

Arizona Physician Trends: Reasons for Leaving Arizona

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CHIR

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Introduction

This study was conducted at the invitation of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA). In an effort to inform its HealthWorks initiative, AzHHA is seeking information regarding potential reasons why physicians who previously practiced in Arizona may have left to practice in another state.

Background

The Center for Health Information & Research (CHIR) has a long history of tracking Arizona's physician workforce. Since 1992 (with a brief interruption), CHIR has combined administrative data from physician licensing boards with an annual census survey to monitor Arizona's physician workforce and trends. The survey questions have been revised in each renewal cycle to cover a wide range of topics. These surveys "piggyback" on physician license renewals and received a 75% response rate in 2005. In the 2006-2007 survey of allopathic physicians¹, out-of-state physicians were asked to identify when they left Arizona and to identify the top three reasons in this decision. Although data have been collected throughout the project on out-of-state physicians, no one has previously been willing to sponsor an analysis of the differences between in-state and out-of-state physicians. This report is the first attempt to do so. It is primarily descriptive, providing information that could serve as the foundation for a more sophisticated analysis of the influences that lead some physicians to migrate from Arizona.

Methods

Of the more than 19,000 allopathic physicians licensed to practice in Arizona, more than 6,000 practice outside of the state (Arizona Medical Board, 2008). From July 2006 through June 2007, 8,862 allopathic physicians renewed their licenses and were given the opportunity to respond to a survey that included a special set of questions for out-of-state physicians. Seventy-four percent of physicians (6,536) completed the survey.

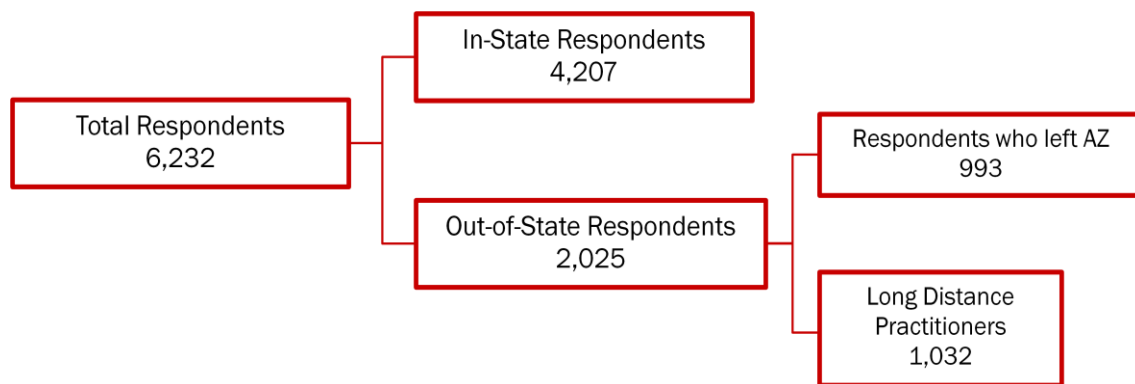
The comparisons that follow include physicians that reside outside of Arizona AND have retained their licenses to practice in Arizona. We do not have information on physicians who leave Arizona

¹ Allopathic physicians renew their licenses every two years on their birthdays. Osteopathic physicians renew en masse every two years. This particular survey instrument was utilized during a non-survey cycle for osteopaths.

and do not retain their licenses. There may be significant differences in the practice types or specialties among out-of-state physicians who retain their Arizona license and those who do not. Many, if not most, of the out-of-state physicians who retain their Arizona license may have a business case to do so, which may differentiate them from physicians who leave and do not retain their Arizona license. The results must be interpreted with the knowledge that the omission of those who do not retain their licenses can create significant biases in the comparisons.

There is another workforce phenomenon that is evident in this data. Approximately one-half of the out-of-state physicians hold an active Arizona license and participate in the care of Arizona patients. Many of these physicians are pathologists who read test results from Arizona patients. The phenomenon of these “long distance practitioners” is one that can be expected to increase in importance, especially if electronic medical records are implemented by more physicians and health information exchanges are established. The omission of these providers from our previous workforce reports will require some revision of our previous estimates, although the numbers are small. The focus of this report is not, however, on the “long distance practitioners” but on physicians who had lived and practiced in Arizona but had moved to another state. Tables based on the licensing data are indicated with the “L” suffix while those based on the survey are indicated by the “S” suffix.

Table 1-S. Survey Responses (N = 6,232)



Source: Arizona Medical Board (AMB) Survey Data, 2007.

