



# Ophthalmology Profile

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# General information

Ophthalmology deals with the screening, diagnosis and management of optical, medical and surgical disorders and diseases of the eye, associated orbital structures and neuro-visual pathways. The specialty relies on a combination of diagnostic, medical and surgical skills. Most surgical interventions are microsurgical requiring excellent fine-motor manual dexterity.

Ophthalmologists operate within a fairly specific area of expertise but on a broad range of patients, from newborns to geriatric patients. A large portion of the care and treatment they provide is done in their private office. They are the leaders of the eye care team interacting with other physicians and health care professionals in the management of eye care, including orthoptists, ophthalmic technicians, nurses and optometrists.

# General information

There are a number of subspecialties within ophthalmology, including cornea and external disease, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, ophthalmic pathology, ophthalmic plastic surgery, pediatric ophthalmology, retina, uveitis and low vision. Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in ophthalmology requires an additional 5 years of Royal College-approved residency training. This training includes:

- 1 year of basic clinical training;
- 4 years of Royal College-approved residency in ophthalmology, including sufficient experience to achieve competency in performing procedures such as: topical & regional anesthesia (of the eye and periocular structures); laser therapy; surgery (for cataract, enucleation, eyelids, glaucoma etc); surgical management of trauma to the eye, ocular adnexa and orbit; ultrasound examination of the eye, and interpretation of diagnostic imaging of the eye and visual system.

# General information

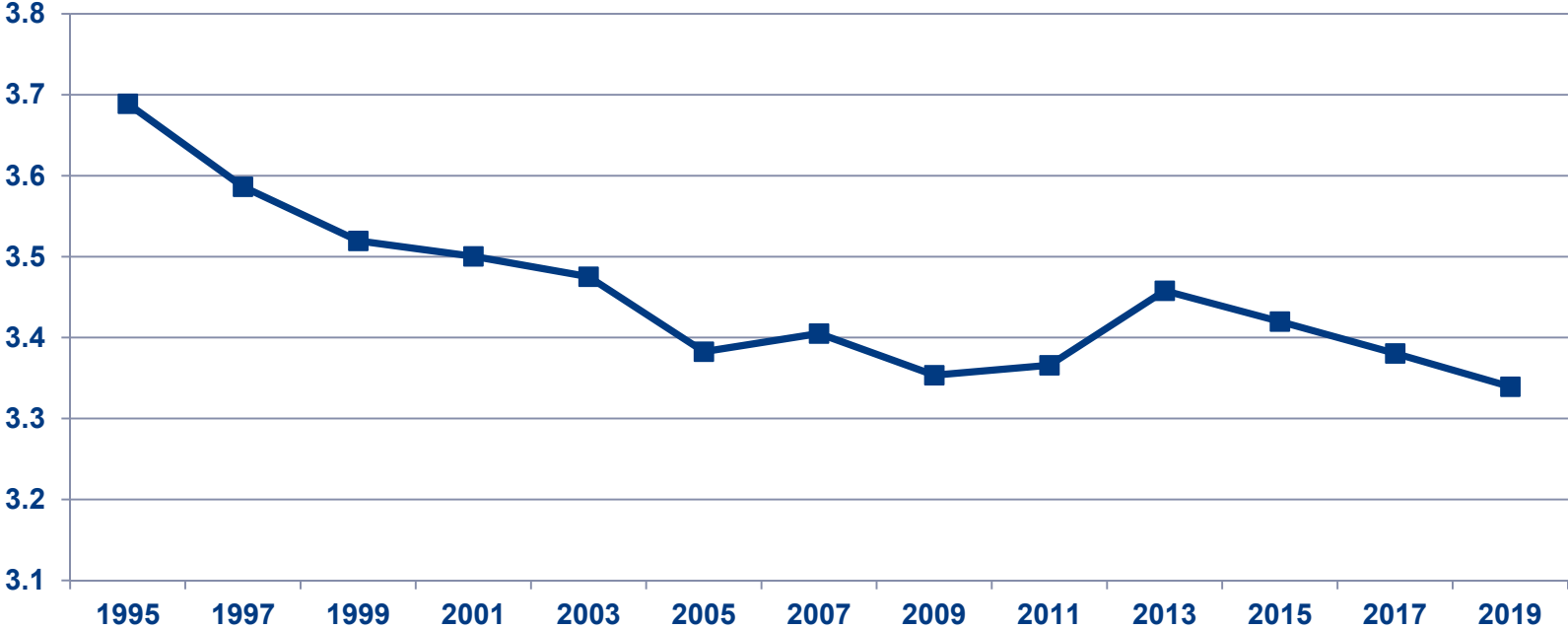
Residents must also have sufficient experience to achieve competency in collecting and interpreting data, carrying out diagnostic procedures, making appropriate clinical decisions including recommending appropriate therapeutic procedures in specific domains such as cornea/external disease, glaucoma, and trauma to the eye, ocular adnexa and orbit.

