

THE PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION



**A SURVEY OF AMERICA'S PHYSICIANS:
PRACTICE PATTERNS AND PERSPECTIVES**

RESPONSES FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Following are responses from the state of Maryland to a national survey of physicians commissioned by The Physicians Foundation and conducted by Merritt Hawkins. Of 13,575 survey responses, 1.4% (or some 190 responses) were from physicians in Maryland. Responses of Maryland physicians are compared to all survey responses.

1. Which best describes your feelings about the current state of the medical profession?

	Maryland	All
Very positive	6.3%	3.9%
Somewhat positive	23.7%	27.9%
Somewhat negative	49.2%	44.8%
Very negative	20.9%	23.4%

2. Which best describes how you feel about the future of the medical profession?

	Maryland	All
Very positive/optimistic	3.4%	3.1%
Somewhat positive/optimistic	19.8%	19.5%
Somewhat negative/pessimistic	46.3%	45.4%
Very negative/pessimistic	30.5%	31.5%

3. How would you rate the professional morale of physicians you know?

	Maryland	All
Very positive	2.9%	1.8%
Somewhat positive	18.5%	17.7%
Somewhat negative	53.9%	55.8%
Very negative	24.7%	24.6%

4. How would you rate your own professional morale?

	Maryland	All
Very positive	15.7%	11.0%
Somewhat positive	25.3%	30.7%
Somewhat negative	42.1%	41.0%
Very negative	16.9%	17.3%

5. What is your medical specialty?

	Maryland	All
Family Physician	4.4%	14.2%
General Internal Medicine	11.3%	11.3%
Pediatrics	11.3%	9.3%
Surgical Specialty	13.2%	13.6%
Medical Specialty	12.6%	12.2%
Ob/GYN	3.8%	6.2%
General Surgery	3.8%	4.4%
Other	39.6%	28.8%

6. What is your current professional status?

	Maryland	All
Employed by hospital, group or other entity	48.9%	43.7%
Practice owner/partner/associate	40.3%	48.5%
Other	10.8%	7.8%

7. Some physicians believe that the medical profession is in decline. Do you:

	Maryland	All
Mostly agree	37.7%	41.6%
Somewhat agree	46.3%	42.6%
Somewhat disagree	9.1%	8.6%
Mostly disagree	6.9%	7.2%

8. Two years ago, which best described your attitude to medical practice?

	Maryland	All
Very positive/satisfying	10.2%	14.1%
Somewhat positive/satisfying	52.5%	52.1%
Somewhat negative/unsatisfying	35.0%	30.1%
Very negative/unsatisfying	2.3%	3.7%

9. Which best describes your attitude toward medical practice today?

	Maryland	All
Very positive/satisfying	9.0%	7.3%
Somewhat positive/satisfying	26.6%	31.7%
Somewhat negative/unsatisfying	43.5%	41.2%
Very negative/unsatisfying	20.9%	19.8%

10. If you had your career to do over, would you choose to be a physician?

	Maryland	All
Yes	66.7%	66.5%
No	33.3%	33.5%

11. Would you recommend medicine as a career to your children or other young people?

	Maryland	All
Yes	39.8%	42.1%
No	60.2%	57.9%

12. If you had the ability, would you retire today?

	Maryland	All
Yes	57.3%	60.6%
No	42.7%	39.4%

13. What is your age?

	Maryland	All
20-29	0.6%	0.9%
30-39	13.3%	12.9%
40-49	24.9%	21.0%
50-59	30.6%	34.4%
60-69	23.1%	24.0%
70-79	6.4%	5.8%
80-89	1.2%	0.9%

14. What is your gender?

	Maryland	All
Male	70.3%	73.6%
Female	29.7%	26.4%

15. What are the two factors you find most satisfying about medical practice?

	Maryland	All
Patient relationships	83.7%	80.2%
Prestige of medicine	4.5%	10.0%
Intellectual stimulation	73.0%	69.7%
Interaction with colleagues	18.0%	19.2%
Financial rewards	11.8%	11.7%

