

# One-third of physicians will take 10 or more years to pay off debt

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Nearly two-thirds of actively practicing physicians are still carrying

medical school debt, according to the Medical School Debt Report 2019, published by the staffing firm Weatherby Healthcare.

In an effort to understand how student debt affects doctors' lives over time, the authors of the report surveyed more than 500 actively practicing physicians across the country. Respondents, who graduated from [medical school](#) in 2015 or earlier, were asked about [student loans](#), debt repayment, and factors that impact their financial decisions.

According to the [survey results](#), 65 percent of physicians are still carrying debt from medical school. Thirty-two percent of respondents reported more than \$250,000 in remaining debt, and roughly the same amount (34 percent) expected it would take at least 10 years to pay off their student loans. Of the one-third of respondents who had paid off their student loans, nearly half (47 percent) did so within two years of graduating. To achieve this, doctors combined strategies, including managing finances, consolidating debt, and working locum tenens or taking extra shifts.

"We work every day with physicians who are struggling to repay medical school debt," Bill Heller, president of Weatherby Healthcare, said in a statement. "We're pleased that many physicians use locum tenens to pay off their debt faster, and that they recommend this option to other physicians as a way to decrease debt."

**More information:** [Medical School Debt Report 2019](#)

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