



Research Update, News Articles

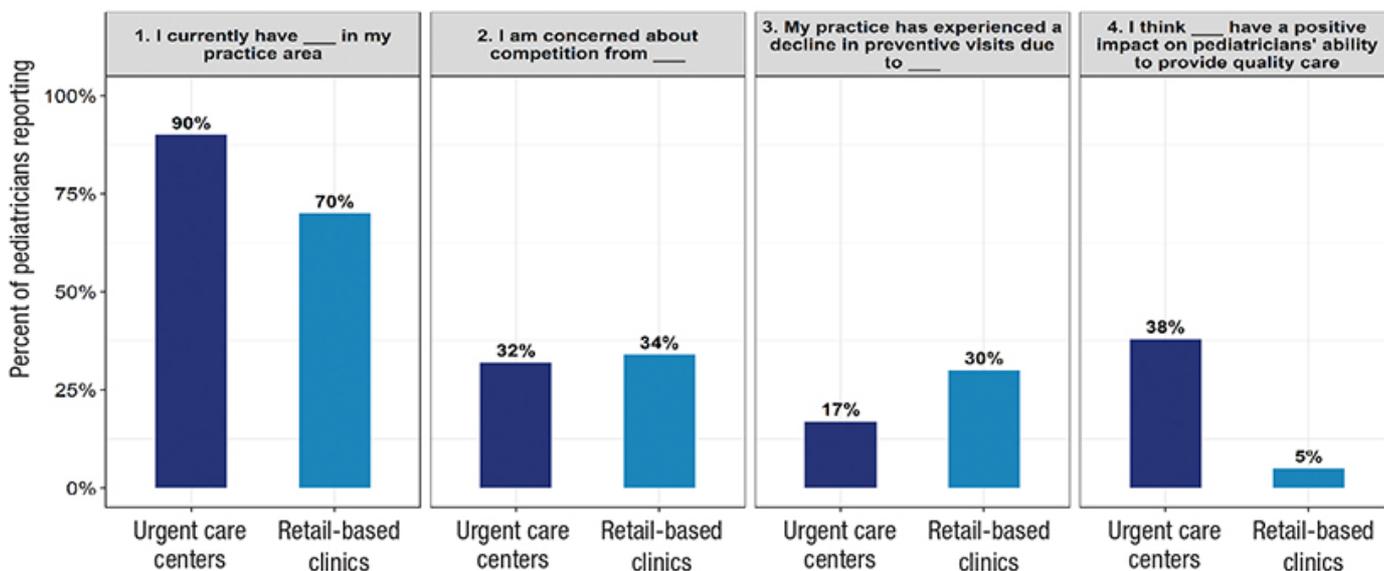
Pediatricians surveyed on acute care provided outside medical home

by from the AAP Department of Research

While retail-based clinics and urgent care centers are widespread in U.S. pediatricians' practice areas, primary care pediatricians have varying attitudes toward acute care services provided outside the medical home, according to a recent AAP Periodic Survey.

The 2016 survey found that 90% of primary care pediatricians reported having an urgent care center in their practice area. Similarly, 70% reported having a retail-based clinic in their practice area, up from 44% in 2008. (See figure.) These results are consistent with nationwide growth in the number of acute care services.

U.S. primary care pediatricians' views on retail-based clinics and urgent care centers, 2016



Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, Periodic Survey #94 (2016)

Note: Analysis includes non-retired, U.S.-based, post-residency AAP members practicing direct patient care in primary care pediatrics; panels 2-4 restricted to respondents who report having retail-based clinics/urgent care centers in their practice area

The survey also collected data on views toward retail-based clinics and urgent care centers from respondents with an acute care service in their practice area. Roughly a third of primary care pediatricians reported being concerned about competition from acute care services in the context of their day-to-day practice of medicine.

Additionally, 30% of pediatricians reported they had experienced a decline in the number preventive visits because of a retail-based clinic in their area, and 17% reported the same for urgent care centers. Half of respondents indicated that sick visits had declined due to the availability of these services in their practice area.

Survey respondents differed in their assessments of how these services impact pediatricians' ability to provide quality care to patients, with retail-based clinics viewed more unfavorably. Only 5% of pediatricians reported that retail-based clinics have a positive impact, compared to 38% who reported that urgent care centers have a positive impact.

Over eight out of 10 pediatricians indicated that retail-based clinics have a negative impact on pediatricians' ability to provide quality care, while one-third said the same for urgent care centers.



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"Innovative pediatricians are finding ways to extend their medical homes to meet the needs of their patients who value convenience," said Susan J. Kressly, M.D., FAAP, an author of the 2017 AAP policy statement on nonemergency acute care and chair of the AAP Payer Advocacy Advisory Committee.

"Early morning walk-in hours, evening sports physicals and using telehealth for after-hour care and triage are some of the ways pediatric practices can extend their value to families," Dr. Kressly said. "In addition, it's important to educate our communities so they have a better understanding of what good, high-quality pediatric care looks like, including using resources such as '10 Common Childhood Illnesses and Their Treatments' on healthychildren.org."

The 2016 Periodic Survey was sent to 1,629 nonretired, U.S.-based AAP members. The response rate was 49%, and analysis was limited to post-residency respondents who practice primary care pediatrics.

Resources

- [AAP policy statement "Nonemergency Acute Care: When It's Not the Medical Home"](#)
- [Guidance for parents on acute, nonemergency care provided outside the medical home](#)
- [10 Common Childhood Illnesses and Their Treatments](#)
- [Information on the Periodic Survey](#)
- [Additional AAP News Research Update columns](#)