

## The Impact of Medicare Cuts - By the Numbers

In February of 2023, a multi-societal survey on the impact of Medicare cuts was distributed across multiple specialties including vascular surgery, interventional radiology, and interventional cardiology. The results are highly concerning.

Survey Results	
Number of Respondents	696
Percent of providers performing primarily in the office or ASC	68%
Percent that believe Medicare cuts have a moderate or greater impact on the practice	87%
Percent that have retired, sold, or closed their practice from 2021 to 2022	8%
Percent that believe the likelihood of the practice's success is unlikely	53%
Percent that are likely to retire if cuts continue	17%
Percent that are likely to sell their practice if cuts continue	21%
Percent that are likely to become a hospital employee if cuts continue	22%

# **MULTI-SOCIETAL SURVEY on the IMPACT of MEDICARE CUTS to PHYSICIAN REIMBURSEMENT**

**John Blebea MD, MBA OEIS**

**Stephen Daugherty MD AVLS**

**Chin-I Chen PhD**

**Mary Costantino MD SIR**

**Robert Molnar MD SVS**

**Lyndon Box MD SCAI**

**Greg Snyder MD AVF**

# Survey - 2022

Expected changes in physician outpatient interventional practices as a result of coronavirus disease 2019 and recent changes in Medicare physician fee schedule

John Blebea, MD, MBA,<sup>a</sup> Krishna Jain, MBBS,<sup>b</sup> Chin-I Cheng, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Chris Pittman, MD,<sup>d</sup> and Stephen Daugherty, MD,<sup>e</sup> *Saginaw, Kalamazoo, and Mt. Pleasant, MI; Tampa, FL; Clarksville, TN*

**21 question electronic survey**

**Physician members**

Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society  
American Vein and Lymphatic Society

