



SUMMARY REPORT

2006 Survey of Temporary Imaging Technologist Staffing Trends

Overview

Med Travelers is a leading national allied healthcare staffing firm specializing in the temporary staffing of diagnostic imaging professionals. These professionals include radiologic technologists, nuclear medicine technologists, computerized tomography (CT) technologists, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technologists, and technologists working in a variety of other diagnostic imaging modalities. Med Travelers also specializes in the temporary placement of physical, occupational, speech and other allied healthcare professionals. Med Travelers is a division of AMN Healthcare, San Diego, the largest health care staffing firm in the United States.

This report marks Med Travelers' fifth survey examining trends in the temporary staffing of diagnostic imaging technologists. The intent of the survey is to provide data regarding the current use of and demand for temporary diagnostic imaging technologists in multiple modalities. The survey examines trends and opinions among hospital administrators and others who use temporary diagnostic imaging technology services, and trends and opinions among technologists who work on a temporary basis.

Methodology

The 2006 survey is based on telephone interviews conducted with both health care professionals utilizing the services of temporary imaging technologists and telephone surveys of temporary imaging technologists working on a temporary basis. In addition, the survey includes data regarding the temporary search assignments that Med Travelers conducted in calendar year 2006.

The survey is divided into three parts.

Part I of the survey examines trends among the users of temporary imaging technologist services – why they use temporary technologists, how they view the skill levels of temporary technologists and related topics.

Part II examines how temporary or “traveling” diagnostic imaging technologists view working on a temporary basis, why they choose to work as travelers, and related issues.

Part III is a review of the temporary diagnostic imaging technologist assignments Med Travelers conducted in calendar year 2006, showing which modalities are in the greatest demand and fill rates by modality.

PART I – SURVEY OF EMPLOYERS USING TEMPORARY IMAGING TECHNOLOGISTS

Part I of Med Travelers' 2006 Survey of Temporary Imaging Technologist Staffing Trends includes responses to telephone interviews conducted with the users and/or purchasers of temporary imaging technologist services. The majority of those interviewed were hospital imaging department managers.

When Telephone Interviews Were Conducted

August and September, 2006

Number of Surveys Completed

227

QUESTIONS ASKED AND RESPONSES RECEIVED

1. Have you used temporary ("traveling") diagnostic imaging technologists to supplement your existing staff any time during the last 12 months?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Yes	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A
No	20%			

2. Are you currently looking for temporary ("traveling") diagnostic imaging technologists to supplement your existing staff?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Yes	12%	25%	N/A	N/A
No	78%	75%	N/A	N/A

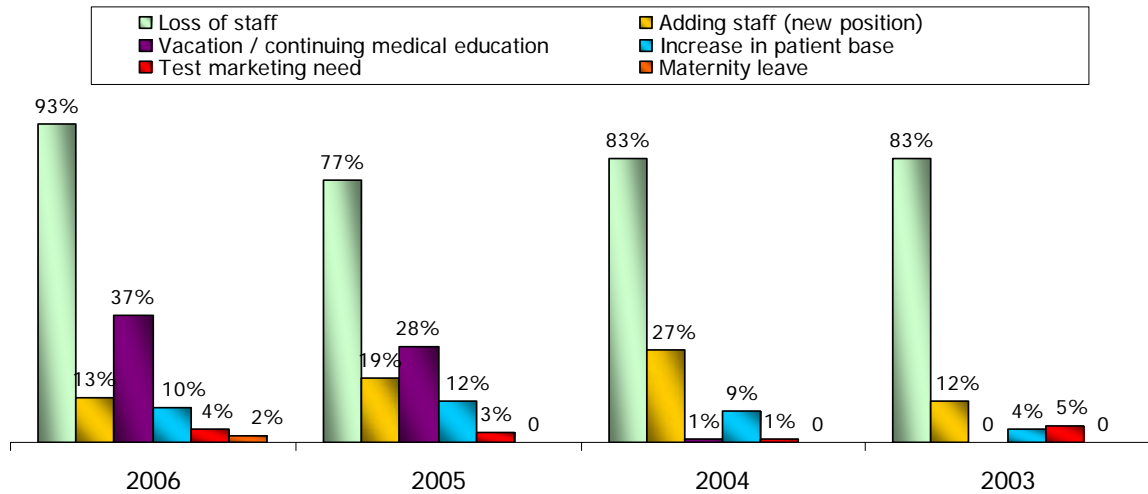
3. How difficult is it to find temporary imaging technologist coverage compared to last year?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Less difficult	31%	25%	N/A	N/A
More difficult	26%	16%	N/A	N/A
The same	43%	59%	N/A	N/A