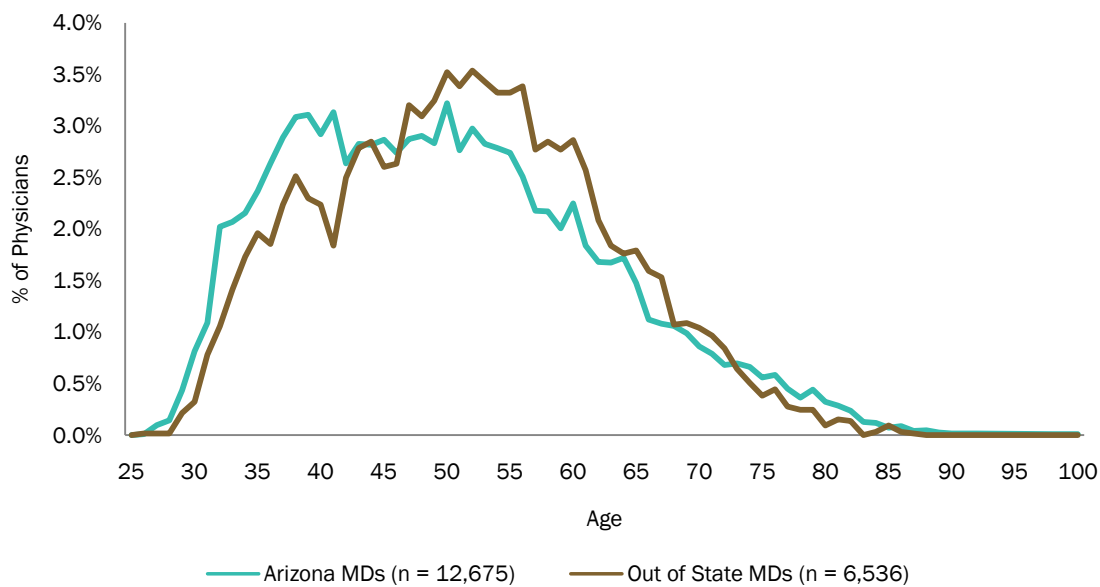
*"Long distance practitioners" refers to physicians who have never practiced in an Arizona location, but participate in the care of Arizona patients from locations outside of Arizona. 304 responses were excluded for incongruent responses, such as reporting that they left Arizona, and also had never practiced in Arizona.

Results

The results that are described in this section include information based on the licensing data that all physicians must complete and on the responses to the survey questions which are voluntary. The results from the licensing data refer to 19,211 physicians of whom 12,675 live and practice in Arizona and 6,536 physicians who live in other states.

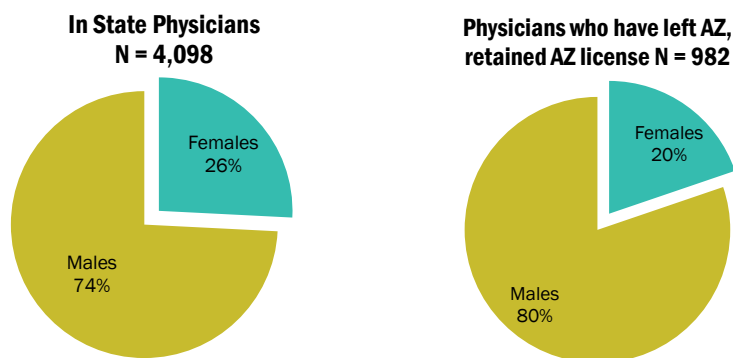
Characteristics of Physicians

Figure 1-L. Age Distribution of In State vs. Out-of-State Physicians with an Arizona License



Source: AMB Administrative, Data, 2007.

Figure 2-S. Gender Distribution of Allopathic Physicians



Source: AMB Administrative, Survey Data, 2007.

Note: Missing—In State = 109, Physicians who left AZ = 11

Tables 2a and 2b show the percentage of in-state and out-of-state physicians who are married, by gender. The data suggest that being married probably increases the likelihood that a physician does not leave the state, but the effect is not large. Both in-state and out-of-state female physicians were significantly less likely to be married than their male counterparts (72% vs. 84%), while the male physicians in Arizona were group most likely to be married.

