LIVING & WORKING IN PRIMARY CARE DURING COVID-19

A research study to understand how the primary care professional is personally affected during this crisis

Survey week: June 15, 2020
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Note: These preliminary results should be interpreted with caution. The small sample size makes the current findings not generalizable. Meaning that we cannot assume these data represent all primary care professionals.

Not surprisingly, stressors appear to be multifaceted (work-related, COVID-19, socio/political, personal):

Work-Related: workload, number of patients, administrative duties, fulfilling multiple roles, pay and hours cut, furloughs, conflict and tension with team, communicating with patients and team remotely;

COVID: patient uncertainties/distress, contradiction of health info/guidelines, numbers rising, not having adequate PPE or having to constantly wear and think about PPE, choosing to work despite being at risk, steep learning curve to maintain precautions, unknown status of patients, colleagues, and self;

Social/Political: healthcare and precautions being politicized, addressing racism in healthcare,

Personal: lack of childcare, relationship challenges, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, finding work, too few days off.

Methods: REDCap online survey was distributed starting May 18, 2020 to primary care professionals and organizations nationally, including: NAPCRG, AAFM, CFHA, SGIM, UVM Medical Center, Kaiser Northern California, California Nurses Association, reddit, Twitter, Facebook, etc. Recruitment efforts will continue throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Participants can choose to complete the survey once or several times. The survey occurs weekly and is dynamic to include pressing questions.

Participants: As of June 22, 2020, we have had 440 respondents from 47 states. Including 41% physicians, 7% nurse practitioners and physician assistants, 17% nurses, 9% medical assistants, 16% behavioral health providers, 6% administrative support staff, 5% other role or preferred not to say. 77% of participants are women, 83% white, and the average years working in their current role is 10 years (median; 0.1 to 70 years); 81% work full-time.