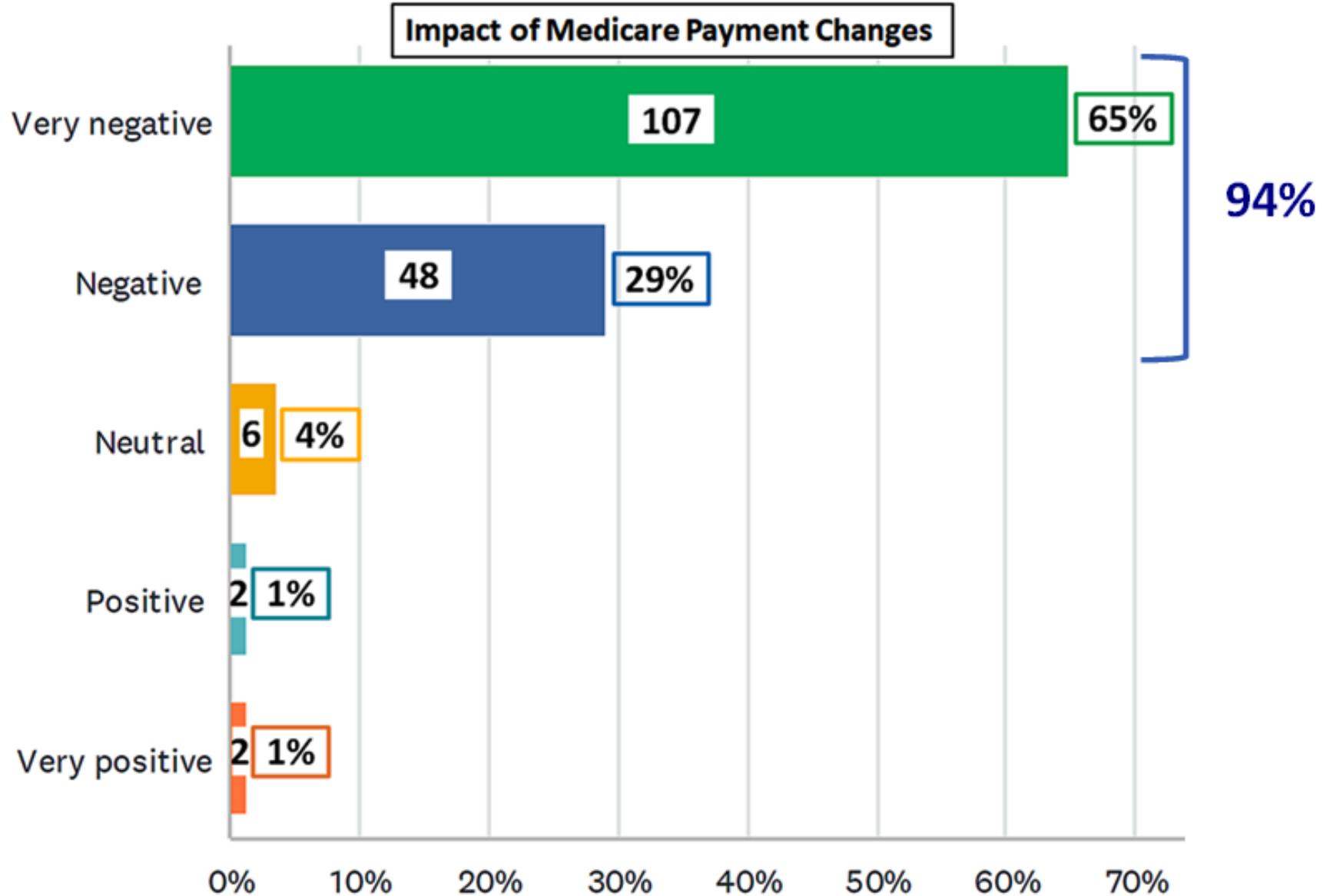
**February 2022**

165 respondents

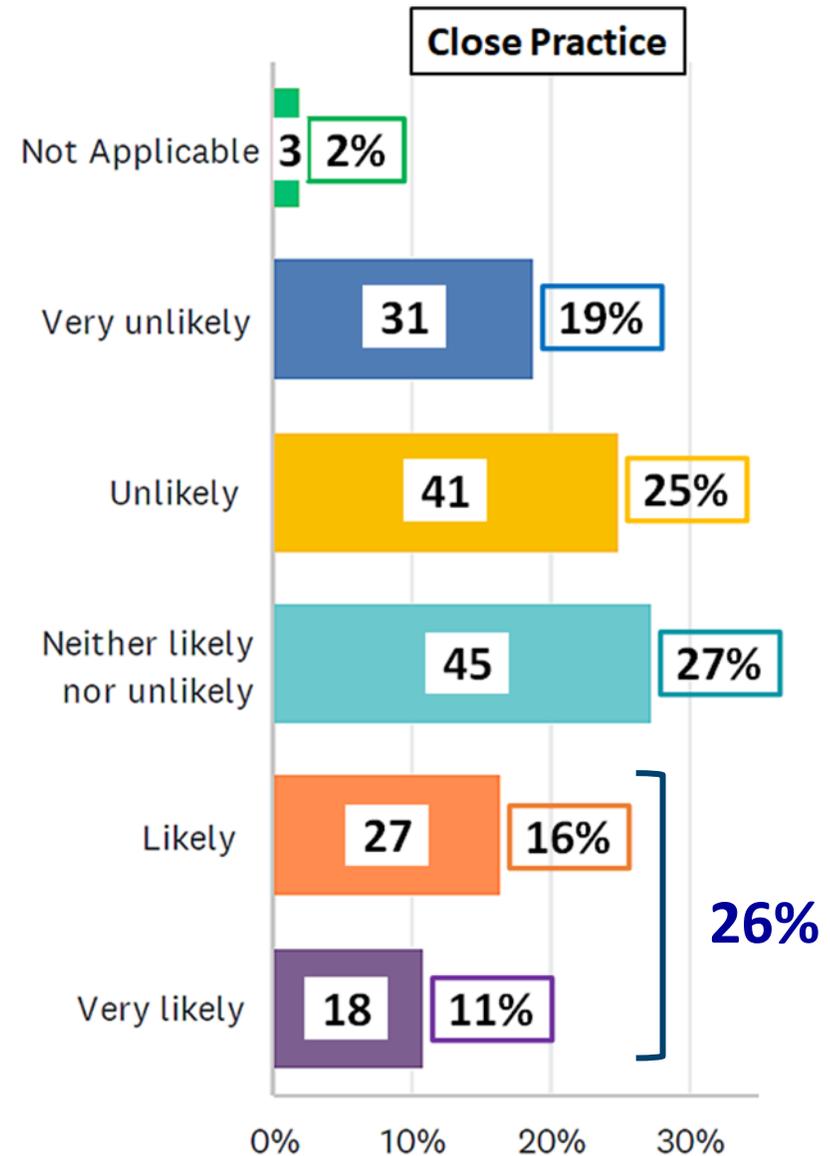
