

FAMILY MEDICINE PROFILE

GENERAL INFORMATION

(Sources: Pathway Evaluation Program and the Canadian Medical Residency Guide)

Family medicine is the main primary care medical specialty in Canada. It focuses care on the individual within the context of the family and the community. Family physicians (refers to both family physicians and general practitioners) deliver services across the entire spectrum of care, regardless of patient age, sex or condition. Public polls repeatedly confirm how highly the people of Canada value family doctors for their roles in caring for them.

While family medicine may seem the most “general” of the specialties, it is in fact, a precise discipline, integrating a unique blend of biomedical, behavioural and social sciences, while employing a diverse range of cognitive and procedural skills. The family physician is often called upon to deal with undifferentiated clinical problems presenting at an early stage. In addition to acute disorders, which are sometimes life-threatening, there is a high frequency of chronic diseases, emotional problems and transient illnesses. Family physicians deliver care across a wide spectrum of settings, including their offices, hospital, long-term and other health care facilities and the patient’s home. The close, long-term physician-patient relationship that is established, the diversity in the work and the variety of practice opportunities offered by family medicine are some of the main factors that attract physicians to this specialty.

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Family physicians also play an important role in health promotion and illness prevention, coordinating care with other specialties and health professionals, and advocating on behalf of their patients with respect to the care and services they need in all parts of the health care system.

Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in family medicine with the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) requires an additional 2 years of postgraduate training. This includes experiences in family practice settings; general surgery; internal medicine; pediatrics; obstetrics/gynaecology; psychiatry and emergency medicine; as well as opportunities for electives in areas selected by each resident. The training environment includes hospitals but is also very focused on experiences in community-based practices, including opportunities in small town and rural settings.

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While most residents are well prepared to enter practice after two years of postgraduate training, some with specific needs or interests might benefit from some additional or enhanced skills training and apply to a number of positions available for an optional third year. Examples of such third year programs include emergency medicine, palliative care, maternity care and care of elderly. The main objective of the additional training is to prepare graduates to be able to offer added services to their patients as part of their broad-based or comprehensive continuing care family practices.

Following the completion of residency, there is a certification examination to evaluate competence in the specialty of family medicine. If successful, the resident will be awarded Certification in The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CCFP) that is then maintained throughout their career through participation in the College's life-long learning (continuing professional development) program.

For more detailed training requirements for family medicine go to:

<http://www.cfpc.ca/Education/>

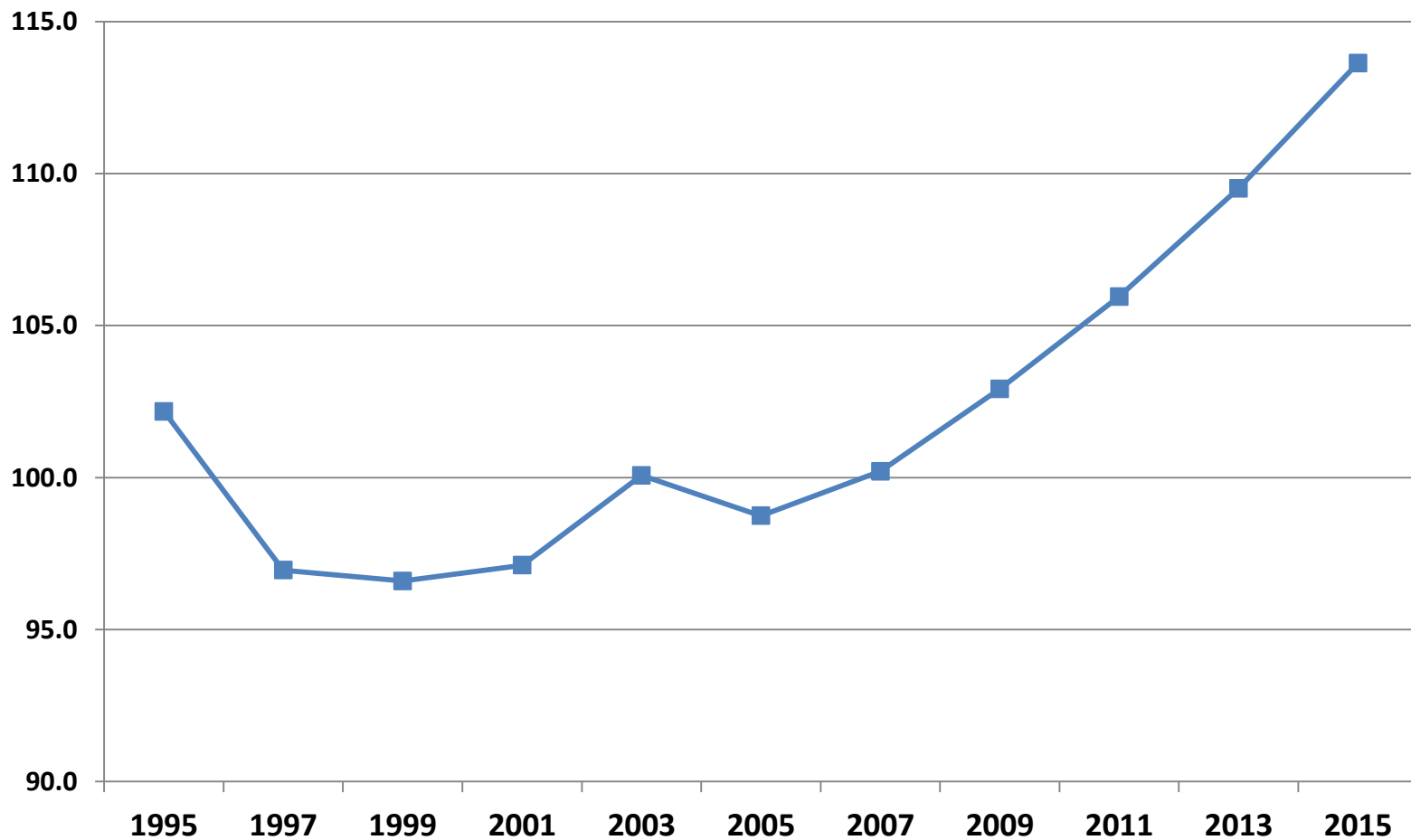
Number of physicians and physicians/100,000 population in Family medicine* in Canada, 2015

Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	886	168
Prince Edward Island	163	111
Nova Scotia	1324	140
New Brunswick	1124	149
Quebec	9669	117
Ontario	13442	98
Manitoba	1414	110
Saskatchewan	1368	121
Alberta	4883	117
British Columbia	6161	132
Territories	137	117
CANADA	40571	114

