

Certain stresses, burnout causing some women to leave medicine

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(HealthDay)—Though equal numbers of men and women are now

entering medical schools, the majority of physicians are still male, and female physicians face several unique stressors, according to a report published online in *Medical Economics*.

Noting that more women are entering [medical school](#) now than in the past, health policy experts emphasize that the stresses [female physicians](#) face throughout their careers, including the pay gap, returning to medicine, and burnout, need to be addressed to prevent women from leaving the profession.

According to the article, more female practicing physicians cite physician burnout as the biggest issue facing [primary care](#) now (71 percent, compared with 64 percent of men). If a woman starts out making less annually for doing the same work as her male counterparts, she may start to question the situation. Burnout increases if a woman isn't respected, including financially. In addition to the pay gap, women tend to take on additional work at home. The transition back into the medical field after taking time off for childbirth and raising young children can be hard; after two years out of practice, the returning physician may need to take a skill, safety, and competency evaluation and could then need to be monitored by another practicing physician for a period of time.

"Figuring out how to tackle these problems should take place at a national level, within professional groups and locally within institutions," according to the report.

More information: [More Information](#)

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