

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.

In this newsletter, we summarize findings from the short spring survey on the priority topic you identified, health misinformation and mistrust of science. The survey included a few questions on the related issue of safety in the workplace.

The information you provided is very timely and valuable. In 2023 the AAP made “safety and well-being within the pediatric profession” one of our top strategic priorities. As we work on these critical issues, the information from PLACES provides clear insight into what are pediatricians’ experiences, priorities, and concerns around the country.

The results confirm what we already know – you are a trusted source for child health in your community. At the same time, you are seeing increasing levels of health misinformation, particularly related to vaccinations, and face pressures of limited time and resources. A number of you report being harassed verbally or on social media, and it is very concerning one in ten pediatricians report they feel unsafe from workplace protests, attacks or violence. We are listening carefully to what we learn from you as we develop new initiatives to meet these critical needs.

The 2023 PLACES main study survey is now underway. As you know, this survey focuses on you – your career and life experiences. We truly appreciate your time to complete this survey, so we clearly understand pediatricians’ careers and experiences over time and across the country.

Thank you for being that trusted source, for all you do every day for children and families.

Warmest regards,
Sandy Chung, 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) 2002-2004 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=894
- 2) 2009-2011 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=896

Participating since 2019:

- 3) 2016-2018 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=915

PLACES pediatricians are surveyed twice a year:

- Main study survey
- Shorter survey, focused on topic 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!**



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What we heard from you in 2022

- The topic most commonly endorsed by PLACES pediatricians was health misinformation and mistrust of science
 - 59% selected this topic

What we learned from you in 2023

- Concern about health misinformation is common among pediatricians
 - 8 in 10 agreed that misinformation is currently a problem in their practice community
 - 7 in 10 are more concerned about the level of misinformation among their patients/families currently compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic

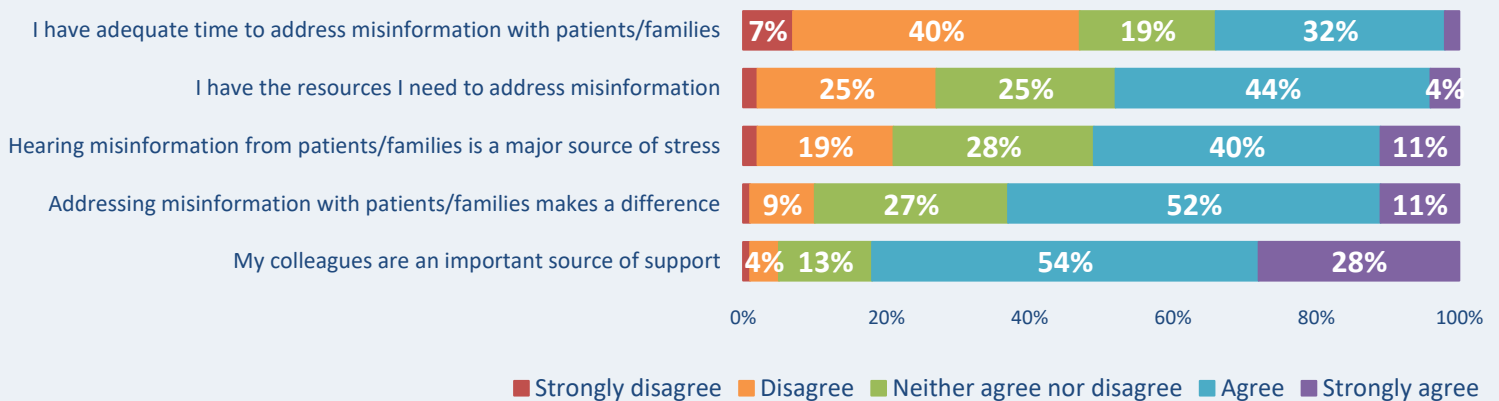
Trust in Pediatricians

- Almost 9 in 10 agreed that overall, their community recognizes and uses pediatricians as trusted sources for health information
- Nearly all (95%) agreed that patients and families in their practice seek their input as a trusted source

Addressing Health Misinformation

- Three quarters said they are comfortable addressing health misinformation among their patients and families
- 6 in 10 agreed that addressing misinformation makes a difference (Figure 1)
 - Less than half reported having the resources needed to address misinformation
 - One third reported having adequate time

