

PEDIATRICIAN LIFE AND CAREER EXPERIENCE STUDY (PLACES)

MESSAGE FROM THE AAP PRESIDENT

Dear PLACES Pediatricians:

Thank you for your continued participation in PLACES and for what you do each day, working hard to do the right thing for kids, families, and communities.



Your involvement in PLACES provides an incredible contribution. I am very grateful and can tell you firsthand, what we learn from you guides the AAP Board's strategic thinking and plans for the future. It keeps us connected with what pediatricians in diverse communities and practices around the country are experiencing on key issues.

Last spring, you provided timely information on the growth of misinformation and mistrust of science and safety in the workplace. The results are informing the work of the AAP Task Force on Safety and Wellbeing within the Pediatric Profession and will be presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies 2024 meeting in Toronto. *Check out page 4 for details on the abstracts.*

Last fall, you provided important data on stressors you face at work and how satisfied you are working with kids and families. This information is highly valuable as we continue our work to support pediatricians. We are sharing some of the data with you in this newsletter.

Finally, the short survey you are receiving today asks for your feedback on experiences with staff shortages – a pressing issue that PLACES pediatricians prioritized as the theme for this survey. Knowing how busy you are, we especially appreciate your time in completing this important survey.

Thank you for all you do to make a difference for kids!

Warm regards,
Ben Hoffman, MD, 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) 2002-04 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=894
- 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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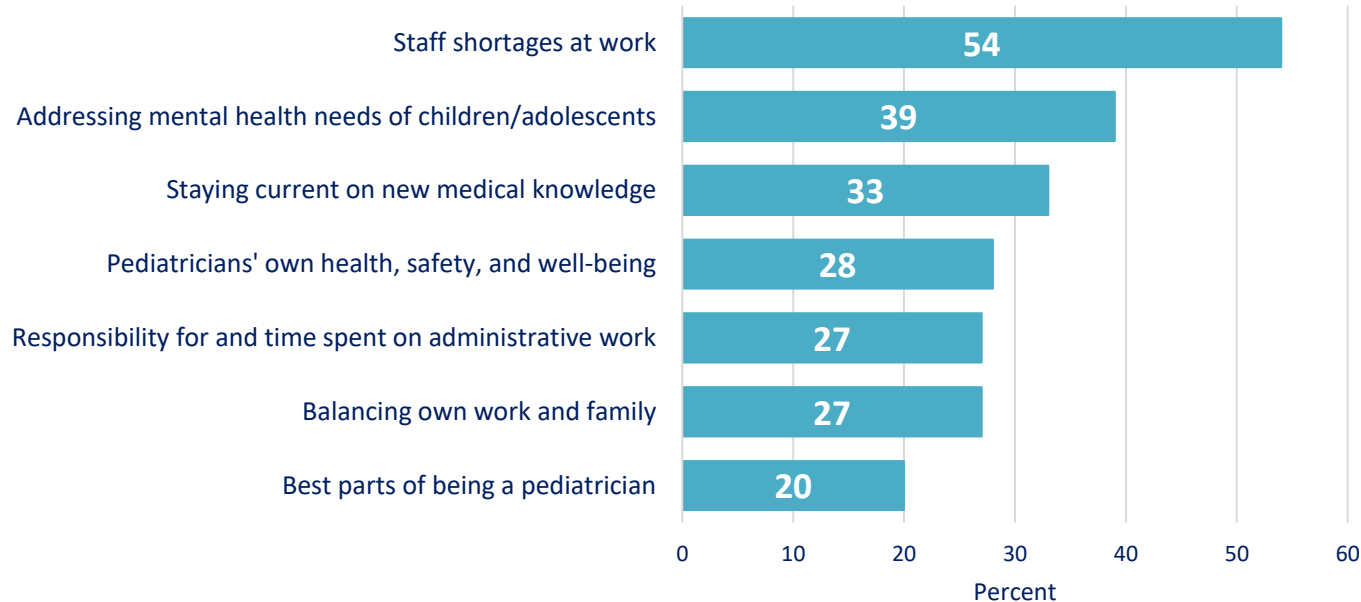
TOPICS PLACES PEDIATRICIANS WANT ON NEXT SURVEY

MARCH 2024

Three in four PLACES pediatricians completed the 2023 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 which topics you would like us to ask about on the next survey (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Percent of PLACES pediatricians endorsing topic to be asked on next survey



Source: PLACES Annual Survey 2023, n=2,007; participants selected up to 3 topics in 2023

The most commonly selected topic in Fall, 2023 was staff shortages at work (Figure 1) – over half of PLACES pediatricians (54%) selected staff shortages as a high priority topic for the next survey.

- The spring 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 on staff shortages! We will share data with you in a future newsletter so you can see how other PLACES pediatricians responded.

