



Gastroenterology Profile

Updated
December 2019

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General information

Gastroenterology is a subspecialty of internal medicine and/or pediatrics dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders related to the digestive system including the esophagus, stomach, small intestine and large intestine (colon), gallbladder, pancreas and liver. It is a procedures-oriented specialty that requires some manual dexterity and the ability to analyze problems and data.

The gastroenterologist is generally not the primary-care physician, but instead, part of a health care team that provides a diagnostic and therapeutic function in patient care.

Source: Pathway evaluation program

General information

Gastroenterologists treat a broad range of conditions, including, but not limited to:

- Abdominal pain
- Abnormal x-ray findings
- Colon cancer
- Colon polyps
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Colon screening
- Jaundice
- Constipation
- Liver disease
- Crohn's Disease
- Malabsorption
- Diarrhea
- Nausea diarrhea
- Difficulty
- Post-operative colon tests
- Diverticulosis
- Rectal bleeding
- Esophageal reflux
- Spastic
- Gastritis
- Ulcers
- GERD
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Heartburn
- Unexplained weight loss
- Hemorrhoids
- Vomiting

General information

Gastroenterologists do not perform surgery; however, they do perform procedures such as liver biopsies, endoscopic ("scope") examinations of the esophagus, stomach, small and large bowel. Gastroenterologists frequently work with surgeons in helping them select the best operation for a particular patient.

After completing medical school, to become a gastroenterologist requires a further 6 years of training in Royal College-approved programs. Physicians must first successfully complete either a 4 year residency in internal medicine or pediatrics, followed by an additional 1-2 years training in gastroenterology.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

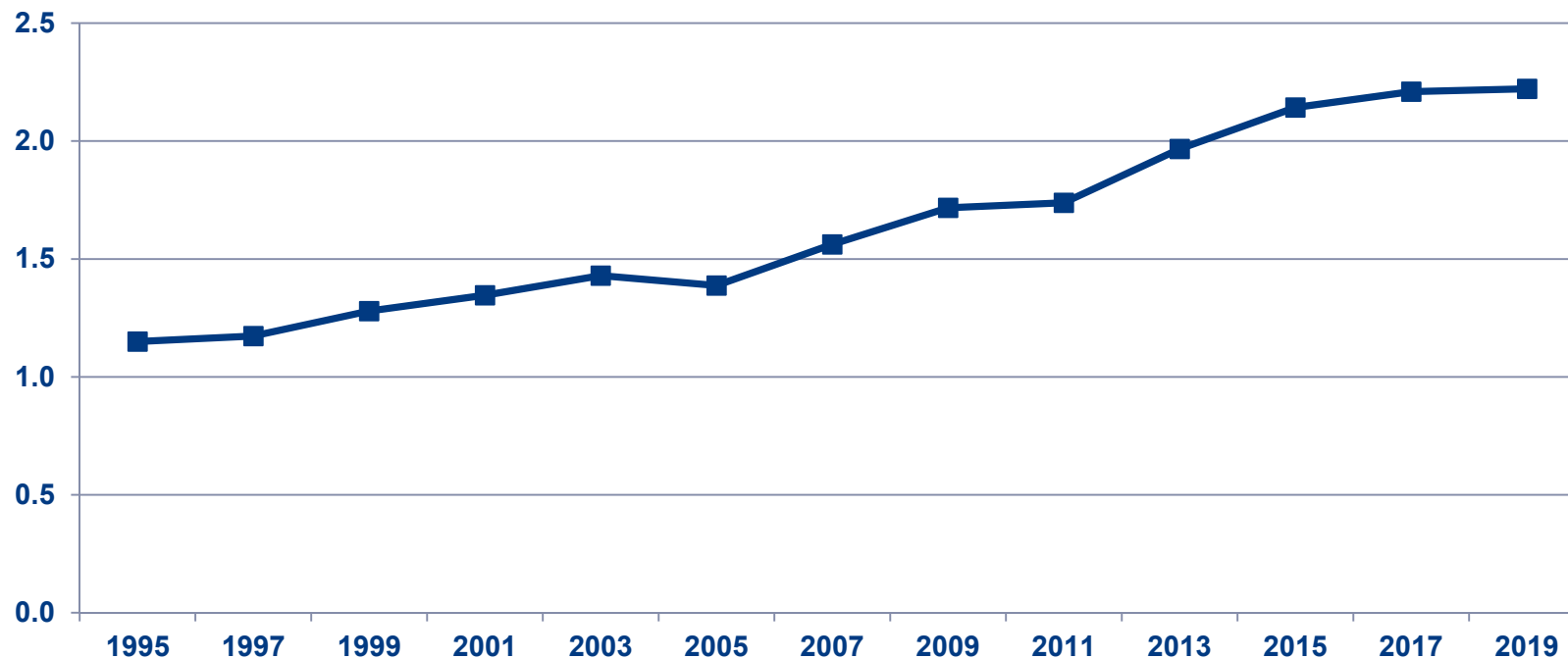
[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)

