

# Recruiting Physicians Today

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## SURVEY REPORT — PHYSICIAN VIEWS ON RETIREMENT

### Doctors' hesitations about retirement, reasons for retiring and interest in exploring other medical work

Source: CompHealth

The average physician age is on the rise. According to the 2016 United States Census, 30 percent of physicians are 60 years of age or older — up from 26 percent in 2010 — and the average age of actively licensed physicians is 51.

Because more physicians are reaching retirement age, CompHealth wanted to learn more about physicians' attitudes toward retirement — including their reasons for wanting to retire and motivators for wanting to stay active in the workforce, as well as their opinions on moving into another form of medical work upon retirement.

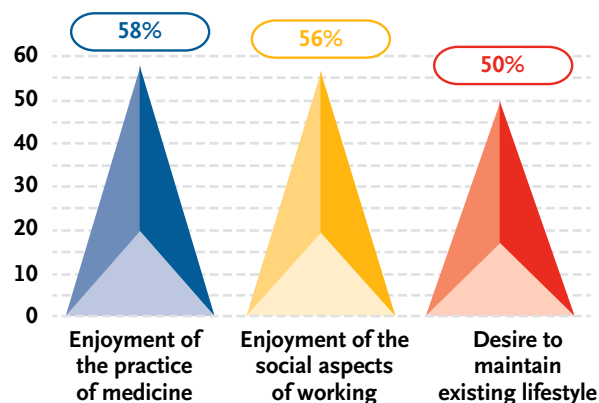
The study found most responding physicians are not particularly excited about leaving the profession, especially due to the social aspects of work.

Here are key findings from the survey.

### Doctors work longer than the average American

On average, respondents intend to retire at 68 years old, compared to the average retirement age of 63 in the United States. According to the survey, the three most

### What reasons do you have for practicing medicine beyond age 65?



common reasons physicians plan to work beyond 65 are enjoyment of the practice of medicine, social aspects of work, and a desire to maintain their existing lifestyle.

### Some doctors are concerned about working past retirement age

Though physicians indicate that they will work past age 65, they also report reservations. The ability to stay competitive topped the list followed by concerns about health, patient care, and technology.

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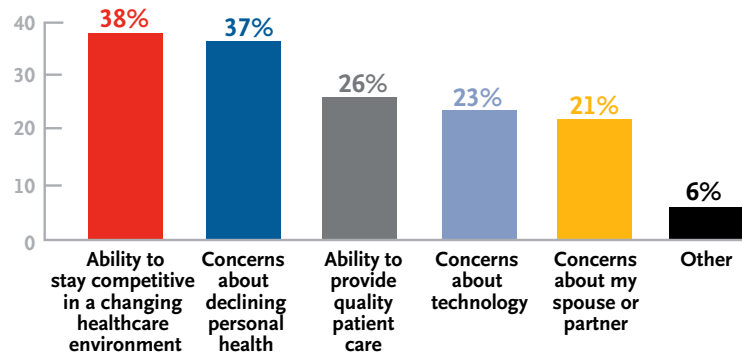
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**What concerns, if any, do you have about working past full retirement age?**



**Doctors are not as satisfied with their careers as they used to be**

Overall career satisfaction has declined over time. Fifty-nine percent of physicians say their career satisfaction has decreased since they first started practicing medicine. However, survey respondents still report incredibly high levels of career satisfaction, with 82 percent stating they are either satisfied or completely satisfied with their career. Pediatricians lead the group with 93 percent satisfaction.

**Loss of social life is greatest concern about retirement**

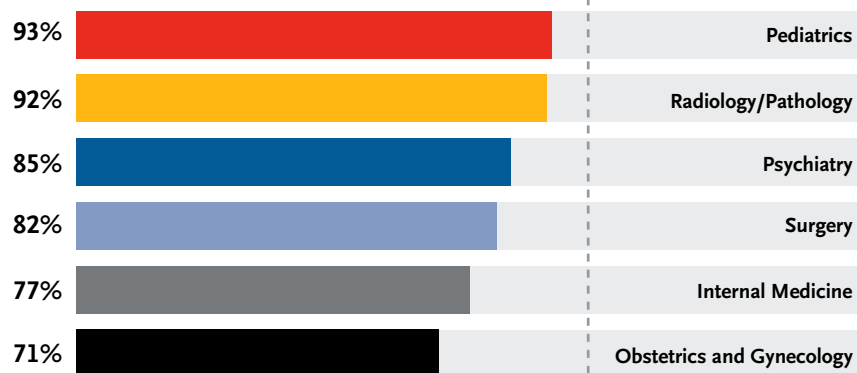
When it comes to concerns about retiring, physicians worry most about their social

interactions at work and least about their patients. The loss of the social dynamic of the work environment tops the list of greatest retirement concern for respondents, followed by loss of purpose, boredom, loneliness, or depression. Feeling unable to maintain desired lifestyle is also a pressing concern.

