

PEDIATRICIAN LIFE AND CAREER EXPERIENCE STUDY (PLACES)

MESSAGE FROM THE AAP PRESIDENT

Dear PLACES Pediatricians:



Thank you for your continued commitment to children and families and to PLACES.

The information you provide keeps us connected to pediatricians around the country and helps chart a path forward. Especially now, as we address the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, the deepening mental health crisis, and the rise in firearm injuries, what we learn from PLACES is all the more valued.

We are now in the 10th year of this unique longitudinal study, which has greatly exceeded our expectations. On behalf of Academy leadership, I cannot thank you enough for your commitment. We plan to continue surveying PLACES participants – for at least another 5 years – to best understand pediatricians' careers and practice experiences over time and across the United States.

The short summer survey you are receiving asks for your feedback on experiences and needs related to addressing children's mental health, the important issue prioritized by you, PLACES pediatricians.

We truly appreciate your time to complete this survey - addressing the optimal healthy mental and emotional development of children is a highest priority at the Academy (<https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/mental-health-initiatives>). We will listen carefully to what we learn from you as we continue to develop new initiatives to meet these critical needs.

Thank you, as always, for everything you do for children.

Warm regards,
Moira Szilagyi, MD, PhD, FAAP
President

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ABOUT PLACES

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

There are 3 important cohorts:

Participating since 2012:

- 1) 2002-2004 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=897
- 2) 2009-2011 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=896

Participating since 2019:

- 3) 2016-2018 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=917

PLACES pediatricians are surveyed twice a year:

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

Strengths of PLACES:

- Longitudinal design
- Inclusion of both AAP members and non-members
- Range of content (work, satisfaction, personal dimension)
- **Commitment of pediatricians, like you!**

Mental Health Initiatives

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TOPICS IMPORTANT TO PLACES PEDIATRICIANS

JULY 2022

WHAT DO PLACES PEDIATRICIANS 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 what topics are a high priority (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Frequency that PLACES participants endorsed topic as being a high priority to ask on future surveys (participants selected up to 3 topics in 2021), n=2,091



The most commonly selected topic was addressing mental health needs of children (Figure 1).

- Over 40% of PLACES pediatricians selected addressing mental health as a high priority topic, followed by financial health (32%).
- Four in 10 pediatricians in the youngest PLACES cohort (2016-18 Residency Graduates Cohort) prioritized financial health (education debt, compensation, benefits, contracts). *We are listening and plan to ask a few targeted financial health questions to this cohort on the next survey.*

In the short summer survey, we are asking you about mental health in your community. Given the recent tragic rise in firearm injuries and deaths among children, we also include select items on firearms.

- 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 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.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN 2021 BY COHORT AND GENDER

JULY 2022

What we learned from you in 2021

Most pediatricians are juggling work and family

- Nearly all (97%) PLACES pediatricians were employed
 - Most were in generalist (42%), subspecialist (37%), and hospitalist (11%) positions
- The majority of PLACES pediatricians (about 85%) are married or partnered
 - Female pediatricians (81%) are much more likely than male pediatricians (49%) to have a spouse/partner who is working full-time (**Figure 2**)
- 60% in the 2016-18 Cohort and about 90% among the 2009-11 and 2002-04 Cohorts have children

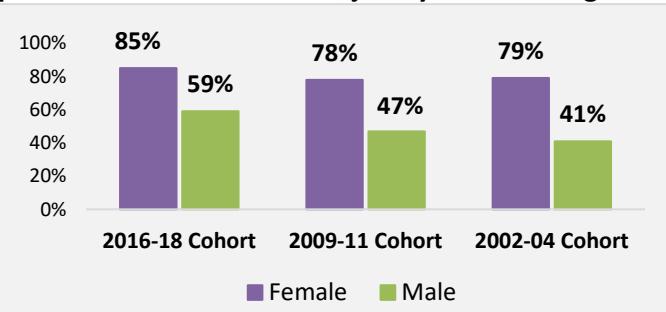
PLACES Cohorts *Based on residency graduation year:*

2016-2018 Cohort Mean age=35 years, 74% female

2009-2011 Cohort Mean age=42 years, 76% female

2002-2004 Cohort Mean age=49 years, 70% female

Figure 2. PLACES pediatricians with a spouse or partner who has a full-time job by cohort and gender



Source: AAP PLACES, 2021 (n=1,859)

