

## Industry Payments to Orthopaedic Surgery RPDs and RPCs

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**INTRODUCTION:** The Physician Payments Sunshine Act was adopted as part of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 to address the relationships between physicians and the medical industry. We aim to identify the prevalence of industry payments to orthopaedic surgery Residency Program Directors (RPDs) and Residency Program Chairs (RPCs).

**METHODS:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Open Payments Database was queried to identify all payments made to orthopaedic surgery RPDs and RPCs from the years 2017 to 2023. Residency program directors and residency program chairman of orthopaedic residency programs were identified using the Fellowship and Residency Electronic Interactive Database provided by the American Medical Association.

**RESULTS:** A total of 209 RPDs and 169 RPCs were included in the study of 209 orthopaedic surgery residency programs. There were 41,465 payments totaling \$126.3 million over the study period. Smith & Nephew Inc. (26%) and Stryker Co. (21.6%) highly supported RPDs and RPCs. Males (91.1%) and Doctor of Medicine degree holders (MD) (88.9%) received the most industry funding. The majority of payments were for Food and Beverage for RPDs (60.7%) and RPCs (47.5%). There was an observed increase in compound annual growth rate for RPDs (7.4%) and RPCs (5.6%) during our study period. Trauma and Sports fellowship trained program directors and chairman received the highest amount of industry funding, with the majority of payments being less than \$1000 for RPDs (86.2%) and RPCs (76.3%).

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:

Industry payments to orthopaedic leaders are increasing, impacting training and policy.

