



Anesthesiology Profile

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General information

Anesthesiology (anesthesia) is a diversified specialty requiring physicians to draw upon their knowledge of pharmacy and physiology and to utilize their technical skills in the provision of perioperative care, critical care, emergency care and pain management.

Certain strengths may be needed to pursue this specialty such as the ability to perform under pressure, to think quickly in stressful situations, to use your hands and to work in a team environment. The opportunity to establish continuing, long-term physician / patient relationships is limited in this specialty.

Anesthesiology is a relatively flexible, mobile specialty and is involved in the following settings:

General information

- For surgery, anesthesiologists evaluate the patient's overall health, plan techniques, choose agents, administer anesthesia, and monitor the effects of anesthesia and surgery on the patient's vital functions;
- In the ICU, they care for critically ill patients by providing airway management, cardiac and pulmonary resuscitation, advanced life support and pain control;
- On the maternity ward, attend to the management of pain relief during childbirth;
- In pain clinics, anesthesiologists provide acute and chronic pain relief to a variety of patients.

Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in anesthesiology requires an additional 5 years of Royal College-approved residency training.

General information

This training includes:

- 1 year of basic clinical training; and
- 4 years of Royal College-approved training that must include: 30 months of Royal College-approved resident training in anesthesiology; 1 year of Royal College-approved resident training in internal medicine (to be undertaken preferably after a year of clinical training in anesthesiology); 6 months of training that may include further training in an approved anesthesiology program or research experience in a clinical or basic science department approved by the Royal College; and 6 months training in clinical pharmacology undertaken in an accredited program during the final residency year.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

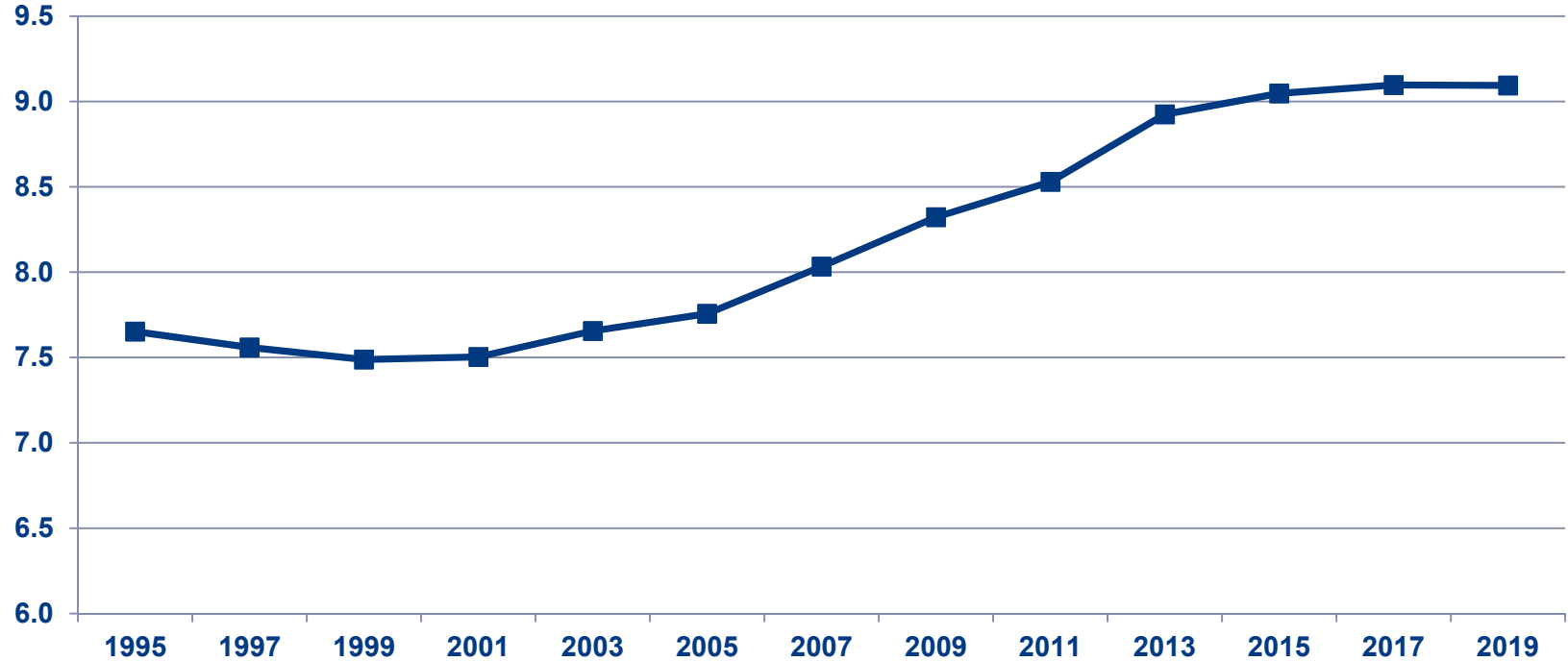
[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)

[Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society](#)

Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2019

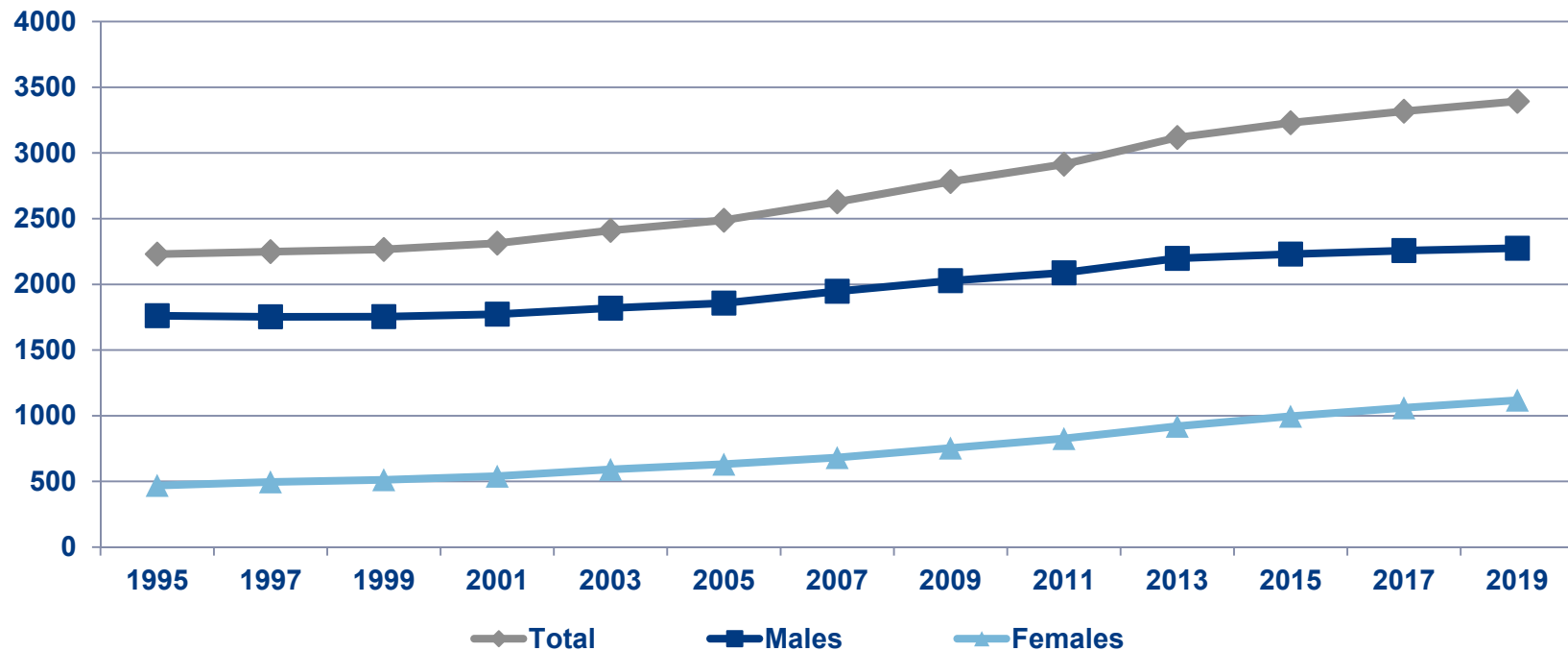
Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	52	9.9
Prince Edward Island	12	7.7
Nova Scotia	115	11.9
New Brunswick	56	7.2
Quebec	798	9.5
Ontario	1262	8.7
Manitoba	130	9.5
Saskatchewan	108	9.2
Alberta	380	8.8
British Columbia	479	9.5
Territories	1	0.8
CANADA	3393	9.1

Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



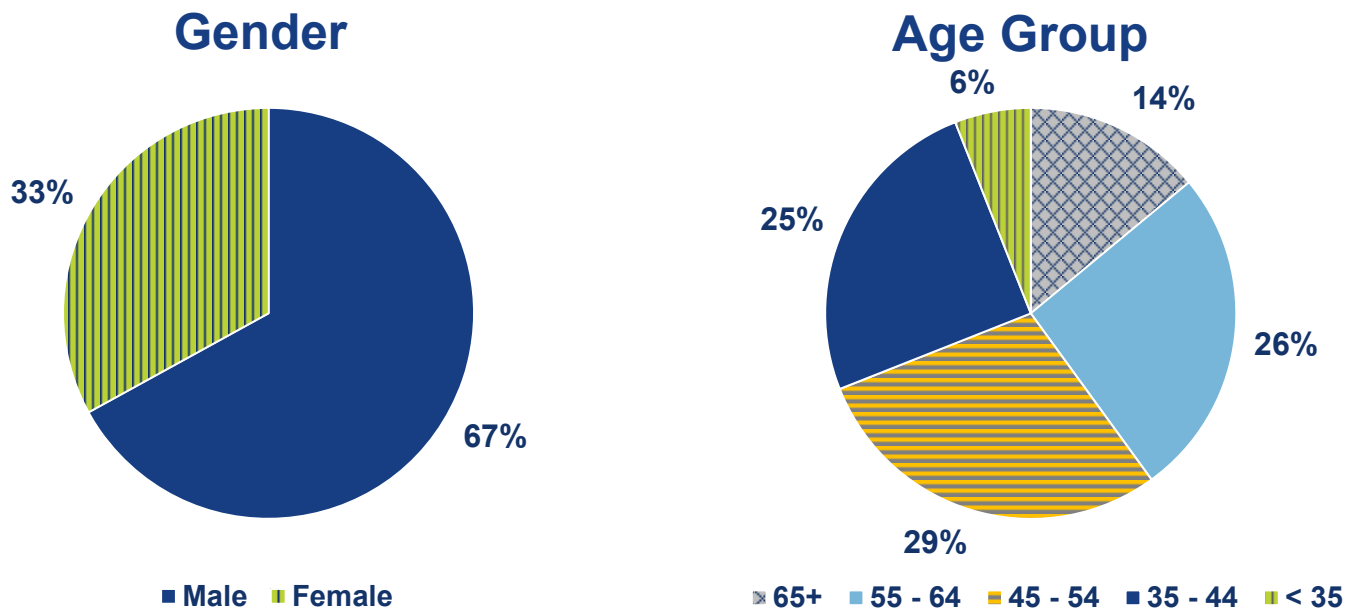
Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

