

North Carolina Mental Health & Substance Use Services Workforce Data 2024 Snapshot:

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS



3,605

MH/SU Prescribers

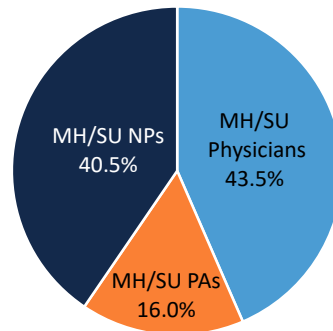
Active Practice, Mental Health & Substance Use Services Prescribers

576

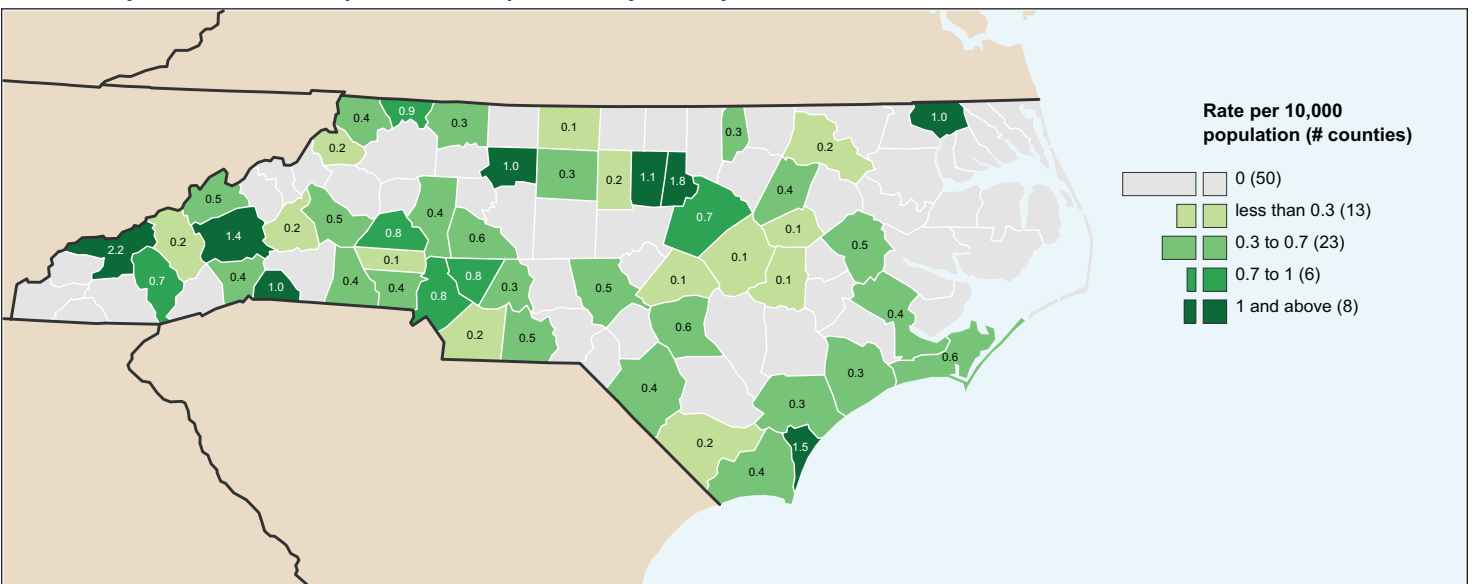
MH/SU PAs

Mental Health & Substance Use Services Physician Assistants

- The average rate for MH/SU PAs in-state was **0.52 per 10,000** population.
- MH/SU PA supply is **increasing**, up from 0.11 per 10,000 population in 2014.
- MH/SU PA comprised **16.0% of the total MH/SU prescriber workforce** in North Carolina in 2024.

