

2022 HEALTH POLICY

SURVEY RESULTS

Western Section American
Urological Association



Eugene Y. Rhee, M.D., MBA
Chair, Health Policy Committee

An educational supplement to the WSAUA Health Policy Forum,
October 30, 2022 – Grand Hyatt Hotel, Kauai, Hawaii



2022 Health Policy Committee

Chair: Eugene Rhee, MD, MBA

Vice-Chair: Jason Jameson, MD

<u>Name</u>	<u>HP District</u>	<u>Territory</u>
Greg Lund, MD	1	Alaska
Ken Berger, MD	2	Washington
Brian Duty, MD	3	Oregon
Peter Bretan, MD	4	N. Cal +Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
Joseph R. Kuntze MD	5	San Francisco, San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties and Central California
John Lam, MD	6	Los Angeles +Ventura County
Eric Biewenga, MD	7	San Diego
Karen Stern, MD	8	Arizona
Lisa Bland, MD	9	Idaho, Montana, Wyoming
Aaron Spitz, MD	10	Orange County
Forrest Jellison, MD	11	Inland Empire
Joseph Candela, MD	12	Nevada
Lane Childs, MD	13	Utah

Revised 10-6-21

Advisors:

- Imm. Past-Chair: Jeffrey M. Frankel, MD, Seattle, WA
- Seth Cohen, MD, Los Angeles, Young Urologist Rep
- Ed Cohen, MD, AACU Board Rep
- Amani Abou Zam-zam, MBA

2022

OVERALL RESPONSE RATE

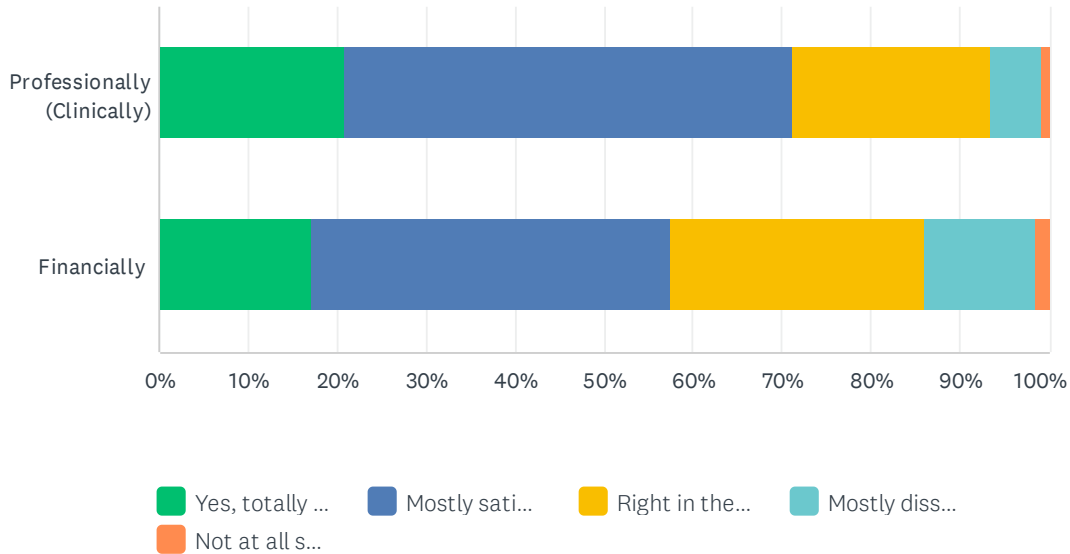
Total Possible = 1,853

Total Responding = 399

21.53%

Q1 Are you satisfied with your urologic practice? (please select one choice for each row)

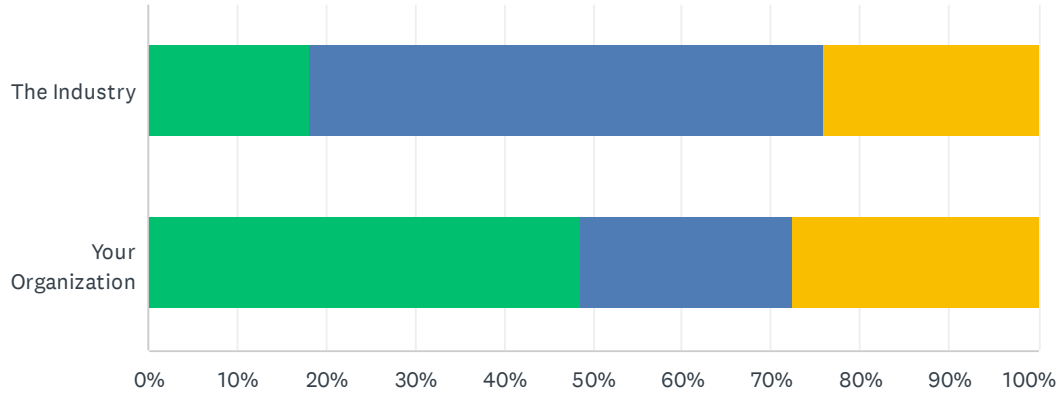
Answered: 399 Skipped: 0



	YES, TOTALLY SATISFIED	MOSTLY SATISFIED	RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE	MOSTLY DISSATISFIED	NOT AT ALL SATISFIED	TOTAL
Professionally (Clinically)	20.80% 83	50.38% 201	22.31% 89	5.76% 23	0.75% 3	399
Financially	17.13% 68	40.30% 160	28.72% 114	12.34% 49	1.51% 6	397

Q2 Overall, how do you assess the current state of the healthcare industry and that of your own organization?