Table 2a-S. Marital Status, Physicians with an Arizona License, 2007

<i>Survey Respondents</i>	<i>Percent Married</i>
Arizona Physicians (n = 4,207)	82%
Physicians who left Arizona (n = 993)	77%

Source: AMB Survey Data, 2007.
 Note: Missing = 0

Table 2b-S. Marital Status by Gender, Physicians with an Arizona License, 2007

	<i>Physicians who left AZ</i>	<i>AZ Physicians</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
<i>Females</i>	<i>n=194</i>	<i>n=1,070</i>	<i>n=1,264</i>
Not Married	33%	28%	28%
Married	69%	72%	72%
<i>Males</i>	<i>n=788</i>	<i>n=3,028</i>	<i>n=3,816</i>
Not Married	21%	15%	16%
Married	79%	85%	84%

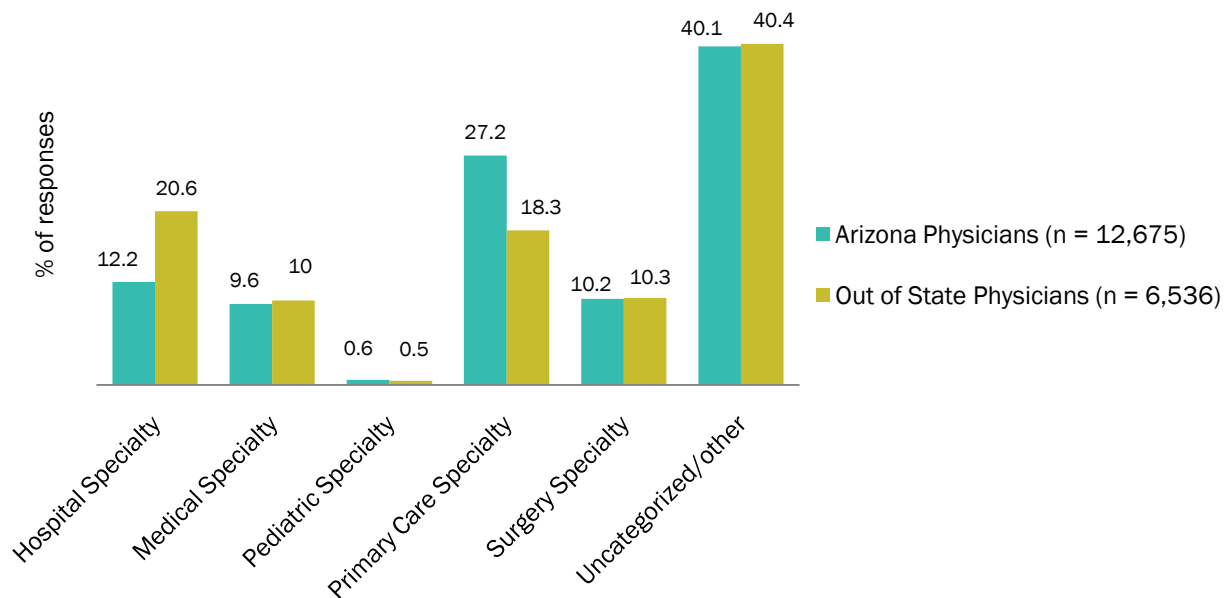
Source: AMB Survey Data, 2007.
 Note: Missing = 120

Figure 3 (below) shows the distribution of Arizona-licensed physicians among certain specialties. There were approximately 170 specialties represented on license renewal applications, and were grouped to strengthen any comparisons. The four most common types of specialties are compared in Figure 3. The “other/uncategorized” group consists of over 100 different specialties, and the most represented specialties in this group include anatomic/clinical pathology, geriatric medicine, occupational medicine, child and adolescent psychiatry, interventional cardiology, endocrinology, and vascular and interventional radiology.

The comparison shows many similarities in the distribution of specialty types among in-state and out-of-state Arizona physicians. There is roughly the same proportion of pediatricians, surgeons,

and physicians in the ‘medical specialty’ category, as well as the rather large ‘other’ category. The proportion of primary care physicians is much higher among in-state physicians, while the physicians working in a hospital specialty make up a larger proportion of the out-of-state physicians than they do among the in-state physicians. The difference is consistent with the suggestion that primary care physicians who move out of the state are less likely to have a business case to retain their Arizona license than, say, a hospitalist who practices in a multi-state organization or system. Excluding primary care and hospital specialties, this simple analysis of the data does not indicate that certain specialties are leaving Arizona at a higher rate than others and must be interpreted under the constraint that physicians who leave and do not renew their licenses are not included.

Figure 3-L. Specialty Distribution of All Allopathic Physicians with an Arizona License



Source: AMB Administrative Data, 2007.

Workload

Figure 4 shows the reported workload of in-state physicians compared to out-of-state physicians. In-state physicians saw more patients per week on average, but this could largely be due to having a significantly higher proportion of primary care physicians in the in-state group. However, even in-state primary care physicians saw slightly more patients per week than physicians who left Arizona (80 per week vs. 75). It is interesting to note that the reported hours worked per week are essentially the same among all Arizona-licensed physicians. However, when comparing the 75th percentile of physicians, it seems the top 1/4th of physicians who left Arizona, in terms of workload, work

approximately 8 - 10% more hours per week than their in-state counterparts, while even the one-quarter of physicians with the lightest workload among in-state physicians reportedly work 5% fewer hours per week than physicians who left Arizona. We do not have a good explanation for this finding.

