Residents: Duty hour restrictions worsen continuity of care, workload
AAP Department of Research
*AAP News* 2014;35:10
DOI: 10.1542/aapnews.2014355-10a

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://aapnews.aappublications.org/content/35/5/10.2
Residents: Duty hour restrictions worsen continuity of care, workload

More than half of pediatric residents who graduated in 2012 say continuity of care, patient handoffs and senior resident workload worsened after new duty hour requirements took effect in 2011.

Under the new Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) standards, interns are limited to 16 consecutive hours, more senior residents are limited to 24 consecutive hours plus four hours for transition, and all residents must have a minimum of eight hours, and preferably 10 hours, off between shifts.

A recent study looked at whether residents graduating in 2012 perceive any changes to their working and learning environments and sleep hours with the new ACGME standards (Schumacher DJ, et al. Acad Pediatr. 2014;14:149-154). These residents have a unique view because they completed two years of residency before the standards took effect and one year of residency after implementation, allowing for comparison.

Based on data from the 2012 AAP Annual Survey of Graduating Residents, the authors found that 67% of residents thought continuity of care had worsened with the new duty hour requirements. Furthermore, 63% reported worsening of senior resident workload, and 55% said patient handoffs were worse (see figure).

The majority of residents reported no changes in the quality of patient care (59%), senior resident education (60%), resident supervision (69%) and their relationship with their program director (81%) with the new requirements. Few felt that any component of their working and learning environment that the authors assessed had improved (21% or less).

Residents reported sleeping a mean of 6.7 hours in a typical 24-hour period, with three-quarters of the residents reporting either six or seven hours of sleep. Most residents (71%) reported that their daily sleep did not change with the duty hour changes, while 12% reported getting more sleep, and 17% said they got less sleep.

The 2012 Annual Survey of Graduating Residents was conducted from May to August 2012. Surveys were mailed and emailed to a random sample of 1,000 graduating pediatric residents with a response rate of 63%.

RESOURCES
Since 1997, the Academy has surveyed graduating pediatric residents to track career plans and job search experiences. For more information about the Annual Survey of Graduating Residents, visit http://www2.aap.org/research/graduatingressurvey.htm, or contact Mary Pat Frintner, in the AAP Division of Health Services Research, at 800-433-9016, ext. 7664, or mfrintner@aap.org.
Residents: Duty hour restrictions worsen continuity of care, workload

AAP Department of Research

*AAP News* 2014;35;10

DOI: 10.1542/aapnews.2014355-10a

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://aapnews.aappublications.org/content/35/5/10.2

Subspecialty Collections
This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
Workforce
http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/collection/workforce_sub
Research Update
http://aapnews.aappublications.org/cgi/collection/research_update

Permissions & Licensing
Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://aapnews.aappublications.org/site/misc/Permissions.xhtml

Reprints
Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
http://aapnews.aappublications.org/site/misc/reprints.xhtml