Answered: 399 Skipped: 0

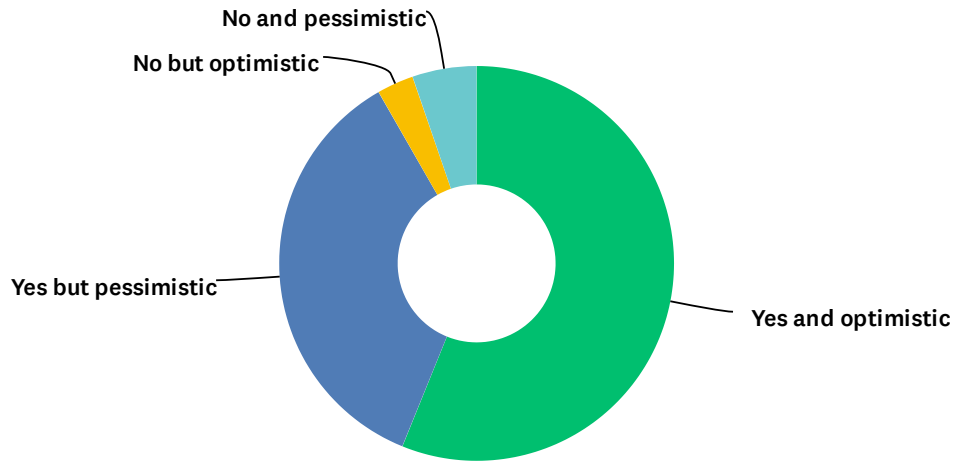


■ Right Track
 ■ Wrong Track
 ■ Undecided

	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG TRACK	UNDECIDED	TOTAL
The Industry	18.30% 73	57.64% 230	24.06% 96	399
Your Organization	48.62% 194	23.81% 95	27.57% 110	399

Q3 Do you feel that your current practice is viable and will remain so for the next 3-5 years?

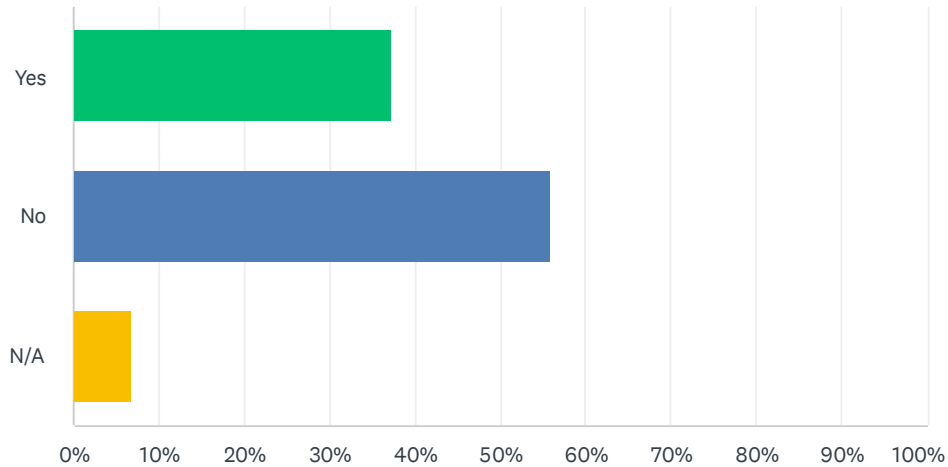
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes and optimistic	56.14%	224
Yes but pessimistic	35.59%	142
No but optimistic	3.01%	12
No and pessimistic	5.26%	21
TOTAL		399

Q4 Did your professional income specifically as a urologist decline due to the pandemic during the last 2 years?

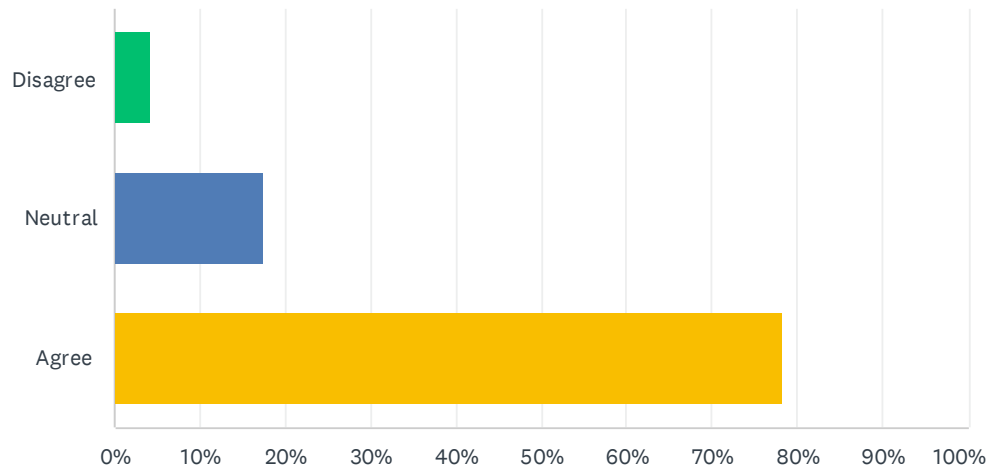
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	37.34%	149
No	55.89%	223
N/A	6.77%	27
TOTAL		399

Q5 Taking urology call (on-call work) significantly adds stress to my life

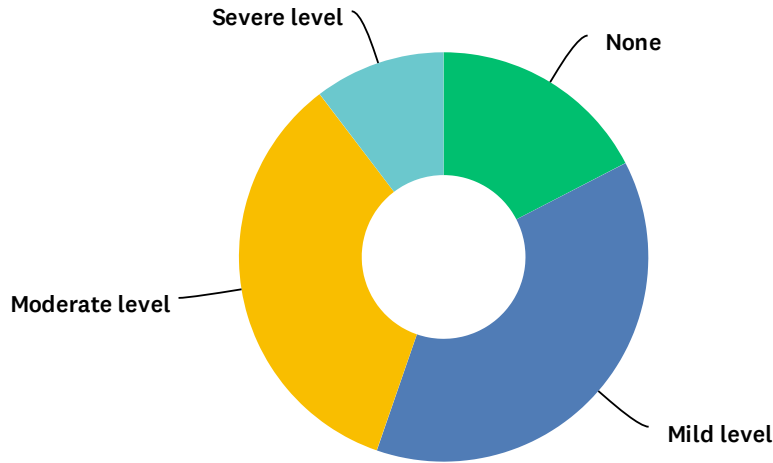
Answered: 399 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Disagree	4.26%	17
Neutral	17.54%	70
Agree	78.20%	312
TOTAL		399