4. In a typical month, how many temporary imaging technologists do you use?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
None	44%	N/A	N/A	N/A
1-3	46%	93%	93%	N/A
4-6	6%	4%	7%	N/A
7 or more	4%	1%	N/A	N/A

5. Why do you or would you typically use a temporary imaging technologist? (please select any of the following that apply)



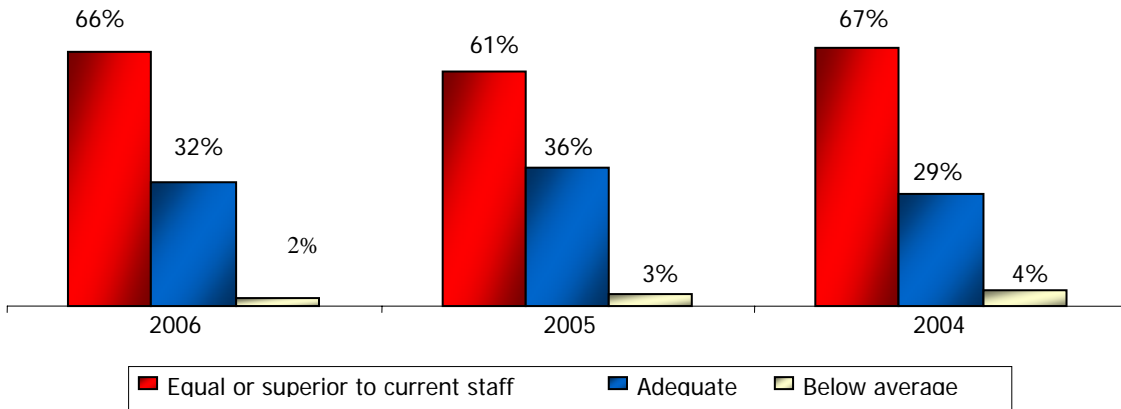
6. What are the benefits of using temporary imaging technologists? (please select any that apply)

	2006	2005	2004	2003
No lost revenue	36%	42%	39%	29%
Immediate availability	46%	42%	46%	29%
Allows continual treatment of patients	73%	67%	71%	56%
Prevents existing staff burnout	69%	30%	43%	42%
Cost	3%	3%	N/A	N/A
Other	5%	10%	10%	10%

7. What are the drawbacks of using temporary imaging technologists? (please select any that apply)

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Cost	88%	82%	88%	79%
Familiarity to department/practice	40%	31%	13%	16%
Learning equipment/procedures	25%	26%	25%	12%
Other	3%	18%	8%	3%

8. What is your perception of the skill level of temporary technologists?



*2003 N/A

9. How are temporary imaging technologists viewed by their colleagues at your facility or practice?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Accepted	66%	82%	78%	64%
Not accepted	2%	1%	22%	36%
Tolerated	32%	17%	N/A	N/A

10. How are temporary imaging technologists viewed by administrators at your facility or practice?

	2006	2005	2005	2003
Accepted	62%	70%	N/A	N/A
Not accepted	1%	6%	N/A	N/A
Tolerated	35%	23%	N/A	N/A
Unsure	1%	N/A	N/A	N/A

11. How are temporary imaging technologists viewed by physicians at your facility or practice?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Accepted	61%	82%	86%	80%
Not accepted	1%	1%	14%	20%
Tolerated	34%	17%	N/A	N/A
Unsure	4%	N/A	N/A	N/A

12. How are temporary imaging technologists viewed by patients at your facility or practice?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Accepted	93%	94%	93%	98%
Not accepted	1%	2%	7%	2%
Tolerated	6%	4%	N/A	N/A
Tolerated	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A

