

the New Physician

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Most med students vote for health care, tolerate drug reps

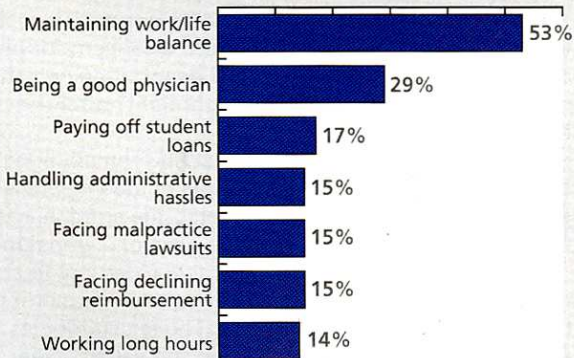
Medical students remain confident in the role health care will take in shaping the nation's political future, and while many are skeptical of drug industry influence, most would not restrict contact with pharmaceutical salespeople, according to a new survey of medical students.

Only 5 percent of the 1,000 U.S. medical students surveyed in June thought health-care reform would not be an important factor in the 2008 elections, and 75 percent said they were likely to vote for a candidate based on his or her health-care platform.

While 90 percent of respondents thought contact with pharmaceutical sales reps had some influence on prescribing behavior, 47 percent did not believe that schools should limit those reps' access to medical students. Eleven percent were unsure.

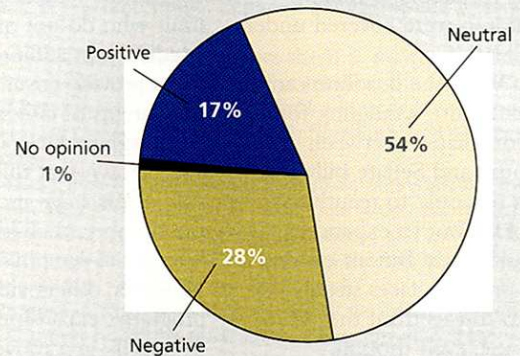
The wide-ranging survey, conducted by handheld-software maker Epocrates, also examined students' concerns about their careers, satisfaction with their courses and—not surprisingly—their relationship with health information technology.

Medical students' greatest concerns about becoming a physician*



* Respondents allowed to pick two

What is your opinion of the pharmaceutical industry?



Does your school have the following courses available, and how valuable do you think each course would be?



SOURCE: EPOCRATES