American Academy of Pediatrics
Arkansas Chapter

Committee on Pediatric Workforce State Pediatrician Workforce Survey

The AAP Committee on Pediatric Workforce (COPW) over a year ago launched the State Physician Workforce Survey through AAP chapters. In addition to learning more about workforce issues at the local level, the COPW hoped to identify state and regional trends that can be compared with national trends to get a better understanding of specific issues as well as the pediatrician workforce overall. The COPW has reviewed and assembled the most relevant and robust responses for your chapter. We hope these results will provide valuable information that can assist you in your efforts to advocate for the pediatric physician workforce and help ensure that children in your communities have access to pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists.

Hours Spent in Direct Patient Care

In a typical work week, Arkansas respondents spent over 70% of their time in direct patient care. Nearly 68% said that the number of patient care hours had remained the same over the past 3 years. Approximately 20% had decreased their patient care hours, while just under 20% had increased the number of hours devoted to direct patient care.

Location of Medical School

- Arkansas
- Texas
- Kansas
- Mississippi
- Louisiana
- Tennessee
- Other

Typical Waiting Time for a Non-Emergency Appointment

Approximately 43% of respondents said that they could see an established patient for a non-emergency appointment the same day. About 23% said that the wait time would be 1-2 days, and less than 10% said that the wait time could be 3-6 days. Approximately 15% of the respondents reported that the wait time had remained about the same over the past 3 years, while just under 18% said it was shorter and just under 10% said the wait time was now longer than it had been 3 years ago. For new patients, the wait times were longer. Only about 17% of practices reported that a new patient could be seen on the same day, and nearly 25% reported that a new patient could be seen in 1-2 days. Approximately 15% reported that the wait time for new patients was longer than it had been 3 years ago.

Location of Residency Training

- Arkansas
- Texas
- Colorado
- Other

Distribution of Workforce

- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban, not inner city
- Urban, inner city

0% 50% 100%
Practice Type

Over 93% of respondents said that they are currently in clinical practice, and the average number of years that they have been in practice is just under 20. Almost 45% of the respondents are in a single specialty group practice. The next highest categories were hospital outpatient ambulatory site and hospital inpatient. Each was reported by approximately 35% and 20% respectively of respondents.

Effect of Technology (e.g., Use of Optimized EHR) on Practice

Survey participants were asked to consider what changes they might make if a new office system, such as the use of optimized electronic health records, increased their practice efficiency. They were given a range of options, such as changing their work hours, seeing more patients, or hiring additional staff. Close to 35% of respondents reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to reduce their hours, and approximately 45% said they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to see more patients. Just over 35% reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to hire nurse practitioners, and approximately 35% reported that they would hire more support staff.

Experiences Referring Patients to Medical Subspecialists/Surgical Specialists over the Past Year

Approximately 25% of the respondents rated the current number of pediatric medical subspecialists/surgical specialists in their area as “fair” or “poor.” Nearly 28% of the respondents rated the current number as “good,” and the remainder rated the current number as “very good” or “excellent.” However, just under 20% rated wait times as “very good” or “excellent,” and about 60% rated wait times as “poor” or “fair.”

Additional Resources:
AAP Child Health Mapping Project.
Providing national and state-specific data on pediatric health care delivery.
http://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/Research/research-resources/Pages/Mapping-Health-Care-Delivery-for-Americas-Children.aspx

Association of American Medical Colleges, Center for Workforce Studies. 2013 State Physician Workforce Data Book
A biennial report on physician supply, medical school enrollment, and GME for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Current data available about the physician workforce across specialties in a series of figures and tables.
https://members.aamc.org/eweb/upload/14-086%20Specialty%20Databook%202014_711.pdf
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Hours Spent in Direct Patient Care

In a typical work week, Louisiana respondents spent over 78% of their time in direct patient care and nearly 68% said that the number of patient care hours had remained the same over the past 3 years. Approximately 9% had decreased their patient care hours, while just under 28% had increased the number of hours devoted to direct patient care.