Figure 4-S. Reported Workloads of Respondents (n = 3,774)

Survey Respondents	Median patients per week (25 th - 75 th percentile)	Median hours per week (25 th - 75 th percentile)
Arizona Physicians (n =3,126)	70 patients (40 - 100)	45 hours (38 - 50)
Physicians who left Arizona (n =648)	60 patients (35 - 100)	45 hours (40 - 55)

Source: AMB Survey Data, 2007. Missing or excluded: 1,081 Arizona Physicians, 345 Physicians who left Arizona. Note: Physician responses were excluded if they reported treating 0 patients, and/or working 0 days per week. All radiologists were excluded from this analysis - while many radiologists reported that they “see patients”, many reported that they do not “treat patients” and/or reported that they see 0 patients per week. These issues led the authors to exclude these physicians for this particular analysis.

Figure 5-L. Top Three States where Arizona’s “Out-of-state” Physicians Practice (n = 6,375)



Source: AMB Administrative Data, 2007.
Note: Missing = 161

Among out-of-state physicians who retain their Arizona license, the three states in which the most physicians reside are California, Minnesota, and Texas. California is the most populous state in the country, and shares a border with Arizona hundreds of miles long. Seventeen percent of out-of-state physicians with an Arizona license reside in California. Texas is also a very large, populous state, with tens of thousands of physicians. The Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale has its headquarters in Rochester, Minnesota, which presumably impacts the large number of physicians who live in Minnesota and retain an Arizona license. Minnesota is also a state that sends us thousands of winter visitors each year, which presumably may include physicians.

Reasons for Practicing Outside of Arizona

Physicians were asked to respond to the question, “I decided to practice in a state outside Arizona because:”, and indicate up to three reasons. They were given a list of 12 reasons (see sample survey in Appendix), including “other”, where they could write in reasons not represented in the given list. Responses to this question were also analyzed according to specialty (see Appendix Table 1). By far, the two most common reasons physicians practice outside of Arizona are, 1) *wanted to be closer to friends/family*, and 2) *better salary/reimbursement in other state*. This was true among each specialty group. Other top reasons include physicians being *unable to find a position in his or her field in Arizona, a career/ education opportunity for spouse, to continue postgraduate training, and the quality of children’s school(s)*. Approximately 9.4% of physicians reported that *high malpractice premiums* are a reason why they practice outside of Arizona.

The importance of a concern with the quality of children’s schools is an interesting finding. The influence is not typically mentioned in discussions of attracting or retaining physicians in a state or the differences between rural and urban settings. The relatively high rank of the influence is more significant when one recognizes that the responses are not, as yet, adjusted for the ages or marital status of the respondents. This is a question that will receive more attention in our subsequent studies of the workforce. Another interesting and unexpected finding is the number of physicians who indicated they were unable to find a position in their specialty in Arizona. Given the existence of a physician shortage in the state, the responses deserve additional attention to determine the reasons for the physicians’ inability to find a position in Arizona

The comparisons among physicians in different specialties show that doctors in different specialties practice outside of Arizona for many of the same reasons, yet with some interesting differences. For the purposes of this report, we will focus on the differences. The reader can refer to Appendix Table 1 for the complete table. We will not comment on the reasons for practicing outside Arizona among pediatricians, due to a very small sample size ($n = 21$).

Surgeons were most likely to indicate that they were unable to find a position in their field in Arizona, while this reason was least likely among physicians in a “medical specialty”. Physicians in a hospital specialty were by far most likely to report that they see Arizona patients via telemedicine, while this reason was not common at all among the other specialties. Surgeons reported malpractice premiums being a reason why they practice outside Arizona more than all other groups (12.8%), and

malpractice premiums were mentioned least among physicians in a medical specialty (5.4%). It is interesting to note that most of the top reasons for practicing outside Arizona were very similar across all specialties.

