

# GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION TRENDS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA – 2020

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Tabor Griswold, PhD

John Packham, PhD

Jeannine Warner, MBA

Laima Etchegoyhen, MPH

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**School of Medicine**

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Office of Statewide Initiatives

*Graduate Medical Education Trends in Southern Nevada – 2020* is a publication from the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine.

The mission of the Office of Statewide Initiatives is to improve the health of Nevadans through statewide engagement, education, and research.

The purpose of the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center is to improve the collection and analysis of data on health workforce supply and demand to enhance health workforce planning and development in Nevada.

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## Graduate Medical Education Trends in Southern Nevada – 2020

*Graduate Medical Education Trends in Southern Nevada – 2020* contains current information about physicians who have completed accredited residency and fellowship programs in southern Nevada. A complete list of accredited graduate medical education (GME) programs in Nevada is contained in Appendix A. This research brief utilizes data from an annual survey of physicians completing GME in Nevada over the past decade. The survey instrument is contained in Appendix B.

The survey has been undertaken by the Office of Statewide Initiatives (OSI) at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine since 2004. In 2020, surveys were received from 107 of 139 GME graduates in southern Nevada, a response rate of 77.0%. The OSI survey data contained in this report is supplemented with licensure data from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to determine overall retention rates.

Highlights from the 2020 survey include:

- 37.4% of southern Nevada GME graduates will remain in Nevada to begin clinical practice or continue training and 62.6% plan to leave Nevada
- 35.4% of graduates from primary care residency programs will remain in Nevada to begin clinical practice or continue training and 64.6% plan to leave Nevada
- 74.8% of southern Nevada GME graduates are allopathic physicians (MD) and 25.2% are osteopathic physicians (DO)
- 93.5% of GME graduates are non-native Nevadans and only 6.5% are native Nevadans
- 68.2% of southern Nevada GME graduates are from U.S. medical schools (USMG) and 31.8% are international medical graduates (IMG)
- 58.9% of GME graduates are men and 41.1% are women
- 34.6% of southern Nevada GME graduates have no educational debt at time of GME graduation and 65.4% of graduates report carrying some level of debt
- Of the 43 physicians leaving southern Nevada to begin clinical practice, 47.1% will begin work in California
- The starting salary of southern Nevada graduates entering clinical practice and remaining in Nevada averages \$263,411 and the starting salary of those physicians leaving Nevada averages \$263,500

Figure 1 highlights the post-GME plans of the 139 physicians who graduated from GME programs in southern Nevada. In 2020, 37.4% of physicians completing GME training report that they will remain in Nevada upon graduation, while 62.6% are relocating to another state. A key finding of this report is that 44 of the 52 (84.6%) physicians pursuing additional training are leaving the state for fellowship and subspecialty training that is in short supply or nonexistent in Nevada.

**Figure 1: Employment, Training, and Location Plans of GME Graduates in Southern Nevada – 2020**

|                            | <b>Beginning Clinical Practice</b> | <b>Continuing Training</b> | <b>Total</b>    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Remaining in Nevada</b> | 44<br>(31.7%)                      | 8<br>(5.7%)                | 52<br>(37.4%)   |
| <b>Leaving Nevada</b>      | 43<br>(30.9%)                      | 44<br>(31.7%)              | 87<br>(62.6%)   |
| <b>Total</b>               | 87<br>(62.6%)                      | 52<br>(37.4%)              | 139<br>(100.0%) |

Note: This figure summarizes responses to the 2020 survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives, supplemented with licensure data from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Figure 2 presents the post-GME plans of the 855 physicians completing residencies and fellowships in southern Nevada since 2011. Information in this figure summarizes reported plans at time of graduation over the past decade. This figure does not capture where those graduates are currently practicing. At the time of graduation, 38.3% of physicians completing GME training in southern Nevada reported that they will remain in Nevada, as compared to 61.7% who reported that they will leave Nevada to begin practice or pursue additional training. Over the past decade, 225 GME graduates in southern Nevada left the state for fellowship programs that are limited or non-existent in southern Nevada.

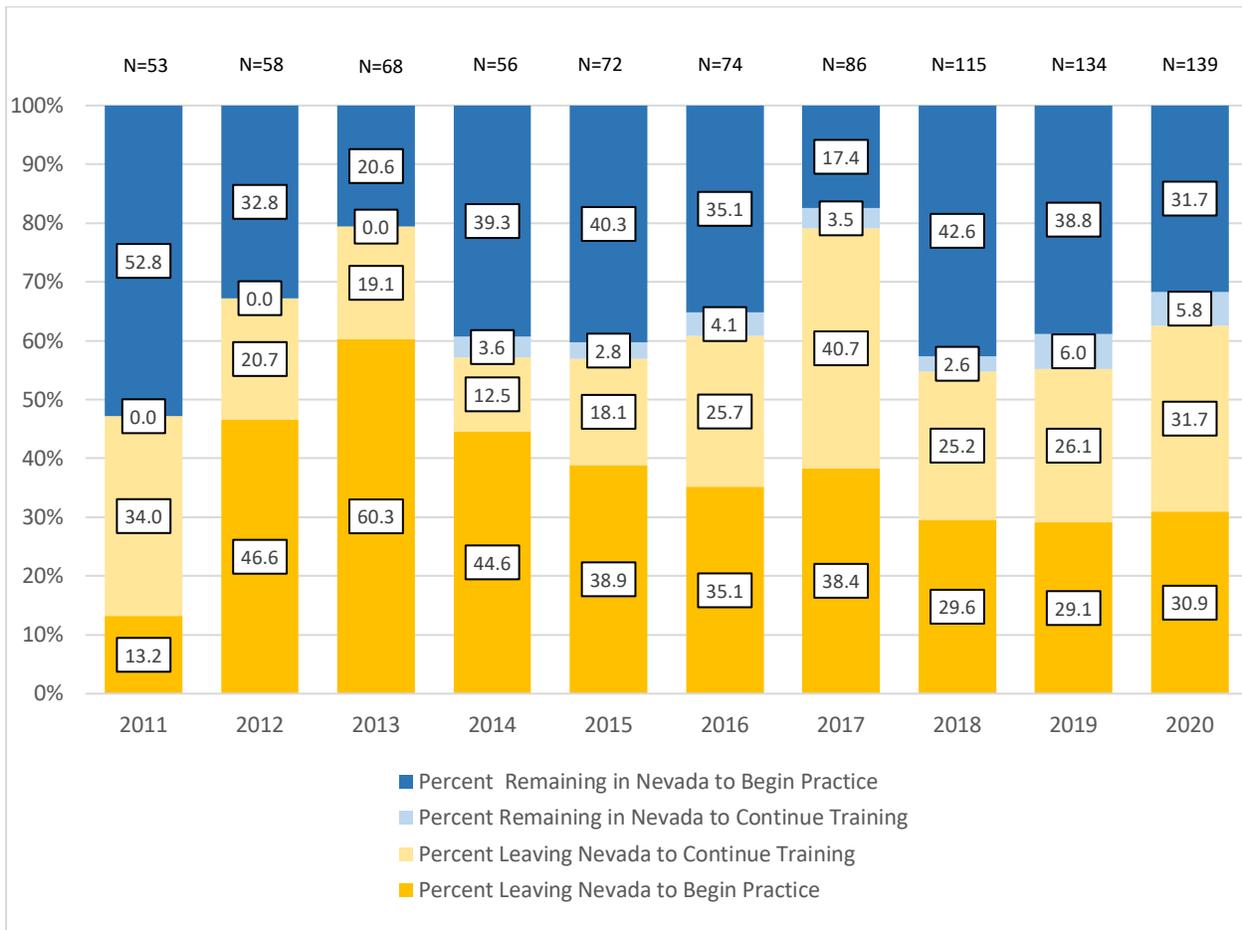
**Figure 2: Employment, Training, and Location Plans of GME Graduates in Southern Nevada – 2011 to 2020**

