



General Internal Medicine Profile

Updated
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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.

Source: Pathway evaluation program

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

Source: Pathway evaluation program

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:

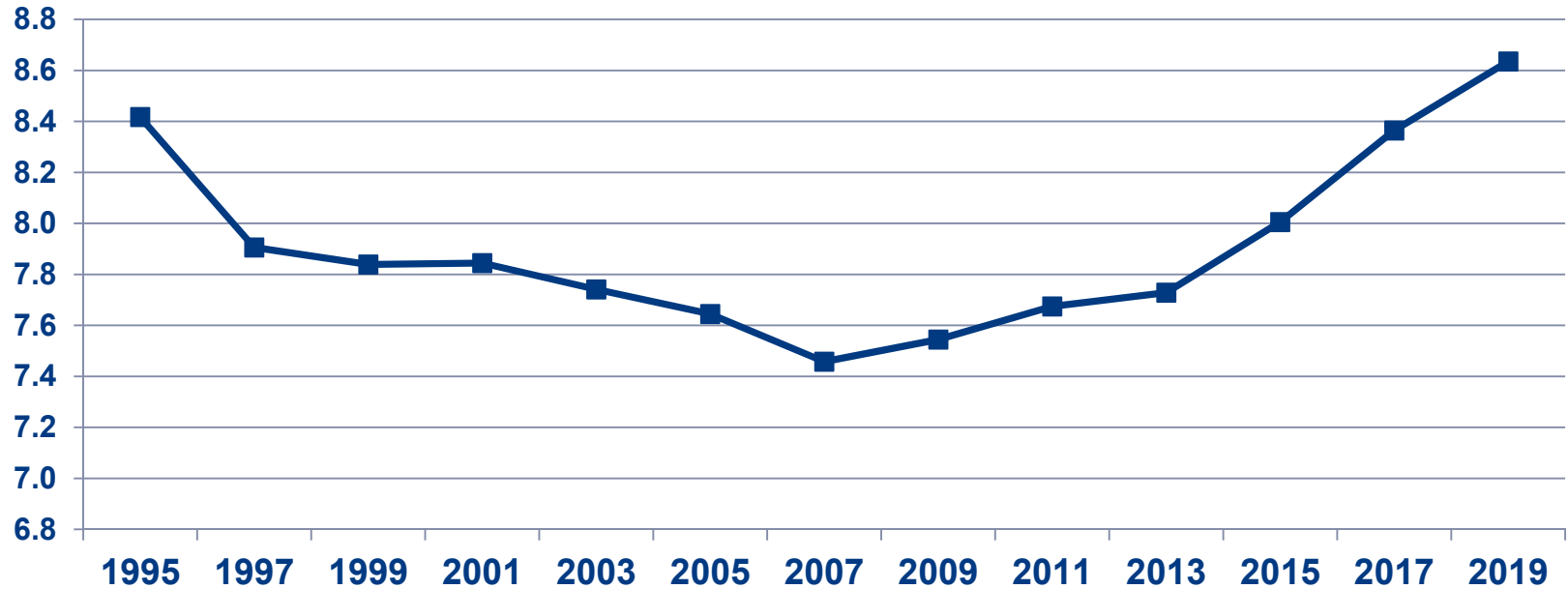
[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)
[Canadian Society of Internal Medicine](#)

