

General Internal Medicine Profile

Updated August 2018

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Internal medicine is a broad-based specialty that has its roots in primary care and is dedicated to providing primary and specialty care to adults. Internists diagnose and manage diseases involving any of the organ systems and are specially trained to manage seriously ill patients suffering from advanced illness and/or diseases of more than one system.

Internists provide care in an office setting, in hospitals and on a continuing ambulatory basis. They tend to the general medical needs of their patients in the office, including disease prevention, early detection of disease, screening, patient education and follow-up care from hospitalization.

In the hospital and ambulatory setting, internists manage acute and chronic illness of their patients and other patients that have been referred to them by other practitioners such as family physicians. They are also trained to meet the special needs of the geriatric population.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Internists are trained in many procedures from many different disciplines and they perform these independently. They may also take additional training and subspecialize in the following areas of internal medicine:

- Critical care medicine
- Cardiology
- Infectious diseases
- Neurology
- Respiratory medicine
- Rheumatology
- Endocrinology and metabolism
- Gastroenterology
- General Internal Medicine
- Geriatrics
- Hematology
- Medical oncology
- Clinical allergy and immunology
- Dermatology



GENERAL INFORMATION

In addition to their medical work, internists also organize and co-ordinate their patient's care and ensure that they gain access to the care they need.

After completing medical school, to become an internist requires additional training that takes 4 years. Those who choose to subspecialize are required to complete 2 years of subspecialty training, which they can begin once completing the three core years of the internists program, for a total of 5 years of postgraduate education.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

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

[Canadian Society of Internal Medicine](#)



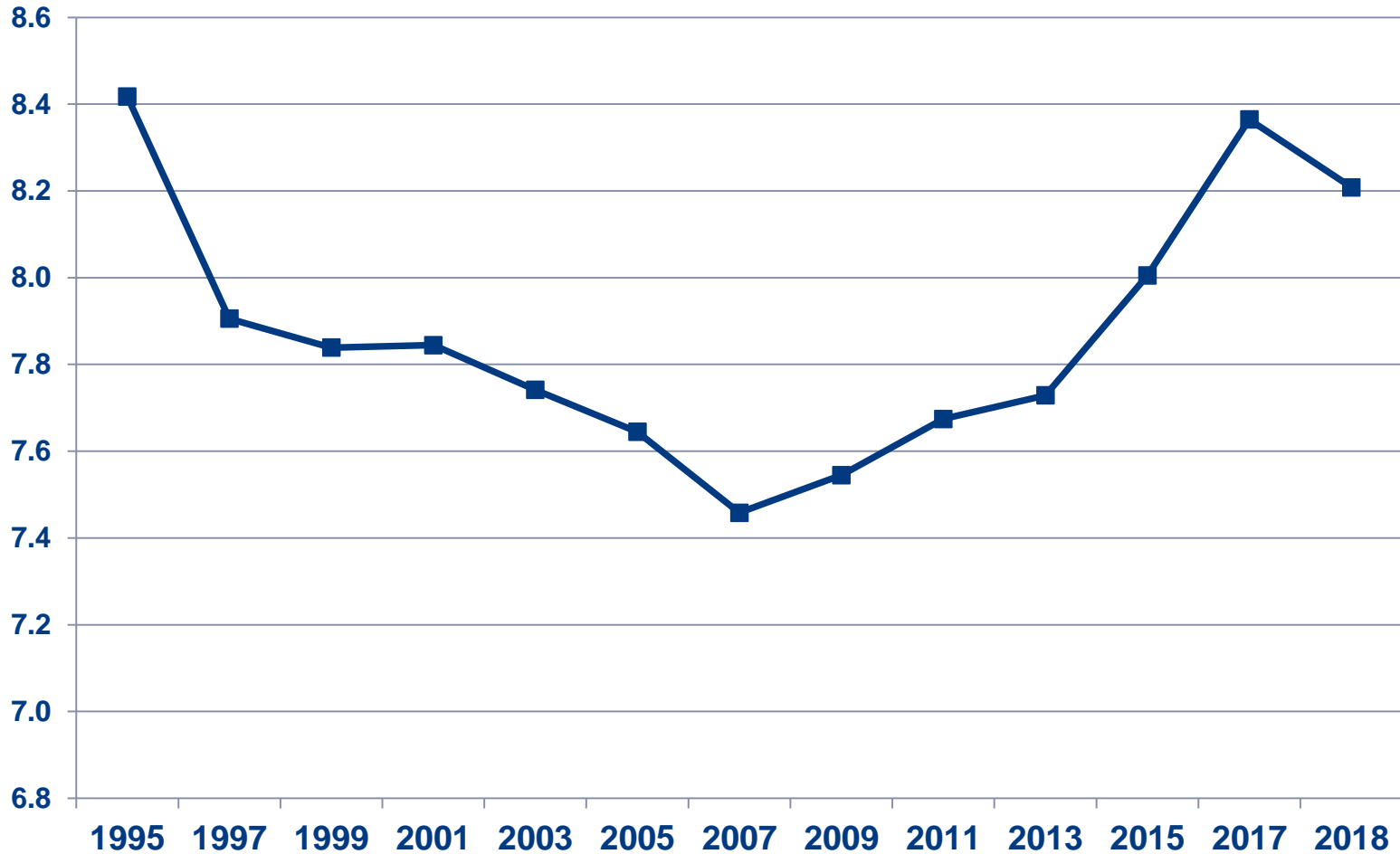
Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2018

Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	37	7.0
Prince Edward Island	11	7.2
Nova Scotia	75	7.8
New Brunswick	40	5.3
Quebec	791	9.4
Ontario	1196	8.4
Manitoba	95	7.1
Saskatchewan	76	6.5
Alberta	323	7.5
British Columbia	389	8.0
Territories	1	0.8
CANADA	3034	8.2

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile



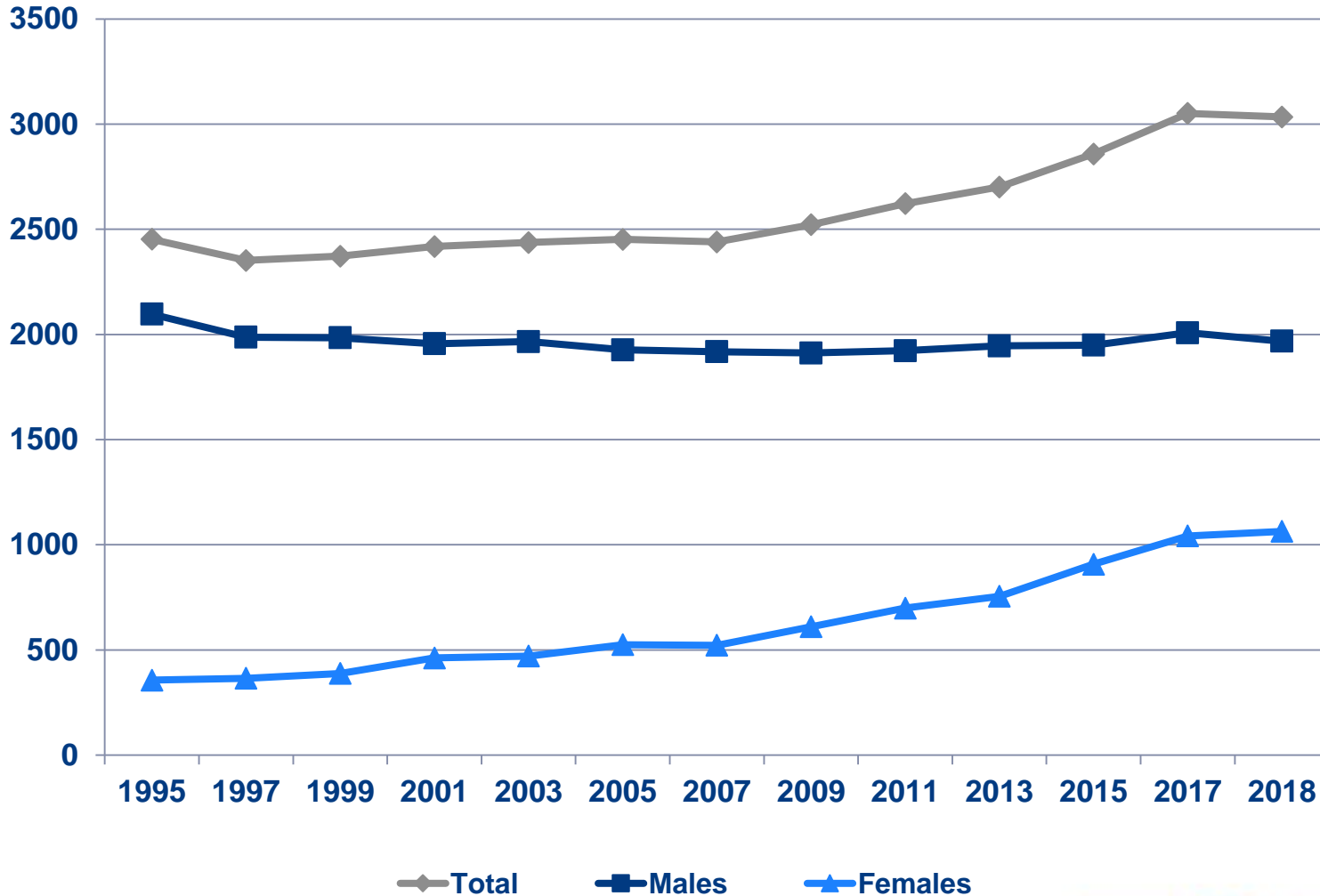
Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2018



