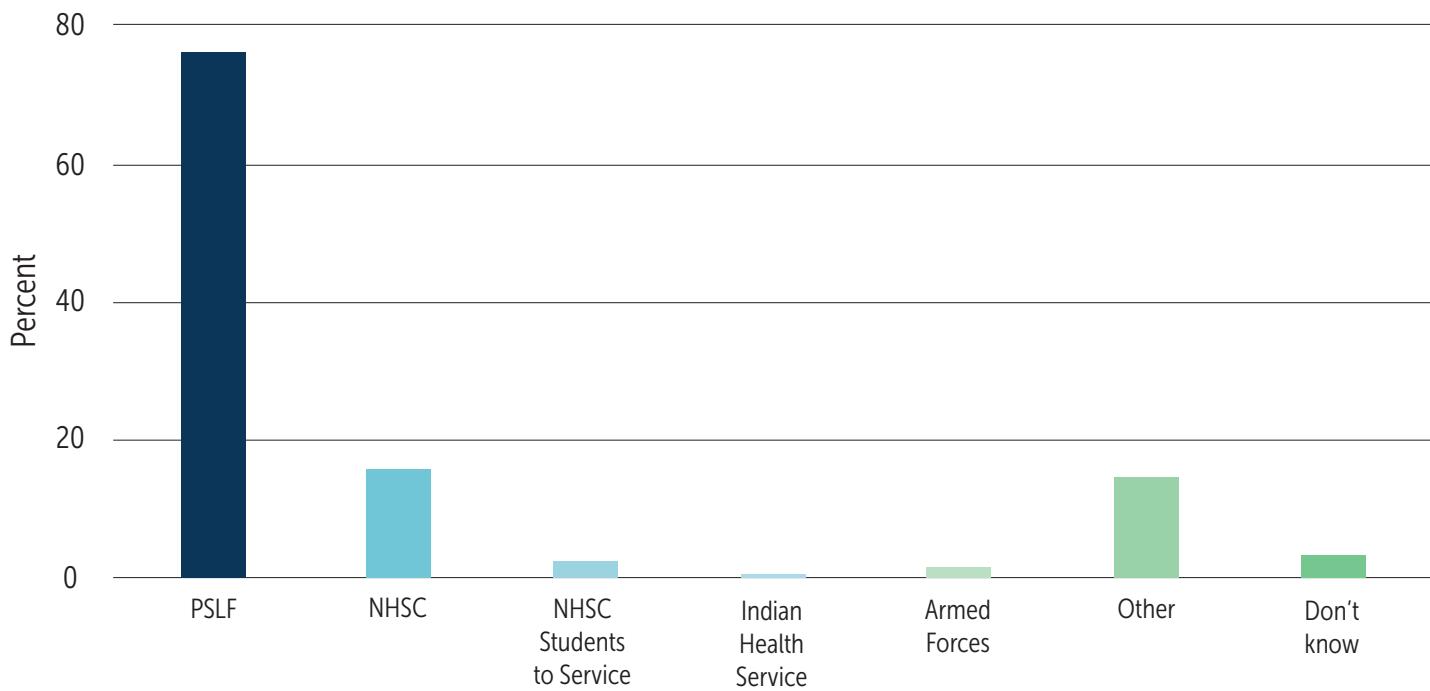


The average student loan debt for medical school graduates is between \$200,000 and \$250,000. Research has shown that repayment programs directly impact physicians' choices about whether to pursue a career in primary care, as well as the geographic and demographic areas in which they choose to practice.

Family Physicians and Loan Repayment Programs

In a recent survey to our members, over 68 percent of respondents reported participation in a loan repayment program. Of those respondents, 75 percent utilize the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. Narratives from our members illustrated that PSLF is especially important for residents and new family physician recruitment in rural and underserved areas. Without PSLF, many respondents reported that they would be forced to leave public service for the private sector, leaving critical health needs unmet. Even more compelling are member stories of returning to practice in their rural hometowns — choosing public service careers they love — because PSLF made it possible.

Utilization of PSLF, NHSC, Armed Services, Other



Congress and the Administration must do all it can to protect and expand the PSLF program, to strengthen the primary care workforce, and create increased access to care.