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## KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION/COMMONWEALTH FUND 2015 NATIONAL SURVEY OF PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

### SURVEY TOPLINE AND METHODOLOGY

#### METHODOLOGY

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Commonwealth Fund *2015 National Survey of Primary Care Providers* was jointly designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) and The Commonwealth Fund. Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS) carried out the fieldwork and collaborated with Kaiser and Commonwealth Fund researchers on questionnaire design, pretesting, sample design, and weighting. The Kaiser Family Foundation and The Commonwealth Fund each contributed financing for the survey. The project team included Liz Hamel, Mira Norton, and Mollyann Brodie from KFF; and Michelle Doty, Jamie Ryan, Rose Kleiman, Melinda Abrams, and Anna-Marie Audet from The Commonwealth Fund.

Survey responses were collected via hard copy and web-based questionnaires between January 5 and March 30, 2015 with a random sample of 1,624 primary care physicians and a separate random sample of 525 nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) working in primary care practices. The surveys achieved the following response rates, calculated using AAPOR's RR3: physicians (34%), NPs (29%) and PAs (25%).

The sample for physicians was procured from SK&A, which maintains a national database of physicians that is continuously updated by a telephone verification process. Physicians drawn for the sample were those whose specialty was listed in the SK&A database as either general practice, family practice, internal medicine, adolescent medicine, internal medicine pediatrics, general pediatrics, or geriatrics. Physicians were further screened to include only those who indicated in the survey that they spend at least 60 percent of their work time providing care to patients as a primary care provider. The physician sample included an oversample of physicians working in low-income areas (those whose office is located in a zip code where the average annual household income is \$55,000 or less) and those working in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Community Health Centers (CHCs).

The sample for NP/PAs was procured from KM Lists, which uses publicly-released data available from state licensing boards and information from professional associations and journal subscriptions to develop and update its database. Unlike physicians, specialty type for NPs and PAs does not necessarily correspond with the practice setting in which they work. Therefore, a broader list of specialties was included. NPs and PAs drawn for the sample were those whose specialty was listed in the database as family medicine, internal medicine, adult medicine, adolescent medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine pediatrics, geriatrics, preventive medicine, osteopathy, women's health, or community/public health. The sample also included NPs and PAs whose specialty type was listed as "unknown" (these were undersampled relative to the other listed specialties). NPs and PAs were further screened to include

only those who indicated in the survey that they are currently working in a primary care practice and that they spend at least 60 percent of their work time providing care to patients as a primary care provider.

In an effort to maximize contact and completion rates, providers were contacted by multiple modes (mail, telephone, and email), offered incentives, and given the option of completing the survey in hard copy or online.

A multi-stage weighting process was applied to ensure an accurate representation of the national population of primary care physicians and NPs/PAs. The first stage in weighting both samples involved corrections for sample design and differential non-response by email availability. Physician survey data were weighted by gender, age, specialty type, region, and site specialty using benchmarks in the 2014 AMA Physicians Masterfile; and number of MDs at site using benchmarks in the SK&A list of primary care MDs. NP and PA data were weighted by gender and specialty type using benchmarks in the KM Lists. The physician sample was analyzed separately from the NP and PA sample.

All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting. The margin of sampling error (MOSE) including the design effect is plus or minus 3 percentage points for MDs and 5 percentage points for the combined group of NPs and PAs. Unweighted Ns and MOSE for NPs and PAs separately are shown in the table below. For results based on other subgroups the margin of sampling error may be higher.

Group	N (unweighted)	MOSE
MD	1624	±3 percentage points
NP/PA combined	525	±5 percentage points
NPs only	366	±6 percentage points
PAs only	159	±9 percentage points

## SURVEY TOPLINE RESULTS

### SECTION A: TIME SPENT PROVIDING PRIMARY CARE

- 1a. Are you currently working as a [nurse practitioner/physician assistant] providing patient care in a **primary care** setting? *(For purposes of this survey, primary care is defined as internal medicine, family practice, general pediatrics, and geriatrics. Please do not include obstetrics and gynecology.)*

**(Asked of total NPs/PAs)**

- 1b. Which of the following best describes the specialty of the practice where you work (multi-punch recode table):

	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Internal Medicine	16	15	16
General/Family Practice	58	51	72
Geriatrics	7	10	2
Pediatrics	15	19	9
School/university/student health (Vol)	1	1	--
Other	3	4	2
Blank	--	--	--
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>159</b>

- 1c. What percentage of your work time is spent on providing care to patients as a primary care provider? *(Please include time seeing patients, following up with patients, time on call, and handling administrative tasks related to patient care. Please do not include time spent on other activities such as research, teaching, or time spent providing specialty care.)*

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Less than 30% time spent providing primary care	--	--	--	--
30-59% time spent providing primary care	--	--	--	--
60-74% time spent providing primary care	9	8	9	7
At least 75% time spent providing primary care	91	92	91	93
Blank	--	--	--	--

**(Asked of total NPs/PAs)**

- 1d. Do you have a panel of patients that you follow throughout the year?

