



THE OFFICIAL NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

AAP News

Pandemic shines light on global inequities faced by women in health care

by Trisha Koriath, Staff Writer

As women in health systems around the world respond to the pandemic, the need to address the burdens of inequity have become evident, Roopa Dhatt, M.D., co-founder and executive director of Women in Global Health, told attendees at the AAP Virtual National Conference & Exhibition.

"We know that global health is delivered by women, but it's led by men, and the implications of this are being seen in the pandemic and the pandemic response," Dr. Dhatt said. "There's a complete imbalance in who's providing care and who's making decisions."

Women also face a "pervasive reality that's affecting health systems around the world," she said. "Women are underpaid and unpaid." The pandemic has exacerbated this, especially among the poorest women in health care in low-resource areas.

"The pandemic has really brought to bear the multiple roles the women play in both their professional and personal lives as they work while caring for families and homeschooling children. The research tells us that as we improve equity for women, we improve the health of their children," said Beena Kamath-Rayne, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP, vice president, AAP Global Newborn and Child Health.

Early- to midcareer female pediatricians earn less than male pediatricians, even after adjusting for labor force, physician-specific job and work-family characteristics, according to **2016 findings** from a AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study (<https://bit.ly/38bhqUZ>). Women are an increasing proportion of pediatricians but make less and do more child care work at home.



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