cessation Services



Observations

- Delaware currently licenses 2,649 individual APPs. Of these, 244 providers are either retired, unemployed, or employed outside of a health-related field. The total number of APPs working as an APP within Delaware is 2,140. Another 265 APPs are employed full-time in another state.
- There were indications that APPs work may be allocated less efficiently than desirable. 10% of APPs report not engaging in any direct patient care and 48% report that a quarter of their workload is spent on practice management/paperwork, suggesting that some review is needed.
- Nearly 30% of APPs pointed to a lack of understanding about how APPs should be utilized, and 16% were concerned about the administrative tasks they were asked to assume.
- Today, 42% of the APPs are under 50 years of age. APPs between 50 and 69 years of age account for 55% of the group. It appears that there is a need to recruit and train a significant number of new APPs and encourage existing experienced nurses to be trained to meet this need.
- The data suggests that a significant portion of the current group of APPs (37%) is expecting to leave the field in the next five years. Given that 59% of APPs are age 50 or older, it may be prudent to increase efforts to recruit the younger cohort and improve retention rates for existing APPs.
- To ensure the workforce matches the growing need for APPs, it is recommended DPH monitor trends in this workforce on an annual basis.

Contact Info

**Thank you for your interest in this topic
We appreciate any questions or observations**

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The report can be accessed at:

[advancedpracticeprovreport.pdf \(delaware.gov\)](#)