

What do medical students think about health care today?

Do they feel ready for the job? What worries them the most? Here's how over 1,000 med students responded to the 10th annual Epocrates Future Physicians of America survey.

Interoperability is critical.

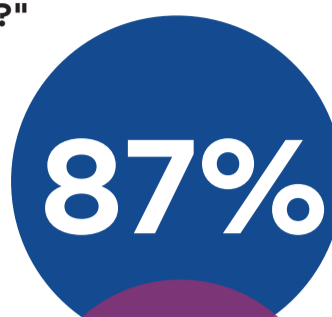
Q: "What's most important to improve care?"



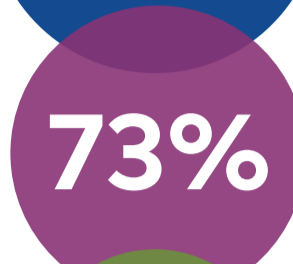
96% EHR interoperability
*(on par with physicians: 96%)**



87% patient data privacy & security
*(fewer than physicians: 96%)**



Want to see a **universal** patient record.



Worried about ability to share records **across** practices or hospitals



Worried about ability to share records **within** a practice or hospital

Technology, yes; telemedicine, not yet.

Q: "First place you turn for clinical information?"



#1
Medical apps



#2
People
(peers, professors)

Q: "Prefer face-to-face or virtual patient visits?"



98%
Prefer initial patient visit in person



89%
Prefer follow-up visit in person

Despite the burden of documentation, students still want to be doctors.

Q: "How is your time split between seeing patients and documenting encounters?"



71%
Spend more time documenting

Q: "What is your career plan post-graduation?"



95.3%
Practicing physician

Not ready to run a practice.

Q: "How prepared are you with your training?"



74%
Prepared on bedside manner

8%
Prepared on practice management and ownership

Sitting and sugar are bigger health threats than smoking and drug abuse.

Q: "Greatest risk to the health of the average patient?"



8.8%
Drug use, Rx abuse, alcohol abuse, car accidents, other



20%
Smoking



32.4%
Sugar consumption



38.3%
Sedentary lifestyle

"Taking the Pulse of Medical Students Nationwide"

The Epocrates Future Physicians of America survey was sent to medical students who use Epocrates. Third- and fourth-year medical students comprised 75 percent of the 1,026 respondents.