Location of Residency Training

Typical Waiting Time for a Non-emergency Appointment

Approximately 65% of respondents said that they could see an established patient for a non-emergency appointment the same day. About 20% said that the wait time would be 1-2 days, and less than 5% said that the wait time could be 3-6 days. Approximately 60% of the respondents reported that the wait time had remained about the same over the past 3 years while just under 15% said it was shorter and just under 10% said the wait time was now longer than it had been 3 years ago. For new patients the wait times were longer with only about 42% of practices reporting that a new patient could be seen on the same day and nearly 26% reporting that a new patient could be seen in 1-2 days. Approximately 12% reported that the wait time for new patients was longer than it had been 3 years ago.
Practice Type

Over 90 of the Louisiana respondents said that they are currently in clinical practice, and the average number of years that they have been in practice is just under 20. Almost 35% of the respondents are in a single specialty group practice. The next highest categories were group practice multispecialty, hospital inpatient, and self employed solo practice each was reported by approximately 15% of respondents.

Effects of Technology (e.g. Use of Optimized EHR) on Practice

Survey participants were asked to consider what changes they might make if a new office system, such as the use of optimized electronic health records, increased their practice efficiency. They were given a range of options such as changing their work hours, seeing more patients, or hiring additional staff. Close to 35% of respondents reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to reduce their hours and approximately 55% said they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to see more patients. Just over 20% reported that they would be “very likely or somewhat likely” to hire nurse practitioners and approximately 30% reported that they would hire more support staff.

Additional Resources:

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American Academy of Pediatrics
Mississippi Chapter

Committee on Pediatric Workforce State Pediatrician Workforce Survey

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Hours Spent in Direct Patient Care

In a typical work week, Mississippi respondents spent over 80% of their time in direct patient care. Nearly 65% said that the number of patient care hours had remained the same over the past 3 years. Approximately 20% had decreased their patient care hours, while just under 20% had increased the number of hours devoted to direct patient care.

Distribution of Workforce

Location of Medical School

The majority of the state's physicians completed their medical education out of state.

Location of Residency Training

The majority of the state's physicians completed their residency training out of state.

Typical Waiting Time for a Non-Emergency Appointment

Approximately 40% of respondents said that they could see an established patient for a non-emergency appointment the same day. About 25% said that the wait time would be 1-2 days, and less than 20% said that the wait time could be 3-6 days. Approximately 45% of the respondents reported that the wait time had remained about the same over the past 3 years, while just over 10% said it was shorter and just under 17% said the wait time was now longer than it had been 3 years ago. For new patients, the wait times were longer. Only about 24% of practices reported that a new patient could be seen on the same day, and nearly 15% reported that a new patient could be seen in 1-2 days. Approximately 22% reported that the wait time for new patients was longer than it had been 3 years ago.
Practice Type

Over 95% of respondents said that they are currently in clinical practice, and the average number of years that they have been in practice is just under 16. Almost 35% of the respondents are in a single specialty group practice. The next highest categories were hospital outpatient/ambulatory site, reported by just under 25%, followed by hospital inpatient and multispecialty group practice; each was reported by approximately 18% of respondents.

Effect of Technology (e.g., Use of Optimized EHR) on Practice

Survey participants were asked to consider what changes they might make if a new office system, such as the use of optimized electronic health records, increased their practice efficiency. They were given a range of options, such as changing their work hours, seeing more patients, or hiring additional staff. Close to 35% of respondents reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to reduce their hours, and approximately 40% said they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to see more patients. Just under 25% reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to hire nurse practitioners, and approximately 30% reported that they would hire more support staff.

Experiences Referring Patients to Medical Subspecialists/Surgical Specialists over the Past Year

Approximately 60% of the respondents rated the current number of pediatric medical subspecialists/surgical specialists in their area as “fair” or “poor.” Nearly 30% of the respondents rated the current number as “good,” and the remainder rated the current number as “very good” or “excellent.” However, just under 8% rated wait times as “very good” or “excellent,” and about 80% rated wait times as “poor” or “fair.”

Additional Resources:
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Hours Spent in Direct Patient Care

In a typical work week, Oklahoma respondents spent over 80% of their time in direct patient care. Nearly 65% said that the number of patient care hours had remained the same over the past 3 years. Approximately 15% had decreased their patient care hours, while just under 20% had increased the number of hours devoted to direct patient care.

