

## PEDIATRICIAN LIFE AND CAREER EXPERIENCE STUDY

### MESSAGE FROM THE PLACES RESEARCH TEAM

Thanks to your great commitment to PLACES, we are able to disseminate new information about early to mid-career pediatricians:

- Two new journal articles that focus on topics that PLACES participants told us were important in the lives of pediatricians: MOC and educational debt!
- Four abstracts at the Pediatric Academic Societies 2017 meeting.

*Check out page 4 for details on the articles and abstracts!*

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual spring survey is now underway – thank you in advance for taking time from your busy schedule to complete the survey!

- You may wonder...some of these questions are familiar. Am I being asked the same questions as last year? The answer is yes. The unique feature of PLACES is the longitudinal design and each year the accumulated data become more valuable. We will be able to track trends in careers, job satisfaction, and work-life balance.

For all PLACES newsletters, presentations, and publications, visit [www2.aap.org/research/places.htm](http://www2.aap.org/research/places.htm).



A program of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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### ABOUT PLACES

PLACES is a longitudinal study that tracks the experiences and opinions of 1,801 pediatricians over time

- There are 2 important cohorts
  - 1) 2002-2004 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=899  
Most graduated in 2002-2004
  - 2) 2009-2011 Residency Graduates Cohort, n=902  
Most graduated in 2009-2011
- Almost nine in 10 PLACES participants responded to the 5<sup>th</sup> annual survey (2016); the 6<sup>th</sup> annual survey is currently being conducted
- Strengths of PLACES
  - ✓ Longitudinal design
  - ✓ Inclusion of both AAP members and non-members
  - ✓ Range of content (work, satisfaction, personal dimension)
  - ✓ **Commitment of participants, like you!**

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## What we heard from you in the spring, 2016

Compensation is a high priority!

## What we learned from you in the fall, 2016

Among PLACES pediatricians who have finished training:

Mean income=\$196,000

- Range: \$5,000 to \$750,000
- Median: \$180,000

Among pediatricians from the younger cohort

- Mean full-time income: \$194,000
- Mean part-time income: \$138,000

Among pediatricians from the older cohort

- Mean full-time income: \$238,000
- Mean part-time income: \$141,000

## Satisfaction with compensation

Half of PLACES participants are earning what they expected at this stage of their career:

- The younger cohort is more likely than the older cohort to be earning what they expected (Figure 1)
- Women are more likely than men to be earning less than they expected (Figure 2)

Many PLACES pediatricians agree they are:

- Fairly compensated given their training and experience (66%) and for the work they do (59%)

However, fewer think they are fairly compensated compared to physicians in other specialties (35%)

Most understand how their compensation is calculated (70%) and think the method is fair (56%)

## SATISFACTION WITH COMPENSATION

Figure 1. Percentage of PLACES pediatricians who are earning what they expected, or less or more than expected at this stage in career by cohort (n=1138)

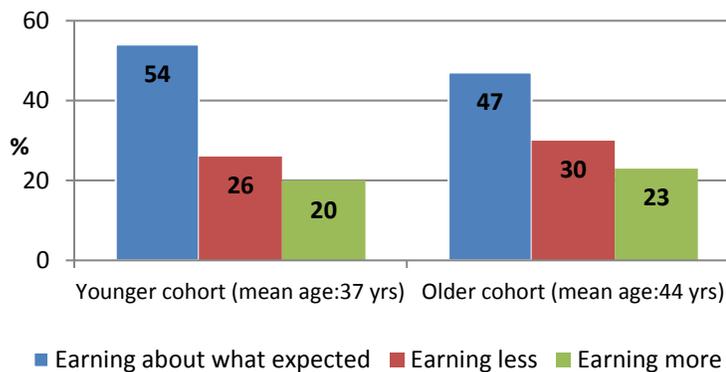


Figure 2. Percentage of PLACES pediatricians who are earning what they expected, or less or more than expected at this stage in career by gender (n=1138)



## Sacrifices in earned income

PLACES participants are very busy juggling work and multiple personal responsibilities:

- 88% are married/partnered
- 84% have children

Many have made sacrifices in earned income for several reasons (Figure 3):

- Half report sacrifices in income for choosing pediatrics over another specialty
- More women than men report sacrifices in income for their own children (44% vs 30%)

