

# Gastroenterology Profile

Updated August 2018

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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.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

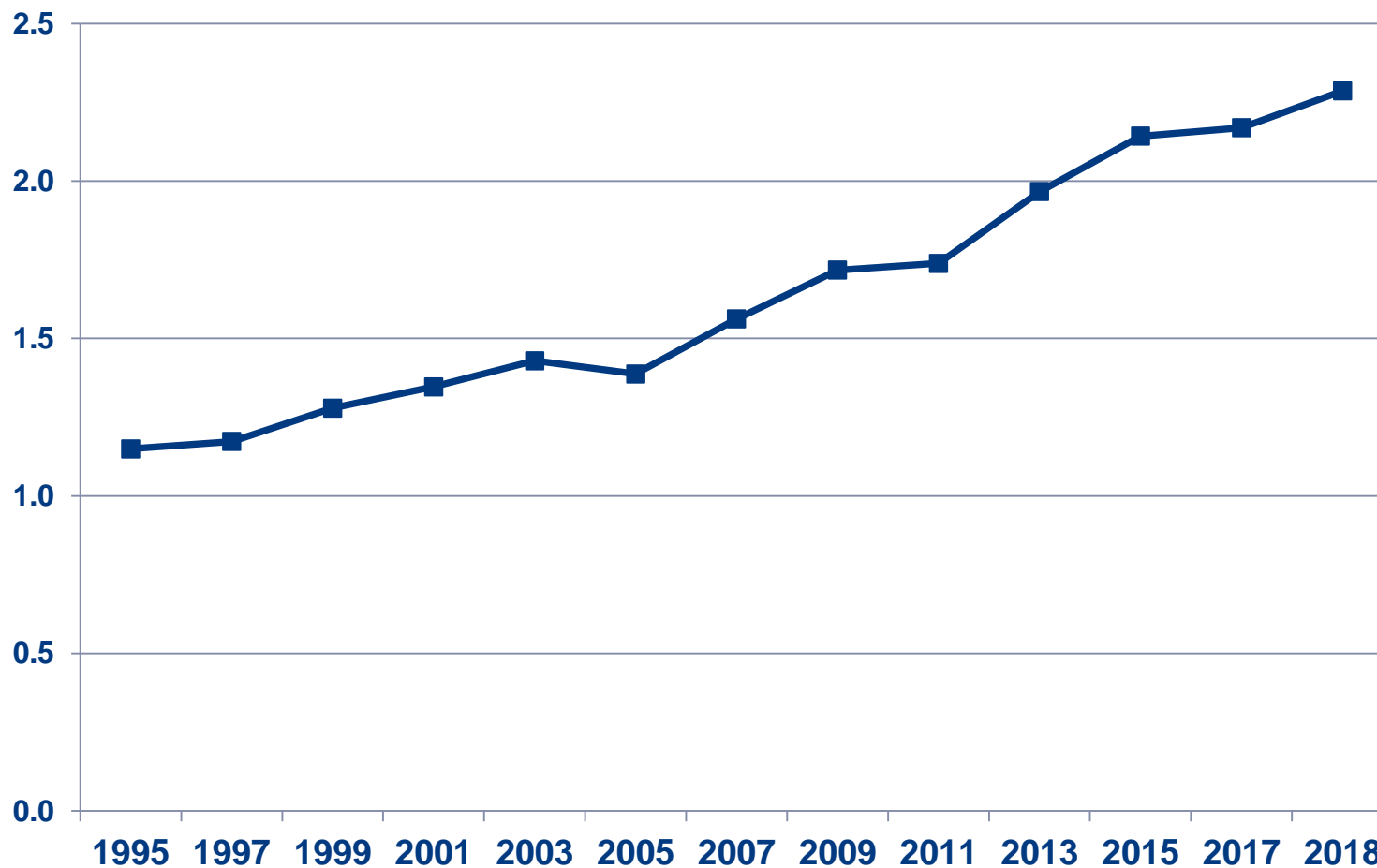
[Canadian Association of Gastroenterology](#)

## Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2018

Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	11	2.1
Prince Edward Island	1	0.7
Nova Scotia	23	2.4
New Brunswick	15	2.0
Quebec	239	2.8
Ontario	313	2.2
Manitoba	18	1.3
Saskatchewan	10	0.9
Alberta	129	3.0
British Columbia	86	1.8
Territories	0	0.0
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>2.3</b>