	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	81	82	78
No	19	18	21
Blank	1	1	*
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>159</b>

**SECTION B: PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION**

Text shown for NPs/PAs only: Many of the questions in this survey ask about your work as a (nurse practitioner/physician assistant). If you hold more than one position, please think about the position at which you spend the greatest number of hours per week.

2. Please indicate how satisfied you are with the following aspects of your medical practice.

a. Your medical practice overall

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Very satisfied	35	55	54	56
Somewhat satisfied	48	38	40	35
Somewhat dissatisfied	13	5	5	7
Very dissatisfied	4	1	1	2
Not applicable	*	--	--	--
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	*	*	--

b. The time you have to spend with each patient

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Very satisfied	26	34	34	32
Somewhat satisfied	45	43	41	47
Somewhat dissatisfied	22	17	17	17
Very dissatisfied	7	5	6	4
Not applicable	*	--	--	--
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	1	--

c. The level of collaboration with other team members

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Very satisfied	35	54	54	54
Somewhat satisfied	46	35	33	38
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	9	9	7
Very dissatisfied	4	1	2	1
Not applicable	2	1	1	*
Blank	1	*	1	--

d. Your income from medical practice

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Very satisfied	20	23	22	26
Somewhat satisfied	44	49	47	54
Somewhat dissatisfied	23	20	22	16
Very dissatisfied	12	6	8	3
Not applicable	*	*	--	1
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	1	*

3. How stressful is your current job?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Extremely stressful	12	5	7	2
Very stressful	36	32	33	31
Somewhat stressful	40	52	49	58
Not too stressful	11	9	10	8
Not at all stressful	1	1	1	1
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	--	--	--

4. Given what you know about the state of health care, would you advise a qualified high school or college student to pursue a career as a [primary care physician/nurse practitioner/physician assistant]?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Definitely would	15	49	47	54
Probably would	30	36	37	35
Probably would not	32	9	10	8
Definitely would not	17	2	2	2
Not sure	5	3	4	2
Blank	*	*	*	--

5. Would you say recent trends in health care:

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Causing you to consider retiring earlier than you thought you would	47	27	27	27
Causing you to delay your retirement plans	18	17	19	14
Not having an impact on your retirement plans	34	56	54	59
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
*Don't know	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	--	--	--

**SECTION C: CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENT PANEL AND CHANGES SINCE JANUARY 2014**

For the next few questions please think about the patients you personally see, not your entire practice, if you work with other providers.

7. Are you currently accepting new patients?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes, I accept new patients	83	93	93	94
No, I have stopped accepting new patients within the past 12 months	9	5	5	4
No, I stopped accepting new patients more than 12 months ago	7	2	2	2
Blank	*	1	1	--

9. What proportion of your patients who request a same- or next-day appointment can get one?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Almost all ( <i>More than 80%</i> )	42	42	40	45
Most ( <i>60-80%</i> )	25	27	25	31
About half ( <i>About 50%</i> )	13	14	16	9
Some ( <i>20-40%</i> )	10	9	11	6
Few ( <i>Less than 20%</i> )	8	6	6	6
Not sure	2	2	1	2
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	1	1	--

10. What percent of your patients fall into the following categories? (*Your best estimate is fine.*)

a. Medicare

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0%	23	20	22	15
1% to less than 10%	4	6	6	5
10% to less than 25%	16	21	19	26
25% to less than 50%	32	34	31	40
50% or more	24	18	20	13
*Don't know/refused	*	*	*	--
Not sure	--	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	2	--

b. Medicaid

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0%	22	17	17	15
1% to less than 10%	20	9	8	11
10% to less than 25%	25	27	28	26
25% to less than 50%	17	27	24	33
50% or more	15	19	21	15
*Don't know/refused	*	*	*	--
Not sure	--	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	1	--

c. Private insurance

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0%	1	8	9	6
1% to less than 10%	5	9	9	8
10% to less than 25%	18	23	25	20
25% to less than 50%	32	26	24	32
50% or more	43	33	33	34
*Don't know/refused	*	*	*	--
Not sure	--	--	--	--
Blank	1	*	1	--

d. Uninsured

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0%	20	21	23	18
1% to less than 10%	51	39	38	39
10% to less than 25%	25	27	27	29
25% to less than 50%	2	6	5	9
50% or more	1	5	5	5
*Don't know/refused	*	*	*	--
Not sure	--	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	2	*