[Canadian Association of Gastroenterology](#)

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

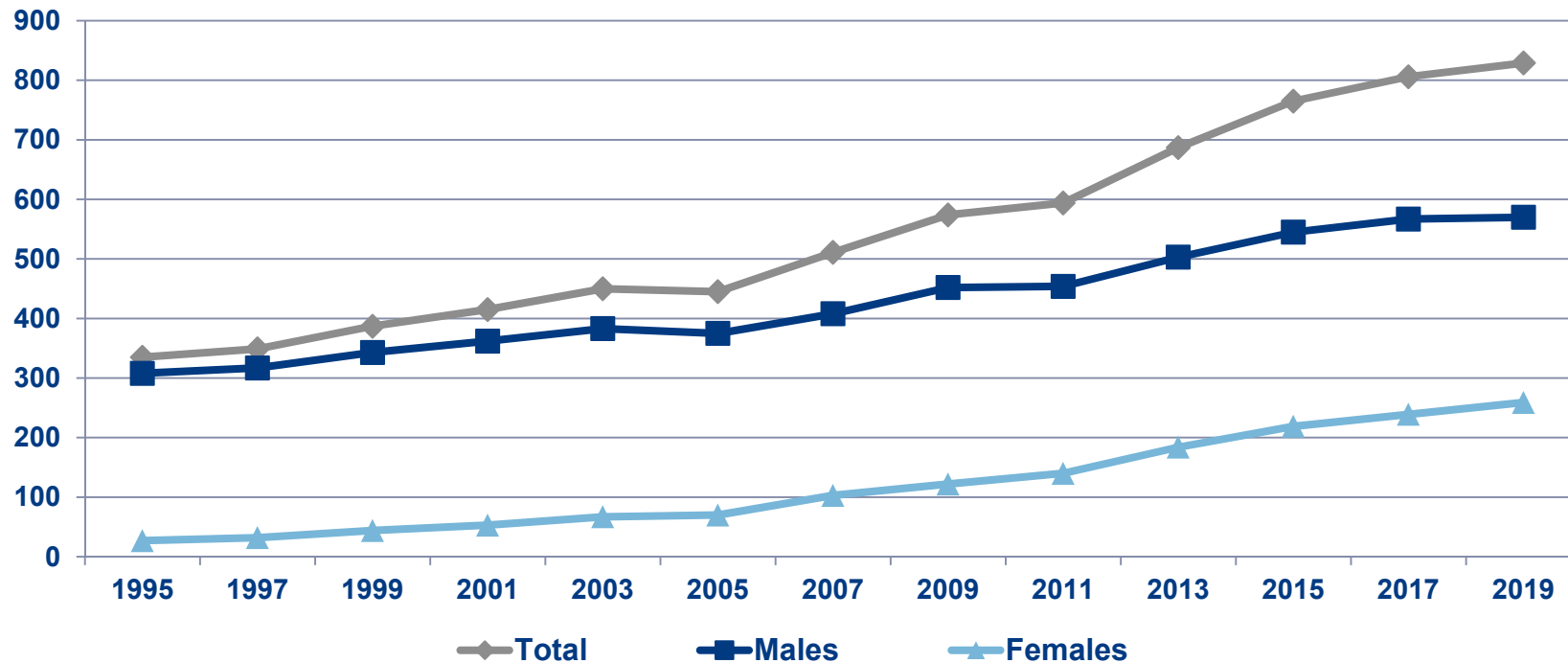
Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	12	2.3
Prince Edward Island	1	0.6
Nova Scotia	23	2.4
New Brunswick	13	1.7
Quebec	241	2.9
Ontario	304	2.1
Manitoba	17	1.2
Saskatchewan	10	0.9
Alberta	124	2.9
British Columbia	84	1.7
Territories	0	0.0
CANADA	829	2.2

Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

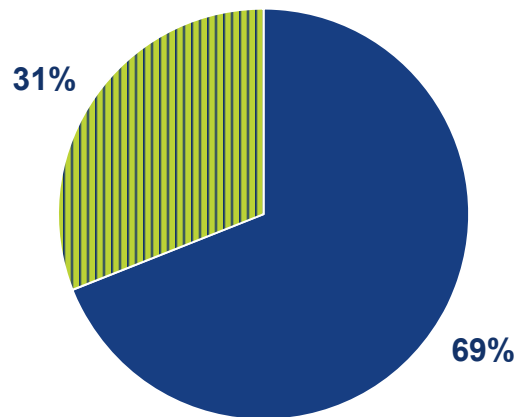
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

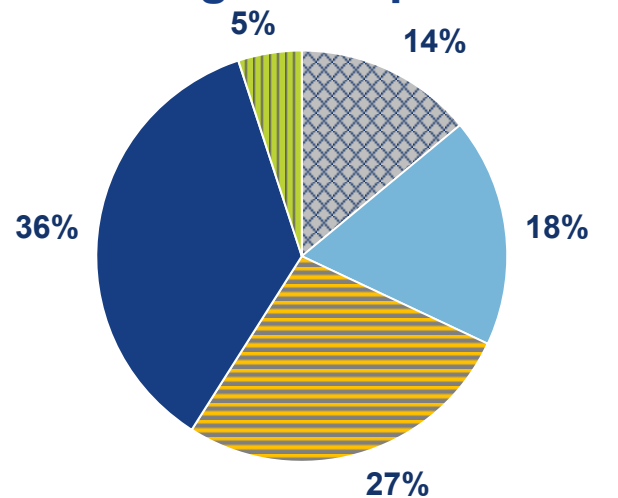
Percentage by gender & age, 2019

Gender



■ Male ■ Female

Age Group

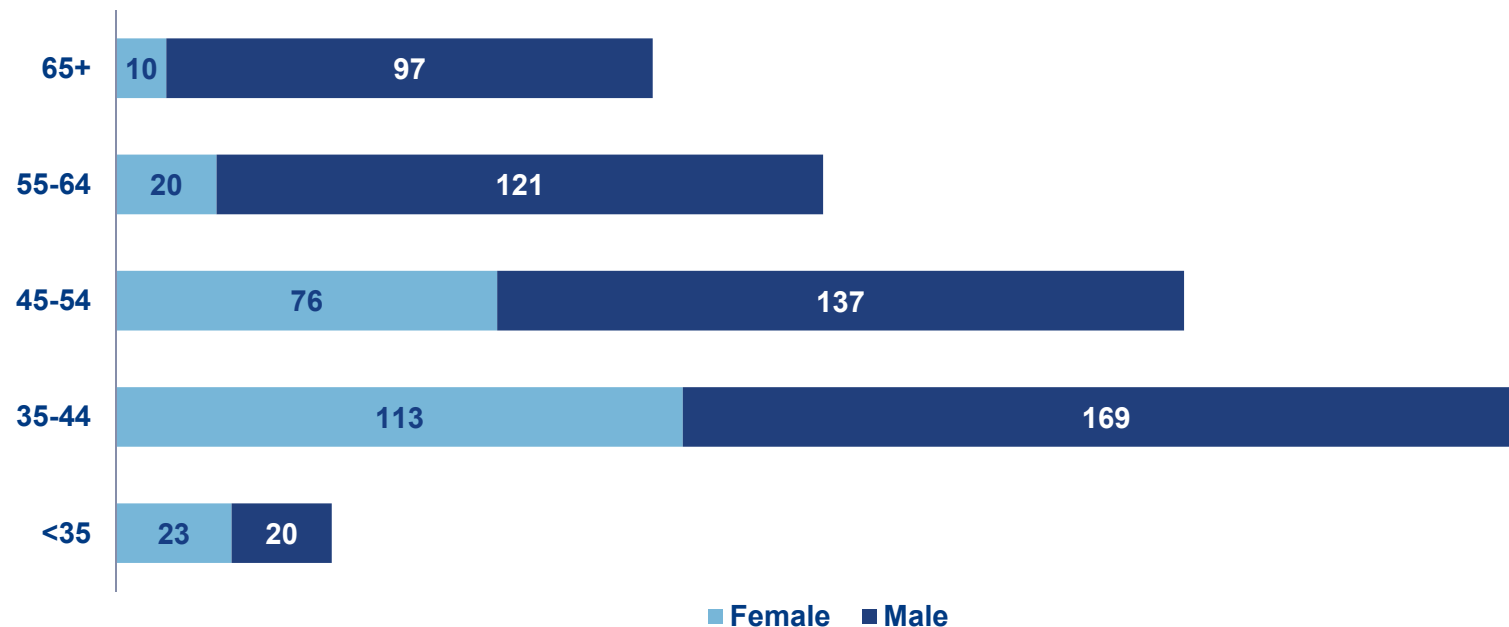


■ 65+ ■ 55 - 64 ■ 45 - 54 ■ 35 - 44 ■ < 35

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

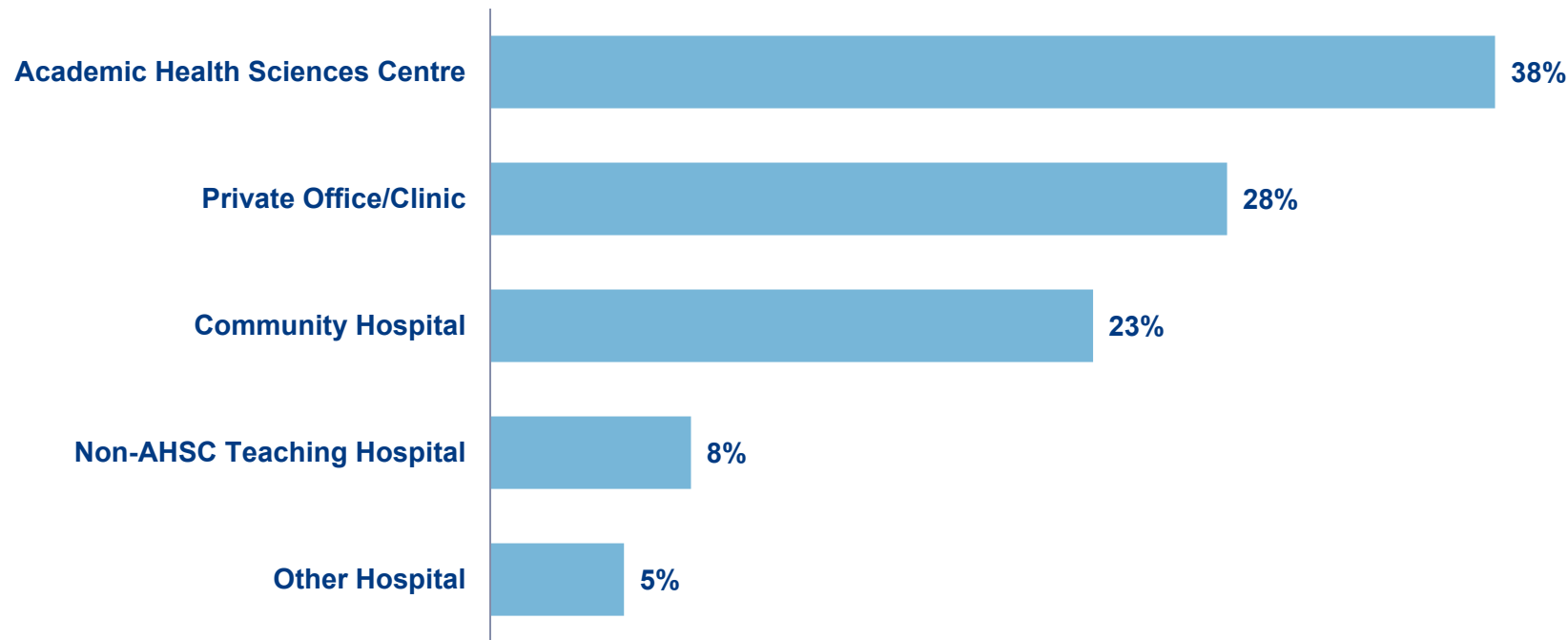
Number by gender & age, 2019



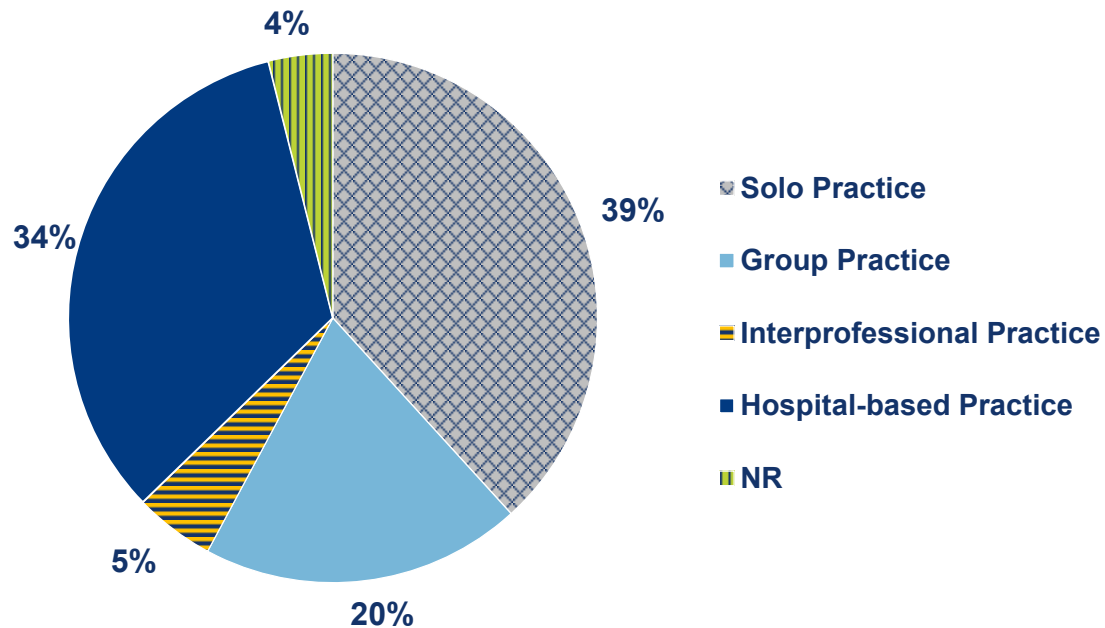
Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

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	26.2
Direct patient care with teaching component	7.4
Teaching without patient care	2.7
Indirect patient care	7.8
Health facility committees	1.2
Administration	1.8
Research	3.6
Managing practice	1.9
Continued professional development	2.0
Other	0.4
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	55.0

On-call duty hours per month, 2019

- 92% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 111 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 44 hours/month**

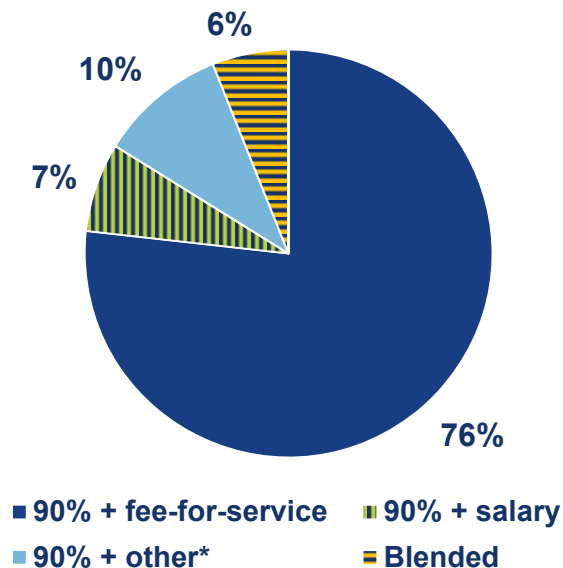
Source: 2019 CMA Physician Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

**Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

**Most recent available data for this specialty

Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2017



Average gross payment per physician for Gastroenterology in 2017/18 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$549,955²