*Includes General practitioners

Source: 2015 CMA Masterfile

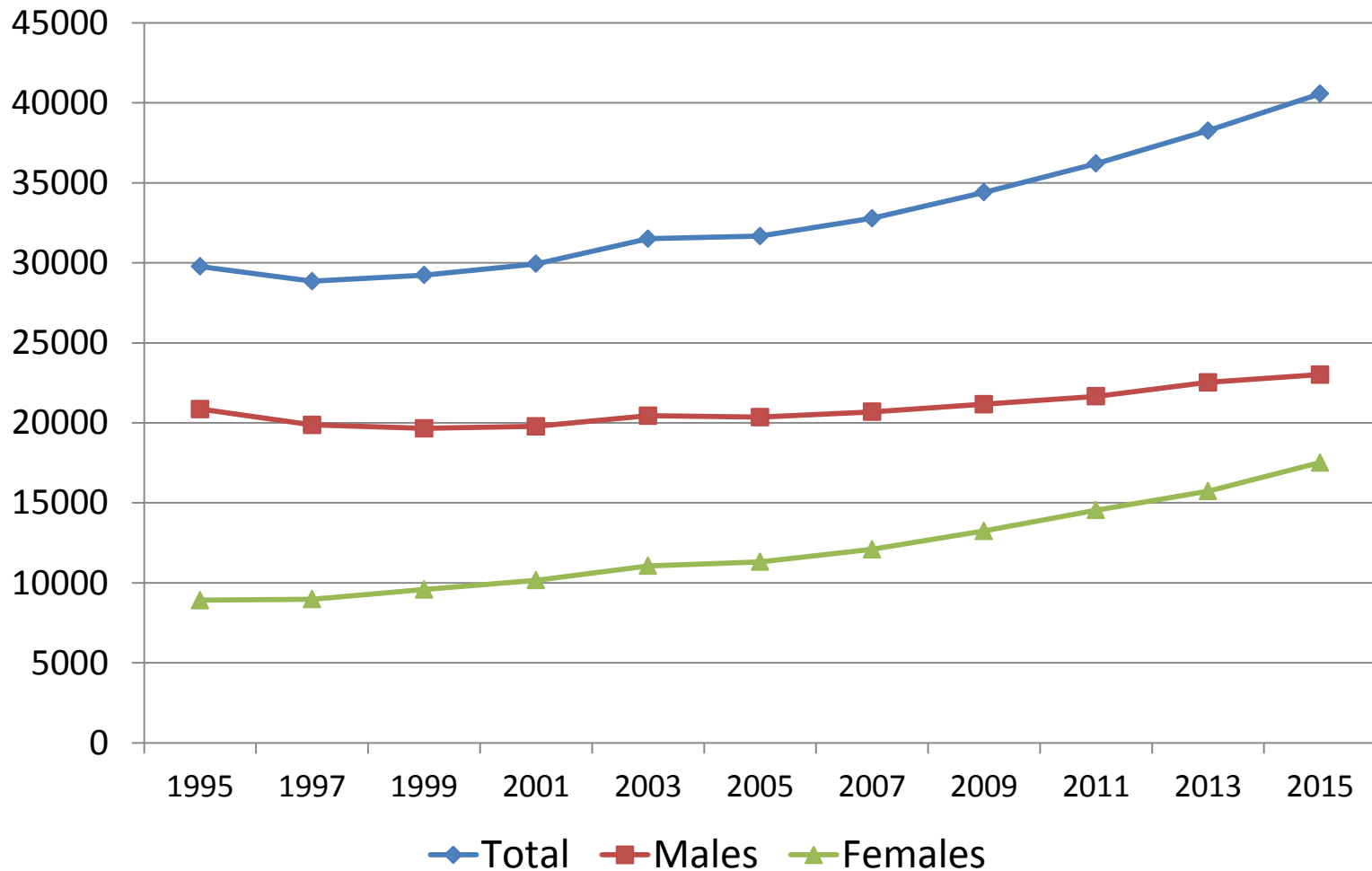
Physicians/100,000 population in Family medicine* in Canada, 1995 to 2015