Q6 Using the following definition of burnout, how would you define your current level of burnout? (Burnout definition: "Burnout is a long-term stress reaction characterized by depersonalization, including cynical or negative attitudes toward patients, emotional exhaustion and a feeling of decreased personal achievement")

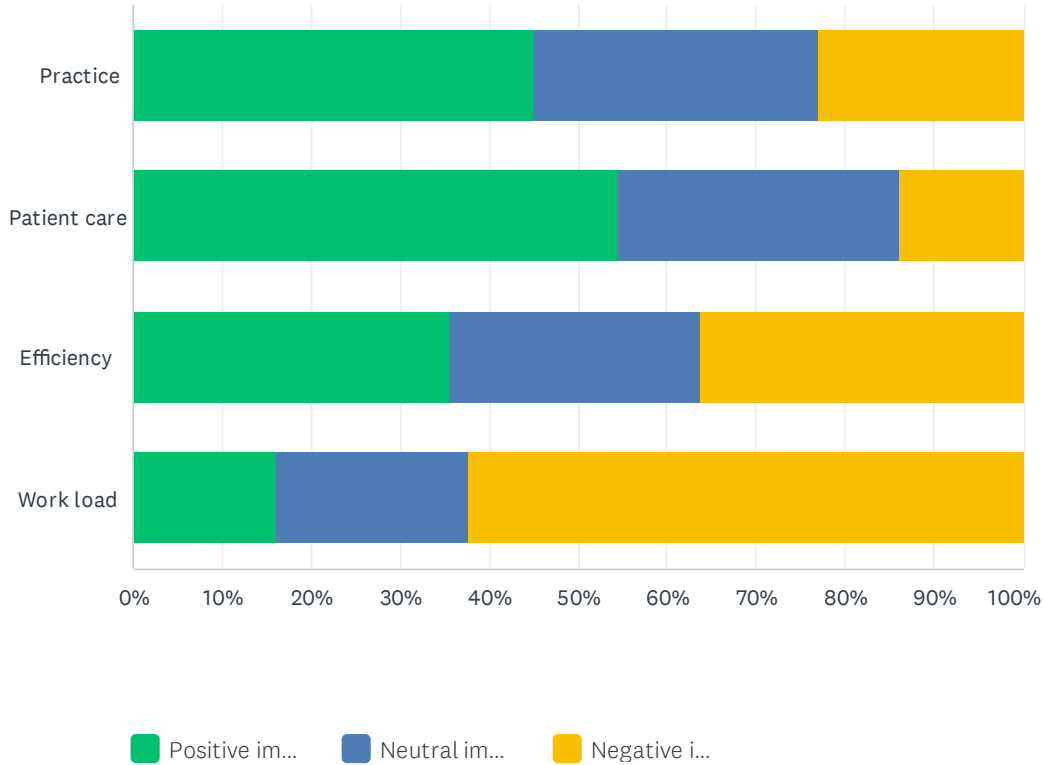
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	17.42%	69
Mild level	37.88%	150
Moderate level	34.34%	136
Severe level	10.35%	41
TOTAL		396

Q7 Which of the following best describe the overall impact of an EHR on you and your practice?

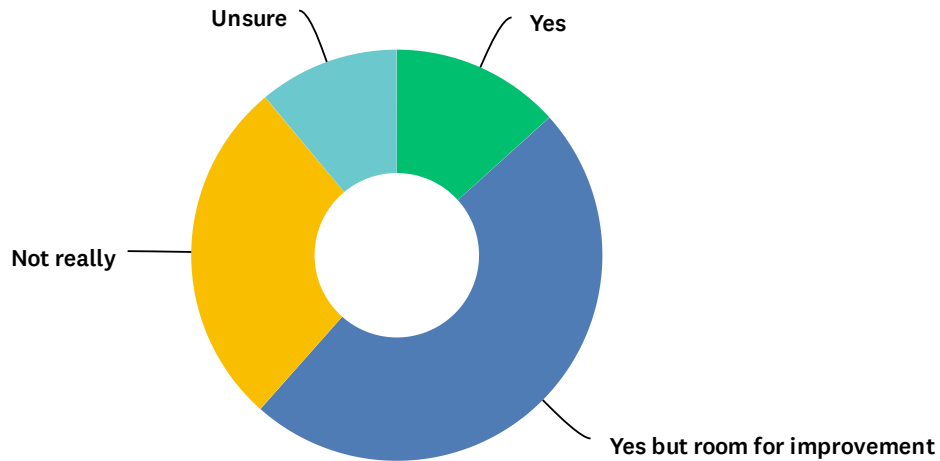
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	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEUTRAL IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	TOTAL
Practice	45.09% 179	31.99% 127	22.92% 91	397
Patient care	54.52% 217	31.66% 126	13.82% 55	398
Efficiency	35.52% 141	28.21% 112	36.27% 144	397
Work load	16.08% 64	21.61% 86	62.31% 248	398

Q8 Do you think you are capturing revenue for all procedures and services you perform?

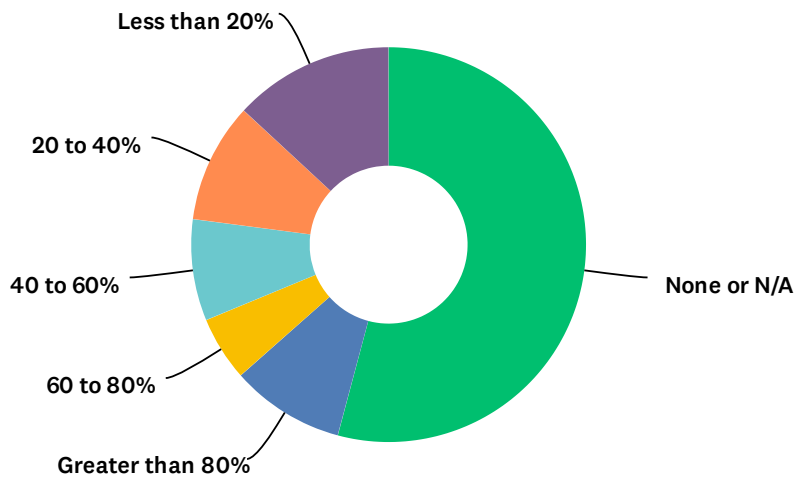
Answered: 398 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	13.32% 53
Yes but room for improvement	48.24% 192
Not really	27.39% 109
Unsure	11.06% 44
TOTAL	398

Q9 What percentage of your practice if any is capitated?

