

THE PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION



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

RESPONSES FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Following are responses from the state of Texas to a national survey of physicians commissioned by The Physicians Foundation and conducted by Merritt Hawkins. Of 13,575 survey responses, 8.7% (or some 1,180 responses) were from physicians in Texas. Responses of Texas physicians are compared to all survey responses.

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

	Texas	All
Very positive	3.5%	3.9%
Somewhat positive	20.6%	27.9%
Somewhat negative	45.4%	44.8%
Very negative	30.5%	23.4%

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

	Texas	All
Very positive/optimistic	2.7%	3.1%
Somewhat positive/optimistic	14.2%	19.5%
Somewhat negative/pessimistic	43.2%	45.4%
Very negative/pessimistic	39.9%	31.5%

3. How would you rate the professional morale of physicians you know?

	Texas	All
Very positive	1.7%	1.8%
Somewhat positive	13.2%	17.7%
Somewhat negative	56.6%	55.8%
Very negative	28.5%	24.6%

4. How would you rate your own professional morale?

	Texas	All
Very positive	9.5%	11%
Somewhat positive	24.5%	30.7%
Somewhat negative	43.1%	41%
Very negative	22.9%	17.3%

5. What is your medical specialty?

	Texas	All
Family Physician	15%	14.2%
General Internal Medicine	9.5%	11.3%
Pediatrics	8.9%	9.3%
Surgical Specialty	15.1%	13.6%
Medical Specialty	10.1%	12.2%
Ob/GYN	8.7%	6.2%
General Surgery	3.9%	4.4%
Other	28.8%	28.8%

6. What is your current professional status?

	Texas	All
Employed by hospital, group or other entity	31.1%	43.7%
Practice owner/partner/associate	60.4%	48.5%
Other	8.5%	7.8%

7. Some physicians believe that the medical profession is in decline. Do you:

	Texas	All
Mostly agree	52.9%	41.6%
Somewhat agree	32.9%	42.6%
Somewhat disagree	5.5%	8.6%
Mostly disagree	8.7%	7.2%

8. Two years ago, which best described your attitude to medical practice?

	Texas	All
Very positive/satisfying	14.9%	14.1%
Somewhat positive/satisfying	49.8%	52.1%
Somewhat negative/unsatisfying	31.6%	30.1%
Very negative/unsatisfying	3.7%	3.7%

9. Which best describes your attitude toward medical practice today?

	Texas	All
Very positive/satisfying	6.8%	7.3%
Somewhat positive/satisfying	24.0%	31.7%
Somewhat negative/unsatisfying	42.1%	41.2%
Very negative/unsatisfying	27.1%	19.8%

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

	Texas	All
Yes	61.3%	66.5%
No	38.7%	33.5%

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

	Texas	All
Yes	35.4%	42.1%
No	64.6%	57.9%

12. If you had the ability, would you retire today?

	Texas	All
Yes	66.8%	60.6%
No	33.2%	39.4%

13. What is your age?

	Texas	All
20-29	0.4%	0.9%
30-39	10.8%	12.9%
40-49	23.9%	21.0%
50-59	32.0%	34.4%
60-69	25.7%	24.0%
70-79	6.8%	5.8%
80-89	0.4%	0.9%

14. What is your gender?

	Texas	All
Male	73.4%	73.6%
Female	26.6%	26.4%

15. What are the two factors you find most satisfying about medical practice?

	Texas	All
Patient relationships	81.6%	80.2%
Prestige of medicine	11.3%	10%
Intellectual stimulation	68.9%	69.7%
Interaction with colleagues	19.6%	19.2%
Financial rewards	11.1%	11.7%

16. What are the two factors you find least satisfying about medical practice?

	Texas	All
Long hours/lack of personal time	21.2%	24.9%
Liability/defensive medicine pressures	27.0%	40.3%
Reimbursement issues	31.4%	27.3%
Lack of clinical autonomy	7.9%	9.2%
Dealing with Medicare/Medicaid/government regulations	36.8%	27.4%
Pressure of running a practice	9.1%	5.6%
Non-clinical paperwork	12.7%	18.1%
Uncertainty/changes of health reform	27.9%	21.5%
Managed care	8.5%	7.6%
EMR implementation	9.6%	9.2%
Other	4.2%	5.1%

17. What do you plan to do over the next one to three years?

	Texas	All
Continue as I am	46.5%	49.8%
Cut back on hours	24.9%	22.0%
Retire	14.0%	13.4%
Switch to a concierge practice	10.6%	6.8%
Relocate to another community	9.1%	10.9%
Cut back on patients seen	13.2%	9.6%
Seek a non-clinical job within healthcare	10.6%	5.6%
Work part-time	.9%	6.5%
Work locum tenens	8.3%	6.4%
Seek a non-healthcare job/business	8.4%	6.4%
Close my practice to new patients	5.4%	4.0%
Seek employment with a hospital	6.4%	5.6%
Other	6.7%	5.5%

18. How has the passage of the Patient Protections and Affordable Care Act affected your feelings about the direction and future of Healthcare in America?

	Texas	All
I am more positive	10.7%	18.5%
I am less positive	72.5%	59.3%
My feelings have not changed	16.8%	22.3%

19. Most physicians today are focused on their daily responsibilities and are unsure of where the health system will be or how they will fit into it three to five years from now.

