

BACKGROUND

The Physician Payment Sunshine Act (PPSA) was recently implemented to provide transparency regarding the financial transactions between industry and physicians.

Under this law, the Open Payments Program (OPP) was created to publicly disclose all transactions and inform patients of potential conflicts-of-interest (COI). Awareness of the OPP is crucial for hand surgeons, as its interpretation or misinterpretation can potentially affect trust between patients and hand surgeons.

The goals of this study were to comprehensively evaluate non-research payments made to hand surgeons by industry and explore whether certain quantitative and qualitative variables affect payment amounts.

METHODS

Study Population

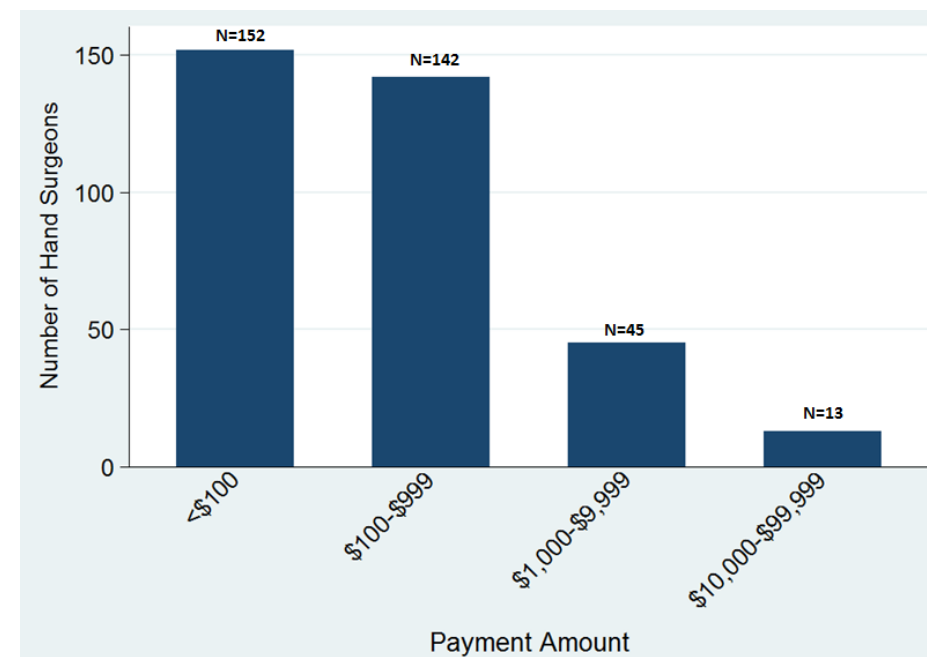
A total of 352 hand surgeons received payments in the OPP from August 01, 2013-December 31, 2013.

Methods

We performed a retrospective cross-sectional review of the first wave of OPP data (August 2013-December 2013) to assess industry payments made to hand surgeons, and characterized these payments by several variables including subspecialty, payment type and origin, practice setting (private vs academic), and geographic distribution (US state).

