

## Patient safety in the era of the 80-hour workweek.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/patient-safety-era-80-hour-workweek>

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Regulations intended to reduce resident physicians' work hours have been accompanied by controversy since their introduction in 2003, which mandated an [80-hour workweek](#) for residents. To determine the impact of [duty-hours limits](#) on patient safety, researchers evaluated [Patient Safety Indicators](#) (PSIs) for postoperative discharges in teaching versus non-teaching hospitals before and after the reform. This study found no clear patterns across PSIs following implementation of duty-hour limits. These results mirror [prior studies](#) which have failed to observe an improvement in patient outcomes with reduced resident work hours, suggesting that limiting physician work hours will not be sufficient to augment safety. A previous AHRQ WebM&M [perspective](#) discusses the intersection of graduate medical education and patient safety.