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## Nebraska Rural Physician Satisfaction & Retention Survey: Appendix A: Survey (with Results)

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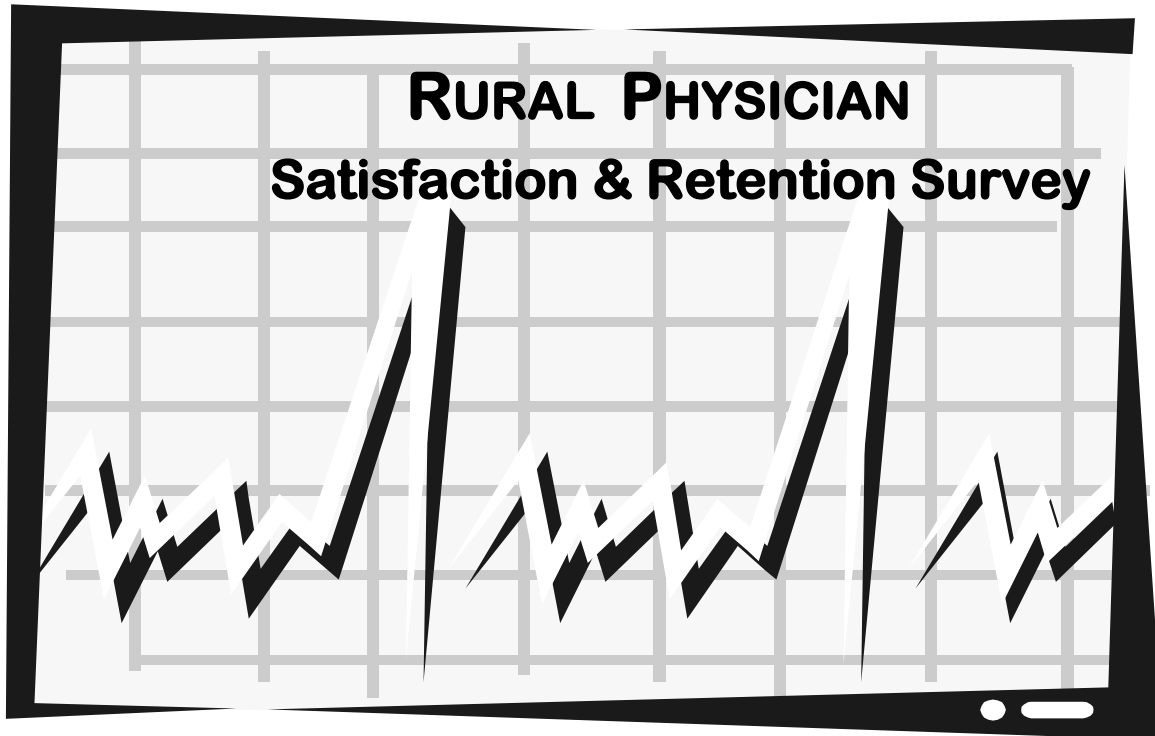
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*Appendix A: Survey (with Results)*

# NEBRASKA



Conducted by

**THE CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION (CARI)**

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

In cooperation with

**THE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH**

*Nebraska Health & Human Services System*

and

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***The survey consisted of the following questions; responses are indicated next to each.***

### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

Education at various levels often influences a physician's decision to enter rural practice. To begin, I'd like to ask you a few questions about your education and some of the programs in which you may have participated.

#### **High School**

**Q1-3**      **1-nonmetro NE**      **2-metro NE**      **3-out of state**

#### **Undergraduate College**

**Q4-9**      **1-NE public**      **2-NE private**      **3-out of state**

#### **Medical School/College**

**Q10-13**      **1-UNMC**      **2-Creighton**      **3-out of state**

**Year Graduated: 1-prior to 1970**      **2-1970-79**      **3-1980-89**      **4-1990-99**      **5-2000-02**

#### **Residency**

**Q15-18**      **1-NE**      **2-Neighboring State**      **3-Out of State**

**Q20. Were/are you a participant in any of the following programs?**

***\*This question recoded to 1-participant in any 2-not a participant***

- 4 Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP)
- 19 National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
- 1 J-1 Visa Waiver
- 29 Nebraska Loan Repayment Program: \_\_\_\_\_
- 18 Other Loan Repayment Program: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q21. When did you first become interested in rural medicine?**