*Includes General practitioners

Source: CMA Masterfile

Family medicine* physicians by gender and year in Canada, 1995 to 2015

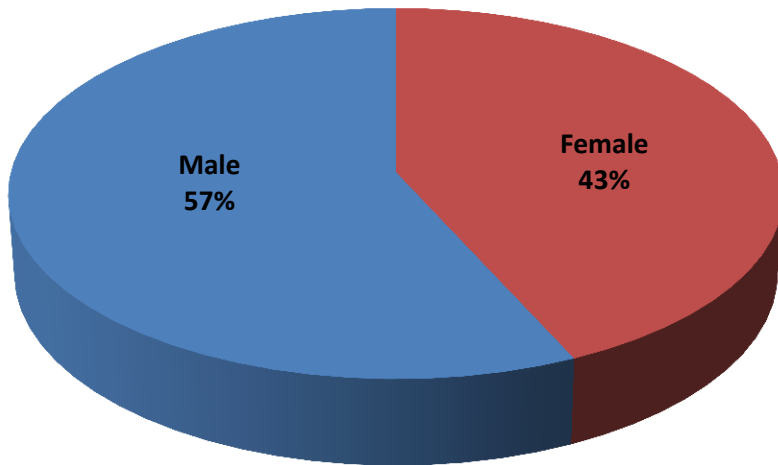


*Includes General practitioners

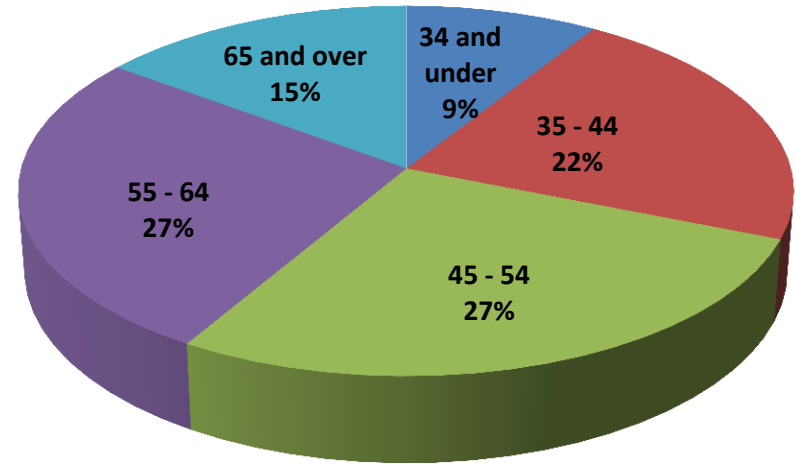
Source: CMA Masterfile

Family medicine* physicians by age and gender in Canada, 2015

Gender

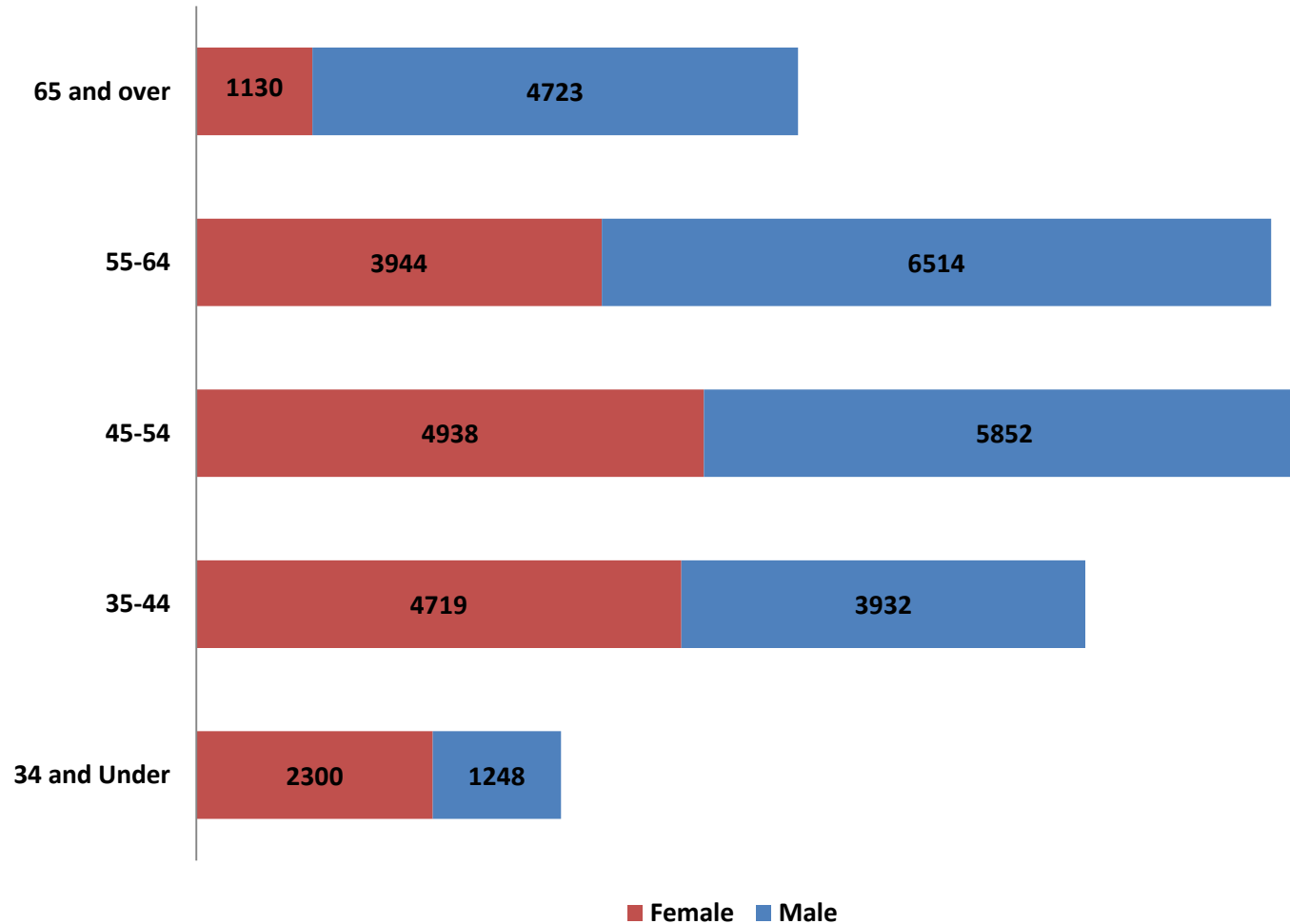


Age Group



*Includes General practitioners
Source: 2015 CMA Masterfile

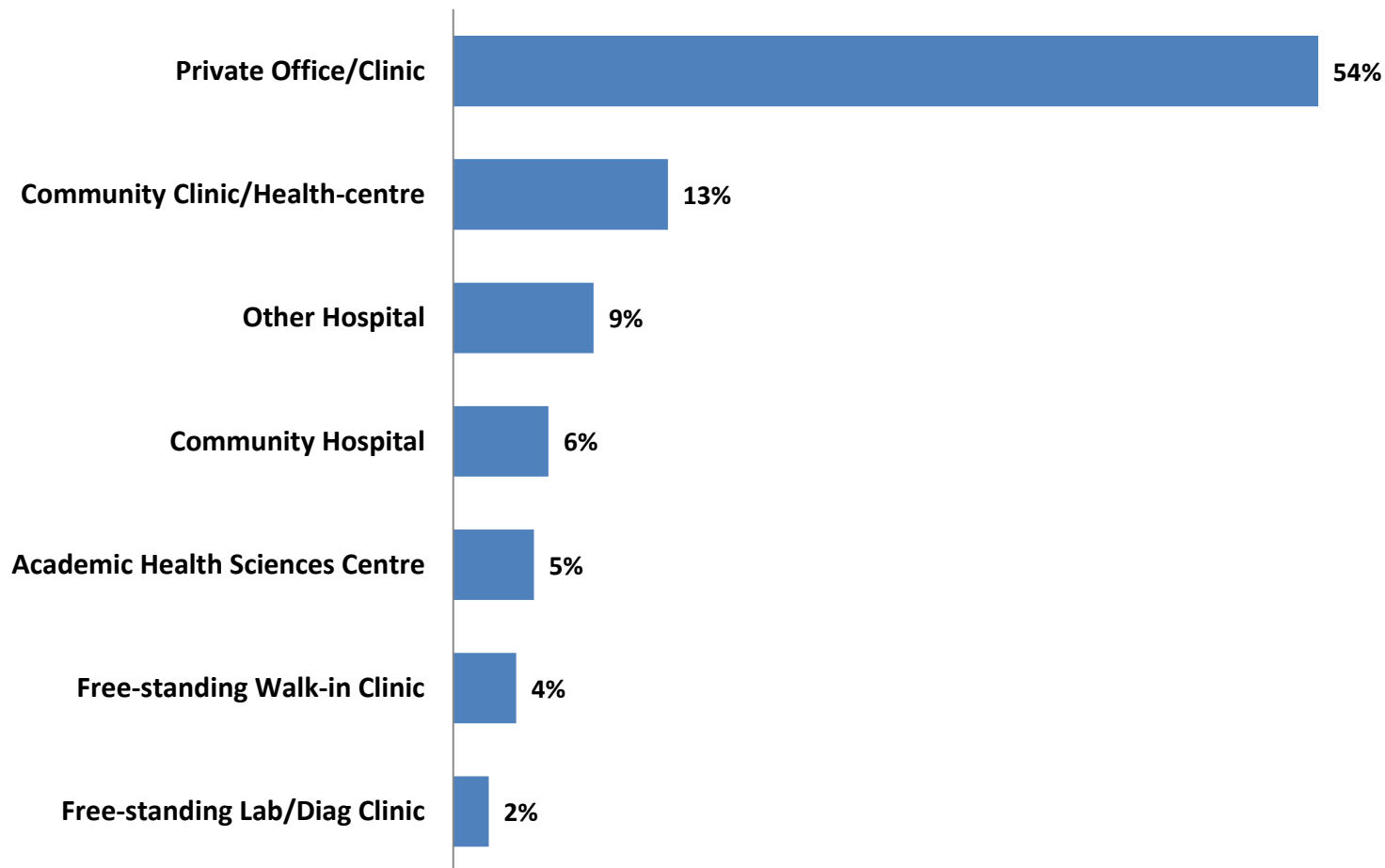
Family medicine* physicians by age and gender in Canada, 2015