11. **Since January 2014**, have each of the following increased, decreased or stayed about the same?

a. The total number of patients you see

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased since Jan 2014	44	54	56	49
Decreased since Jan 2014	15	7	8	4
Stayed about the same	38	38	35	45
Not applicable	1	1	*	2
Not sure	1	*	*	--
Blank	*	--	--	--

b. The number of Medicare patients you see

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased since Jan 2014	26	24	24	24
Decreased since Jan 2014	6	3	3	3
Stayed about the same	42	51	48	57
Not applicable	21	19	22	13
Not sure	2	2	2	3
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	--
Blank	1	1	1	--

c. The number of Medicaid patients you see

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased since Jan 2014	31	36	35	39
Decreased since Jan 2014	7	6	6	6
Stayed about the same	40	40	41	38
Not applicable	18	14	15	13
Not sure	2	2	2	3
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	1	*

d. The number of patients you see who recently gained health insurance after being uninsured

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased since Jan 2014	48	54	51	60
Decreased since Jan 2014	4	3	3	2
Stayed about the same	28	23	25	21
Not applicable	7	8	9	6
Not sure	12	12	12	11
Blank	*	*	*	--

e. The number of patients you see who are chronically ill

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased since Jan 2014	37	44	44	44
Decreased since Jan 2014	2	1	*	3
Stayed about the same	57	51	52	51
Not applicable	2	2	1	2
Not sure	2	2	3	*
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	*	*	--



**SECTION D: MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND PRIVATE INSURANCE**

The next series of questions are about types of health insurance.

11b. Do you currently accept **Medicare**?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes, I accept Medicare (NET)	73	73	71	78
Yes, I accept Medicare and am <b>currently accepting new</b> Medicare patients	57	65	61	72
Yes, I accept Medicare, but I am <b>not taking new</b> Medicare patients at this time	17	9	10	6
No, I do not accept Medicare	7	7	6	9
Not applicable	17	17	21	11
*Don't know	*	--	--	--
*Multi-punch	1	*	*	1
Not sure	--	--	--	--
Blank	1	2	2	2

**(Asked of total who accept Medicare)**

11c. What types of plans are most of your **Medicare** patients in?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Mostly Medicare managed care plans, such as HMOs and PPOs	29	35	33	40
Mostly traditional fee-for service Medicare	26	12	15	7
Equal mix of both managed care and fee-for-service	29	25	27	19
Not applicable	--	--	--	--
Not sure	15	28	24	34
*Multi-punch	1	--	--	--
Blank	*	*	1	--
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>125</b>

**(Asked of total who accept Medicare)**

11d. In general, how would you rate **Medicare** when it comes to each of the following?

a. How much you are paid

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Excellent	1	*	*	--
Good	20	15	17	10
Only fair	40	30	31	28
Poor	23	13	14	11
Not sure	15	42	38	50
Blank	*	*	*	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>125</b>

b. Timeliness of payments

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Excellent	5	1	1	1
Good	34	19	22	14
Only fair	25	16	18	13
Poor	9	8	8	7
Not sure	27	56	51	65
Blank	*	*	*	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>125</b>

c. Ease of administration related to reimbursements

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Excellent	3	*	--	*
Good	22	13	15	11
Only fair	26	15	17	12
Poor	24	14	15	12
Not sure	26	57	53	64
Blank	1	*	*	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>125</b>

(Asked of total who accept Medicare)

11e. Compared to three years ago, would you say it is easier or more difficult for you to find specialists who accept referrals for Medicare patients, or is it about the same?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Easier to find specialists who accept referrals	3	2	2	2
More difficult to find specialists who accept Referrals	35	43	48	32
About the same	61	54	47	66
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	2	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>125</b>

(Asked of total who accept Medicare)

11f. The Affordable Care Act provides a 10% increase in Medicare payments to certain primary care providers from 2011 through 2015. Were you aware of this increase? (If yes: Did you personally receive an increase in reimbursements as a result of this Medicare "payment bump" or not?)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes, aware of increase and received bump	25	9	8	11
Yes, aware of increase but <b>did not</b> receive bump	25	17	18	15
No, was not aware of increase	49	73	72	75
Blank	1	2	2	--
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>125</b>

**(Asked of total who accept Medicare and received payment bump)**

11g. Has this **Medicare** payment bump made a big difference, a small difference, or no difference in your **ability to serve** your Medicare patients?

