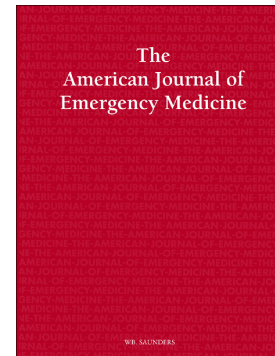


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Financial planning and satisfaction across life domains among retired emergency physicians in the United States

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Introduction

Over the next ten years, the specialty of emergency medicine (EM) can be expected to have a large number of physicians entering retirement.¹ The proportion of emergency physicians older than 55 years reached 34.6% in 2015,² and only 47% of EPs are still active clinically at age 65.¹ Prior studies about physicians considering retirement³⁻⁵ lack specific reasons for retirement or financial preparation for retirement, and there is little research we are aware of examining EM physicians who are retired. This study was undertaken to identify current retirement practices among emergency physicians, challenges faced, satisfaction across life domains, and the financial and personal strategies employed to prepare for retirement.

Methods

We conducted a cross-sectional survey of a national sample of retired U.S. emergency physicians, administered as part of an ongoing longitudinal study conducted by the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) since 1994, the Longitudinal Survey of Emergency Physicians (LSEP).⁶ Currently there are 1,509 physicians included in LSEP ranging in age from 32 to 72. Participants were recruited to the study via an initial email invitation to participate in the survey online. Non-responders received a paper version of the survey by mail, in addition to postcard and email reminders. More detailed information regarding sampling, data collection, distribution, and statistical analysis has been previously published.^{7,8}

An initial questionnaire was created following the identification of salient retirement issues by searching PubMed using MESH terms related to emergency medicine, physicians, and retirement, and querying leaders of national emergency medicine organizations (Society of Academic Emergency Medicine [SAEM] and the American College of Emergency Physicians [ACEP]) about the factors most relevant to retirement. Thirty senior members of SAEM, the

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