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

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

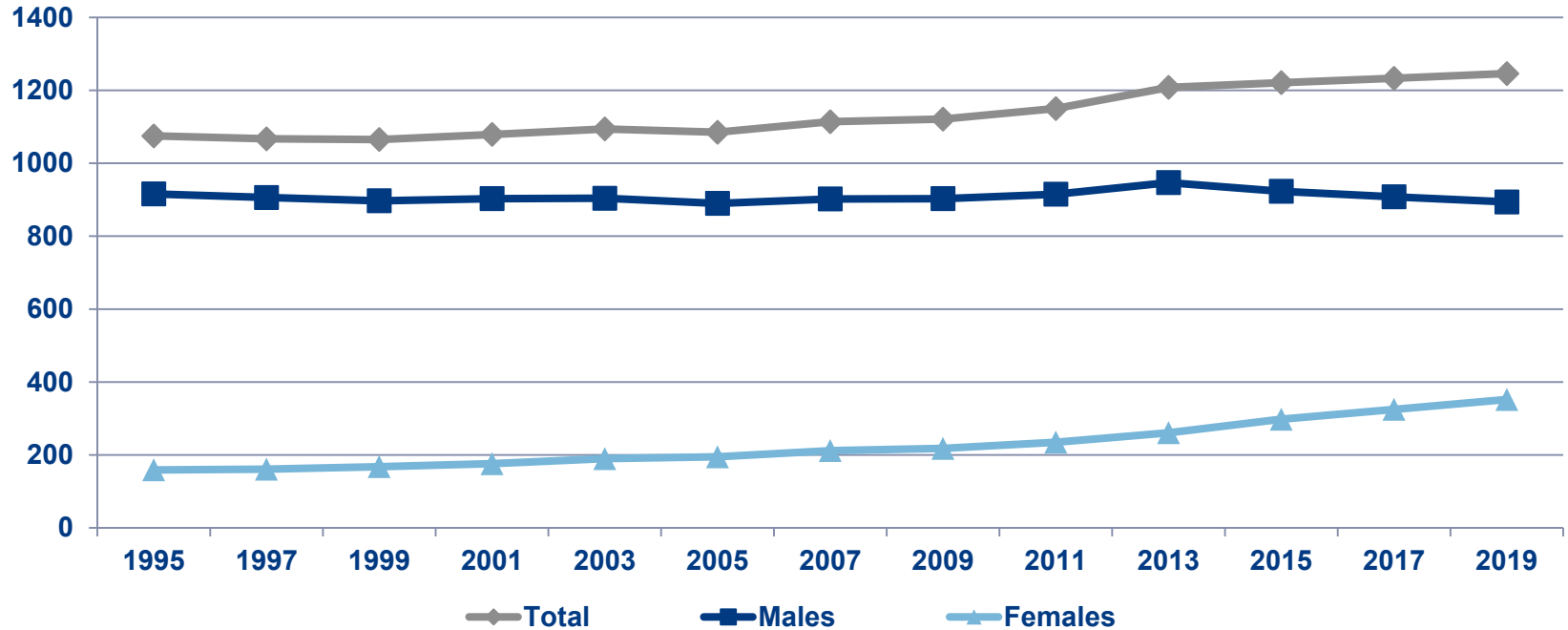
Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	15	2.9
Prince Edward Island	5	3.2
Nova Scotia	41	4.2
New Brunswick	25	3.2
Quebec	377	4.5
Ontario	427	3.0
Manitoba	30	2.2
Saskatchewan	22	1.9
Alberta	111	2.6
British Columbia	192	3.8
Territories	1	0.8
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>3.3</b>

# Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

## Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019

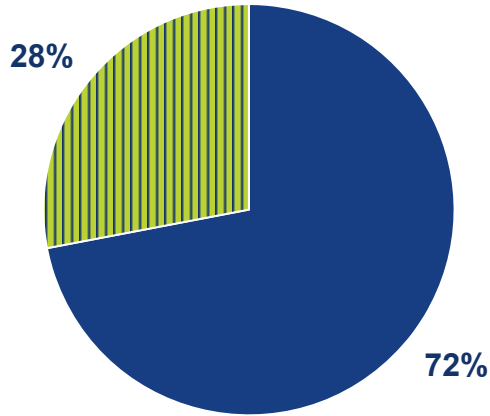


Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles



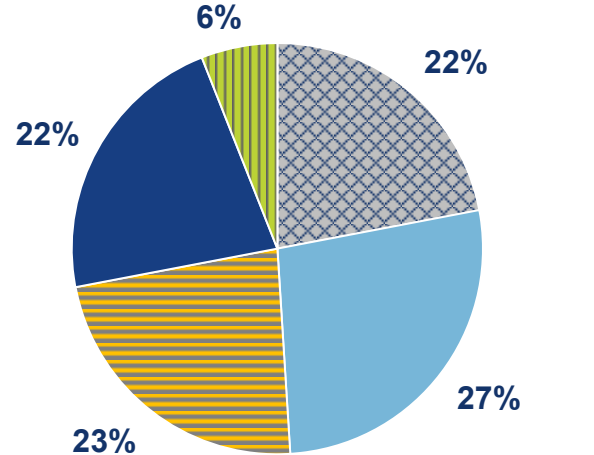
## Percentage by gender & age, 2019

### Gender



■ Male ■ Female

### Age Group

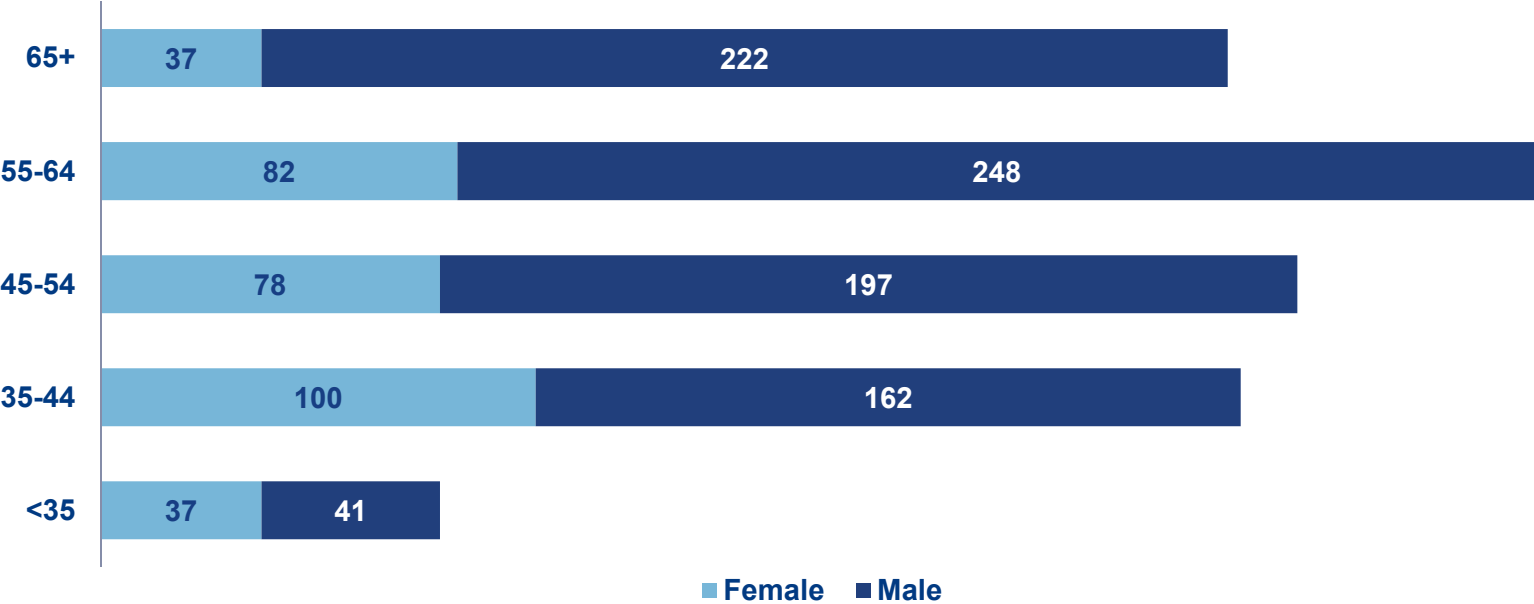


■ 65+ ■ 55 - 64 ■ 45 - 54 ■ 35 - 44 ■ < 35

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

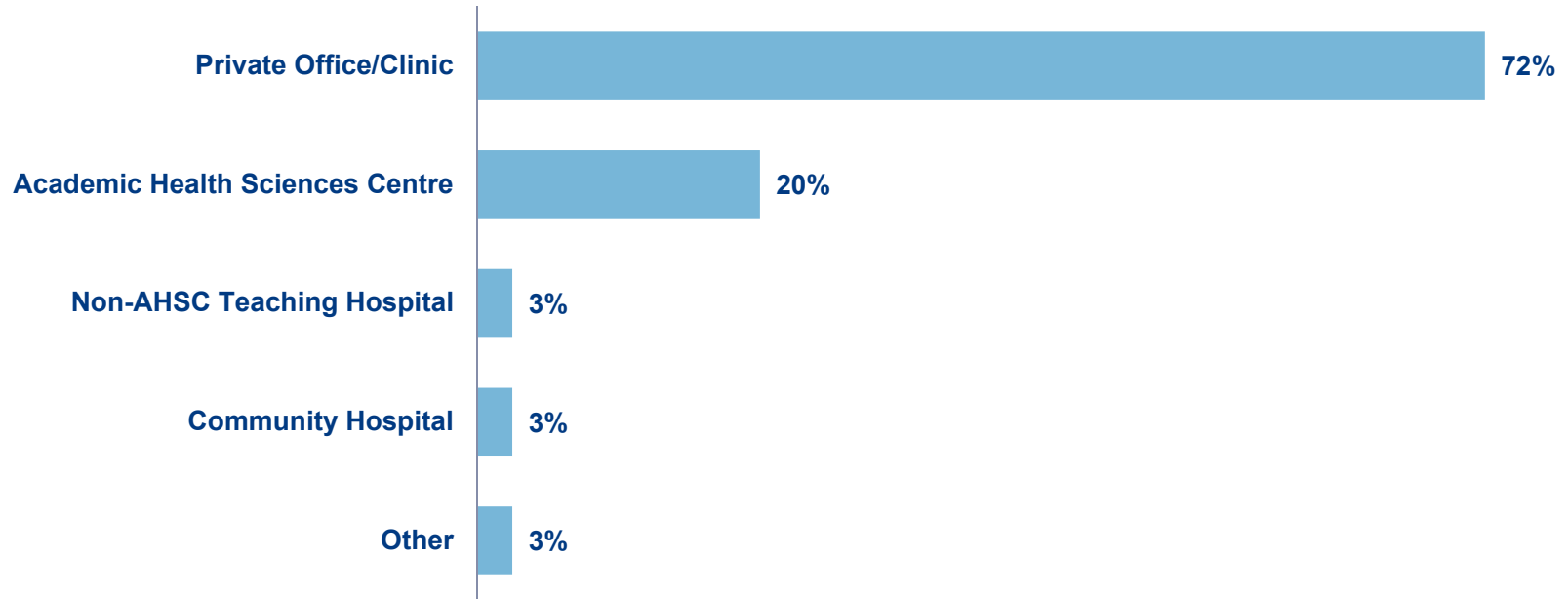
