LocumTenens.com conducted its Annual Compensation and Employment Survey in the beginning of 2016. Survey respondents represent hospitalists who practice on a locum tenens basis as well as those with permanent salaries.

In this year’s Your Voice Matters section, we asked physicians and advanced practitioners to weigh in on mental healthcare access issues.

This report includes compensation and employment statistics for hospitalists.

Respondent Demographics:

We asked hospitalists, “considering your career, if you had to do it over again, what would you do differently?”

We asked hospitalists, “in the next 6 months, what would you like better in your work?”

2015 average annual hospitalist salary: $253,944

at a glance

- 74% male
- 26% female
- 77% hospital employed
- 91% Board Certified
- 9% Board Eligible
- 27% have worked on a locum tenens basis
- 63% have not but may consider a locum tenens in the future

Average paid vacation:
- 25%

by region

Northeast: 25%
Southwest: 15%
Southeast: 23%
West: 12%
Midwest: 25%

years in practice

5 or less years: 49%
6–12 years: 38%
13–20 years: 8%
21–30 years: 4%
more than 30 years: 1%

Northeast: 25%
Southwest: 15%
Southeast: 23%
West: 12%
Midwest: 25%

next job change

in the next 6 months: 24%
6 months–1 year: 12%
1–2 years: 14%
2–3 years: 29%
no plans at this time: 29%

employment status

employee: 60%
independent practice; owner or partner: 6%
locum tenens or independent contractor exclusively: 1%
retired: 0%
resident: 1%
currently unemployed: 0%

career choices

different career (non-healthcare): 9%
different career in healthcare: 45%
different specialty: 14%
change nothing/the same career path: 12%
other: 5%

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YOUR VOICE MATTERS
Physician and Advanced Practitioner opinions on mental health access

Every year, we survey physicians and advanced practitioners for their opinions on a specific healthcare topic. This year, we focused on access to mental health services.

According to Mental Health America, there is only one mental health provider for every 566 individuals. In states with the lowest access rates, ratios can be as high as one clinician for every 1,100 individuals. Not seeking treatment for mental illness—whether it be due to lack of access to psychiatrists, no insurance, or because patients fear the stigma a diagnosis brings—has high physical costs for patients. Sobering statistics show that 90 percent of children who die by suicide have a mental illness, and that mood disorders are the third most common reason for hospitalization for children and adults between the ages of 18-44.

See the data breakdown below to see how physicians and advanced practitioners felt about access to mental healthcare services, and how it can be improved.

Do you ever refer patients for psychiatric treatment?
- 72% Yes
- 26% No
- 2% Unsure

Do you report patients who exhibit mental illness which could be dangerous for themselves or others?
- 81% Yes
- 9% No
- 10% Unsure

Are guidelines for reporting patients who exhibit dangerous mental illness symptoms clear?
- 52% Yes
- 31% No
- 17% Unsure

Do you think Americans have enough access to mental healthcare services?
- 10% Yes
- 76% No
- 14% Unsure

In your opinion, have mental health parity laws improved access to care?
- 12% Yes
- 40% No
- 48% Unsure

Do you think there should be stricter gun restrictions for patients with a history of severe mental illness?
- 81% Yes
- 7% No
- 12% Unsure

We need more crisis care that can continue long enough to see people through their crisis and work with them through the transition back to their daily lives.

Methodology:
Invitations for the survey were emailed to a database of more than 80,000 individuals, which included physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and CRNAs who have been placed by LocumTenens.com and those who have not. Respondents to all surveys were self-selected and spanned all 50 states and medical/surgical specialties. The response rate was 2.56 percent, with a +/- 3 percent error rate at a 95 percent confidence level.

About LocumTenens.com:
LocumTenens.com is a full-service staffing firm serving physicians, CRNAs, NPs and PAs searching for locum tenens and permanent job opportunities, as well as healthcare facilities looking to solve employment shortages. The operator of the largest internet job board for the locum tenens industry, LocumTenens.com provides job-seeking providers direct access to thousands of jobs, in all specialties, posted directly by facilities and agencies nationwide.