**Physicians still want to work in retirement**

While many respondents are looking forward to some aspects of retirement, many also indicated they wouldn't want to give up working entirely. For most respondents, financial stability (88 percent) and more time for personal activities (85 percent) are the key ingredients of an

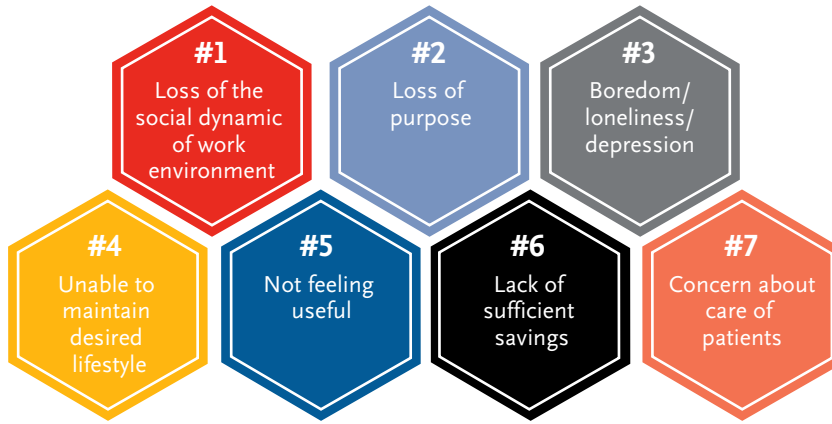
**How satisfied are you with your career?**



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**What are/were your major concerns about retirement?**



ideal retirement, with 40 percent indicating mission or volunteer work factor in as well. Roughly half of respondents (51 percent) note that still working occasionally or part-time would also be part of their ideal retirement plans.

**Summary: Physician views on retirement**

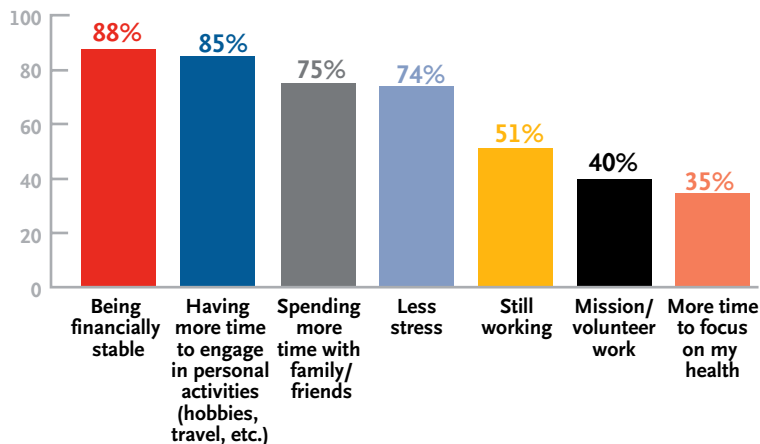
In combining key points from the survey, the study illustrates that late-career physicians are hesitant to retire for many reasons, especially because they will miss the field they love and have worked hard to master, and will miss the social dynamic that comes with their work environment.

Surgeons are particularly reluctant to retire and report the highest satisfaction rate out of any specialty. While there are apparent advantages to retirement that physicians are looking forward to, like traveling and spending more time on hobbies and with family, leaving work is not among the top reasons. What's more, these physicians still feel confident that they can contribute much to the medical field, weakening the desire to completely leave even more.

**Methodology**

Hanover Research conducted a study on behalf of CompHealth, surveying more than 400 late-career physicians

**What do you believe constitutes an ideal retirement?**



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**New Employer Services Image Cropper on NEJM CareerCenter**

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The tool is easy to use and allows you to select the specific area of your image to include in the posting. Simply drag and drop or select the logo that you wish to upload from your computer. After the logo has been uploaded, you will be given the option to crop it to your desired selection. Once saved, you will see the final cropped image to the right-hand side of the upload box.

For any additional questions or help using the tool, feel free to contact us at [ads@nejmcareercenter.org](mailto:ads@nejmcareercenter.org) or (800) 635-6991.

## Upcoming Recruiter Meetings and Medical Conventions

Southwest Physician  
Recruiter Association  
(SWPRA)  
February 28–  
March 2, 2018  
Lake Tahoe, CA

NAPR/NALTO Annual  
Convention  
March 7–9, 2018  
Orlando, FL

American College of  
Cardiology (ACC)\*  
March 10–12, 2018  
Orlando, FL

Society of Hospital  
Medicine (SHM)\*  
April 8–11, 2018  
Orlando, FL

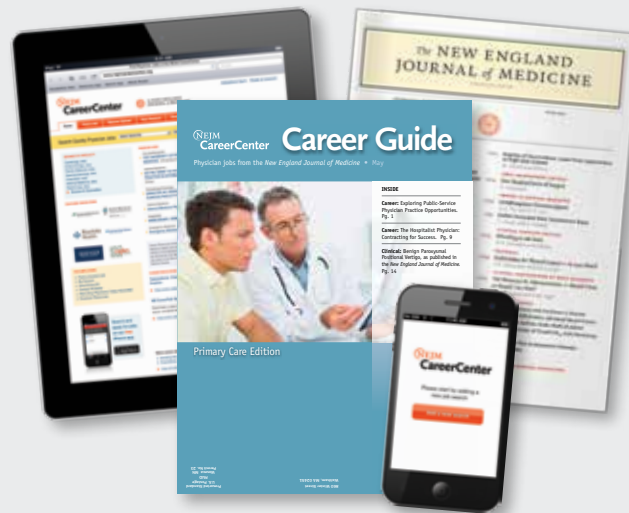
American College of  
Physicians (ACP)\*  
April 19–21, 2018  
New Orleans, LA

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age 50 and older in various specialties, including psychiatry, emergency medicine, OB/GYN, surgery, and primary care.

### About CompHealth

CompHealth is a national leader in healthcare staffing, serving providers in more than 100 specialties. CompHealth was founded in 1979 and is now the largest locum tenens staffing agency in

the U.S. The company also specializes in permanent physician placement and both temporary and permanent allied healthcare staffing. CompHealth is part of the CHG Healthcare family of companies, which is ranked No. 20 on FORTUNE magazine's list of "100 Best Companies to Work For." For more information, visit [www.comphealth.com](http://www.comphealth.com).