# Number by gender & age, 2019



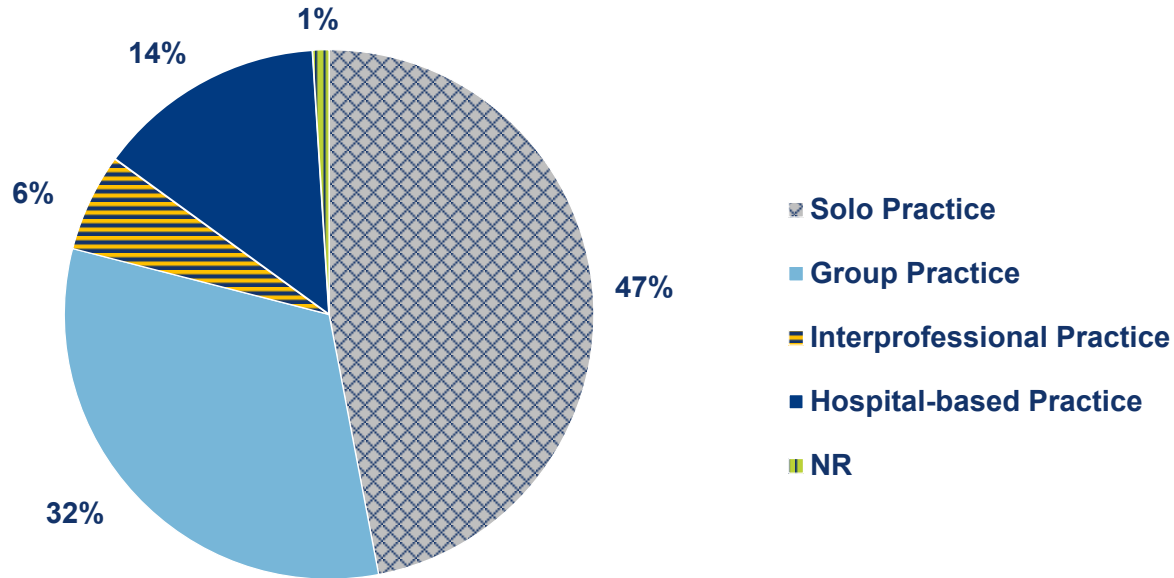
Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

## Percentage by main work setting, 2019



## 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

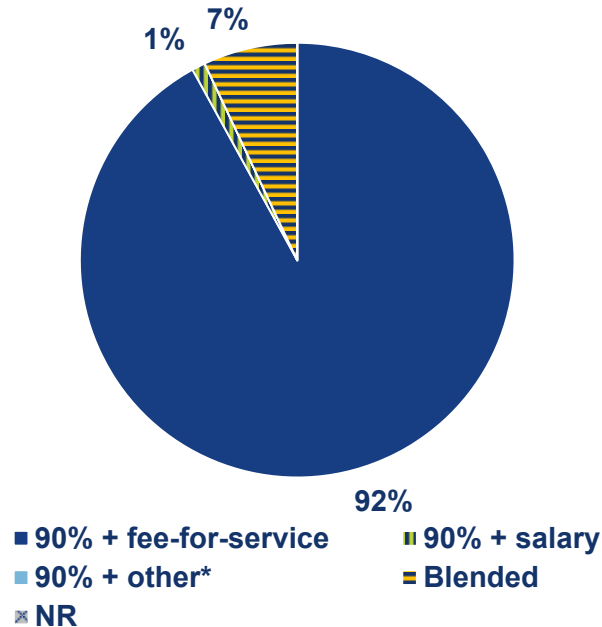
Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	29.5
Direct patient care with teaching component	5.9
Teaching without patient care	0.8
Indirect patient care	5.1
Health facility committees	0.6
Administration	1.2
Research	1.1
Managing practice	1.9
Continued professional development	2.3
Other	0.0
<b>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</b>	<b>48.4</b>

## On-call duty hours per month, 2019

- 73% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 124 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 26 hours/month

## Percentage by remuneration method

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



Average gross payment per physician for Ophthalmology in 2017/18 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$809,557<sup>2</sup>