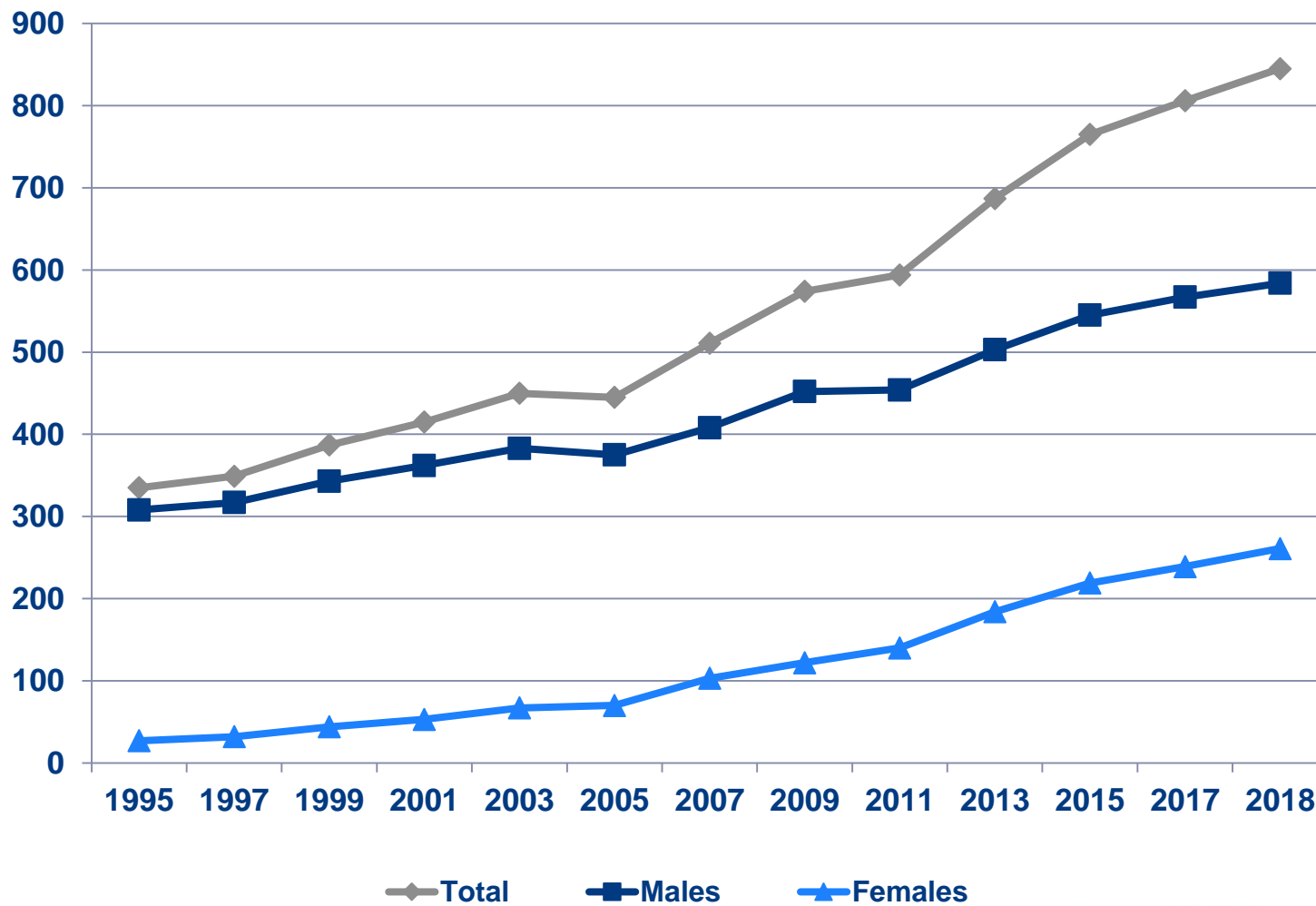
Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile

## Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2018



Source: 1995-2018 CMA Masterfiles

## Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2018

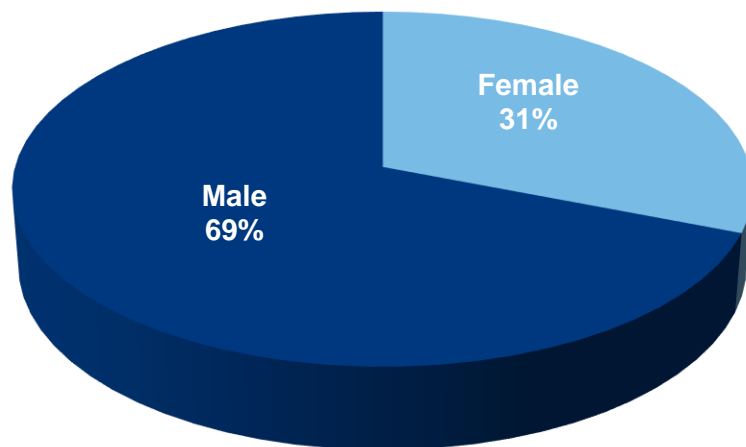


Source: 1995-2018 CMA Masterfiles

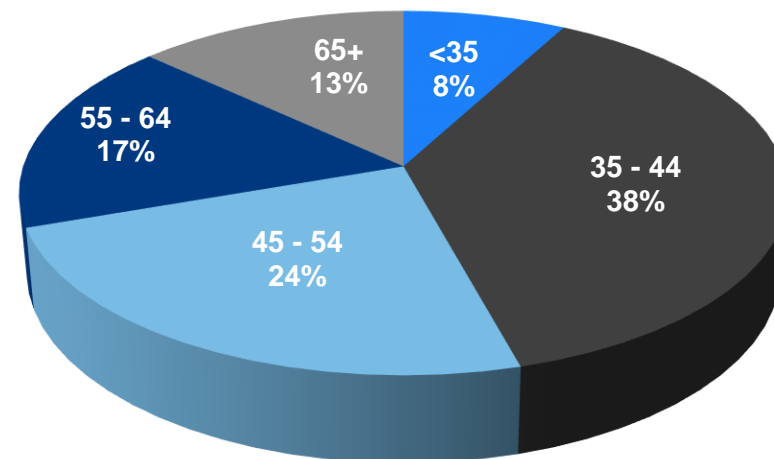


## Percentage by gender & age, 2018

### Gender



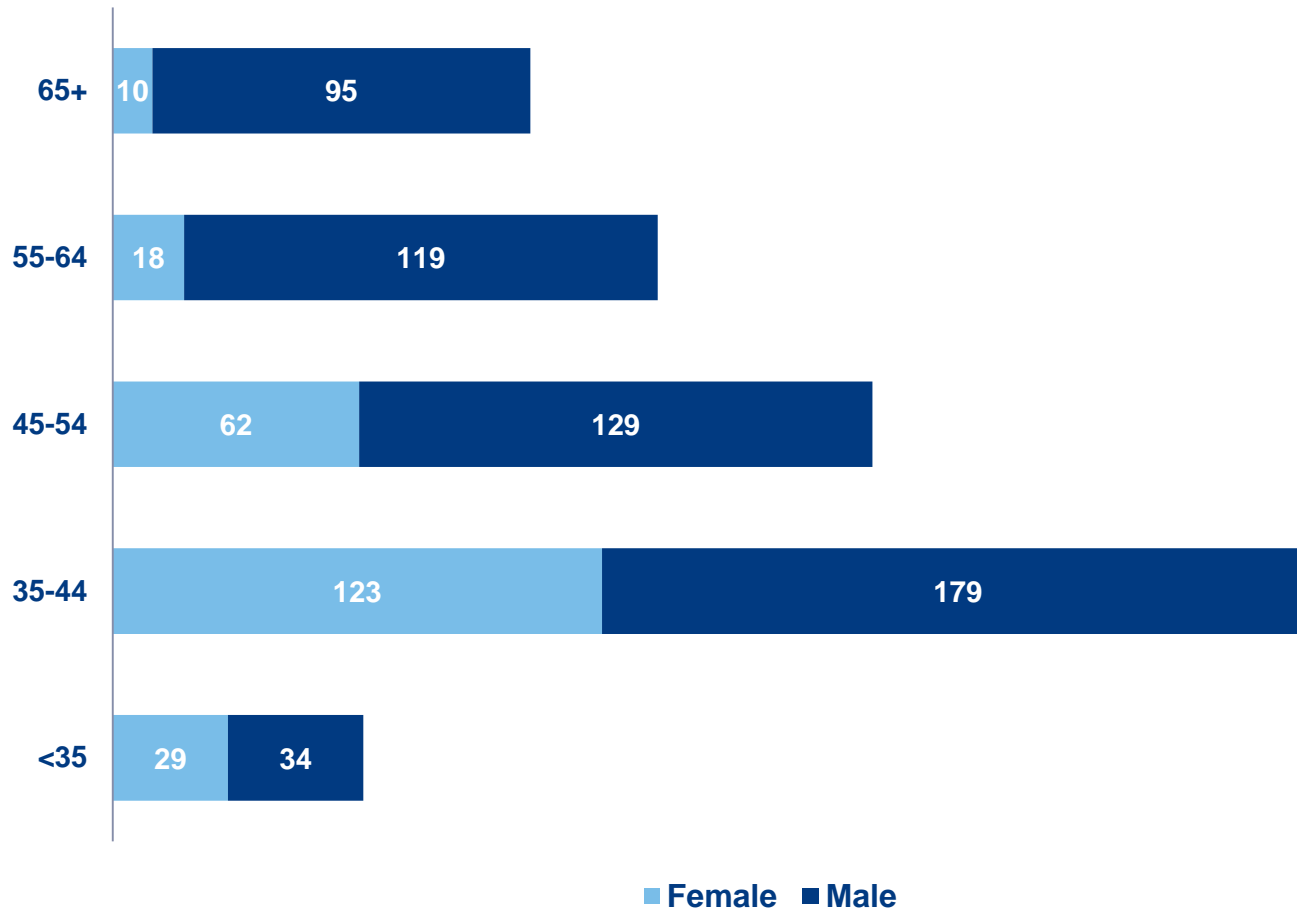
