



General Surgery Profile

Updated
December 2019

Table of Contents

	Slide
▪ <u>General Information</u>	3-5
▪ <u>Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2019</u>	6
▪ <u>Number/100,000 population, 1995-2019</u>	7
▪ <u>Number by gender & year, 1995-2019</u>	8
▪ <u>Percentage by gender & age, 2019</u>	9
▪ <u>Number by gender & age, 2019</u>	10
▪ <u>Percentage by main work setting, 2019</u>	11
▪ <u>Percentage by practice organization, 2017</u>	12
▪ <u>Hours worked per week (excluding on-call), 2019</u>	13
▪ <u>On-call duty hours per month, 2019</u>	14
▪ <u>Percentage by remuneration method</u>	15
▪ <u>Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019</u>	16
▪ <u>Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018</u>	17
▪ <u>Employment situation, 2017</u>	18
▪ <u>Links to additional resources</u>	19

General information

The general surgeon is trained to provide surgical care for the whole patient. This includes making a diagnosis; preoperative, operative and postoperative management of the patient; and the surgical treatment of the:

- alimentary tract;
- abdomen and its contents, including the pelvis;
- breast, skin and soft tissue; and
- endocrine system.

It includes head and neck surgery, pediatric surgery, surgical critical care, surgical oncology, trauma and burns, transplants and vascular surgery.

The exact profile of a general surgeon's practice may vary depending on whether the practice is in an academic centre, an urban community or a more rural centre.

General information

In rural practice, some surgeons may do gynecologic, urologic, orthopedic and ENT surgeries. In some academic centres, a general surgeon might limit his/her practice to one subspecialty.

General surgery tends to be a varied specialty, where the activities of a general surgeon involve time in the operating room, office, emergency department and the intensive care unit. General surgical practice requires expertise in communication and collaboration, teaching and research, health care management and continuing professional development.

After completing medical school, to become a general surgeon requires an additional 5 years of training in an Royal College-approved program. Some schools offer a 6-year program, while others offer an optional PGY6 year.

General information

The resident must acquire a thorough knowledge of the theoretical basis of general surgery, including its foundations in the basic medical sciences and research. Training should incorporate the principle of graded increasing responsibility. This must include at least 36 months of general surgery rotations, of which at least one year is spent as a senior or chief resident.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

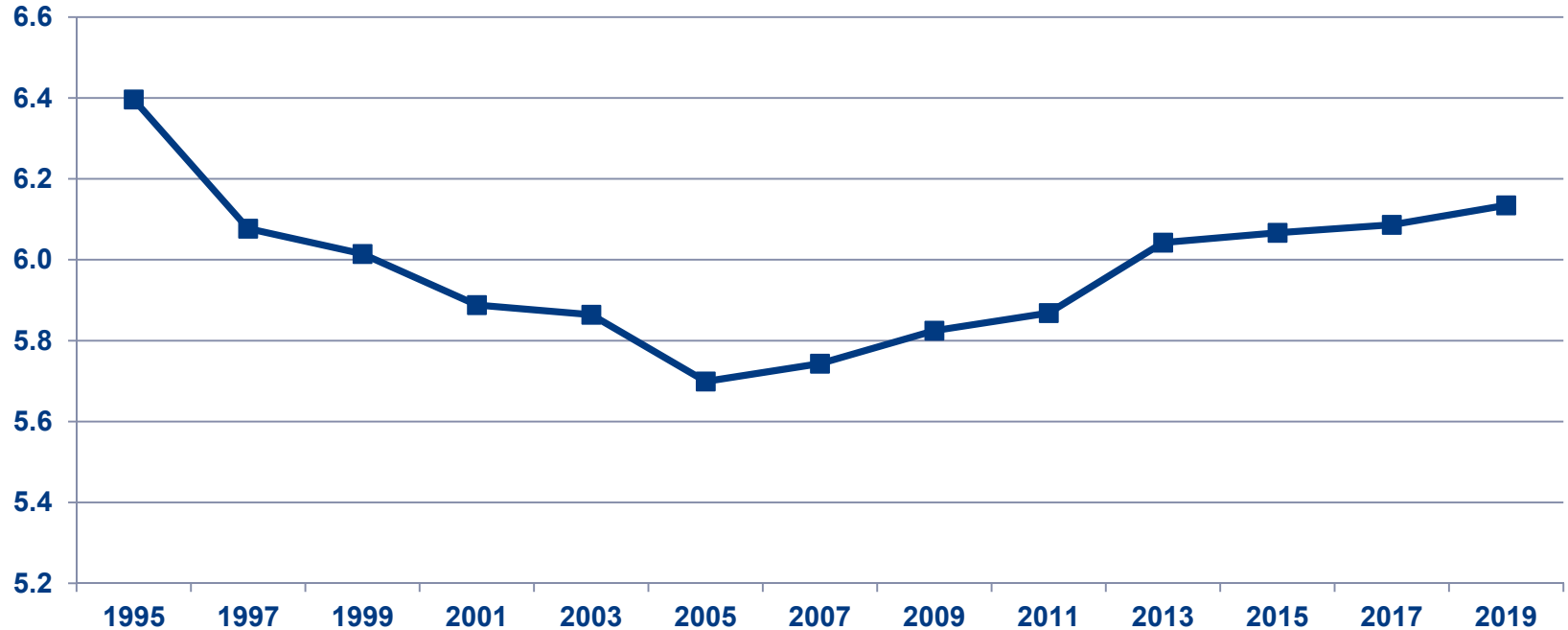
[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)