Source: 1995-2018 CMA Masterfiles



Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2018

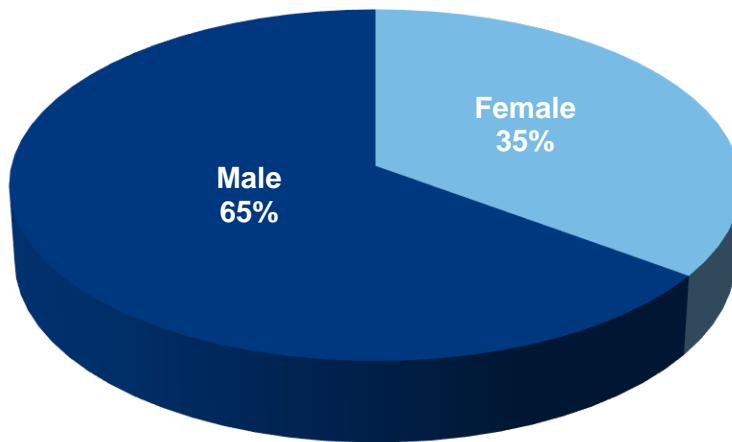


Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile

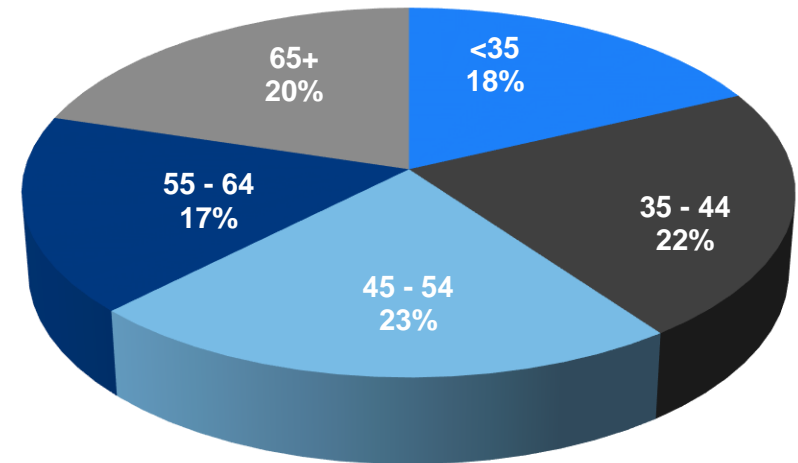


Percentage by gender & age, 2018

Gender



Age Group

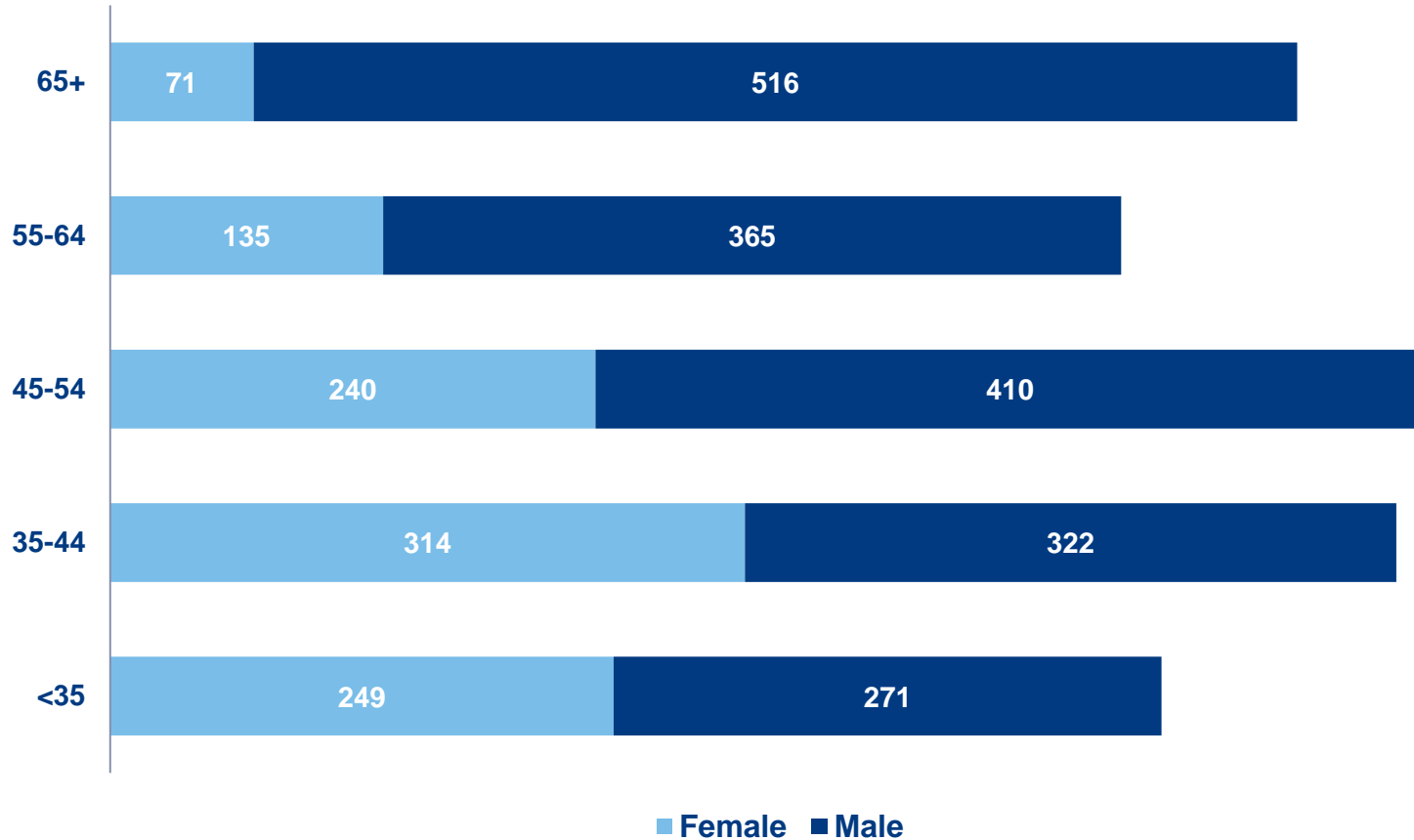


Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile



Number by gender & age, 2018