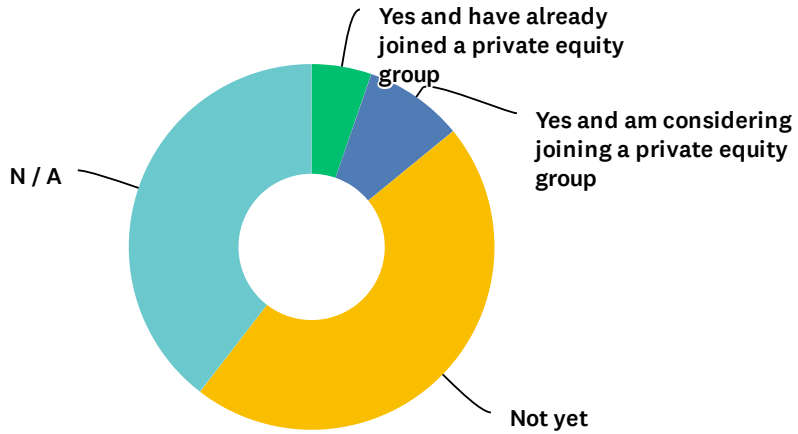
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None or N/A	54.16%	215
Greater than 80%	9.32%	37
60 to 80%	5.29%	21
40 to 60%	8.31%	33
20 to 40%	9.82%	39
Less than 20%	13.10%	52
TOTAL		397

Q10 Have you been impacted/approached by private equity group? If yes, are you considering joining private equity or have you joined a private equity group?

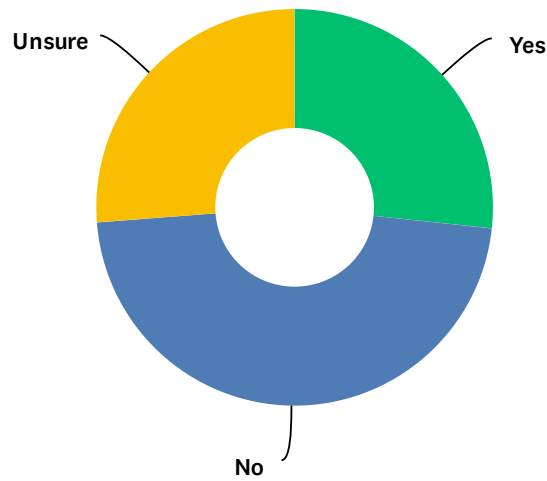
Answered: 397 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes and have already joined a private equity group	5.29%	21
Yes and am considering joining a private equity group	8.82%	35
Not yet	46.35%	184
N / A	39.55%	157
TOTAL		397

Q11 Do you have any payer contracts that provide quality incentives?

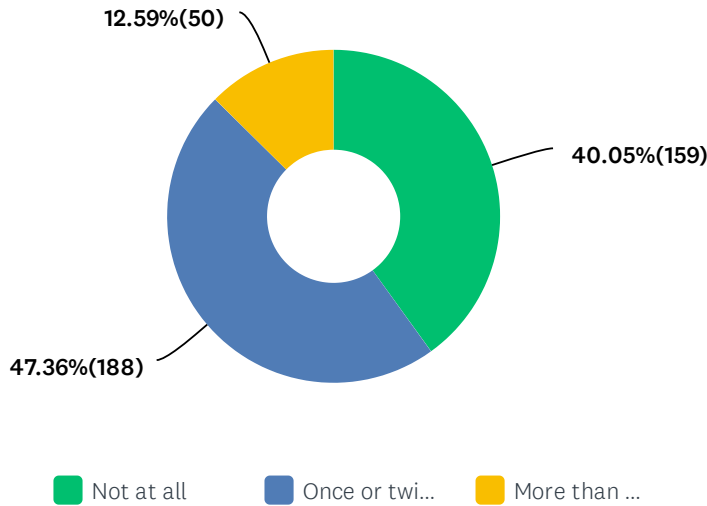
Answered: 397 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	26.70%	106
No	47.10%	187
Unsure	26.20%	104
TOTAL		397

Q12 Over the last 4 years, have you (or your staff) been in fear for your personal safety while in the performance of your patient care giving?

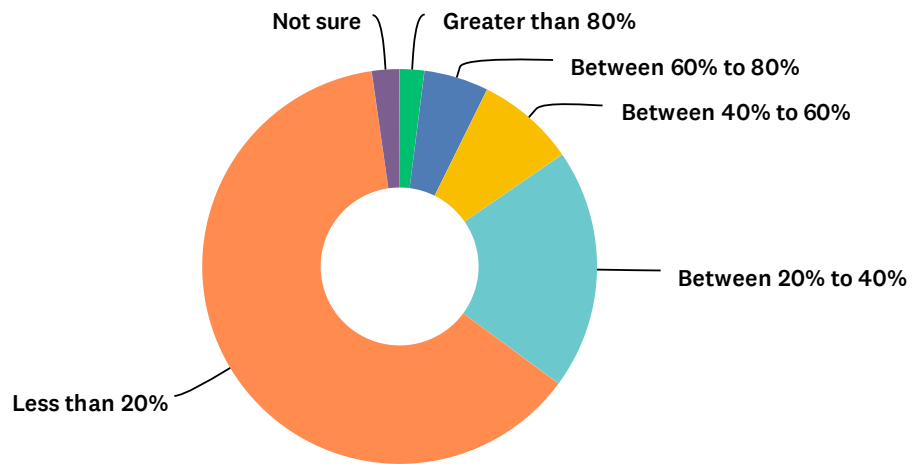
Answered: 397 Skipped: 2



	NOT AT ALL	ONCE OR TWICE	MORE THAN A FEW TIMES	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Answers	40.05% 159	47.36% 188	12.59% 50	397	1.73

Q13 For what percentage of your practice are you using Telehealth?

