

General/Clinical Pathology Profile

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General information

General pathology is a specialty concerned with all aspects of laboratory investigation in health and disease that focuses on the causes, manifestations and diagnosis of disease. A pathologist may act as a consultant for clinical physicians and their advice is often sought in the treatment of patients. Pathologists apply a range of biomedical science knowledge to achieve a diagnosis.

General/clinical pathology is the specialty encompassing autopsy, surgical pathology, anatomical pathology, cytology and medical biochemistry, hematological pathology, medical microbiology and transfusion medicine.

General pathologists are competent in the selection and interpretation of diagnostic tests, in the principles of methodology instrumentation and quality control, and managerial skills appropriate to the direction of a clinical laboratory in a community hospital.

General information

They are involved in the day-to-day liaison between the laboratory and the clinical staff and serve as consultants to clinical colleagues in the application of the resources of the laboratory to help solve clinical problems.

Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in general pathology requires an additional 5 years of Royal College-approved residency training. This training includes:

- 1 year of basic clinical training;
- 2 years of Royal College-approved training in anatomical pathology that must include: 1 year of surgical pathology; at least 2 months of training in a formal, structured medico-legal autopsy program, which must provide exposure to an appropriate mix of medico-legal autopsy cases in sufficient numbers to meet training objectives; and 3 months training in cytopathology;

General information

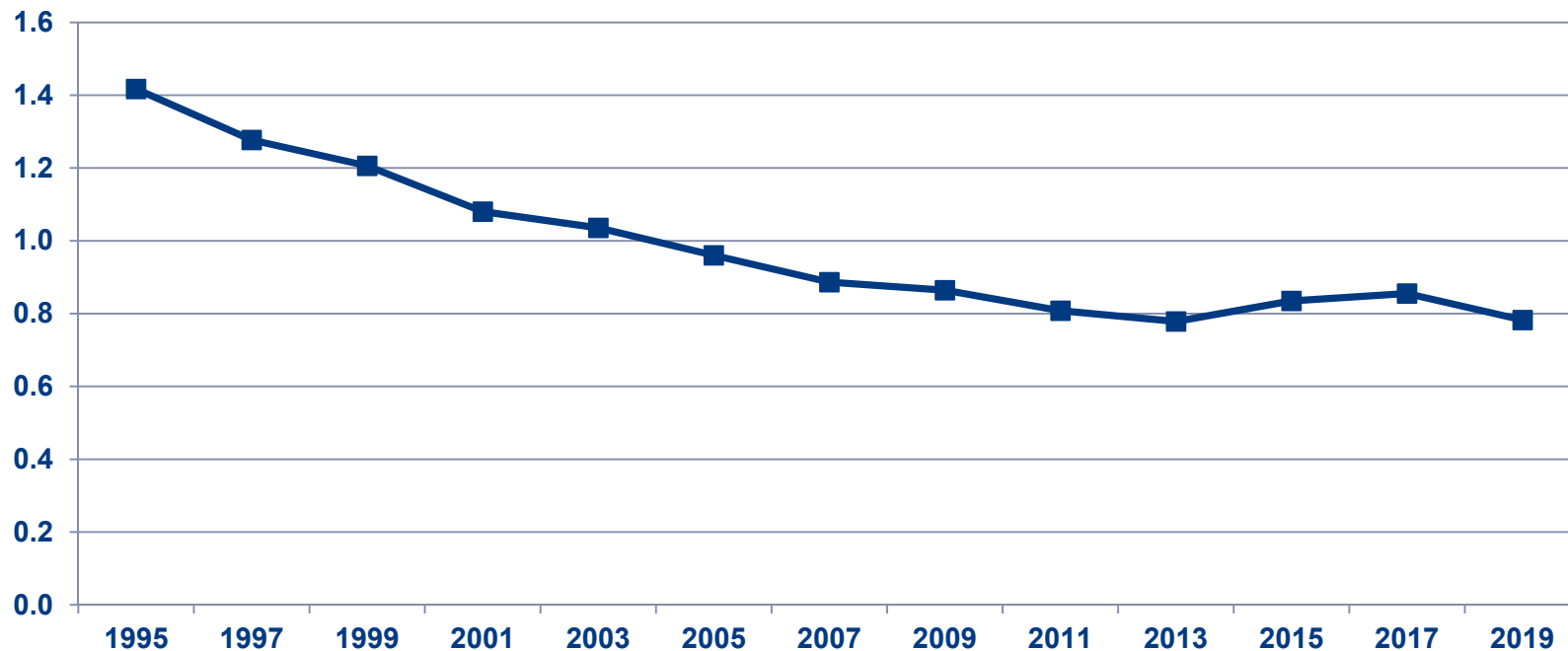
- 6 months of Royal College-approved training in each of medical biochemistry; hematological pathology, incorporating morphological hematology, coagulation, and transfusion medicine; microbiology, including bacteriology, immunology, mycology, parasitology and virology;
- 6 months of electives including experience in laboratories in smaller community hospitals and in freestanding clinical laboratories. It must include training in facilities with laboratory physicians practicing general pathology.