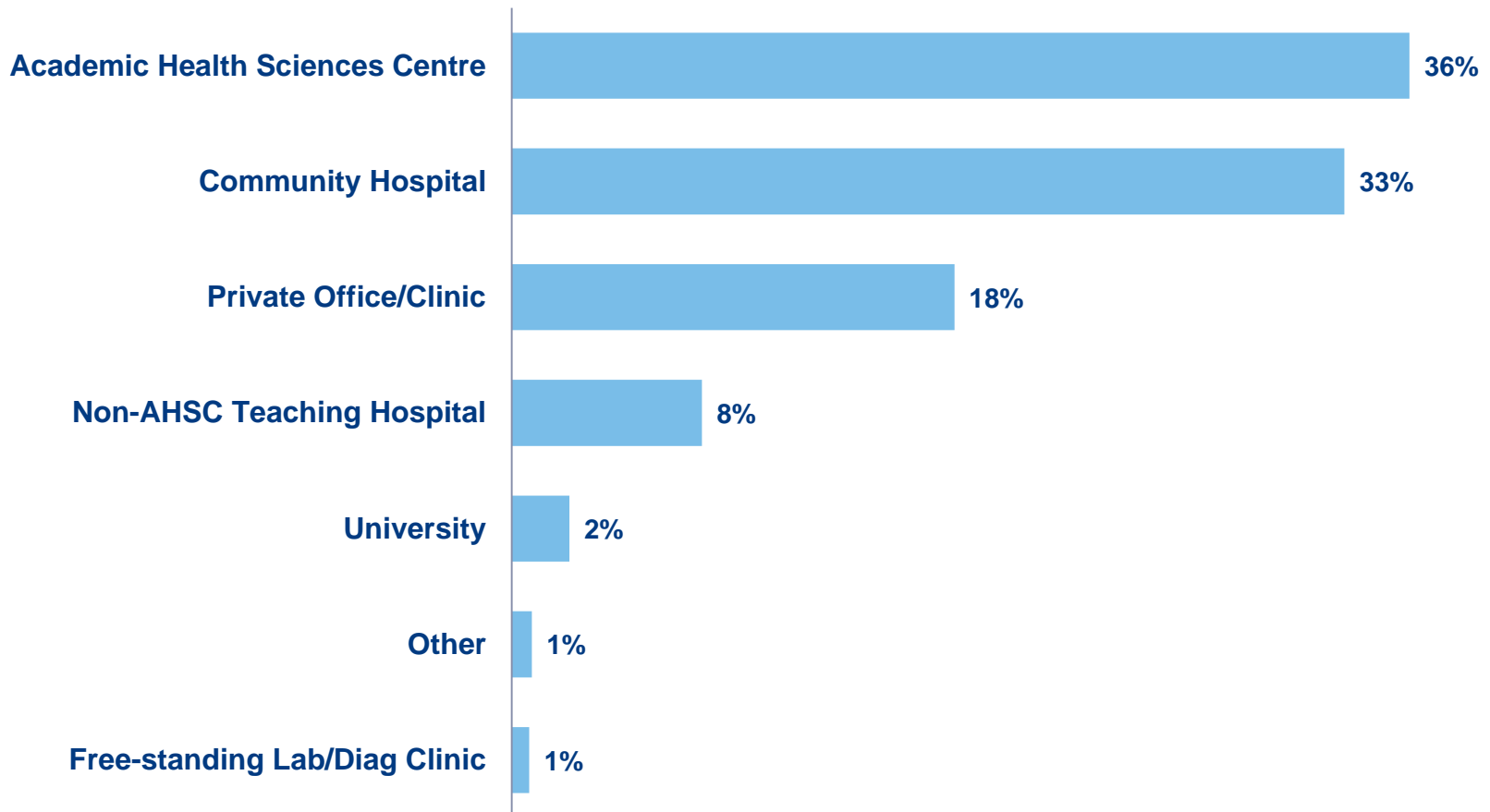


Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile



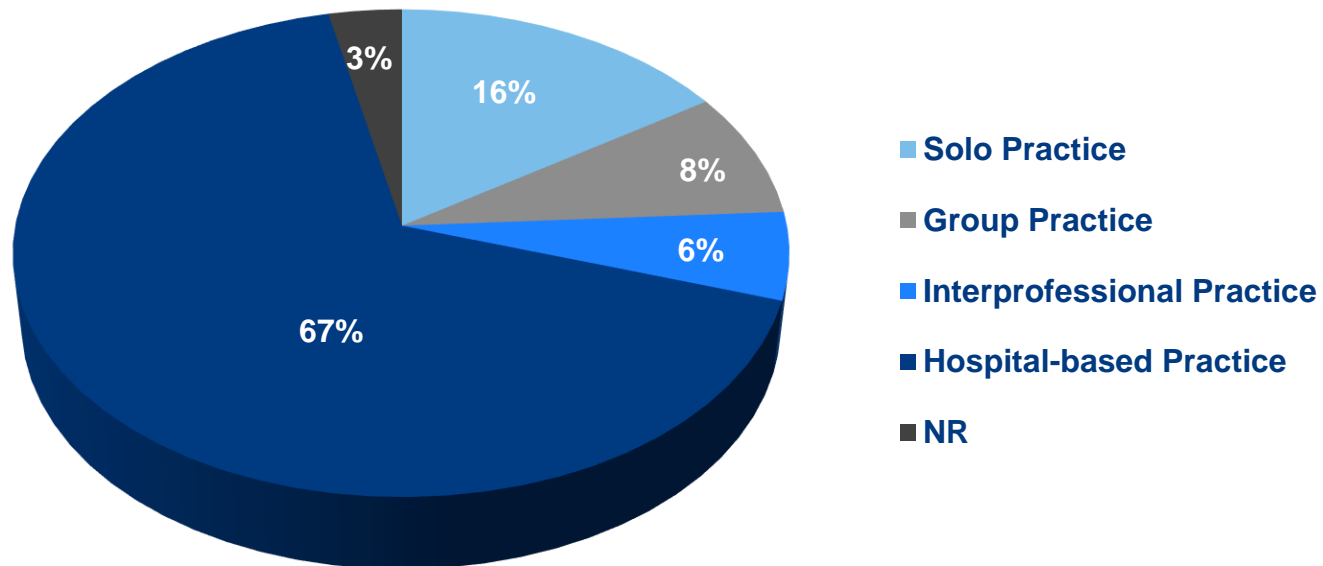
Percentage by main work setting, 2017



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	24.2
Direct patient care with teaching component	11.6
Teaching without patient care	2.0
Indirect patient care	6.4
Health facility committees	1.3
Administration	2.8
Research	1.5
Managing practice	1.3