STRESS AT WORK AND SATISFACTION WORKING WITH FAMILIES

MARCH 2024

What we learned from you in Fall, 2023

Stress at Work – Figure 2

The top work stressors for PLACES participants, with about half reporting they are moderately or very stressed, include:

- Finishing or catching up on work at home (54%)
- Documenting patient information in the EHR (47%)
- Completing required non-clinical activities (45%)

In contrast, fewer report feeling moderately or very stressed from providing clinical care to children and adolescents (32%)

- Just 5% report being very stressed
- The majority are only a little (50%) or not at all (18%) stressed

Pediatricians **earlier in their career** are more likely to report feeling moderately or very stressed about finishing work at home than those further along in their career:

- 2016-18 Cohort = 59%
- 2009-11 Cohort = 55%
- 2002-04 Cohort = 48%

PLACES Cohorts

Based on residency graduation:

2016-18 Cohort Mean age=37 years

2009-11 Cohort Mean age=44 years

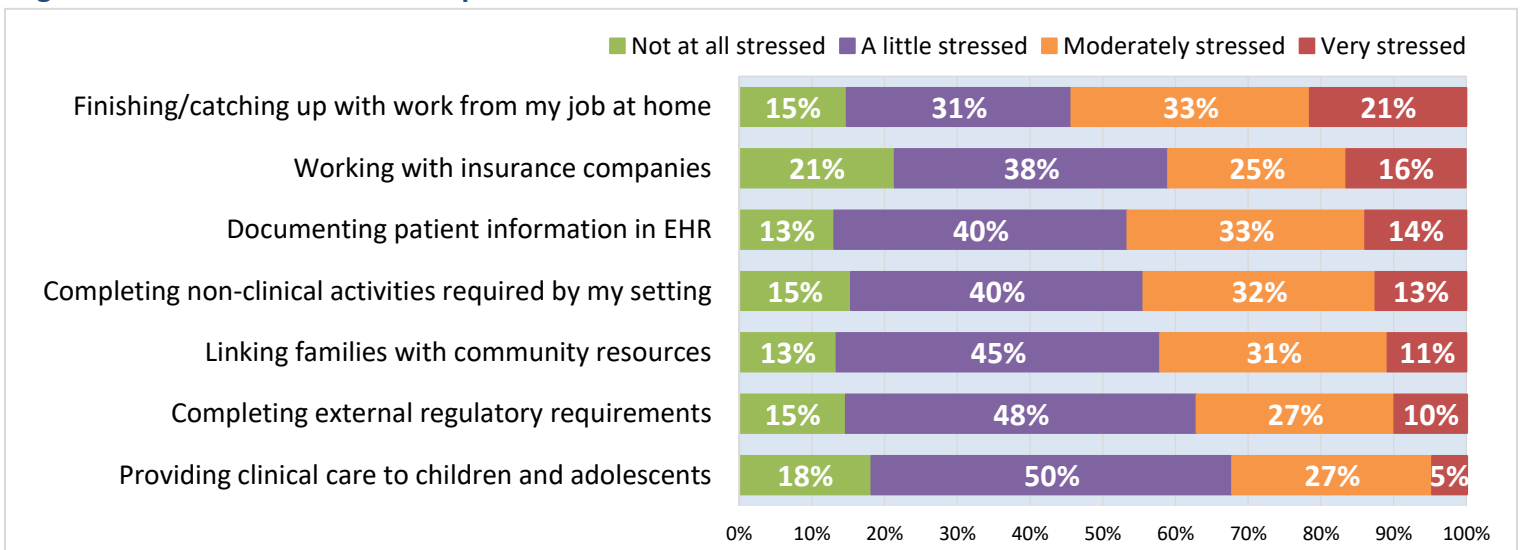
2002-04 Cohort Mean age=51 years

Satisfaction Working with Families

PLACES pediatricians face many stressors at work but at the same time are satisfied working with patients and their families

- 94% agree their work contributes to the health of families in their community
- 92% agree their relationships with patients and their families are rewarding
- Nearly 9 in 10 find their present work personally rewarding
- Overall, 8 in 10 are pleased with their work
 - 2016-18 Cohort = 79%
 - 2009-11 Cohort = 81%
 - 2002-04 Cohort = 86%

Figure 2. PLACES Pediatricians' Reported Level of Stress in Various Areas of Their Work



Source: PLACES Annual Survey 2023

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 study ID 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 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.

What if I have additional questions about the protection of my data?

If you have any questions about PLACES or the protection of your data, please contact Liz Gottschlich at places@aap.org or 630/626-6627.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

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

Upcoming Presentations

Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, May 2024

“Predictors of US Academic Pediatricians’ Life Satisfaction in 2022”

“US Pediatrician Educational Debt – Two Decades After Residency”

“US Pediatricians’ Experiences with Harassment and Attacks and Perceptions of Workplace Safety”

“US Pediatricians’ Experiences with Health Misinformation, 2023”

Recent Publications

2024:

[Pediatricians' career satisfaction and well-being by sex before and during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

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](#)

A Special Thanks to the PLACES Project Advisory Committee:

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