

THE PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION

A SURVEY OF AMERICA'S PHYSICIANS: PRACTICE PATTERNS AND PERSPECTIVES



RESPONSES FROM THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Following are responses from the state of North Carolina to a national survey of physicians commissioned by The Physicians Foundation and conducted by Merritt Hawkins. Of 8,774 survey responses, 337 were from physicians in North Carolina. Responses of North Carolina physicians are compared to all survey responses.

1. Which best describes your professional morale and your feelings about the current state of the medical profession?

	North Carolina	All
Very positive	5.1%	7.1%
Somewhat positive	30.1%	37.7%
Somewhat negative	42.3%	37.4%
Very negative	22.3%	17.9%

2. Which best describes how you feel about the future of the medical profession?

	North Carolina	All
Very positive/optimistic	5.4%	6.2%
Somewhat positive/optimistic	27.4%	32.2%
Somewhat negative/pessimistic	43.2%	42.4%
Very negative/pessimistic	24.1%	19.2%

3. What is Your Medical Specialty?

	North Carolina	All
Primary Care	35.1%	32.1%
Specialty	64.9%	67.9%

4. What is Your Current Professional Status?

	North Carolina	All
Practice owner/partner/associate	35.9%	31.4%
Employed by a hospital	14.9%	19.1%
Employed by a hospital- owned medical group	16.5%	17.4%
Employed by a physician- owned medical group	11.4%	12.6%
Other	21.3%	19.6%

5. If you had your career to do over, would you choose to be a physician?

	North Carolina	All
Yes, medicine is still rewarding	71.1%	72.6%
No, the negatives outweigh the positives	28.9%	27.4%

6. Would you recommend medicine as a career to your children or other young people?

	North Carolina	All
Yes	44.2%	51.3%
No	55.8%	48.7%

7. Do you now practice some form of telemedicine?

	North Carolina	All
Yes	15.5%	18.5%
No	84.5%	81.5%

8. What percent of your patient encounters occur through telemedicine?

	North Carolina	All
0-10%	88.5%	73.8%
11-25%	9.6%	15.9%
26-40%	1.9%	4.8%
41-60%	0.0%	1.3%
61% or more	0.0%	4.3%

8. What is your age?

	North Carolina	All
35 or under	8.9%	11.2%
36-45	17.3%	19.8%
46-55	27.9%	22.9%
56-65	28.3%	29.0%
66 or older	19.6%	17.0%

9. What is your gender?

	North Carolina	All
Male	68.7%	66.1%
Female	31.3%	33.9%

10. What TWO factors do you find MOST satisfying about medical practice?

	North Carolina	All
Patient relationships	82.5%	78.7%
Prestige of medicine	8.3%	9.8%
Intellectual stimulation	59.6%	55.1%
Interaction with colleagues	12.5%	14.3%
Financial rewards	16.4%	18.9%
Social/community impact	20.5%	20.9%

11. What TWO factors do you find LEAST satisfying about medical practice?

	North Carolina	All
Erosion of clinical autonomy	42.6%	37.0%
Professional liability concerns	18.5%	30.2%
Regulatory/paperwork burdens	66.9%	67.7%
Lack of time with patients	14.9%	12.4%
Inefficient EHR design/interoperability	46.1%	39.2%
Income/Compensation	10.1%	13.3%

12. In the next one to three years, do you plan to (check all that apply):

	North Carolina	All
Continue as I am	57.6%	54.2%
Cut back on hours	20.2%	22.3%
Retire	17.8%	17.4%
Switch to a cash/concierge practice	4.5%	4.5%
Work locum tenens	5.6%	8.4%
Sell practice to hospital/health system	1.2%	2.2%
Merge with another physician group	2.4%	2.8%
Seek a non-clinical job within healthcare	9.5%	12.4%
Seek employment with a hospital	1.7%	4.3%
Work part-time	9.2%	8.5%