13. When conducting a search for temporary imaging technologists, how many search firms do you generally work with?

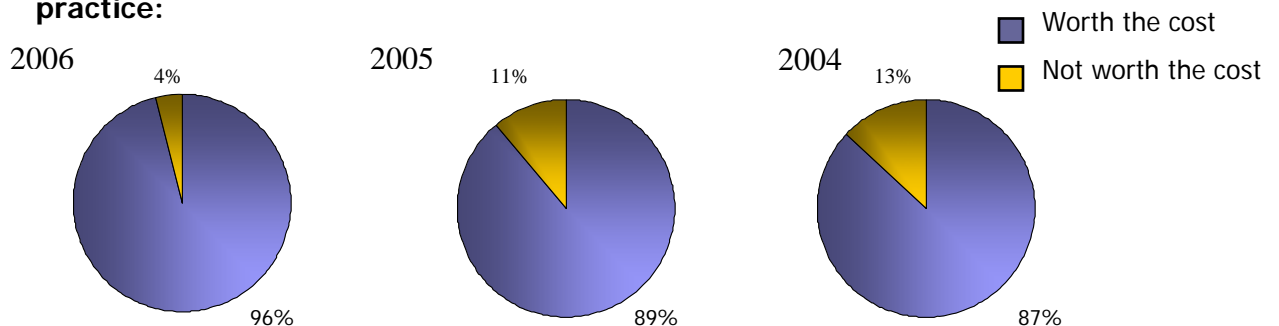
	2006	2005	2004	2003
None	4%	8%	6%	3%
One	33%	20%	20%	16%
2-3	51%	56%	60%	59%
4 or more	12%	16%	14%	22%

14. What are the two most important factor in selecting a firm?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Quality of candidate	75%	44%	54%	62%
Cost	57%	11%	59%	44%
Availability of candidate/promptness	52%	18%	30%	44%
Customer service	8%	11%	20%	23%
Malpractice insurance	0	0%	N/A	N/A
Contract flexibility	5%	2%	10%	3%
Other	0%	14%	2%	4%

**Multiple responses possible in 2003, 2002, 2001*

15. Is the value of a temporary imaging technologist to your department or practice:



*2003 N/A

16. Compared to your staff technologists, temporary imaging technologists:

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Take more studies per day	10%	5%	N/A	N/A
Take fewer studies per day	14%	15%	N/A	N/A
Take the same number of studies per day	76%	80%	N/A	N/A

Part I – Trends and Observations

Part I of the 2006 Survey of Temporary Imaging Technologist Staff Trends underscores current demand for temporary diagnostic imaging technologists as indicated by hospital imaging department managers. It also suggests how hospital imaging department managers view the skills and of temporary imaging technologists and their value to the imaging department

The majority of imaging department managers surveyed (80%) indicated that they had used temporary diagnostic imaging technologists at some time during the last 12 months, suggesting that the use of "traveling" technologists is at least a yearly practice at most hospitals. Twenty-two percent of imaging department managers surveyed indicated they are currently looking for temporary diagnostic imaging technologists, compared to 25% in 2005. Based on this two-year trend, the survey suggests that approximately one in four to one in five hospitals is seeking temporary diagnostic imaging technologists at any given time.

Forty-four percent of those surveyed indicated that in a "typical month" they do not use a temporary imaging technologist, while 46% said they use one to three temporary imaging technologists in a typical month. The remaining ten percent use four or more temporary imaging technologists in a typical month. For a majority of hospitals (56%) the use of temporary imaging technologists appears to be a regularly, monthly practice, while for the remaining 44% it is not a common practice.

Imaging department heads provided a somewhat mixed response when asked to compare how difficult it was to find temporary technologists this year compared to last year. Thirty-one percent of those surveyed indicated that it was less difficult to find temporary technologists this year, while 26% indicated it was more difficult. Forty-three percent indicated that the degree of difficulty did not change. These responses suggest that the shortage of imaging technologists has eased somewhat for about one-third of facilities but has become worse for just over one-fourth of facilities. For the majority (69%) finding temporary imaging technologists has either become more difficult since last year or the degree of difficulty has not changed.