Table 3-S. Reasons for Practicing Outside of Arizona (n = 993)

<i>Reason for Practicing Outside Arizona</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>% (among physicians who left Arizona)</i>
Wanted to be closer to friends/family	1	44.7
Better salary/reimbursement in other state	2	38.8
Career/educational opportunity for spouse	3	16.8
Unable to find a position in my field in Arizona	4	15.8
To continue postgraduate training (residency/fellowship)	5	14.7
Quality of children's school(s)	6	11.3
Malpractice premiums in Arizona too high	7	9.4
Career opportunity for self	8	9.3
Transferred by military	9	5.8
Retirement	10	5.3
Other (could not be categorized)	11	4.7
Quality of life	12	4.3
Locum Tenens	13	2.6
Academic/Research pursuit	14	2.6
Climate	15	2.3
Health care environment	16	2.1
Fulfill loan repayment obligation	17	1.6
Spouse/family – other	18	1.4
Other financial	19	1.3
I see Arizona patients via Telemedicine	20	1.1
Multiple state practice	21	0.8
Medical issues	22	0.5
Plan on practicing in Arizona	23	0.4
Legal environment – other	24	0.3
Consulting	25	0.1

Source: Arizona Medical Board (AMB) Survey Data, 2007

Note: Missing = 0.

Tables 4, 5, and 6 show the most important factors that influence a physician’s choice of the community in which they practice. This question was asked of in-state physicians as well as out-of-state. Respondents were given a list of 17 factors, and were instructed to indicate “the THREE most important reasons that influence your choice of where to practice.” As with the previous table, there are many similarities between the in-state and out-of-state physicians, and a few differences. We will, again, focus on the differences.

The most important factors for choosing a community in which to practice were *climate*, *family/personal ties*, and *compensation*. *Family/personal ties* were more important to out-of-state physicians than their in-state counterparts (except among surgeons), as was the *quality of elementary/secondary schools*. *Quality of elementary/secondary schools* ranked 4th in importance among out-of-state physicians, and ranked 8th among in-state physicians.

For every specialty, *compensation* was more important among out-of-state physicians. An *urban lifestyle* was significantly more important among in-state physicians than out-of-state, while out-of-state physicians thought *proximity to a medical school* was more important. Out-of-state physicians were nearly 50% more likely to indicate *medical liability premiums* as one of the top three important factors than in-state physicians, and this difference was greatest among surgeons. Out-of-state surgeons were more than 3 times as likely to indicate *medical liability premiums* as a most important factor that influenced their choice of where to practice than in-state surgeons. This was the biggest difference between any group of physicians when in-state and out-of-state physicians were compared.

Table 4-S. Factors Influencing Physicians’ Choice of Community, Among Physicians Who Left Arizona (n = 814)

<i>Factors among physicians who left Arizona</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>% of respondents who selected the item</i>
Family/personal ties	1	54.3
Compensation	2	45.5
Climate	3	37.5
Quality of elementary/secondary schools	4	21.1
Recruited by hospital/university	5	18.6
Recruited by professional acquaintances	6	17.7
Urban lifestyle	7	16.6
Career opportunity for spouse/partner	8	16.5
Medical liability premiums	9	12.4

Rural lifestyle	10	11.5
Availability of specialists for consultation	11	10.4
Proximity to a medical school	12	8.2
Availability of part-time positions	13	6.1
Other	14	5.7
Quality and availability of emergency facilities	15	3.6
Practicing near my residency location	16	2.1
Practicing near my military service location	17	2.0

Source: AMB Survey Data, 2007.

Note: Missing = 179.

Table 5-S. Factors Influencing Physicians' Choice of Community, In State (n = 3,497)

<i>Factors among physicians practicing in Arizona</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>% of respondents who selected the item</i>
Climate	1	58.5
Family/personal ties	2	51.0
Compensation	3	31.2
Urban lifestyle	4	24.8
Recruited by professional acquaintances	5	17.4
Career opportunity for spouse/partner	6	17.4
Availability of specialists for consultation	7	15.3
Quality of elementary/secondary schools	8	15.1
Recruited by hospital/university	9	14.4
Rural lifestyle	10	10.2
Medical liability premiums	11	8.0
Quality and availability of emergency facilities	12	7.4
Availability of part-time positions	13	7.2
Proximity to a medical school	14	5.0
Practicing near my residency location	15	4.5
Other	16	3.9
Practicing near my military service location	17	0.7

Source: AMB Survey Data, 2007.

Note: Missing = 710

Table 6-S. Most Important Influences on Choice of Practice Community by Specialty, Arizona (AZ) Physicians Compared to Out-of-State (OOS) Physicians (n = 5,211)

