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## **Recent Survey Shows Primary Care Practices are Overwhelmed, with 1 in 4 Physicians Planning to Leave within the Next Three Years**

***At two-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic, primary care clinician burnout at highest reported, with lower resiliency***

**WASHINGTON (April 5, 2022)** – The Larry A. Green Center, in collaboration with the Primary Care Collaborative (PCC), today released new data showing that 25% of primary care physicians plan to leave the field within the next three years. In fact, the same survey revealed 62% of primary care physicians have personal knowledge of clinicians who retired early or quit during the pandemic.

This data comes at a critical time when primary care clinicians are working on the front lines of preventive medicine, yet no official database exists to track the number of active primary care practices or clinicians in the U.S., and 36% of primary care physicians report burnout level at all-time high. Nearly half of respondents (46%) believe that primary care is crumbling, and more than half (53%) report that their ability to bounce back from or adjust to adversity has become limited – increasing from 29% a year ago.

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, primary care physicians are overwhelmed with patient needs and are seeing more unresolved or exacerbated health concerns from delayed access to care – resulting in longer than usual patient visits.

“Primary care disciplines are a crucial component of our health system, yet these practices receive an extremely small amount of federal funding and we have no national tracking system for oversight and to identify support needed,” said Rebecca Etz, PhD, co-director of The Larry A. Green Center. “Since the onset of the pandemic, primary care clinicians have faced PPE and supply shortages, more COVID-19 health risk than any other specialty, and the huge challenge of moving from in-person visits to telehealth within the span of three weeks. It is time to reduce stress on clinicians, as well as stabilize and strengthen the primary care system overall, through formal federal support that includes adequate funding.”

Since May 2020, the Larry A. Green Center has collected data from primary care clinicians indicating drastic staffing cuts, closures, and other financial setbacks that could be alleviated with policy changes that better realize the potential for primary care as an essential function of our health care system. The latest data shows that primary care continues to operate in crisis, with understaffed practices seeing an influx of new patients as other practices close. Practices are also struggling financially, with nearly one-third (32%) reporting having current billing either denied or well overdue from insurers or health plans.

The survey of clinicians was fielded from February 25 to March 1, 2022 and received 847 responses from clinicians in 49 states and Washington, D.C. Respondents were made up of: 63% who identified their practice as family medicine, 11% as internal medicine, 5% as pediatrics, 3% as geriatrics, and 4% as other.

More information about the survey [here](#).

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#### **About The Larry A. Green Center:**

The Larry A. Green Center for the Advancement of Primary Health Care for the Public Good is a thought collective founded by Rebecca Etz, PhD at Virginia Commonwealth University and Kurt Stange, MD, PhD at Case Western Reserve University. The Green Center works to reclaim and reconstitute the intellectual foundations of primary care, to advance the science of medicine learned and practiced within layered and competing social frameworks of meaning, and to deliver on a now 50 year old promise: better health and improved health care through a synergistic focus on both humanism and healing. We are nimble, inquisitive, curious, and open. We make personal doctoring and innovation visible.

#### **About Primary Care Collaborative:**

Founded in 2006, [Primary Care Collaborative](#) (PCC), formerly known as Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative, is a nonprofit multi-stakeholder membership organization dedicated to advancing an effective and efficient health system built on a strong foundation of primary care and the patient-centered medical home. Representing a broad group of public and private organizations, PCC's mission is to unify and engage diverse stakeholders in promoting policies and sharing best practices that support growth of high-performing primary care and achieve the "Quadruple Aim:" better care, better health, lower costs, and greater joy for clinicians and staff in delivery of care.