



Research Update



A program of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Many early career pediatricians live in dual-physician households

from [AAP Research](#)

Pediatricians in the beginning of their careers are busy juggling the demands of work and family. Many also have partners who are physicians, according to the AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study (PLACES).

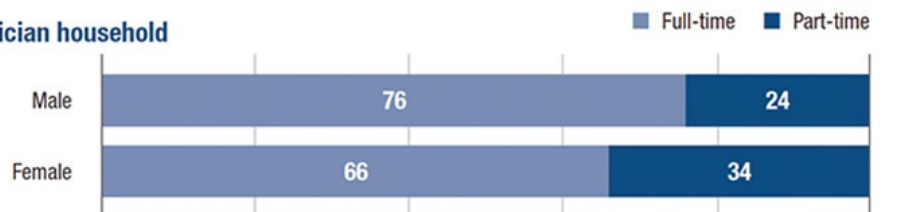
In 2023, 87% of PLACES pediatricians who graduated residency between 2016 and 2018 reported they are married or living with a partner, and 81% of these couples have children. Most of their spouses or partners work full time (77%) or part time (10%), and 29% have a spouse or partner who also is a physician.

Among married or partnered pediatricians, 31% of female and 24% of male pediatricians are in dual-physician households. Among these couples, 34% of female pediatricians and 24% of male pediatricians reported working part-time hours (see figure). Among pediatricians whose spouse or partner is not a physician, far fewer reported working part time (13% of female and 2% of male).

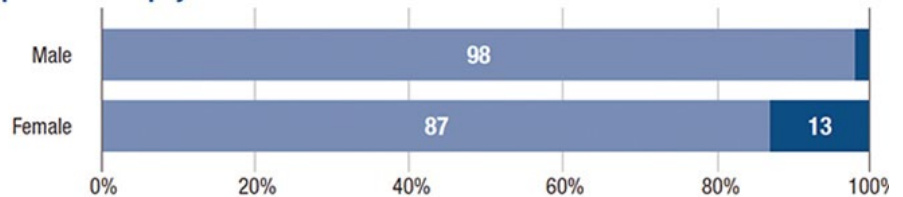
In 2023, six in 10 early career PLACES pediatricians reported they had household educational debt. Among those with debt, pediatricians in dual-physician households reported \$100,000 more debt on average

Early career pediatricians' reported work hours in 2023

Dual-physician household



Spouse or partner not a physician



Source: AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study 2023 data: Includes pediatricians who are married or partnered (2016-'18 residency graduates cohort; n=600); mean age in 2023=37 years

than those whose spouse or partner is not a physician (\$346,000 vs. \$246,000). Few pediatricians reported experiencing financial difficulties (2% in dual-physician households and 7% of those whose spouse or partner is not a physician).

PLACES, launched in 2012, is an AAP cohort study that tracks the career and life choices and experiences of pediatricians across their careers. Cohorts include AAP members and nonmembers who graduated residency in 2016-'18, 2009-'11 and 2002-'04. Marital and financial data were collected in fall 2023 from 600 pediatricians who graduated residency in 2016-'18.

RESOURCES

- For more information on PLACES, visit www.aap.org/places or contact Liz Gottschlich at places@aap.org or 630-626-6627.