

High number of GPs wanted to leave before COVID, finds survey

June 10 2021, by Michael Addelman



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The number of GPs who say they were likely to quit direct patient care within five years was 37%, even before the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new survey carried out by University of Manchester researchers.

The figure was 63% in GPs over 50.

Even among younger GPs (under the age of 50), more than one in every ten (11%) said they were planning to leave.

These figures show a slight decline since 2017, but this remains a concern, and intentions to quit within 5 years in those over 50 have increased from 62% in 2017.

The mean level of overall job [satisfaction](#), measured between 1 (extremely dissatisfied) and 7 (extremely satisfied), increased by 0.24 points from 4.25 in 2017 to 4.49 in 2019, with more than half of the respondents (59%) stating that they were satisfied with their job overall.

Mean levels of satisfaction increased between 2017 and 2019 to varying degrees in all nine domains of job satisfaction, although this remains lower than the peak of satisfaction found in 2005.

Overall hours of work showed a slight decline, and respondents indicated a slight decline in negative job attributes and an increase in positive job attributes since 2017.

The GP Worklife Survey is a longitudinal survey which has been assessing job satisfaction and job stressors amongst GPs in England since 1999.

A sample of GPs are asked to complete a questionnaire which asks them to rate their job satisfaction and the aspects of their [jobs](#) which they find particularly stressful or satisfying, as well as their intentions as regards their future work.

The survey has run approximately every two years since 1999, and so provides evidence about changes over time.

The evidence it provides is used by the Department of Health and Social

Care to inform their evidence to the Doctors' and Dentists' Pay Review Body.

The survey was run for the 10th time in 2019.

The survey, carried out by the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Health and Social Care Systems and Commissioning, has run approximately every two years since 1999, and so provides evidence about changes over time.

It analyses two samples in 2019: 605 GPs responded to a random sample of 4976 people and 772 responded (out of 1917) after being followed up having responded to the 2017 survey.

Professor Kath Checkland, who led the study said: "It is encouraging to see that there was a small increase in job satisfaction between 2017 and 2019, but the high levels of GPs planning to leave patient care even before the pandemic hit is very concerning. We are now carrying out a further round of the survey to try to capture changes in [job satisfaction](#) driven by the pandemic. It is really important that we get as many responses as possible, and I would encourage all GPs receiving a link to the survey to respond, so that we get as complete a picture as possible."

More information: Tenth GP Worklife Survey:
[prucomm.ac.uk/projects/current ... worklife-survey.html](https://prucomm.ac.uk/projects/current...worklife-survey.html)

Provided by University of Manchester

Citation: High number of GPs wanted to leave before COVID, finds survey (2021, June 10) retrieved 11 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-06-high-gps-covid-survey.html>

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