|                            | <b>Beginning Clinical Practice</b> | <b>Continuing Training</b> | <b>Total</b>    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Remaining in Nevada</b> | 298<br>(34.9%)                     | 29<br>(3.4%)               | 327<br>(38.3%)  |
| <b>Leaving Nevada</b>      | 303<br>(35.4%)                     | 225<br>(26.3%)             | 528<br>(61.7%)  |
| <b>Total</b>               | 601<br>(70.3%)                     | 254<br>(29.7%)             | 855<br>(100.0%) |

Note: This figure summarizes responses to the annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) over the past ten years in Nevada undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives, supplemented with licensure data from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Figure 3 highlights that the annual number of physicians completing GME in southern Nevada grew from 53 graduates in 2011 to 139 graduates in 2020, a growth rate of 162.3%. Over the past decade, the percent of physicians who remained in Nevada to begin practice or continue training ranged from a low of 20.6% in 2013 to a high of 52.8% in 2011. The data suggest that the development of fellowship programs in southern Nevada holds the potential for increasing the number of GME graduates who ultimately remain in Nevada to begin practice.

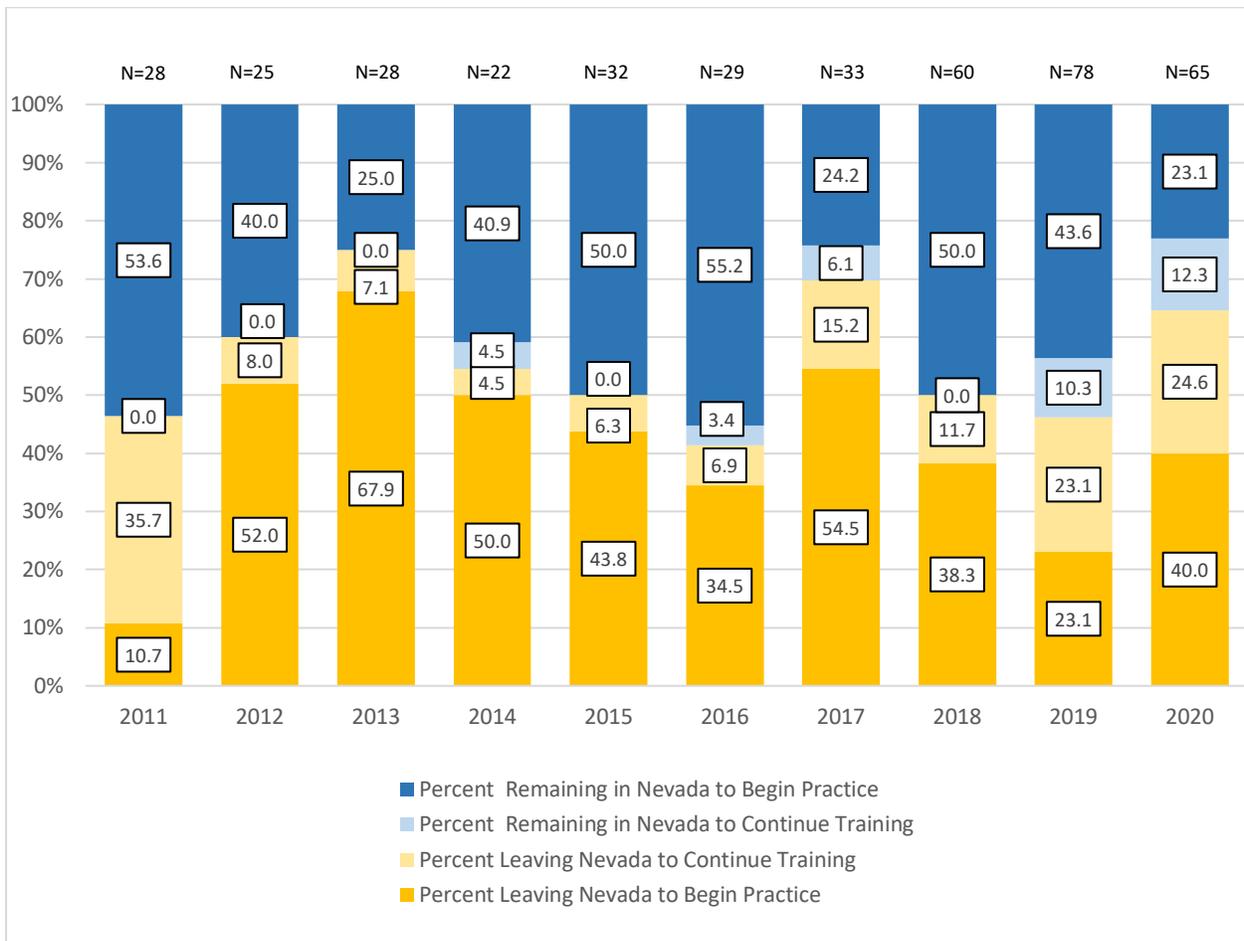
**Figure 3: Employment, Training, and Location Plans of GME Graduates in Southern Nevada – 2011 to 2020**



Note: This figure summarizes responses to the annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada, over the past ten years, undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives, supplemented with licensure data from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine. N=number of annual graduates.