Source: Pathway evaluation program

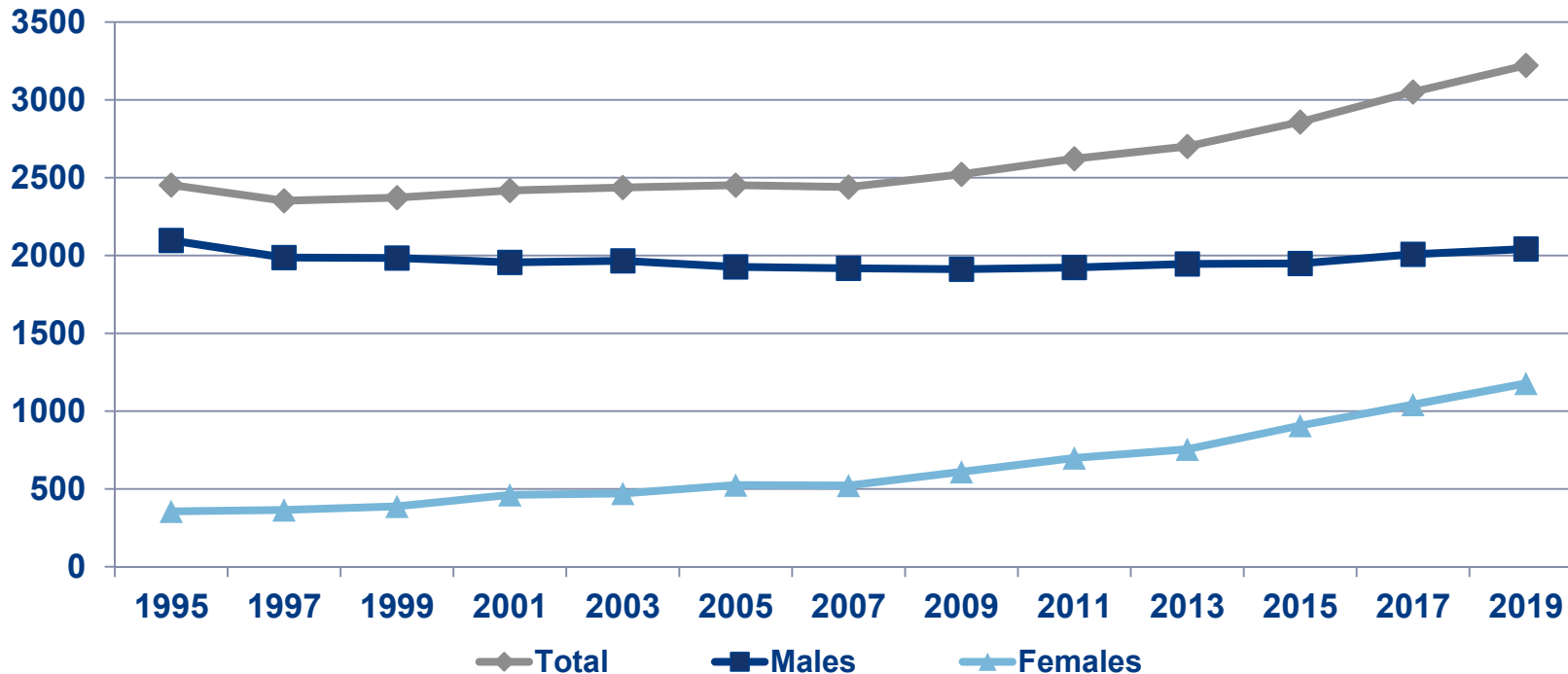
Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2019

Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	42	8.0
Prince Edward Island	11	7.1
Nova Scotia	72	7.5
New Brunswick	42	5.4
Quebec	865	10.3
Ontario	1259	8.7
Manitoba	91	6.7
Saskatchewan	77	6.6
Alberta	357	8.2
British Columbia	405	8.0
Territories	1	0.8
CANADA	3222	8.6

Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



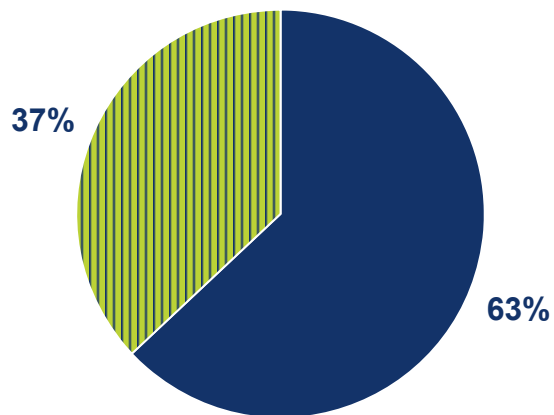
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019





