

# Most surgical residents want financial education

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(HealthDay)—Surgical residents feel strongly that personal financial

education should be offered during medical training, according to a study published in the August issue of the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*.

Sarah E. Tevis, M.D., from the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and colleagues surveyed 105 surgical trainees at a single academic center regarding issues related to debt, equity, cash flow, financial education, and fiscal parameters. Debt-to-asset and debt-to-income ratios were calculated and characterized as moderate-risk debt-to-asset ratio (0.5 to 0.9), high-risk debt-to-asset ratio ( $\geq 0.9$ ), and high-risk debt-to-income ratio ( $> 0.4$ )

The researchers found that 38 percent of respondents reported greater than \$200,000 in educational debt. The majority of respondents (82 percent) had a moderate- or high-risk debt-to-asset ratio. There was no correlation between residency program, year, sex, or perception of financial knowledge with high-risk debt-to-asset ratio. Compared with residents who had low debt-to-asset ratios, residents with high debt-to-asset ratios were more likely to have a high level of concern about debt (52 versus 0 percent). More than three-quarters of respondents (79 percent) felt strongly that additional financial training in residency education is critically needed.

"In a climate of increasingly delayed financial gratification, surgical trainees are on critically unstable financial footing," the authors write. "There is a major gap in current surgical [education](#) that requires reassessment for the long-term financial health of residents."

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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