

EDUCATION

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Senate Bill 115: Summary of Additional Supporting Documents

The cost-effectiveness of physician assistant/associates: A systematic review of international evidence as found in the Public Library of Science One (PLOS One) peer-reviewed journal in November 2021.

- This paper is a meta-analysis of physician assistant (PA) care globally and the researchers looked at the quality of care as well as the cost efficacy of PAs in that care.
- In 18 studies, PAs were shown to have a quality of care that exceeded that of a physician, and in 15 studies the care was comparable.
- This meta-analysis found that the cost-effectiveness of PA care was lower in both labor and education.

A study of the Medical Malpractice Payment Reports of Physician Assistants/Associates Related to State Practice Laws and Regulations published in the Journal of Medical Regulation in December 2023.

- In a nationwide analysis over a 9-year span, removing the barriers to PA provision of care did not increase malpractice reports.

The 2021 Primary Care Needs Assessment compiled by the Alaska Division of Public Health.

- For many across Alaska, all levels of health care providers are only present intermittently.
- There is an increasing need for health care providers, and a recorded shortage of primary care providers – with 69% of providers located in the Anchorage and Mat Su area.

Physicians Assistants: Modernize Laws to Improve Rural Access [a policy paper from the National Rural Health Association](#) in April 2018.

- This paper speaks to the nationwide shortage of rural care. The physician shortfall is affecting rural residents at a pace which does not keep up with demand.
- Studies in Iowa, Texas, California, and Washington all show a higher number of PAs practicing in rural areas when compared to physicians.
- According to the National Rural Health Association policy analysis, modernizing regulation helps PAs meet the health care needs of rural communities.