Average percent overhead reported by Ophthalmologists in 2017 = 40%<sup>3</sup>

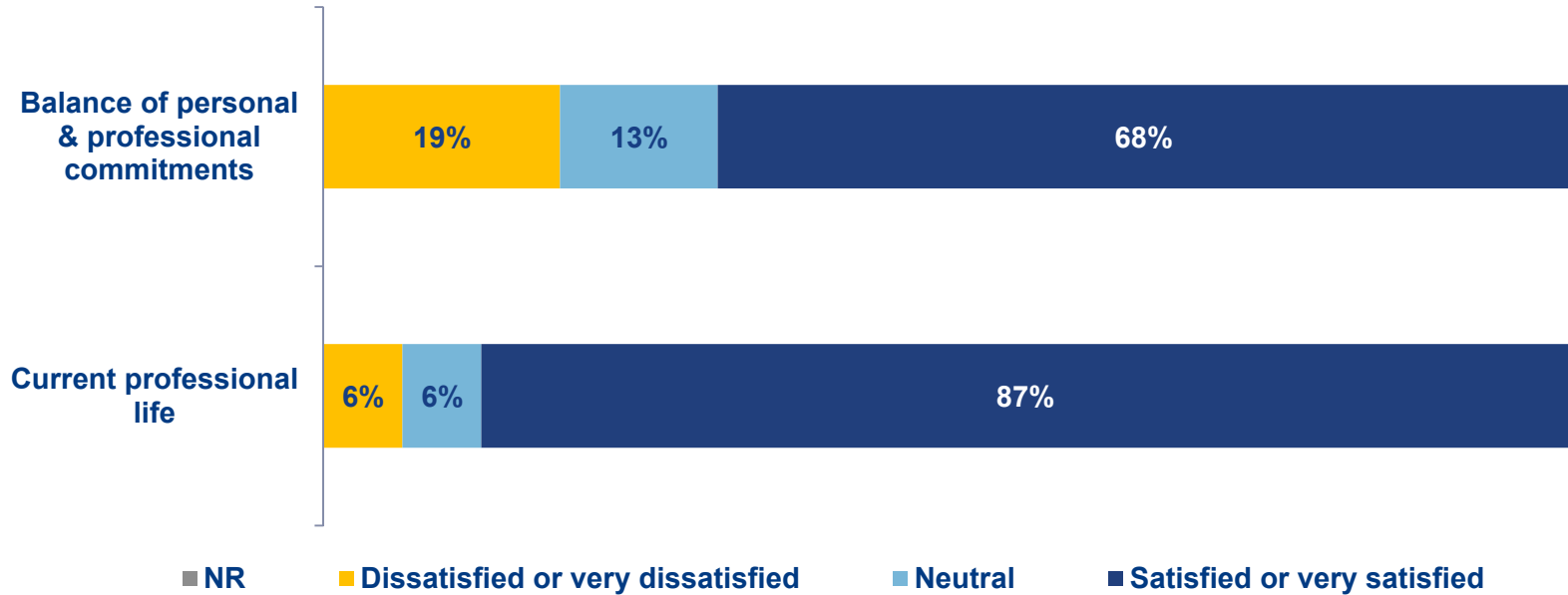
\*Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