*Sample size for NPs and PAs insufficient to report*

	<b>MDs</b>
Big difference	5
Small difference	37
No difference	48
Not sure	7
*Multi-punch	*
Blank	3
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>316</b>

11h. Do you currently accept **Medicaid**?

	<b>MDs</b>	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Yes, I accept Medicaid (NET)	71	80	80	80
Yes, I accept Medicaid and am <b>currently accepting new</b> Medicaid patients	50	66	65	69
Yes, I accept Medicaid, but I am <b>not taking new</b> Medicaid patients at this time	21	13	15	11
No, I do not accept Medicaid	28	19	19	19
Not applicable	--	--	--	--
*Multi-punch	--	*	--	1
Not sure	--	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	2	*

**(Asked of total who accept Medicaid)**

11i. What types of plans are most of your **Medicaid** patients in?

	<b>MDs</b>	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Mostly Medicaid managed care plans, such as HMOs and PPOs	51	48	49	46
Mostly fee-for-service	13	10	9	11
Equal mix of both managed care and fee-for-service	13	11	13	7
Not sure	22	31	28	37
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	*	*	--
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>132</b>

**(Asked of total who accept Medicaid)**

11j. In general, how would you rate **Medicaid** when it comes to each of the following?

a. How much you are paid

	<b>MDs</b>	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Excellent	1	1	1	1
Good	10	7	8	4
Only fair	28	24	25	22
Poor	41	24	26	21
Not sure	19	43	39	51
*Multi-punch	--	*	*	--
Blank	1	1	*	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>132</b>

b. Timeliness of payments

	<b>MDs</b>	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Excellent	3	1	2	1
Good	21	11	13	7
Only fair	23	19	20	15
Poor	19	11	12	9
Not sure	33	57	53	66
Blank	1	1	*	2
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>132</b>

c. Ease of administration related to reimbursements

	<b>MDs</b>	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Excellent	1	1	1	2
Good	15	9	12	4
Only fair	24	17	18	16
Poor	28	14	15	12
Not sure	31	58	54	66
Blank	1	1	*	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>132</b>

**(Asked of total who accept Medicaid)**

11k. Compared to three years ago, would you say it is easier or more difficult for you to find specialists who accept referrals for **Medicaid** patients, or is it about the same?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Easier to find specialists who accept referrals	3	2	2	3
More difficult to find specialists who accept Referrals	63	65	68	58
About the same	33	31	28	39
*Don't know	--	*	*	--
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	2	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>132</b>

**(Asked of total who accept Medicaid)**

11l. Beginning in 2013, the Affordable Care Act temporarily increased **Medicaid** payments for primary care to match Medicare rates. Were you aware of this increase? (*If yes: Did you personally receive an increase in reimbursements as a result of this Medicaid "payment bump" or not?*)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes, aware of increase and received bump	31	10	9	13
Yes, aware of increase but <b>did not</b> receive bump	21	15	17	11
No, was not aware of increase	47	73	71	75
Blank	1	2	3	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>132</b>

**(Asked of total who accept Medicaid and received payment bump)**

11m. Has this **Medicaid** payment bump made a big difference, a small difference, or no difference in your **willingness to see** Medicaid patients?

*Sample size for NPs and PAs insufficient to report*

	MDs
Big difference	22
Small difference	30
No difference	41
Not sure	6
Blank	2
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>379</b>

11n. Do you currently accept at least one form of **private** health insurance?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes, I accept private insurance (NET)	95	90	90	90
Yes, I accept private insurance and am <b>currently accepting new</b> privately insured patients	82	85	84	87
Yes, I accept private insurance, but I am <b>not taking new patients</b> with private insurance at this time	13	5	6	3
No, I do not accept any form of private health insurance	4	9	9	9
Blank	1	1	1	1

(Asked of total who accept private insurance)

11o. In general, how would you rate **private** health insurers when it comes to each of the following?

a. How much you are paid

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Excellent	4	4	6	1
Good	42	37	37	37
Only fair	32	18	19	17
Poor	6	2	2	2
Not sure	15	38	36	42
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	1	1	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1537</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>146</b>

b. Timeliness of payments

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Excellent	4	3	4	1
Good	41	29	30	27
Only fair	24	17	17	15
Poor	6	2	2	2
Not sure	25	48	45	55
Blank	*	1	1	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1537</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>146</b>

c. Ease of administration related to reimbursements

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Excellent	3	3	4	1
Good	29	22	23	19
Only fair	29	18	18	17
Poor	14	5	5	4
Not sure	25	51	48	57
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	2	2	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1537</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>146</b>