*Includes General practitioners

Source: 2015 CMA Masterfile

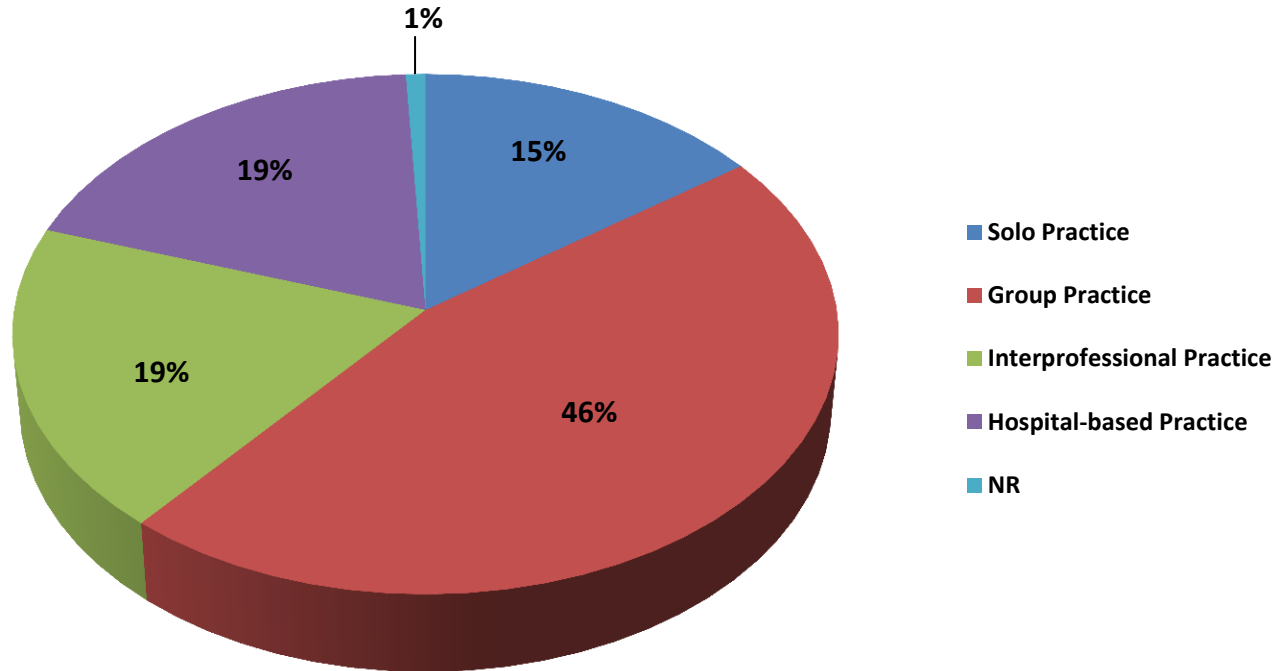
Main work setting of Family medicine* physicians in Canada, 2014



*Includes General practitioners

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College

Practice organization for Family medicine* physicians in Canada, 2014



*Includes General practitioners

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College

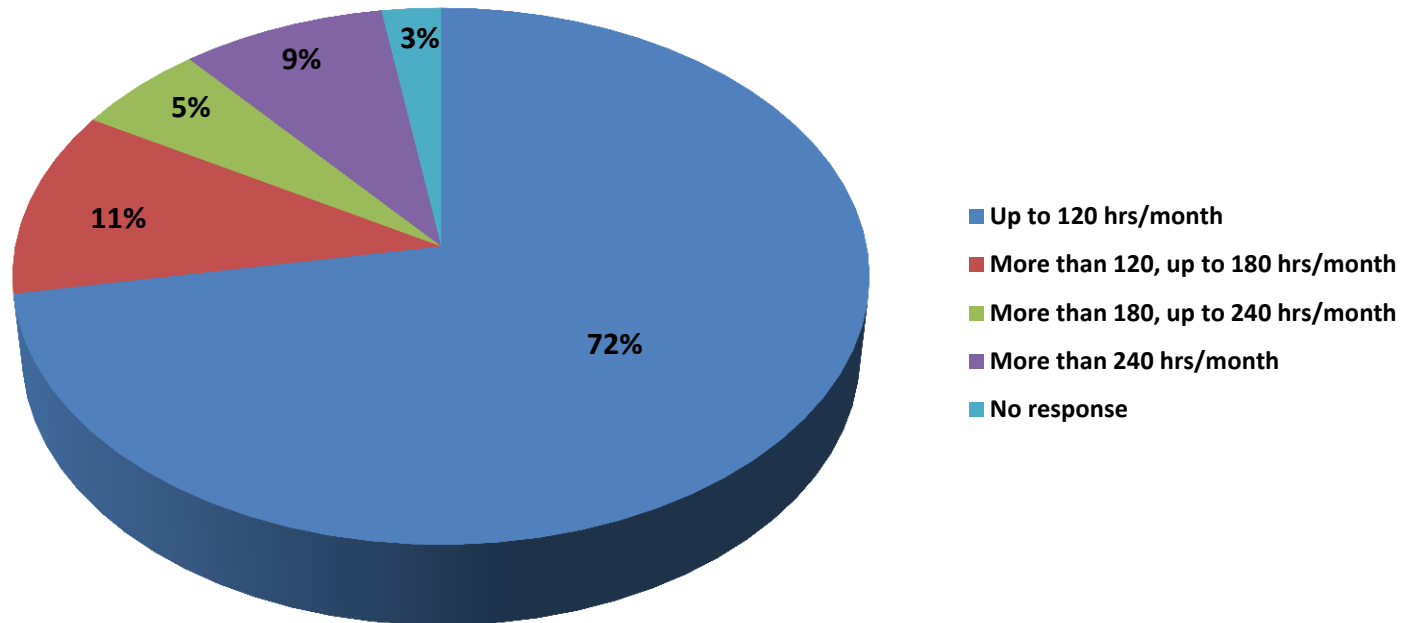
Hours worked per week (excluding on-call) by Family medicine* physicians in Canada, 2014

Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	26.0
Direct patient care with teaching component	4.6
Teaching without patient care	1.2
Indirect patient care	6.9
Health facility committees	0.7
Administration	2.1
Research	0.6
Managing practice	1.4
Continued professional development	3.0
Other	0.7
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	47.0