Figure 4 highlights that the number of physicians completing primary care residency programs (family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics) in southern Nevada grew from 28 GME graduates in 2011 to 65 graduates in 2020, a growth rate of 132.1%. Over the past decade, the percent of primary care physicians who remained in Nevada to begin practice or continue training ranged from 25.0% in 2013 to 58.6% in 2016. In 2020, 35.4% of primary care physicians remained in Nevada. The majority of primary care GME graduates consistently leave the state for sub-specialty training and practice opportunities that are limited in Nevada.

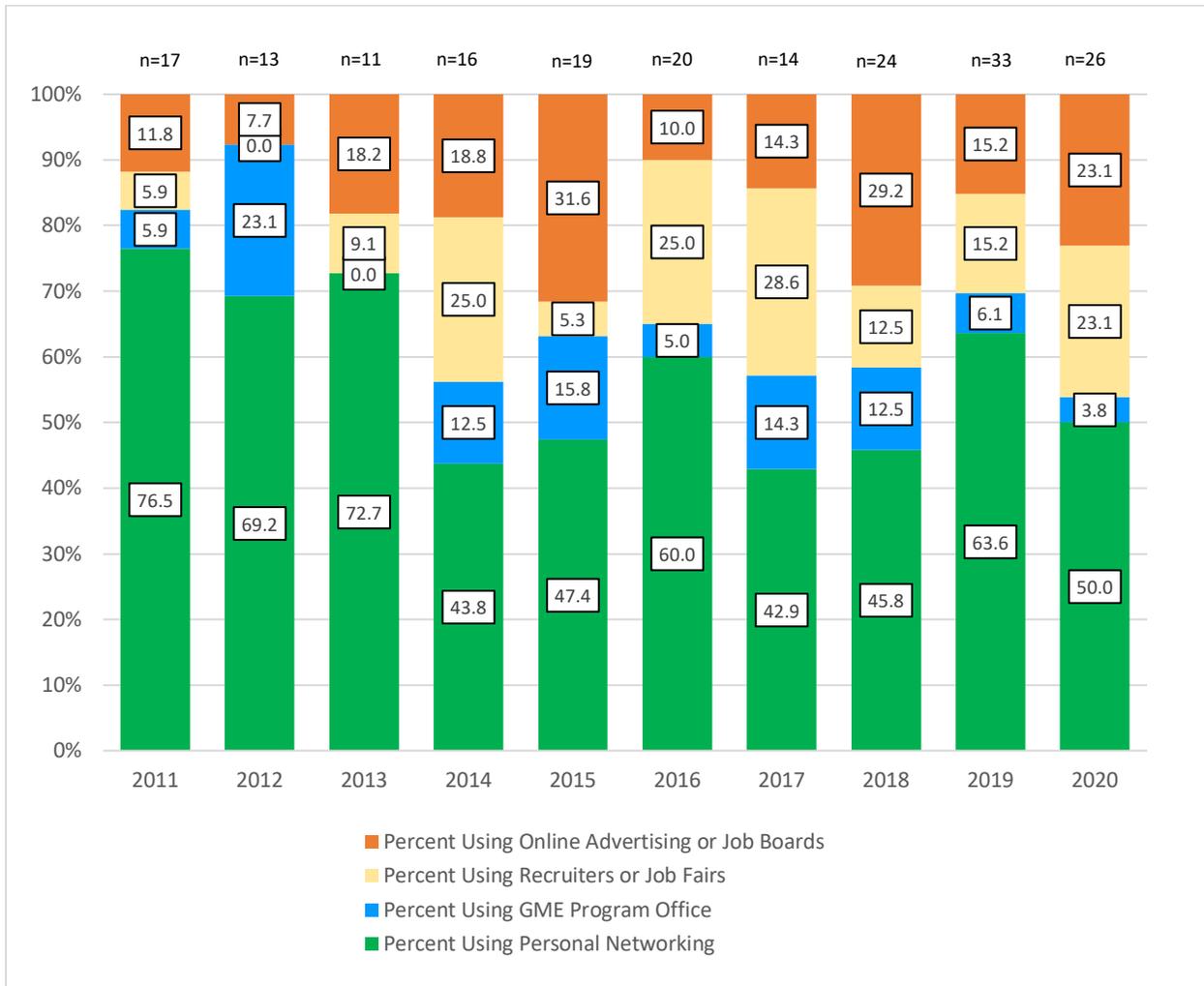
**Figure 4: Employment, Training, and Location Plans of GME Graduates Completing Primary Care Residency Programs in Southern Nevada – 2011 to 2020**



Note: This figure summarizes responses to the annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada, over the past ten years, undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives, supplemented with licensure data from the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine. N=number of annual primary care graduates (family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics).

Figure 5 details the primary methods used for job searches by GME graduates remaining in Nevada to begin practice. The primary job search strategy used by physicians staying in southern Nevada has been personal networking.