[Canadian Association of General Surgeons](#)

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

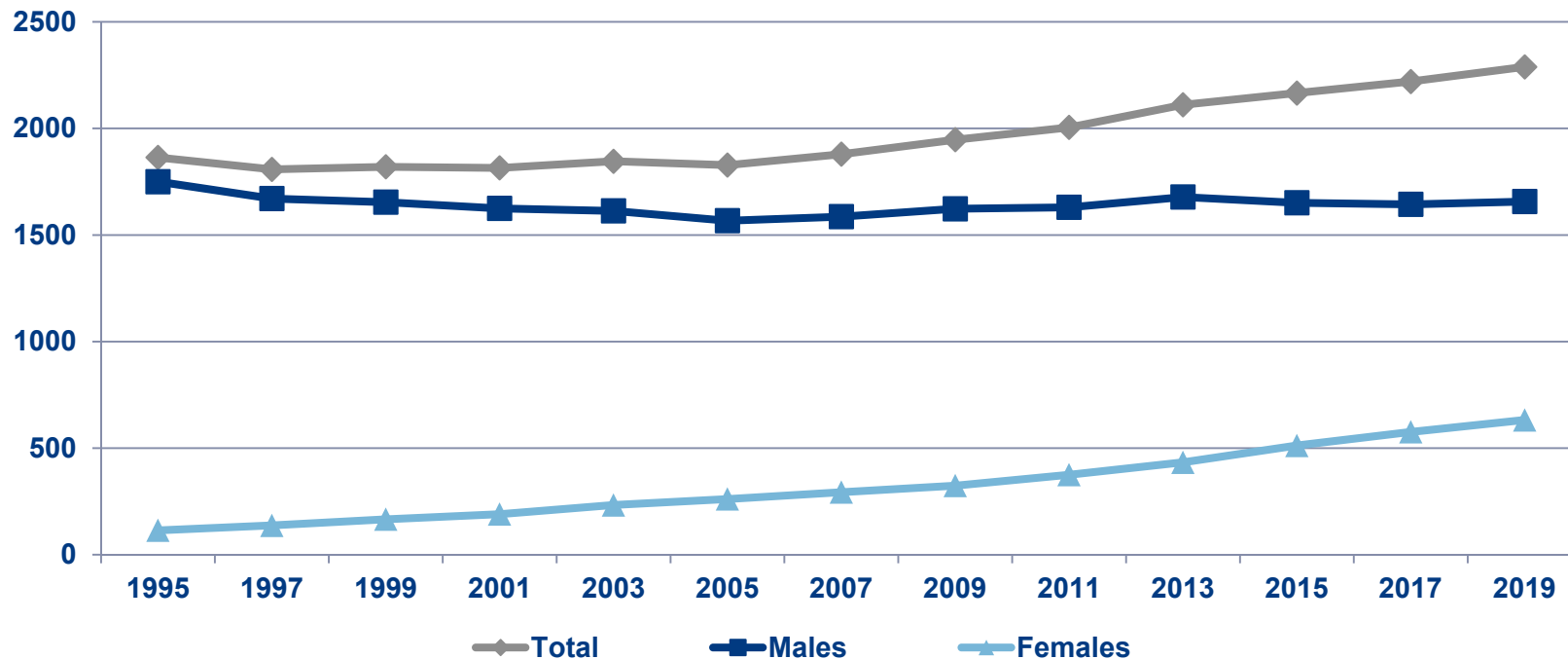
Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	46	8.8
Prince Edward Island	10	6.4
Nova Scotia	62	6.4
New Brunswick	48	6.2
Quebec	615	7.3
Ontario	854	5.9
Manitoba	80	5.9
Saskatchewan	79	6.8
Alberta	212	4.9
British Columbia	274	5.4
Territories	9	7.3
CANADA	2289	6.1

Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



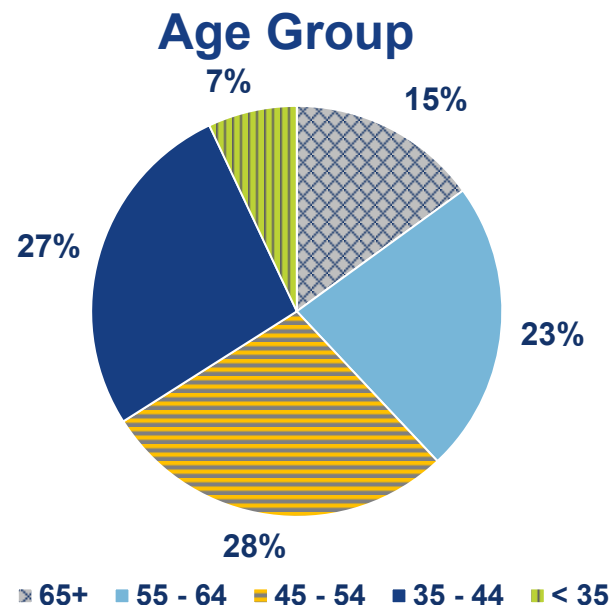
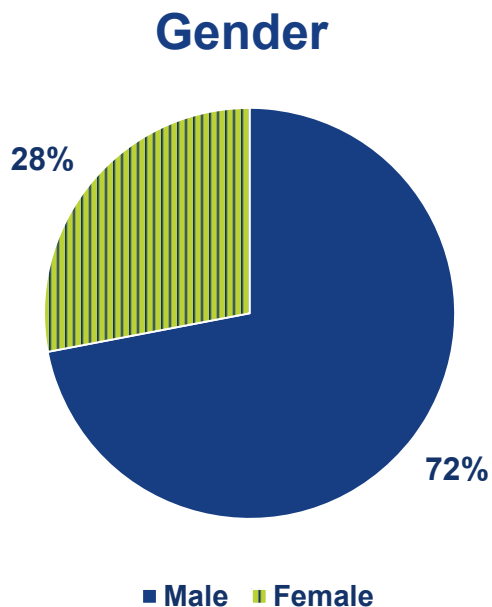
Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

