

PEDIATRICIAN LIFE AND CAREER EXPERIENCE STUDY (PLACES)

MESSAGE FROM THE AAP PRESIDENT

Dear PLACES Pediatricians:

Thank you so much for your continued participation in PLACES.



Our 2023 Academy child health and practice priorities are Healthy Mental and Emotional Development; COVID Recovery and Disaster Readiness; Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and Safety and Wellbeing within the Pediatric Profession. The information you provide to AAP leadership has been invaluable to understand and address these critical issues in communities across the country.

The priority topic you identified for the short spring survey – growth of disinformation and mistrust of science – relates directly to our work and priorities in 2023. This survey is now underway. As pediatricians we are the voice of science and reason, deeply committed to advocating for children, but often in the current environment, advocacy brings new difficulties. We are very appreciative of your time to complete this survey and will be listening carefully to learn what we can contribute to supporting pediatricians in these challenges.

In this newsletter we also summarize the important issue of financial health for those early in their career, a topic prioritized last year by the PLACES cohort graduating residency in 2016-18. Information on trends in debt and earnings is highly valuable as we continue work to support pediatricians' financial well-being.

Thank you for all you do every day for children, families, and your communities.

Warmest regards,
Sandy Chung, MD, FAAP
President

In this issue...

- Message from the AAP President
- About PLACES
- Topics PLACES pediatricians want on next survey
- Financial health
- Recent publications and upcoming presentations

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) 2002-04 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=895
- 2) 2009-11 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=896

Participating since 2019:

- 3) 2016-18 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=915

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!**

For more information and all publications, visit

www.aap.org/places



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TOPICS IMPORTANT TO PLACES PEDIATRICIANS

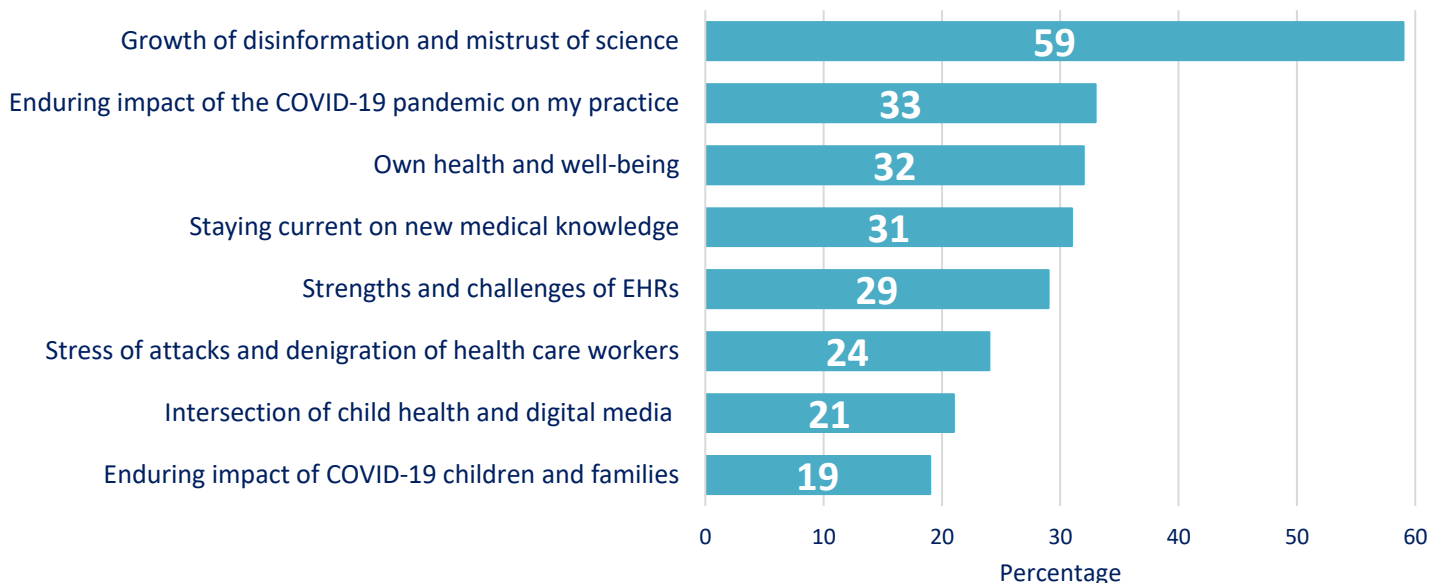
MARCH 2023

WHAT DO PLACES PEDIATRICIANS WANT ON THE NEXT SURVEY?