### Age Group



Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile

## Number by gender & age, 2018

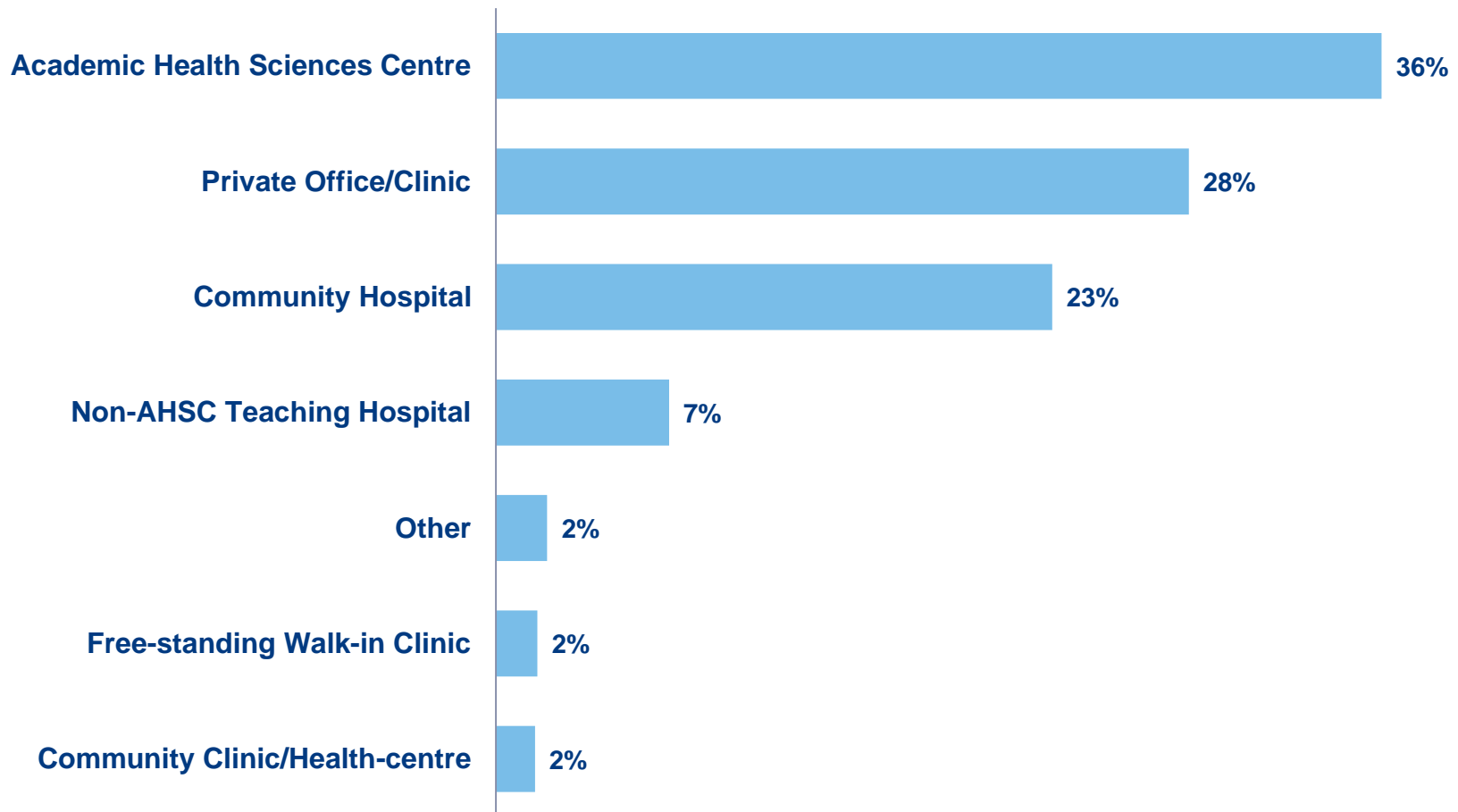


Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile

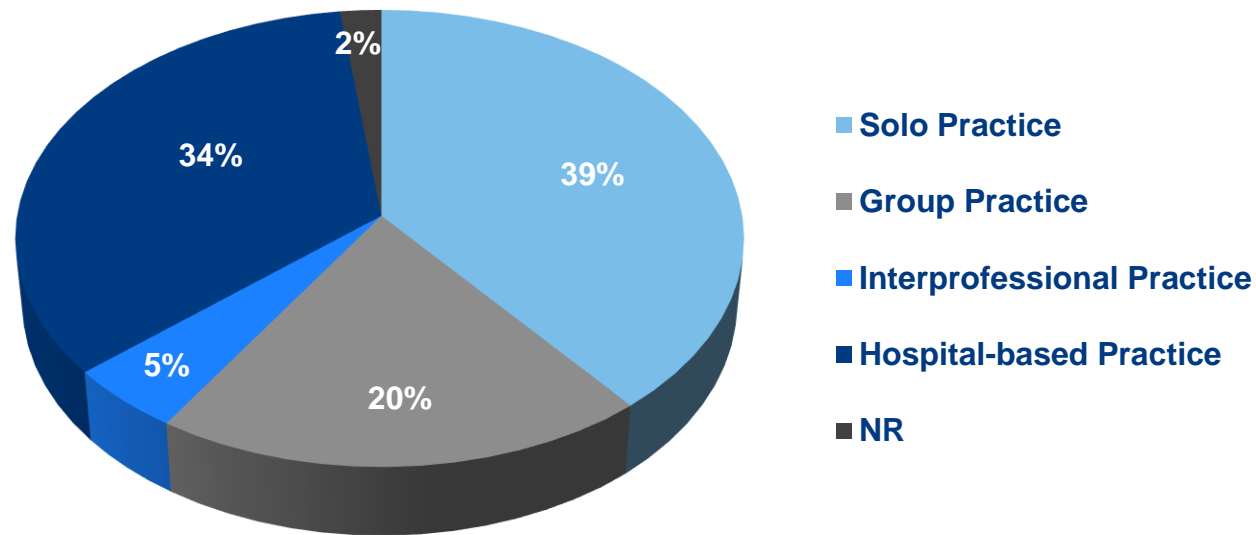


## Percentage by main work setting, 2017



Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

## Percentage by practice organization, 2017



## Hours worked per week (excluding on-call), 2017

Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	30.5
Direct patient care with teaching component	6.1
Teaching without patient care	1.3
Indirect patient care	7.6
Health facility committees	0.7
Administration	2.1
Research	1.5
Managing practice	1.3
Continued professional development	3.2
Other	0.6
<b>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</b>	<b>54.8</b>