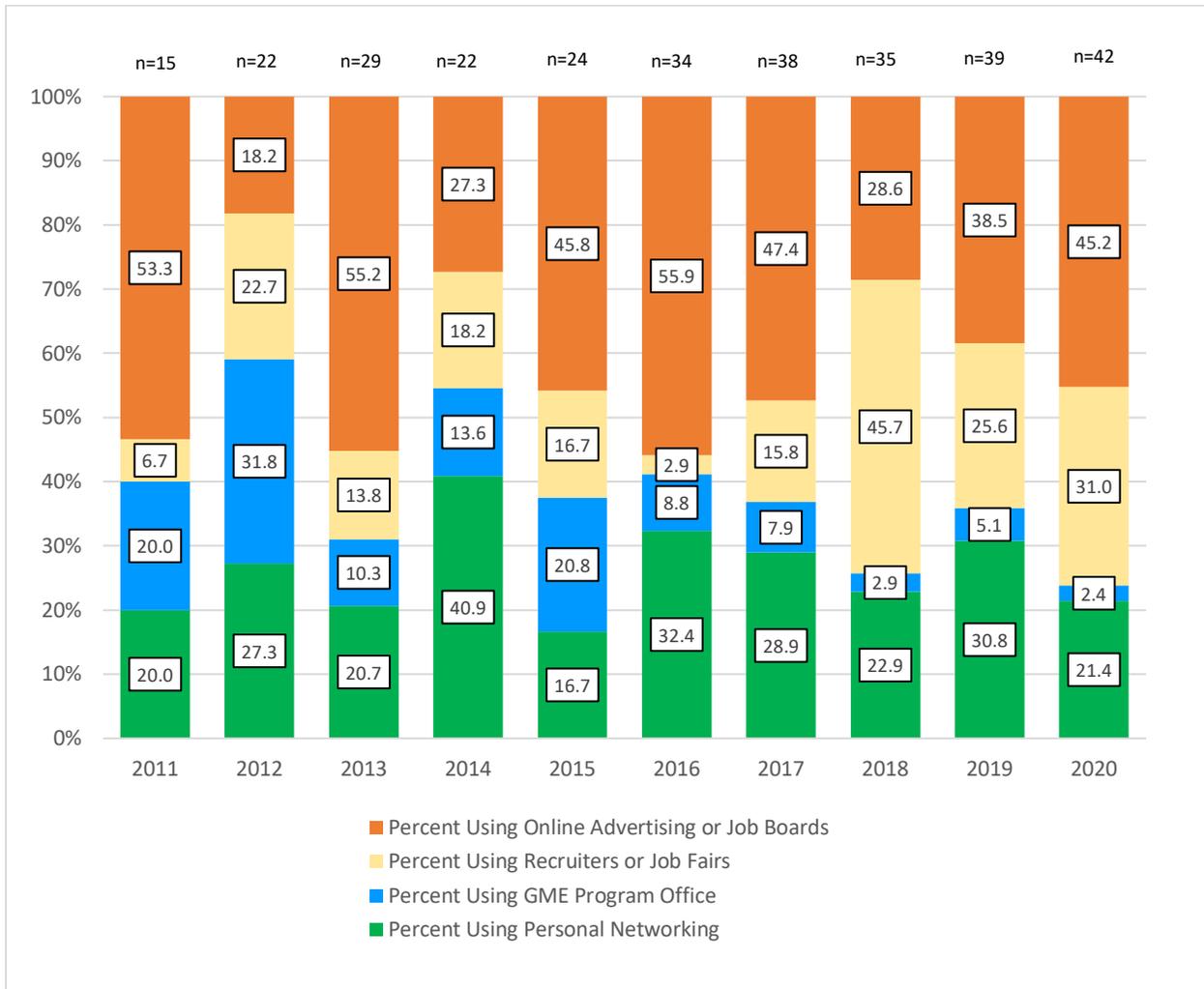
**Figure 5: Primary Method Used for Job Searches by Southern Nevada GME Graduates Remaining in Nevada to Begin Practice – 2011 to 2020**



Note: This figure summarizes responses to the question "What is the best source of information regarding employment opportunities?" contained in the annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada. This survey is undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives (n=number of survey responses to the question).

Figure 6 details the primary methods used for job searches by GME graduates leaving Nevada to begin practice. Online advertising or job board has been used more frequently than personal networking.

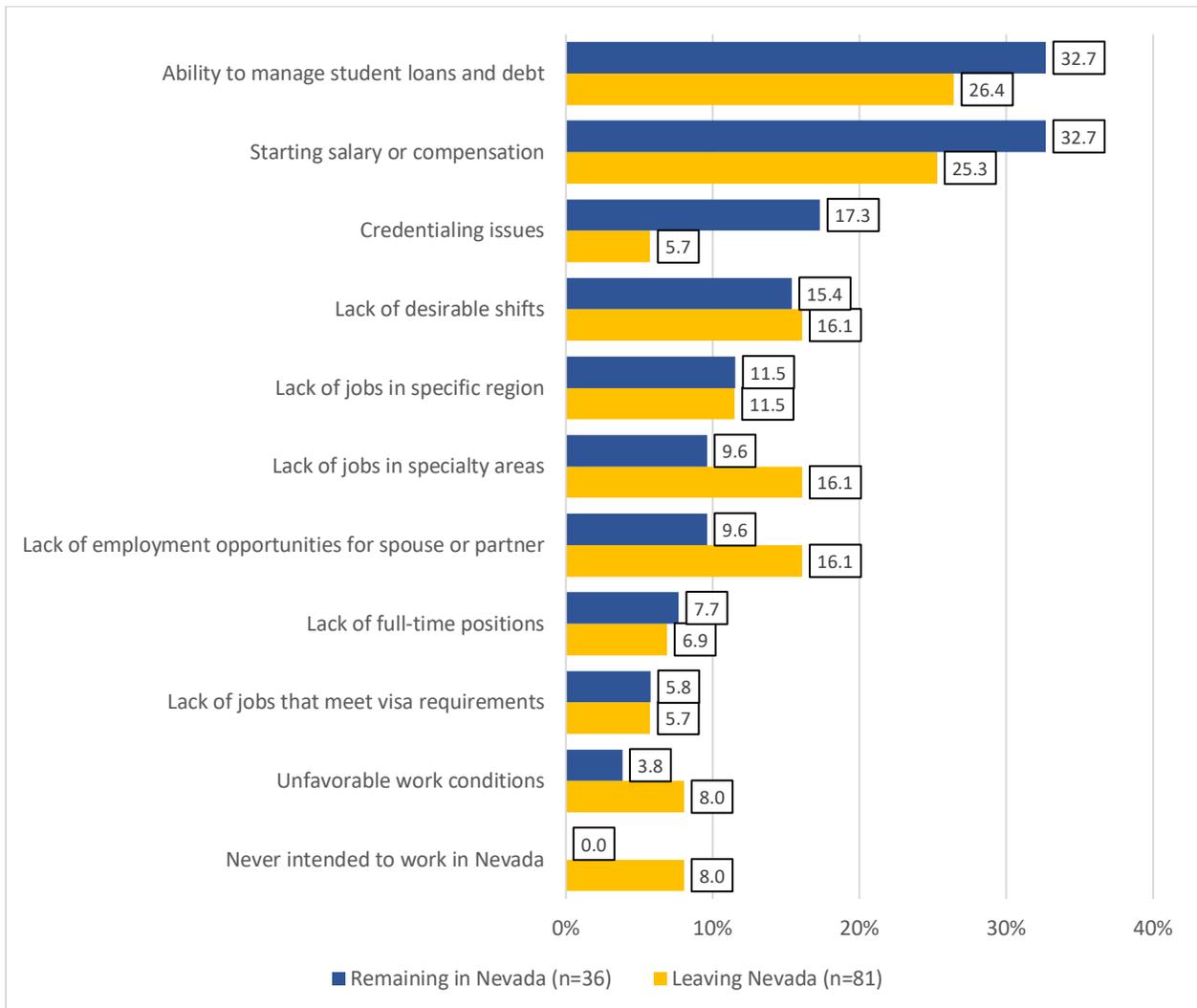
**Figure 6: Primary Method Used for Job Searches by Southern Nevada GME Graduates Leaving Nevada to Begin Practice – 2011 to 2020**



Note: This figure summarizes responses to the question "What is the best source of information regarding employment opportunities?" contained in the annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada. This survey is undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives (n=number of survey responses to the question).

