

Widening gap ID'd in housing affordability for resident physicians

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Resident physicians face a widening gap in housing affordability, with

growth in rental prices outpacing that of resident earnings, according to a research letter published online June 27 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Ryan C.L. Brewster, M.D., from Boston Children's Hospital, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional analysis of [housing affordability](#) and housing-related benefits for the 2022 to 2023 [academic year](#) to help inform graduate medical education and institutional policy. Data were included from 855 sponsoring institutions, of which 511 (59.8 percent) were rent-burdened.

Housing-related benefits included moving allowances and housing stipends, which were available at 28.8 and 13.7 percent of institutions, respectively. The researchers observed a significant association for housing unaffordability with geographic region and urbanicity. The likelihood of offering any housing-related benefits was lower at rent-burdened institutions (adjusted odds ratio, 0.42). Inflation-adjusted first postgraduate year salaries decreased by 0.23 percent overall between 2000 and 2022, while a 17.8 percent increase was seen in inflation-adjusted rental prices.

"Residents faced a widening gap in housing affordability with marked geographic variation, consistent with studies showing that cost of living indices poorly correlate with trainee salaries," the authors write.

More information: Ryan C. L. Brewster et al, Evaluation of Housing Affordability Among US Resident Physicians, *JAMA Network Open* (2023). [DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.20455](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.20455)

Eric Reinhart, The Political Education of US Physicians, *JAMA Network Open* (2023). [DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.20447](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.20447)

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