*Includes General practitioners

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College

On-call duty hours spent per month by Family medicine* physicians in Canada, 2014



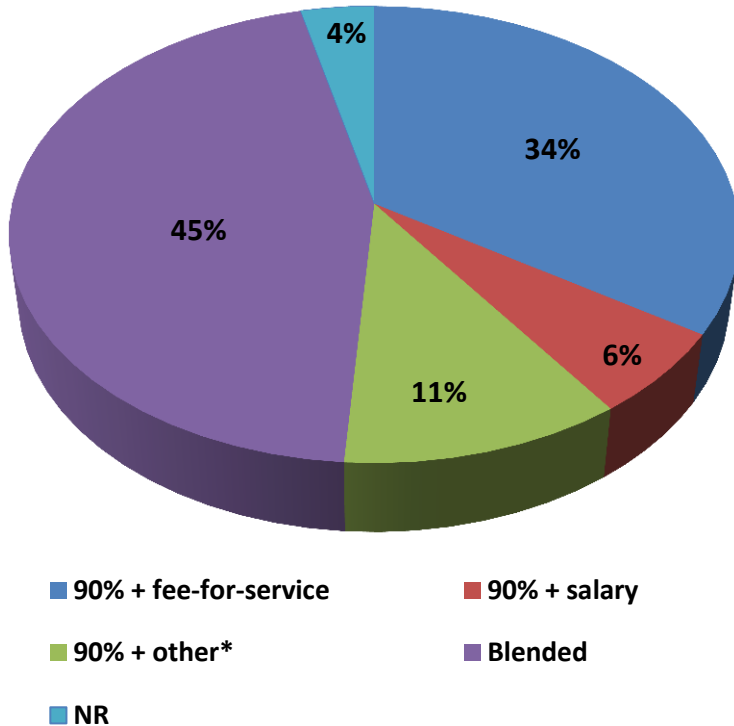
Time spent on call spent in direct patient care = 26 hrs./month

*Includes General practitioners

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College

Remuneration for Family medicine* physicians in Canada

Primary payment method¹ in 2013



* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

Average gross clinical earnings for Family Medicine in 2013/14 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$249,154²

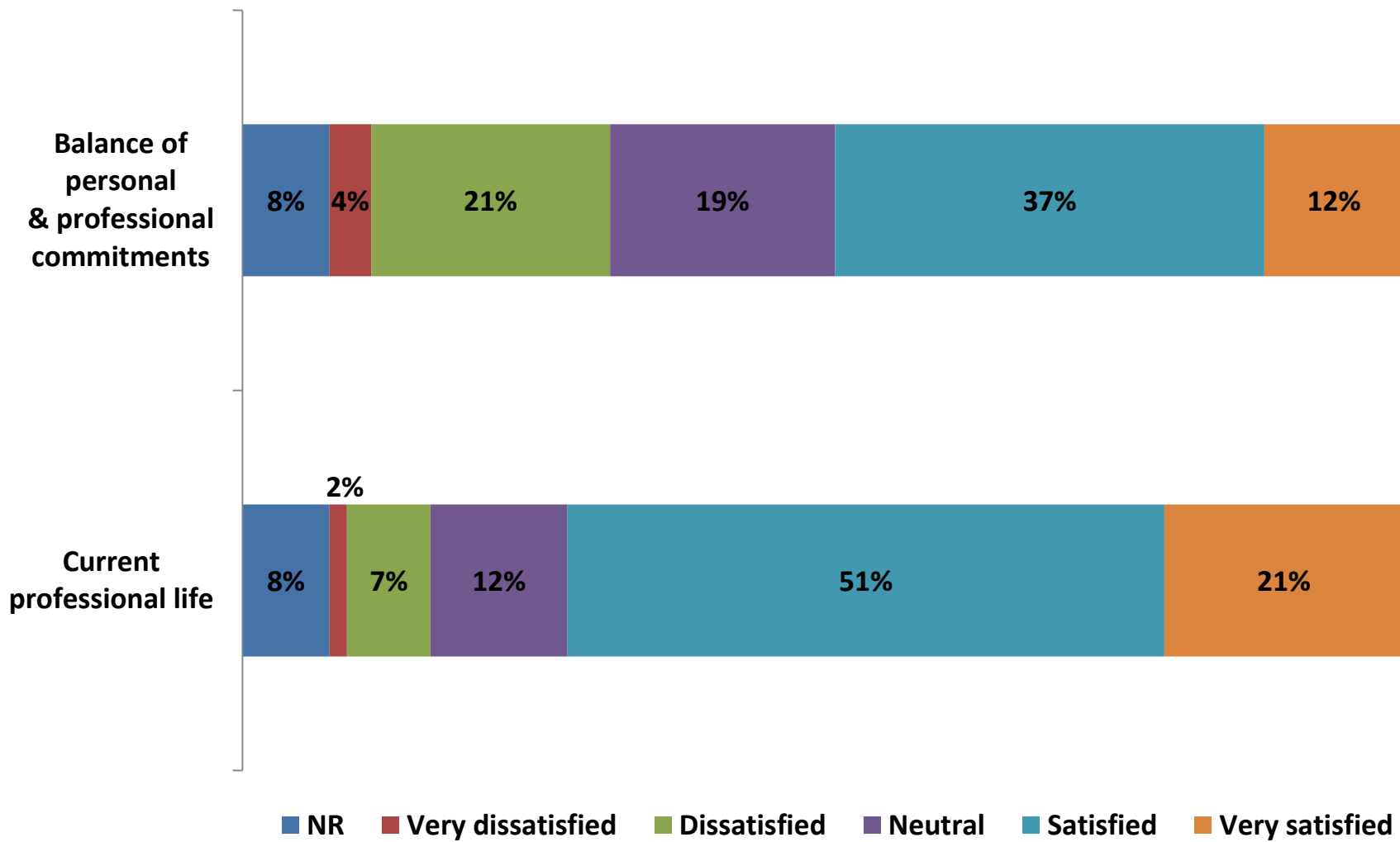
Average percent overhead reported by Family Medicine physicians in 2010 = 28.2%³