Continued professional development	3.1
Other	0.5
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	54.6



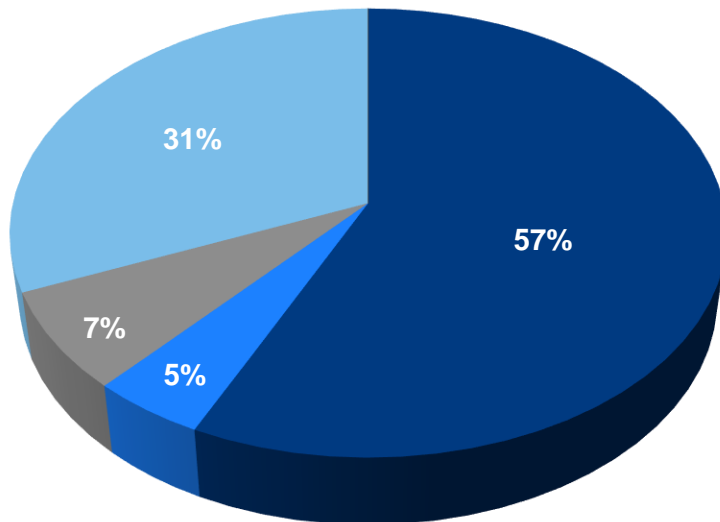
On-call duty hours per month, 2017

- 79% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 122 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 62 hours/month



Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2017



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

* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract or other method

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for Internal Medicine & subspecialties in 2015/16 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$407,224²

Average percent overhead reported by Internal Medicine specialists in 2017 = 21%³

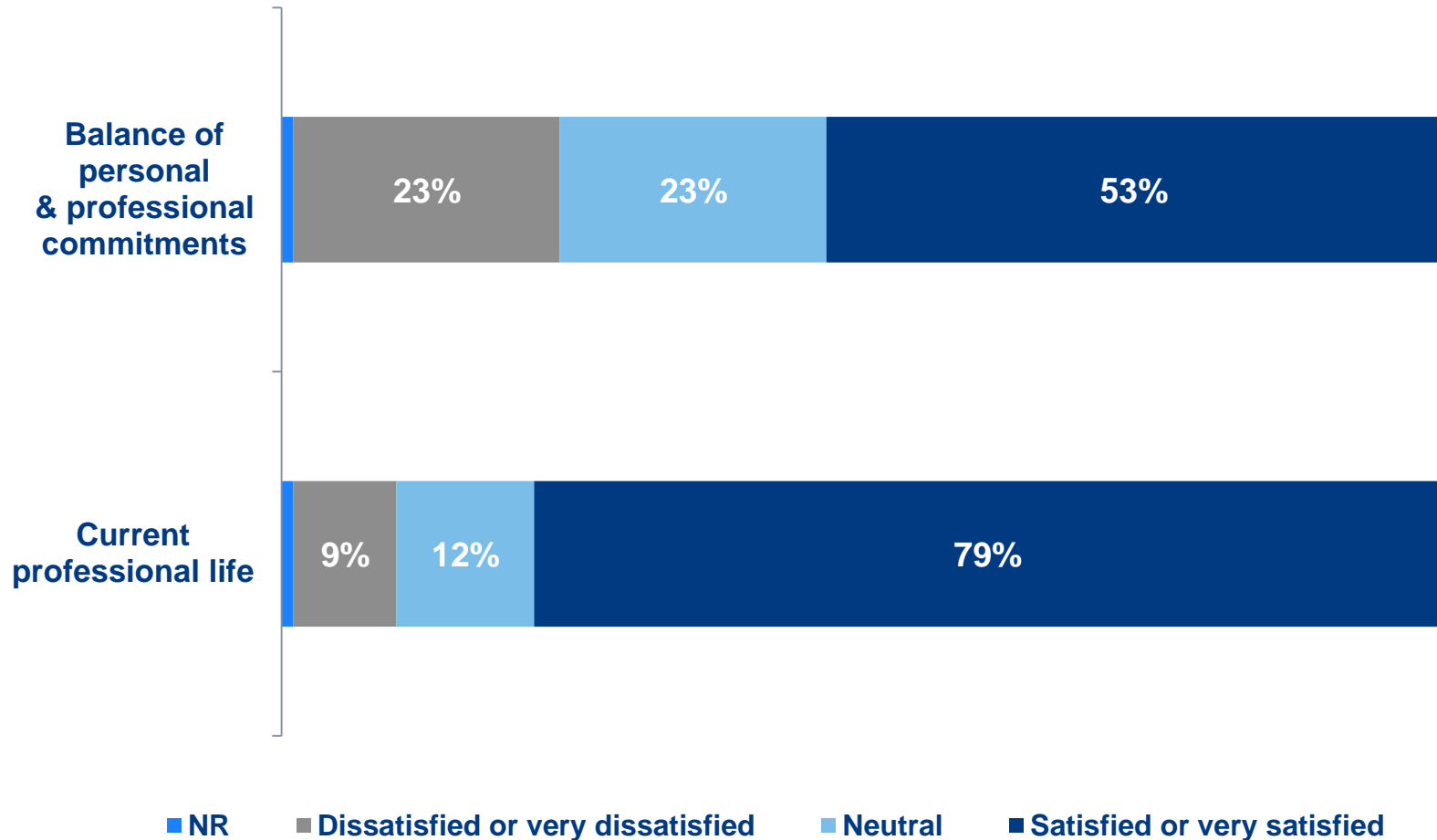
¹ 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