(Asked of total who accept private insurance)

11p. Compared to three years ago, would you say it is easier or more difficult for you to find specialists who accept referrals for patients with **private** insurance, or is it about the same?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Easier to find specialists who accept referrals	13	20	21	16
More difficult to find specialists who accept Referrals	12	9	11	6
About the same	73	69	66	76
*Don't know	*	1	1	--
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	2	1	1	2
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1537</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>146</b>

**SECTION E: CHANGES TO OVERALL PRACTICE CAPACITY SINCE JANUARY 2014**

12a. How, if at all, have the following changed in your practice **since January, 2014**?

a. Your ability to provide high quality care to all your patients

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Much improved	4	5	5	6
Somewhat improved	16	13	12	16
About the same	59	63	65	58
Somewhat worse	17	16	15	19
Much worse	3	2	2	1
Not sure	1	*	*	--
Blank	*	*	*	--

b. The amount of time you have available to spend with each patient

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Much improved	2	1	1	2
Somewhat improved	7	5	5	4
About the same	50	57	56	57
Somewhat worse	34	31	31	30
Much worse	6	5	4	7
Not sure	1	*	*	--
*Multi-punch	--	*	*	--
Blank	*	1	1	--

c. Patient satisfaction and experiences with care

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Much improved	5	5	3	7
Somewhat improved	13	17	17	18
About the same	61	63	64	60
Somewhat worse	15	12	11	13
Much worse	3	1	1	1
Not sure	2	2	2	1
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	--
Blank	1	1	1	*

d. Amount of time spent on administrative issues related to insurance

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Much improved	2	1	1	1
Somewhat improved	3	2	3	2
About the same	27	30	27	35
Somewhat worse	34	32	33	29
Much worse	28	18	18	18
Not sure	5	15	16	15
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	2	--

e. Your **practice's** ability to recruit and retain clinical staff including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Much improved	2	2	2	1
Somewhat improved	7	5	6	3
About the same	45	50	45	59
Somewhat worse	20	24	24	23
Much worse	15	10	12	7
Not sure	11	9	12	4
Blank	1	1	*	2



**SECTION F: OPINIONS OF RECENT TRENDS IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY**

25. Do you think each of the following is having a positive, negative, or no impact on primary care providers' ability to provide quality care to their patients?

a. Increased use of quality metrics to assess provider performance

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	22	27	26	31
Negative impact	50	38	36	41
No impact	17	12	13	10
Not sure	10	22	23	18
Blank	1	1	1	--

b. Increased reliance on non-physician clinicians such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	29	88	87	89
Negative impact	41	*	*	1
No impact	18	8	8	9
Not sure	12	3	4	1
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	1	--

c. Increased use of medical homes

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	33	40	38	43
Negative impact	14	8	9	7
No impact	26	19	19	20
Not sure	27	32	33	30
Blank	*	1	1	--

d. Increased use of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	14	17	17	17
Negative impact	26	16	14	21
No impact	21	14	16	9
Not sure	38	52	52	52
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	--
Blank	1	1	1	1

e. Increased use of health information technology

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	50	64	61	71
Negative impact	28	20	23	13
No impact	10	8	8	7
Not sure	11	7	7	8
*Multi-punch	*	*	--	*
Blank	1	1	1	--

f. Programs that include financial penalties for unnecessary hospital admissions or readmissions

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	12	15	14	16
Negative impact	52	41	43	37
No impact	14	11	12	10
Not sure	21	32	31	34
*Multi-punch	*	1	--	3
Blank	1	1	1	*

g. The emergence of free-standing walk-in clinics, and retail Clinics

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	16	41	43	37
Negative impact	50	23	21	26
No impact	18	19	20	17
Not sure	15	16	15	19
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	1	1	1

h. The expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	36	39	41	35
Negative impact	23	21	20	22
No impact	14	13	12	16
Not sure	26	26	26	27
Blank	1	1	1	--

## SECTION G: AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OPINIONS AND EXPERIENCES

26. Overall, what is your opinion of the health care law that was passed in 2010, also known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or Obamacare?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Very favorable	13	15	15	14
Somewhat favorable	35	34	36	30
Somewhat unfavorable	26	28	25	35
Very unfavorable	26	23	24	21

27a. How, if at all, have each of the following changed your thinking about the Affordable Care Act? Please indicate if each has made you think more positively, more negatively, or has not made a difference.

a. Your own experience as a [physician/nurse practitioner/physician assistant]