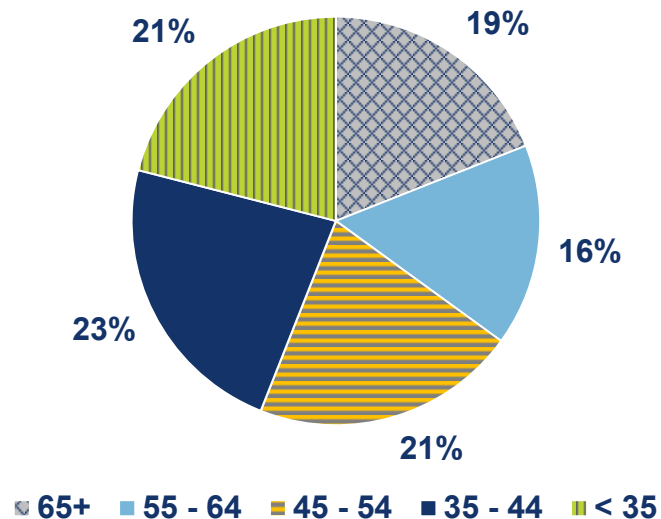
Percentage by gender & age, 2019

Gender



■ Male ■ Female

Age Group

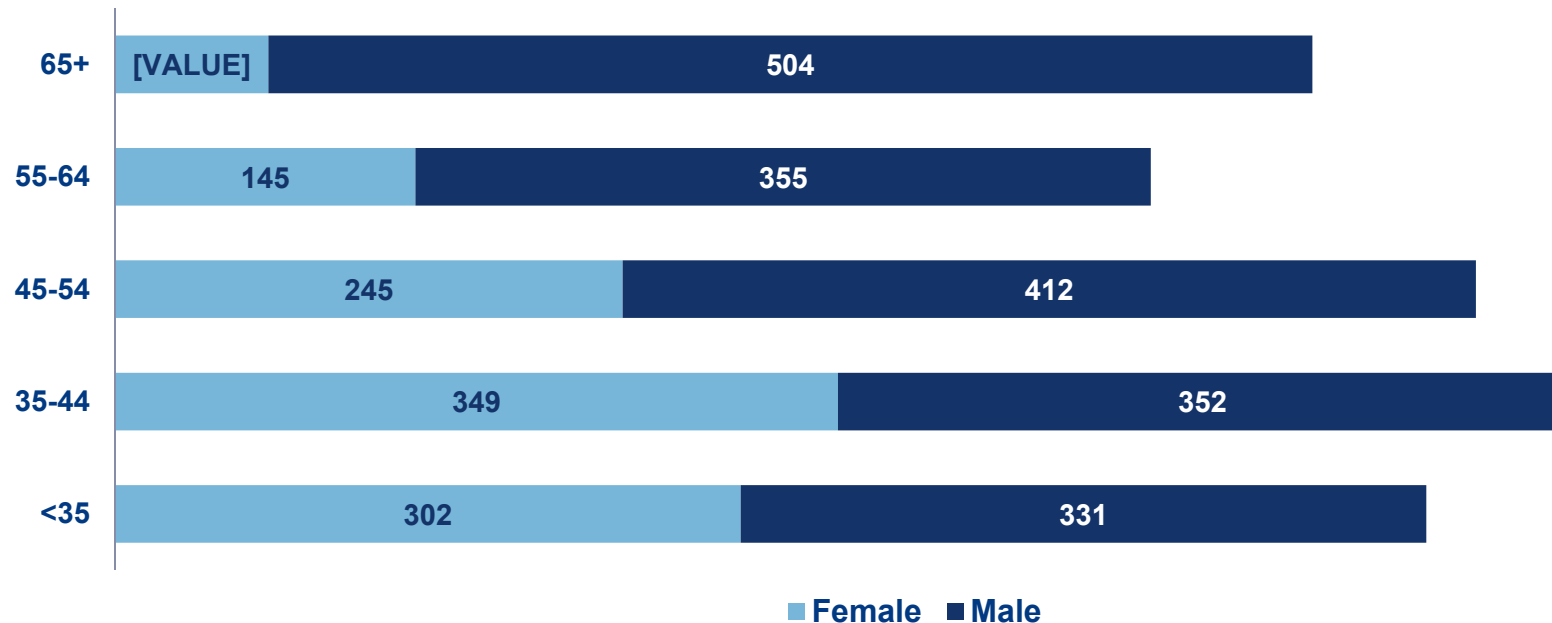


■ 65+ ■ 55 - 64 ■ 45 - 54 ■ 35 - 44 ■ < 35

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

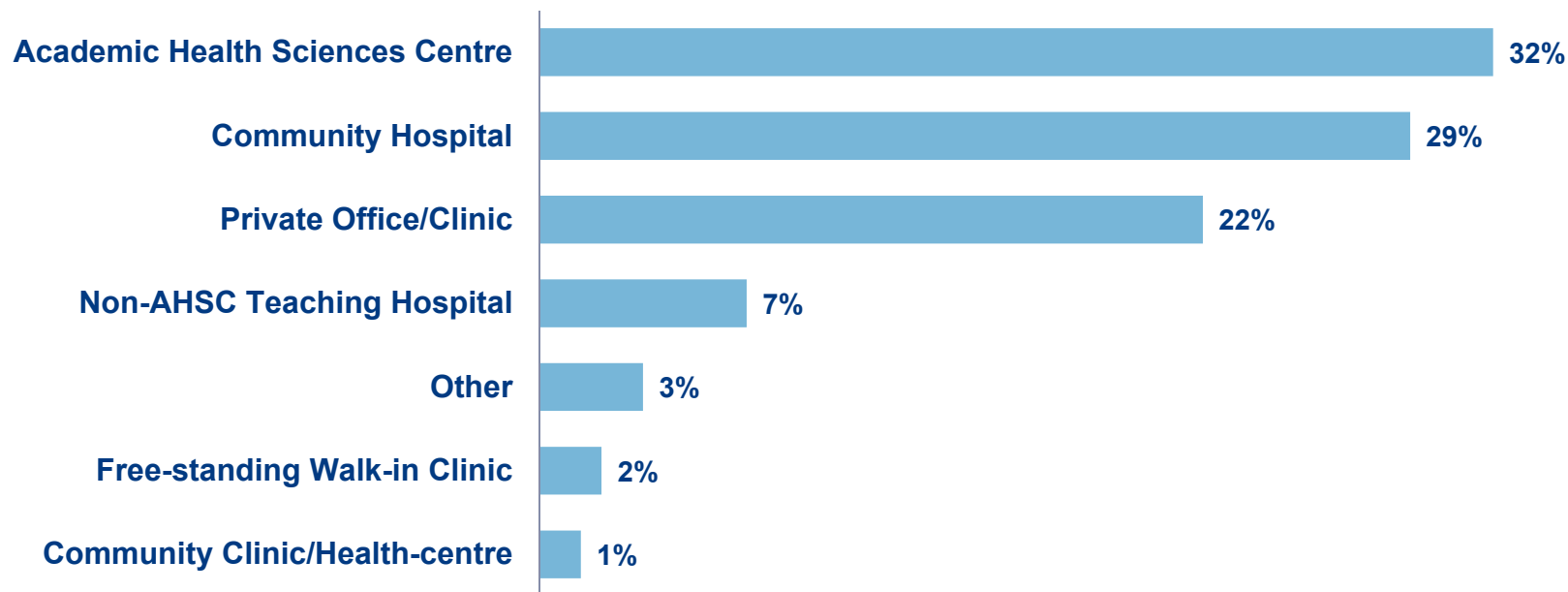
Number by gender & age, 2019



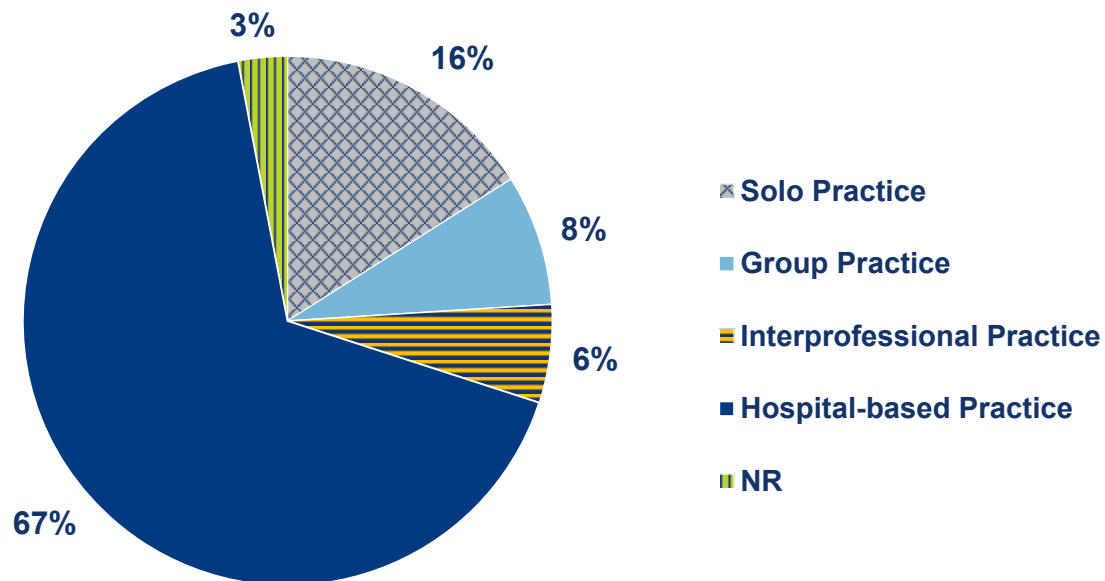
Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

