

# 2018 NPWH Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Workforce Demographics and Compensation Survey: Highlights Report



The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) completed its Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) Workforce Demographics and Compensation Survey in fall 2018. Major objectives of the survey were (1) to obtain detailed demographic information to understand who today's WHNPs are, where they work, what they do, and which populations they serve, (2) to identify trends in employment compensation specific to WHNPs, (3) to ascertain associations among WHNP education, experience, practice characteristics, and compensation, (4) to identify associations among experience, practice characteristics, and employment/role satisfaction, and (5) to explore trends and attitudes regarding the preceptor role.

This report highlights findings from the 2018 NPWH WHNP Workforce Demographics and Compensation Survey. A second report will be prepared to identify important associations among the data and to describe findings related to trends and attitudes regarding the preceptor role.

## Methods

All WHNPs were eligible to participate in the survey. Participants were recruited through an email invitation with a link to the survey. This invitation, which was sent through the National Certification Corporation (NCC), was emailed to all NCC-certified WHNPs (N = 11,319). In addition, NPWH sent notifications about the survey through its weekly email brief over a period of 3 weeks. The NPWH notification included information for WHNPs to contact the Communications and Outreach Associate at the NPWH office if they did not receive the email invitation or if they were a WHNP but not currently certified as such and wanted to participate in the survey. No additional participants were recruited. The survey was open for 3 weeks. NCC sent three follow-up emails to encourage participation.

The survey was administered via Survey Monkey software. Participants' anonymity was maintained. A total of 2,374 WHNPs completed the survey, for a response rate of 21%.

Screening questions at the beginning of the survey identified WHNPs who were or were not currently providing

**Table 1.** Primary WHNP role

Primary WHNP role	Percentage
Direct patient care	84
Academia	4
Management/administration	3
Research	1
Dual direct patient care/management	0.4
Health policy/advocacy	0.3
Other: retired, not currently employed, currently looking for WHNP job, working but not in WHNP role	7

direct patient care. The respondents who indicated that they were not currently providing any direct patient care as a WHNP were included in the data on primary WHNP role, but they did not answer the questions about direct patient care.

The analysis for this report was completed using IBM SPSS Statistics 25.0.

## Results

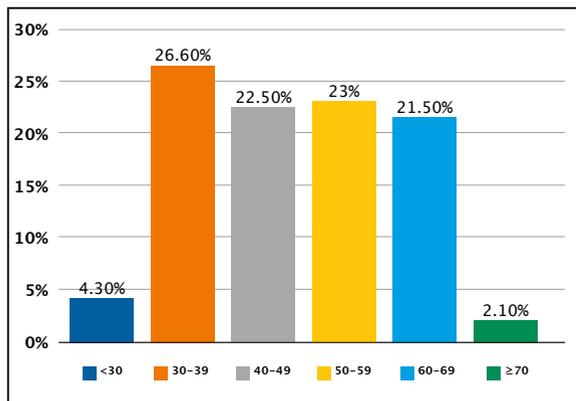
### What do WHNPs do?

A total of 2,137 respondents (90%) indicated that they currently provide direct patient care as a WHNP, with 84% describing this as their primary WHNP role (*Table 1*). Other respondents reported their primary WHNP roles as being in academia, management/administration, research, dual direct patient care/management, or health policy/advocacy. Approximately 7% of the respondents indicated that they were retired, not currently employed, looking for a WHNP job, or working, but not in a WHNP role.

### What are the demographics for WHNPs who currently provide direct patient care?

Almost one in three WHNPs (30.9%) reported being younger than 40 years and almost one in four (23.6%) reported being age 60 or older. Ages ranged from 24 to 84 years (average, 48.9 years). Respondents reported practicing as a WHNP for a range of <1 year to 47 years (average, 13.9 years). *Figure 1* depicts the percentages of WHNPs by age and *Figure 2*, by years in practice.

**Figure 1.** WHNPs by age



The majority of respondents (76.9%) reported their race as White. Others reported their race as Black/African American (6.1%), Asian (2.4%), American Indian/Alaska Native (1.1%), or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (0.3%). The remaining 13.2% of respondents did not answer the question, indicated they preferred not to answer it, or identified as Other Race. The majority of respondents (81.5%) identified themselves as non-Hispanic.

