

or starting a business. Many entrepreneurs and small businesses also described how noncompetes prevented them from starting a business or hiring qualified workers.⁶ Many of the comments were from workers, businesses, and others in Missouri—including many health care practitioners. You can find such comments on the FTC’s public docket at Regulations.gov.⁷

The evidence shows that noncompetes are used extensively, including even for low-wage workers. The Commission found that nationwide, approximately one in five workers—or thirty million Americans—are bound by noncompetes.⁸ One survey found that 35% of workers without a bachelor’s degree and 33% of workers earning less than \$40,000 per year have worked under a noncompete at some point in their lives.⁹ Another analysis of the same data found that 53% of workers covered by noncompetes are hourly workers.¹⁰

Noncompetes are pervasive in health care. One study found that 45% of physicians worked under a noncompete.¹¹ A study of noncompetes in physician markets found that such clauses lead to greater concentration among physicians.

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