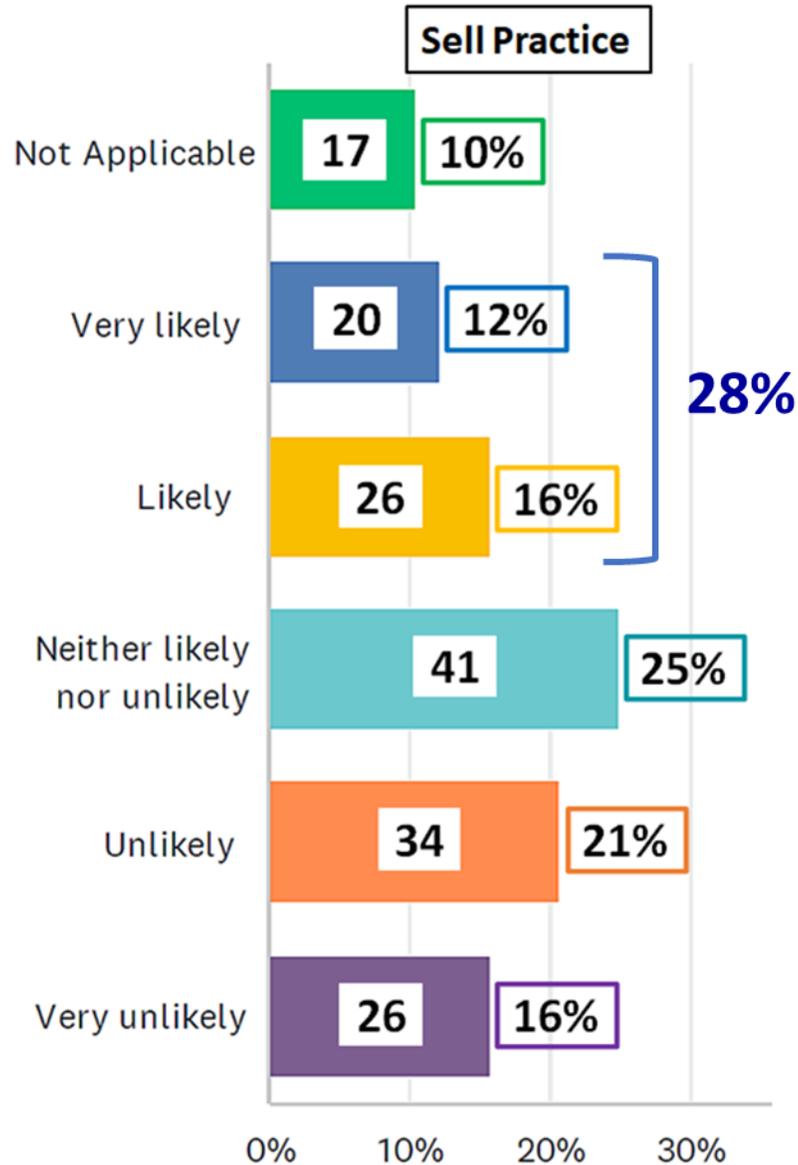
(J Vasc Surg Venous Lymphat Disord 2023;11:1-9.)