When asked to indicate why they use temporary technologists, the majority of those surveyed (93%) cited "loss of staff" as a reason. This response reflects a high level of turnover within the imaging technology field. With multiple job opportunities available, imaging technologists are generally able to relocate without much difficulty. More technologists working on a permanent basis may be shifting to working on a temporary basis, leading to further loss of staff. In addition to reacting to loss of staff, 37% of imaging department heads indicated they use temporary technologists to provide coverage while permanent staff is on vacation/CME.

The majority of those surveyed (73%) indicated that one of the benefits of using temporary technologists is they allow for the continual treatment of patients, while 69% said they prevent burn-out of existing staff. Other benefits cited included the prevention of lost revenue (36%) and the immediate availability of temporary staff (46%).

When asked about the drawbacks of using temporary technologists, 88% of clients cited "cost." However, the majority of those surveyed (96%) indicated that temporary providers are "worth the cost," compared to 89% last year and 87% the year before that.

The survey indicates that temporary technologists are generally accepted by colleagues, physicians, administrators and patients at their temporary assignments. In addition, the majority of those surveyed (66%) indicated that the skill level of temporary technologists is "equal or superior to" their current staff, compared to 61% last year. Thirty-two percent described the skill level of temporary technologists as "adequate," while two percent described their skill level as "below average."

PART II – SURVEY OF TEMPORARY DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING TECHNOLOGISTS

Part II of Med Travelers' 2006 Survey of Diagnostic Imaging Technology Staffing Trends includes responses to telephone interviews conducted with technologists who work on a temporary or "traveling" basis.

When Telephone Surveys Were Conducted

February 1 through April 30, 2006, and August through September, 2006

Number of Surveys Conducted

210

1. Years of Diagnostic Imaging Technologist Experience:

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Less than 1 year	<1%	4%	3%	3%
1-5 years	22%	26%	23%	23%
6-10 years	23%	28%	27%	28%
11-20 years	30%	22%	23%	26%
21 or more years	25%	20%	24%	20%
10 or fewer years	45%	58%	53%	54%
11 or more years	55%	42%	47%	46%

2. How long have you worked as a traveler?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Less than 1 year	21%	12%	13%	39%
1-3 years	24%	54%	56%	42%
More than 3 years	55%	34%	31%	19%

3. How long do you intend to work as a traveler?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Until finding a permanent position	9%	4%	9%	4%
Less than 1 year	4%	4%	5%	2%
1-3 years	34%	36%	40%	36%
More than 3 years	53%	56%	46%	58%

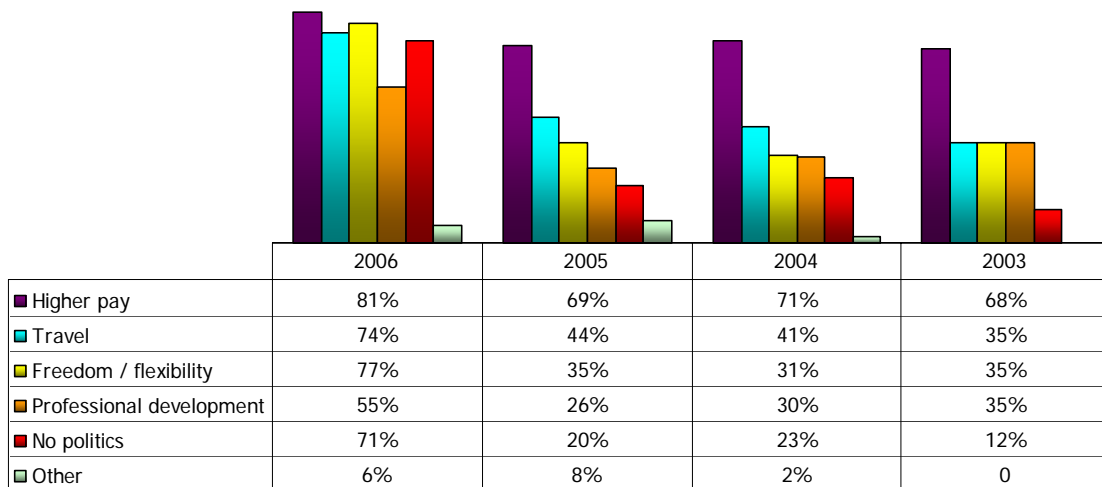
4. Are you currently in a permanent position?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Yes	16%	4%	5%	5%
No	84%	96%	95%	95%

