

PEDIATRICIAN LIFE AND CAREER EXPERIENCE STUDY (PLACES)

MESSAGE FROM THE AAP PRESIDENT



Dear PLACES participants,

What a year it has been. Thank you – I cannot say enough to express my pride and gratitude for the innovation, courage, and compassion you as pediatricians have displayed in addressing COVID-19.

I know each one of you, in whatever type of practice or geographic location, have faced unprecedented stresses in your work and concern for your families and community.

We are so grateful for your ongoing participation in PLACES. We recently collected some timely information from you, based on topics prioritized by participants, including 1) financial impact of the pandemic and 2) diversity in practice. In this newsletter and the October issue of AAP News, we are sharing with you important data on these topics.

This year's PLACES main study survey is now underway. As you know, this survey is focused on you - your work setting, practice challenges, career changes, work-life balance, career satisfaction, and life changes. How has the pandemic affected key issues in your life and career? The data from PLACES provide a unique opportunity to measure and understand your experiences.

We truly appreciate you taking time to complete the survey.

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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About PLACES

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

There are 3 important cohorts:

- 2002-04 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=897
- 2009-11 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=897
- 2016-18 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=917

PLACES participants are surveyed twice a year:

- Main study survey
- Shorter survey, focused on a topic selected by participants
 - 2021 surveys focused on 2 topics: 1) financial impact of COVID-19 and 2) diversity in practice

Strengths of PLACES:

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

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

Critical Updates on COVID-19

[AAP Leaders Thank Pediatricians](#)



American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19

OCTOBER 2021

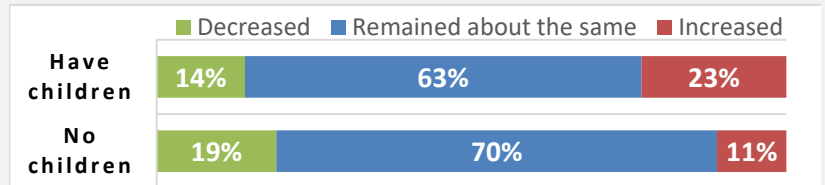
What we heard from you

Financial impact of COVID-19 is a priority!

What we learned from you in summer, 2021

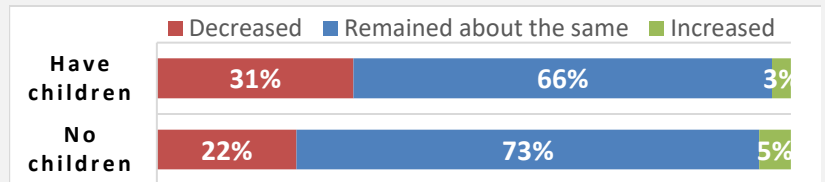
- One in 5 PLACES pediatricians said their **household expenses increased** because of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Nearly one-fourth of pediatricians with children and 11% of those without children reported increased household expenses (Figure 1)
 - Women and men reported similar increases in expenses (21% and 19%)
- Nearly 3 in 10 reported their **income decreased** due to the pandemic
 - Almost one-third of pediatricians with children and 22% of those without children reported decreases in income (Figure 2)
 - Women and men reported similar decreases in income (29% and 26%)

Figure 1. Percentage of PLACES pediatricians reporting a change in HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES because of the COVID-19 pandemic



Source: AAP PLACES, Summer 2021 (n=842)

Figure 2. Percentage of PLACES pediatricians reporting a change in HOUSEHOLD INCOME because of the COVID-19 pandemic

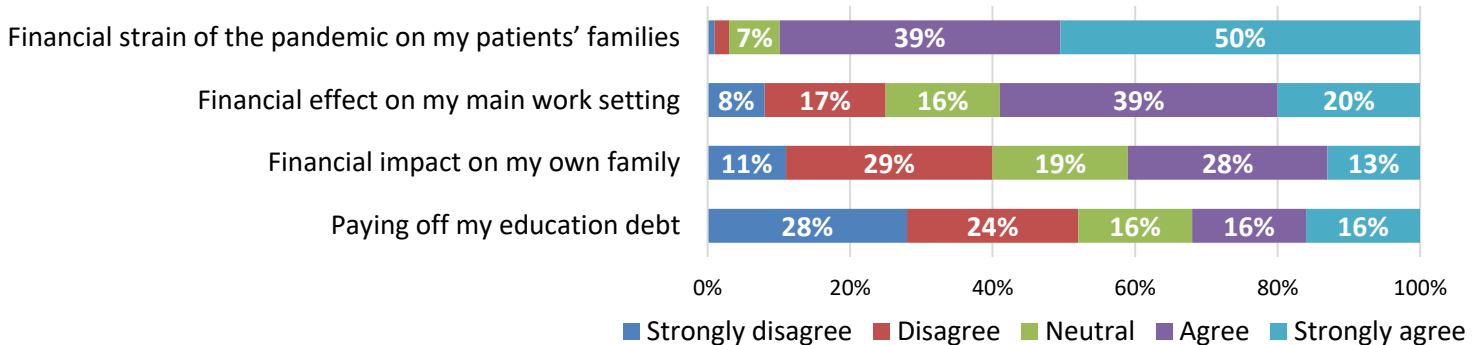


Source: AAP PLACES, Summer 2021 (n=842)

Financial concerns - Figure 3

- Most pediatricians are concerned about:
 - Financial strain on their patients' families (89%)
 - Financial effect on their own work setting (59%)
- Many are concerned about their own finances:
 - Financial impact on own family (41%)
 - Paying off debt (32%)

Figure 3. Percentage of PLACES pediatricians who agree they are concerned about financial impacts of COVID-19



Source: AAP PLACES, Summer 2021 (n=871; paying off debt, among those with debt n=681)

What we heard from you

Diversity in practice is also a priority!

