LocumTenens.com conducted its Annual Compensation and Employment Survey in the beginning of 2016. Survey respondents represent physician assistants who practice on a locum tenens basis as well as those with permanent salaries.

In this year’s Your Voice Matters section, we asked physicians and advanced practitioners to weigh in on mental healthcare access issues.

This report includes compensation and employment statistics for physician assistants.

Respondent Demographics:

We asked physician assistants, “considering your career, if you had to do it over again, what would you do differently?”

Career choices:
- 65% change nothing/the same career path
- 12% different career in healthcare
- 12% different career (non-healthcare)
- 8% different specialty
- 3% change nothing/the same career path
- 3% other

Years in practice:
- 34% more than 30 years
- 23% 21–30 years
- 22% 13–20 years
- 13% 6–12 years
- 8% 5 or less years

Employment status:
- 78% employee
- 15% independent practice; owner or partner
- 11% locum tenens or independent contractor exclusively
- 1% retired
- 2% currently unemployed

Next job change:
- 44% in the next 6 months
- 26% 1–2 years
- 15% 6 months–1 year
- 11% 2–3 years
- 4% no plans at this time

2015 average annual physician assistant salary: $114,848

At a glance:
- 41% male
- 59% female
- 35% hospital employed
- 23% group practice
- 20% clinic/community health center
- 16% have worked on a locum tenens basis
- 71% have not but may consider locum tenens in the future

Average paid vacation: 18 days
YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Physician and Advanced Practitioner opinions on mental health access

Every year, we survey physicians and advanced practitioners for their opinions on a specific healthcare topic. This year, we focused on access to mental health services.

According to Mental Health America, there is only one mental health provider for every 566 individuals. In states with the lowest access rates, ratios can be as high as one clinician for every 1,100 individuals. Not seeking treatment for mental illness—whether it be due to lack of access to psychiatrists, no insurance, or because patients fear the stigma a diagnosis brings—has high physical costs for patients. Sobering statistics show that 90 percent of children who die by suicide have a mental illness, and that mood disorders are the third most common reason for hospitalization for children and adults between the ages of 18-44.

See the data breakdown below to see how physicians and advanced practitioners felt about access to mental healthcare services, and how it can be improved.

---

**Methodology:**

Invitations for the survey were emailed to a database of more than 80,000 individuals, which included physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and CRNAs who have been placed by LocumTenens.com and those who have not. Respondents to all surveys were self-selected and spanned all 50 states and medical/surgical specialties. The response rate was 2.56 percent, with a +/- 3 percent error rate at a 95 percent confidence level.

**About LocumTenens.com:**

LocumTenens.com is a full-service staffing firm serving physicians, CRNAs, NPs and PAs searching for locum tenens and permanent job opportunities, as well as healthcare facilities looking to solve employment shortages. The operator of the largest internet job board for the locum tenens industry, LocumTenens.com provides job-seeking providers direct access to thousands of jobs, in all specialties, posted directly by facilities and agencies nationwide.