

# Every Picture Tells a Story: What Physicians Are Thinking



By *Chuck Dinerstein, MD, MBA* — November 18, 2020

*Medscape is a website focused on those working in healthcare. They recently ran a survey on some ethical dilemmas facing physicians.*

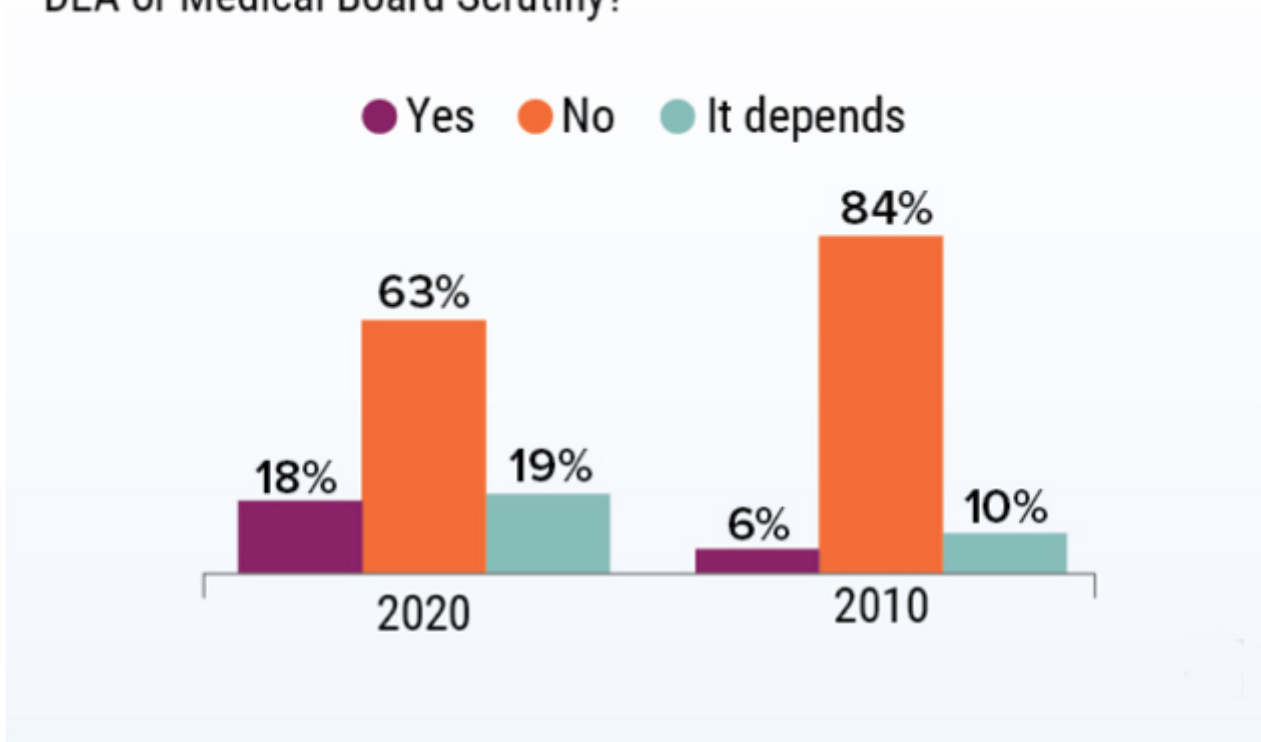


Image courtesy of Ina Hoekstra on Pixabay [1]

It was an online survey of about 5130 physicians conducted in the last few months. Roughly 2/3<sup>rd</sup> male, and roughly a third 65 or older, a third between 50 and 65, and the remaining third younger than 50. About 25% were primary care providers, the remainder various specialties. Here are a few of their findings.

On the subject of pain management:

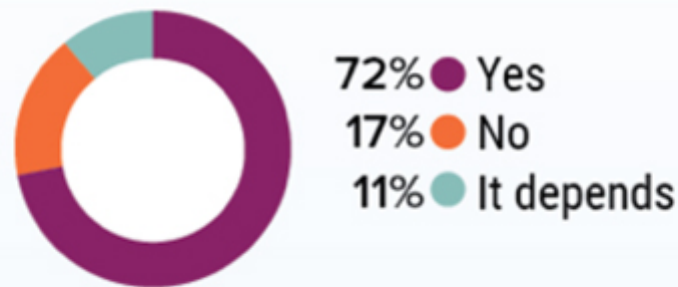
## Would You Undertreat a Patient's Pain for Fear of Addiction or DEA or Medical Board Scrutiny?



Primary care physicians (24%) fear the consequences of giving what they consider adequate pain medicine more than do specialists (17%). Ten years ago, we asked the question somewhat differently: Would you undertreat a patient's pain because of fear of repercussions or the patient becoming addicted? Respondents this year talked about investigations and reprimands by medical boards, and how much they wanted to avoid that.

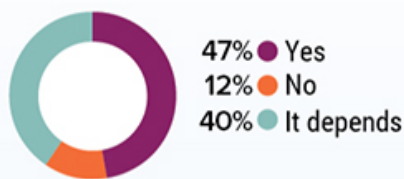
The push is on for flu shots, after all, we do not want a “twindemic” of COVID-19 and seasonal flu. Survey shows that some physicians still believe patients should do what we say, not what we do.

## Should Physicians Be Required to Get an Annual Flu Shot? (Non-COVID-19)

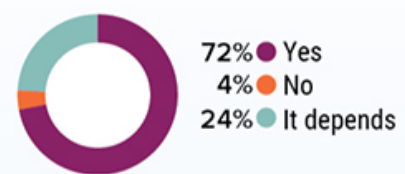


Finally, how woke are physicians? Seems we got and are getting the message about bullying and sexual harassment, not so much on racism.

If You Witnessed a Physician Making a Racist Remark, Would You Report Him or Her?



Would You Report a Physician Whom You Witnessed Bullying or Sexually Harassing Another Clinician?



Source: [Life, Death, and Painful Dilemmas: Ethics 2020](#) [2] MedScape

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**Links**

[1] <https://pixabay.com/photos/dog-puppy-canine-friend-5723334/>

[2] <https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2020-ethics-report-life-death-6013311>