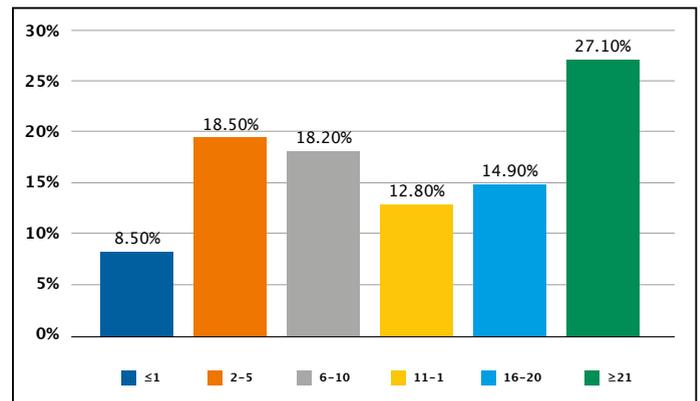
WHNPs reported providing direct patient care in every state and the District of Columbia, with an even distribution across designated NPWH membership regions (*Figure 3*): North Atlantic, Southeast, Great Lakes, South Central, and Western. The 10 states with the highest number of respondents were Texas (168), California (158), Pennsylvania (99), New York (99), Ohio (90), Illinois (79), Massachusetts (74), Georgia (71), Missouri (71), and Minnesota (66). The 10 states/district with the lowest number of respondents were West Virginia (10), Montana (9), Idaho (8), District of Columbia (7), Rhode Island (7), Hawaii (7), Vermont (6), South Dakota (5), North Dakota (4), and Wyoming (1). One in 20 respondents (5.2%) reported serving on active duty in the U.S. military currently or in the past.

### What types of direct patient care do WHNPs provide and where do they provide this care?

WHNPs described providing care in private practice offices, community health centers, health departments, hospital-based clinics, family planning clinics, rural health clinics, military facilities, Veterans Affairs centers, academic medical centers, schools and colleges, integrative health centers, correctional facilities, abortion centers, emergency departments, inpatient settings, HIV clinics, and patients' homes, as well as through telehealth.

Most respondents indicated that they worked in urban (41.9%) or suburban (39.9%) settings, with 16.6% indicating that they worked in a rural setting. The remaining

**Figure 2.** Years in practice as a WHNP



1.6% reported that they worked in military facilities or telehealth or as a travel NP.

Approximately 16%\* of respondents reported caring for hospitalized patients as part of their WHNP responsibilities in their primary care setting, with the majority of this group providing antepartum, postpartum, and/or gynecologic care. Other types of care provided by WHNPs for hospitalized patients included gynecologic oncology care, breast conditions/oncology care, and urogynecology care.

In addition to providing general women's healthcare, many WHNPs described providing women's health specialty care, with a variety of focuses. These focuses included but were not limited to breast health/oncology, gynecologic oncology, maternal-fetal medicine, reproductive endocrinology/infertility, aesthetics, forensics/sexual assault, and urogynecology.

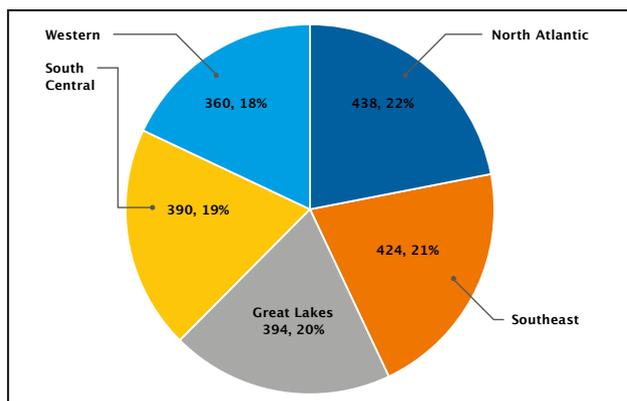
Nearly one in four respondents (24%) reported providing care for men in their primary care setting. Services most often provided were family planning and sexually transmitted infection screening/treatment. Other healthcare services provided for men included sexual dysfunction assessment/treatment, infertility assessment/treatment, breast cancer care, gender-affirming hormone treatment, and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis.

