

PEDIATRICIAN LIFE AND CAREER EXPERIENCE STUDY (PLACES)

MESSAGE FROM THE AAP PRESIDENT



Dear PLACES participants,

Thank you for all that you do, every day, on behalf of children and families. The work you are doing and the impact you are making will last for generations.

During the past year, PLACES has been all the more important. The information you provide keeps us connected to pediatricians around the country and is guiding our path forward.

Last fall, you provided important data on your personal and professional experiences during COVID-19. We are sharing some of this information with you in this newsletter and the [April issue of AAP News](#).

We know from PLACES that pediatricians are still impacted by COVID-19. We continue to advocate for you and the children we serve on such issues as implementing the vaccine for children 12 years and older, urging parents to take their children to the pediatrician, and addressing the escalating mental health crisis among our nation's youths ([COVID-19 resources](#)).

PLACES participants recently prioritized two topics to ask about on our current survey: 1) diversity and inclusion in practice and 2) financial health and impact of the pandemic on practice. These topics are high priorities of the Academy as well. To keep the survey brief, we are conducting surveys on both topics, but you will be randomly assigned to only one.

The short spring survey is now underway, and we truly appreciate your taking time to complete it. As always, we will listen, and respond. Thank you!

Lee Savio Beers, MD, FAAP

President

American Academy of Pediatrics



A program of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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UPDATE ON PLACES DURING COVID-19

PLACES continues, thanks to you!

- You and the PLACES project are very important to the Academy.
- Thanks to many of you, we were able to collect timely and important data during the fall of 2020 that we are sharing with you today.
- Today, we are sending you a short survey on 1 of 2 topics prioritized by PLACES participants:
 - Diversity and inclusion in practice
 - Financial health and impact of the pandemic on practice
- These data will help inform work at the Academy on these important topics.
- Thank you in advance for completing the short survey!

[Where to find critical updates on COVID-19 for pediatricians](#)

Critical Updates on COVID-19

American Academy of Pediatrics

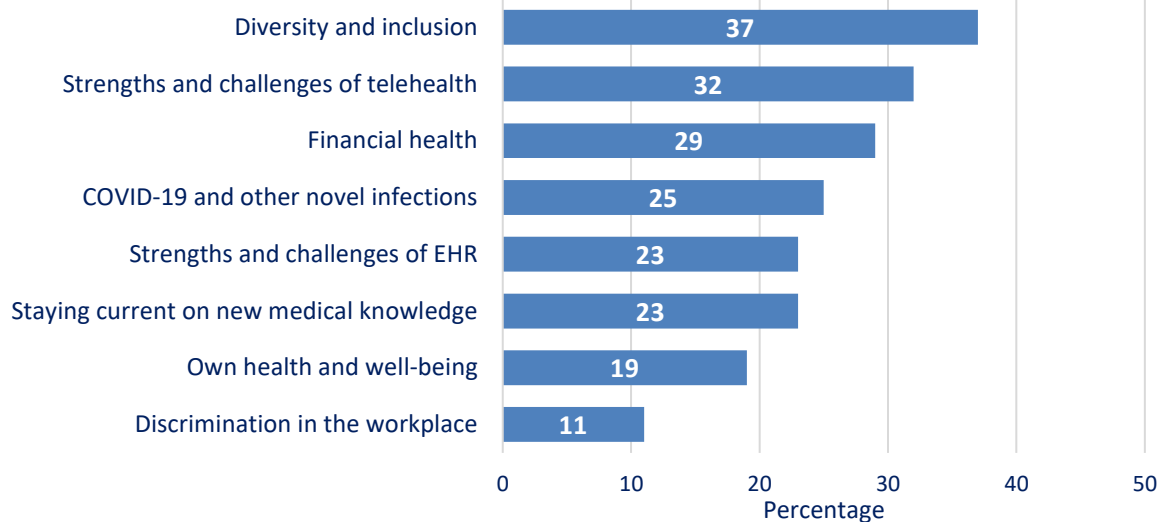
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



WHAT DO PLACES PARTICIPANTS WANT ON THE NEXT SURVEY?

We want to make sure we include topics important to pediatricians on our surveys, so we asked PLACES participants in the fall to tell us the topics that are a high priority (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Frequency that PLACES pediatricians endorsed topic as being a high priority to ask on future surveys (participants selected up to 3 topics in 2020), n=2,211



The most commonly selected topics were diversity and inclusion, telehealth, and financial health-Figure 1.

Over one-third of PLACES participants selected diversity and inclusion, one-third selected telehealth, and many selected financial health and COVID-19. In response, we included questions on these topics on the spring survey.

- You were randomly assigned to only one of these topics.
- The survey is **MUCH** shorter than the survey you completed in the fall.
- It should only take 5-10 minutes to complete.

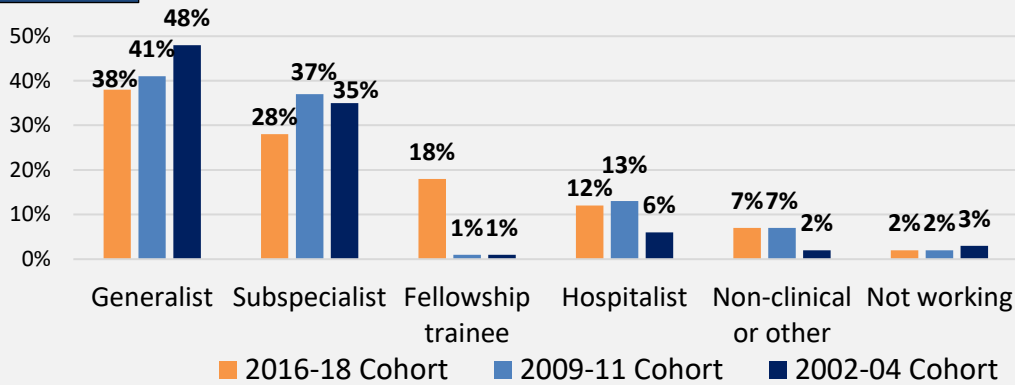
Please share your thoughts and experiences with us by completing the short survey! We will share data with you in a future newsletter so you can see how other PLACES pediatricians responded to both surveys.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN 2020 BY PLACES COHORT