Satisfaction with time

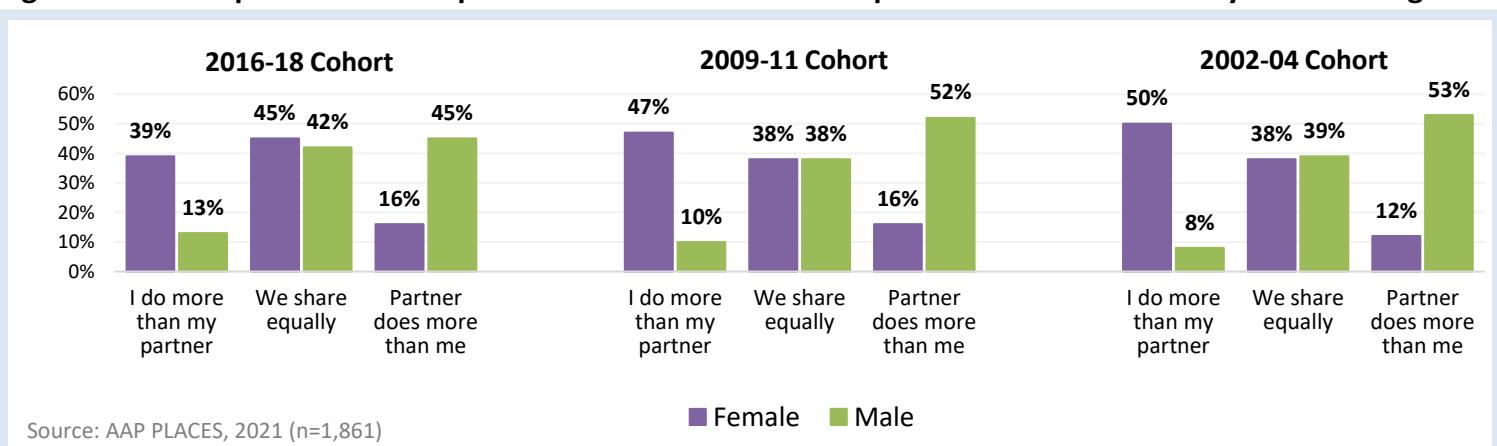
- Less than one-third (28%) of PLACES pediatricians were satisfied with the time they had to pursue personal interests and hobbies
- About 4 in 10 (38%) were satisfied with the time they had to spend with their spouse/partner
- About half (48%) of parents were satisfied with the time they had to spend with their children

Household responsibility and chores

In all 3 PLACES cohorts:

- Female pediatricians were more likely than males to report doing more household responsibilities and chores than their spouse/partner (**Figure 3**)
 - For example, among the 2002-04 Cohort, 50% of females responded "I do more than my spouse or partner" compared to 8% of males
- Both female and male pediatricians with a spouse/partner working full-time were more likely than those with a spouse/partner working part-time or not working to report more household responsibilities (44% vs 13%, respectively)

Figure 3. PLACES pediatricians' reported share of household responsibilities and chores by cohort and gender



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 professional conferences, and in peer-reviewed journals.

Recent journal articles, 2019-2022:

- [Different measures and ways to categorize pediatrician burnout and the association with satisfaction](#)
- [Changes in work characteristics and pediatrician satisfaction: 2012–2020](#)
- [The effect of electronic health record burden on pediatricians' work-life balance and career satisfaction](#)
- [Factors influencing career longevity in pediatric hospital medicine](#)
- [Gender differences in earnings of early- and midcareer pediatricians](#)
- [Gender discrepancies related to pediatrician work-life balance and household responsibilities](#)

Recent presentations:

Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, April 2022

- ["Early Versus Mid-Career Pediatricians' Share of Household Responsibilities by Gender"](#)
- ["US Early and Midcareer Pediatricians' Experiences with Telehealth in 2021"](#)

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

HIGHEST PLACES PRIORITY – PROTECTION OF YOUR DATA

Is PLACES reviewed by an institutional review board (IRB)?

PLACES was initially approved in November 2011 by the AAP IRB, and each year the IRB reviews the protocol, the PLACES surveys, and any changes to the study.

How are my data protected?

The IRB-approved procedures to protect your data and keep it confidential and secure include:

- 1) Identifying your data with a number and not your name
- 2) Storing data on password protected computers in password protected files, or in locked file cabinets with access limited to key research staff at the AAP
- 3) Using a secure online data collection system that complies with US frameworks set by the Department of Commerce
- 4) Releasing only aggregate statistics

Have any measures been taken to enhance the protection of my data?

Yes! We recently received an extension of the Certificate of Confidentiality for PLACES from the federal government to continue to protect your data. This means we cannot be forced to disclose information you provide us that may identify you, even by a court subpoena, unless you request the disclosure.

The only time we can be forced to disclose your information, without your consent, is if you reported to us that you committed child abuse or intended to hurt yourself or others.

Whom do I contact if I have questions about PLACES or the confidentiality of my data?

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A Special Thanks to the PLACES Project Advisory Committee:

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