Figure 1. PLACES pediatricians' views on health misinformation

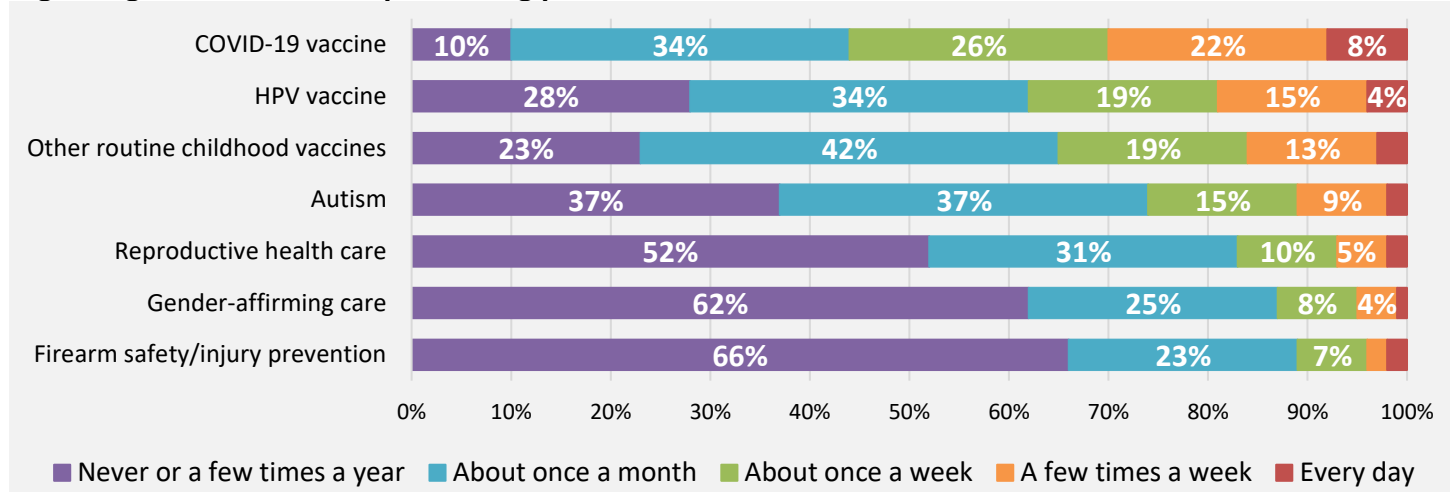


Source: AAP PLACES, Spring 2023 (n=1,683)

What we learned from you in 2023

PLACES pediatricians frequently encounter misinformation on several health topics, including vaccines (Figure 2)

Figure 2. PLACES pediatricians’ reported frequency of patients/families referring to misinformation regarding various health topics during patient visits



Source: AAP PLACES, Spring 2023 (Ns ranged from 1,081 to 1,514; “Not relevant to my practice” responses recoded to missing)

Perception of Safety in the Workplace and Experiences with Harassment and Attacks

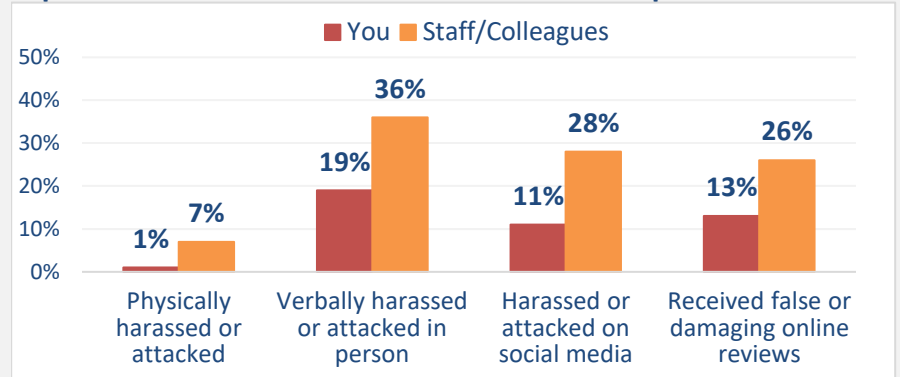
PLACES pediatricians reported how safe they feel at their primary work setting from workplace protests, attacks, or violence:

