Study looks at trends in part-time work among pediatricians

from the AAP Department of Research


Those working part time reported working an average of 24.6 hours per week in direct patient care, while those working full time reported working 38.7 direct patient care hours per week.

The patterns of part-time work across ages were different for male and female pediatricians (see table). For women, the highest percentage of part-time work was among those 40-49 years old, while for men, the highest percentage was for those 60 and older. Within the oldest group, one in five men reported working part time.

Previous research had shown a steady increase in pediatricians working part time. The current study, however, found that since 2006 the overall percentage of those working part time has leveled off at just under one-quarter of all pediatricians (23%). The consistency of part-time work across years was evident for all subgroups of pediatricians examined, including primary care pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists, and pediatricians practicing in urban, suburban and rural areas.

The study also analyzed results from AAP Annual Surveys of Graduating Residents from 2006–13, which showed resident interest in seeking part-time work after graduation also remained steady. A total of 28% of graduating residents reported seeking part-time work during their job search, and roughly half of those residents (13%) accepted a part-time position.

Survey response rates were 57% for all Periodic Surveys combined and 60% for all Annual Surveys of Graduating Residents combined.

### 2016 Match: Pediatrics fills over 99% of positions for fourth year

by Susan Guralnick, M.D., FAAP

A strong interest in caring for children was evident in this year’s Match results.

Pediatrics filled 99.3% of 2,689 positions offered, and categorical pediatrics had a fill rate of 99.5%, continuing the trend started in 2013 of fill rates over 99% for pediatrics. U.S. senior medical students filled 67.5% of all pediatric positions offered.

Internal medicine-pediatrics filled 99.5% of its 386 offered positions, and U.S. medical school students filled 85.2% of 329 positions.

“They have always been a big day for medical school graduates, and it is especially exciting that our specialty is one that so many are continuing to choose,” said AAP President Benard P. Dreyer, M.D., FAAP.

“This year’s Match results are a strong indicator that we will have a wonderful group of future pediatricians dedicated to the health of all children.”

The 2016 Match also showed:

- Family medicine filled 99.2% of its 3,238 offered positions, with 43 more positions offered than in 2015.
- Internal medicine filled 97.9% of its 7,024 offered positions, with 254 more positions offered than in 2015.
- Obstetrics-gynecology filled 99.4% of its offered positions.

The National Resident Matching Program reported that the 2016 Main Residency Match was the largest on record, encompassing 42,370 registered applicants and 30,750 positions. The number of U.S. allopathic medical school seniors grew by 221 from 2015 to 18,668, and the number of available first-year (PGY-1) positions increased this year by 567 for a total of 27,567.

In the nonallopathic category, the number of students/graduates at U.S. osteopathic medical schools who submitted program preferences increased to 2,982, an all-time high; the match rate of 80.3% also marked a record high.

Match results and trends are one way to get a glimpse of the future supply of physicians. This is especially important for pediatrics due to shortages in most pediatric medical subspecialties and surgical specialties at a time when the number of children with chronic health problems and special health care needs is growing.

This trend is highlighted in the recently published AAP policy statement Financing Graduate Medical Education to Meet the Needs of Children and the Future Pediatrician Workforce (http://bit.ly/I1RNaKZX), which calls for revamping the way graduate medical education (GME) is funded.

“Pediatric programs face great challenges because while most residency programs receive funding through Medicare, pediatric programs based in children’s hospitals have a less stable funding stream,” said William B. Moskowitz, M.D., FAAP, chair of the AAP Committee on Pediatric Workforce, which authored the report.

To address the shortage of pediatric specialists, the policy statement recommends increasing the number of pediatric GME positions and fully funding GME training for all pediatricians and pediatric specialists.

“Having pediatricians who provide high-quality, patient-centered care is essential if we are to meet the evolving health care needs of the U.S., especially the needs of children,” Dr. Moskowitz said.

### RESOURCES

For more information and data tables on the 2016 Resident Match, visit www.aap.org/workforce.

### RESOURCES

For more information about the study, contact William Cull, Ph.D., in the AAP Division of Health Services Research, at 800-433-9016, ext. 7628, or wcull@aap.org.