13. Hospital employment of physicians is a positive trend likely to enhance quality of care and decrease costs.

	North Carolina	All
Strongly agree	0.9%	2.7%
Agree	10.1%	10.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	24.6%	29.2%
Disagree	29.7%	29.6%
Strongly disagree	23.7%	27.9%

14. Value-based compensation is likely to improve quality of care and reduce costs.

	North Carolina	All
Strongly agree	4.2%	2.9%
Agree	12.8%	15.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	24.5%	25.2%
Disagree	34.9%	33.1%
Strongly disagree	23.6%	23.7%

15. What do you think is the best direction for the U.S. healthcare system?

	North Carolina	All
Maintain the current system	3.6%	4.5%
Move to a single payer insurance	25.5%	26.2%
Move to a two-tiered system	30.9%	35.5%
Move to a market-driven system	32.4%	27.2%
Other	7.5%	6.6%

16. How many of your patients are affected by a social situation that poses a serious impediment to their health?

	North Carolina	All
All	4.2%	4.7%
Many	56.4%	51.7%
Some	28.2%	31.4%
Few	10.9%	11.1%
None	0.3%	1.1%

17. Is your practice:

	North Carolina	All
Solo	16.7%	17.9%
2-5 physicians	23.9%	23.3%
6-10 physicians	16.7%	14.7%
11-30 physicians	16.1%	16.6%
31-100 physicians	14.3%	11.1%
101 or more physicians	12.3%	16.4%

18. On average, how many hours do you work per week (include all clinical and non-clinical duties)?

	North Carolina	All
0-20	5.9%	4.9%
21-30	2.9%	5.0%
31-40	10.1%	11.6%
41-50	22.9%	24.1%
51-60	28.5%	26.1%
61-70	16.9%	15.7%
71-80	9.2%	7.8%
81 or more	3.6%	4.7%

19. Of these, how many hours do you work each week on NON-CLINICAL (paperwork) duties only?

	North Carolina	All
0-5	23.7%	25.0%
6-10	32.9%	28.6%
11-15	17.8%	18.8%
16-20	12.5%	12.3%
21-25	5.3%	6.1%
26 or more	7.7%	9.2%

20. On average, how many patients do you see per day (include both office and hospital encounters)?

	North Carolina	All
0-10	15.8%	18.1%
11-20	39.7%	40.0%
21-30	30.5%	27.7%
31-40	9.5%	8.6%
41-50	1.2%	2.6%
51-60	1.5%	1.3%
61 or more	1.8%	1.8%

21. Which of the following best describes your current practice?

	North Carolina	All
I am overextended and overworked	22.1%	23.9%
I am at full capacity	64.4%	55.6%
I have time to see more patients and assume more duties	13.6%	20.5%

22. On the whole, how would you describe the current state of relations between physicians and hospitals, many of which now would employ physicians?

	North Carolina	All
Mostly positive and cooperative	6.0%	6.1%
Somewhat positive and cooperative	21.9%	25.6%
Neither positive nor negative	18.9%	21.8%
Somewhat negative and adversarial	39.9%	34.4%
Mostly negative and adversarial	13.2%	12.0%

23. What is your current position regarding Medicare patients?

	North Carolina	All
See all of these patients	80.9%	78.0%
Limit number of these patients	5.4%	7.8%
Do not see these patients	13.6%	14.2%

24. What is your current position regarding Medicaid patients?

	North Carolina	All
See all of these patients	73.1%	68.4%
Limit number of these patients	16.8%	15.3%
Do not see these patients	10.2%	16.3%

25. How has EHR affected your quality of care?

	North Carolina	All
Increased/Improved	23.4%	28.6%
Little to no impact	39.3%	18.9%
Reduced/Detracted from	37.2%	35.8%

26. How has EHR affected your efficiency?

	North Carolina	All
Increased/Improved	21.8%	25.2%
Little to no impact	16.4%	18.9%
Reduced/Detracted from	61.8%	55.9%

27. How has EHR affected your interaction with patients?

	North Carolina	All
Increased/Improved	5.1%	7.9%
Little to no impact	22.9%	26.4%
Reduced/Detracted from	71.9%	66.7%