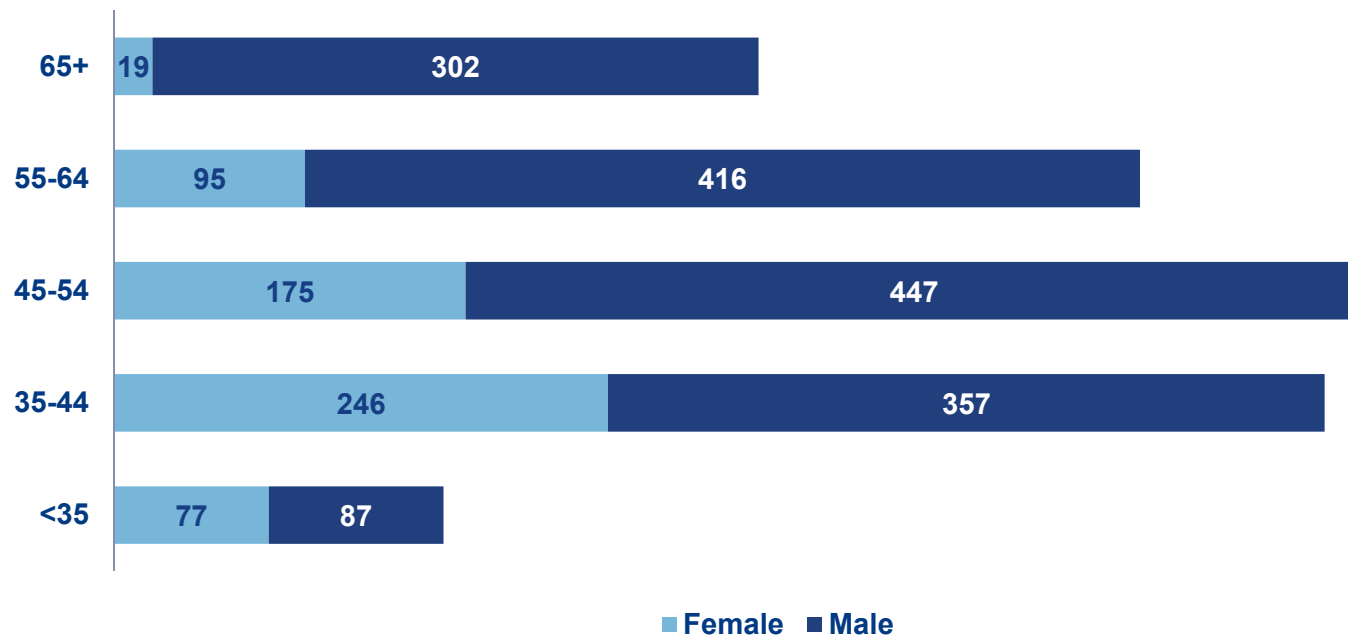
Percentage by gender & age, 2019



Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

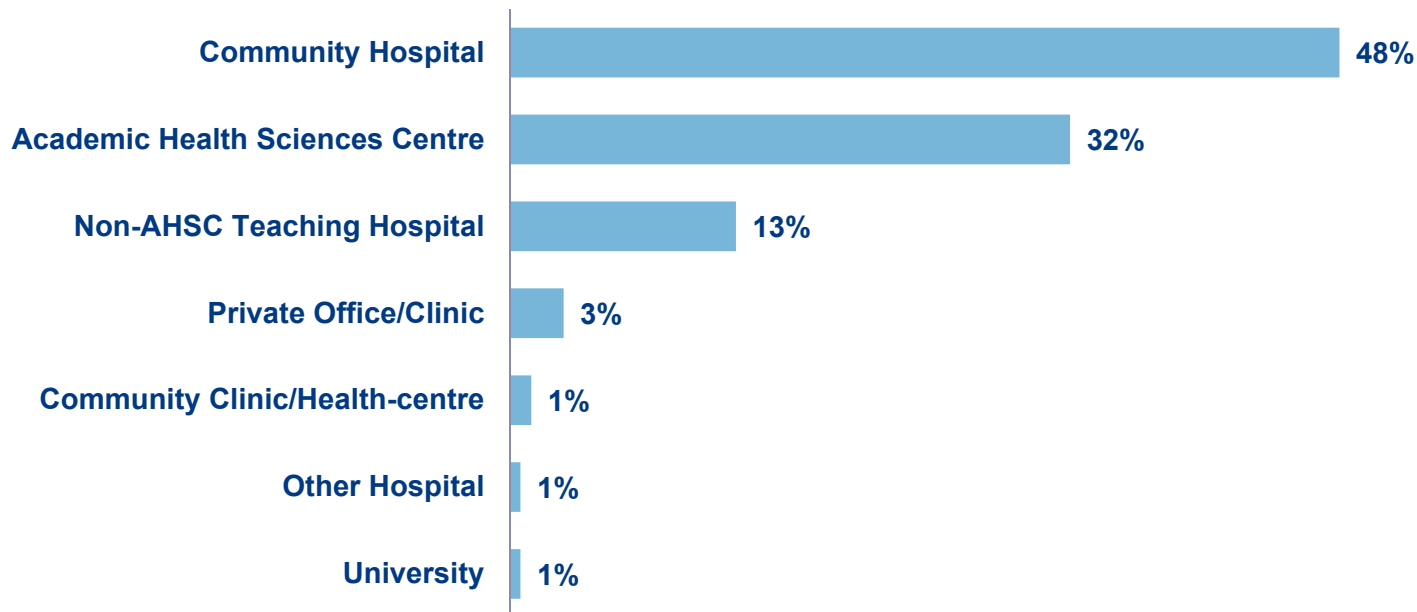
Number by gender & age, 2019



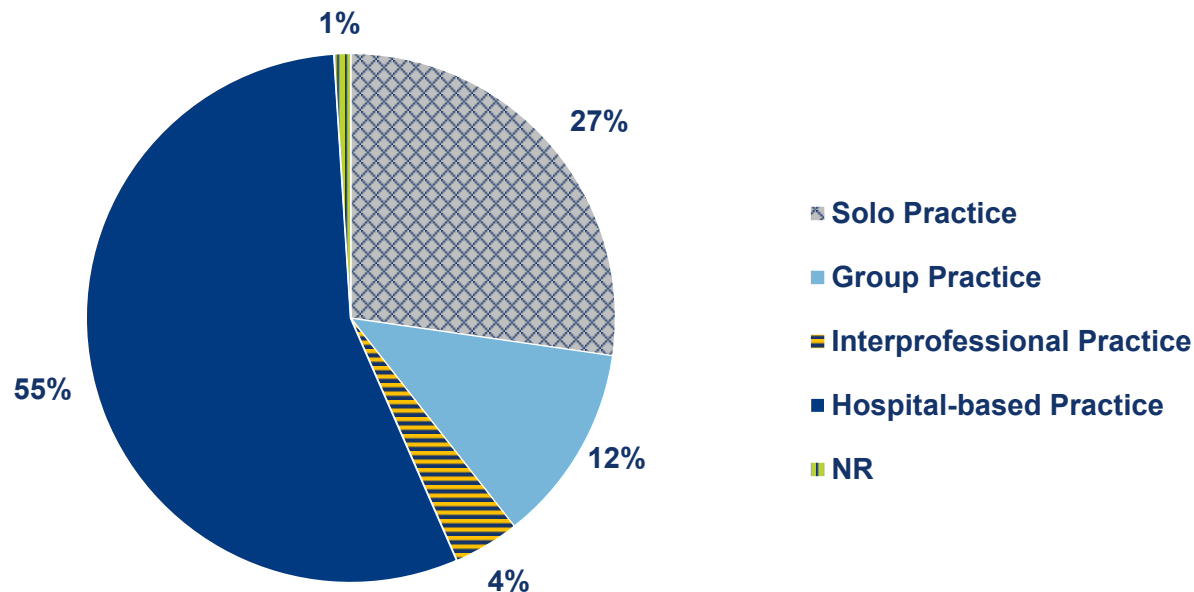
Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

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

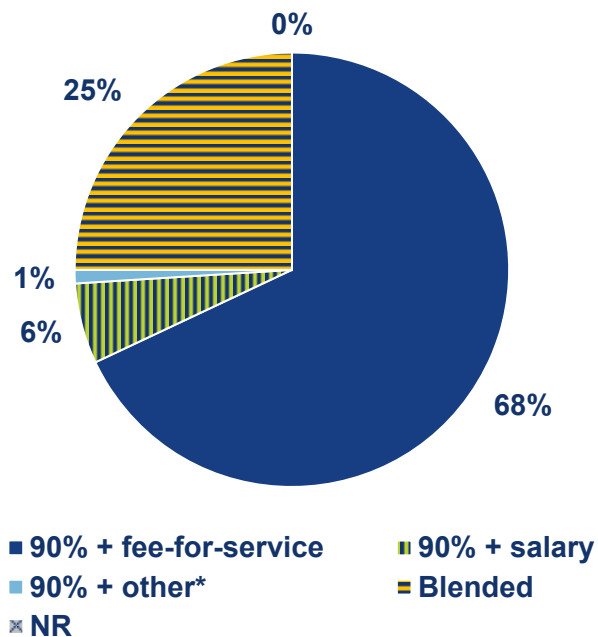
Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	27.0
Direct patient care with teaching component	10.9
Teaching without patient care	1.8
Indirect patient care	6.4
Health facility committees	1.5
Administration	3.1
Research	1.0
Managing practice	1.9
Continued professional development	2.5
Other	0.4
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	56.5

On-call duty hours per month, 2019

- 93% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 163 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 70 hours/month

Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2017



Average gross payment per physician for General Surgery in 2017/18 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$486,555²

