



A program of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Research Update

New cohort of recent residency graduates shares thoughts on life, career

from [AAP Research](#)

Most recent residency graduates are busy building their careers and families and are highly satisfied being physicians, according to the AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study (PLACES).

Findings from the newest PLACES cohort, recruited in 2019, indicate that most pediatricians who graduated residency one to three years ago (average age 33 years) work in fellowship training (39%), general pediatrics (39%) and hospital care (13%) positions (see graphic). Nearly all (92%) of the general pediatricians and hospitalists are employees, not owners or independent contractors.

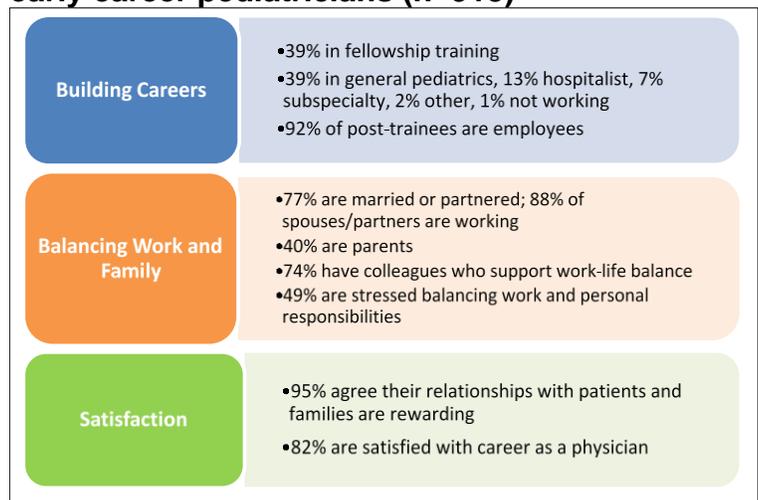
Within this cohort of early career pediatricians, three-fourths are women, 64% are white, non-Hispanic, 20% Asian, 7% Hispanic, 5% black or African American and 4% other race. Most (76%) report they have educational debt (average \$220,000 of own debt), and half are very concerned about their debt.

Eight in 10 are married or partnered, and most of their spouses or partners are working (88%). Four in 10 have children, and one-fourth were pregnant, had a baby or adopted in the past year. Most (90%) are satisfied with their child care arrangements.

While half (49%) report stress in their efforts to balance work and personal responsibilities, overall, pediatricians express high levels of satisfaction with their work and careers. Nearly all (95%) strongly agree or agree their relationships with patients and families are rewarding, and 82% strongly agree or agree they are satisfied with their careers as physicians.

“One of my greatest privileges is meeting wonderful, dedicated early career pediatricians around the country,” said AAP President Sara “Sally” H. Goza, M.D., FAAP. “I am so grateful for the data from PLACES, which continues to show us the future of pediatrics is in good hands.”

Careers, work-life balance and satisfaction of early career pediatricians (n=918)



Source: AAP PLACES, 2016-'18 Residency Graduates Cohort (Annual Survey 2019).

PLACES is an AAP cohort study that tracks the career and life choices and experiences of pediatricians across their careers. Cohorts now include 2016-'18 residency graduates, 2009-'11 residency graduates and 2002-'04 residency graduates. Each PLACES cohort has approximately 900 participants and includes both AAP members and nonmembers, and general pediatricians, subspecialists and hospitalists.

RESOURCES

- The AAP Section on Early Career Physicians provides training, resources and support for early career physicians who are within 10 years of their residency or fellowship training. For information, visit www.aap.org/soecp or contact Britt Nagy at 630-626-6064 or bnagy@aap.org.
- The AAP Section on Pediatric Trainees provides leadership and networking opportunities as well as advocacy and educational resources for fellowship trainees, residents and medical students. For information, visit www.aap.org/sopt or contact Julie Raymond at 630-626-6137 or jraymond@aap.org.
- For more information on the AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study, visit www.aap.org/places or contact Mary Pat Frintner at 630-626-6664 or mfrntner@aap.org.