***(Circle the number of your choice.)***

- 13      **0**      Before High School
- 64      **1**      High School
- 32      **2**      Undergraduate
- 41      **3**      Medical School
- 17      **4**      Residency
- 2      **5**      Post-Residency

**Q22. Please describe the experience(s) or factor(s) that *most influenced* your decision to enter rural practice:**

1-Rural Lifestyle      2-Physician Contact      3-Fill a Need      4-Medical School

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**Q23. How effective were the following areas of your medical education in preparing you for rural practice?**

	<b>Effective</b>	<b>1-----5</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>
a. Practice Management	37		82
b. Use of Medical Technology	100		28
c. Patient Relations	138		11
d. Communications Technology	70		40
e. Mental Health Care	86		42

### **INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PRACTICE**

Physicians who choose to enter rural practice face many unique challenges and situations while serving in a rural community. In addition, just as there are differences among physicians, there is great variation among rural practices. The following section includes questions about the organization of your particular practice as well as some practice-related factors.

**Q24. How many years have you been in your current practice?**

\_\_\_\_\_Years      **Average: 14**

**Q25. How many total years have you been in rural practice?**

\_\_\_\_\_Years      **Average: 16**

**Q26. Do you plan to leave your current practice within 10 years?**

**51** 1-Yes      **124** 2-No (Go to Q29)

**Q27. If yes, when do you plan to leave your practice?**

**8** 1-Less than 1 year  
**19** 2-1-5 years  
**14** 3-6-10 years  
**10** 4-Don't know/Not sure

**Q28. Do you plan to retire from medical practice within 10 years?**

32 1-Yes                      19 2-No

**Q29. Did you practice in another location prior to your current practice?**

69 1-Yes                      103 2-No (Go to Q32)

**Q30. If yes, how influential were the following characteristics of your *previous* practice and community in your decision to leave that practice?**

<b><i>Practice-Related Factors</i></b> _____	<b>Influential</b>	<b>1-----5</b>	<b>Not Influential</b>
a. Patient Relationships	11		50
b. Excessive Expectations by Patients	13		46
c. Lack of Clinical Autonomy	17		45
d. Lack of Variety of Medical Conditions	5		57
e. Limited Contact with Other Health Care Professionals	8		47
f. Limited Contact with Specialists for Patient Referrals	6		53
g. Inadequate Access to Medical Technology	9		52
h. Limited Continuing Medical Education Opportunities	8		53
i. Excessive Administrative Responsibilities	10		50
j. Excessive Call Hours	29		36
k. Limited Opportunities for Promotion	11		46
l. Inadequate Income Level	19		37
m. Other (please list) _____			

<b><i>Lifestyle &amp; Community Factors</i></b> _____	<b>Influential</b>	<b>1-----5</b>	<b>Not Influential</b>
n. Lack of Rural/Small Town Lifestyle	16		43
o. Too Little Personal Time Away From Work	29		28
p. Few Volunteer Involvement/Leadership Opportunities	5		58
q. Few Elected Involvement/Leadership Opportunities	4		56
r. Lack of Employment for Spouse	9		53
s. Quality of School System(s)	9		49
t. Lack of Variety of Churches/Religious Organization(s)	3		59

u. Limited Access to Cultural Activities	9	48
v. Limited Access to Recreational Activities	9	48
w. Long Distance from Family	17	39
x. Long Distance from Friends	9	46
y. Climate	6	57
z. Topography	6	54
aa. High Cost of Living	3	60
bb. Lack of Professional Relationships	13	41
cc. Lack of Social/Personal Relationships	11	44

**Q31. When you moved from you previous practice to your current practice, how did the income from your practice change?**