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
More positively	26	33	33	34
More negatively	44	33	33	34
Not made a difference	30	33	34	32
Blank	*	*	*	--

b. What you've heard from your patients

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
More positively	23	28	27	29
More negatively	54	53	54	50
Not made a difference	22	20	19	21
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	*	*	--

c. What you've seen and heard on television, radio, and newspapers

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
More positively	14	12	12	12
More negatively	42	47	48	44
Not made a difference	43	41	39	44
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	1	1	--

d. Information from professional organizations you belong to

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
More positively	15	22	25	14
More negatively	33	22	25	17
Not made a difference	51	56	50	69
Blank	1	*	*	--

28. As you may know, the Affordable Care Act gives states the option of expanding their Medicaid program to cover more low-income uninsured adults. As far as you know, has your state expanded its Medicaid program, or not?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes, state has expanded	41	39	39	39
No, state has not expanded	25	22	26	15
Not sure	32	38	34	46
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	1	*

29. Do you think the Affordable Care Act has had a positive, negative, or no impact on each of the following?

a. Your medical practice overall

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	23	27	25	30
Negative impact	36	30	31	30
No impact	31	30	32	26
Not sure	9	12	12	13
*Multi-punch	*	*	--	*
Blank	1	1	*	1

b. The quality of care your patients receive

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	18	21	19	24
Negative impact	25	21	20	23
No impact	50	49	50	47
Not sure	6	8	9	5
*Multi-punch	*	*	--	1
Blank	1	1	1	*

c. The cost of health care for your patients

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	21	26	27	25
Negative impact	44	38	41	33
No impact	17	15	15	15
Not sure	16	19	17	24
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	2	2	1	4

d. The ability of your practice to meet patient demand

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	10	16	16	16
Negative impact	35	35	35	33
No impact	44	38	36	42
Not sure	10	10	11	9
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	2	1

e. Access to health care and insurance in the country overall

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Positive impact	48	51	50	54
Negative impact	24	23	24	20
No impact	12	11	11	13
Not sure	14	14	15	13
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	1	1	*

30. Do you feel you have enough information about the Affordable Care Act to understand how it is affecting your medical practice?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	50	45	44	46
No	48	54	54	52
*Don't know	*	*	*	--
Blank	2	1	1	2

**SECTION H: TALKING WITH PATIENTS**

31. How often do you talk to your patients about each of the following?

a. How to apply or sign up for health insurance

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Frequently	14	17	18	16
Sometimes	29	33	36	28
Rarely	38	29	28	32
Never	19	20	19	23
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	*	*	*

b. Questions they have about the Affordable Care Act

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Frequently	12	10	10	10
Sometimes	30	29	29	28
Rarely	36	36	36	36
Never	22	25	24	25
Blank	1	1	1	1

c. Their out-of-pocket costs for medications and treatments

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Frequently	46	42	44	39
Sometimes	33	29	27	34
Rarely	13	18	18	17
Never	6	10	10	10
Blank	1	1	1	*

d. End-of-life care issues

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Frequently	34	26	27	23
Sometimes	32	36	36	37
Rarely	18	20	17	26
Never	15	17	19	14
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	1	*	*	*

(Asked of total MDs)

32. How often do you check to find out what a patient's out-of-pocket cost will be when you prescribe a new medication?

	MDs
Frequently	45
Sometimes	35
Rarely	14
Never	6
Blank	1
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1624</b>

34. Including yourself, how many full-time-equivalent (FTE) health care providers are in your practice? (Your best estimate is fine.)

a. Physicians

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 FTE	2	7	9	5
1 FTE	25	25	24	28
2-3 FTE	24	24	25	22
4-5 FTE	16	18	16	22
More than 5 FTE	31	21	21	20
*Don't know/refused	*	*	1	--
Blank	3	5	6	3

b. Nurse practitioners (NPs)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 FTE	39	11	1	31
1 FTE	19	34	39	25
2-3 FTE	15	31	35	22
4-5 FTE	5	7	9	3
More than 5 FTE	6	10	13	6
*Don't know/refused	*	*	1	--
Blank	15	6	2	14

c. Physician Assistants (PAs)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 FTE	53	41	61	*
1 FTE	13	23	12	45
2-3 FTE	9	14	6	30
4-5 FTE	3	6	2	13
More than 5 FTE	4	4	2	9
*Don't know/refused	*	*	1	--
Blank	18	12	16	3

d. Nurses (including RNs and LPN/LVNs)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 FTE	24	19	18	20
1 FTE	14	14	18	8
2-3 FTE	15	22	18	29
4-5 FTE	9	12	11	13
More than 5 FTE	23	21	24	15
*Don't know/refused	*	1	1	1
Blank	14	11	10	14

e. Care Managers/Social Workers

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 FTE	48	49	53	42
1 FTE	16	14	14	15
2-3 FTE	10	12	10	16
4-5 FTE	3	3	2	4
More than 5 FTE	4	5	4	6
*Don't know/refused	*	*	1	--
Blank	19	17	17	18

f. Medical Assistants

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 FTE	11	14	15	12
1 FTE	11	16	16	14
2-3 FTE	23	17	19	13
4-5 FTE	16	15	15	14
More than 5 FTE	31	32	28	39
*Don't know/refused	*	1	1	1
Blank	8	6	6	6