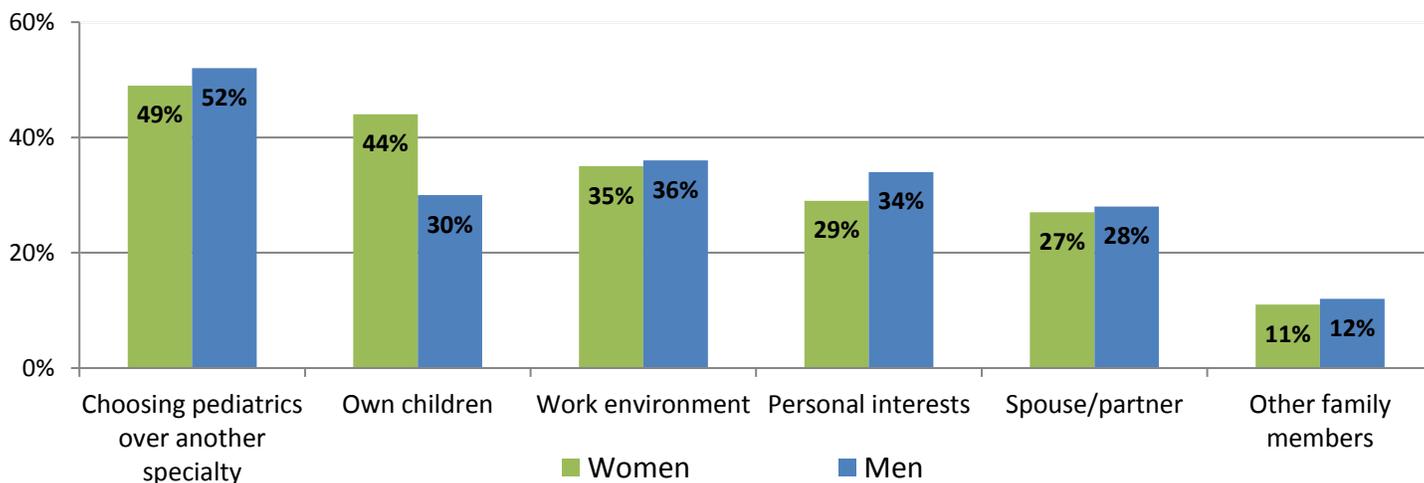
The older cohort (mean age=44 yrs) is more likely than the younger cohort (mean age=37 yrs) to report sacrifices in income for:

- Own children (45% vs 36%)
- Personal interests (36% vs 25%)

PLACES participants provided many thoughtful comments about compensation. It is clear that many of you are satisfied with your compensation but also frustrated that pediatricians are paid less than some specialties.

- *"I see more patients per hour and have similar (if not more) administrative duties as my family practice and internal medicine counterparts, yet have a lower salary."*
- *"I receive a good salary for reasonable hours at a job I enjoy. Compared to other physicians, pediatricians are routinely paid less. On a systems level this bothers me because it seems like we are valuing children less than adults, valuing prevention less than costly interventions."*
- *"I knew going into academic pediatric practice that income would not be as high as other medical professionals. Thus, I am satisfied knowing that the intellectual stimulation and other aspects of work-life balance offset the lower income."*
- *"Salary is very good compared to the average American, but low compared to physicians in private practice and to non-pediatricians."*
- *"Personally I am because we have prioritized lifestyle and flexibility over compensation. My husband is a surgeon so we don't actually need my income. I do have concerns, however, that much of the work I do in teaching and the EMR are not compensated."*
- *"Very satisfied. My satisfaction surveys are very good but I do not agree with using them. Putting our compensation in the hand of individuals who have no medical knowledge and then asking them to rate us on how we practice medicine is foolish."*

Figure 3. Percentage of PLACES pediatricians who made sacrifices in earned income by gender: % who reported very much or a fair amount (n=1,183)



PLACES results are being used by Academy leadership and disseminated widely in the *AAP News* magazine, at conferences, and in peer-reviewed journals.

Upcoming Presentations: Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Annual Meeting, May 2017

- “Longitudinal analyses of pediatrician burnout”
- “Experiences and satisfaction of early and mid-career pediatricians on division of household responsibilities and work-life balance”
- “Characteristics and perceptions of financial compensation of US pediatricians”
- “Work experiences and satisfaction of IMG in the US”

Recent Journal Articles

**Two articles on topics that PLACES participants told us were important will soon be published in journals:**

- *Academic Pediatrics*: “[Attitudes and experiences of early and mid-career pediatricians with the Maintenance of Certification process](#)”
- *Academic Medicine*: “[A study of pediatricians’ debt repayment a decade after completing residency](#)”

For PLACES publications, visit <http://www2.aap.org/research/places.htm> or email [places@aap.org](mailto:places@aap.org).

## Fall Survey and Congratulations to Dr. Fredette and Dr. Welsh-Evans

Seven in 10 participants completed the fifth fall survey with only 2-3 requests – thank you!

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

Dr. Fredette is a pediatrician practicing primary care at Bassett Healthcare Network in Oneonta, New York. He has a special interest in literacy issues.

Dr. Welsh-Evans is a pediatrician practicing primary care at Gwinnett Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine in Dacula, Georgia. Her professional interests include newborn care, breastfeeding, and obesity prevention.

### PLACES 2016 WINNERS



William Fredette, Jr.,  
MD, FAAP



Monique Welsh-Evans,  
MD, FAAP

*A Special Thanks to the PLACES Project Advisory Committee: Bobbi Byrne, MD; Gary Freed, MD, MPH; Shesha Kalyan Katakam, MD, MPH; Laurel Leslie, MD, MPH; Ashley Miller, MD; Amy Starmer, MD, MPH*