American Academy of Pediatrics  
Alabama 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, Alabama respondents spent over 75% of their time in direct patient care. Nearly 58% 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 30% had increased the number of hours devoted to direct patient care.

Typical Waiting Time for a Non-Emergency Appointment

Approximately 50% of respondents said that they could see an established patient for a non-emergency appointment the same day. About 15% 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 60% 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 13% said the wait time was now longer than it had been 3 years ago. For new patients, the wait times were longer. Only about 20% of practices reported that a new patient could be seen on the same day, and nearly 27% 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 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 20. Almost 50% of the respondents are in a single specialty group practice. The next highest categories were hospital inpatient and hospital outpatient/ambulatory site. Each was reported by approximately 18% of respondents.

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

Approximately 30% of the respondents rated the current number of pediatric medical subspecialists/surgical specialists in their area as “fair” or “poor.” Nearly 25% of the respondents rated the current number as “good,” and the remainder rated the current number as “very good” or “excellent.” However, just under 50% rated wait times as “very good” or “excellent,” and about 70% rated wait times as “poor” or “fair.”

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 40% 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 over 10% reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to hire nurse practitioners, and approximately 25% reported that they would hire more support staff.

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, Florida respondents spent over 70% of their time in direct patient care. Nearly 53% 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 32% had increased the number of hours devoted to direct patient care.

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 45% 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 10% said that the wait time could be 3-6 days. Approximately 53% of the 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 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 26% of practices reported that a new patient could be seen on the same day, and nearly 26% reported that a new patient could be seen in 1-2 days. Approximately 10% reported that the wait time for new patients was longer than it had been 3 years ago.
Practice Type

Over 85% 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 35% of the respondents are in a single specialty group practice. The next highest categories were hospital inpatient and group practice multispecialty. Each was reported by approximately 20% of respondents.

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

Approximately 20% 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 20% rated wait times as “very good” or “excellent,” and about 50% rated wait times as “poor” or “fair.”

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 40% 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 over 40% reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to hire nurse practitioners, and approximately 40% reported that they would hire more support staff.

Additional Resources:
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Hours Spent in Direct Patient Care

In a typical work week, Georgia respondents spent over 75% of their time in direct patient care, and nearly 60% said that the number of patient care hours had remained the same over the past 3 years. Approximately 23% had decreased their patient care hours, while just under 25% had increased the number of hours devoted to direct patient care.

Typical Waiting Time for a Non-Emergency Appointment

Approximately 45% of respondents said that they could see an established patient for a non-emergency appointment the same day. About 22% 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 60% of the 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 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 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 15% reported that wait times for new patients were longer than they 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 20. Almost 43% of the respondents are in a single specialty group practice. The next highest categories were hospital outpatient/ambulatory site and self-employed solo practice; each was reported by approximately 15% of respondents.

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

Approximately 42% 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 15% rated wait times as “very good” or “excellent”, and about 70% rated wait times as “poor” or “fair.”

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 52% 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 under 30% 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.

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American Academy of Pediatrics
Puerto Rico Chapter

Committee on Pediatric Workforce State Pediatrician Workforce Survey

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Hours Spent in Direct Patient Care

In a typical work week, respondents from Puerto Rico spent over 52% of their time in direct patient care. Nearly 50% 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 20% had increased the number of hours devoted to direct patient care.

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 15% said that the wait time would be 1-2 days, and about 15% said that the wait time could be 3-6 days. Approximately 68% of the respondents reported that the wait time had remained about the same over the past 3 years, while just under 10% 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 40% of practices reported that a new patient could be seen on the same day, and nearly 20% 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.
Practice Type

Over 75% 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 25. Almost 40% of the respondents are in a self-employed solo practice. The next highest categories were hospital inpatient and single specialty 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 54% of respondents reported that they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to reduce their hours, and approximately 54% said they would be “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to see more patients. Just under 5% 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 35% of the respondents rated the current number of pediatric medical subspecialists/surgical specialists in their area as “fair” or “poor.” Nearly 43% of the 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.” However, and about 55% rated wait times as “poor” or “fair.”

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