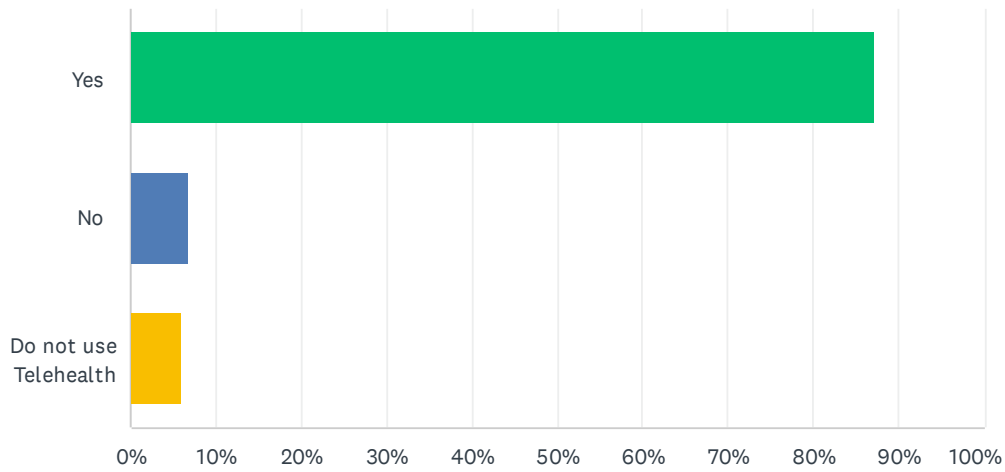
Answered: 396 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Greater than 80%	2.02%	8
Between 60% to 80%	5.30%	21
Between 40% to 60%	8.08%	32
Between 20% to 40%	19.70%	78
Less than 20%	62.63%	248
Not sure	2.27%	9
TOTAL		396

Q14 Did your Telehealth usage increase during the last 2 years?

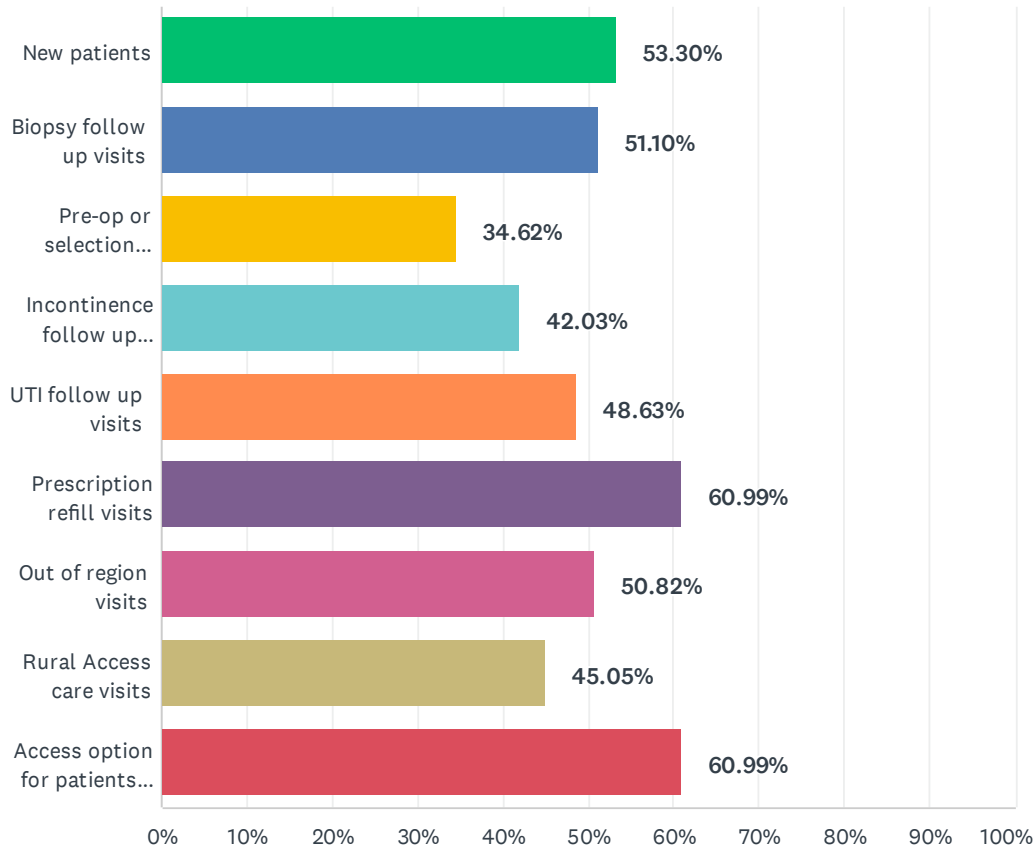
Answered: 396 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	87.12%	345
No	6.82%	27
Do not use Telehealth	6.06%	24
TOTAL		396

Q15 For what type of visits are you using billable Telehealth or telephone visits? (check all that apply)

Answered: 364 Skipped: 35



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
New patients	53.30%	194
Biopsy follow up visits	51.10%	186
Pre-op or selection visits	34.62%	126
Incontinence follow up visits	42.03%	153
UTI follow up visits	48.63%	177
Prescription refill visits	60.99%	222
Out of region visits	50.82%	185
Rural Access care visits	45.05%	164
Access option for patients (face-to-face, video visits or phone)	60.99%	222
Total Respondents: 364		

Q16 Please describe any other billing or health policy issues that have been raised in your state or area that are important to you?