5. Are you currently looking for a permanent position?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Yes	18%	4%	12%	6%
No	82%	96%	88%	94%

6. What are the benefits of working as a traveler? (please select any of the following that apply)



7. What are the drawbacks of working as a traveler? (please select any of the following that apply)



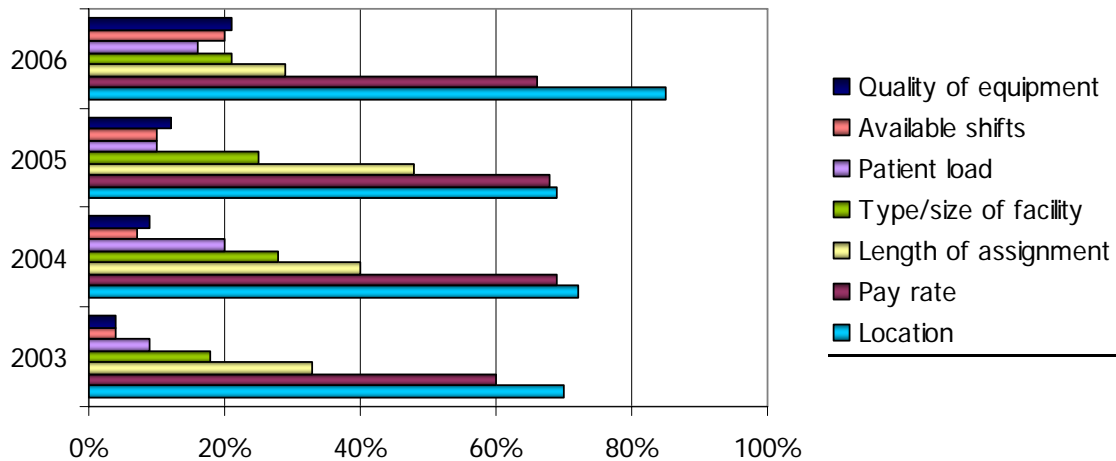
8. How many firms do you work with?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
None	0%	2%	3%	3%
1	18%	23%	14%	16%
2-3	38%	45%	42%	57%
4 or more	45%	30%	41%	24%

9. How do you select a firm? (please select any of the following that apply)

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Number of opportunities	39%	56%	59%	57%
Location of opportunities	55%	58%	57%	51%
Pay rates	56%	58%	56%	54%
Good service	51%	58%	55%	56%
Reputation	34%	49%	43%	38%
Malpractice	5%	11%	11%	4%
Other	11%	10%	11%	4%

10. How do you select an opportunity? (please select all of the following that apply).



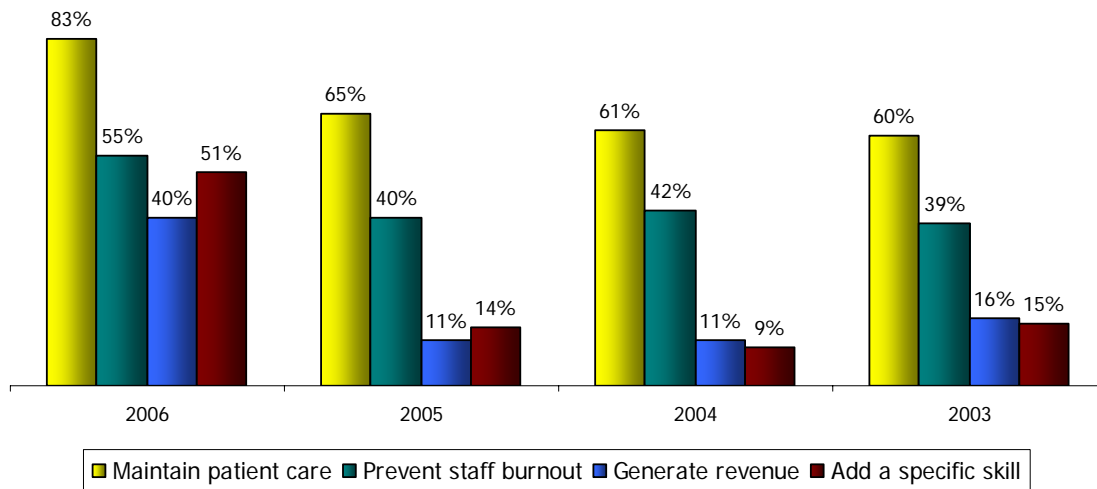
11. How far are you willing to travel?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Nationwide	67%	78%	77%	72%
Specific regions only	14%	10%	11%	6%
Home region only	14%	8%	9%	17%
Home state only	5%	4%	3%	5%