Location of Medical School

Typical Waiting Time for a Non-Emergency Appointment

Approximately 48% of respondents said that they could see an established patient for a non-emergency appointment the same day. About 33% said that the wait time would be 1-2 days, and less than 10% said that the wait time could be 3-6 days. Approximately 70% of respondents reported that the wait time had remained about the same over the past 3 years, while just under 20% said it was shorter and just over 5% said the wait time was now longer than it had been 3 years ago. For new patients, wait times were longer. Only about 30% of practices reported that a new patient could be seen on the same day, and nearly 28% reported that a new patient could be seen in 1-2 days. Approximately 18% reported that the wait time for new patients was longer than it had been 3 years ago.
Practice Type

Over 90% of respondents said that they are currently in clinical practice, and the average number of years that they have been in practice is just under 22. Almost 35% of respondents are in a multispecialty group practice. The next highest categories were self-employed solo practice and single specialty group practice. Each was reported by approximately 22% of respondents.

Effect of Technology (e.g., Use of Optimized EHR) on Practice

Survey participants were asked to consider what changes they might make if a new office system, such as the use of optimized electronic health records, increased their practice efficiency. They were given a range of options, such as changing their work hours, seeing more patients, or hiring additional staff. Close to 38% of respondents reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to reduce their hours, and approximately 65% said they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to see more patients. Just over 27% reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to hire nurse practitioners, and approximately 45% reported that they would hire more support staff.

Experiences Referring Patients to Medical Subspecialists/Surgical Specialists over the Past Year

Approximately 58% of respondents rated the current number of pediatric medical subspecialists/surgical specialists in their area as “fair” or “poor.” Nearly 30% of respondents rated the current number as “good,” and the remainder rated the current number as “very good” or “excellent.” However, just under 10% rated wait times as “very good” or “excellent,” and about 78% rated wait times as “poor” or “fair.”

Additional Resources:
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**Hours Spent in Direct Patient Care**

In a typical work week, Texas respondents spent over 75% of their time in direct patient care. Nearly 54% said that the number of patient care hours had remained the same over the past 3 years. Approximately 25% had decreased their patient care hours, while just under 28% had increased the number of hours devoted to direct patient care.

**Location of Medical School**

- Texas
- Louisiana
- New York
- Missouri
- Pennsylvania
- Other

**Location of Residency Training**

- Texas
- New York
- California
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Other

**Typical Waiting Time for a Non-Emergency Appointment**

Approximately 48% of respondents said that they could see an established patient for a non-emergency appointment the same day. About 25% said that the wait time would be 1-2 days, and less than 10% said that the wait time could be 3-6 days. Approximately 58% of respondents reported that the wait time had remained about the same over the past 3 years, while just under 15% said it was shorter and just over 8% said the wait time was now longer than it had been 3 years ago. For new patients, wait times were longer. Only about 30% of practices reported that a new patient could be seen on the same day, and nearly 25% reported that a new patient could be seen in 1-2 days. Approximately 20% reported that the wait time for new patients was longer than it had been 3 years ago.
Practice Type

Over 93% of respondents said that they are currently in clinical practice, and the average number of years that they have been in practice is just under 19. Almost 35% of respondents are in a single specialty group practice. The next highest categories were hospital outpatient ambulatory site and multispecialty group practice. Each was reported by approximately 20% of respondents.

Effect of Technology (e.g., Use of Optimized EHR) on Practice

Survey participants were asked to consider what changes they might make if a new office system, such as the use of optimized electronic health records, increased their practice efficiency. They were given a range of options, such as changing their work hours, seeing more patients, or hiring additional staff. Close to 42% of respondents reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to reduce their hours, and approximately 50% said they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to see more patients. Just under 28% reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to hire nurse practitioners, and approximately 35% reported that they would hire more support staff.

Experiences Referring Patients to Medical Subspecialists/Surgical Specialists over the Past Year

Approximately 30% of respondents rated the current number of pediatric medical subspecialists/surgical specialists in their area as “fair” or “poor.” Nearly 25% of respondents rated the current number as “good,” and the remainder rated the current number as “very good” or “excellent.” However, just under 25% rated wait times as “very good” or “excellent,” and about 53% rated wait times as “poor” or “fair.”