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NEW YORK, April 11, 2018 – Salaries for U.S. physicians edged higher this past year, with compensation increasing modestly for most specialties, while jumping 16% for psychiatrists. Still, the gender gaps in compensation remain unchanged and failed to budge for African-American physicians, according to the results of the 2018 Medscape Physician Compensation Report. Yet, despite concerns regarding pay equity and skyrocketing bureaucratic demands, the majority of physicians remain committed to the profession and are happy they chose to be doctors.

The Report is the most comprehensive and widely used physician salary survey in the U.S. Now in its 8th year, it has been used by more than 470,000 physicians in the U.S. to assess information on compensation, hours worked, time spent with patients, and what they find most rewarding -- and challenging -- about their jobs. More than 20,000 U.S. physicians across 29 specialties responded to the survey.

To view the full Medscape 2018 Physician Compensation Report, visit:

<https://www.medscape.com/2018-compensation>

"We're seeing the impact of supply and demand on physicians' salaries in this year's report," said Leslie Kane, MA, Senior Director, Medscape Business of Medicine. "The growing need for more doctors as the population ages is pushing salaries higher. At the same time, the amount of paperwork and bureaucratic demands escalate, leaving doctors with less time to see patients. We also see the influence of the opioid epidemic and the demand for psychiatrists to treat aging patients leading to increased salaries."

Regarding the continued gender pay disparity, one leading family practice physician is calling for greater salary transparency in the medical profession, so that women would know how much their male colleagues are earning.

"You would think that as we narrow the gap of representation of women in medicine, that would narrow the wage gap, but it's not happening," says Ranit Mishori, MD, professor of family medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine. "The lack of salary transparency adds to the challenges of addressing gender-based pay disparities. Women don't even know what targets to shoot for."

Physician salaries average \$299,999 in this year's report, up from \$294,000 in 2017; specialists earned about \$100,000 more than primary care physicians (\$329,000 versus \$223,000), and plastic surgeons ranked highest in salary at \$501,000 -- outpacing orthopedists (\$497,000) for the first time since the report has been conducted, which may be a reflection of greater demand fueled by increased popularity of cosmetic procedures. Pediatricians and family practice physicians report the lowest compensation, at \$212,000 and \$219,000 respectively.

The amount of time physicians spend on paperwork and administrative tasks continues to increase, with nearly three quarters (71%) spending more than 10 hours per week on paperwork -- an increase of 13 percentage points in one year.

"Although physicians put paperwork and long hours at the top of their list of professional challenges, we continue to see an abiding sentiment across all specialties that being a physician is rewarding, despite the issues," said Medscape medical director and chief medical editor Michael Smith, M.D. "The majority of physicians feel fairly compensated, and even though about 40% might have chosen another specialty in hindsight, 77% are satisfied with their decision to become a doctor. It's important to note the rewards come from making a difference and gratitude from patients. Money ranks lower on the list of genuine rewards."

Additional Report Highlights

Gender Disparities Remain in Primary Care and Specialties

Male primary care doctors earned almost 18% more than female primary care doctors, and men in specialties earned 36% more than women this year versus 31% last year. Male primary care physicians' compensation averaged \$239,000 versus \$203,000 for women, and males in specialties earned an average \$358,000 versus \$263,000 for women.

Race/Ethnicity and Physician Income

Racial disparities in compensation remained unchanged, with African-American/black physicians earning an average \$50,000 less per year than white

physicians (\$308,000 for white physicians versus \$258,000 for black physicians). African-American/black women made nearly \$100,000 less than male African-American physicians (\$322,000 for men versus \$225,000 for African American/black women). Asian-American physicians earned an average \$293,000 per year and Hispanic/Latino physicians earned an average \$278,000.

Location Makes a Difference

Less populated states continue to be more lucrative than more densely populated regions, with physicians in the North Central region earning the highest, at \$319,000, and the Northeast the lowest, at \$275,000. The states with the highest average physician salaries are Indiana, Oklahoma and Connecticut; New Mexico, Maryland and Washington DC rank lowest. The number of physicians in a region, percent of insured patients and the overall concentration of specialists play a role in regional compensation differences.

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Medscape Survey Methods:

The 2018 Medscape Physician Compensation Survey was completed by more than 20,000 physicians representing 29 specialty areas, including Medscape members and nonmembers. Respondents were invited to respond to the online survey. The margin of error for the survey was +/- 0.69% at a 95% confidence level.

About Medscape

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