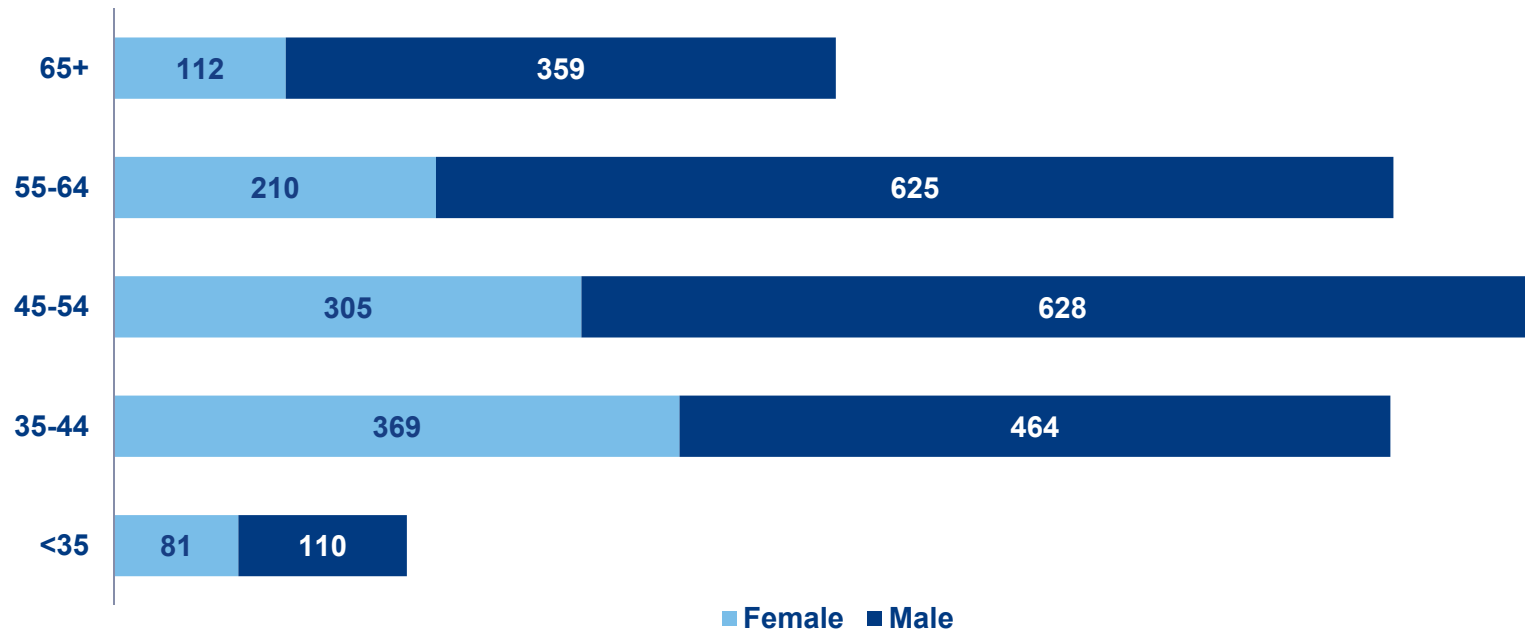
Percentage by gender & age, 2019



Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

