

S-181.**PEDIATRIC SEDATION OUTSIDE THE OPERATING ROOM WITH A PARAMEDIC****AUTHORS:** A. Targ, A. Rogers**AFFILIATION:** Targ Mobile Anesthesia, Palo Alto, CA

INTRODUCTION: Hiring an Emergency Medical Technician can be a valuable but often overlooked option for finding an assistant with a skill-set uniquely matched to the needs of a mobile pediatric dental sedation practice. The EMT scope of practice varies by state and training level, with the continuum ranging from EMT-B (Basic) to EMT-P (Paramedic), all of whom practice completely independent, unsupervised airway management, including endotracheal intubation (depending upon local laws). In addition to assisting with medical procedures, this individual can be trained to bill insurance, settle payments, handle scheduling and correspondence, and transport and set up equipment.

There are over 200,000 EMTs in the United States who are trained specifically to stabilize patients and transport them to a hospital¹. An EMT can assist with pediatric sedation outside the operating room with hourly wages as low as \$8/hour and replace more expensive Anesthesia Assistants (AAs) and RNs (Figure 1) without compromising quality of care.

METHODS: N/A

RESULTS: An EMT hired to assist the anesthesiologist performed the following responsibilities: equipment set up, greeting patients, verifying NPO and medical history, assisting with sevoflurane inhalation induction, GlideScope nasal intubation, and recovery, disinfecting and packaging instruments for the autoclave, and equipment troubleshooting.

The maximum full-time salary equivalent for an AA is \$131,563 compared with the maximum of \$52,686 for an EMT (Figure 1). When the salaries of an RN, AA, CRNA, and EMT are compared, the EMT is the most cost effective solution. Most states do not even recognize the AA as a legal certificate whereas the EMT continuum is legally recognized in every state³ (Figure 2).

DISCUSSION: An EMT anesthesia assistant benefits both the medical practice and patients. An economical assistant lowers the cost of health care and increases affordability. Although an EMT cannot completely replace a CRNA or an AA, an EMT can provide support to the physician in routine sedation and may have the most experience of any available assistant when it comes to independent decision making and properly executing cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures.

REFERENCES:

1. "Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics." US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2008
2. www.payscale.com
3. National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