Nearly 8 in 10 PLACES pediatricians completed the 2022 main study survey – thank you!

We want to make sure we include topics important to pediatricians on our surveys, so we asked you last fall to tell us what topics 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 2022; n=2,061)



The most commonly selected topic in Fall, 2022 was growth of disinformation and mistrust in science (Figure 1).

- Six in 10 PLACES pediatricians (59%) selected the growth of disinformation and mistrust in science as a high priority topic.

In the spring survey, we are asking about your experiences and needs around disinformation and mistrust of science. We also include targeted items on experiences you might have had with harassment and public attacks.

- This survey is **MUCH** shorter than the one you completed in the fall.
- It should only take 5-10 minutes to complete.

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

What we heard from you in Fall, 2021

- Four in 10 early career pediatricians (2016-18 Residency Graduates Cohort) selected **financial health** as a priority topic on the 2021 main study survey.
- We listened and asked several financial questions to pediatricians early in their careers on the 2022 main study survey.

What we learned from you in Fall, 2022

Educational Debt

- Early career pediatricians (2016-18 Cohort) were most likely to report having current educational debt in 2022 (Figure 2)

- Among those with current debt:

2016-18 Cohort

- Average remaining debt is \$247,200

2009-11 Cohort

- Average remaining debt is \$96,500

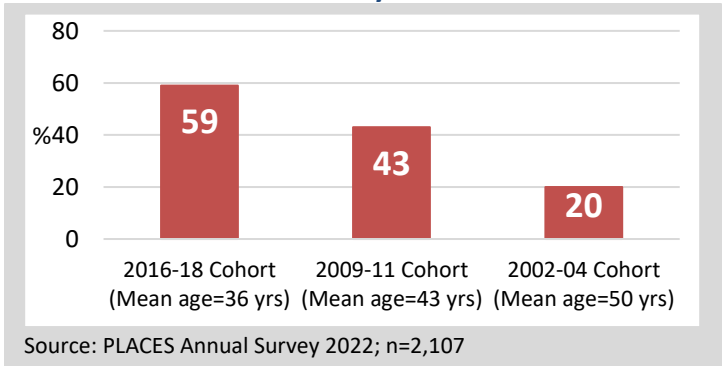
2002-04 Cohort

- Average remaining debt is \$50,700

- Among early career pediatricians with current debt:

- 36% are very concerned about their debt
- 53% are currently making payments on their loans
 - Average monthly payment is about \$1,700

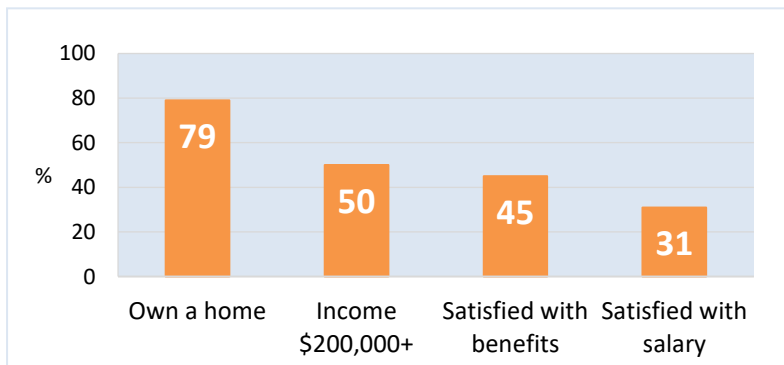
Figure 2. PLACES Pediatricians Reporting Current Educational Debt in 2022 by Cohort