	Texas	All
Mostly agree	60.9%	55.2%
Somewhat agree	30.9%	36.5%
Somewhat disagree	4.7%	5.6%
Mostly disagree	3.5%	2.7%

20. Physician have little influence of the direction of healthcare and have little ability to affect change. Do you:

	Texas	All
Mostly agree	50.8%	50.4%
Somewhat agree	31.9%	31.7%
Somewhat disagree	11.9%	12.7%
Mostly disagree	5.4%	5.2%

21. Hospital employment of physicians is a positive trend likely to enhance quality of care and decrease cost. Do you:

	Texas	All
Mostly agree	3.5%	4.6%
Somewhat agree	12.3%	19.9%
Somewhat disagree	30.2%	32.8%
Mostly disagree	54.0%	42.7%

22. Hospital employment of physicians will erode the physician/patient relationship and quality of care. Do you:

	Texas	All
Mostly agree	52.1%	38.5%
Somewhat agree	29.1%	33.1%
Somewhat disagree	12.9%	20.2%
Mostly disagree	5.9%	8.2%

23. Is your practice or employer seeking designation as an Accountable Care Organization?

	Texas	All
Yes	15.2%	21.9%
No	56.5%	44.0%
Unsure	28.3%	34.1%

24. Which best describes your feelings about ACOs?

	Texas	All
They are likely to enhance quality/decrease cost	5.4%	9.0%
Quality/cost gains will not justify organizational cost/effort	19.5%	21.8%
Unlikely to increase quality/decrease cost	48.2%	40.6%
Unsure about structure/purpose of ACOs	26.9%	26.6%

25. Which best describes your feelings about medical homes?

	Texas	All
They are likely to increase quality/reduce costs	22.5%	24.4%
They are unlikely to improve quality/reduce costs	40.9%	37.7%
Unsure about structure/purpose of medical homes	36.6%	37.9%

26. On average, how many hours do you work a week?

	Texas	All
0-20	2%	4%
21-30	4.2%	4.5%
31-40	13.4%	12.2%
41-50	20.4%	21.9%
51-60	25.5%	26.1%
61-70	16.1%	15.3%
71-80	10.5%	9.9%
81-90	4.7%	3.9%
91-100	2.2%	1.6%
101 or more	1.0%	2.1%

27. Of these, how many hours do you work each week on non-clinical (paperwork) duties only?

	Texas	All
0-10	55.2%	58%
11-20	29.4%	26.1%
21-30	8.3%	9.3%
31-40	4.3%	3.7%
41-50	1.4%	1.5%
51-60	0.6%	.9%
61 or more	0.7%	.5%

28. On average, how many patients do you see per day?

	Texas	All
0-10	17.1%	19.5%
11-20	38.6%	39.8%
21-30	27.9%	26.8%
31-40	9.4%	8.1%
41-50	3.8%	2.6%
51-60	0.8%	0.8%
61 or more	2.4%	2.4%

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

	Texas	All
I am overextended and overworked	21.9%	19.5%
I am at full capacity	52.7%	39.8%
I have time to see more patients and assume more duties	25.4%	26.8%

30. Have cost or time constraints caused you to close your practice to Medicare or Medicaid patients?

	Texas	All
Yes, Medicare	16.0%	8.6%
Yes, Medicaid	35.5%	26.8%
No, I have not closed to either	48.5%	64.7%

31. Estimate the approximate amount of uncompensated care you personally (not your group) provide each year.

	Texas	All
\$0-\$5,000	13.9%	14.6%
\$5001-\$15,000	9.3%	10.6%
\$15,001-\$25,000	10.9%	12.6%
\$25,001-\$35,000	7.0%	6.5%
\$35,001-\$50,000	18.3%	16.4%
\$50,001 or more	40.6%	39.3%

32. Describe you income from the practice of medicine over the last three years.

	Texas	All
Flat	33.6%	39.7%
Declining	56.0%	46.7%
Increasing	10.4%	13.6%

33. As a result of the ongoing problems with Medicare fee schedule updates, what actions have you taken or are you planning to take?

	Texas	All
Place new or additional limits on Medicare acceptance	33.6%	22.9%
Accept no new Medicare patients	21.4%	12.6%
Terminate existing Medicare patients	5.5%	2.8%
Change status to non-participating	11.4%	6.8%
Formally opt out of Medicare	12.4%	6.9%
Place new or additional limits on Medicaid acceptance	30.0%	22.2%
Reduce the amount of charity care I deliver	27.9%	22.0%
Increase standard fees charged to other patients	19.0%	15.5%
Delay information technology implementation	19.9%	15.9%
Renegotiate or terminate some commercial health plan contracts	21.9%	17.7%
Reduce staff compensation or benefits	31.9%	27.0%

34. Has your practice implemented Electronic Medical Records?

	Texas	All
Yes	65.1%	69.5%
No	34.9%	30.5%

35. If yes, what effect has EMR had on the quality of patient care in your practice?

	Texas	All
No effect	15.4%	12.9%
Has improved quality of care	26.3%	32.9%
Not yet improved quality, but I anticipate it will	10.6%	13.4%
Has not improved quality, and I do not anticipate it will	21.0%	18.5%
May improve quality, but not worth the investment	11.0%	7.9%
Decreased quality, but I anticipate it eventually will improve quality	3.5%	4.0%
Decreased quality and I do not anticipate it will improve quality	12.2%	10.4%

36. Are you a member of your:

	Texas	All
County medical society	81.2%	50.1%
State medical society	80.1%	63.6%
National specialty society	75.0%	70.4%
American Medical Association	23.0%	24.5%
American Osteopathic Association	3.4%	5.2%

37. Do you have significant concerns that EMR poses a risk to patient privacy?

	Texas	All
Yes	53.6%	47.4%
No	46.4%	52.6%

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

For additional information about this survey contact:

The Physicians Foundation

Tim Norbeck
Tnorbeck@comcast.net

Merritt Hawkins
Phil.miller@amnhealthcare.com
469-524-1420