### What is the educational level of WHNPs?

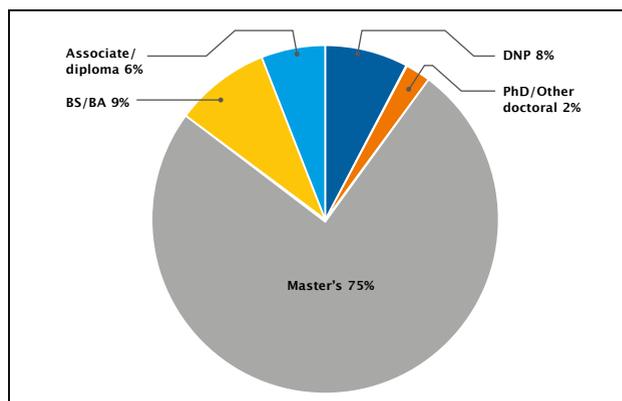
The majority of respondents (77%) indicated that they prepared for the WHNP role in master's degree, post-master's certificate, or doctor of nursing practice (DNP) programs, with the remaining 23% doing so in non-degree certificate programs. Most WHNPs (85%) reported currently holding master's or doctoral degrees as their highest level of education (*Figure 4*). An additional 3.5% of respondents indicated they were currently working on doctoral degrees, primarily DNP degrees.

\*This percentage does not include several WHNPs with dual CNM certification who reported that they provided intrapartum care.

**Figure 3.** WHNPs by NPWH membership regions



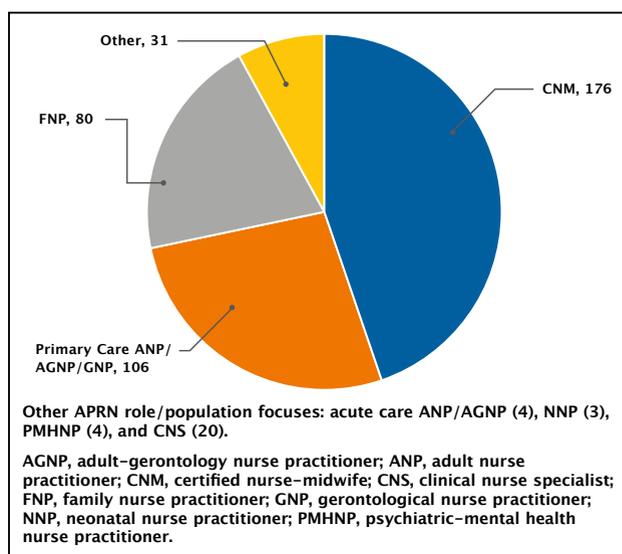
**Figure 4.** WHNPs' highest level of education



**Table 2.** Annual salaries of WHNPs working full time in direct patient care

APRN certification	n	Mean (\$)	Median (\$)
WHNP	1381	99,767	100,000
WHNP/CNM	115	104,716	103,000
WHNP/FNP	49	98,714	98,000
WHNP/ANP or AGNP	70	108,166	102,000

**Figure 5.** WHNPs with dual APRN certification



### Which advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) certifications do WHNPs hold?

All of the respondents were nationally certified WHNPs. Approximately 17% of respondents indicated that they hold dual national APRN certifications (Figure 5). In addition to their APRN certification(s), some respondents indicated that they hold nationally recognized specialty certifications as inpatient obstetric nurses (8%), sexual assault nurse examiners (2%), menopause practitioners (2%), lactation specialists (1.8%), and oncology nurses/nurse practitioners (1%).

### What is the compensation for WHNPs who provide direct patient care?

Respondents were asked to describe their compensation arrangement of annual salary, hourly wage, or net annual income if self-employed, or whether they volunteered their time. Of the 1,950 respondents (91%) who provided income information, 73% reported annual salaries, 25% reported hourly wages, and 2% reported net annual incomes for self-employment. Fewer than 1% reported that they volunteered their time.

Two out of three respondents (66.8%) reported that they worked full time (35+ hours/week) in direct patient care. The mean annual full-time salary for respondents certified solely as WHNPs was \$99,767. Annual salaries

did show some variation between respondents who were certified solely as WHNPs and those who were dual certified. Other salary variables (e.g., years of experience, worksite setting, specialty practice, doctoral degree) were not analyzed for this report. Table 2 lists annual WHNP salary information in relation to certifications. The mean hourly wage for respondents who reported working full time or part time in direct patient care was \$54.25.