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

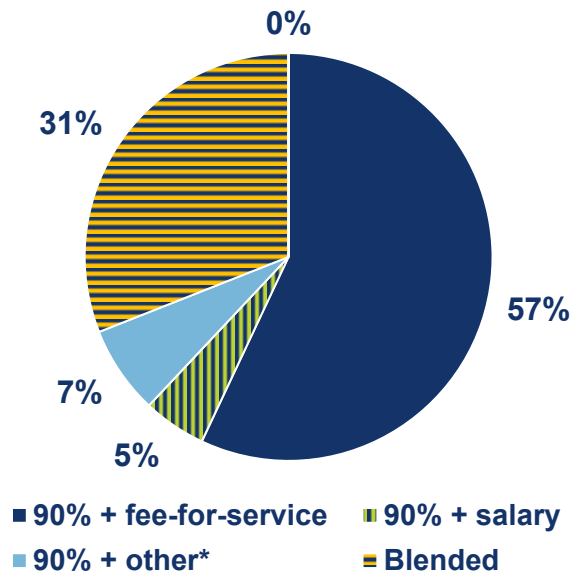
Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	23.0
Direct patient care with teaching component	9.2
Teaching without patient care	2.3
Indirect patient care	7.8
Health facility committees	1.0
Administration	2.7
Research	2.4
Managing practice	1.4
Continued professional development	2.0
Other	1.0
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	52.9

On-call duty hours per month, 2019

- 73% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 110 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 55 hours/month

Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2017



Average gross payment per physician for Internal Medicine & subspecialties in 2017/18 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$437,000²