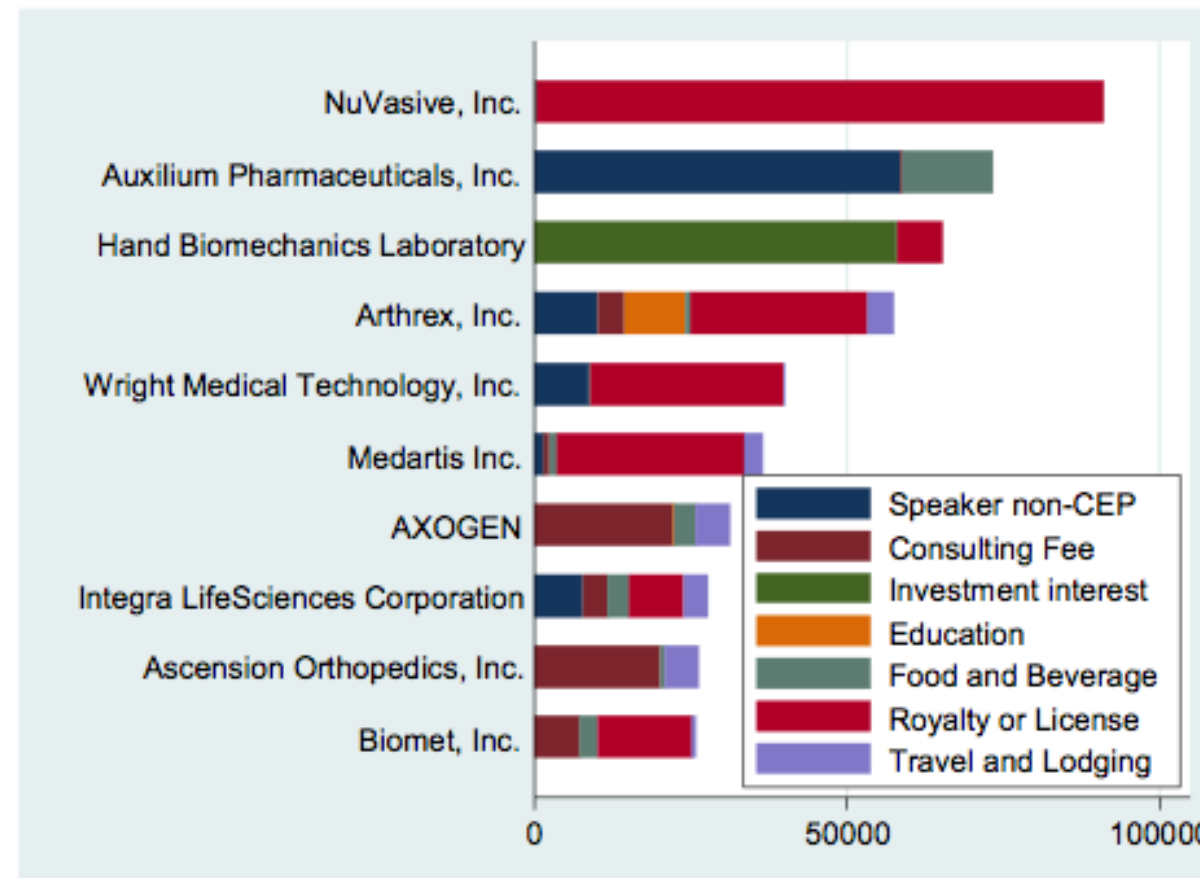
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Figure 1: Distribution of Industry Payments Received by Hand Surgeons



Hand surgeons (N=352) received a total of \$598,705. Among these surgeons, 43% received payments <\$100 and 4% received payments >\$9,999. The median (IQR) was \$127 (\$42-337) and the mean was \$1,701. The largest payment to an individual was \$93,591.