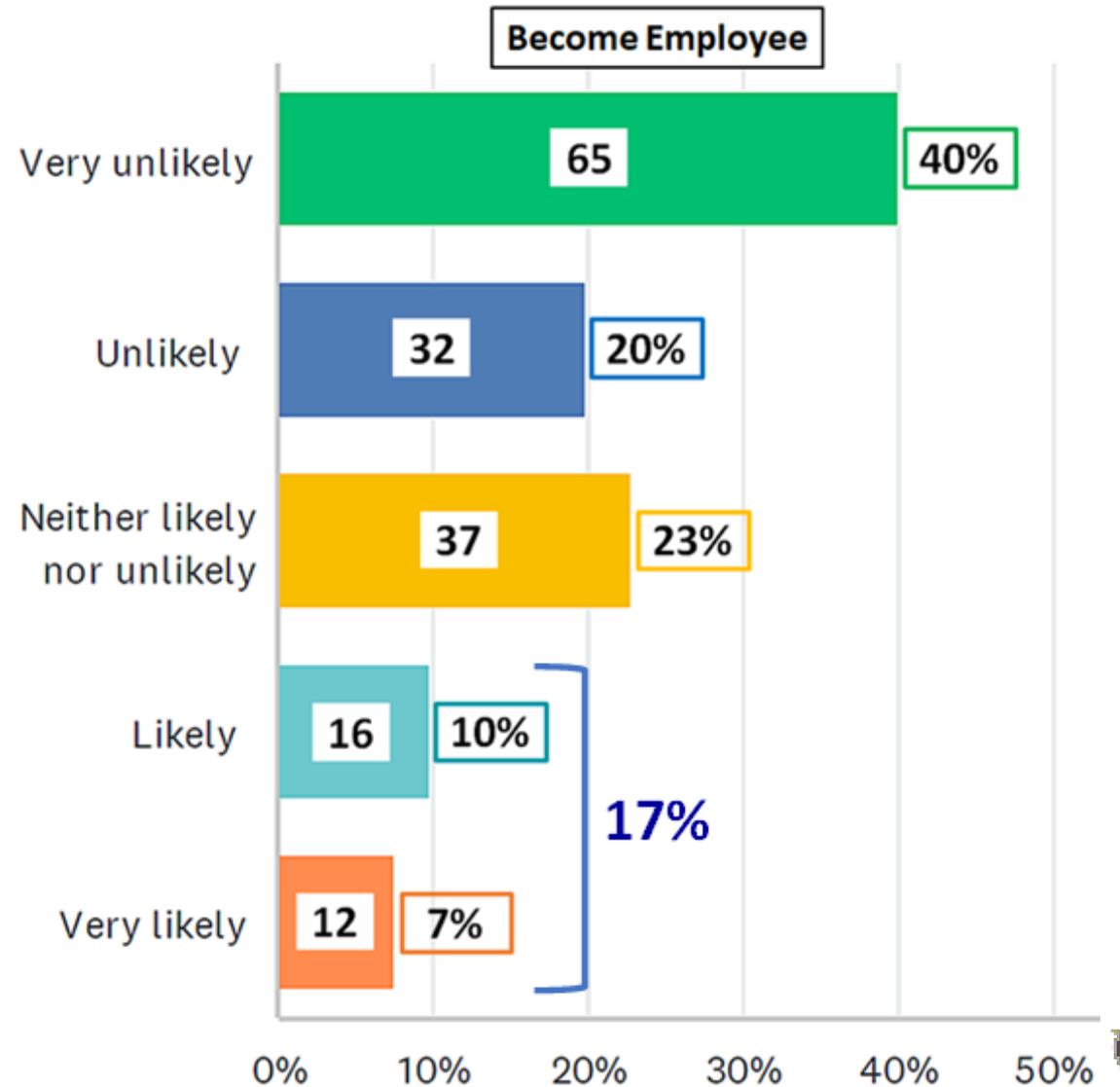
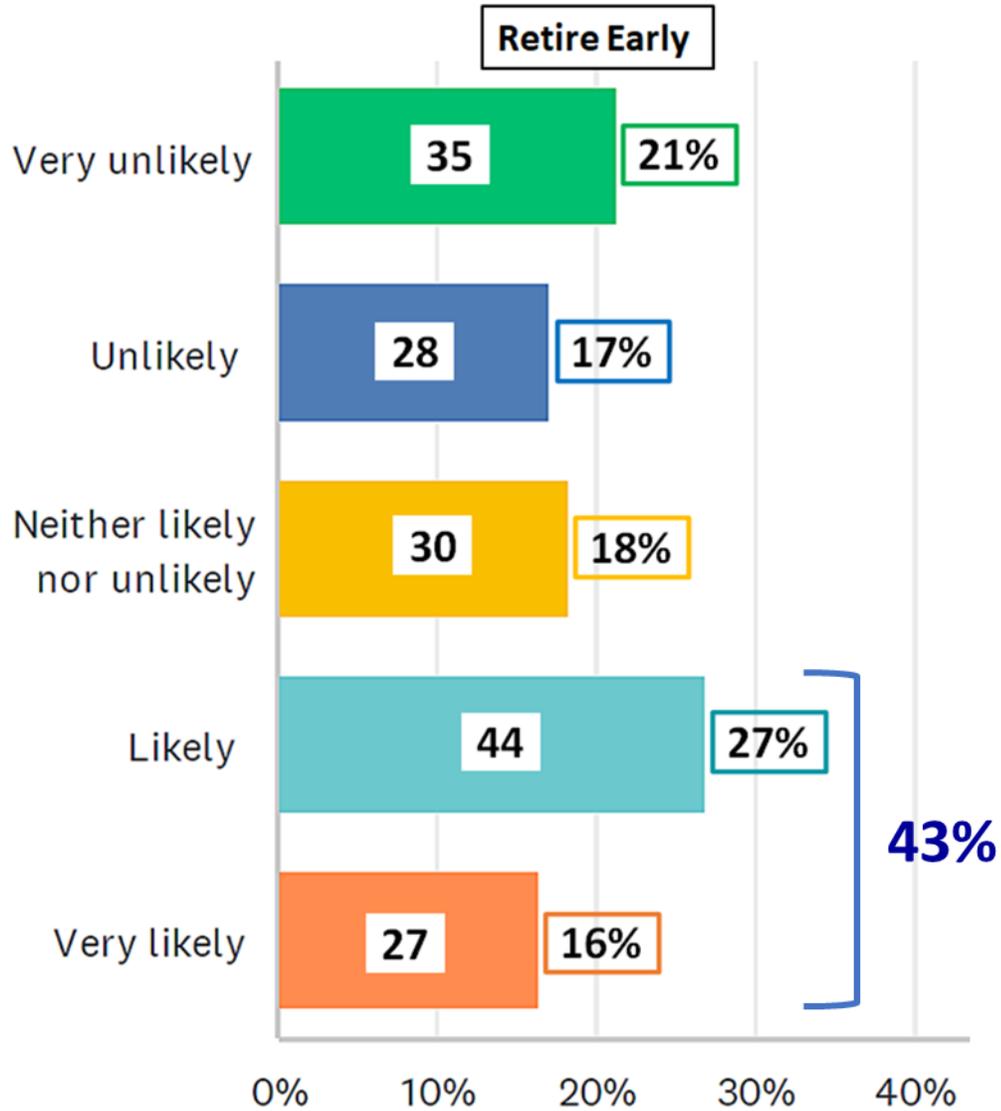
# How much of an impact will the Medicare changes have on your practice ?



