



**CAPA - Canadian Association of Physician Assistants**

**ACAM - Association canadienne des adjoints au médecin**

# Canada Needs PAs

# Canada's Population is Aging

2011



5 million  
14% of Population

2036

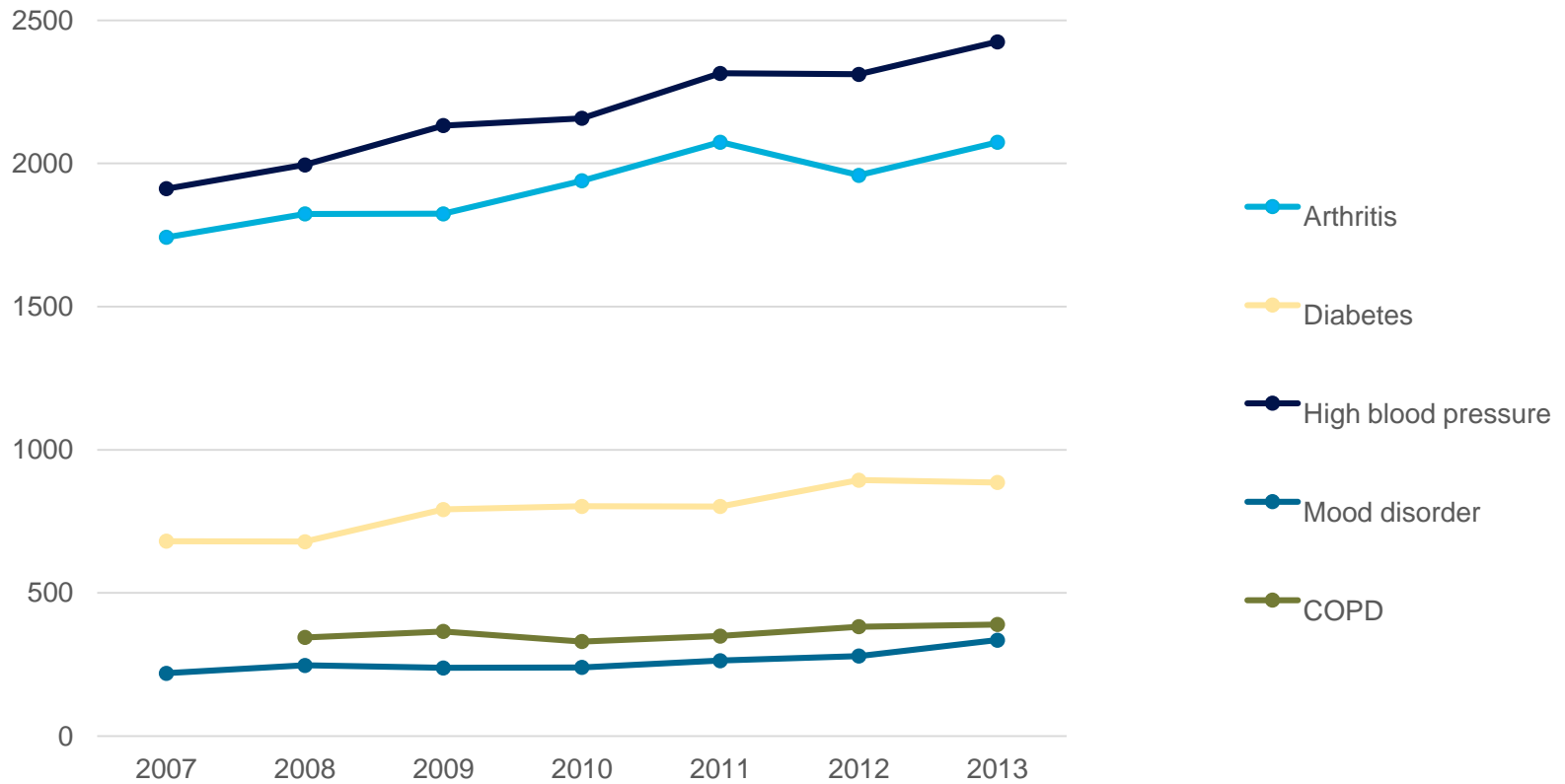


10 million  
24% of Population



# Rise in Chronic Disease

Prevalence of Selected Chronic Conditions  
(Number of adults 65 and over, 000s)





**29.5%**  
of health  
spending



**0.9%** ↑  
growth



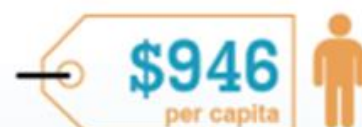
**15.7%**  
of health  
spending



**0.7%** ↑  
growth



**15.5%**  
of health  
spending



**2.2%** ↑  
growth

Growth per capita  
has outpaced  
that for **hospitals** or **drugs** since 2007.