Figure 2: Expense Category payments of the Top 10 Companies



RESULTS

Figure 3: Payments by Hand Surgery Subspecialties

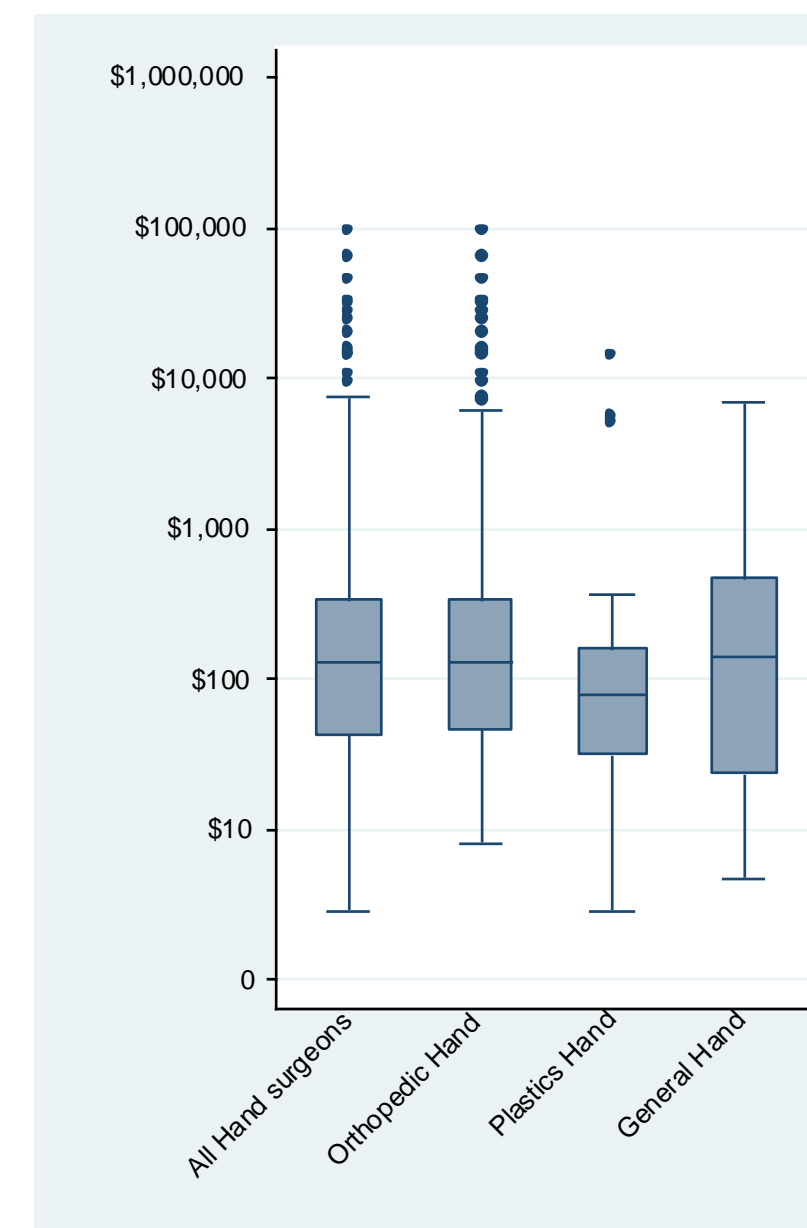
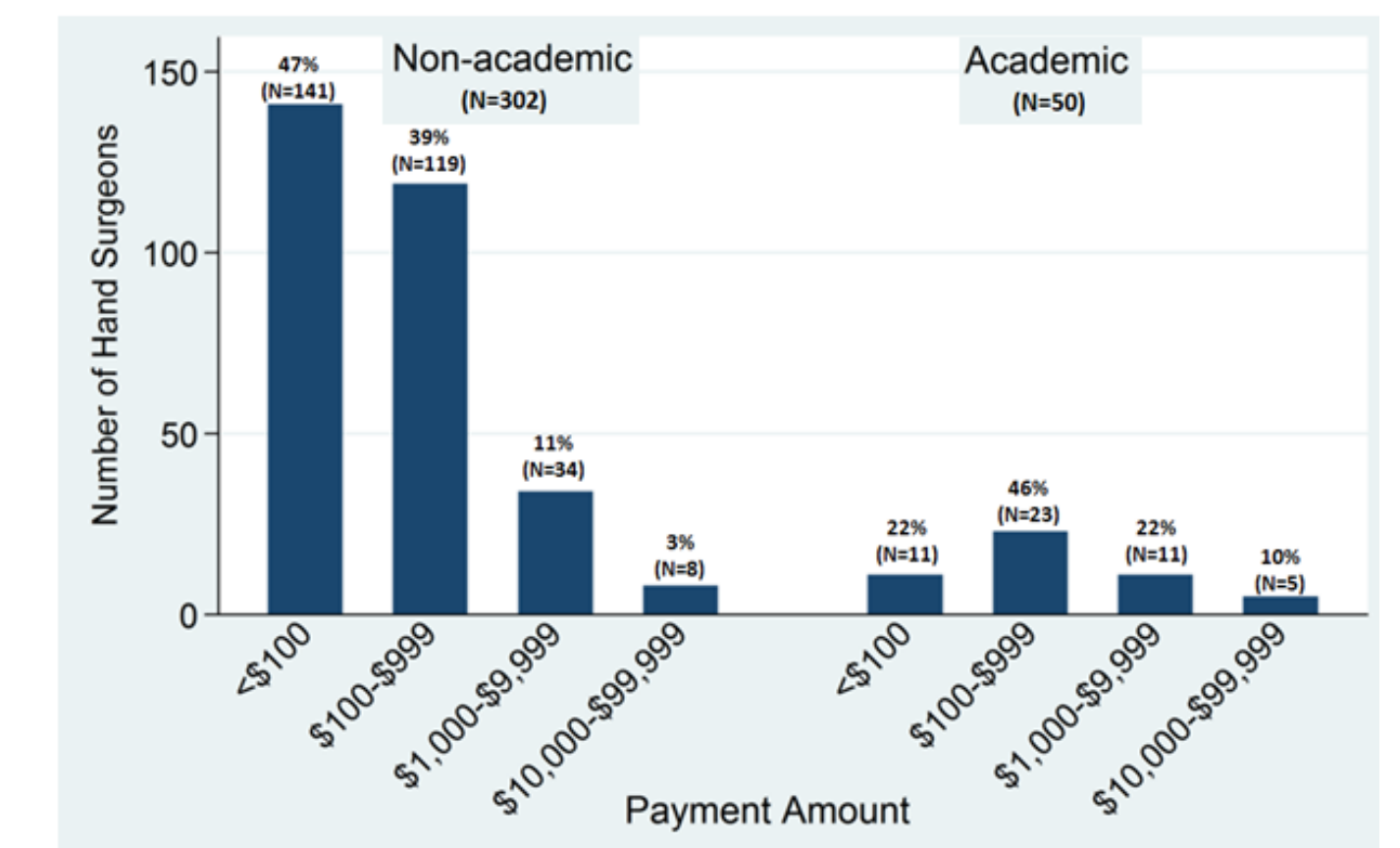