Influences	Hospital		Medical		Other		Pediatric		Primary Care		Surgery		Uncategorized	
	AZ	OOS	AZ	OOS	AZ	OOS	AZ	OOS	AZ	OOS	AZ	OOS	AZ	OOS
Family/personal ties	45.3%	52.9%	48.6%	49.7%	48.1%	54.8%	44.4%	66.7%	52.0%	60.2%	51.4%	46.2%	53.9%	55.1%
Quality of elementary/secondary schools	13.4%	21.9%	15.1%	17.6%	15.9%	21.6%	20.0%	25.0%	16.0%	20.6%	14.4%	24.1%	14.9%	19.8%
Climate	60.0%	43.2%	57.5%	34.5%	59.3%	39.4%	57.8%	50.0%	55.2%	32.0%	64.0%	35.8%	58.9%	38.4%
Recruited by hospital/university	14.5%	13.7%	16.9%	23.0%	17.4%	19.7%	42.2%	33.3%	13.8%	21.8%	15.5%	21.2%	12.3%	14.4%
Recruited by professional acquaintances	21.1%	20.1%	19.4%	16.4%	18.7%	20.2%	13.3%	16.7%	15.6%	17.4%	20.8%	17.0%	15.5%	15.8%
Compensation	38.0%	48.9%	31.9%	43.0%	29.4%	44.2%	17.8%	33.3%	28.9%	41.9%	27.8%	44.8%	32.4%	48.0%
Urban lifestyle	24.0%	21.6%	27.7%	17.6%	28.5%	12.0%	15.6%	25.0%	23.7%	14.0%	27.4%	14.2%	23.5%	18.1%
Rural lifestyle	8.9%	11.9%	11.1%	13.3%	8.8%	6.3%	11.1%	8.3%	10.1%	9.3%	12.3%	11.8%	10.2%	14.6%
Proximity to medical school	4.5%	6.1%	7.8%	9.7%	6.5%	12.0%	20.0%	8.3%	4.8%	8.7%	4.3%	9.9%	4.0%	6.1%
Career opportunity for spouse/partner	12.6%	17.6%	16.7%	20.0%	17.8%	15.9%	20.0%	0.0%	20.5%	19.2%	10.2%	10.4%	18.4%	15.8%
Quality/ availability of emerg. facilities	8.7%	3.6%	4.5%	6.7%	7.1%	1.9%	4.4%	8.3%	7.5%	3.8%	7.8%	3.3%	7.7%	2.8%
Availability of specialists for consultation	12.7%	6.5%	12.8%	12.1%	14.2%	14.4%	13.3%	8.3%	17.3%	10.5%	17.9%	13.2%	14.8%	9.6%
Practicing near military service location	0.4%	1.1%	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	4.2%	0.6%	2.8%
Practicing near my residency location	3.1%	1.8%	3.6%	1.2%	3.2%	2.4%	4.4%	0.0%	5.2%	2.9%	3.8%	2.4%	5.3%	1.6%
Availability of part time positions	8.5%	5.8%	6.2%	7.9%	7.8%	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%	8.7%	3.2%	1.9%	7.7%	6.4%
Medical liability premiums	10.2%	9.7%	6.9%	6.7%	5.8%	12.0%	4.4%	0.0%	7.8%	10.5%	7.6%	25.5%	8.7%	12.0%
Other	5.4%	6.5%	3.0%	6.7%	4.3%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	5.8%	2.4%	1.9%	3.7%	4.7%
Total Responses	816	278	664	165	678	208	45	12	1976	344	658	212	2157	425

Source: AMB Survey Data, 2007.

Note: Missing = 1,325

Physician Referrals and Relationships, Career Satisfaction

Table 7 and Figure 6 consider questions related to career satisfaction and satisfaction with the system in which physicians practice. There were only small differences between in-state and out-of-state physicians. There was virtually no difference in the percentage of physicians who felt that they were able to refer patients to specialists when needed, to obtain inpatient services when needed, and to form a continuing relationship with patients. Physicians who left Arizona were approximately 10% more likely to report being able to spend as much time as they want with their patients than their in-state counterparts. *It is interesting to note that exactly 12.7% of both in-state and out-of-state physicians do not expect to still be seeing patients in 2010.*

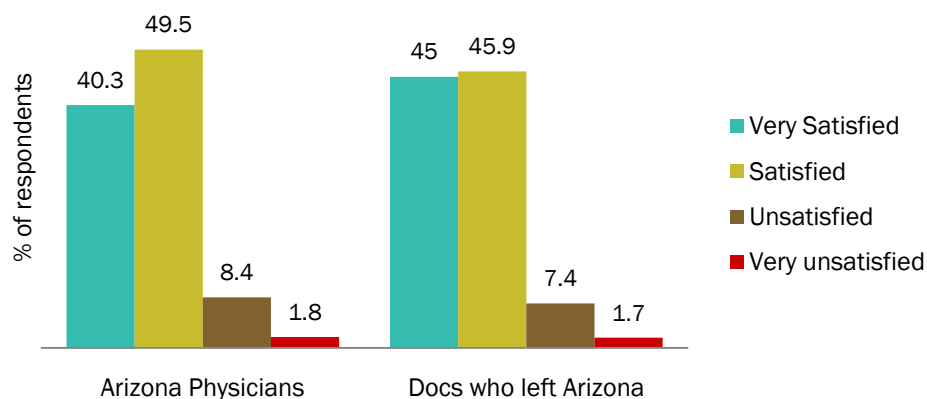
Table 7-S. Physician Referrals and Relationships, In State (n = 3,890) v. Out-of-State (n = 872)