**Source**

National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



# Can Our Health System Keep Up?

- Changing demographics means our already taxed health care system will be more stressed than ever
- Increasing budgets, and decreasing revenues is challenging provincial budgets to fund health appropriately
- Changes need to be made now to keep up with the projected increase in demand
- Physician Assistants reduce wait times, improve access and save money



# What is a PA and Where Can We Find Them?

- PAs are highly skilled healthcare professionals who provide a broad range of medical services under the supervision of a physician. PAs act as physician extenders in a variety of health care settings
- PAs are trained in the medical model in university level programs through the faculties of medicine
- PAs can conduct physical examinations, order and interpret test, prescribe, diagnosis and come up with treatment plans





# Canada's Physician Assistants

## Gender



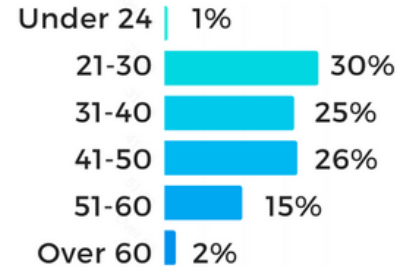
54%  
female



46%  
male



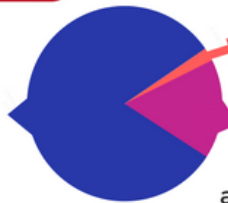
## Age



## Type of PAs



81%  
Civilian  
PAs



2%  
contracted to  
military

16%  
active duty  
Canadian Armed Forces

## Employer



Hospital -32%  
Military - 20%  
Physician(s) - 25%  
Other - 13%

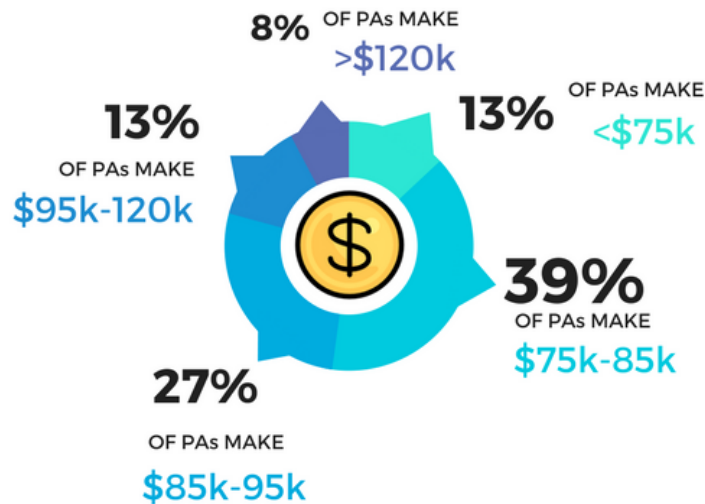




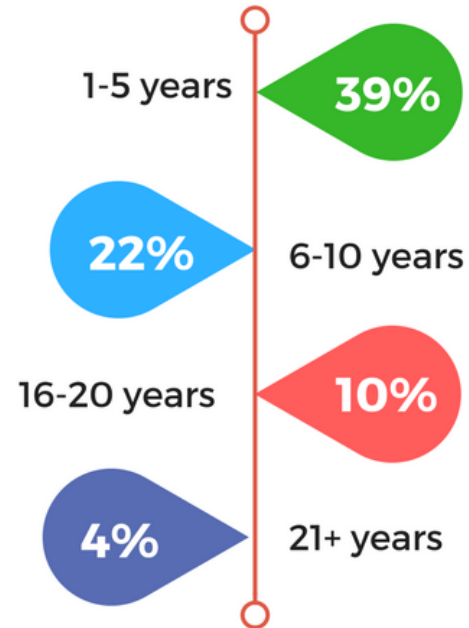


## Canada's Physician Assistants

### PA Compensation



### Years of PA Practice





# Landscape

- There are approximately 600 PAs practicing across Canada
- PAs are practicing in the public healthcare system in AB, MB, ON and NB
- PAs originated in the Canadian Armed Forces in the mid-1960s
- There are four university level academic programs in Canada
- PAs are working best in the US and the Netherlands



# Impact to the Healthcare System

Physician Assistants have been found to have impact on health systems in the following ways:



- reductions in resident and physician workload (saving physician time)



- increases in health care procedures (increased health care productivity)



- improvements in discharge rates



- reductions in wait times



- decreases in length of stay



- reductions in health care costs



# Save the Healthcare System Millions!

Hiring more physician assistants (PAs) and effectively integrating them into health care teams could save the Canadian health care system millions of dollars in efficiency gains:



Saving physician  
time by more than  
**30%**

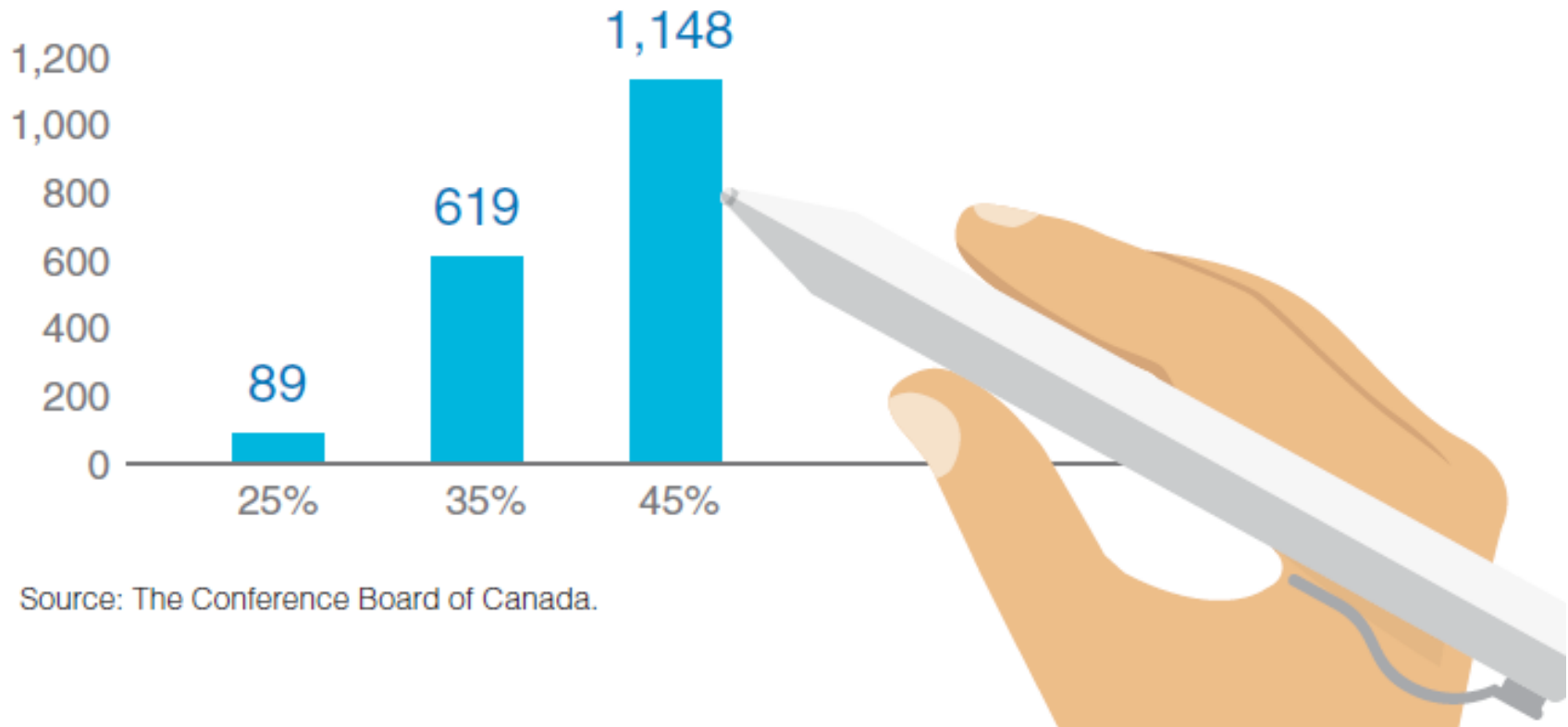


Increasing  
health care  
procedures



## The Economic Value of Physician Assistants

**Total Efficiency Gains of PAs by Productivity, 2017–30**  
(\$ millions)



Source: The Conference Board of Canada.



# Increase Productivity



Increasing productivity in primary care, emergency departments, orthopedics, and other specialties



Reducing  
wait times



Reducing  
health care costs



# Conclusion

- PAs play a valuable in Canada's health system
- PAs **are an efficient auxiliary** for designated medical tasks
- PAs are cost-effective and can save the healthcare system millions
- PAs are becoming a **trusted partner** in healthcare delivery by supporting attainment of good patient outcomes in a team environment



# Next Steps

CAPA would like to partner with government to:

- Increase the number of PAs practicing in the province
- Develop additional compensation models for PAs
- Ensure that there is a mechanism in place to guarantee sustainability for the profession and a sufficient supply of PAs to meet the needs of the population





**Thank you**