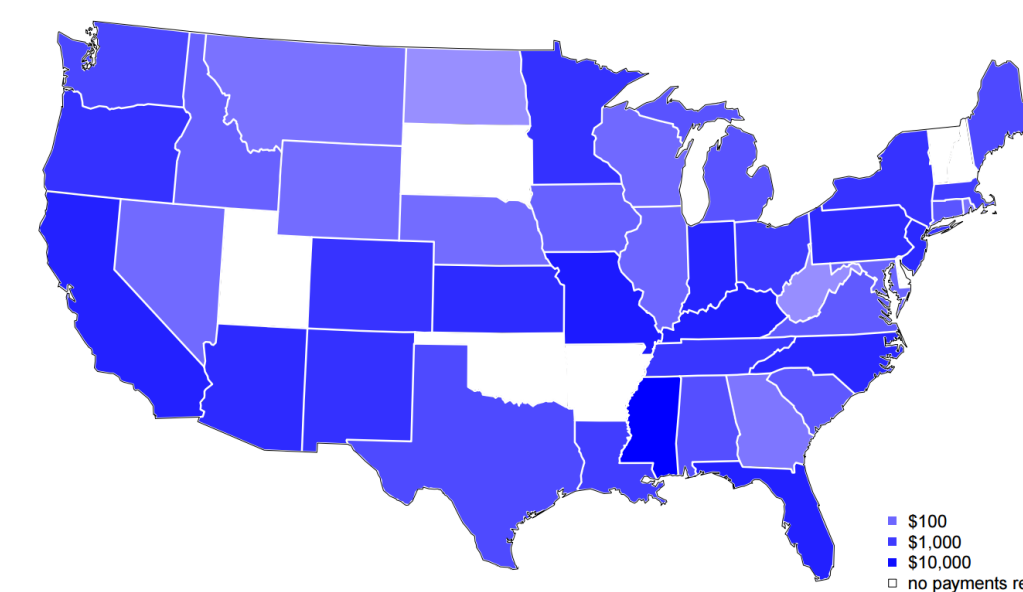
Figure 4: Payments Received per Hand Surgeon among by Academic versus private practice



The largest payment to an individual was \$93,591. The largest payment categories were for royalties (\$250,854) and consulting (\$95,110). Hand surgeons in academic practice received higher payments compared to those in private practice (median [IQR] \$250 [121-2,284] vs. \$110 [37-274], p<0.001).