¹ National Physician Survey, 2013, CFPC, CMA, Royal College

² National Physician Database, 2013/14, CIHI

³ National Physician Survey, 2010, CFPC, CMA, Royal College

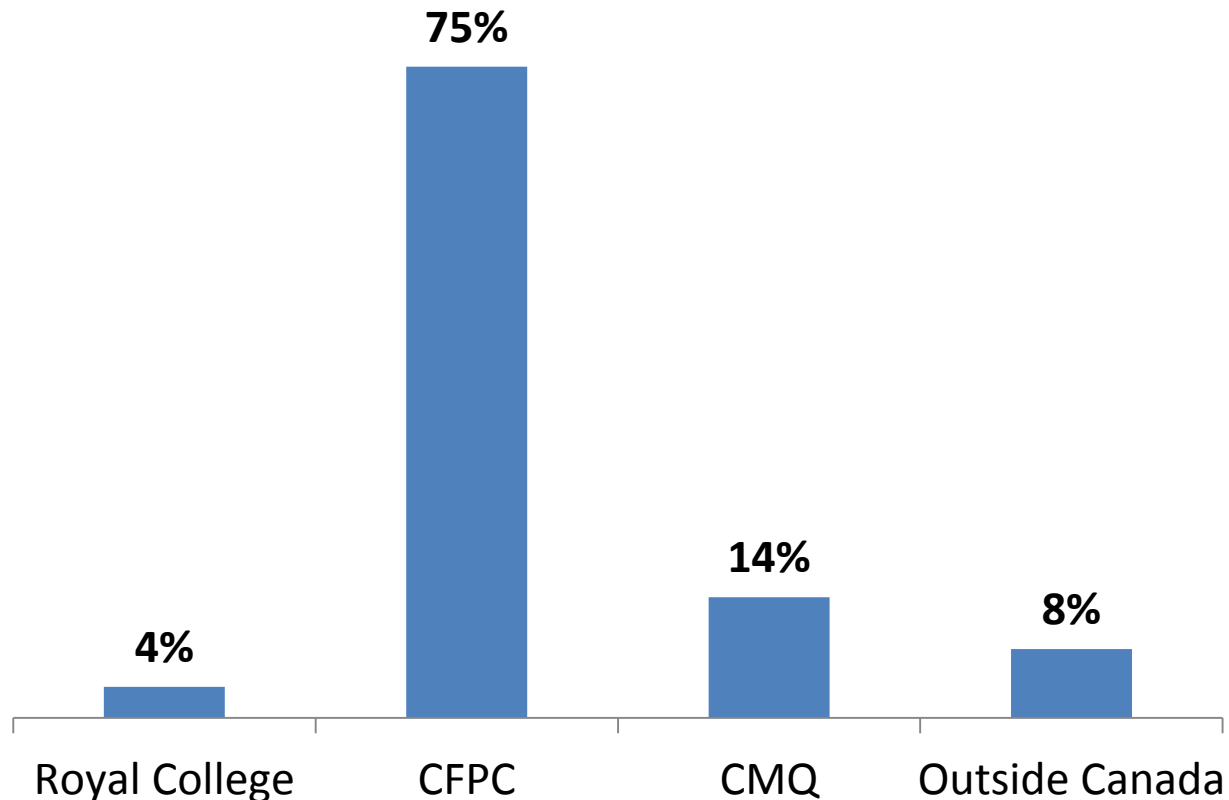
Satisfaction among Family medicine* physicians in Canada, 2013



*Includes General practitioners

Source: 2013 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College

Family medicine* physicians who are Royal College, CFPC or CMQ certified in Canada, 2014

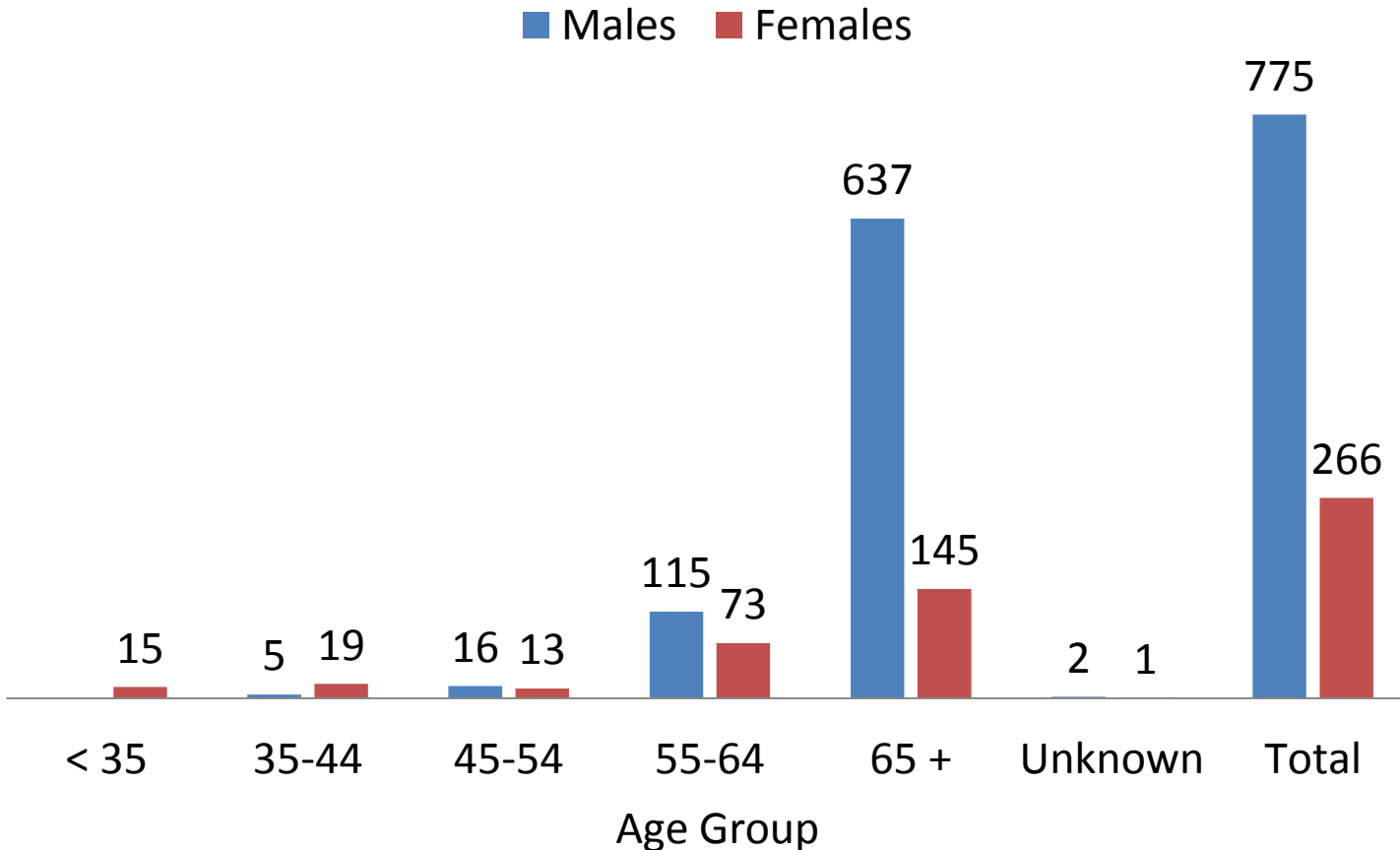


Note: Subset of those who reported a certification. Physicians could indicate more than one certification body.

