



Re: Do Dentists make more money than Doctors in USA?

choose to  
specialize.  
This is the  
reverse of  
dentistry  
here, where  
85% choose  
to remain  
generalists.  
Most  
medical  
and surgical  
specialists  
however  
have  
lengthy  
postgrad  
training  
regimens—probably  
a minimum  
of 3 years  
post–internship.  
There are  
necessarily  
sub–specialties—pediatric  
dermatologists,  
pathologists  
with  
a specialty  
in lung  
cancer,  
etc.—so the  
training can  
get as  
arcane as  
one wishes.  
I don't  
know if  
there are  
specific  
certifying  
boards in all  
of the  
subspecialties  
though.  
The length  
of training  
may tend to  
winnow out  
enough  
candidates

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that  
the few  
making it  
through  
have a  
greater  
ability to  
keep fees  
high. Of  
course, your  
national  
health and  
our  
managed  
care  
severely  
disrupt what  
would be  
the natural  
course of  
affairs if  
there were a  
purely open  
marketplace.  
Certainly,  
compensation  
in  
employment  
has never  
had a  
straight-line  
relationship  
to length  
and  
difficulty in  
training. In  
the past 3  
years,  
my wife's  
income has  
been  
roughly  
twice mine.  
She is a real  
estate  
agent in  
what was a  
superheated  
market  
(now  
precipitously

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cooling  
down).  
Her total  
training for  
her license  
was 13  
weeks of a  
2 hour/week  
course. She  
told me I  
should do  
more  
crowns  
now.

But that's not typical. It's like actors, the average actor earns \$10k a year with a handful at the top making the big money. Same in real estate. But what you earn is only partly connected to the amount of education and skills you have once you're over a certain level. You've seen those statistics about the difference between someone with a college degree compared to someone without and they are correct. But I think that as far as your capacity to make money is concerned someone with a master's would not necessarily make more, or someone with a Ph.d might not earn more than a master's or just a bachelor's. Then you have the exceptions like Bill Gates (and he is not unique) who never even attended University.

No, of course it's not typical--my wife is a star!! ;-)

Steve

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a) Most doctors here (in Australia) would laugh at the concept of 3 years post internship for specialty training being described as "long". Surgical training typically takes 8 years post-internship here in Australia. Of course, you need to add on a few extra years to suck up to the relevant people in hospital so that you are offered a position in one of the preferred specialties in the first place.

I would want to be sure we're not comparing apples and lychee nuts. Typical MDs in the U.S. have graduated with a science degree and in the top 10% of their graduating class. Medical school is typically 4 years, internship 1 year, residency 3–6, maybe more. I'm hardly an expert. But even assuming 3 years, this is 8 years post secondary education, so most of these surgeons are pushing 30 before they open their practice. Many specialties are doubtless longer. But you might more profitably check this in medical forums.

b) 85% of doctors are specialists in USA???  
OMG!!! In Australia, much lower.

c) If a real estate agent in boom times makes twice as much as a typical dentist,

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Nah, I'm just a kept man. But the party is about over.

either american estate agents get much more money than Aussie

ones (unlikely) or American dentists clearly don't make as much as Aussie ones (more likely).

New York is a superheated market. Even in Brooklyn where I live prices have about tripled in the past 10 years. But when an average apartment in a secondary neighborhood in Brooklyn is north of \$500,000, you know things can't go on forever.

Of course they can't. Look at the average incomes then calculate what mortgage a person would qualify for. If you put 20% (100k) down on a \$500k property your mortgage would be \$400k and banks generally give you a mortgage 2.5 x your income. So you would have to be earning \$150k per year and have the \$100k as a down payment. Even in NYC the average family income is about \$70k and there are also many \$10hr workers as well. So how do most people survive there? The answer is that there are about 1m rent controlled apts. which appear to be passed down through families (and sometimes even unrelated people) like family heirlooms lol So that many people are only paying \$300–500 in rent on something that might rent for 10x as much on the open market. Former mayor Ed Koch was paying \$300 for his rent controlled Greenwich Village apt. while living at Gracie mansion. Also, there is a small % of super rich who buy or rent all of these multi million apts. or houses you see advertised in the Times. So while I think the high priced market can't go on forever with prices rising; since this market only effects a small group of people it very well may improve.

A small correction; most of the regulated apartments are "stabilized", not

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"controlled". Rent control has pretty much gone by the boards, though you still hear of the odd 4 BR apartment on the Upper West side of Manhattan renting for \$200. Rent stabilization is another story—I believe every rental with 6 or more units falls under the rent stabilization law. However, many of these fall under vacancy decontrol, and many of these apartments are sold as co-ops when they vacate. I have no idea how many apartments still fall under rent stabilization, but I doubt it's a million.

I have been a tenant, and I live with a woman who has been in apartment management, so I can easily see both sides of this issue and what it's done to the housing market in NY.

One more thing—most banks do not require income verification if a certain percentage of the purchase price is put down (I think it's 20%, but I'm not sure). During the time prices were accelerating quickly this could be a problem as many properties would not appraise for the selling price (this is determined by looking at comparable sales in the neighborhood; prices were rising so quickly that comparable sales even 6 months before were at much lower prices).

Steve

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I am not a dentist, but I do know some, and also know some people who are accountants and do some accounts of dentists. A dentist running their own practice will typically make about 300K profit (before tax). Admittedly that's aussie dollars, so is only \$225K American dollars – but the cost of living is arguably cheaper in Australia (though probably not in Sydney).

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