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

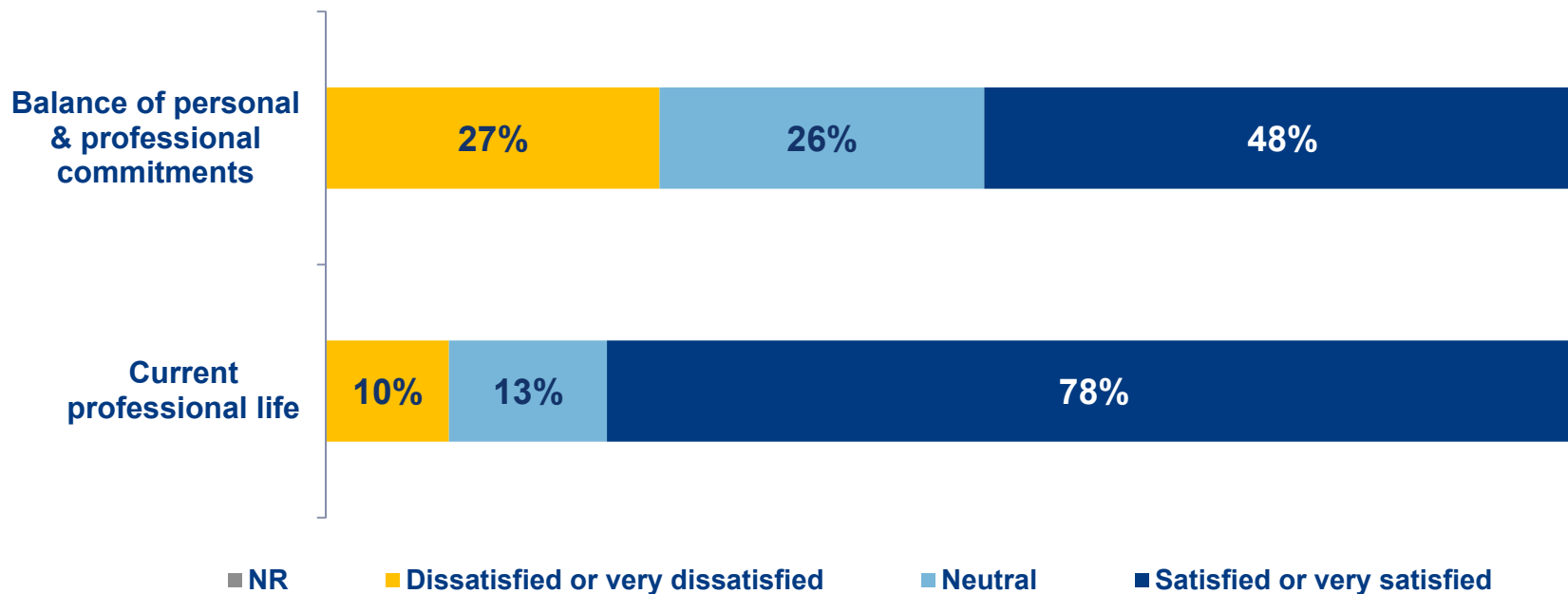
* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract or other method

¹ 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

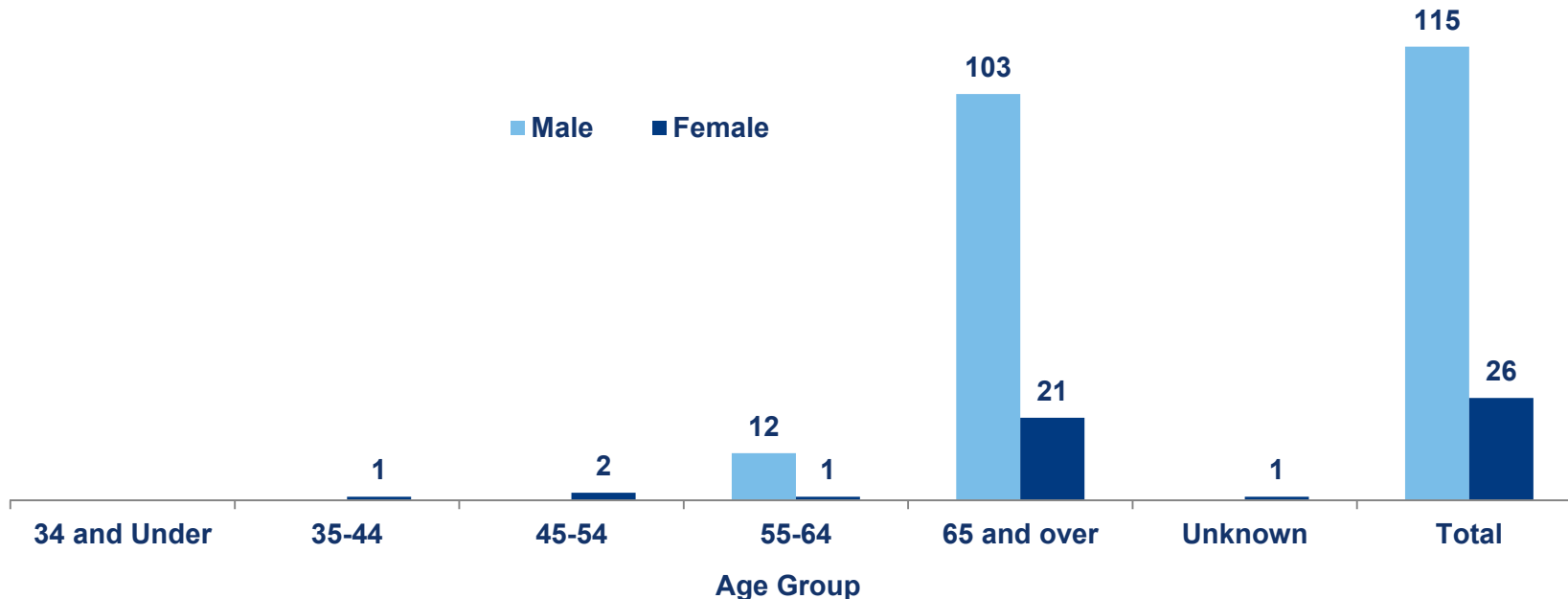
² National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI