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

<sup>2</sup> National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI

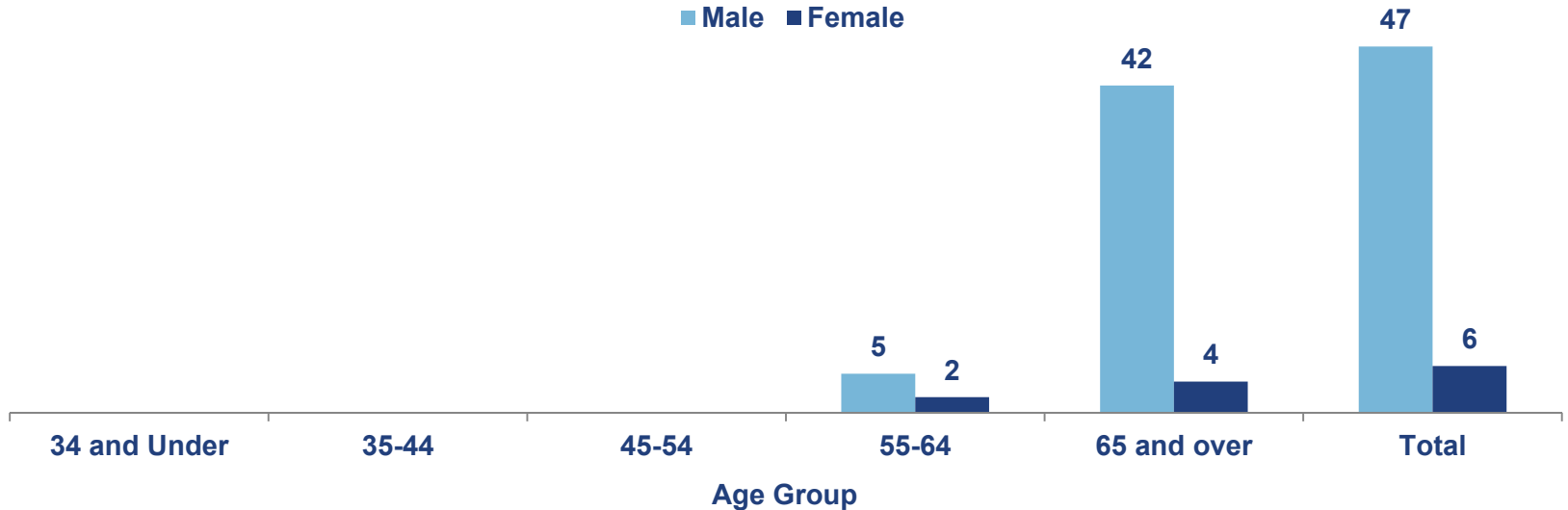
<sup>3</sup> 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

## Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019





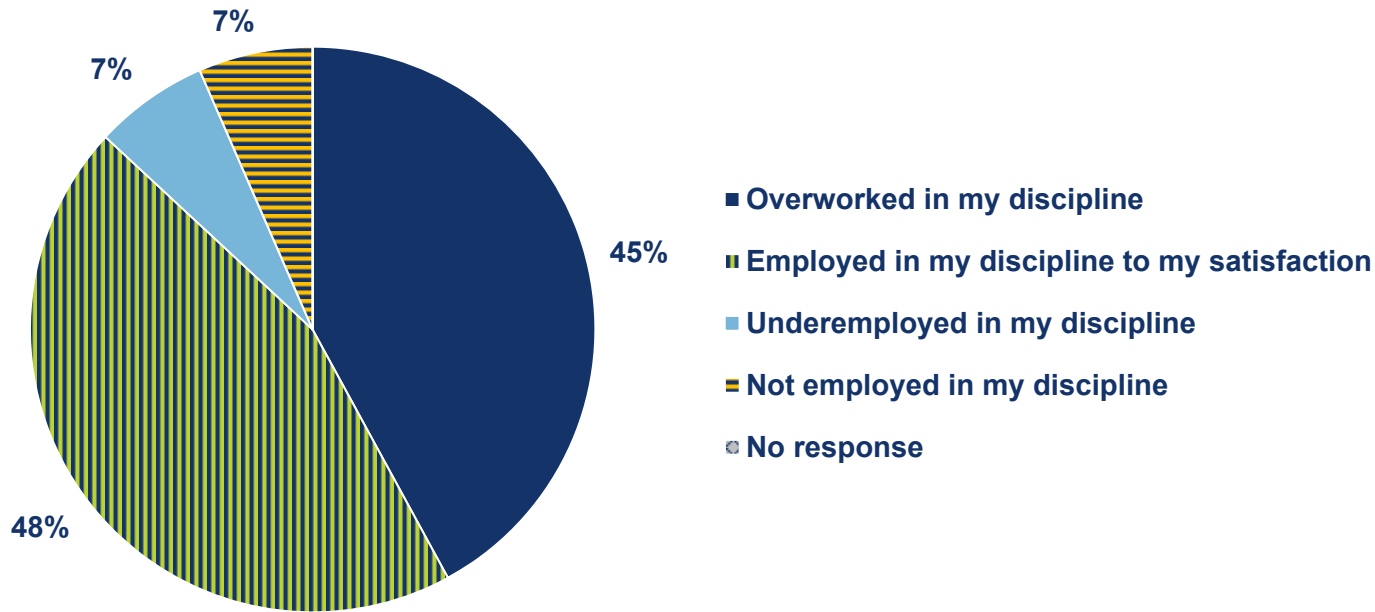
## Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018



**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



## 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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