MAY 2021

Figure 1

PLACES pediatricians primary position in 2020



Source: AAP PLACES, 2020 (n=2,277)

PLACES Cohorts - Based on residency graduation years:

- **2016-2018 Cohort**
Mean age= 34 yrs, 75% female
- **2009-2011 Cohort**
Mean age= 41 yrs, 76% female
- **2002-2004 Cohort**
Mean age= 48 yrs, 70% female

What we learned from you in the fall of 2020

Nearly all working in 2020 - Figure 1

- Many pediatricians in the 2016-18 cohort were in fellowship training

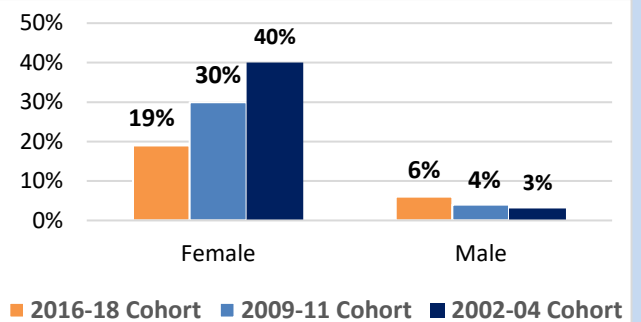
Part-time hours common for women - Figure 2

- Overall, 3 in 10 female and few male pediatricians worked part-time hours in 2020 (excluding fellowship trainees)
- Part-time hours increased by age of cohort for female but not male pediatricians

Decreased patient volume during COVID-19

- Two-thirds of primary care pediatricians, 57% of hospitalists, and 44% of subspecialists reported patient volume was down, compared to before COVID-19
 - 35% of primary care pediatricians, 59% of hospitalists, and 47% of subspecialists were experiencing decreases of 26% or more

Figure 2. Percent of PLACES pediatricians working part-time in 2020 by gender and cohort



Source: AAP PLACES, 2020; excluding fellowship trainees (n=2,005)

Table 1. Percentage reporting by cohort and gender

| | 2016-18 | | 2009-11 | | 2002-04 | |
|--|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Married or partnered | 81 | 83 | 87 | 96 | 86 | 91 |
| Spouse or partner has full-time job | 85 | 56 | 76 | 44 | 77 | 34 |
| Has children | 52 | 53 | 86 | 93 | 91 | 91 |
| Has more household chores and responsibilities than spouse/partner | 37 | 11 | 45 | 6 | 50 | 7 |
| Very or moderately stressed balancing personal and professional responsibilities | 52 | 52 | 62 | 51 | 47 | 34 |

Work-life balance - Table 1

- Most PLACES pediatricians are married or partnered
- Women in all 3 cohorts are much more likely than men to have a spouse or partner who has a full-time job
- Half of the youngest cohort have children; most in the older cohorts have children
- Women in all 3 cohorts are more likely to report doing more household responsibilities and chores
- Women in the older cohorts are more likely to be stressed balancing personal and professional responsibilities

PLACES pediatricians conveyed many challenges related to juggling personal and professional responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic

- “School and childcare have been a HUGE challenge. Impossible to have true back up plans for when plans change/fall apart. Very stressful and I am never relaxed as it feels like any minute the bottom can fall out. JUST SUPER HARD. No good answers.”
- “It has taken all my energy to provide social-emotional centering for my family in addition to the practical work I provide as mother, default family care-taker (as a physician), and general problem-solver.. My ability to trouble-shoot logistical changes and create new routines for my family has limits.”
- “Personally, I've found working during the pandemic to be very emotionally challenging. In the past, I've been able to balance work with meaningful personal interactions, and these experiences - going out for dinner, traveling out of town, seeing movies and shows, etc. - have brought a nice balance to my life. However, I am really no longer able to do these things, which has been very emotionally challenging particularly as time has gone on.”
- “Working from home has blurred the lines between already blurry/tenuous work/life balance... There isn't any more 'leaving work at work' because work is at home.”

ABOUT PLACES

AAP appreciates your valuable participation and data

- Thanks to you, we continue to disseminate new information about early and mid-career pediatricians!
- PLACES results are used by Academy leadership and disseminated widely in AAP News, at conferences, and in peer reviewed journals.

Check out www.aap.org/places for information on PLACES, including results.

PLACES is a longitudinal cohort study tracking the experiences and opinions of pediatricians over time.

There are 3 important cohorts:

- 2002-2004 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=897
- 2009-2011 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=897
- 2016-2018 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=917

PLACES participants are surveyed twice a year:

- Main study survey
- Shorter survey, focused on topics selected by participants

Strengths of PLACES:

- Longitudinal design
- Range of content (work, satisfaction, personal dimension)
- **Commitment of participants, like you!**

A Special Thanks to the PLACES Project Advisory Committee:

Bobbi Byrne, MD; Gary Freed, MD, MPH; Laurel Leslie, MD, MPH; Amy Starmer, MD, MPH