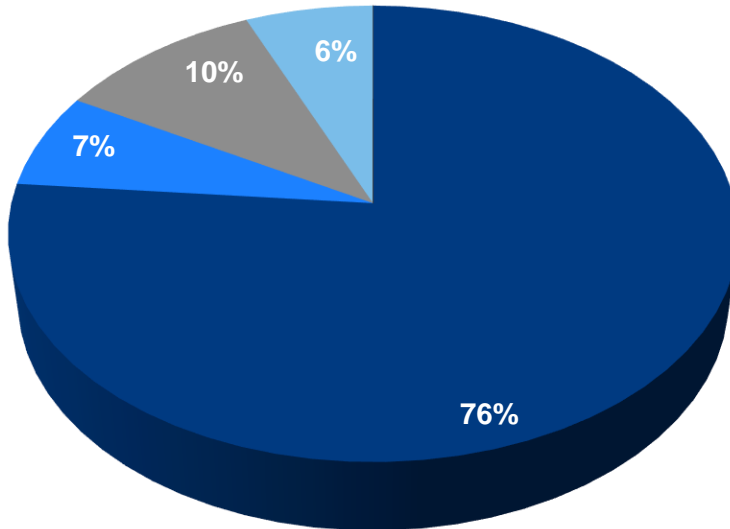


## On-call duty hours per month, 2017

- 84% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 108 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 44 hours/month

## Percentage by remuneration method

### Primary payment method<sup>1</sup> in 2017



- 90% + fee-for-service
- 90% + salary
- 90% + other\*
- Blended
- NR

\* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract or other methods

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for Gastroenterology in 2015/16 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$516,460<sup>2</sup>

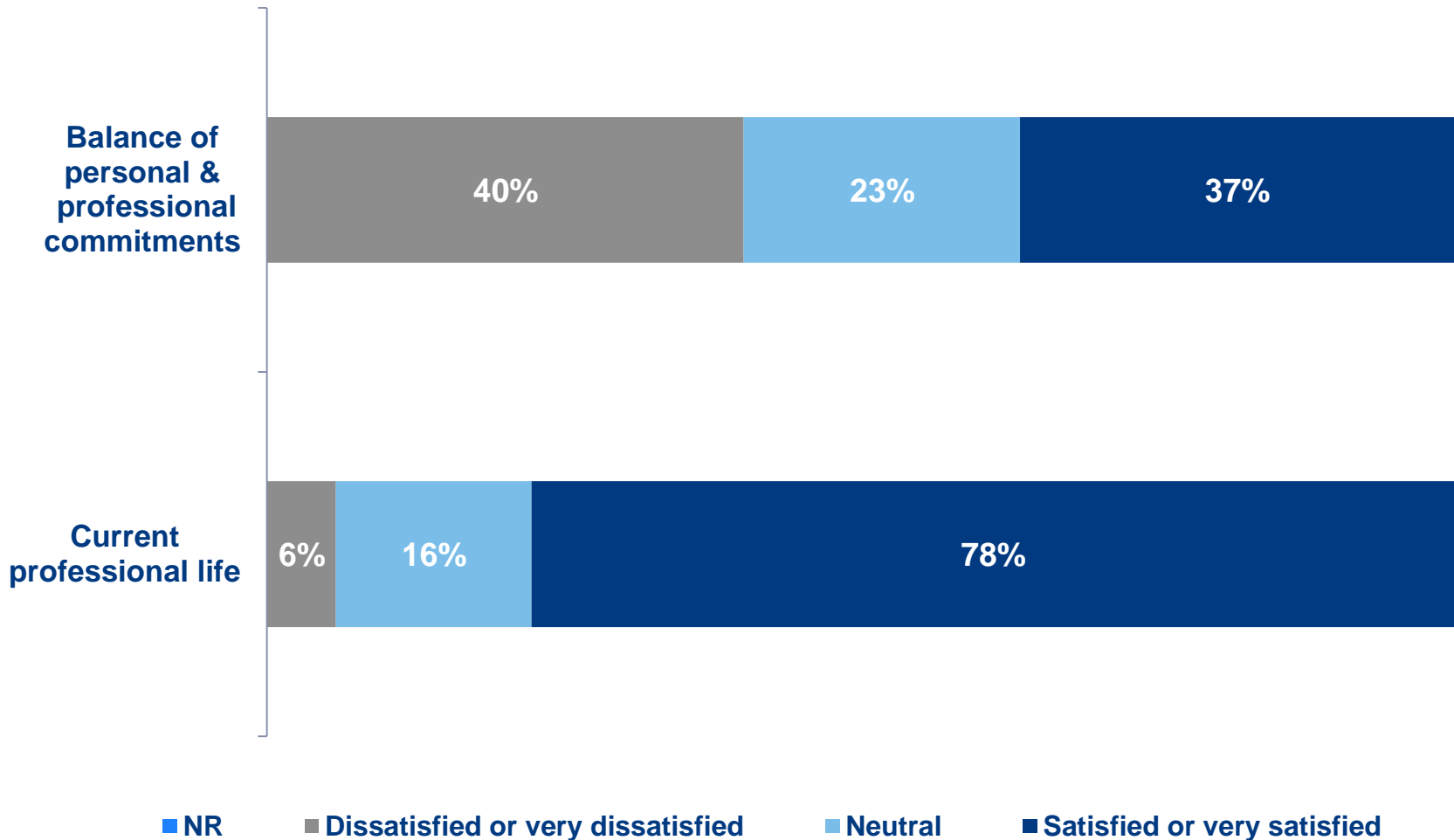
Average percent overhead reported by Gastroenterologists in 2017 = 25%<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