Figure 7 details important differences between GME graduates remaining in Nevada and those leaving the state in terms of reported employment barriers faced by physicians in the current southern Nevada job market. The top two barriers for GME graduates remaining in the state are the ability to manage student loans and starting salary. Over one in six physicians leaving Nevada (16.1%) list a lack of employment opportunities for their spouse or partner as a barrier in the southern Nevada job market.

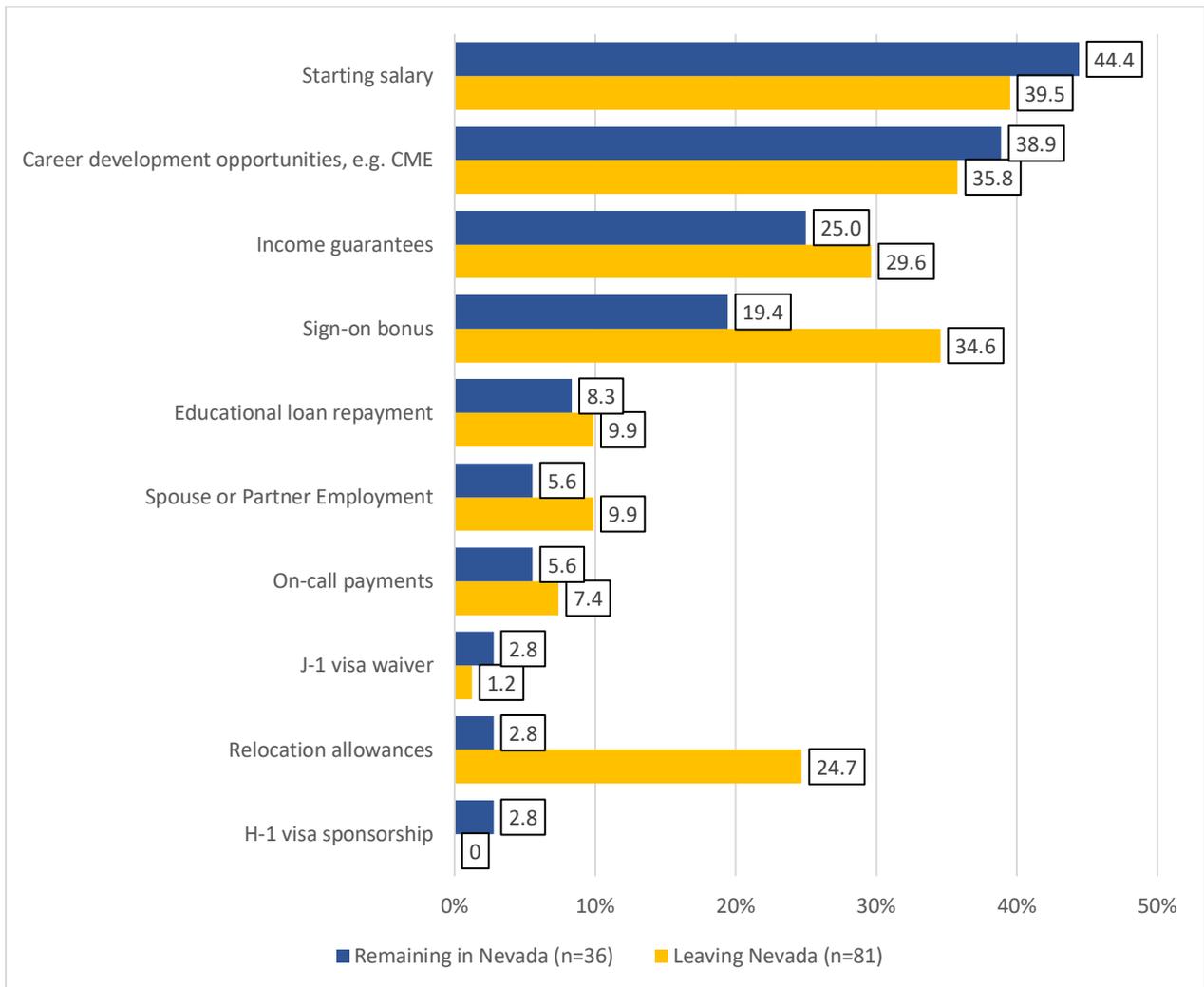
**Figure 7: Employment Barriers in the Southern Nevada Job Market Reported by GME Graduates – 2020**



Note: This figure summarizes responses from the 117 physicians completing the question "Which of the following best describes employment barriers in the current job market in Nevada for graduating physicians?" contained in the 2020 annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives. Respondents could select more than one response; therefore, the percentages for each group do not total to 100%.

Figure 8 highlights important differences between GME graduates remaining in southern Nevada and those leaving the state to begin practice in terms of employment incentives offered in 2020. Starting salary and career development opportunities are the top employment incentives for GME graduates regardless of whether they leave or remain in Nevada. Those leaving the state cited the sign-on bonuses and relocation allowances as important incentives in their decision to relocate to a different state.

**Figure 8: Employment Incentives in the Southern Nevada Job Market Reported by GME Graduates – 2020**



Note: This figure summarizes responses from the 117 physicians completing the question "Please identify all the incentives you received for accepting your new job" contained in the 2020 annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives. Respondents could select more than one response; therefore, percentages for each group do not total to 100%.

Figure 9 highlights important differences between southern Nevada GME graduates remaining in versus leaving Nevada. While starting salary is the top factor reported by physicians remaining in Nevada, only 9.9% of physicians leaving Nevada indicate salary as the key factor for leaving the state.

