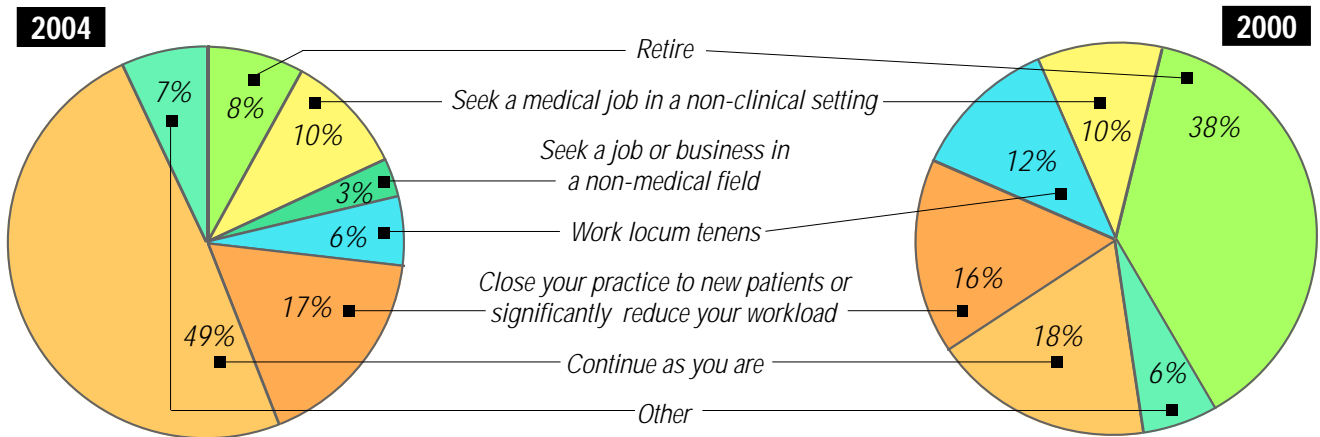


Changing of the Guard

SURVEY OF PHYSICIANS BETWEEN AGE 50 AND 65

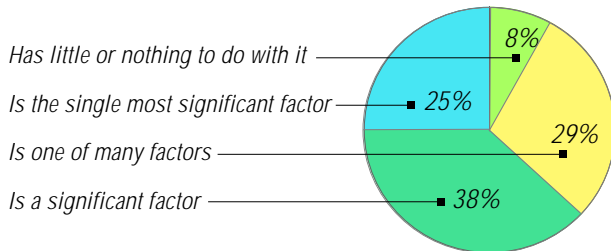
Practice Plans in 2004 compared with 2000

Q. In the next one to three years, what do you plan to do?

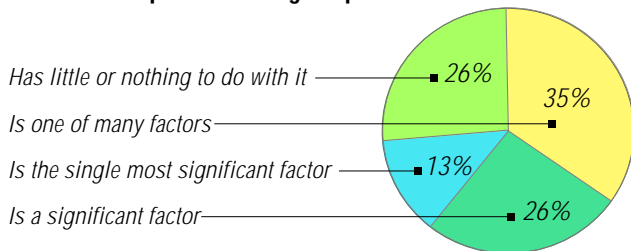


REASONS FOR CHANGE 2004

Q. If you plan to make a change, to what extent is your decision a response to a general dissatisfaction with today's medical practice environment?

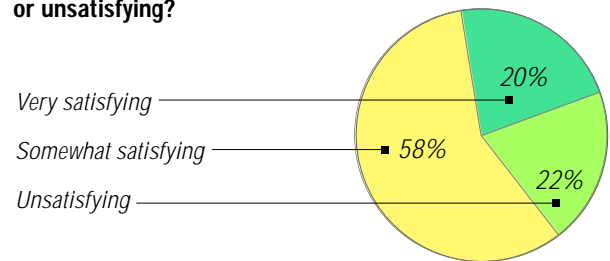


Q. If you plan to make a change, to what extent is your decision a response to rising malpractice rates?

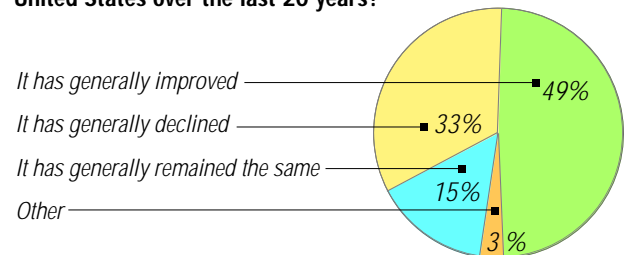


ATTITUDES TOWARD MEDICINE 2004

Q. Do you find the practice of medicine to be very satisfying, somewhat satisfying or unsatisfying?



Q. How do you view the quality of health care in the United States over the last 20 years?



VITAL STATS

Continued from previous page

Older physicians planning to leave or reduce clinical practice may open up opportunities for younger doctors, but fewer of those between age 50 and 65 today plan to retire early than four years ago.

WHILE MANY EXPERIENCED PHYSICIANS are dissatisfied with their careers and would like to alter their practices, fewer plan to retire completely in the next one to three years compared with four years ago. According to the *2004 Survey of Physicians 50 to 65 Years Old*, conducted by Merritt, Hawkins & Associates, only eight percent of physicians in this age group plan to retire in the next one to three years now, while 38 percent planned to do so in year 2000. In its third survey of physicians age 50 through 65, Merritt, Hawkins, a national physician search and

consulting firm based in Dallas, Texas, asked these physicians about their attitudes toward the practice of medicine and their plans for the next few years.

The practice plans and the level of career satisfaction among experienced physicians is important because, according to the AMA, 38 percent of all physicians in the United States are 50 years old or older. How long and how actively these physicians choose to practice will have a significant effect on the number of physicians available to treat patients in the coming years. Even though fewer

physicians in the 2004 survey plan to retire soon, nearly half of them do plan to reduce their level of practice and patient care to some degree, a factor that could still spark the demand for younger physicians to fill their shoes.

It should be noted that the 2000 survey was conducted prior to the economic downturn and the decline of the stock market, which may have inhibited the plans of many older physicians to retire early. ■