<sup>2</sup> National Physician Database, 2015/16, CIHI

<sup>3</sup> 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

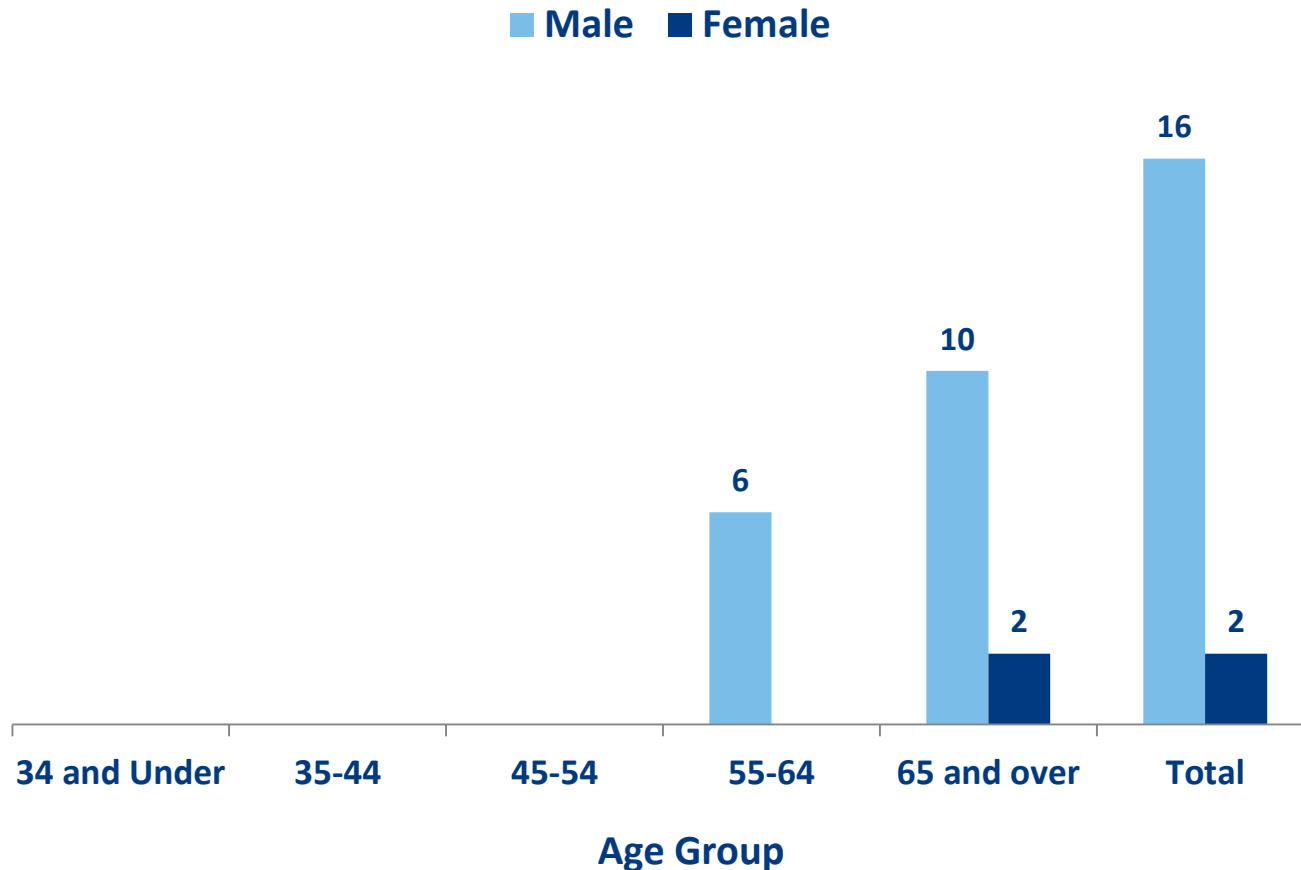
## Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2017



Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association



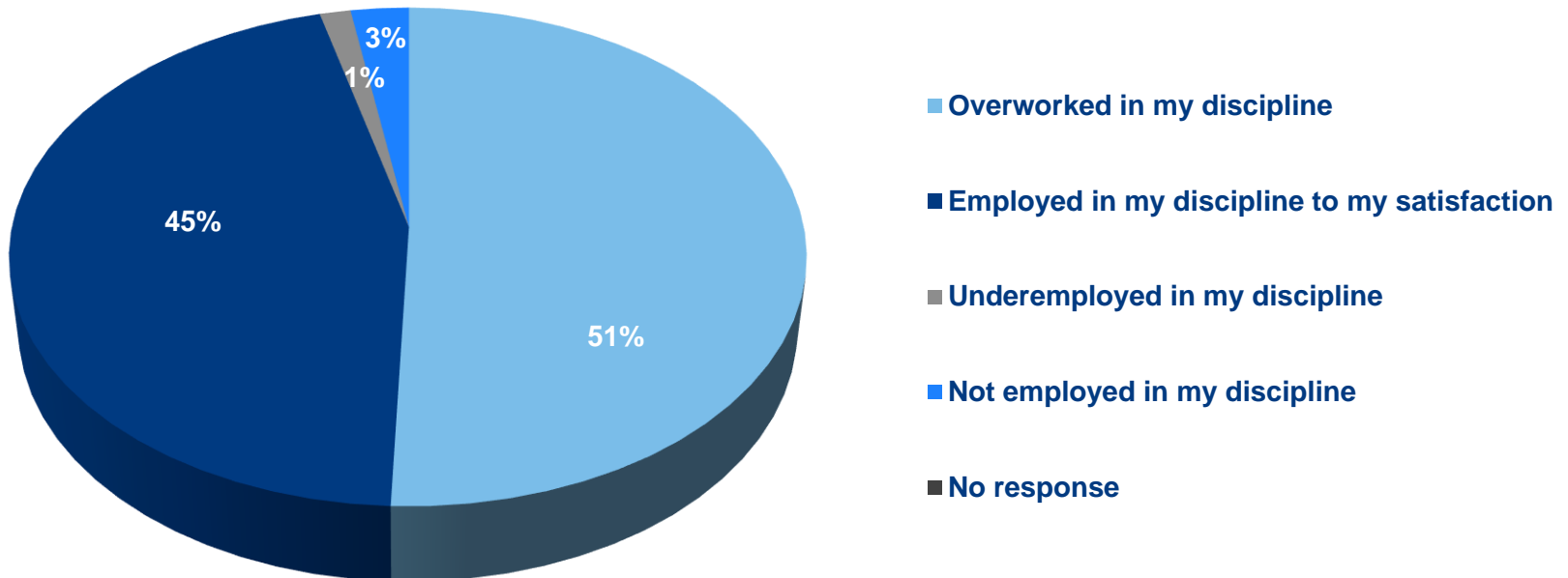
## Number of retirees during the three year period of 2014-2016



**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](#)