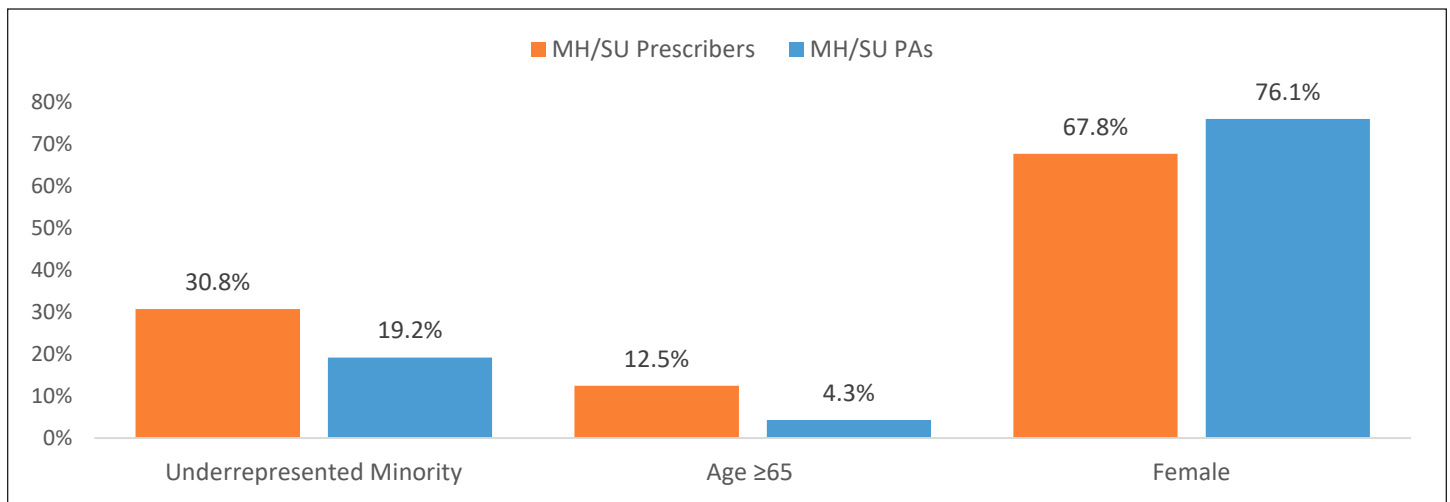


MH/SU Physician Assistants per 10,000 Population by County, North Carolina, 2024



Source: NCMB Licensure Data.

Demographics of MH/SU Prescribers vs MH/SU PAs, 2024

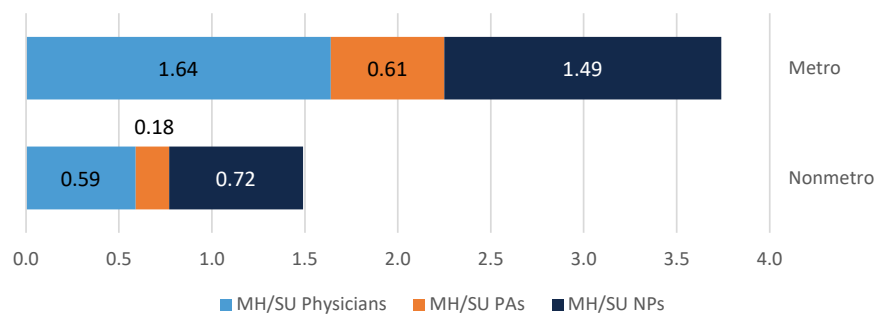


Demographics, 2024

MH/SU Physician Assistants:

- 76.1% female
- 4.3% ≥ 65 years
- 19.2% underrepresented minority

Metro and Nonmetro County Rate per 10k by Licensure Type, 2024



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The state average was **0.52 MH/SU PAs per 10,000 population**, distributed unevenly throughout the state. Half of North Carolina's counties (**50 counties**) had **no MH/SU PAs**. More than **80% of counties were lower** than the state average while seven counties had twice the state average.
- **Metro counties had more than three times the rate of MH/SU PAs** vs nonmetro counties: 0.61 vs 0.18 per 10,000 population.
- MH/SU PAs in NC increased from 2014-2024 and comprised **16.0% of MH/SU prescribers** in the state in 2024. Most MH/SU PAs (90%) specialize in general psychiatry, while 9% specialize in addiction medicine and 1% in child & adolescent psychiatry.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and
Substance Use Services

**SHEPS HEALTH
WORKFORCE NC**

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For more information, please find the full report at: <https://nchealthworkforce.unc.edu/projects/mhsu-workforce/>