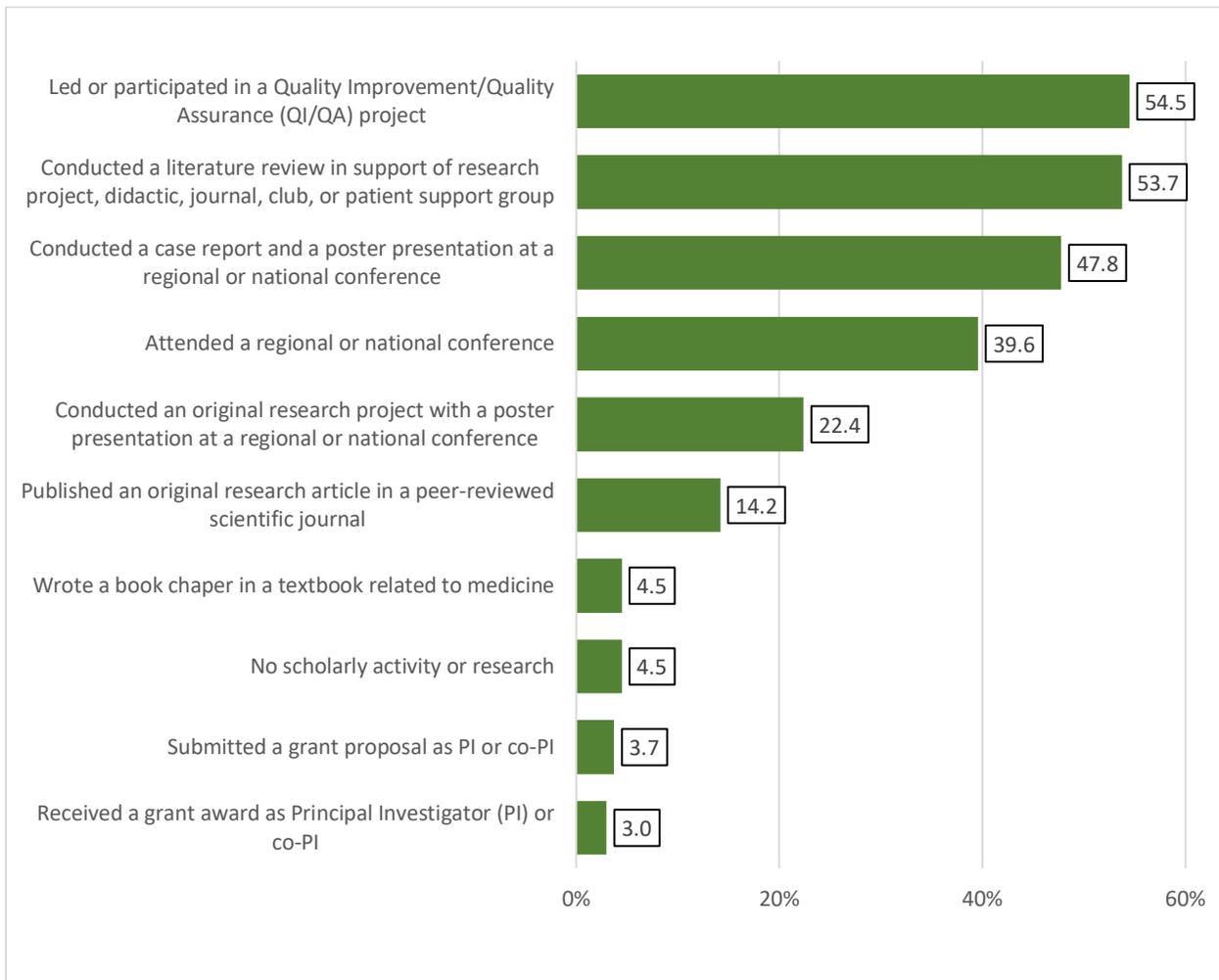
**Figure 9: Primary Reason for Southern Nevada GME Graduates Remaining in or Leaving Nevada – 2020**

| Remaining in Nevada                                  | Leaving Nevada   |
|--|--|
| 1. Salary or compensation (25.0%)                    | 1. Family, spouse, or partner considerations (28.2%)     |
| 2. Ability to find a job (22.2%)                     | 2. Never intended to work in Nevada (22.5%)              |
| 3. Family, spouse, or partner considerations (16.7%) | 3. Lack of fellowships or training opportunities (15.5%) |
| 4. Enough work to support self or family (16.7%)     | 4. Salary or compensation (9.9%)                         |
| n=36   | n=81   |

Note: This figure summarizes responses from the 117 physicians completing the question "What is the most important factor that influenced your decision to remain in or leave Nevada?" contained in the 2020 annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives.

Figure 10 summarizes scholarly activities reported by physicians completing residencies and fellowships in southern Nevada. In 2020, 96.4% of GME graduates reported some type of scholarly activity. The top two activities are participating in a quality improvement project (54.5%) and conducting a scholarly literature review (53.7%). Fourteen percent of graduating residents and fellows published an original research article in a peer reviewed scientific journal during their GME training.