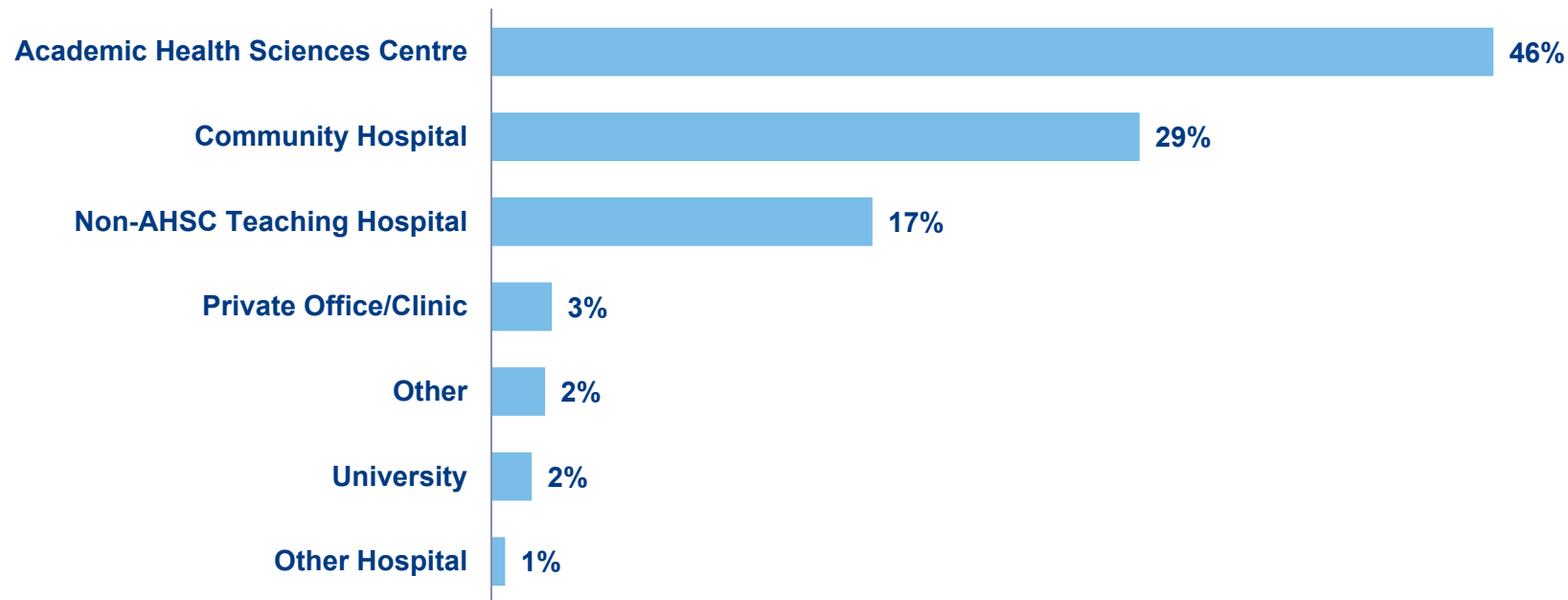
Number by gender & age, 2019



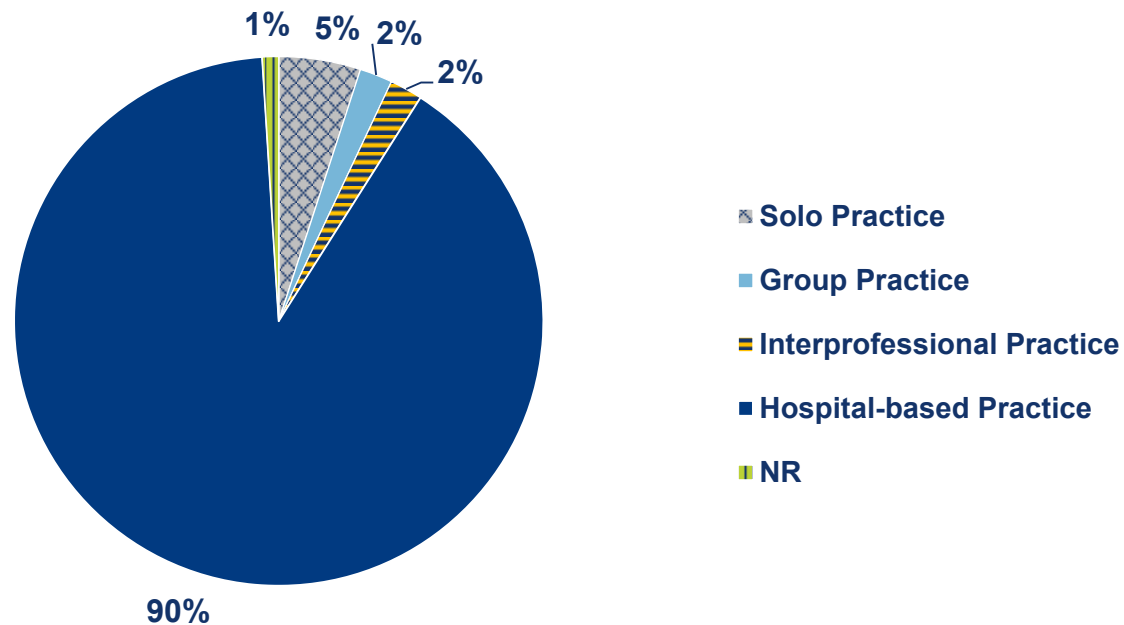
Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