Answered: 92 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	comment APP providers can now work independent in a clinic setting once they have five years experience in Urology	10/3/2022 10:49 AM
2	comment Organization doesn't deal with male fertility cash procedures very well. Low RVU amounts for those that have CPT codes. They don't know how to handle cash pay.	9/28/2022 10:48 AM
3	comment growing proportion of financially insecure patients who are unable to afford medication (which is overpriced).	9/19/2022 9:51 PM
4	comment We have a lot of patients that live in another state, but not far away. Those have not been able to have new patient telehealth visits due to state licensure regulations.	9/16/2022 4:34 PM
5	comment extending telemed coverage	9/16/2022 2:00 AM
6	comment blues carrier with per member per month reimbursement	9/7/2022 11:23 PM
7	comment Surprise billing, pre authorization	9/7/2022 7:53 PM
8	comment Transgender surgery; DSD surgery	9/6/2022 12:12 PM
9	comment Influx of medicare and medicaid patient	9/6/2022 10:30 AM
10	comment poor PCA screening	9/6/2022 8:41 AM
11	comment New therapies	9/6/2022 7:08 AM
12	comment continuing telehealth after public health emergency ends	9/6/2022 5:29 AM
13	comment Finding good front office is difficult	9/5/2022 8:33 PM
14	comment Cutting re embarrassment	9/5/2022 5:21 PM
15	comment I would like to be able to provide Telehealth across state lines.	9/5/2022 5:17 PM
16	comment Significant Decreased reimbursement and decline coverage and high deductible	9/5/2022 4:45 PM
17	comment Increased govt requirements in documentation and increased monitoring of certain prescriptions adds to onerous workload	9/5/2022 4:42 PM
18	comment Mid level providers charging independently (or with supervision merely checking the box.	9/5/2022 3:46 PM
19	comment Oregon's attempt to require a chaperone for prostate exams is a huge problem	9/5/2022 11:25 AM
20	comment MICRA	9/5/2022 9:58 AM
21	comment California is raising malpractice compensation MICRA which will increase malpractice premium	9/5/2022 8:09 AM
22	comment How to bill Incident To.	9/5/2022 12:14 AM
23	comment For some reason we are seeing much more denials for next generation imaging. Not MRI's.	9/4/2022 5:23 PM
24	comment MICRA is increasing its caps	9/4/2022 9:32 AM
25	comment Overturn of Roe v Wade	9/4/2022 12:28 AM
26	comment Medicare cuts. Cuts for stent insertion. Might be quick but usually it's sick patients, odd hours, major scheduling complexities, need different code for emergent/urgent stents!	9/3/2022 7:14 PM

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27	comment	decrease reimbursement more bureaucracy and legal liabilities	9/3/2022 3:55 PM
28	comment	insurances getting away with not paying for services rendered at all	9/3/2022 3:34 PM
29	comment	Managed care Medicare	9/3/2022 2:37 PM
30	comment	Contracted groups refusing to see patients on their contract when not on call	9/3/2022 1:00 PM
31	comment	Allied health care workers autonomous practice and pharmacy prescribing privileges	9/3/2022 12:39 PM
32	comment	My colleagues are now in a RVU which for the most part I am not. But it is clear that for my colleagues it is time is money.	9/3/2022 11:55 AM
33	comment	excessive denials and even takebacks for no apparent reasons and spending countless hours chasing earned money from insurance.	9/3/2022 11:22 AM
34	comment	Billing system in a hospital based practice is not efficient.	9/3/2022 9:36 AM
35	comment	Poorly adjusted incentives of pay for performance	9/3/2022 7:38 AM
36	comment	In house pharmacy need for surity bond	9/3/2022 7:29 AM
37	comment	out of state patient access	9/3/2022 7:14 AM
38	comment	Oregon proposing that chaperone be present for all patient examinations. I get the rationale, but it actually may make it more difficult to achieve proper patient care. I can see that resulting in some genetic male patients who would benefit from prostate cancer screening declining prostate exam, for example.	9/3/2022 6:02 AM
39	comment	Insurance covers less and less	9/2/2022 10:35 PM
40	comment	None that I am aware of.	9/2/2022 9:02 PM
41	comment	Controversy on gender affirming surgeries	9/2/2022 8:30 PM
42	comment	new bundling rules despite appropriate modifiers.	9/2/2022 8:13 PM
43	comment	PCR reimbursement.	9/2/2022 7:38 PM
44	comment	Medicare cutting reimbursement again - a significant stress	9/2/2022 7:38 PM
45	comment	Blue carrier is the best reimbursement at 10% above Medicare. With Medicare at 50 cents on the dollar, that becomes 55cents (50 + 10%). Also marked increase in Medicaid or financial assisted programs like quest. Then marked increase in prior authorization requests by numerous companies to the point that we stopped taking those covered lives.	9/2/2022 7:30 PM
46	comment	The cap on MICRA is being raised, which will make malpractice insurance more costly.	9/2/2022 7:18 PM
47	comment	The new insurance scam is they approve surgery and if they survey the patient and the patient says we didnt discuss non-surgical options, they will not reimburse us. Patient has a financial incentive to literally falsify a visit to not pay their copay.	9/2/2022 7:00 PM
48	comment	Capitation hurts	9/2/2022 6:52 PM
49	comment	blue cross continues to state they do not offer group contracts only individual contracts to our group of 24 urologists.	9/2/2022 6:50 PM
50	comment	complete non payment by the VA (Veterans Affairs)	9/2/2022 6:45 PM
51	comment	since there is no facility fee for the telehealth visits, our hospital reimburses at a lower RVU rate.	8/29/2022 9:21 PM
52	comment	Want to ensure that Telehealth, including audio-only, remain viable into the future.	8/29/2022 4:57 AM
53	comment	concern about seeing patients from within or outside our state via telehealth, regardless of where they have permanent residence	8/28/2022 10:43 PM
54	comment	micra repeal effort	8/26/2022 4:46 PM
55	comment	1. insurance companies not paying in a timely fashion 2. trying to restrict the use	8/20/2022 6:51 PM

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of APP's or pay less for them to see patients 3. trying to limit payments even when the use of modifiers has been appropriate

