American Board of Emergency Medicine

Final Results of the 2011 LSEP
Alternate Occupation Survey

Background

In 2011, ABEM continued the practice of creating three distinct versions of the LSEP interim survey. The EM physician survey was sent to 1,180 physicians believed to be currently practicing EM or an EM subspecialty. A second survey was developed for retirees and was sent to 140 LSEP participants who had previously indicated that they were retired. A third survey was mailed to 98 participants who previously reported that they were no longer working in EM or an EM subspecialty.

This report presents final results from the survey sent to those now working in alternate occupations. Results of the EM physician survey and the retired physician survey are described in separate reports.

Frequency distributions for all but the open-ended questions are presented in the attached annotated survey. The N’s reflect the number of people responding to each question. The first two questions are used to determine whether each person received the correct survey. N’s are shown only for those whose responses are retained for this survey. Apparent inconsistencies may occur when respondents answer questions they are instructed to skip or skip questions they should answer. Percentages may not always sum to exactly 100% due to rounding. The sum of percentages may exceed 100% when participants are asked to “circle all that apply.”

Results of the Alternate Occupation Survey

Two alternate occupation surveys were returned due to an outdated address, leaving an effective sample size of 96 and response rate of 81%. Fifteen reported that they are either retired or still working in EM. Those responding online were automatically directed to the survey questions appropriate to their situation, while those who responded on paper were counted in the response rate, but are excluded from the count for the questions they were directed to skip on the retired physician survey. These physicians will receive either the EM physician survey or the retired physician survey in 2012, depending on their circumstances. The number of valid responses available for the final analysis on the alternate occupation survey was 63. Of these, 17 (27%) chose to complete the survey online. The following results are based on the responses of 63 respondents.

Three percent of those completing the alternate occupation survey are practicing internal medicine, and 11% are in occupational medicine. Some are working outside of medicine (19%), but two-thirds (68%) indicate that they are working in medical areas other than those listed on the survey. These areas included family medicine, general practice, anesthesiology, cardiology, and psychiatry. In addition to clinical practice, respondents reported being involved in consulting, research, teaching, and management in medical areas. (Total percents exceed 100 because some are working in more than one area.)

Only 13% of the respondents reported feeling less satisfied now compared to their last position in EM. The main reason for this was that the work is less challenging, interesting, and exciting than EM (86%). Other reasons included less contact with patients, and less satisfying working conditions/working environment (29% for both responses). Most of the respondents were more satisfied now (69%) with the primary reason being their new schedule (89%). Working conditions/working environment was also chosen quite often (87%). Roughly 58% responded that their increase in satisfaction was due to less risk of malpractice suits.
Of those who responded to the question regarding recommending EM as a career to new medical school graduates, 46% said they would. Only 14% indicated they would not, and 38% indicated they might. A high percentage of respondents indicated that they would recommend EM due to the fact that the clinical practice and duties of EM are diverse (71%). Other common reasons included good pay (53%), it is rewarding to serve this patient population (36%), and EM provides a unique opportunity to make a difference (44%).

The most common reason for a respondent to not recommend EM as a career was due to the difficulty of shift work (73%). Around 62% of respondents also gave stress and working conditions (overcrowding, hospital politics, etc.) as reasons to avoid EM. Surprisingly, only 35% gave the indication that they would not recommend EM due to the risk of malpractice suits. This compares to over half of those who are more satisfied in their new positions responding that this was at least partially due to less risk of a malpractice suit.

Research Committee
July 25, 2012
2011 Alternate Occupation Survey

1. Do you consider yourself fully retired—that is, no longer regularly working for pay, either part-time or full-time, in any medical or non-medical occupation? N=56 (N missing=3, NA=4)

(Circle Only One)

Yes .........................1 Go to Question 4
No, I still work for pay ........5 Go to Question 2 100%

2. In what area(s) do you currently work? N=60

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>(Circle All That Apply)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Emergency Medicine (EM)</td>
<td>.................................................1 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes EM clinical, administrative, academic, &amp; consulting)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. EM subspecialty</td>
<td>.................................................1 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes MedTox, PedEM, SportsMed, UHM, HPM, EMS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Urgent care</td>
<td>.................................................1 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Critical care EM</td>
<td>.................................................1 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Internal medicine</td>
<td>.................................................1 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Occupational medicine</td>
<td>.................................................1 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Physical &amp; rehabilitative medicine</td>
<td>.................................................1 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other medical (non-EM)</td>
<td>(Please specify) See attachment 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (non-medical)</td>
<td>(Please specify) See attachment 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Options a-d above are defined as EM work for the purposes of this survey. If you circled ANY of options a-d, please go to Question 5.

3. How satisfied are you with your current work position compared to your last position in EM? (Circle Only One) N=55

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Satisfaction Level</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less satisfied now</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similarly satisfied now</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10 18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More satisfied now</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>38 69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3a. What are the main reasons you are LESS satisfied with your current position? N=7
(Circle All That Apply)

- Compensation .............................................................. 1 6%
- Schedule ...................................................................... 1 14%
- Working conditions/working environment ..................... 1 29%
- Work is less challenging/interesting/exciting ................. 1 86%
- Less contact with patients ............................................ 1 29%

Other (Please specify) .......................................................... 1 0%

3b. What are the main reasons you are MORE satisfied with your current position? N=38
(Circle All That Apply)

- Compensation .............................................................. 1 21%
- Schedule ...................................................................... 1 89%
- Working conditions/working environment ..................... 1 87%
- Work is more challenging/interesting/exciting ............... 1 37%
- Less contact with patients ............................................ 1 13%
- Less risk of malpractice suits ........................................ 1 58%

Other (Please specify) .......................................................... 1 18%

See attachment 2

4. Would you recommend to new medical school graduates that they choose a career in EM? N=55

(Circle Only One)
- Yes .................... 1 46%
- No ..................... 5 14%
- Maybe ............... 3 38%

4a. Why or why not? (Circle All That Apply)

- EM work is interesting/challenging/exciting/satisfying ............................................. 1 18%
- The pay is good in EM ............................................................................................ 1 53%
- The clinical practice of EM and duties of EM physicians are diverse ....................... 1 71%
- EM provides a unique opportunity to make a difference .......................................... 1 44%
- It is rewarding to serve this patient population ........................................................ 1 36%

- EM work is stressful ................................................................................................ 1 62%
- Shift work/night shifts make EM difficult .................................................................. 1 73%
- The pay is not so good in EM ................................................................................. 1 11%
- Risk of malpractice suits is high .............................................................................. 1 35%
- The patients are demanding and/or unappreciative ................................................ 1 29%
- EM working conditions are worsening (overcrowding, hospital politics, etc.)....... 1 62%

Other ............................................................................................................................ 1 18%

Please specify .............................................................................................................. See attachment 3
5. PLEASE MAKE ANY
   NEEDED CORRECTIONS
   TO THIS INFORMATION

COMMENTS: Please include any comments you have about this survey or issues related to Emergency Medicine and ABEM. Please print clearly so your comments can be noted.
See attachment 4

Please return this survey to ABEM by May 15, 2011. Thank you for your generous support. If ABEM can be of assistance, please call (517) 332-4800 or email us at research@abem.org.
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