² National Physician Database, 2015/16, CIHI

³ 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

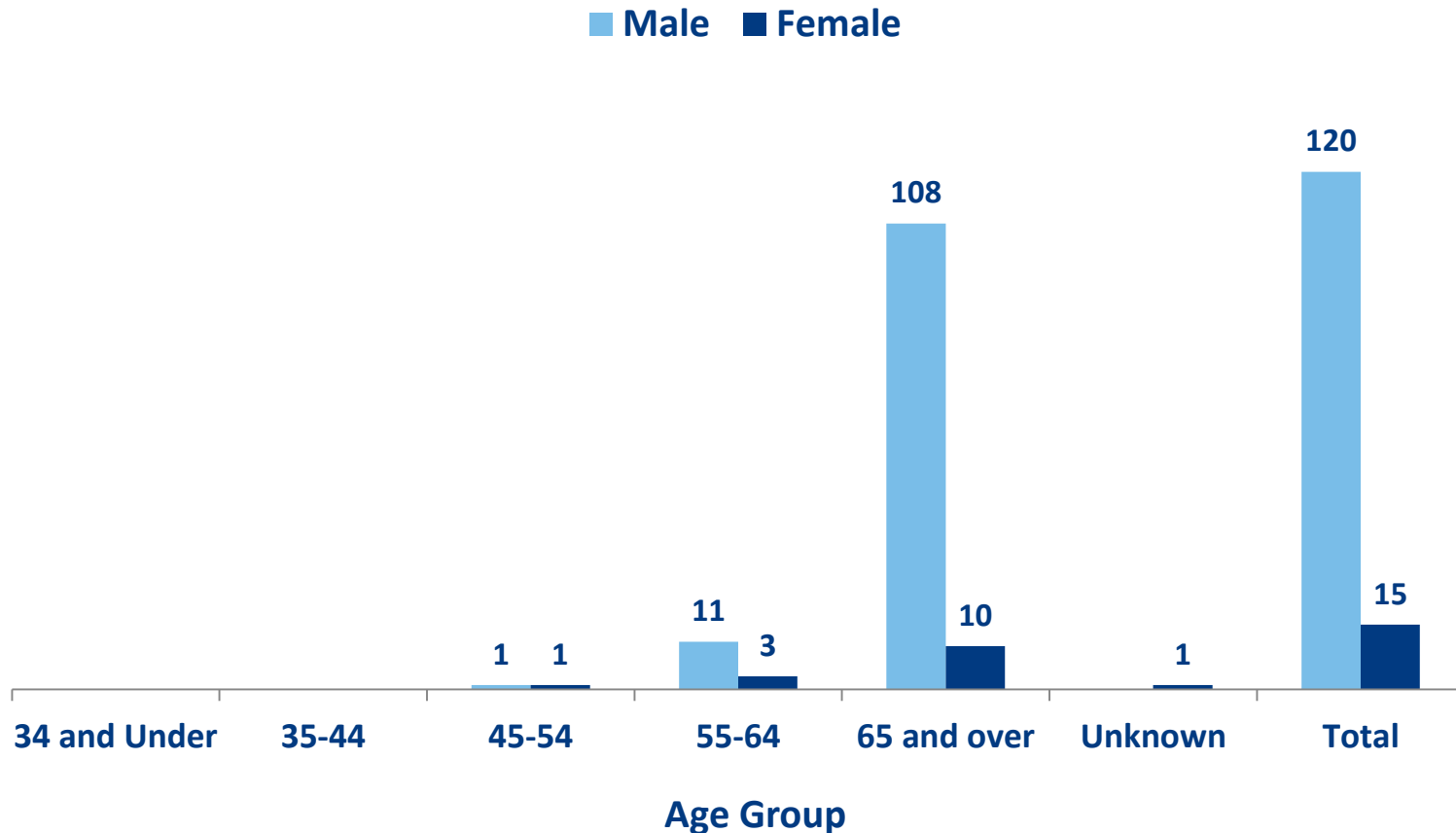


Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2017