Question	Yes (In State)	Yes (of those who have left AZ)
Are you able to refer your patients to specialists when needed?	92.5%	95.6%
Are you able to obtain inpatient services for your patients when needed?	92.9%	95.6%
Are you able to form a continuing relationship with your patients?	83.7%	83.5%
Are you able to spend as much time as you want with your patients?	64.4%	71.3%
Do you expect to still be seeing patients in 2010?	87.3%	87.3%

Source: AMB Survey Data, 2007.

Note: Missing - In State = 317, Out-of-State = 121

Figure 6-S. Overall Satisfaction with Career in Medicine, In State (n = 3,961) v. Out-of-State (n = 900)



Source: AMB Survey Data, 2007.

Note: Missing - In State = 246, Out-of-State = 93

Figure 6 indicates overall satisfaction with their career in medicine, comparing in-state physicians to those that left Arizona (and retained their license). The data show that approximately 90% of both groups are satisfied or very satisfied with their career, while 1 in 10 physicians, both in-state and out-of-state, are unsatisfied.

Summary & Conclusion

This first study of the characteristics of physicians with Arizona licenses who reside in other states does not identify causal influences. It does, however, provide the first picture of the characteristics of the physicians and some inferences concerning the differences between them and physicians who reside in Arizona. The differences suggest targets for interventions designed to attract and retain physicians in Arizona.

Many of the influences on physicians' choice of a state or a community in which to practice are effectively the same for the in-state and out-of-state physicians. The differences, however, identify some targets for policies designed to attract physicians to Arizona and to reduce out-migration. Some of the most often cited influences, such as proximity to family and friends and preferences for urban or non-urban environments are not likely to be susceptible to direct intervention but levels of compensation offer a potential means of outweighing preferences that are not completely fixed.

The high ranking given to the quality of elementary and secondary schools has implications for attracting physicians as well as a problem affecting the retention of physicians. Physicians who might consider moving to Arizona and who have young children can easily discover that Arizona's schools are among the lowest ranked in the United States. The appropriate interventions to correct the problem for young physicians presumably involve broader reforms than those simply directed at the health care workforce. Never the less, the quality of schools is revealed as one of the most important problems to be solved.

One of the most surprising results is the fact that the inability to find a position in Arizona is the third most important reason cited for practicing outside the state. The data that were collected do not elaborate on the reasons for this phenomenon but our current survey of graduating residents is designed to provide more insights into the job prospects of new graduates from Arizona residencies.

Job opportunities in Arizona or the lack of them for physicians' spouses are another important influence and one that might offer an opportunity for interventions in the form of forward planning during residencies.

Concerns with malpractice premiums are not among the top five reasons for practicing out-of-state, despite the attention given to the problem in the media. They are, never the less an issue that is of special importance to physicians in some specialties, which surgical specialties are the most affected.

The results also reveal the existence of a number of physicians who participate in the care of Arizona patients but who reside in other states. Although some physicians are engaged in reading images from clinical studies, the roles played by others are not clear. It is possible that some spend part of their time in Arizona but that is speculation. The answer to the role and likely future role of long distance practitioners deserves additional study.