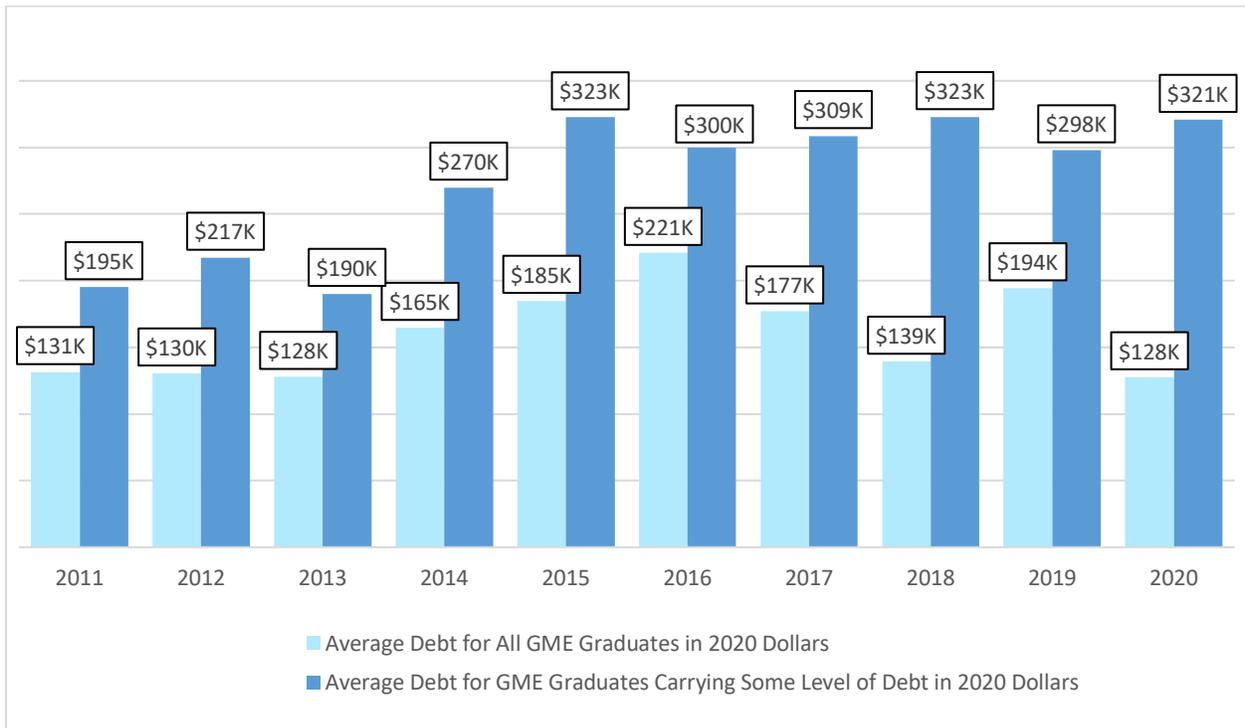
**Figure 10: Scholarly Activity Reported by GME Graduates in Southern Nevada – 2020**



Note: This figure summarizes responses from 134 of the 139 physicians completing the question "If part of your GME training included scholarly activity or research, which of the following best describes your work?" contained in the 2020 annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives. Respondents could select more than one response; thus, percentages do not total to 100%.

Figure 11 shows the average level of debt of incurred by physicians completing GME in southern Nevada – a key factor affecting a physician’s decision to remain or leave the state to begin practice or pursue additional training. In 2020, 68.2% of GME graduates are carrying some level of debt – their average level of debt is \$321,000. In five of the past six years, the average level of debt for GME graduates carrying some level of debt exceeded \$300,000.

**Figure 11: Inflation-adjusted Educational Debt of GME Graduates in Southern Nevada – 2011 to 2020**



Note: This figure summarizes responses to the question "Do you have educational debt? If 'yes,' please estimate your current educational debt?" contained in the 2020 annual survey of physicians completing graduate medical education (GME) in Nevada undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center in the Office of Statewide Initiatives.

## Appendix A: Residency and Fellowship Programs in Nevada Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) – 2020

| GME Programs  | Residency Programs  | Fellowship Programs   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Northern Nevada GME Programs</b>                               |   |   |
| <b>Barton Health GME</b>  |   | Orthopaedic Surgery   |
| <b>University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine GME</b>          | Family Medicine<br>Family Medicine, Rural (Elko)<br>Internal Medicine<br>Psychiatry   | Child and Adolescent Psychiatry<br>Geriatric Medicine<br>Hospice and Palliative Care<br>Sports Medicine   |
| <b>Southern Nevada GME Programs</b>                               |   |   |
| <b>Southern Nevada Health District GME</b>                        | Preventive Medicine   |   |
| <b>Sunrise Health GME Consortium</b>                              | Emergency Medicine<br>Family Medicine<br>Internal Medicine<br>Obstetrics and Gynecology<br>Neurology<br>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation<br>Surgery   | Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism<br>Gastroenterology   |
| <b>University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine GME</b>     | Emergency Medicine<br>Family Medicine<br>Family Medicine, Rural (Winnemucca)<br>Internal Medicine<br>Obstetrics and Gynecology<br>Orthopaedic Surgery<br>Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery<br>Pediatrics<br>Plastic Surgery<br>Psychiatry<br>Surgery | Cardiovascular Disease<br>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry<br>Gastroenterology<br>Plastic Surgery-Integrated<br>Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care<br>Sports Medicine<br>Surgical Critical Care |
| <b>Valley Health System GME<br/>Valley Hospital/OPTI West GME</b> | Anesthesiology<br>Family Medicine<br>Internal Medicine<br>Neurology<br>Surgery  | Gastroenterology<br>Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care   |



## Appendix B: Online Questionnaire – Nevada GME Survey 2020

Since 2004, the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center has coordinated the Nevada Graduate Medical Education Graduation Survey. The survey is administered to physicians completing residencies and fellowships in Nevada. The survey assesses the future employment and continuing educational plans of graduating residents and fellows. Please complete the survey if you are graduating at any point in 2020. This survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. If you have any questions, please contact Tabor Griswold, PhD at [tgriswold@med.unr.edu](mailto:tgriswold@med.unr.edu)

### Program Location

Q1. Indicate the type of GME training you are completing this year.

- Residency
- Fellowship [If YES, skip to Q3]

Q2. If you chose residency, what is the name of the residency from which you are graduating?

- Anesthesiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Endocrinology
- Family Medicine
- Family Medicine - Rural (Elko)
- Family Medicine - Rural (Winnemucca)
- Gastroenterology
- General Preventive Medicine and Public Health
- Internal Medicine
- Internal Medicine - Primary Care
- Neurology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Public Health
- Surgery General
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

Q3. If you chose fellowship, what is the name of the fellowship from which you are graduating?

- Acute Care Surgery
- Cardiology
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- EM - EMS Disaster Medicine
- EM - Ultrasound
- FM - Obstetrics
- FM - Sports Medicine
- FM- Urgent Care
- OBG - Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery
- IM - Geriatric Medicine
- IM - Hospice & Palliative Medicine
- IM - Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Public Health
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

Q4. Which hospital or clinic was your primary training location during your GME program?

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ [from dropdown list]

Q5. In which county did you spend the majority of your time during your program?

County: \_\_\_\_\_ [from dropdown list]

Q6. Who is your institutional sponsor?

- Barton Health GME
- Southern Nevada Health Dept GME
- Sunrise Health GME Consortium
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine GME
- University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine GME
- Valley Health System GME
- Valley Hospital/OPTI West GME

### Demographics

Q7. What is your year of birth? \_\_\_\_\_ [from dropdown list]

Q8. What is your sex? \_\_\_\_\_ [from dropdown list]

Q9. What is your citizenship status?