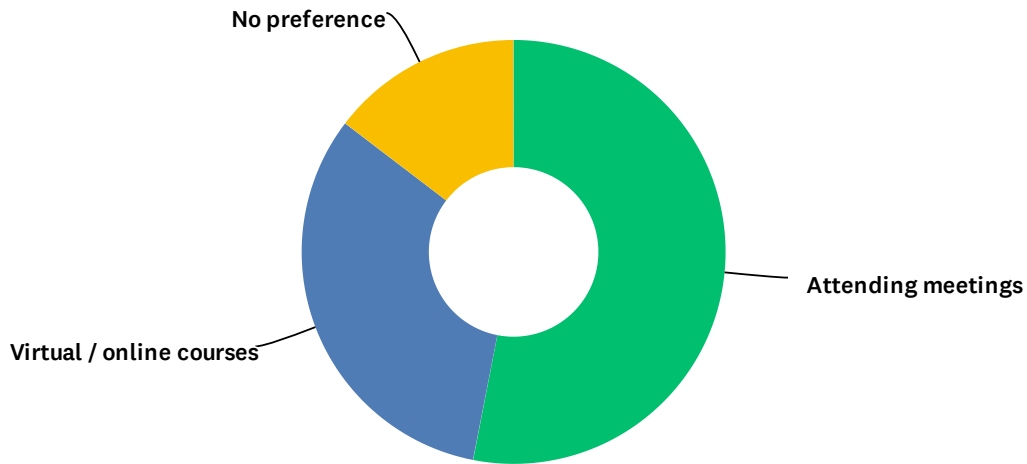
56	comment The new patient access laws. My HMO is so concerned with being fined. They make me do a vasectomy new patient now and the patient who needs a prostate biopsy can't have that slot. He can wait 4-6 weeks. A new patient with 20 year history of recurrent uti get a slot in 3 days where an established patient with new onset hematuria can wait 10 days for cysto. Seems criminal and unethical and I have no power to change it	8/20/2022 6:27 PM
57	comment The inability to send patients to tertiary facilities. Insurance delays approval and Universities deny patients. Two way street.	8/20/2022 8:43 AM
58	comment Transgender health coverage - protection and expansion	8/19/2022 9:04 AM
59	comment Medicine is a junk profession. The sooner you understand this, the better off you will be.	8/18/2022 5:26 PM
60	comment Attempts by ARNPs to gain parity with physicians.	8/18/2022 3:27 PM
61	comment 1) Proliferation of non-physician erectile dysfunction clinics especially shockwave technologies. 2) Impact of abortion care on timeliness of oncology care. This is rare but a real problem in my state. 3) Gender affirming health care bans/limitations.	8/18/2022 12:54 PM
62	comment Our hospital is site neutral impacted which has decreased our reimbursement.	8/18/2022 11:55 AM
63	comment Usually negative impact	8/17/2022 7:19 PM
64	comment Amount of pre auth required	8/17/2022 12:20 PM
65	comment Covid 19	8/17/2022 11:46 AM
66	comment Prior authorization remains very challenging and onerous.	8/17/2022 10:36 AM
67	comment issues with electronic prescribing controlled substances	8/17/2022 10:19 AM
68	comment Denial of PCR reimbursement by MoIDx/Medicare	8/17/2022 9:07 AM
69	comment Telehealth cross state lines	8/17/2022 8:46 AM
70	comment overall reimbursement	8/17/2022 8:40 AM
71	comment Prior auths	8/17/2022 6:52 AM
72	comment Reimbursement models needs to change or nobody will be doing cystectomies	8/17/2022 5:26 AM
73	comment Scope of practice creep	8/16/2022 10:30 PM
74	comment As a member of a multi-specialty medical group, I am not allowed to participate in ownership of ancillary services such as surgery centers, medical office buildings, lithotripters, etc - very frustrating	8/16/2022 9:43 PM
75	comment will telephone visits cont to be covered long term - many patients prefer to video	8/16/2022 9:17 PM
76	comment Billing for online patient care	8/16/2022 9:00 PM
77	comment telehealth coverage after pandemic ends	8/16/2022 8:58 PM
78	comment Conversion rate scheduled to drop again - why keep doing this??	8/16/2022 8:23 PM
79	comment Single payer system being actively pushed around here	8/16/2022 7:56 PM
80	comment Regulations	8/16/2022 7:31 PM
81	comment Reimbursement not increasing with cost of living	8/16/2022 7:20 PM
82	comment Continue to have problems receiving payment for transgender patients as "Gender does not match billable service"	8/16/2022 7:20 PM
83	comment Decreased Medicare/Medicaid re-imburements.	8/16/2022 7:16 PM
84	comment ARNP scope of practice expansion attemp (vasectomy)	8/16/2022 6:41 PM
85	comment Micra reform	8/16/2022 6:27 PM

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86	comment More expense but same or lower reimbursement - how do we survive?	8/16/2022 5:53 PM
87	comment Call burden. No pay for call.	8/16/2022 5:51 PM
88	comment renewal of telehealth next year	8/16/2022 5:42 PM
89	comment The 2020/1 documentation guidelines have helped a lot. notes are shorter and more relevant. I worry about MICRA reform in California although I think the CMA solution is going to be the best solution	8/16/2022 5:27 PM
90	comment Allowing/billing for in office anesthesia with nitrous oxide	8/16/2022 5:20 PM
91	comment Infertility care	8/16/2022 5:09 PM
92	comment I cannot understand why the reimbursement for procedure would go down overtime, inflation goes up overtime	8/16/2022 5:05 PM

Q17 For your CME needs, which do you generally prefer?