# Likelihood within the next two years of:



# Likelihood within the next two years of:



## Research Question

**One year later.....what have been the effects of decreased Medicare physician payments on physicians and their outpatient vascular practices?**

# Multi-Societal Survey

**21 question electronic survey**

**February 2023**

**Physician members**

Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society

American Vein and Lymphatic Society

Society for Interventional Radiology

Society for Cardiovasc Angiography and Interventions

Society for Vascular Surgery

American Venous Forum

# Survey

**696** respondents

	Number	Percentage	Response Rate
Society			
SIR	271	39%	9%
AVLS	110	16%	14%
SVS	88	13%	39%
SCAI	81	12%	4%
AVF	74	11%	14%
OEIS	72	10%	21%

	Number	Percentage
Specialty		
Interventional Radiology	309	44%
Surgery	236	34%
Interventional Cardiology	99	14%
Medicine	52	7%

**9% response [4% - 39%]**



# Physician Experience

	Number	Percentage
<b>Years since training</b>		
1-5 years	69	10%
6-10 years	110	16%
11-15 years	114	16%
16-20 years	84	12%
21+ years	316	46%

	Number	Percentage
<b>Years in interventional</b>		
1-5 years	78	11%
6-10 years	139	18%
11-15 years	106	20%
16-20 years	246	15%
21+ years	56	36%

**71%**

# Respondent Demographics

	Number	Percentage
<b>Highest Interventional Practice Type*</b>		
Office-based Practice	150	22%
OBL	183	27%
Hybrid OBL/ASC	91	13%
ASC	41	6%
Hospital	224	33%

**68%**

\* For physicians performing interventional procedures in multiple locations, highest level of practice location was ranked as OBL/ASC > ASC > OBL > Hospital > Office.

	Number	Percentage
<b>Physicians in practice</b>		
1	97	14%
2	146	21%
3	65	9%
4	62	9%
5	64	9%
6+	262	38%

**56%**



# Clinical Practice

	Number	Percentage
<b>Clinical Practice</b>		
Venous		
Superficial	519	75%
Deep	470	68%
Peripheral Arterial	461	66%
Dialysis	412	59%
Cardiac	94	14%

	Number	Percentage
<b>Employment Model</b>		
Practice Owner	396	58%
Private Practice, but not the Owner	86	13%
Hospital Employee	92	14%
University	70	10%
Multi-specialty Group Employee	36	5%
Government/VA	4	<1%
Not reported	12	2%

71%



# Medicare Impact

	Number	Percentage
<b>Medicare Impact</b>		
None at all	20	3%
A little	75	11%
A moderate amount	157	23%
A lot	178	26%
A great deal	266	38%