For further details on training requirements please go to:
[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)
[Canadian Association of Pathologists](#)

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

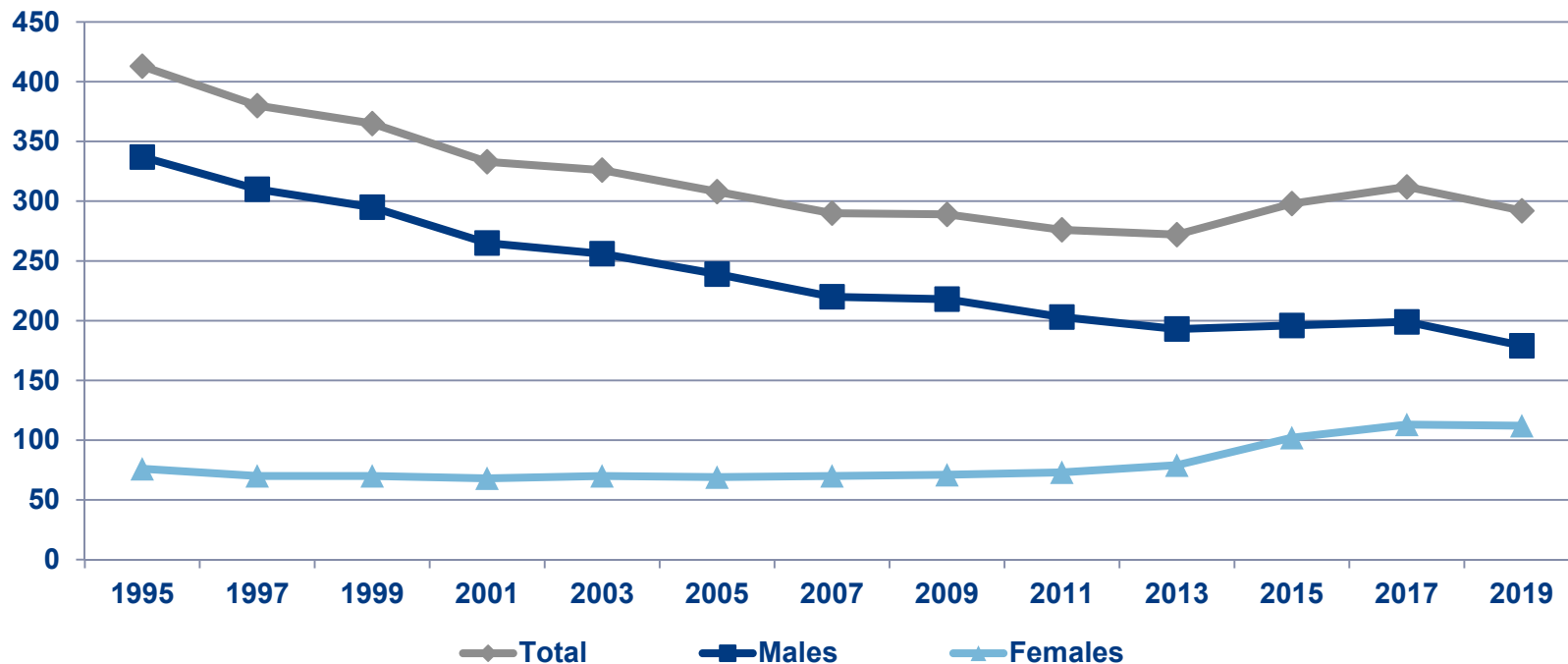
Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	4	0.8
Prince Edward Island	3	1.9
Nova Scotia	7	0.7
New Brunswick	5	0.6
Quebec	62	0.7
Ontario	87	0.6
Manitoba	7	0.5
Saskatchewan	14	1.2
Alberta	42	1.0
British Columbia	61	1.2
Territories	0	0.0
CANADA	292	0.8

Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

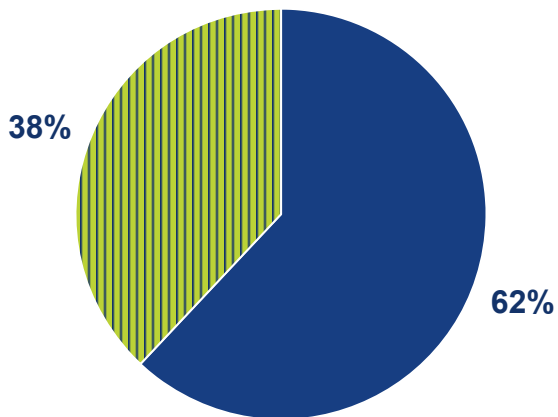
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

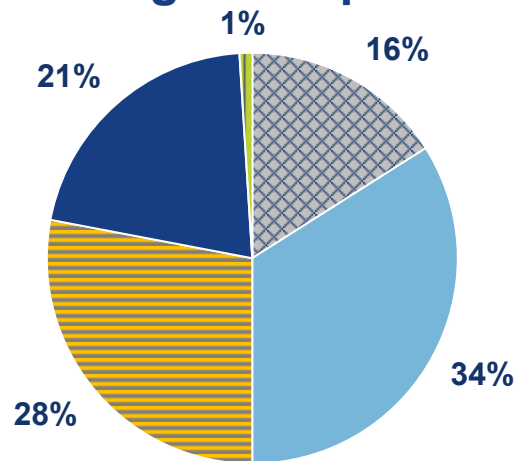
Percentage by gender & age, 2019

Gender



■ Male ■ Female

Age Group

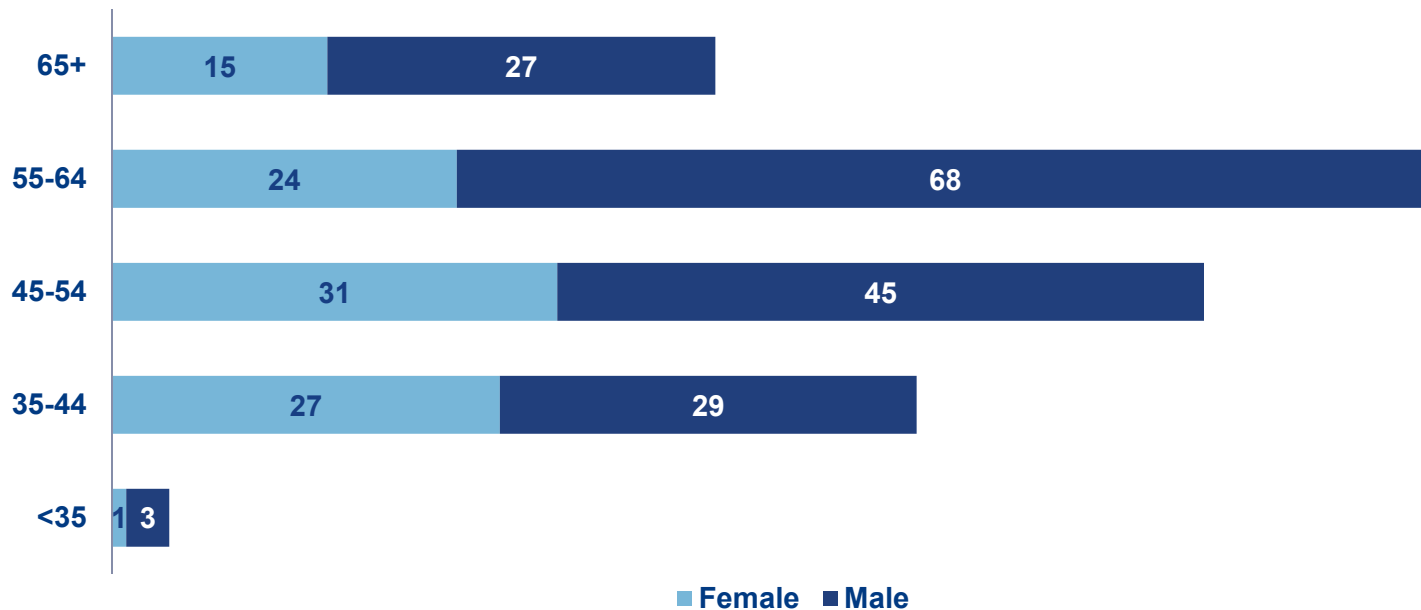


■ 65+ ■ 55 - 64 ■ 45 - 54 ■ 35 - 44 ■ < 35

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

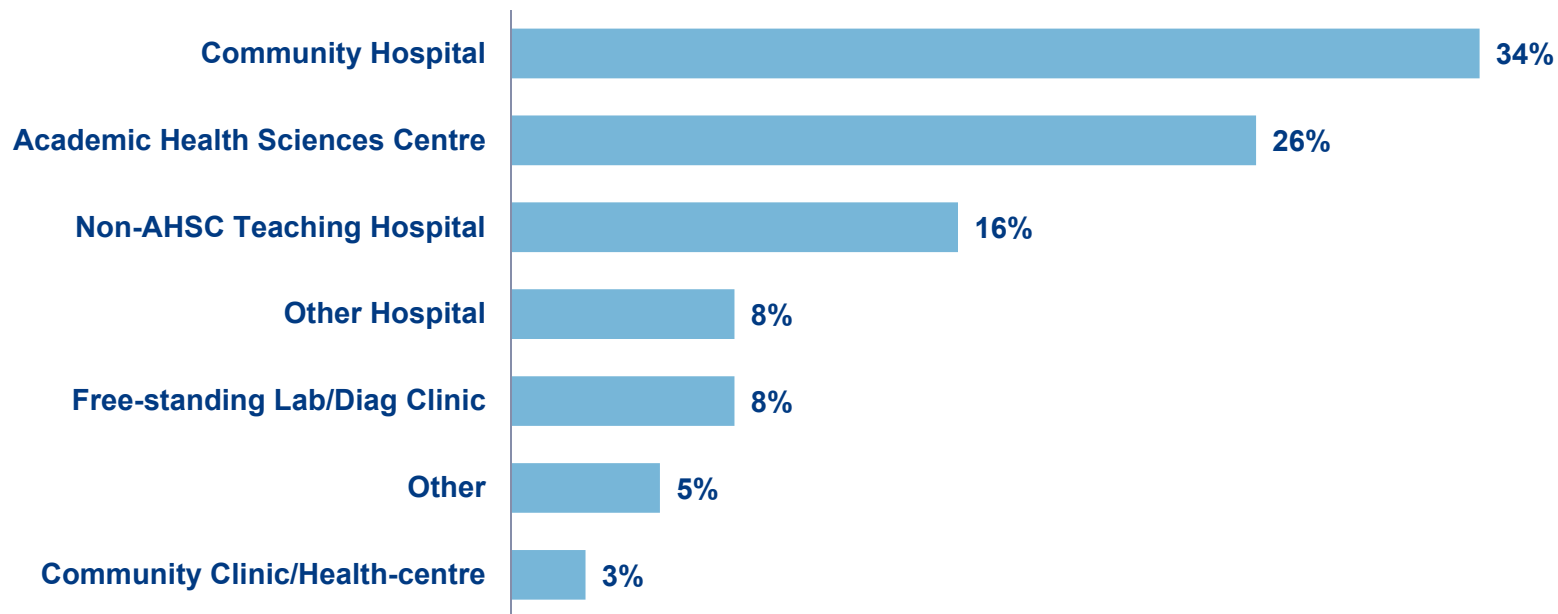
Number by gender & age, 2019



Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