Financial Characteristics of Early Career Pediatricians in 2022 (Figure 3)

- Half of early career pediatricians working full-time reported earning income of at least \$200,000
 - Subspecialists were most likely to report earning \$200,000 or more

Figure 3. Financial Characteristics of Early Career PLACES Pediatricians



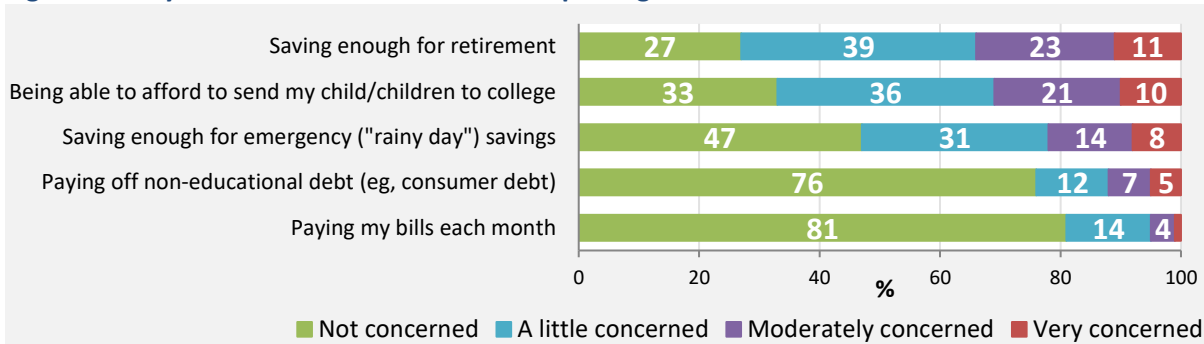
Source: PLACES Annual Survey 2022; n=762

- Nearly 8 in 10 reported owning a home
- Almost half were very or completely satisfied with their benefits (including medical and dental insurance, retirement plans, and other fringe benefits)
- 3 in 10 were very or completely satisfied with their salary (including bonuses)
 - PLACES pediatricians surveyed previously at the same career stage reported similar findings

Financial Concerns of Early Career Pediatricians in 2022 (Figure 4)

- 1 in 3 early career pediatricians were moderately or very concerned about saving enough for retirement
- Far fewer (1 in 10 or fewer) were concerned about paying their bills each month and paying off non-educational debt
- PLACES pediatricians surveyed previously at a comparable career stage reported similar findings

Figure 4. Early Career PLACES Pediatricians Reporting Financial Concerns



Source: PLACES Annual Survey 2022; n=764

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

The AAP appreciates your valuable participation and data – thank you!

The valuable data you provide continue to be published and presented, accurately telling the stories of pediatricians today.

Recent Publications

- 2023:**
- [Examining early career pediatrician characteristics, sacrifices, and satisfaction](#)
 - [Understanding and Cultivating Well-being for the Pediatrician: Importance of and Barriers to Preventive Health](#)
- 2022:**
- [Pediatricians' experiences with telehealth in 2021](#)
 - [Different measures and ways to categorize pediatrician burnout and the association with satisfaction](#)
 - [Changes in work characteristics and pediatrician satisfaction: 2012–2020](#)
- 2021:**
- [The effect of electronic health record burden on pediatricians' work–life balance and career satisfaction](#)

Upcoming Presentations

Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, April 2023

- “Characteristics Associated with Retention in a Rural Area Among Early- and Mid-Career Pediatricians”
- “Differences in Earnings of Female and Male Early and Mid-Career Pediatricians, 2017-2021”
- “Factors Fellowship Trainees Report as Important in Their Subspecialty Choice and Current Satisfaction with Their Subspecialty”
- “Female and Male Early and Mid-career Pediatricians’ Reported Well-being and Career Satisfaction Before and During COVID-19 Pandemic, 2012-2021”
- “Pediatrician Work Hours 2013-2021: A Longitudinal Examination”
- “Primary Care Pediatricians’ Views on and Experiences Addressing Child Mental Health Needs by Practice Area”

A Special Thanks to the PLACES Project Advisory Committee:

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