



## Research Update



### AAP study: Most early career pediatricians would choose same subspecialty

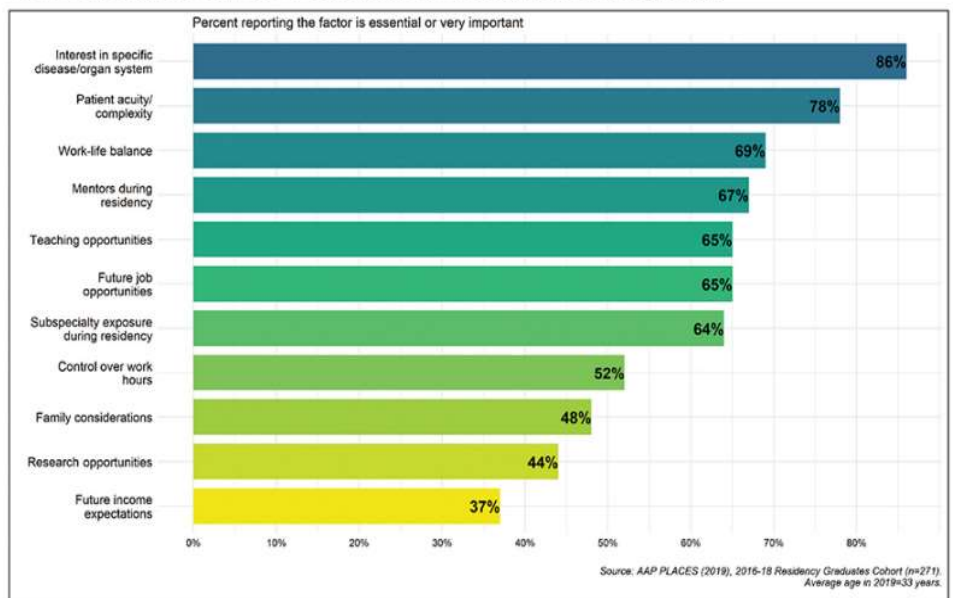
from [AAP Research](#)

Interest in specific diseases along with patient acuity and complexity are the top factors influencing the subspecialty choice of pediatricians in fellowship training, according to findings from the AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study (PLACES).

Among PLACES participants who graduated residency between 2016 and 2018, one-third were in fellowship training in 2019. Within the cohort, pediatricians who identified as being female, having a partner or spouse and being a parent were less likely to be in training. The majority of pediatricians were in fellowships in one of five specialties: neonatology, emergency medicine, hematology/oncology, critical care, or endocrinology.

The factors most likely to influence their choice of subspecialty were interest in specific diseases or systems (86%) and patient acuity and complexity (78%) (see figure). Two-thirds of pediatricians reported work-life balance, teaching opportunities, future job opportunities and experiences during residency, such as subspecialty exposure and mentors, were essential or very important in their decisions. The factor least likely to influence their choice was future income expectations.

Factors important to early career pediatricians in choosing pediatric subspecialty



Men and women prioritized the factors in a similar way. Fellowship trainees with children were more likely than those without children to report work-life balance (77% vs. 65%) and family considerations (70% vs. 39%) as essential or very important.

Ninety percent reported they would choose the same subspecialty if they could start again; 6% reported they would not choose to specialize; and 4% would choose a different subspecialty. Women were less likely than men to report they would choose the same subspecialty (87% and 95%, respectively).

PLACES is an AAP cohort study that tracks the career and life choices and experiences of pediatricians across their careers. Cohorts include pediatricians who graduated residency in 2016-'18, 2009-'11 and 2002-'04. Each cohort has about 900 participants. The Academy is conducting its 10<sup>th</sup> annual survey of the 2009-'11 and 2002-'04 cohorts this year. The commitment among pediatricians participating in PLACES has been strong, with eight in 10 completing the survey each year.

## RESOURCES

- For information on the AAP Mentorship Program for trainees and early career physicians, visit <http://aapmentorship.chronus.com> or contact Britt Nagy at 630-626-6064 or [bnagy@aap.org](mailto:bnagy@aap.org).
- The AAP Section on Early Career Physicians provides training, resources and support for early career physicians who are within 10 years of their residency or fellowship training. For information, visit <http://www.aap.org/soecp> or contact Britt Nagy at 630-626-6064 or [bnagy@aap.org](mailto:bnagy@aap.org).
- For more information on the AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study, visit <https://www.aap.org/places> or contact Mary Pat Frintner at 630-626-6664 or [mfrintner@aap.org](mailto:mfrintner@aap.org).