DIVERSE PATIENTS

PLACES pediatricians care for children who are highly diverse.

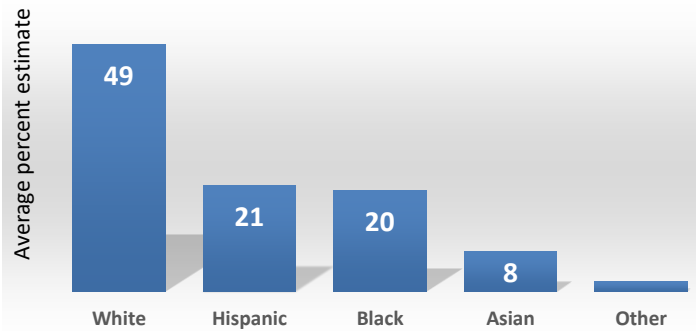
Average percent estimates for their patient population indicate:

- Most patients are non-White: 21% Hispanic, 20% Black, 8% Asian, 2% other (Figure 4)

Pediatricians provide care to children in diverse families. Average percent estimates include:

- 39% of families experience financial hardship
- 22% of families immigrated to the US
- 18% of families have limited English proficiency

Figure 4. PLACES pediatricians' estimated percentage of patients in race and ethnic groups

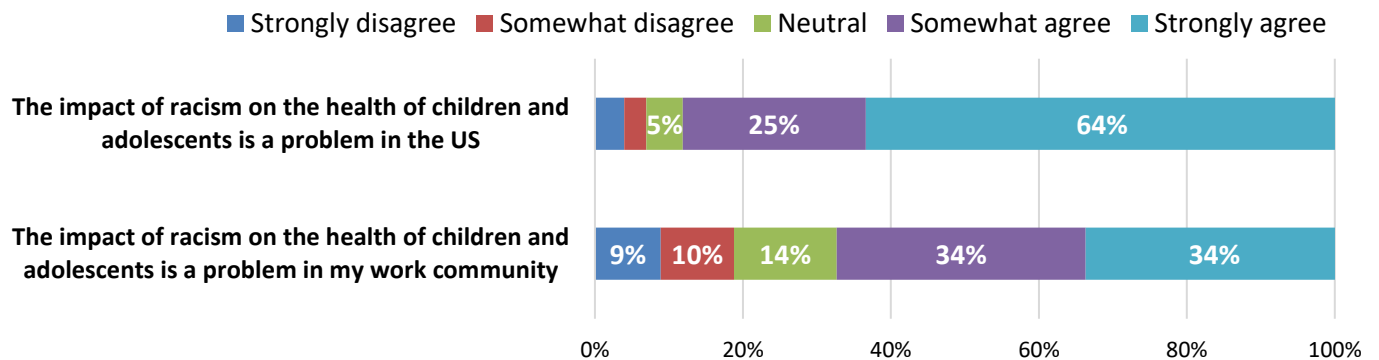


Source: AAP PLACES, Summer 2021 (n=862)

Views on impact of racism on child health – Figure 5

- 9 in 10 PLACES pediatricians agree the impact of racism on the health of children is a problem in the US
- Two-thirds agree the impact of racism on the health of children is a problem in their work community

Figure 5. Percentage of PLACES pediatricians reporting agreement with the impact of racism on the health of children in the US and in their community



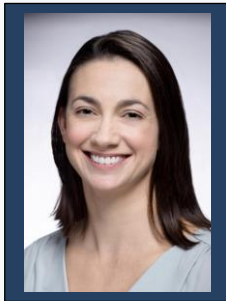
Source: AAP PLACES, Summer 2021 (n=869)

PLACES participants prioritized two topics to ask on our surveys in 2020: 1) financial impact of the pandemic and 2) diversity in practice. To keep the survey brief, we conducted surveys on both topics, but randomly assigned participants to receive only one.

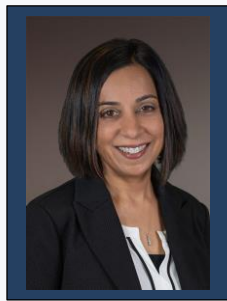
Seven in 10 participants completed the 2021 summer surveys – thank you!

Three winners were randomly selected for a \$250 Amazon gift card from the pool of responding participants.

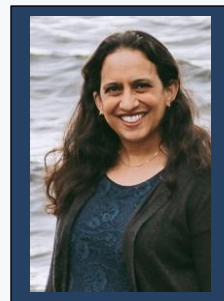
PLACES 2021 WINNERS



Elizabeth Berg, MD



Rina Shah, MD, FAAP



Anupama Vijay, MD

- Dr Berg is a pediatric gastroenterologist practicing in New York City.
- Dr Shah is a general pediatrician practicing in California.
- Dr Vijay is a general pediatrician practicing in Washington state.

AAP APPRECIATES YOUR VALUABLE PARTICIPATION AND DATA

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.

Recent presentations

Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, May 2021 and American Conference on Physician Health, Oct 2021
(links work best in Firefox or Internet Explorer)

- [“Exploration of Career Choices and Job Satisfaction Among Early Career Pediatricians”](#)
- [“Relationship Between Gender and Sacrifices Made for Career Among Early Career Pediatricians”](#)

Recent journal articles, 2019-2021

- [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](#)

A Special Thanks to the PLACES Project Advisory Committee: Bobbi Byrne, MD; Gary Freed, MD, MPH; Laurel Leslie, MD, MPH; Amy Starmer, MD, MPH