*Includes General practitioners

Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College

Number of Family medicine* physicians who retired during the THREE year period of 2012 to 2014



*Includes General practitioners

Source: CMA Masterfile – year over year comparisons

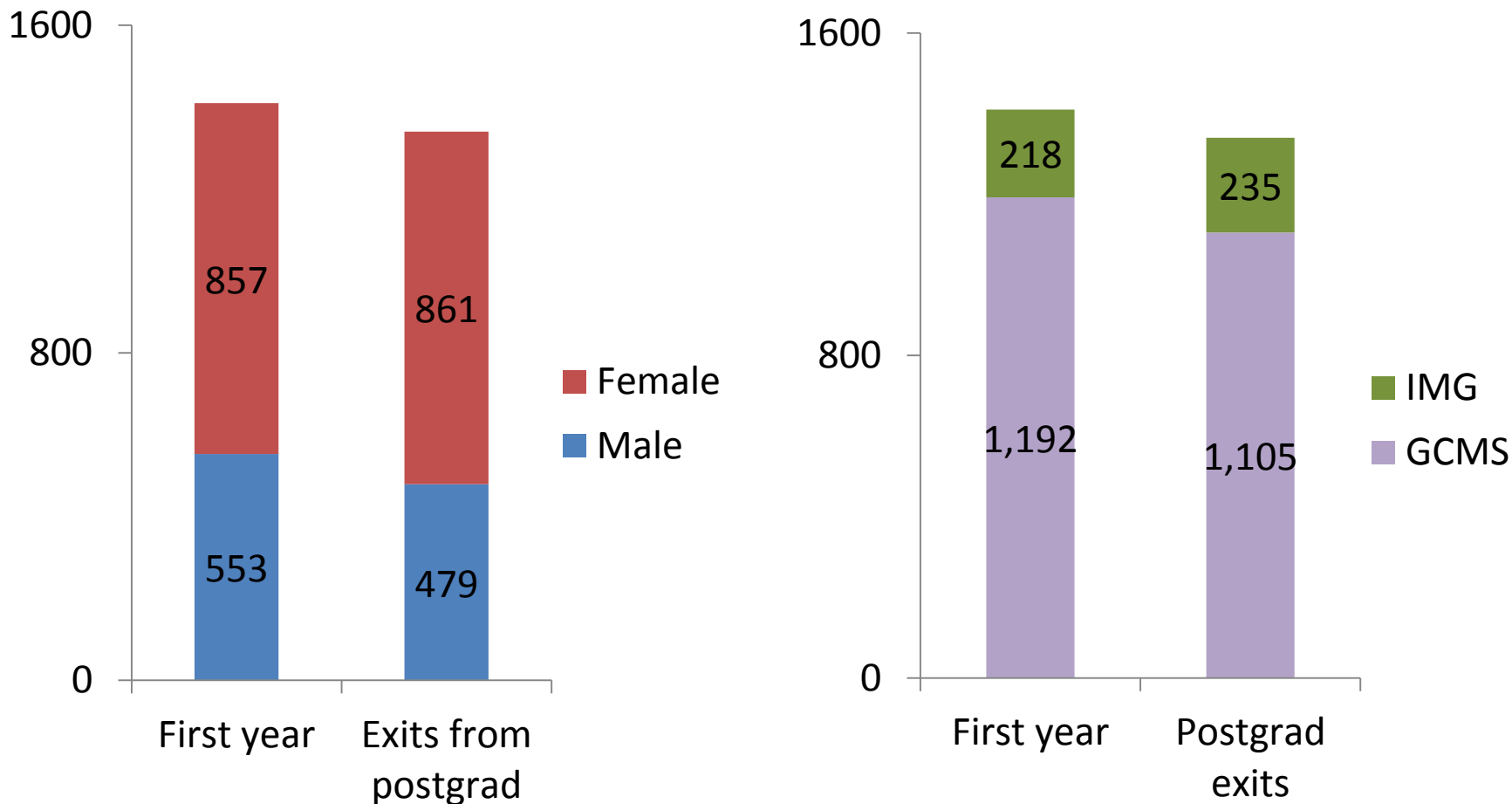
Note: “Retired” is based on giving up licence and is therefore excludes those who have retired from clinical practice but are still licensed; those younger than 45 may include physicians who have temporarily given up their licence but return to practice at a later date.

Total and Ministry funded postgraduate MD trainees in 2014/15 – Family medicine*

Faculty of Medicine	Ministry funded	Total	Faculty of Medicine	Ministry funded	Total
Memorial U N&L	70	70	McMaster U	221	228
Dalhousie U	129	131	UWO	182	183
U Laval	240	244	NOSM	92	93
U Sherbrooke	173	203	U Manitoba	136	136
U Montréal	305	307	U Sask	100	100
McGill U	197	200	U Alberta	182	185
U Ottawa	162	167	U Calgary	205	210
Queens U	157	164	UBC	342	345
U Toronto	373	385	Canada	3266	3351

*Includes emergency med (CFPC), care of elderly (CFPC), enhanced skills, palliative medicine