Average percent overhead reported by Gastroenterologists in 2017 = 25%³

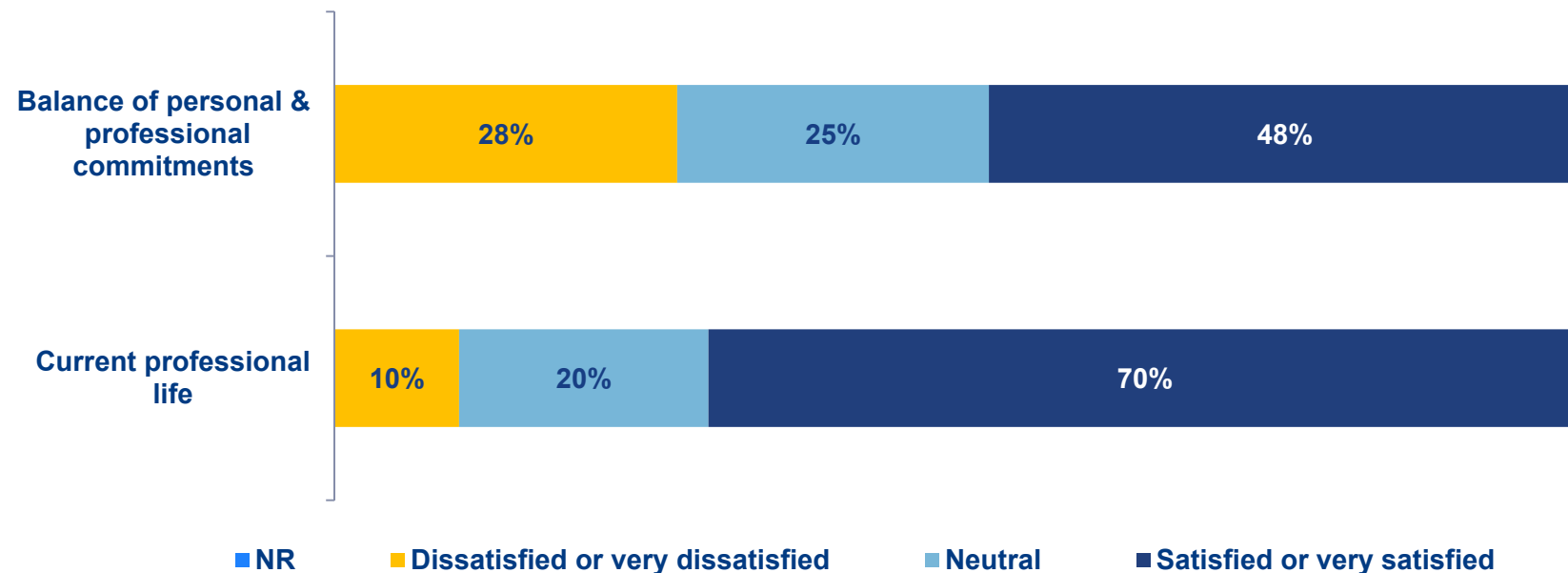
* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract or other method

¹ 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

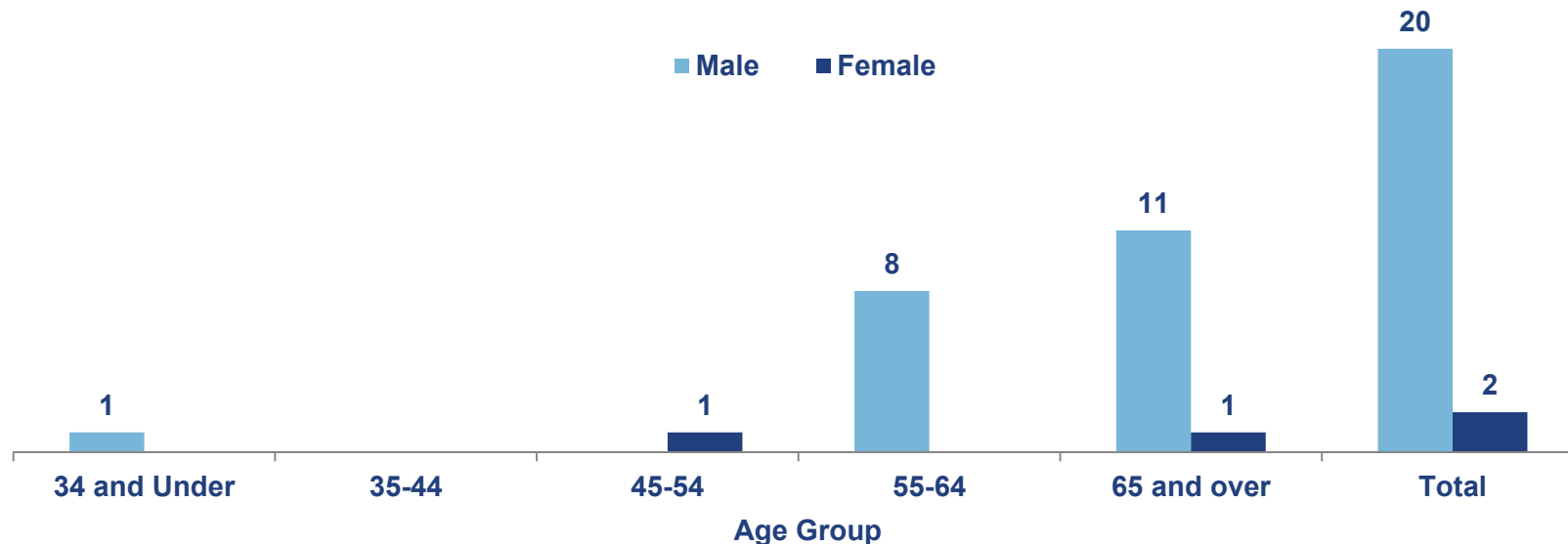
² National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI