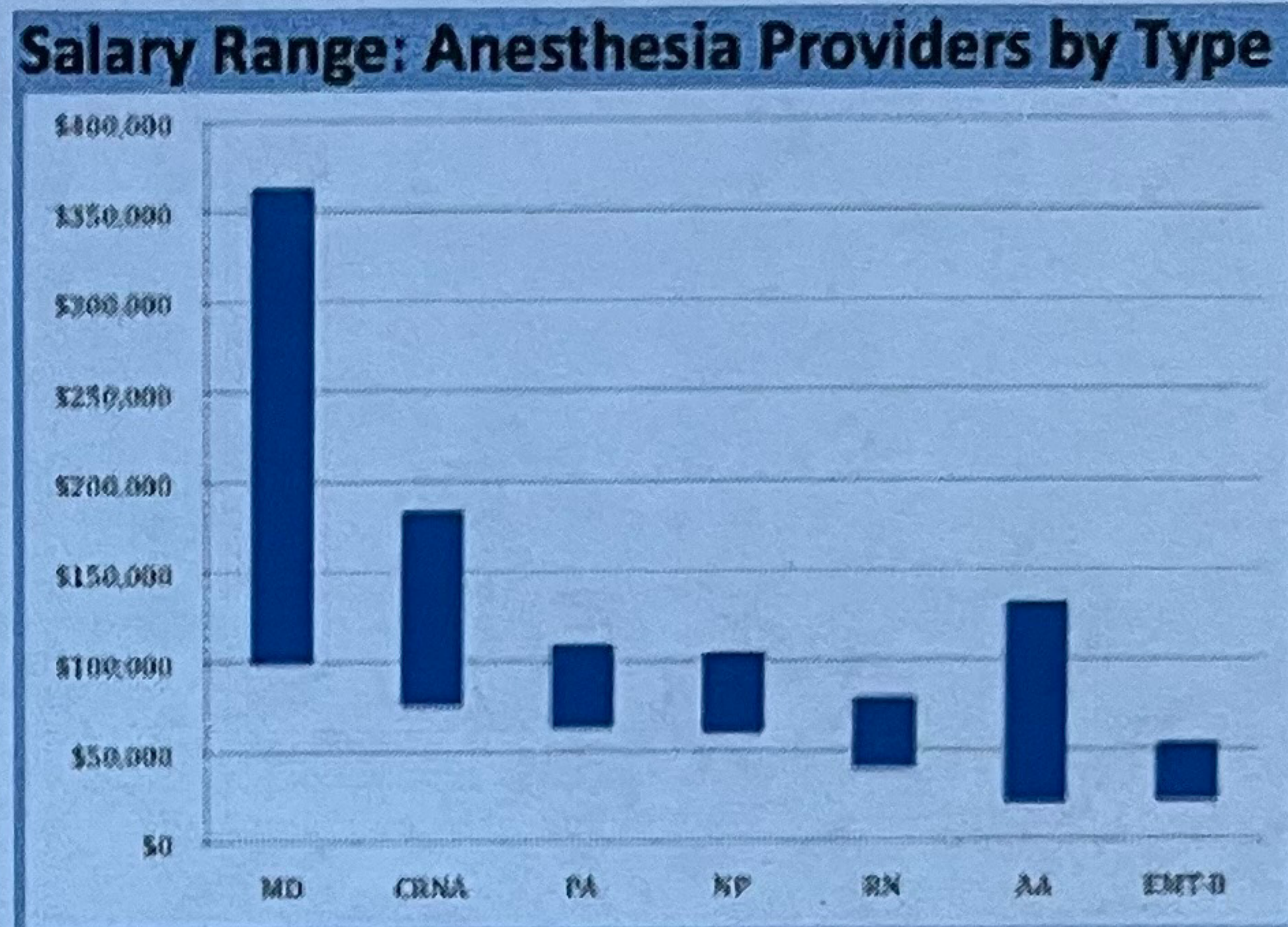
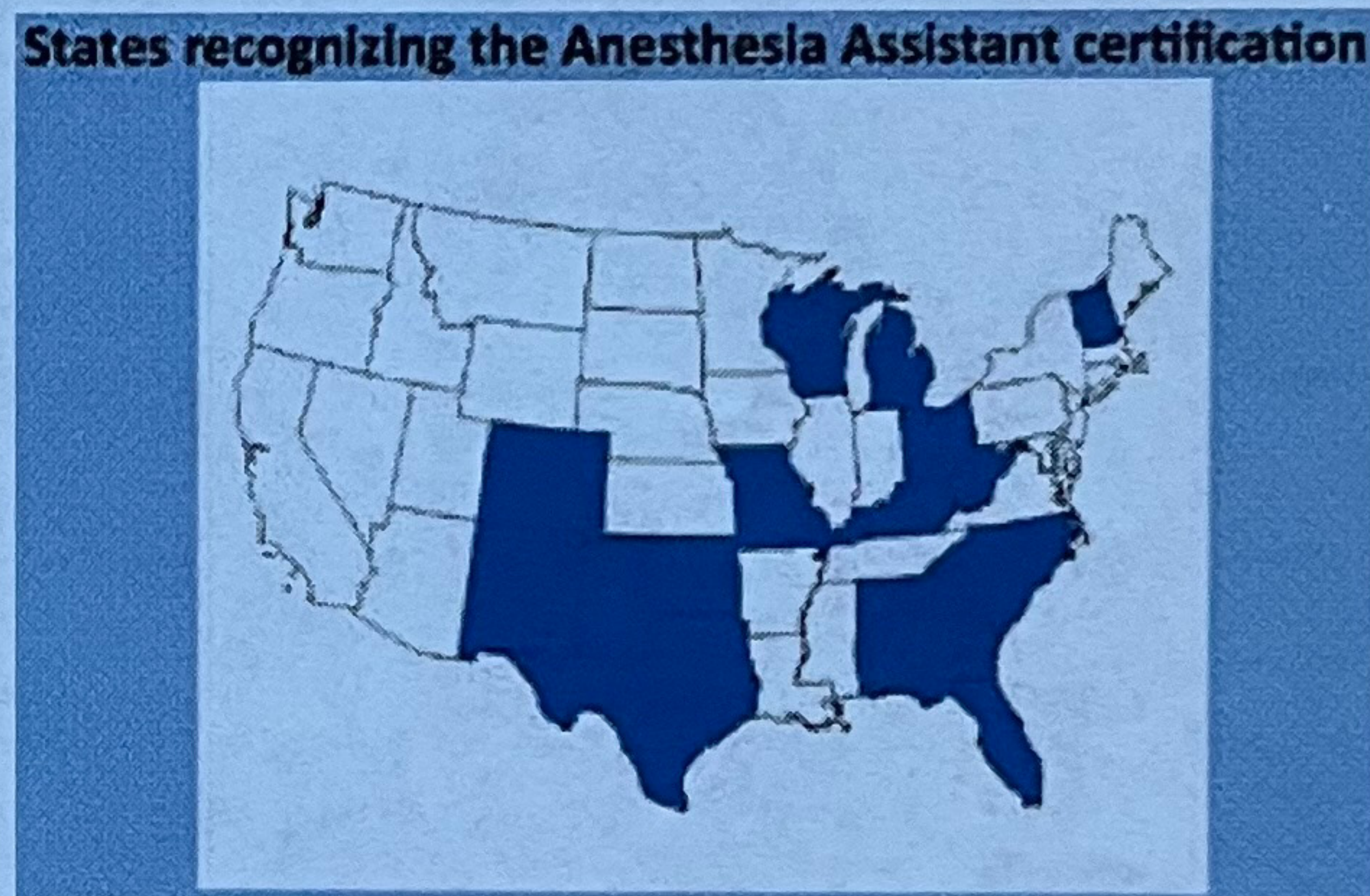


Figure 1: Full time equivalent salary range by healthcare provider (2).



33 states prohibit AA practice by statute. Only seventeen states (shown in blue) recognize the Anesthesia Assistant (AA) as a valid certification: AL, CO, FL, GA, KY, MI, MO, NC, NH, NM, OH, OK, SC, TX, VT, WI, and WV.