Percentage by main work setting, 2019

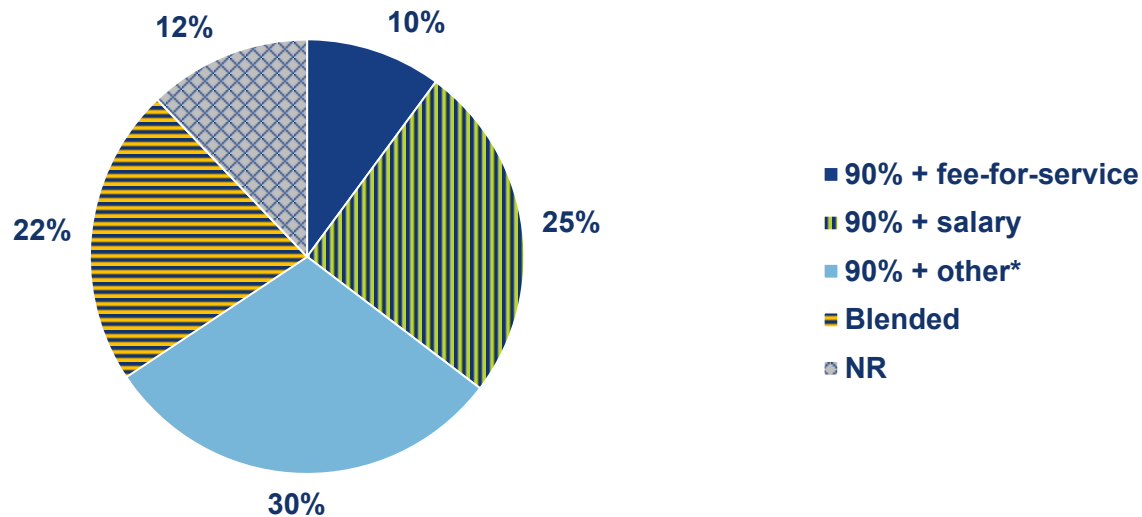


Hours worked per week (excluding on-call), 2019

Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	26.0
Direct patient care with teaching component	4.4
Teaching without patient care	1.4
Indirect patient care	4.8
Health facility committees	1.3
Administration	4.8
Research	1.2
Managing practice	2.8
Continued professional development	1.5
Other	0.2
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	48.3

Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2013**

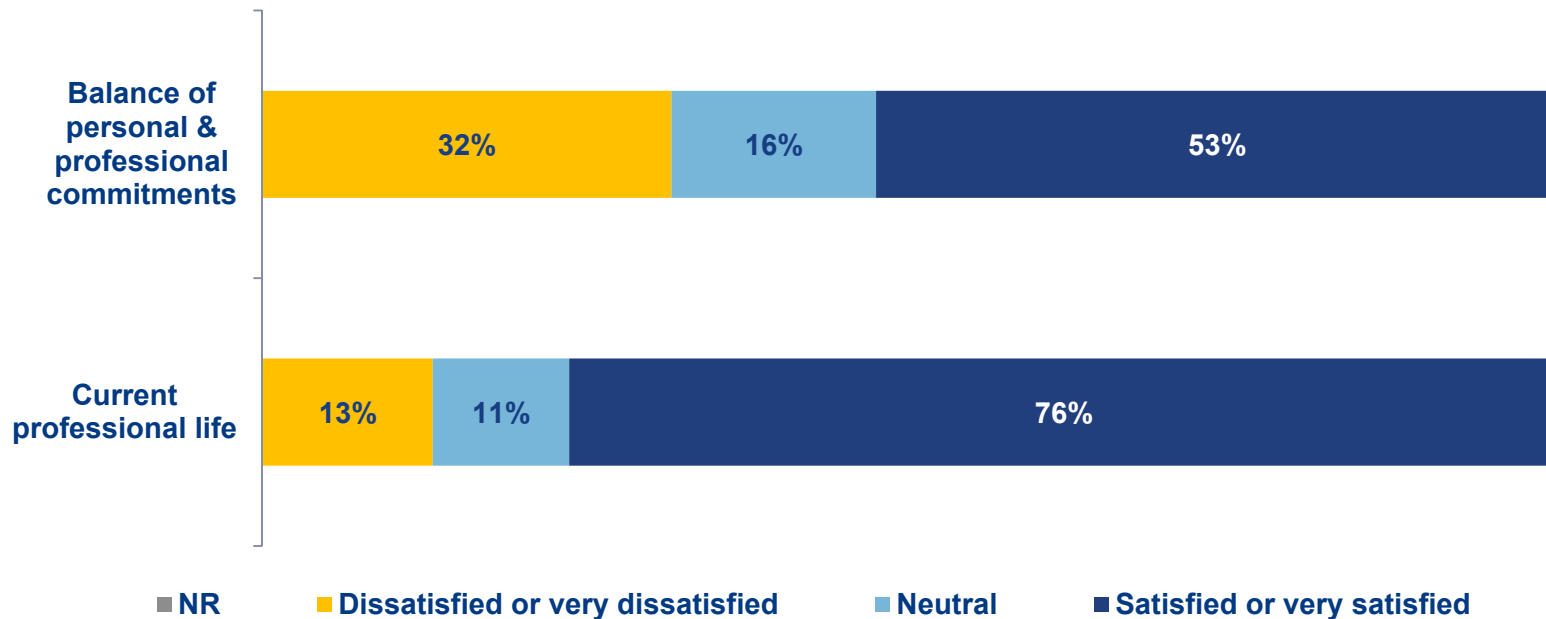


*Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

**Most recent available data for this specialty

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

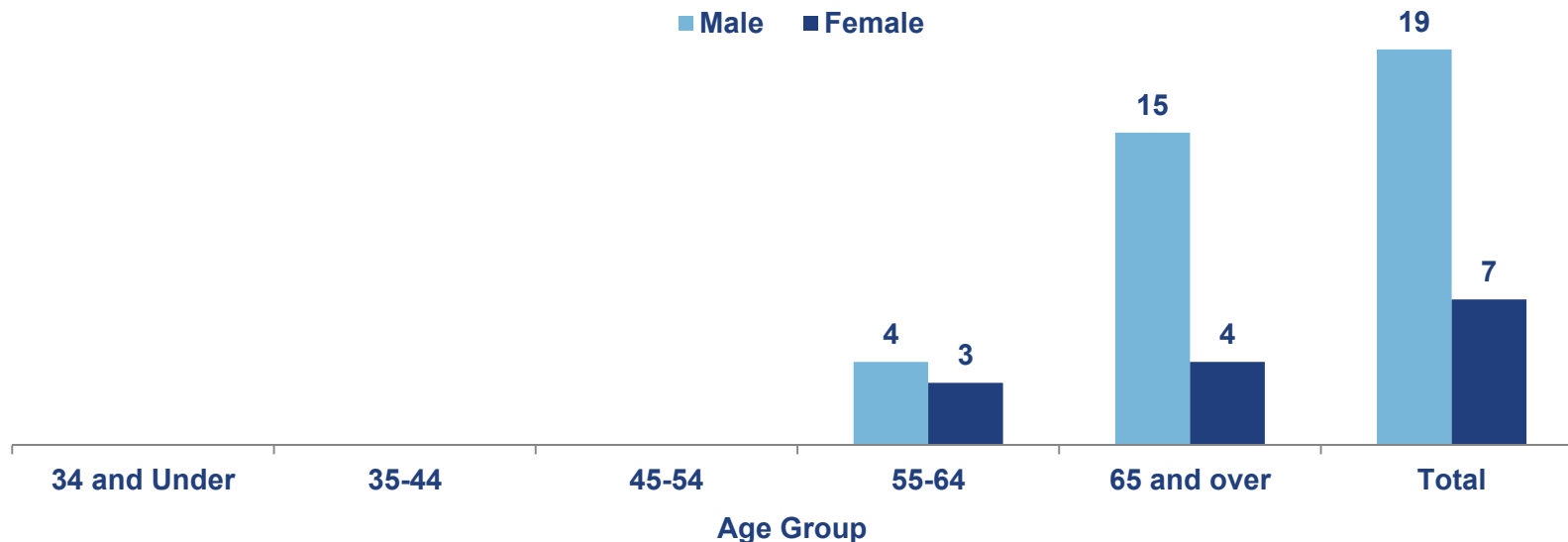
Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2013*



*Most recent available data for this specialty

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

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

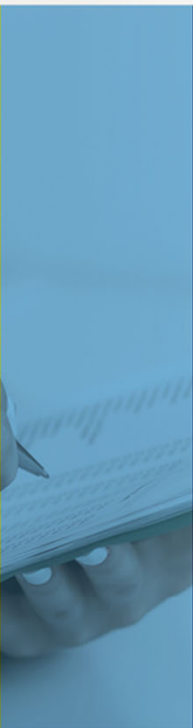


Source: CMA Masterfile – year over year comparisons

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.

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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