³ 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019



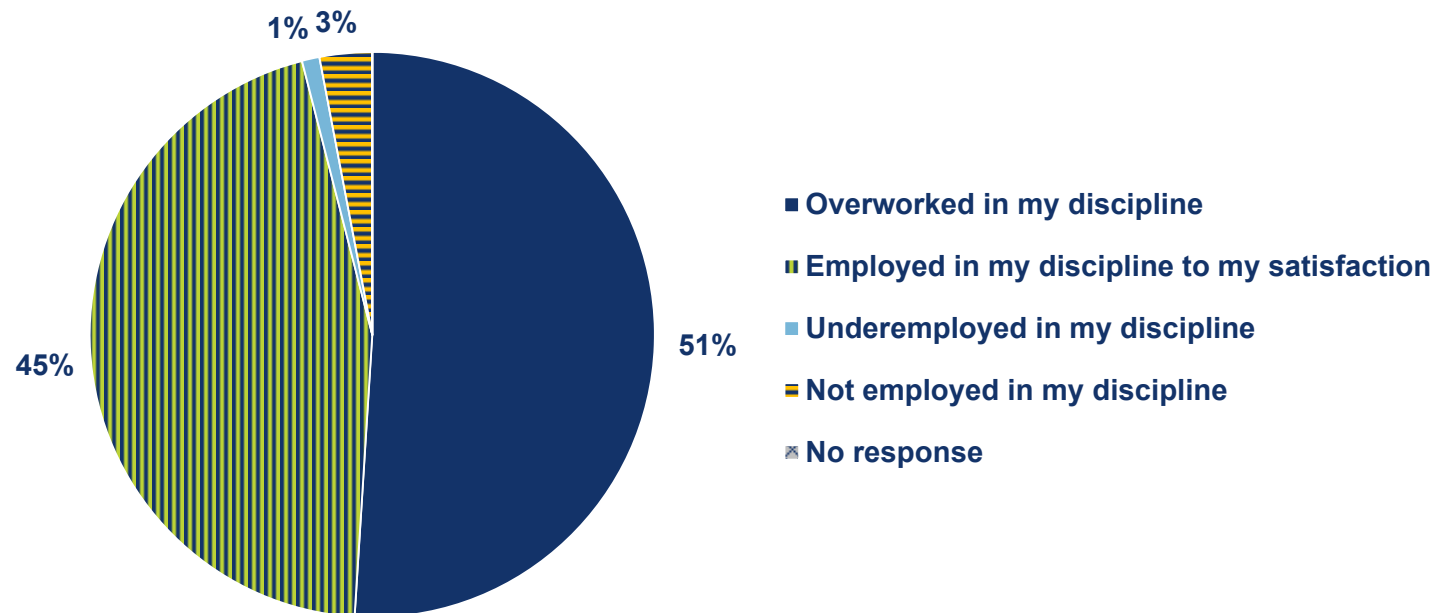
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018



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*



*Most recent available data for this specialty

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

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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