**87%**

	Number	Percentage
<b>Past Efforts – 2 Years</b>		
Reduced supply costs	528	76%
Reduced staff	371	53%
Reduced charity work	298	43%
Reduced staff benefits	277	40%
Terminated contracts	184	26%
Reduced physicians	143	21%
Terminated Medicare	13	2%



# Personal Impact

	Number	Percentage
<b>Personal Actions</b>		
Retired	15	2%
Closed practice	19	3%
Sold practice	19	3%
Migrated part ASC	77	11%
Migrated all ASC	10	1%
Migrated part hospital	122	18%
Migrated all hospital	26	4%

	Number	Percentage
<b>Hear of Others</b>		
Retired	416	60%
Closed practice	273	39%
Sold practice	227	33%
Migrated part ASC	127	18%
Migrated all ASC	63	9%
Migrated part hospital	132	19%
Migrated all hospital	99	14%



# Future Efforts

	Number	Percentage
<b>Future Efforts</b>		
Reduce supply costs	483	69%
Reduce staff	309	44%
Reduce charity work	292	42%
Reduce staff benefits	270	39%
Terminate contracts	230	33%
Reduce physicians	144	21%
Terminate Medicare	79	11%

	Number	Percentage
<b>Likelihood of Success</b>		
Very unlikely	104	15%
Unlikely	263	38%
Neither likely nor unlikely	180	26%
Likely	111	16%
Very likely	38	5%

**53%**



# Future Personal Plans

PERSONAL FUTURE PLANS	Number	Percentage
<b>Retire</b>		
Very unlikely	307	44%
Unlikely	176	26%
Neither likely nor unlikely	96	14%
Likely	74	11%
Very likely	43	6%

**17%**

PERSONAL FUTURE PLANS	Number	Percentage
<b>Sell Practice</b>		
Very unlikely	206	30%
Unlikely	162	23%
Neither likely nor unlikely	184	26%
Likely	91	13%
Very likely	53	8%

**21%**

Meetings for selling	Number	Percentage
Yes	330	47%

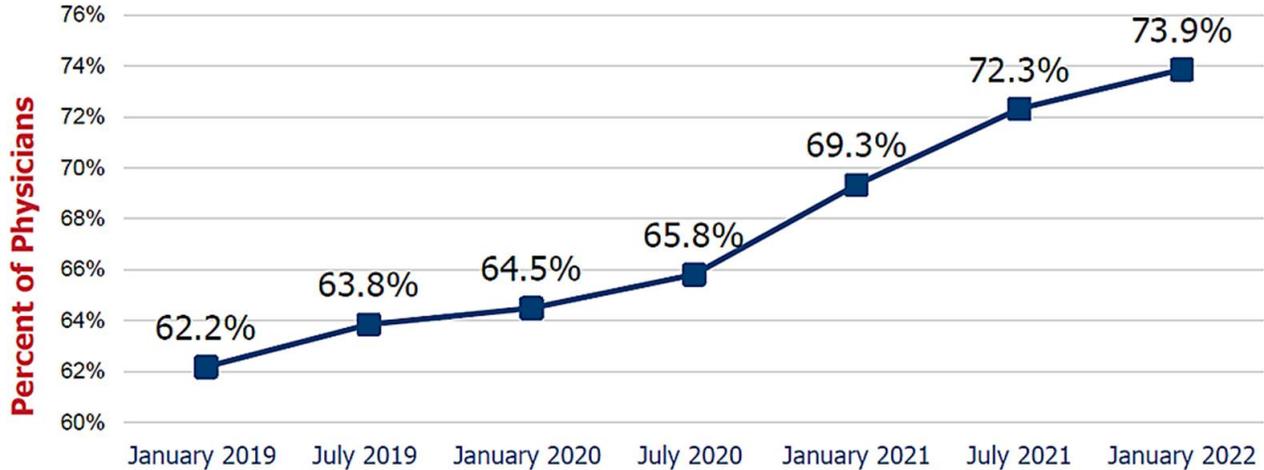


# Future Personal Plans

PERSONAL FUTURE PLANS	Number	Percentage
<b>Become Employee</b>		
Very unlikely	233	33%
Unlikely	158	23%
Neither likely nor unlikely	155	22%
Likely	83	12%
Very likely	67	10%

**22%**

**PERCENT OF U.S. PHYSICIANS EMPLOYED BY HOSPITALS OR CORPORATE ENTITIES IN 2019-21**



- **74%** of physicians were hospital or corporate-employed by January 2022
- Over the three-year study period, the percentage of employed physicians **grew by 19%**