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

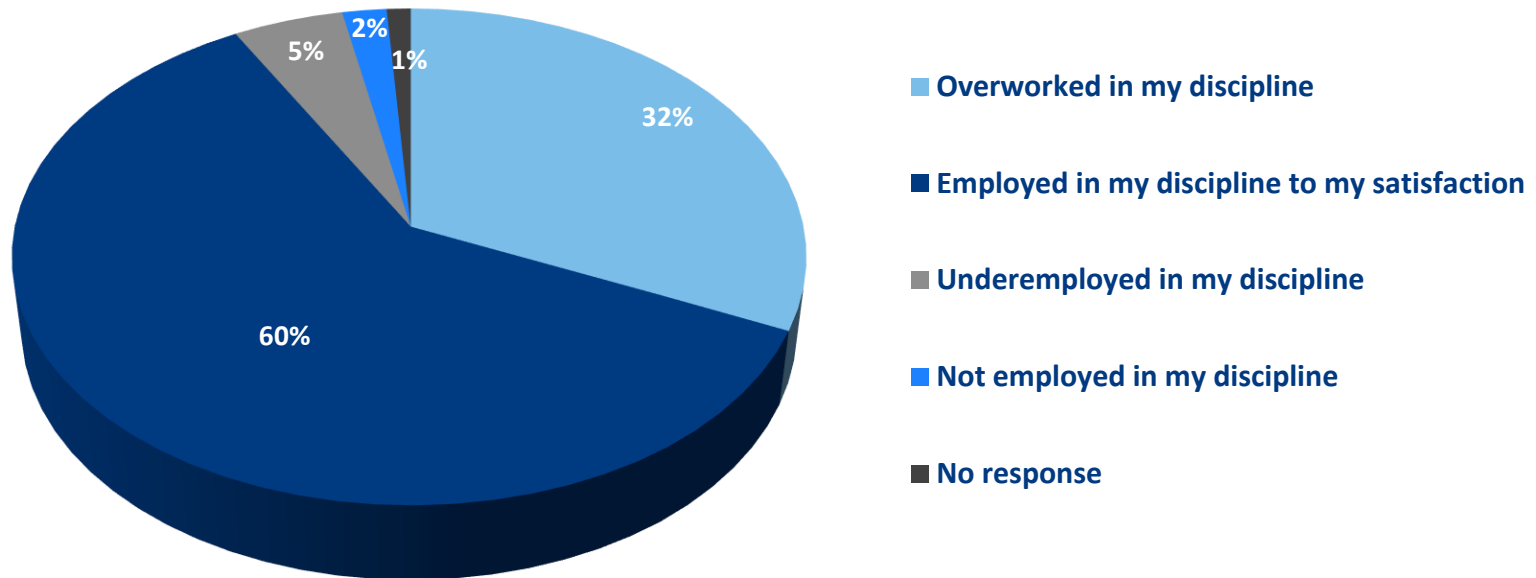


Source: CMA Masterfile – year over year comparisons

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](#)