- 70% feel safe or very safe
- 19% feel neither safe nor unsafe
- 11% feel unsafe or very unsafe

When asked about their own and staff/colleagues’ experiences with harassment and attacks in the past 12 months:

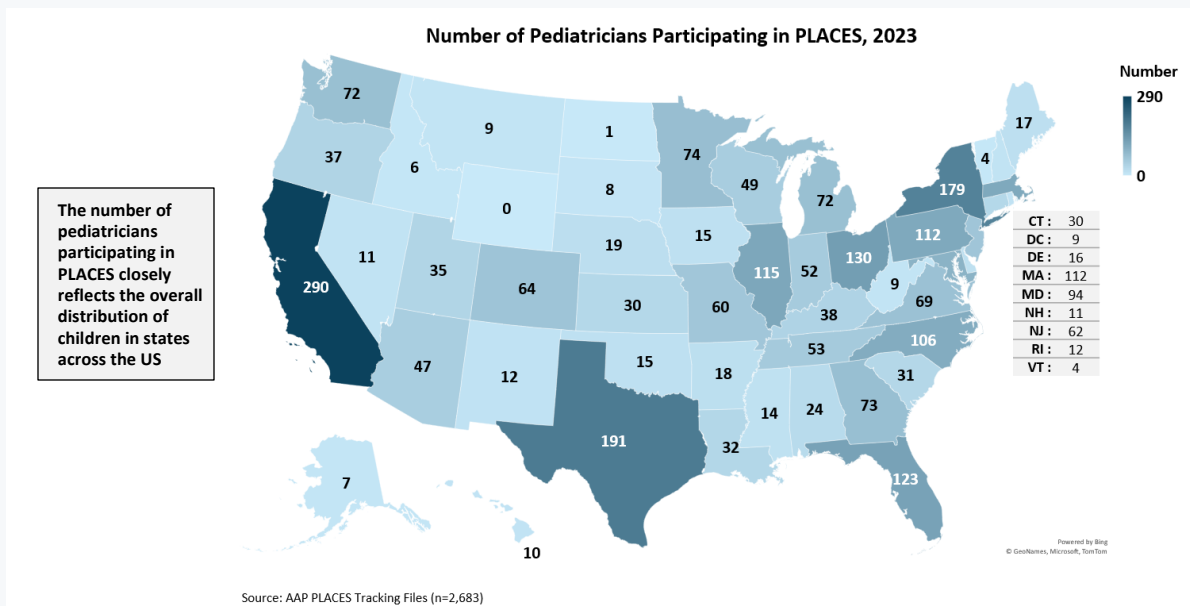
- Physical harassment and attacks were rare
- Verbal and digital attacks were more common (Figure 3)

Figure 3. PLACES pediatricians’ and reported staff/colleagues’ experiences with harassment and attacks in the past 12 months



Source: AAP PLACES, Spring 2023 (n=1,762)

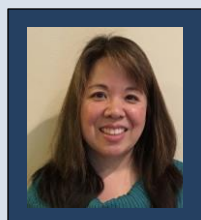
Thanks to you, we continue to collect data from pediatricians across the country!



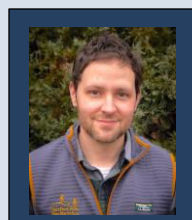
Check out www.aap.org/places for participant newsletters, journal articles, and conference presentations.

2023 Spring Survey and Congratulations to Drs Otsuka, Serna, and Stefanov

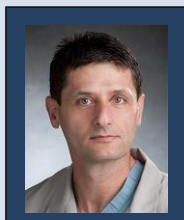
PLACES 2023 RAFFLE WINNERS



Dr Otsuka



Dr Serna



Dr Stefanov

- Nearly 7 in 10 participants completed the 2023 spring survey on health misinformation – thank you!
- Three participants (pictured, above) were randomly selected from the pool of respondents, and each won a \$250 Amazon gift card.
 - Kimberly Otsuka, MD is a pediatric pulmonologist practicing in California.
 - Matthew Serna, MD FAAP is a general pediatrician practicing in Connecticut.
 - Gospodin Stefanov, MD PhD is a neonatologist practicing in Illinois.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

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

Abstracts presented at the 2023 Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting:

- [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