16. What are the two factors you find least satisfying about medical practice?

	Maryland	All
Long hours/lack of personal time	25.3%	24.9%
Liability/defensive medicine pressures	43.8%	40.3%
Reimbursement issues	30.3%	27.3%
Lack of clinical autonomy	9.0%	9.2%
Dealing with Medicare/Medicaid/government regulations	22.5%	27.4%
Pressure of running a practice	7.3%	5.6%
Non-clinical paperwork	16.9%	18.1%
Uncertainty/changes of health reform	23.6%	21.5%
Managed care	4.5%	7.6%
EMR implementation	8.4%	9.2%
Other	6.2%	5.1%

17. What do you plan to do over the next one to three years?

	Maryland	All
Continue as I am	43.3%	49.8%
Cut back on hours	23.6%	22.0%
Retire	13.5%	13.4%
Switch to a concierge practice	12.9%	6.8%
Relocate to another community	14.6%	10.9%
Cut back on patients seen	9.6%	9.6%
Seek a non-clinical job within healthcare	16.3%	5.6%
Work part-time	6.2%	6.5%
Work locum tenens	7.3%	6.4%
Seek a non-healthcare job/business	13.5%	6.4%
Close my practice to new patients	2.2%	4.0%
Seek employment with a hospital	7.3%	5.6%
Other	7.3%	5.5%

18. How has the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act affected your feelings about the direction and future of healthcare in America?

	Maryland	All
I am more positive	19.1%	18.5%
I am less positive	56.2%	59.3%
My feelings have not changed	24.7%	22.3%

19. Most physicians today are focused on their daily responsibilities and are unsure of where the health system will be or how they will fit into it three to five years from now.

	Maryland	All
Mostly agree	51.1%	55.2%
Somewhat agree	35.4%	36.5%
Somewhat disagree	7.9%	5.6%
Mostly disagree	5.6%	2.7%

20. Physicians have little influence of the direction of healthcare and have little ability to affect change. Do you:

	Maryland	All
Mostly agree	47.8%	50.4%
Somewhat agree	33.1%	31.7%
Somewhat disagree	15.2%	12.7%
Mostly disagree	3.9%	5.2%

21. Hospital employment of physicians is a positive trend likely to enhance quality of care and decrease cost. Do you:

	Maryland	All
Mostly agree	4.0%	4.6%
Somewhat agree	23.2%	19.9%
Somewhat disagree	36.7%	32.8%
Mostly disagree	36.1%	42.7%

22. Hospital employment of physicians will erode the physician/patient relationship and quality of care. Do you:

	Maryland	All
Mostly agree	32.6%	38.5%
Somewhat agree	41.0%	33.1%
Somewhat disagree	16.8%	20.2%
Mostly disagree	9.6%	8.2%

23. Is your practice or employer seeking designation as an Accountable Care Organization?

	Maryland	All
Yes	15.4%	21.9%
No	46.3%	44.0%
Unsure	38.3%	34.1%

24. Which best describes your feelings about ACOs?

	Maryland	All
They are likely to enhance quality/decrease cost	10.9%	9.0%
Quality/cost gains will not justify organizational cost/effort	20.6%	21.8%
Unlikely to increase quality/decrease cost	35.4%	40.6%
Unsure about structure/purpose of ACOs	33.1%	26.6%

25. Which best describes your feelings about medical homes?

	Maryland	All
They are likely to increase quality/reduce costs	22.3%	24.4%
They are unlikely to improve quality/reduce costs	30.3%	37.7%
Unsure about structure/purpose of medical homes	47.4%	37.9%

26. On average, how many hours do you work a week?

	Maryland	All
0-20	2.2%	4.0%
21-30	4.5%	4.5%
31-40	12.4%	12.2%
41-50	26.4%	21.9%
51-60	26.4%	26.1%
61-70	15.2%	15.3%
71-80	9.0%	9.9%
81-90	2.2%	3.9%
91-100	0.6%	1.6%
101 or more	1.1%	2.1%

27. Of these, how many hours do you work each week on non-clinical (paperwork) duties only?

	Maryland	All
0-10	56.6%	58.0%
11-20	24.9%	26.1%
21-30	8.7%	9.3%
31-40	5.8%	3.7%
41-50	2.3%	1.5%
51-60	1.7%	0.9%
61 or more	0.0%	0.5%

