

Pediatrician

The family doctor for children, from newborn checkups to teenagers. Eleven years of training, and the lowest pay of any doctor on this list.

TYPICAL PAY

\$210,040

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$91k to \$339k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

11 to 12 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Private practices, group clinics, children's hospitals, community h...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Biology, chemistry and physics, with the grades to get into a college where you can hold a high grade point average.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Any major, as long as you finish the pre-medical science courses and sit the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).
- 3 Medical school** 4 years
Two years of classroom science, two years of hospital rotations, ending in a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO).
- 4 Pediatrics residency** 3 years
Three years across clinic, inpatient wards, newborn nursery, intensive care and the emergency department. Paid, supervised, increasingly independent.
- 5 License and board certification** During and after residency
A state medical license to practice, then the American Board of Pediatrics certifying exam.

Pros and cons

- + A 3-year residency, the shortest route to being a fully trained doctor
- + Long relationships with families, sometimes across decades
- + Most patients get better, which is not true of every specialty
- Around \$200,000 of debt against the lowest physician pay
- The federal outlook is below average growth
- Unpaid paperwork, forms and phone calls eat into evenings

Good to know

The academy has about 67,000 members

The American Academy of Pediatrics represents roughly 67,000 pediatricians, which makes it one of the largest medical specialty organizations in the country and an unusually loud one in public policy.

Doses are measured per kilogram

Almost every drug a pediatrician prescribes is calculated from the child's weight, and the same medicine can be a tenfold different dose between a newborn and a teenager. The arithmetic has to be right ev...

Optional boosts

Neonatology. Pediatric cardiology. Pediatric emergency medicine. Developmental and behavioral pediatrics.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Pediatricians, General (29-1221.00)
American Academy of Pediatrics
Association of American Medical Colleges
USAJOBS, the federal government's job site

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/pediatrician>



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