12. As a traveler, are you:

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Accepted by colleagues	96%	94%	93%	92%
Not accepted/tolerated	4%	6%	7%	8%
Accepted by physicians	95%	96%	96%	94%
Not accepted/tolerated	5%	4%	4%	6%
Accepted by patients	99%	98%	98%	99%
Not accepted/tolerated	1%	2%	2%	1%

13. What value do you bring to a hiring facility? (please select any that apply)



14. Have you ever worked in a permanent position?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Yes	96%	N/A	N/A	N/A
No	4%	N/A	N/A	N/A

15. If yes, how would you rate working as a traveler versus working in a permanent position?

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Working as a traveler is less satisfying	4%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Working as a traveler is more satisfying	67%	N/A	N/A	N/A
They are equally satisfying	29%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Part II – Trends and Observations

Part II of the Survey Temporary Imaging Technologist Staffing Trends underscores several characteristics of diagnostic imaging technologists working on a temporary basis.

Temporary or traveling technologists surveyed do not fit into any one category in terms of their years of work experience. Of those surveyed, 22% have one to five years of technologist experience, 23% have 6-10 years, 30% have 11-20 years, and 25% have 21 or more years of experience. The Survey therefore suggests that technologists with a variety of different experience levels of professional experience are attracted to temporary practice.

The majority of those surveyed (55%) have more than three years of experience working as travelers, indicating that many travelers stick with temporary practice once they have tried it. The survey also suggests that traveling is maturing as a practice style. In the 2005 survey, only 34% of technologists interviewed had more than three years of "travel" experience, compared to 31% in 2004 and 19% in 2003. Twenty-four percent of travelers surveyed have one to three years of "travel" experience, while 21% have less than one year. The survey reflects the fact that the traveling field may be maturing, a significant number of travelers are still fairly new to temporary practice.

The majority of those surveyed (53%) indicated that they intend to keep working as travelers for more than three years, suggesting that a significant number of technologists have made traveling their permanent mode of practice. Only four percent indicated that intend to work as travelers for less than one year while 9% indicating they are working as travelers until they find a permanent position.

Sixteen percent of travelers surveyed indicated they currently are in a permanent position, up from 4% last year and 5% in 2004. The Survey suggests that a growing number of travelers are "moonlighting" from permanent jobs, though the majority (84%) are only working as travelers.

When asked about the benefits of working as travelers, 81% of those surveyed identified "higher pay" as a benefit. "Travel" was cited as a benefit by 74%, "freedom/flexibility," by 77%, "no politics" by 71%, and "professional development" by 55%.

Travelers must balance the lure of higher pay and the freedom of the road against the drawbacks of working temporary assignments. The majority of those surveyed (59%) cited being "away from home" as a drawback of traveling, 56% cited the "uncertainty of assignments," and 30% cited the "quality of assignments" as a drawback.

The great majority of travelers surveyed (96%) have worked in a permanent position. When asked to compare permanent work with traveling, four percent of these technologists indicated that permanent work is "less satisfying" than traveling. However, the majority (67%) said traveling is "more satisfying" than permanent work. Twenty-nine percent said than permanent work and traveling are "equally satisfying."

In finding temporary search assignments, many travelers work with multiple temporary staffing agencies. Forty-five percent of those surveyed use four or more staffing agencies to find temporary assignments, while 38% use two to three. Only 18% use one staffing firm, though all travelers surveyed use at least one. When asked how they select a staffing firm, 56% said "pay rates," while 55% said "location of opportunities." "Good service" was cited as a factor by 51%, while 39% said "number of opportunities."