Percentage by main work setting, 2019



Percentage by practice organization, 2017*



*Most recent available data for this specialty

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Hours worked per week (excluding on-call), 2019

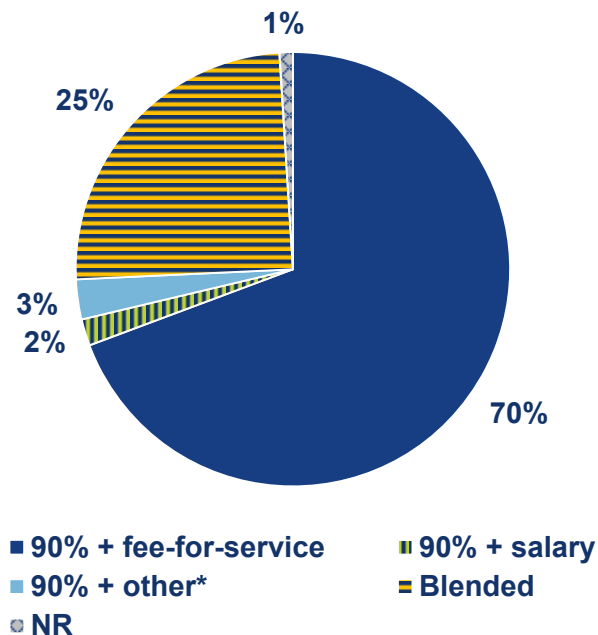
Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	28.7
Direct patient care with teaching component	10.9
Teaching without patient care	1.3
Indirect patient care	1.6
Health facility committees	1.1
Administration	1.9
Research	1.0
Managing practice	0.9
Continued professional development	2.3
Other	0.5
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	50.3

On-call duty hours per month, 2019

- 89% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 80 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 50 hours/month

Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2017



Average gross payment per physician for Anesthesiology in 2017/18 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$449,858²