Figure 5: Geographic Distribution of Industry Payments

Total Payments to per Hand Surgeons by State



Average Payments per Hand Surgeons by State

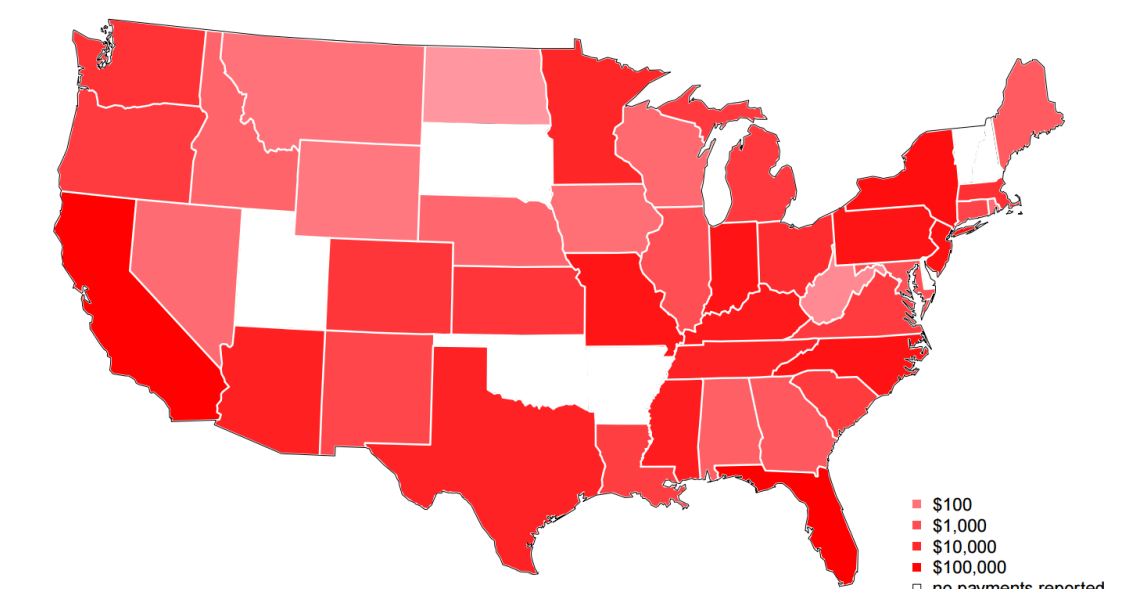


Table 1: Industry Payments by Expense Category

Payment Category	Total Payment (%)	Median (IQR) per payment	Number of payments	Median (IQR) per ASSH member	Number of Hand surgeons
Royalty or License	\$250,854 (41.90%)	\$3,767 (2,608-7,500)	29	\$8,069 (4,808-16,099)	16
Consulting Fee	\$95,110 (15.89%)	\$1,563 (600-\$3,888)	103	\$2,750 (700-7,250)	59
Speaker non-CEP	\$86,937 (14.52%)	\$2,000 (544-3,000)	46	\$4,000 (2,000-6,543)	17
Investment Interest	\$58,010 (9.69%)	\$58,010	1	\$58,010	1
Food and Beverage	\$50,973 (8.51%)	\$31 (15-87)	907	\$100 (33-203)	331
Travel and Lodging	\$38,210 (6.38%)	\$155 (38-312)	158	\$541 (141-1,072)	52
Education	\$12,594 (2.1%)	\$8 (2-199)	42	\$102 (3-277)	32
Honoraria	\$4,023 (0.67%)	\$2,011 (1,023-3,000)	2	\$2,011 (1,023-3,000)	2
Gifts	\$1,563 (0.26%)	\$35 (22-44)	9	\$114 (40-742)	4
Grant	\$431 (0.07%)	\$215 (131-300)	2	\$215 (131-300)	2

CONCLUSION

- Among hand surgeons, 50% received <\$127.
- Academic hand surgeons received greater payments compared to those in private practice.
- Although the PPSA brings transparency to the physician-industry landscape, it also highlights the OPP's risk for misinterpretation.