34a. Over the past 3 years, how has the number of personnel changed in your practice?

a. Number of Physicians

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased over past 3 years	26	24	25	23
Decreased over past 3 years	16	16	17	15
Stayed about the same	51	49	47	55
Not sure	1	1	1	--
Not applicable	7	9	10	7
Blank	1	1	1	*

b. Number of Nurse practitioners (NPs)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased over past 3 years	23	32	37	23
Decreased over past 3 years	7	10	9	12
Stayed about the same	30	46	50	38
Not sure	1	1	1	2
Not applicable	37	9	2	23
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	2	1	1	2

c. Number of Physician Assistants (PAs)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased over past 3 years	14	17	10	31
Decreased over past 3 years	4	6	5	9
Stayed about the same	28	34	24	54
Not sure	1	1	1	--
Not applicable	50	38	54	6
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	--
Blank	2	3	5	1



d. Number of Nurses (including RNs and LPN/LVNs)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased over past 3 years	16	23	24	20
Decreased over past 3 years	12	13	14	11
Stayed about the same	41	40	39	41
Not sure	1	1	1	*
Not applicable	29	21	20	24
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	2	2	2	4

e. Number of Care Managers/Social Workers

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased over past 3 years	13	14	13	15
Decreased over past 3 years	2	3	2	5
Stayed about the same	30	28	28	28
Not sure	3	3	3	4
Not applicable	49	48	50	45
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	3	3	3	3

f. Number of Medical Assistants

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Increased over past 3 years	29	28	27	30
Decreased over past 3 years	8	8	8	9
Stayed about the same	47	47	47	47
Not sure	2	2	2	1
Not applicable	13	14	15	12
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	--
Blank	1	1	1	1

**(Asked of total NPs/PAs)**

35a. Do you have a National Provider Identifier (NPI)?

	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	97	97	97
No	3	2	3
Blank	*	1	--
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>159</b>

**(Asked of total NPs/PAs who have an NPI)**

35b. Do you bill under your NPI number?

	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Yes	74	74	73
No	24	23	24
*Don't know	1	1	--
Blank	2	1	3
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>155</b>

35a/35b. Combo table based on total NPs/PAs

	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Bills under own NPI	71	72	70
Has NPI but doesn't bill under	23	22	24
Does not have own NPI	3	2	3
Has NPI but undesignated billing	3	2	3
Undesignated	*	1	--
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>159</b>

34d. How are you paid for seeing patients?

a. Fee-for-service based

	<b>MDs</b>	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Yes	62	19	21	15
No	28	64	60	73
*Don't know	--	*	1	--
Blank	10	17	19	12

b. Capitation

	<b>MDs</b>	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Yes	23	6	7	4
No	59	75	71	84
*Don't know	*	*	*	--
Blank	17	18	21	12

c. Salary based

	<b>MDs</b>	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
Yes	47	85	83	88
No	43	12	12	11
Blank	9	3	5	*

36. Are you or your practice currently receiving incentives or payments based on any of the following?

a. Quality of care or patient experiences

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	50	27	25	33
No	35	43	44	40
Not sure	15	30	31	27
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	*	*	*

b. Utilization or efficiency in care

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	43	27	28	26
No	39	39	40	39
Not sure	18	33	32	34
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	*	*	*

c. Qualifying as a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) or Advanced Primary Care Practice (APCP)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	30	26	24	29
No	51	41	42	40
Not sure	19	33	33	31
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	*	1	1	*

37. Is your practice currently participating or preparing to participate in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) arrangement with Medicare or private insurers?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes, currently participating	29	18	17	19
Yes, preparing to participate	9	6	6	7
No	32	19	21	16
Not sure	28	56	55	57
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	--
Blank	1	1	1	1