Average percent overhead reported by General Surgeons in 2017 = 23%³

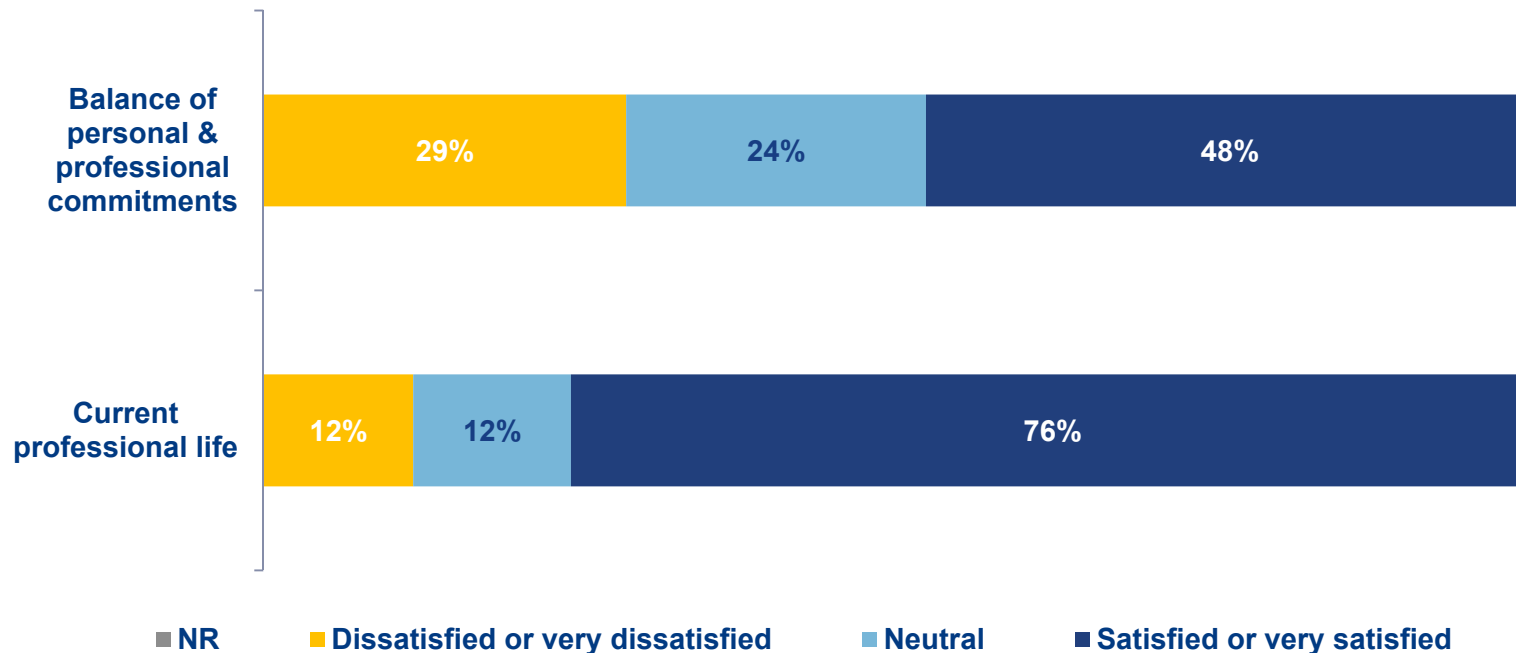
*Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