Appendix

Appendix Table 1. Reason for Practicing Outside of Arizona by Specialty

<i>Reasons</i>	<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Medical</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Pediatric</i>	<i>Primary Care</i>	<i>Surgery</i>
Wanted to be closer to friends/family	42.8%	43.9%	43.1%	52.4%	46.3%	40.2%
Better Salary/reimbursement in other state	38.4%	28.6%	35.7%	52.4%	32.4%	31.9%
Career/educational opportunity for spouse	15.4%	21.3%	18.0%	14.3%	20.6%	13.3%
Unable to find a position in my field in Arizona	19.7%	11.6%	20.1%	14.3%	14.3%	20.7%
To continue postgrad training (residency/fellowship)	8.3%	11.9%	10.5%	4.8%	12.4%	17.5%
Quality of children's school(s)	9.6%	12.4%	9.6%	23.8%	10.8%	9.1%
Malpractice premiums in Arizona too high	7.7%	5.4%	8.3%	9.5%	7.2%	12.8%
I see Arizona patients via Telemedicine	13.6%	1.3%	5.3%	4.8%	1.2%	1.2%
Career opportunity for self	6.3%	5.7%	6.8%	28.6%	8.3%	7.7%
Other	3.9%	6.5%	5.3%	4.8%	6.3%	4.4%
Locum Tenens	5.1%	7.0%	4.2%	0.0%	3.7%	1.2%
Retirement	3.0%	6.7%	4.3%	4.8%	5.0%	6.7%
Transferred by military	3.4%	2.2%	4.1%	0.0%	3.6%	7.2%
Quality of life	4.1%	3.5%	3.6%	4.8%	2.2%	2.7%
Multiple state practice	2.8%	5.9%	3.1%	4.8%	3.0%	4.7%
Plan on practicing in Arizona	1.7%	4.0%	2.4%	4.8%	3.6%	2.5%
Climate	1.2%	1.3%	1.6%	0.0%	1.5%	1.0%
Academic/research pursuit	1.4%	1.6%	2.1%	4.8%	2.5%	2.2%
Fulfill loan repayment obligation	0.7%	1.3%	1.1%	0.0%	1.8%	1.2%
Health care environment	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%	0.0%	1.2%	0.2%
Other financial	0.3%	1.1%	1.3%	0.0%	1.1%	0.7%
Spouse/family	1.2%	1.9%	0.8%	0.0%	1.8%	0.7%
Consulting	0.0%	1.1%	0.4%	0.0%	1.0%	0.2%
Legal environment	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Medical issues	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
Total Responses	726	371	1416	21	725	405

Source: AMB Survey Data, 2007.

Note: 1,832 out-of-state physicians responded to this question, each indicating two specialties, for a total of 3,664 responses.

Appendix Table 2. Out-of-State Physician Survey

The Arizona State University Center for Health Information and Research, in collaboration with the Arizona Medical Board, is conducting this survey to gather information about the physician workforce in Arizona and the factors that encourage or discourage physicians from practicing in the state. This information is used to answer questions about the physician workforce in Arizona. We thank you for answering this brief survey.

AZ MD License Number _____

1. I am Married Not married
2. I usually treat _____ patients in a typical work week, or I do not treat patients.
(number)
3. I usually work _____ hours/day, _____ days/week, and _____ weeks/year.
4. My time is allocated as follows (Best estimate):
_____ % Of my time is spent in Practice Area _____ (use codes attached)
_____ % Of my time is spent in Practice Area _____ (use codes attached)
_____ % Management/administrative tasks
_____ % Teaching/Research
_____ % Other
_____ 100 % Total
5. My primary practice location is
 In Arizona, (*skip to 6*)
 Outside Arizona (If 'outside Arizona' answer the following):
 I left Arizona in _____, or
(year)
 I have never practiced in Arizona

I decided to practice in a state outside Arizona because: (select the three most important reasons from the "Reason for Leaving Arizona" list: see box)

Reason #1

Reason #2

Reason #3

REASON FOR PRACTICING OUTSIDE ARIZONA

1. Unable to find a position in my field in Arizona
2. Retirement
3. Career/educational opportunity for spouse
4. Fulfill loan repayment obligation
5. Malpractice premiums in Arizona too high
6. Better salary/reimbursement in other state
7. To continue postgraduate training (residency, fellowship)
8. Wanted to be closer to friends/family
9. Quality of children's school(s)
10. Transferred by military
11. I see Arizona patients via Telemedicine
12. Other (Specify) _____

6. Please indicate, for each of the following factors, its importance as an influence on your choice of the community in which you practice by circling the relevant indicator (1 or 2 or N/A):

Code #	Factor	Not		
		Important	Important	Does Not Apply
1	Family/Personal Ties.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Quality of Elementary/Secondary Schools.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Climate.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Recruited by Hospital/University.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Recruited by Professional Acquaintances.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Compensation.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Urban Lifestyle.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Rural Lifestyle.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Proximity to a Medical School.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Career Opportunity for Spouse/Partner.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Quality and Availability of Emergency Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Availability of Specialists for Consultation.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Practicing near my Military Service location....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Practicing near my Residency location.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Availability of Part-time Positions.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Medical Liability Premiums.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	If other important factor, specify_____			

7. From question 6 above, please list the code #'s that represent the THREE most important reasons that influenced your choice of where to practice: **Code #'s** = _____

8. Are you able to refer your patients to specialists when needed?

- Yes
- No

9. Are you able to obtain inpatient services for your patients when needed?

- Yes
- No

10. Are you able to form a continuing relationship with your patients?

- Yes
- No

11. Are you able to spend as much time as you want with your patients?

- Yes
- No

12. Do you expect to still be seeing patients in 2010?

- Yes
- No

13. Thinking generally about your overall satisfaction with your career in medicine are you

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.