AANA American Association of NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGY

CRNAs Close the Gap on Provider Shortages

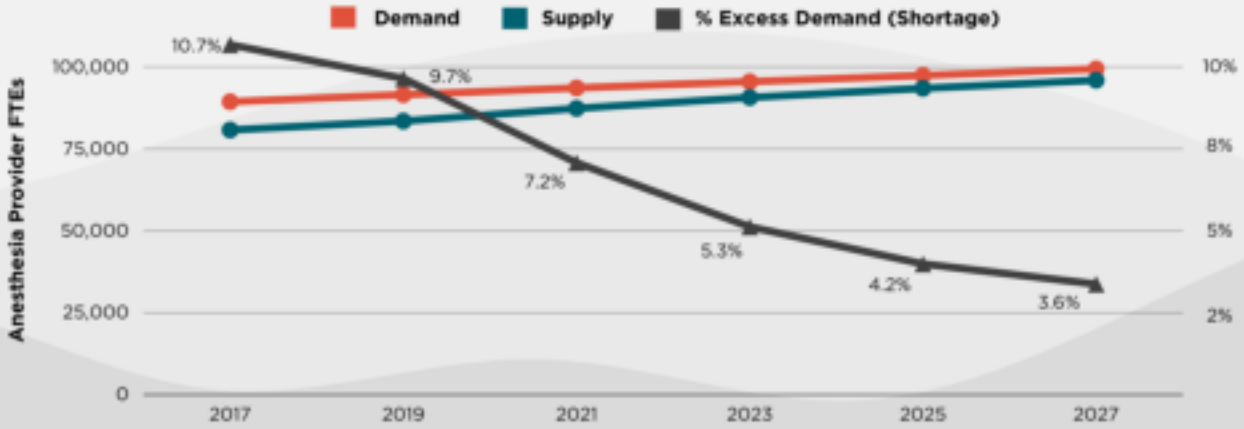
The supply of new graduates entering the anesthesia profession has been increasing faster than the demand for anesthesia care, reducing the shortage of anesthesia providers.

An estimated 10.7% shortage of anesthesia services in 2017 will decline to 3.6% by 2027.[1]

Increasing CRNA-only practice by 10% could reduce the shortage by over 40%.[1]

Practicing independently is associated with higher job satisfaction for CRNAs, which can also help to reduce provider turnover for anesthesia practices.[2]

Projected Trend in Anesthesia Provider Shortage[1]



Couldn't more Anesthesiologist Assistants help fix this?

AAs are not the solution to anesthesia provider workforce shortages.

CRNAs

- Educated and trained to work independently OR with physicians in a wide range of collaborative, consultative, or supervisory arrangements*
- Can independently provide surgical, OB, emergency, and pain management services wherever they are needed – including in rural communities without physician anesthesiologists*
- Allowed by Medicare to use modifier QZ to bill for non-medically directed services
- 59,000 CRNAs and student registered nurse anesthetists + 2,900 new graduates annually
- Licensed to practice in all 50 states + DC

**In states where supervision is required by law, any physician (e.g., surgeon or proceduralist) and, in some states, a dentist or podiatrist can provide it.*

AAs

- Educated and trained to assist physician anesthesiologists – by law, must only work under physician anesthesiologist supervision
- Cannot provide anesthesia care to patients without involving a physician anesthesiologist, dramatically limiting where and when they can work
- Prohibited from billing Medicare unless medically directed by a physician anesthesiologist
- 3,000 AAs + 300 new graduates annually
- Authorized to practice in 17 states + DC

1. Negrusa, Sebastian, Paul Hogan, Inna Cintina, Jihan Quraishi, Ruby Hoyem, Lorraine Jordan, and Matt Zhou. "Anesthesia Services: A Workforce Model and Projections of Demand and Supply." Nursing Economic$ 39, no. 6 (2021): 275–84.

2. Negrusa, Sebastian, Paul Hogan, Lorraine Jordan, Ruby Hoyem, Inna Cintina, Matt Zhou, Amanda Pereira, and Jihan Quraishi. "Work Patterns, Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Job Satisfaction of the CRNA Workforce – Findings from the 2019 AANA Survey of CRNAs." Nursing Outlook 69, no. 3 (February 9, 2021): P370-379.