

Male physicians receive more and higher payments from medical companies

October 5 2022



Male physicians receive significantly higher payments from the highest-

grossing medical industry companies compared with female physicians, according to a study published online Sept. 28 in *JAMA Surgery*.

Brittany G. Sullivan, M.D., from the University of California at Irvine, and colleagues have investigated [payments](#) made from the highest-grossing medical industry companies to female and [male physicians](#), and assessed compensation and engagement disparities based on [gender](#). The analysis included data from the Open Payments database for the five female and five male physicians who received the most financial compensation from each of the 15 highest-grossing U.S. medical supply companies (January 2013 to January 2019; 1,050 payments).

The researchers found that 96.9 percent of the five highest earners were men and only 3.1 percent were women. Mean payments for [female physicians](#) were \$41,320 compared with \$1.23 million for male physicians. Across all medical specialties—including female-dominated specialties—and academic ranks, this disparity persisted. Male gender was significantly associated with higher payment when adjusting for rank, h-index, and specialty. The payment gap between female and male physicians increased from \$54,343 in 2013 to \$166,778 in 2019.

"Future studies are needed to elucidate why the gender gap in medical industry payments continues to widen despite national recognition and more women in medicine," the authors write.

More information: Brittany G. Sullivan et al, Assessment of Medical Industry Compensation to US Physicians by Gender, *JAMA Surgery* (2022). [DOI: 10.1001/jamasurg.2022.4301](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamasurg.2022.4301)

Kathryn T. Chen et al, Disparities in Physician Compensation—A Call to Action, *JAMA Surgery* (2022). [DOI: 10.1001/jamasurg.2022.4302](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamasurg.2022.4302)

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