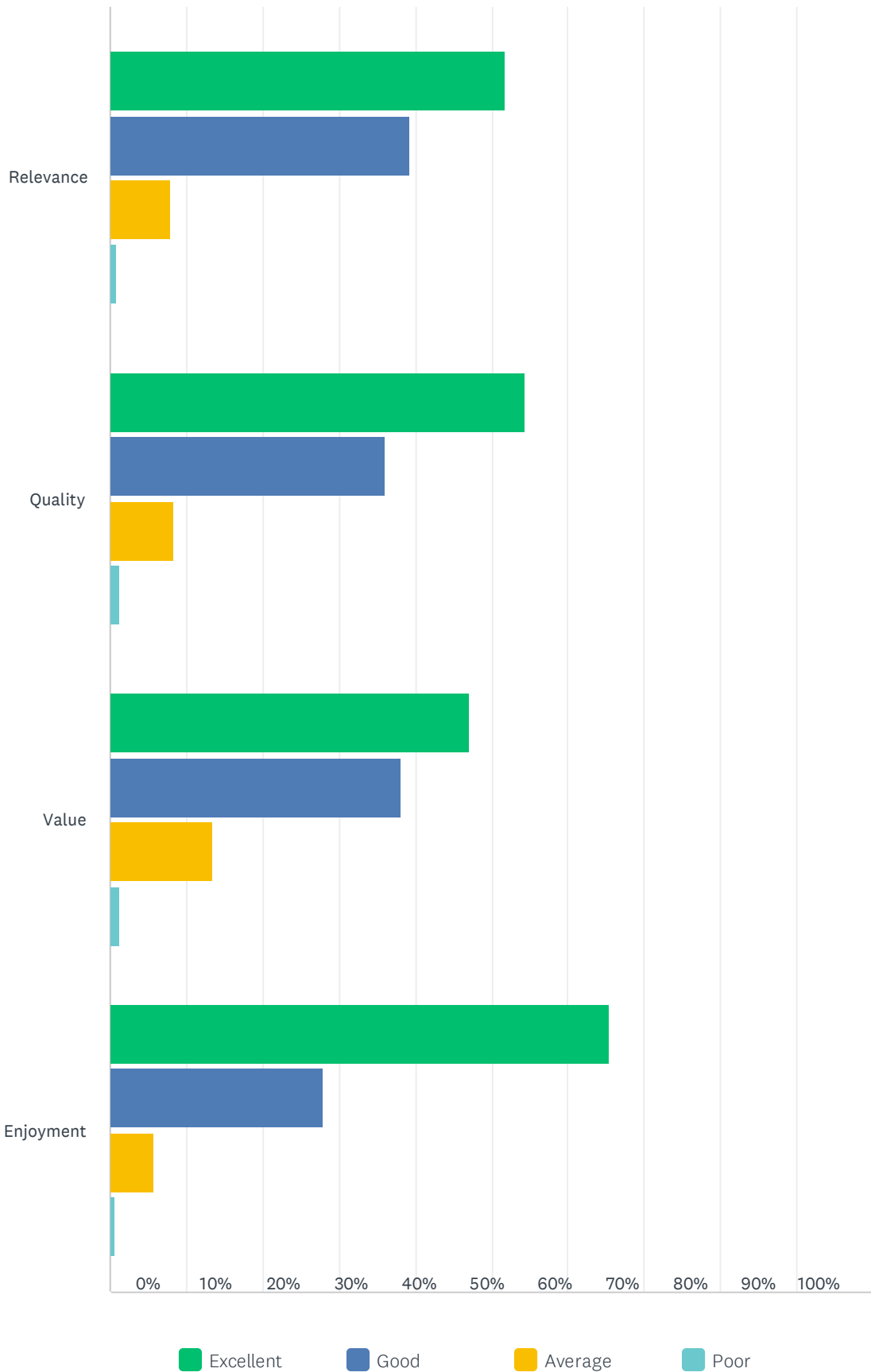
Answered: 390 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Attending meetings	53.08%	207
Virtual / online courses	32.31%	126
No preference	14.62%	57
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		390

Q18 If attended in the last 10 years, how would you rate the Western Section annual meetings?

Answered: 326 Skipped: 73



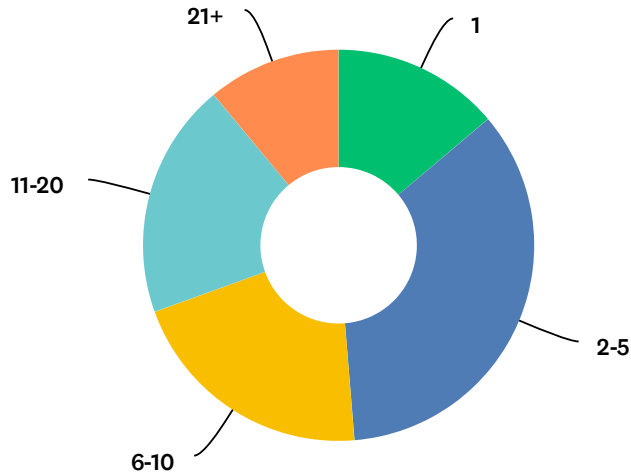
Q19 Please indicate your type of practice? (please check all that apply)

Answered: 390 Skipped: 9

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Private practice, urology solo	10.26%	40
Private practice, urology group or network	22.82%	89
Private practice, multi-specialty group	13.08%	51
Employee of an integrated health delivery system (e.g. Kaiser Permanente)	15.90%	62
Government / military employee	5.38%	21
Employee of teaching hospital / Academic center	19.74%	77
Employee of a hospital system	14.36%	56
Administrative	0.51%	2
Retired	2.82%	11
Other (please specify)	2.05%	8
Total Respondents: 390		

Q20 How many urologists are in your practice / group?

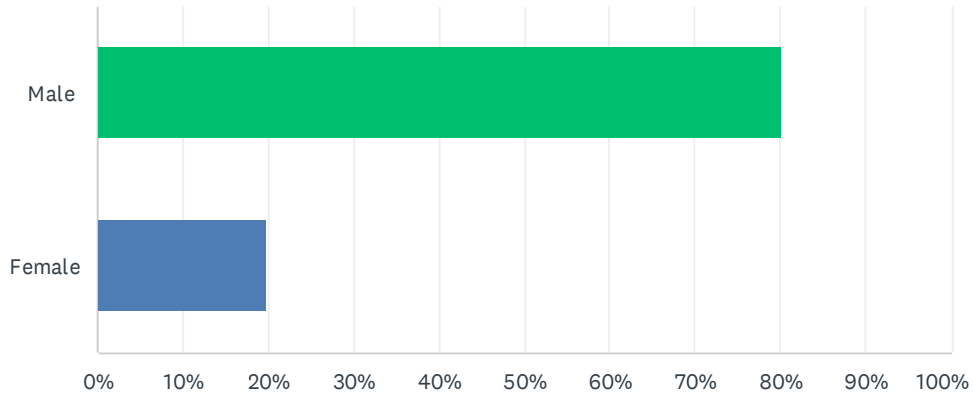
Answered: 390 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	13.85%	54
2-5	34.87%	136
6-10	20.77%	81
11-20	19.49%	76
21+	11.03%	43
TOTAL		390

Q21 Your Gender

Answered: 390 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	80.26%	313
Female	19.74%	77
TOTAL		390