**(Asked of total who are not participating in an ACO)**

38. If offered the opportunity, how interested would you be in participating in an Accountable Care Organization?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Very interested	3	4	5	2
Somewhat interested	16	14	16	11
Not too interested	19	5	5	6
Not at all interested	21	12	11	14
Don't know enough about it to say	35	57	55	59
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
*Blank	7	8	7	8
<b>UNWEIGHTED N</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>114</b>

39. In the **past 2 years**, has your practice consolidated with or been acquired by:

a. A group practice

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	5	4	4	3
No	91	91	90	93
Not sure	1	2	2	1
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	3	3	3	3

b. A hospital

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	8	10	12	6
No	88	87	85	91
Not sure	1	2	2	1
Blank	2	2	2	2

c. Another type of organization

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	5	6	6	5
No	90	88	86	91
Not sure	2	3	5	1
Blank	4	3	3	2

40. Which of the following best describes your **primary** practice setting:

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Community clinic/health center	7	15	16	13
Hospital-owned office-based practice	17	23	24	19
Private Solo or group practice	71	47	44	55
Walk-in/retail clinic/Other	5	15	16	12
Undesignated	*	*	*	*

41. Are the patients served by your practice:

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Mostly low-income	21	35	37	31
Mostly medium-income	30	17	17	18
Mostly high-income	2	4	3	6
Pretty mixed in terms of income	45	44	43	45
*Multi-punch	1	*	*	--
Blank	1	*	*	*

42. About what percentage of your patients are: *(Your best estimate is fine.)*

a. African American

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 to less than 10%	49	48	45	53
Between 10 and 24%	30	29	28	32
Between 25 and 49%	14	13	16	7
50% or more	5	8	9	5
Not sure	1	2	1	3
*Multi-punch	--	*	*	--
Blank	1	*	*	*

b. Hispanic/Latino

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 to less than 10%	50	47	49	44
Between 10 and 24%	29	27	28	25
Between 25 and 49%	10	12	11	14
50% or more	8	11	11	13
Not sure	1	2	1	3
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	*
Blank	1	*	*	*

c. Elderly (over age 65)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 to less than 10%	24	21	23	17
Between 10 and 24%	13	20	17	26
Between 25 and 49%	26	26	24	29
50% or more	31	30	32	26
Not sure	2	1	2	*
Blank	2	3	3	1

d. Speak little or no English

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 to less than 10%	76	72	73	69
Between 10 and 24%	12	13	13	12
Between 25 and 49%	4	5	4	7
50% or more	4	7	7	9
Not sure	1	2	1	3
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	--
Blank	1	1	1	*

e. Undocumented immigrants

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 to less than 10%	71	65	69	56
Between 10 and 24%	4	6	6	5
Between 25 and 49%	1	2	1	4
50% or more	*	2	1	4
Not sure	21	23	21	28
*Multi-punch	*	--	--	--
Blank	2	2	1	2

f. Have complex or numerous health problems

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
0 to less than 10%	10	6	6	7
Between 10 and 24%	22	19	19	19
Between 25 and 49%	23	21	18	26
50% or more	43	53	56	47
Not sure	1	*	*	*
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	--
Blank	1	1	1	*

43. Where is your practice located? (If you work at more than one location, please answer based on the location where you spend the most time.)

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
City	38	34	34	33
Suburb	33	25	24	27
Small town	20	20	19	22
Rural	8	20	22	17
*Multi-punch	*	*	*	--
Blank	*	*	--	1

44. How old are you?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Under 35	6	14	9	24
35-44	22	23	21	28
45-54	29	23	27	15
55-64	28	31	35	23
65 or older	14	9	9	10
Blank	*	*	--	1

45. Are you:

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Male	60	13	3	33
Female	40	87	97	66
Blank	*	*	--	*

46. Are you of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
Yes	7	3	2	4
No	93	97	98	96
Blank	*	*	--	*

47. What is your race?

	MDs	Total NPs/PAs	NPs	PAs
White or European-American	68	87	87	88
Black or African-American	4	4	4	3
Asian or Asian American/Pacific Islander	19	5	5	5
Mixed race	2	2	2	2
*Hispanic/Latino	1	1	1	1
*Native American/American Indian	*	*	*	--
*Middle Eastern	1	*	*	--
*Asian Indian/East Indian	1	--	--	--
Other race	2	*	--	*
*Refused	1	1	*	1
Blank	1	*	*	--

48. In politics today, do you consider yourself:

	<b>MDs</b>	<b>Total NPs/PAs</b>	<b>NPs</b>	<b>PAs</b>
A Republican	27	39	36	43
A Democrat	27	29	31	25
An Independent	26	19	21	15
No preference/Not interested in politics	17	10	9	13
Other party	2	1	1	2
Blank	1	2	2	1