38 Increased  
 24 Decreased  
 5 Did Not Change

**Q32. When you think about your average week, how many hours would you say you work?**

\_\_\_\_\_hrs. Average: 56 hours

**Q33. In an average week, approximately how many hours do you spend at your primary practice location on the following activities?**

Patient Care \_\_\_\_\_hrs. Average: 46 hours  
 Administrative \_\_\_\_\_hrs. Average: 6 hours  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_hrs. Average: 2 hours

**Q34. On average, how many hours per week are you on call at your primary practice location?**

On Call \_\_\_\_\_hrs. Average: 53 hours

**Q35. Which of the following best describes your primary practice location?**

146 1-Private Clinic  
 22 2-Hospital

**Q36. Which of the following best describes your primary practice location?**

26 1-Self-employed solo practice  
 79 2-Self-employed partnership or group  
 51 3-Salaried—Hospital



**Q40. Listed below are some telecommunications technologies or applications now in use by some rural physicians. Please indicate how often you use each of the following.**

	Don't Use <u>1</u>	Use Rarely <u>2</u>	Use Occasionally <u>3</u>	Use Regularly <u>4</u>
FAX Machine	3	0	10	154
Computer	4	9	27	30
Cellular Phone	7	8	20	135
E-Mail	25	23	37	85
Internet	22	19	49	80
Online purchasing	63	38	35	34
Telemedicine	90	47	24	9
Electronic Medical Modeling	135	24	8	3
EMS Communication	103	37	19	11
Video Conferencing	98	49	16	7

**Q41. Do you have an additional, secondary practice location?**  
**56** Yes      **115** No (*Go to Q46*)

*If yes, please provide the following information about this practice:*

**Q42. In an average week, approximately how many hours do you spend at your secondary practice location on the following activities?**

Patient Care \_\_\_\_\_ hrs.      **Average: 7 hours**

Administrative \_\_\_\_\_ hrs.      **Average: 0.9 hours**

Other \_\_\_\_\_ hrs.      **Average: 0 hours**

**Q43. On average, how many hours per week are you on call at your *secondary practice location*?**

On Call \_\_\_\_\_ hrs.      **42 respondents have no call at their secondary location; of the 14 that do have call, they have an average of 40 hours per week.**

**Q44. Which of the following best describes your *secondary practice location*?**

- 42** Private Clinic
- 5** Hospital
- 4** Public Health Clinic
- 4** Federal/State Institution



**Q45. Which of the following best describes your *secondary* practice location?**

- 9 Self-employed solo practice
- 18 Self-employed partnership or group
- 19 Salaried—Hospital
- 11 Other\_\_\_\_\_

**PRACTICE-RELATED SATISFACTION FACTORS**

**Q46. When you think about the factors that influenced your decision to practice in your current location, how important was each of the following?**

	<b>Influential</b>	<b>1-----5</b>	<b>Not Influential</b>
a. Patient Relationships	124		17
b. Realistic Expectations by Patients	95		31
c. Clinical Autonomy	132		17
d. Variety of Medical Conditions	125		13
e. Contact with Other Health Care Professionals	100		25
f. Contact with Specialists for Patient Referrals	92		30
g. Access to Medical Technology	73		43
h. Continuing Medical Education Opportunities	45		72
i. Limited Administrative Responsibilities	61		49
j. Reasonable Call Hours	86		45
k. Opportunities for Promotion	17		132
l. Desirable Income Level	69		35
m. Integrated Care	48		60
n. Other (please list)_____	26		0

**Q47. As you consider your current practice situation, to what extent have your expectations been met in each of the following areas?**

	<b>Satisfied 1-----5</b>	<b>Not Satisfied</b>
a. Patient Relationships	156	4
b. Realistic Expectations by Patients	131	11
c. Clinical Autonomy	144	8
d. Variety of Medical Conditions	157	2
e. Contact with Other Health Care Professionals	128	14
f. Contact with Specialists for Patient Referrals	136	11
g. Access to Medical Technology	119	20
h. Continuing Medical Education Opportunities	103	37
i. Limited Administrative Responsibilities	109	40
j. Reasonable Call Hours	88	50
k. Opportunities for Promotion	57	60
l. Desirable Income Level	97	35
m. Integrated Care	89	20
n. Other (please list)_____	8	4

**LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY SATISFACTION FACTORS**

While your practice is likely where you spend a great deal of your time, the way you spend your time away from work is also important. The following section asks about your involvement in, and satisfaction with, your rural community and lifestyle as a rural physician.

