



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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PHYSICIANS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER STRESS, FINANCIAL VIABILITY, AND OTHER BARRIERS TO PATIENT CARE AMID ONGOING COVID-19 CRISIS

BALTIMORE, July 8, 2020 – In a survey conducted by MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association (AMA), physician respondents expressed high levels of concern over their stress levels, financial viability, risk of infection for family and staff, and access to PPE amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like other small businesses, reductions in volume have led to a significant financial crisis for small medical practices, with fully 82% concerned about their financial survival. Mental and emotional health is also a concern, with 86% of respondents indicating concerns about high levels of stress and anxiety and 84% reporting that they were concerned about burnout posing a barrier to patient care as practices reopen. Much of this anxiety centers around apprehensions about staff and family members contracting COVID-19, while access to PPE continues to be a significant source of concern for 86% of respondents. “When illness hits, we look to our doctors to take care of us. During the COVID-19 pandemic, doctors have been there to do just that,” states Michele Manahan, MD, MedChi President. “The survey shows that physician concerns are centered mostly on protecting the health of their patients, families, and medical staff. Their worries about access to testing, reliable medical information related to this new frontier, and equipment with which to treat patients takes priority over physicians’ alarm for their own health and well-being.”

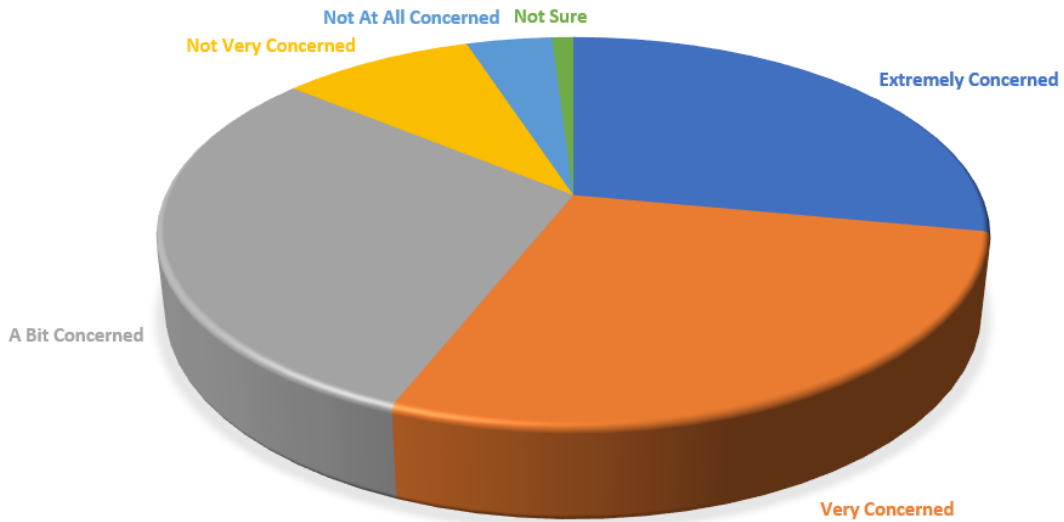
[An executive summary supplied by Kupersmit Research outlines the major findings of the survey.](#)

With more than 80% of respondents indicating that the state medical society is a source of support during the pandemic, “MedChi and our physicians will continue to focus on how to best protect every single person as the COVID-19 pandemic continues,” states Dr. Manahan.