Fewer than half of respondents (42.9%) indicated that they received a bonus separate from a pay increase in the past 2 years. Bonuses were based on a variety of criteria (Table 3). Some respondents indicated more than one criterion for determining bonus amount.

### Are WHNPs who provide direct patient care satisfied with their career and employment?

A scale of 1 to 5 was used for satisfaction-item ratings, with 1 indicating not at all satisfied and 5 indicating extremely

**Table 3.** Criteria for bonus

Criteria*	Percentage
Merit	9.1
Patient encounters/productivity	13.4
Quality metrics/indicators	8.4
Practice revenue/profit	11.2
Procedures billing	1.9
Other†	8.6

\*Some respondents marked more than one criterion. †Other criteria frequently cited: across-the-board annual or holiday bonus, longevity/retention, patient satisfaction scores, sign-on bonus.

**Table 4.** WHNP career and employment satisfaction ratings

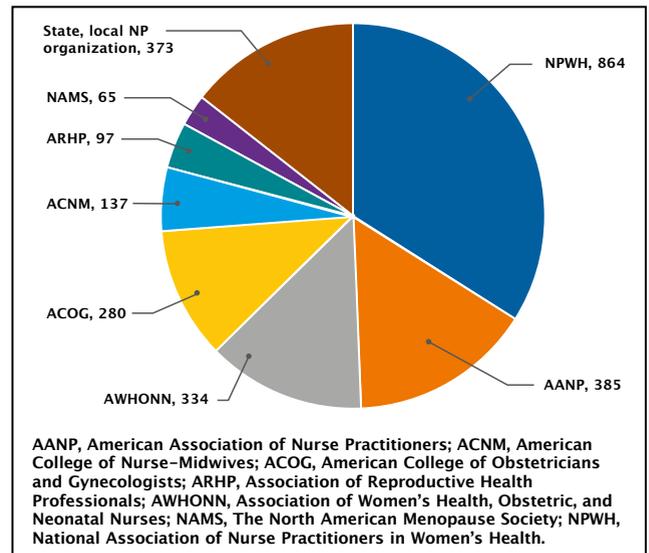
Satisfaction item	Mean	Median
Annual income	3.6	4.0
Level of autonomy	4.3	4.0
Level of professional collaboration	4.2	4.0
Level of interaction/time with patients	4.2	4.0
Opportunities for professional growth	3.5	4.0
Work/life balance	3.7	4.0
Alignment of actual work hours to expected work hours	3.7	4.0
Flexibility/control of schedule	3.6	4.0
Career	4.2	4.0
Overall satisfaction with employment at primary clinic	3.9	4.0

satisfied. Respondents were asked to rate satisfaction with their careers, overall satisfaction with employment at their primary clinical site, and several other specific items (Table 4). The majority (82.1%) rated satisfaction with their careers as a 4 or a 5, with a mean rating of 4.2. Most (74%) also rated overall satisfaction with their employment at their primary clinical site as a 4 or a 5, with a mean rating of 3.9.

### Which memberships in women’s health and APRN organizations do WHNPs hold?

Respondents reported belonging to a variety of professional health organizations, with a primary focus on women’s health (Figure 6). More than one-third of respondents (36%) indicated that they were NPWH members. In addition, one-third of respondents (33%) reported belonging to a

**Figure 6.** Women’s health and APRN organization membership



national/local/state/regional APRN organization. One in four respondents (25.1%) indicated that they do not belong to any professional organization.

### Limitations

The 2018 NPWH WHNP Workforce Demographics and Compensation Study focused on WHNPs who provide direct patient care. A second survey could help capture demographics and compensation data for WHNPs who function in the WHNP role outside of direct patient care (e.g., academia, research, administration, policy). In addition, the data from this national study may not necessarily reflect regional and state environments.

WHNP salaries are likely influenced by several variables. Some of these variables include years of experience, worksite setting, self-employment, and specialty focus. This report provides annual salaries based on the variable of solo versus dual national NP certification. Further data analysis would allow for a second report that could identify important associations among data, including these salary variables.

### Acknowledgment

NPWH thanks Dr. Jagdish Khubchandani for his time and expertise in providing data analysis and assisting with the preparation of this report. Dr. Khubchandani is Associate Professor of Health Science at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.