Average percent overhead reported by Anesthesiologists in 2017 = 13%³

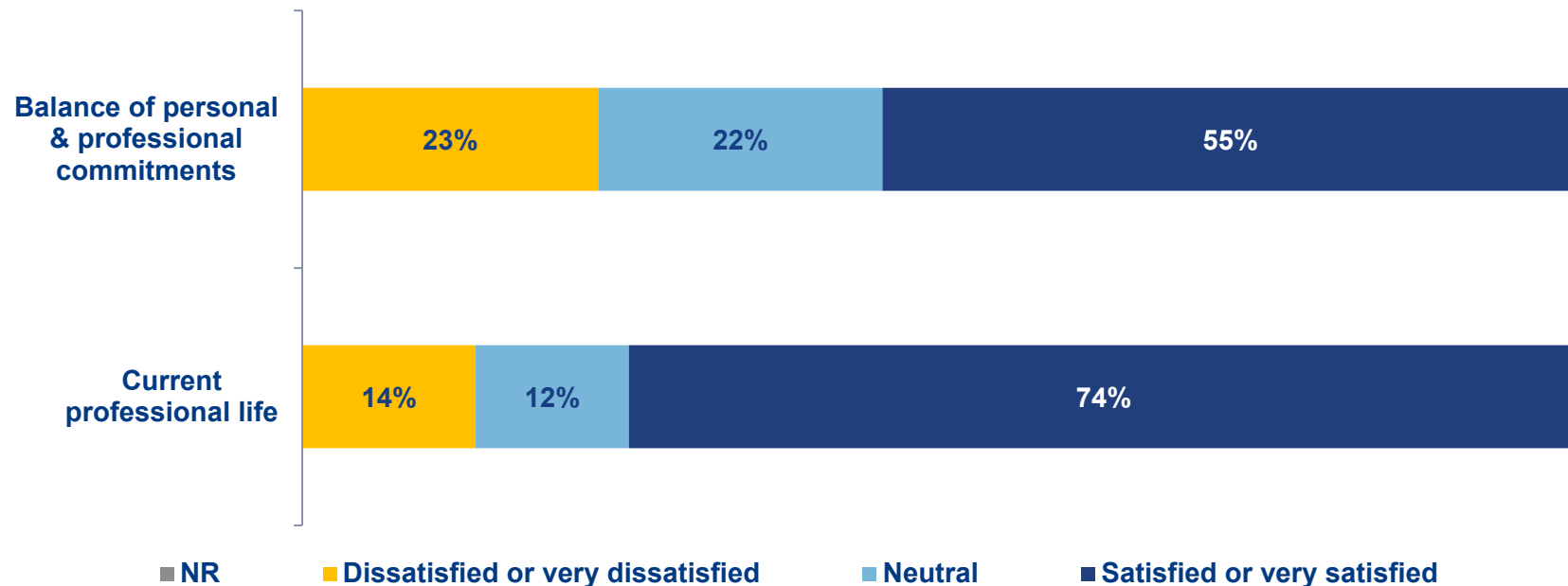
* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

¹ 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

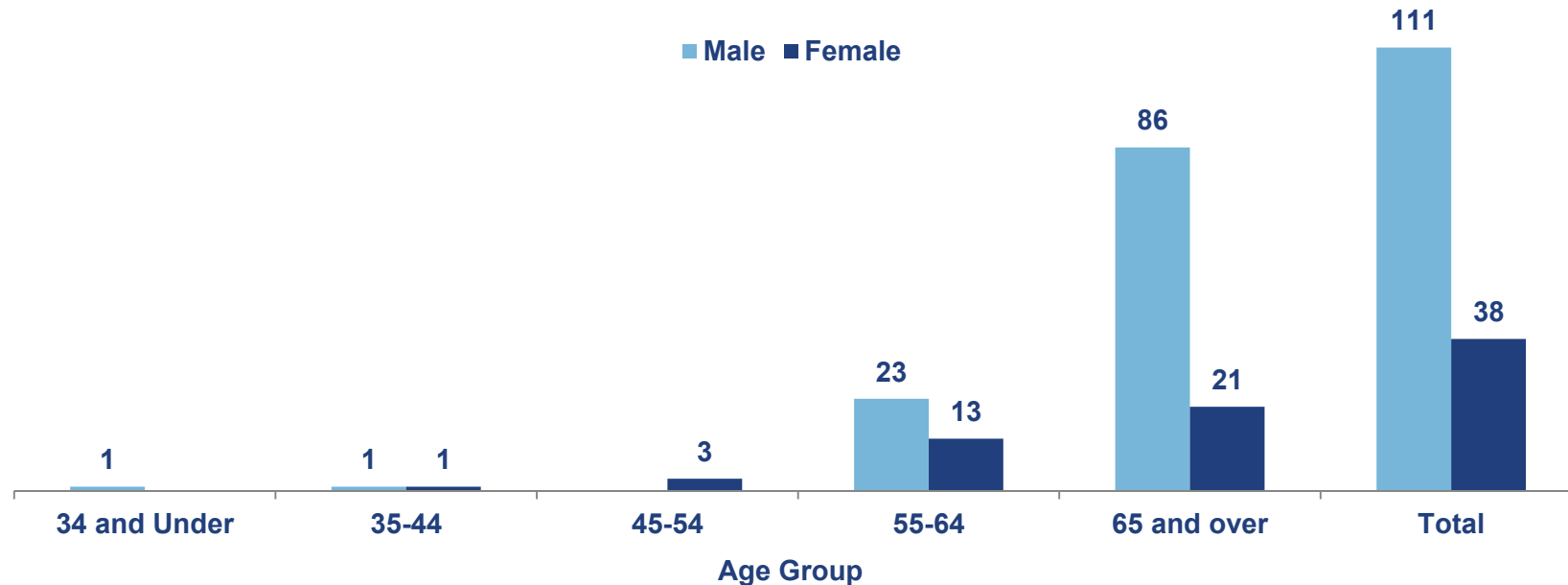
² National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI

³ Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019



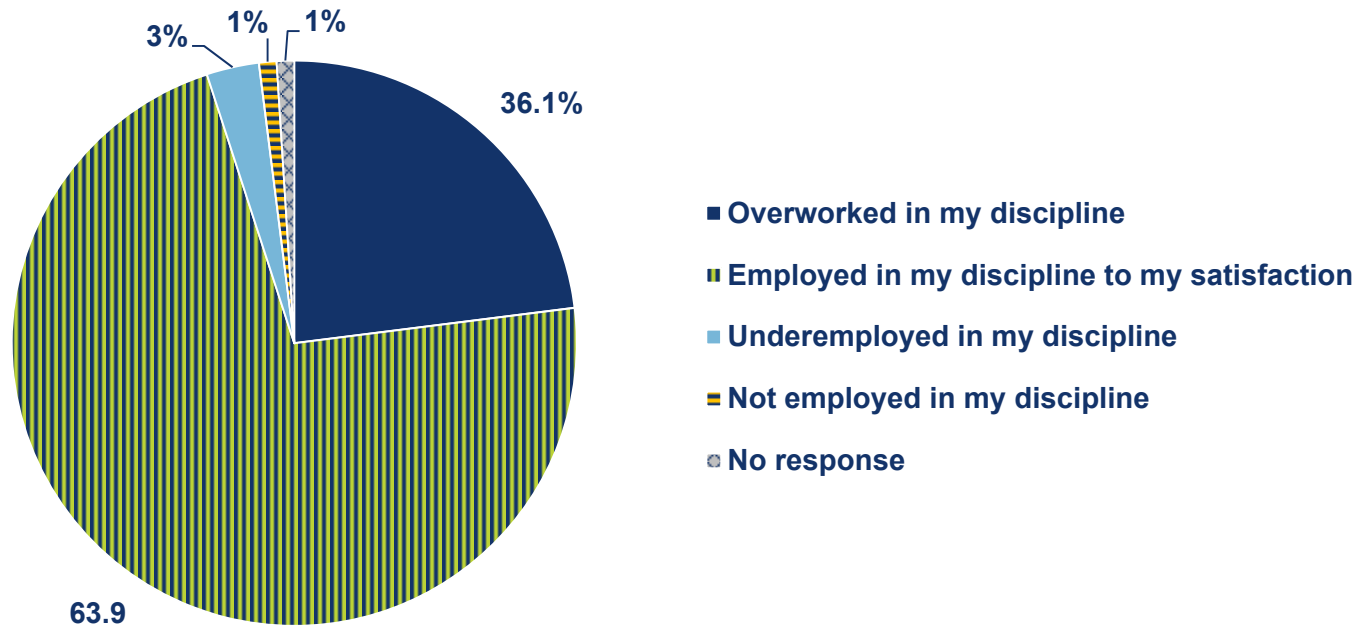
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018



Source: CMA Masterfile – year over year comparisons

Note: “Retired” is based on giving up licence and 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.

Employment situation, 2017



Links to additional resources

- [Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada](#)
- [Canadian Institute for Health Information](#)
- [Canadian Medical Association's Physician Data Centre](#)
- [Canadian Post-MD Education Registry \(CAPER\)](#)
- [College of Family Physicians of Canada](#)
- [National Physician Survey \(2004-2014\)](#)
- [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)



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