**Q48. How many organizations are you involved with in your community?**

Number of Elected Positions/Organizations: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*68 respondents held at least one elected position.**

Number of Volunteer Positions/Organizations:\_\_\_\_\_

**\*143 respondents held at least one elected position.**

**Q49. When you think of your *closest* friends, how close to you would you say that most of them generally live?**

- 85     1-In the same community as you
- 24     2-Within 50 miles of your community
- 61     3-More than 50 miles from you

**Q50. How close to you do most of your family members (grown children, parents, siblings) live?**

- 20     1-In the same community as you
- 33     2-Within 50 miles of your community
- 147    3-More than 50 miles from you

**Q51. How important were the following lifestyle and community factors to you in choosing a practice?**

	<b>Important</b>	1-----5	<b>Not Important</b>
n. Rural/Small Town Lifestyle	141		6
o. Sufficient Personal Time Away From Work	118		15
p. Volunteer Involvement/Leadership Opportunities	36		70
q. Elected Involvement/Leadership Opportunities	24		108
r. Employment for Spouse	56		53
s. Quality School System(s)	139		17
t. Variety of Churches and Religious Organization(s)	99		41
u. Access to Cultural Activities	50		48
v. Access to Recreational Activities	85		25
w. Close (proximity) to Family	79		40
x. Close (proximity) to Friends	53		59
y. Climate	31		88
z. Topography	36		86
aa. Reasonable Cost of Living	70		26
bb. Opportunities for Professional Relationships	73		37
cc. Opportunities for Social/Personal Relationships	76		30

**Q52. Thinking about your current lifestyle and community, how *satisfied* are you with each of these factors?**

	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>1-----5</b>	<b>Not Satisfied</b>
n. Rural/Small Town Lifestyle	149		7
o. Personal Time Away From Work	94		37
p. Volunteer Involvement/Leadership Opportunities	119		9
q. Elected Involvement/Leadership Opportunities	99		12
r. Employment for Spouse	92		25
s. Quality of School System(s)	134		10
t. Variety of Churches and Religious Organization(s)	139		8
u. Access to Cultural Activities	100		25
v. Access to Recreational Activities	121		14
w. Close (proximity) to Family	102		27
x. Close (proximity) to Friends	108		22
y. Climate	89		23
z. Topography	95		17
aa. Cost of Living	122		9
bb. Opportunities for Professional Relationships	113		14
cc. Opportunities for Social/Personal Relationships	121		14

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

**For this final section, I would like to ask you some questions about you and your household. Your answers are completely confidential.**

**Q53. Age: Average 46**

**1-Under 35                      2-35-44                      3-45-54                      4-55-64                      5-Over 65**

**Q54-55. Birthplace: 1-NE    2-Neighboring State    3-Out of State**

**Q56. Gender :    139 1-Male                      31 2-Female**

**Q57. With which racial or ethnic background do you most closely identify yourself?**

1 African American                      6 Asian                      1 Hispanic  
1 Native American                      159 Caucasian                      4 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q58. What is your current marital status?**

160 1-Married      5 2-Divorced/Separated      0 3-Widowed      6 4-Never Married

**Q59. Do you have children still at home? (Circle the number of your answer.)**

106 1-Yes                      66 2-No

**Q60. What was your approximate income from all practice locations, before income taxes, for 2001? (Circle the number of your answer.)**

16                      1-Less than \$80,000  
14                      2-\$80,000-100,000  
22                      3-\$100,000-120,000  
31                      4-\$120,000-140,000  
26                      5-\$140,000-160,000  
60                      6-More than \$160,000