¹ Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

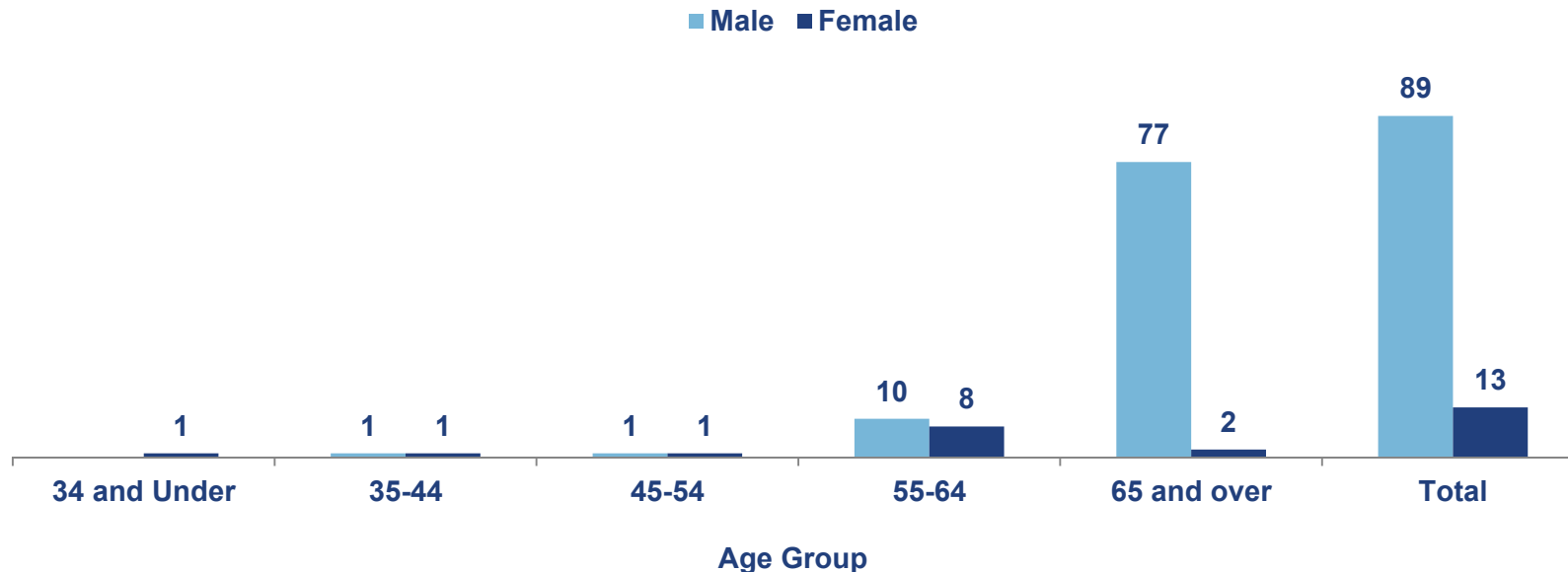
² National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI

³ Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019



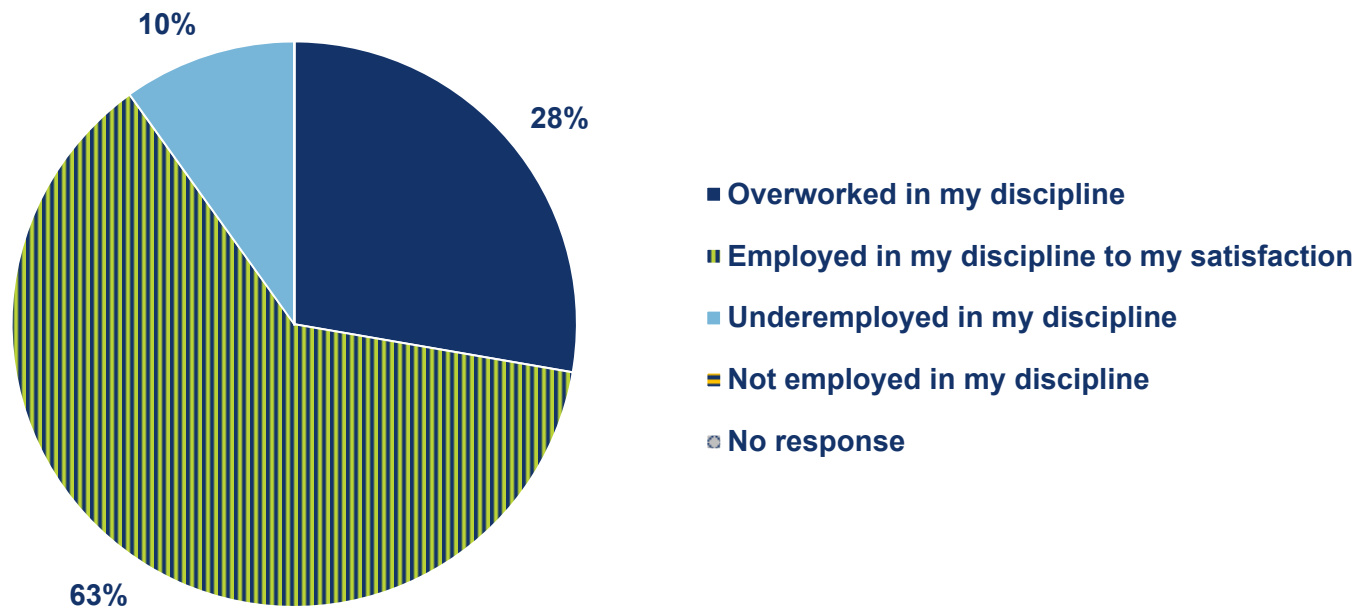
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018



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



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](#)



ASSOCIATION
MÉDICALE
CANADIENNE



CANADIAN
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