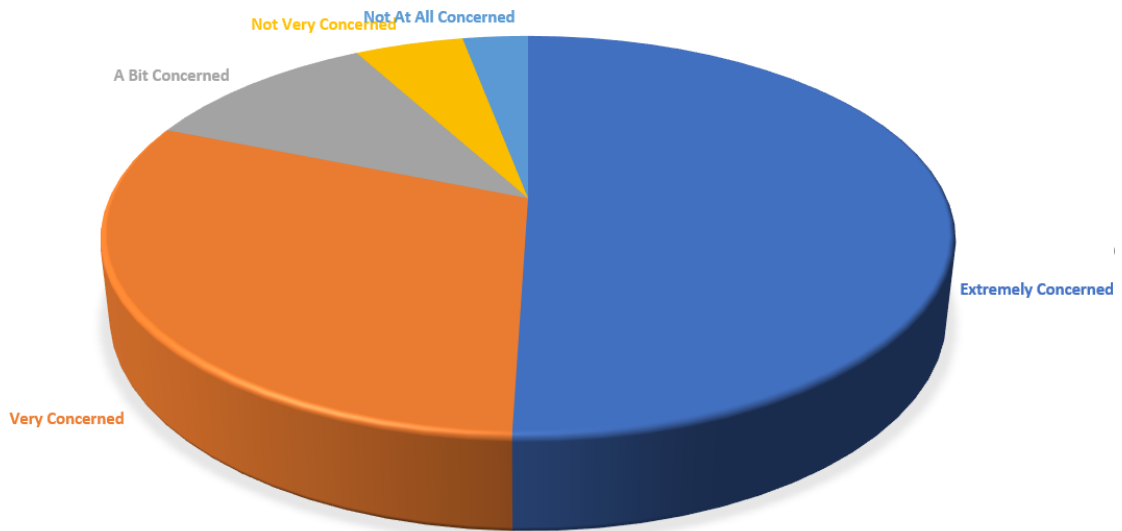
“The AMA is laser-focused on ensuring the viability of physicians’ practices impacted by the pandemic,” said AMA President Susan R. Bailey, M.D. “This survey will help us understand how the AMA and MedChi can respond to the needs of physicians during the dual public health and economic crises. With 82 percent of small practices concerned about their financial survival, and the threat of stress and burnout higher than ever before, MedChi and the AMA are advocating for physicians and their practices so we can continue to treat our patients. Ensuring the viability of physician practices through this pandemic is critical to improving the health of the nation.”

The survey, which has a margin error of $\pm 8.3\%$, reflects the views of Maryland physicians in a variety of practice settings and specialties. The survey was conducted in the first two weeks of June 2020 and was completed by 141 MedChi members.

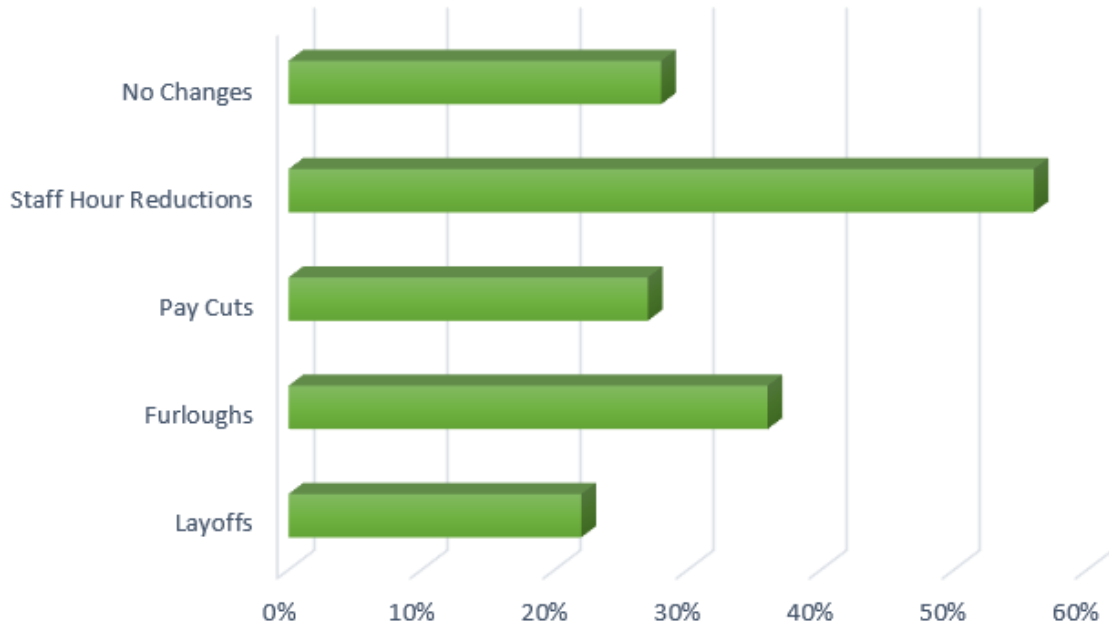
HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT EXPERIENCING
A HIGH LEVEL OF STRESS AND ANXIETY?



HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT MAINTAINING ADEQUATE REVENUE
IN YOUR PRACTICE?



Medical Staff Changes Required by COVID-19



For more information about this survey, please visit our website www.medchi.org.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.