28. Are you a member of your:

	North Carolina	All
County medical society	39.7%	40.6%
State medical society	71.7%	63.2%
National specialty society	82.7%	79.4%
American Medical Association	19.5%	26.3%
American Osteopathic Association	2.6%	6.6%

29. Has your approach to prescribing pain medications in your practice changed as a result of the opioid crisis?

	North Carolina	All
I now prescribe fewer pain medication	72.9%	69.1%
I prescribe the same number of pain medication	27.1%	30.9%

30. Approximately what percent of your patients DO NOT consistently adhere to your treatment plans?

	North Carolina	All
0-10%	9.5%	12.7%
11-20%	17.6%	21.3%
21-30%	26.4%	24.3%
31-40%	15.6%	15.1%
41-50%	10.1%	9.9%
51-60%	10.8%	7.1%
61-70%	5.5%	4.7%
71-80%	3.9%	3.3%
81-90%	0.7%	1.2%
91-100%	0.0%	0.4%

31. What is your position on concierge/direct pay medicine?

	North Carolina	All
I now practice some form of concierge/direct pay medicine	5.7%	6.6%
I am planning to transition fully to this model	0.6%	2.4%
I am planning to transition in part to this model	9.0%	9.9%
I have no plans to transition to this model	84.7%	81.1%

32. To what extent do you have feelings of professional burnout in your medical career?

	North Carolina	All
No such feelings	7.5%	5.7%
Rarely have these feelings	14.3%	16.6%
Sometimes have these feelings	36.0%	37.7%
Often have these feelings	33.3%	31.0%
Always have these feelings (significant burnout)	8.9%	9.1%

33. How much ability do physicians have to significantly influence the healthcare system?

	North Carolina	All
Very little	34.7%	32.0%
Little	27.9%	30.5%
Somewhat	27.0%	26.9%
A good deal	7.1%	8.1%
A great deal	3.3%	2.5%

34. To what degree is patient care in your practice adversely impacted by external factors such as third party authorizations, treatment protocols, EHR design, etc.?

	North Carolina	All
Not at all	2.9%	2.6%
Little	7.5%	8.8%
Somewhat	22.5%	26.6%
A good deal	35.6%	33.0%
A great degree	31.4%	29.0%

35. Is any of your compensation tied to quality metrics such as patient satisfaction, following treatment guidelines, compliance, “citizenship”, error rates, etc.?

	North Carolina	All
Yes	54.3%	47.1%
No	35.3%	39.5%
Unsure	10.4%	13.4%

36. What percent of your TOTAL compensation is tied to such metrics?

	North Carolina	All
0-10	47.5%	41.9%
11-20	20.4%	22.4%
21-30	9.9%	8.4%
31-40	2.2%	2.5%
41-50	1.1%	1.8%
51 or more	4.9%	4.2%

37. Maintenance of Certification (MOC), as required by my specialty board, accurately assesses my clinical abilities.

	North Carolina	All
Completely disagree	34.3%	35.7%
Disagree	34.6%	32.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	16.7%	18.0%
Agree	11.3%	11.8%
Completely agree	2.9%	1.9%

About The Physicians Foundation

The Physicians Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to advance the work of practicing physicians and help facilitate the delivery of healthcare to patients. It pursues its mission through a variety of activities including grant making, research, white papers and policy studies. Since 2005, The Foundation has awarded numerous multi-year grants totaling more than \$28 million. In addition, The Foundation focuses on the following core areas: physician leadership, physician practice trends, physician shortage issues, and the impact of healthcare reform on physicians and patients. As the healthcare system in America continues to evolve, The Physicians Foundation is steadfast in its determination to strengthen the physician-patient relationship and assist physicians in sustaining their medical practices in a difficult practice environment. For more information, visit

www.PhysiciansFoundation.org.

About Merritt Hawkins

Merritt Hawkins is the leading physician search and consulting firm in the United States and is a company of AMN Healthcare (NYSE: AHS). For more information, visit www.merritthawkins.com
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