First year and exiting postgraduate-MD trainees in 2014/15 – Family Practice

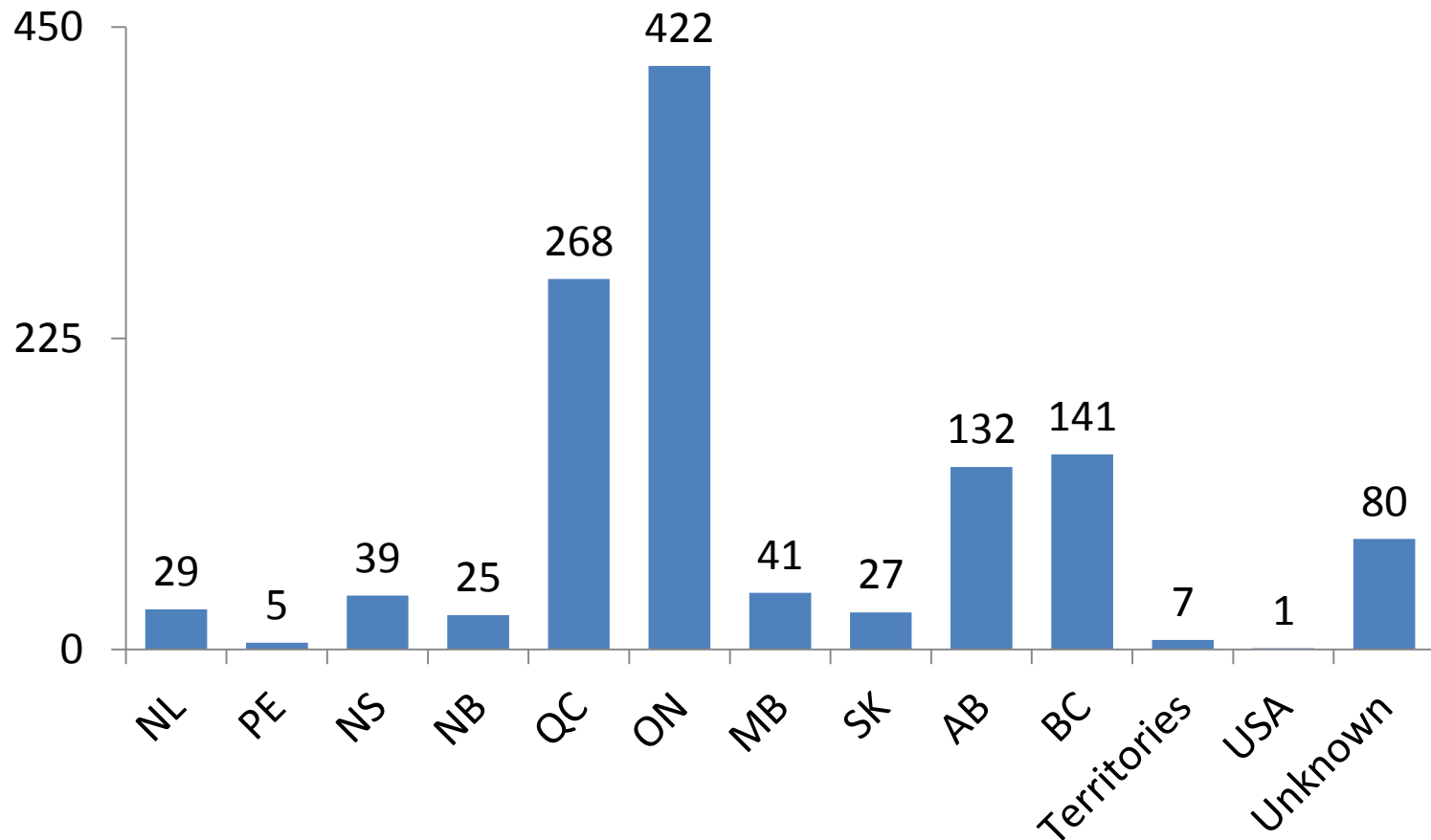


IMG – International Medical Graduates
GCMS – Graduates of Canadian Medical Schools

Postgraduate-MD trainees in 2014/15 – Family Practice

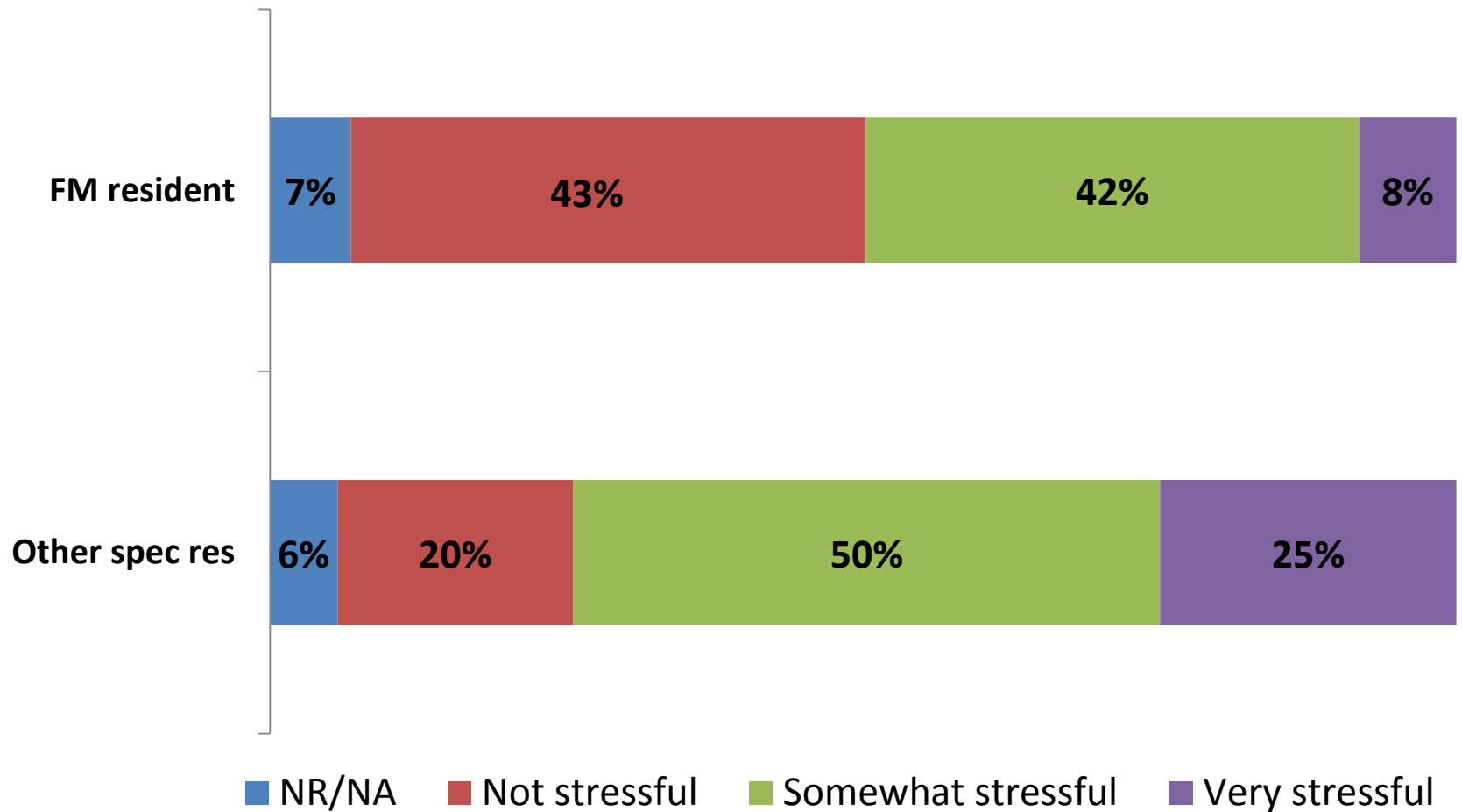
- Total of 1410 first year Family Practice trainees representing 43% of all Family Practice trainees.
- Total of 3266 Family Practice trainees representing 26% of all Ministry funded trainees.
- Total of 13 visa trainees in Family Practice.
- Total of 1340 Family Practice trainees completed postgraduate training in 2014.

Location of 2013 Postgraduate-MD exits in 2015 – Family Practice



Of the 1217 exits in 2013, 1136 (93%) were known to be practising in Canada

Stress associated with finding employment at end of residency



Source: 2012 National Physician Survey of residents. CFPC, CMA, Royal College

Links to the organizations supplying information for this document

National Physician Survey

<http://www.nationalphysiciansurvey.ca>

Canadian Medical Association

<http://www.cma.ca/pdc>

Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada

<http://www.caper.ca/>

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

http://www.royalcollege.ca/portal/page/portal/rc/credentials/start/routes/traditional_route

College of Family Physicians of Canada

<http://www.cfpc.ca>

Canadian Institute for Health Information

<http://www.cihi.ca>