³ 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019



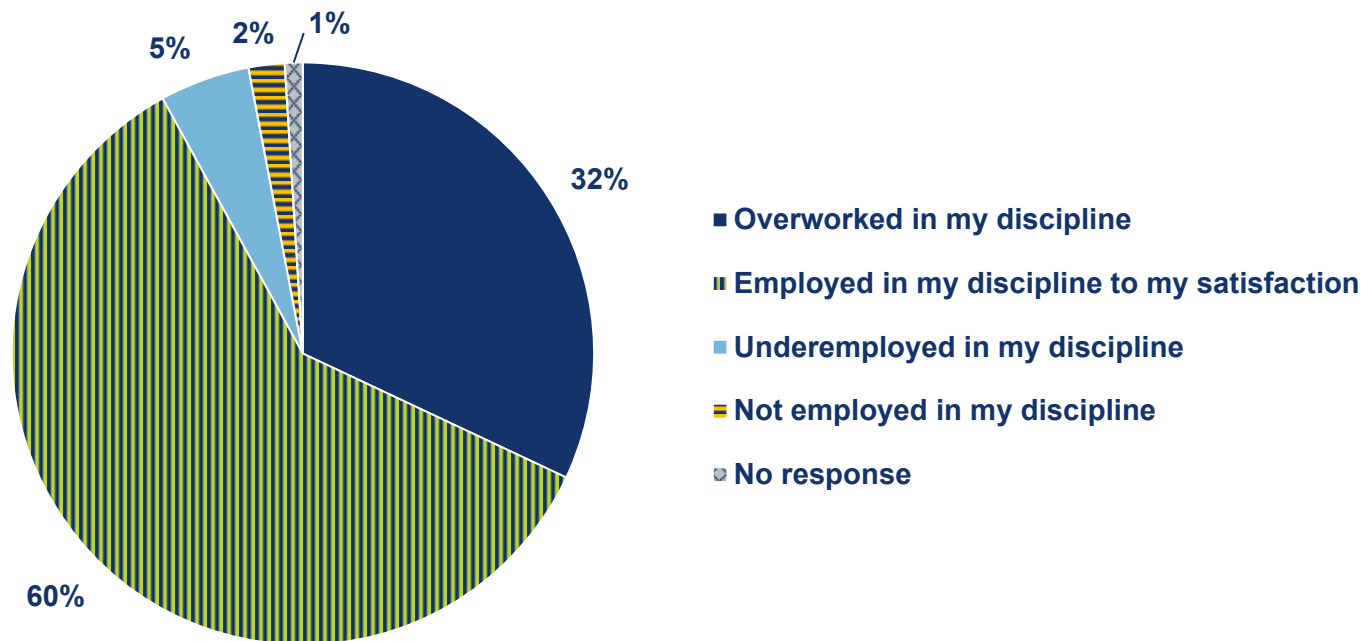
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018



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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