

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1) The AAOS has conducted an Orthopaedic Surgeon Census biennially since 1985 to update surgeon and practice information in the AAOS database. Information in this report is based on the most recent census of 30,141 orthopaedists on record with the AAOS.
- 2) Montana, Vermont, Wyoming, Alaska, and South Dakota have the highest density of orthopaedic surgeons (13 and over per 100,000 population). Mississippi, Texas, Nevada, Arkansas, and Oklahoma have the lowest surgeon density (below 8 per 100,000 population).
- 3) The average age of practicing orthopaedists is 56.5 years. The AAOS membership is made up of 92.2% male and 5.8% female (2.0% did not indicate their gender).
- 4) The primary reported race was Caucasian (85.9 %), followed by Asian (6.1%).
- 5) The orthopaedic workforce is made up of 89.9% employed full-time, and 10.1% part-time.
- 6) The largest proportion of respondents practice in *Private Practice – orthopaedic group setting* (36%, +/- 1.27), with an additional 17% (+/- 1.01) in *Hospital/Medical Center* and 14% (+/- .91) in *Academic Practice (salary from institution)*.
- 7) Sixty percent (+/-1.67) of respondents are specialists, 25% (+/-2.29) are general orthopaedic surgeons with specialty interest, and 15% (+/-2.44) are generalists.
- 8) The three most-frequently cited areas of practice are sports medicine (18.2%), total joint (14.4%), and hand (11.6%).
- 9) Overall, orthopaedists perform an average of 30 procedures per month, with full-time orthopaedists performing 32 procedures per month, and part-timers performing 7 procedures per month.

## II. INTRODUCTION

This Orthopaedic Practice in the US (OPUS) report is 17th in a series produced by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) to focus on the orthopaedic workforce and practice characteristics in the United States. Information in this report is based on the most recent orthopaedic physician census of 30,141 orthopaedists on record with the AAOS.

## III. METHODOLOGY

The 2018 AAOS Orthopaedic Physician Census was administered as an online survey. On January 22, 2018, email invitations were sent to AAOS fellow/member orthopaedic surgeons in the United States, its territories, and the United States Military overseas.

To help increase participation, a series of monthly reminder notices were sent to non-respondents. Surgeons without valid email addresses were mailed the survey and asked to complete it.

By July 8th, a total of 7,029 AAOS fellows/members had responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 23.3%. After examining the data and excluding those who had only partially completed the survey, a total of 6,775 respondents remained for analysis and inclusion.

Response rate by member group is shown below.

	Invited to answer the 2018 Census	Responded to the 2018 Census	Response Rate %
(3) Candidate Member Practitioner	1,828	531	29.0
(4) Candidate Member Prac Appl for Fellowship	26	15	57.7
(5) Applicant for Fellowship	2	1	50.0
(6) Other NONMEMBER Practitioner	3,803	334	8.8
(7) Active Fellow	18,323	4,330	23.6
(7AO) Associate Member Orthopaedic	92	32	34.8
(7DO) Associate Member Osteopathic	549	95	17.3
(8) Emeritus Fellow	5,518	1,437	26.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,141</b>	<b>6,775</b>	<b>22.5</b>

When respondents skipped over certain questions, it was possible to infer the response based on their answer to other questions. For example, if the orthopaedic surgeon indicated a retirement age but failed to mark “retired” on the data collection form, their work status of “retired” was inferred.

Age is backfilled from known date of birth information in AAOS records.

The questionnaire used in the 2018 AAOS Orthopaedic Physician Census can be found in Appendix A.