28. On average, how many patients do you see per day?

	Maryland	All
0-10	25.0%	19.5%
11-20	40.7%	39.8%
21-30	22.7%	26.8%
31-40	8.1%	8.1%
41-50	0.0%	2.6%
51-60	1.2%	0.8%
61 or more	2.3%	2.4%

29. Which of the following best describes your current practice?

	Maryland	All
I am overextended and overworked	27.7%	19.5%
I am at full capacity	45.1%	39.8%
I have time to see more patients and assume more duties	27.2%	26.8%

30. Have cost or time constraints caused you to close your practice to Medicare or Medicaid patients?

	Maryland	All
Yes, Medicare	9.2%	8.6%
Yes, Medicaid	23.4%	26.8%
No, I have not closed to either	67.4%	64.7%

31. Estimate the approximate amount of uncompensated care you personally (not your group) provide each year.

	Maryland	All
\$0-\$5,000	27.6%	14.6%
\$5001-\$15,000	10.9%	10.6%
\$15,001-\$25,000	11.5%	12.6%
\$25,001-\$35,000	5.8%	6.5%
\$35,001-\$50,000	15.4%	16.4%
\$50,001 or more	28.8%	39.3%

32. Describe you income from the practice of medicine over the last three years.

	Maryland	All
Flat	39.7%	39.7%
Declining	44.8%	46.7%
Increasing	15.5%	13.6%

33. As a result of the ongoing problems with Medicare fee schedule updates, what actions have you taken or are you planning to take?

	Maryland	All
Place new or additional limits on Medicare acceptance	20.8%	22.9%
Accept no new Medicare patients	14.0%	12.6%
Terminate existing Medicare patients	2.2%	2.8%
Change status to non-participating	8.4%	6.8%
Formally opt out of Medicare	8.4%	6.9%
Place new or additional limits on Medicaid acceptance	16.3%	22.2%
Reduce the amount of charity care I deliver	17.4%	22.0%
Increase standard fees charged to other patients	18.0%	15.5%
Delay information technology implementation	19.1%	15.9%
Renegotiate or terminate some commercial health plan contracts	20.2%	17.7%
Reduce staff compensation or benefits	25.8%	27.0%

34. Has your practice implemented Electronic Medical Records?

	Maryland	All
Yes	68.4%	69.5%
No	31.6%	30.5%

35. If yes, what effect has EMR had on the quality of patient care in your practice?

	Maryland	All
No effect	12.1%	12.9%
Has improved quality of care	46.0%	32.9%
Not yet improved quality, but I anticipate it will	11.3%	13.4%
Has not improved quality, and I do not anticipate it will	16.9%	18.5%
May improve quality, but not worth the investment	2.4%	7.9%
Decreased quality, but I anticipate it eventually will improve quality	4.0%	4.0%
Decreased quality and I do not anticipate it will improve quality	7.3%	10.4%

36. Are you a member of your:

	Maryland	All
County medical society	18.0%	50.1%
State medical society	25.0%	63.6%
National specialty society	44.4%	70.4%
American Medical Association	10.8%	24.5%
American Osteopathic Association	2.8%	5.2%

37. Do you have significant concerns that EMR poses a risk to patient privacy?

	Maryland	All
Yes	47.7%	47.4%
No	52.3%	52.6%

About The Physicians Foundation

The Physicians Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to advance the work of practicing physicians and help facilitate the delivery of healthcare to patients. It pursues its mission through a variety of activities including grant making, research, white papers and policy studies. Since 2005, The Foundation has awarded numerous multi-year grants totaling more than \$28 million. In addition, The Foundation focuses on the following core areas: physician leadership, physician practice trends, physician shortage issues, and the impact of healthcare reform on physicians and patients. As the healthcare system in America continues to evolve, The Physicians Foundation is steadfast in its determination to strengthen the physician-patient relationship and assist physicians in sustaining their medical practices in a difficult practice environment. For more information, visit www.PhysiciansFoundation.org.

About Merritt Hawkins

Merritt Hawkins is the leading physician search and consulting firm in the United States and is a company of AMN Healthcare (NYSE: AHS). For more information, visit www.merritthawkins.com