How asked how they select a temporary opportunity, over 80% of travelers surveyed cited the location of the opportunity, 63% cited pay rate and 25% cited the length of the assignment. The majority (67%) do not feel tied to any one geographic area and indicated they are willing to travel nationwide.

The great majority of travelers surveyed (95% or more) indicated they are accepted by colleagues, physicians and patients at their traveling assignments.

PART III

Part III of the 2006 Survey of Temporary Diagnostic Imaging Technologist Staffing Trends includes a review of the temporary technologist staffing assignments Med Travelers conducted in calendar year 2006.

The type of staffing assignments Med Travelers receives from clients is one indicator of the relative demand for imaging technologists working in various modalities. Listed below are the staffing assignments Med Travelers received in 2006 by modality, with comparisons to previous years. Also listed below are the assignment "fill rates" Med Travelers achieved by modality.

Modalities of Staffing Assignments by Days Required

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Radiologic technologist	13%	19%	21%	29%
Nuclear medicine technologist	6%	16%	20%	19%
Ultrasound/vascular technologist	22%	16%	11%	11%
Ultrasound sonographer	10%	9%	10%	6%
MRI technologist	7%	10%	6%	7%
Echo cardiographer	10%	10%	5%	3%
Interventional technologist	19%	10%	4%	1%
CT technologist	10%	7%	8%	16%
Mammographer	3%	3%	9%	4%

Fill Rate by Modality

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Mammographer	79 %	80%	89%	75%
Echo cardiographer	71%	67%	84%	72%
MRI technologist	74%	72%	83%	71%
Nuclear medicine technologist	78%	74%	78%	65%
Radiologist technologist	81%	75%	86%	62%
CT technologist	75%	73%	67%	58%
Ultrasound technologist	76%	73%	77%	48%
Ultrasound/vascular technologist	79%	76%	70%	45%
Interventional technologist	77%	71%	68%	38%

Part III -- Trends and Observations

Part III of the Survey suggests the current demand for temporary imaging technologists by modality, as reflected by the type of staffing assignments Med Travelers conducted in 2006. In an ongoing trend, the 2006 Survey indicates that the demand for radiologic technologists (RTs) continues to drop relative to other imaging modalities. Indeed, for the first time since Med Travelers has been tracking these numbers, RTs were not our most requested diagnostic imaging modality.

Whereas 29% of Med Travelers' staffing assignments were for RTs in 2003, only 13% of our assignments were for RT's in 2006. By contrast, demand for modalities such as ultrasound/vascular technology and interventional technology increased significantly since 2003. In 2003, ultrasound/vascular represented 11% of Med Travelers' temporary staffing days requested. In 2006, that number doubled to 22%. In 2003, interventional represented just 1% of Med Travelers' days requested. In 2006, that number increased to 19%.

We attribute this growth to the rising incidence of heart and vascular disease in the United States, much of it related to the increased incidence of diabetes.

By contrast, demand for nuclear medicine technologists decreased in 2006 relative to previous years based on the emergence of technology improvements in CT and MRI. In 2003, nuclear medicine represented 19% of Med Travelers' days requested. In 2006, it represented just 6%.

In general, Med Traveler's 2006 staffing assignments reflect the growing use of a broad range of imaging modalities with an increasing number of applications beyond that of standard x-rays. It should be noted, however, that RTs still represent Med Travelers' third most requested imaging modality. The use of plain film (x-rays) is still widely prevalent, but it has been supplemented by a growing number of imaging modalities that are being used with increasing frequency.

Med Travelers' fill rates by specialty assignment (i.e., the percentage of assignments for which temporary technologists were found) were generally higher in 2006 than in 2005 (with the exception of mammography, where the fill rate declined slightly.) The most challenging modality to fill in 2006 was echo cardiographer, with a fill rate of 71%. By contrast, Med Travelers' experienced its highest fill rate (81%) in RT, suggesting that supply for temporary staffing days in RT is in relative balance with demand.

When compared to 2003, Med Travelers' fill rates in modalities such as ultrasound/vascular, interventional, CT, RT, and nuclear are considerably higher in 2006. This reflects both internal improvements in Med Travelers staffing process, and changes in the market.

For additional information about this survey or about Med Travelers, please contact:



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