- H-1, H-2, H-3 (temporary worker)
- J-1, J-2 (exchange visitor)
- Native born U.S. citizen
- Naturalized citizen
- Permanent resident

Q10. Do you speak a language other than English? Check all that apply.

- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Chinese
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

Q11. Where did you live when you graduated from high school?

- City: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]
- State: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]
- Country: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

Q12. In what year did you graduate from medical school? \_\_\_\_\_ [from dropdown list]

Q13. How many years have you been in Nevada?

- Three years or less
- More than three years and less than six years
- Six or more years

#### Education

Q14. From which medical school did you graduate?

- Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]
- State: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]
- Country: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

#### Debt

Q15. Do you have educational debt?

- Yes [if YES, answer Q15]
- No [if NO, skip to Q16]

Q16. Please estimate your current educational debt? (Dollars, e.g., 100000) \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

### Scholarly Activity and Research

Q17. If part of your GME training included scholarly activity or research, which of the following best describes your work? Check all that apply.

- Attended a regional or national medical conference
- Conducted a case report and a poster presentation at a regional or national conference
- Conducted a literature review in support of research project, didactic, journal club, or patient support group
- Conducted an original research project with a poster presentation at a regional or national conference
- Led or participated in a QI/QA project
- Published an original research article in a peer review scientific journal
- Received a grant award as a principal investigator or co-investigator
- Submitted a grant proposal as a principal investigator or a co-investigator
- Wrote a book chapter in a textbook related to medicine
- Not applicable, I did not undertake any scholarly activity or research

Q18. What was the topic(s) of your scholarly activity or research? \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

### Employment Search

Q19. As you were completing your residency or fellowship, did you conduct an employment search?

- Yes, I was offered and accepted employment after conducting a search
- Yes, but I have not been offered employment
- Yes, but I have decided to pursue additional training or a fellowship
- No, I was offered and accepted employment without conducting a search
- No, I am pursuing additional training or a fellowship
- No, I am not looking for employment or pursuing additional training

Q20. At what point in your residency or fellowship did you begin to actively explore employment opportunities, such as obtaining job information or arranging interviews with prospective employers?

- Currently exploring employment opportunities
- 2 to 5 months before graduation
- 6 to 12 months before graduation
- More than 1 year before graduation

Q21. Please indicate how actively you have searched for employment?

- Very actively
- Actively
- Somewhat actively
- Not actively at all

Q22. In your opinion, what is the best source of information regarding employment opportunities?

- Current employer
- Internet/online advertising or classified ads
- Newspaper advertising or classified ads
- Personal networking or peers
- Physician recruiters
- Professional journal advertising
- Recruitment fair
- State or local medical association
- Your specific GME program

Q23. What is your overall assessment of practice opportunities in your specialty in Nevada?

- There are many jobs
- There are some jobs
- There are few jobs
- I don't know

Q24. What is your overall assessment of practice opportunities in your specialty nationally?

- There are many jobs
- There are some jobs
- There are few jobs
- I don't know

Q25. How many job offers did you received in your specialty in the past twelve months? Please exclude fellowships, chief residency, and other training positions.

- No - I have received no job offers
- Yes - I have received 1 to 5 job offers
- Yes - I have received more than 5 job offers

Q26. Which of the following best describes employment barriers in the current job market in Nevada for graduating physicians? Check all that apply.

- Ability to manage student loans and debt
- Credentialing issues
- Lack of desirable shifts
- Lack of employment opportunities for spouse or partner
- Lack of experience
- Lack of full-time positions
- Lack of jobs in specialty areas
- Lack of jobs in specific region
- Lack of jobs that meet visa requirements
- Licensing issues
- Starting salary or compensation
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

**Additional Training or a Fellowship**

Q27. What additional training or fellowship are you pursuing, e.g. type of fellowship program? \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

Q28. Are you leaving Nevada to pursue additional training or a fellowship?

- Yes
- No

Q29. If you chose yes, why are you leaving Nevada to pursue additional training or a fellowship?

- Additional training and fellowship opportunities in my field in Nevada are inadequate or in short supply
- Additional training and fellowship opportunities in my field do not exist in Nevada
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

**Employment**

Q30. Upon completion of your current GME training, which of the following best describes your employment position or anticipated position?

- Patient care, office-based
- Patient care, hospital-based
- Administration
- Medical teaching and research
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

Q31. Please identify all the incentives you received for accepting your new job. Check all that apply.

- Career development opportunities, e.g. CME
- Educational loan repayment
- H-1 visa sponsorship
- Income guarantees
- J-1 visa waiver
- On-call payments
- Relocation allowances
- Sign-on bonus
- Starting salary
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

Q32. Will you be employed or anticipate being employed in Nevada?

- Yes
- No

Q33. In which county of Nevada will you be primarily employed or anticipate being employed?

County: \_\_\_\_\_ [from dropdown list]

Q34. In which state or territory in the U.S. did you accept employment?

State or territory: \_\_\_\_\_ [from dropdown list]

Q35. What is the most important factor that influenced your decision to remain in or leave Nevada?

- Ability to find a job
- Availability of free time
- Dealing with managed care requirements
- Dealing with Medicare and Medicaid requirements
- Educational debt
- Electronic health records and administrative tasks
- Enough work to support self or family
- Health care reform or efforts to repeal health care reform
- Incomplete training or experience
- Medical liability and insurance costs
- Never intended to practice in Nevada
- Salary/compensation
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

Q36. Would you mind sharing your starting salary? All results will be kept confidential and used to better understand employment opportunities for physicians in Nevada. (Dollars, e.g. 100000). \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

#### Final Comments

Q37. Regardless of whether you plan to stay in Nevada or relocate to another state after completing your current residency or fellowship, what is the most important reason you have decided to stay or leave? \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

Q38. Reflecting on your experience during your residency or fellowship training in Nevada, do you have any additional comments to better inform physician workforce development in Nevada? \_\_\_\_\_ [text box]

#### Thank you for completing the survey!

If you have any questions about this survey and its findings, please contact Tabor Griswold, PhD, Office of Statewide Initiatives, [tgriswold@med.unr.edu](mailto:tgriswold@med.unr.edu). If you want additional information on research undertaken by the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center and the Office of Statewide Initiatives, please visit <https://med.unr.edu/statewide/reports>



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