



Orthopedic Surgery Profile

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General information

Orthopedic surgery focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and prevention of diseases of the bones, joints, ligament, muscles, tendons and nerves. These specialists employ medical, physical, rehabilitation and surgery to restore normal function. It is estimated that approximately half of an orthopedic surgeon's practice is devoted to non-surgical or medical management of injuries and disease, and half to surgical treatments.

Originally dedicated to the care of children with spine and limb deformities, orthopedic surgery now cares for patients of all ages, from newborns who have clubfeet to young athletes requiring arthroscopic surgery to older people suffering with arthritis.

Orthopedic surgeons treat diseases and conditions, such as:

- fractures and dislocations
- torn ligaments, sprains and strains
- tendon injuries, pulled muscles and bursitis

General information

- ruptured disks, sciatica, lower back pain and scoliosis
- abnormalities of the fingers and toes and growth abnormalities
- surgical management of degenerative joint disease
- knock knees, bow legs, bunions and hammer toes
- arthritis and osteoporosis
- bone tumors, muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy
- club feet and unequal leg length

Orthopedic surgeons may engage in a broad practice or may focus on a narrower area of special interest, such as the spine, hip, foot, hand or sports medicine. It is a dynamic field that has witnessed much advancement in techniques and equipment, such as microsurgery and joint replacements.

Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in orthopedic surgery requires an additional **5 years of Royal College-approved residency training.**

General information

This training includes:

- 24 months of foundational surgery training as a junior resident. This must include a minimum of 6 months but no more than 12 months as a junior resident in orthopedic surgery. This must include a minimum of 1 month in ICU, general surgery, internal medicine or its relevant sub-specialties;
- 36 months of further residency training that includes: at least 6 months in pediatric orthopedic surgery;
- at least three 3 months in each of the following rotations: trauma, sports medicine, community orthopedic surgery, spine surgery, oncologic orthopedic surgery; and at least three months of adult reconstruction/arthroplasty in each of the following: upper limb, foot and ankle.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

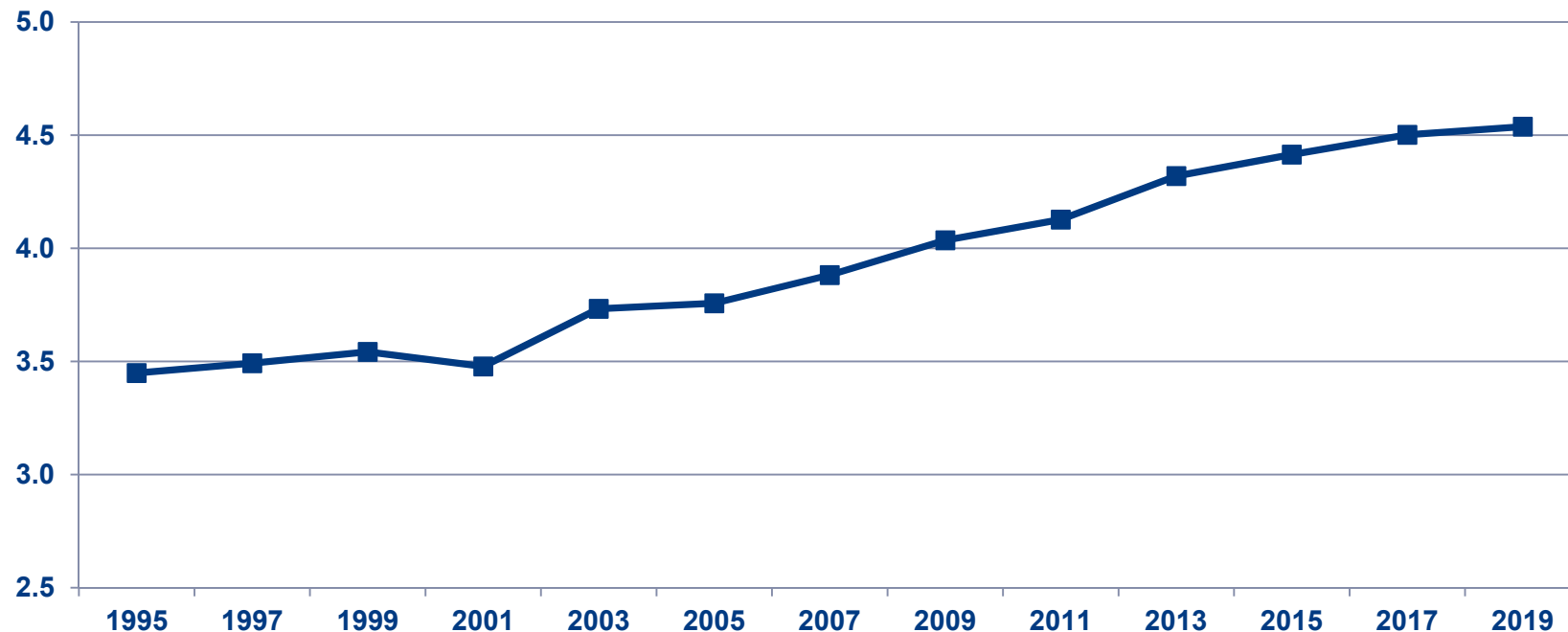
[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)

[Canadian Orthopedic Association](#)

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

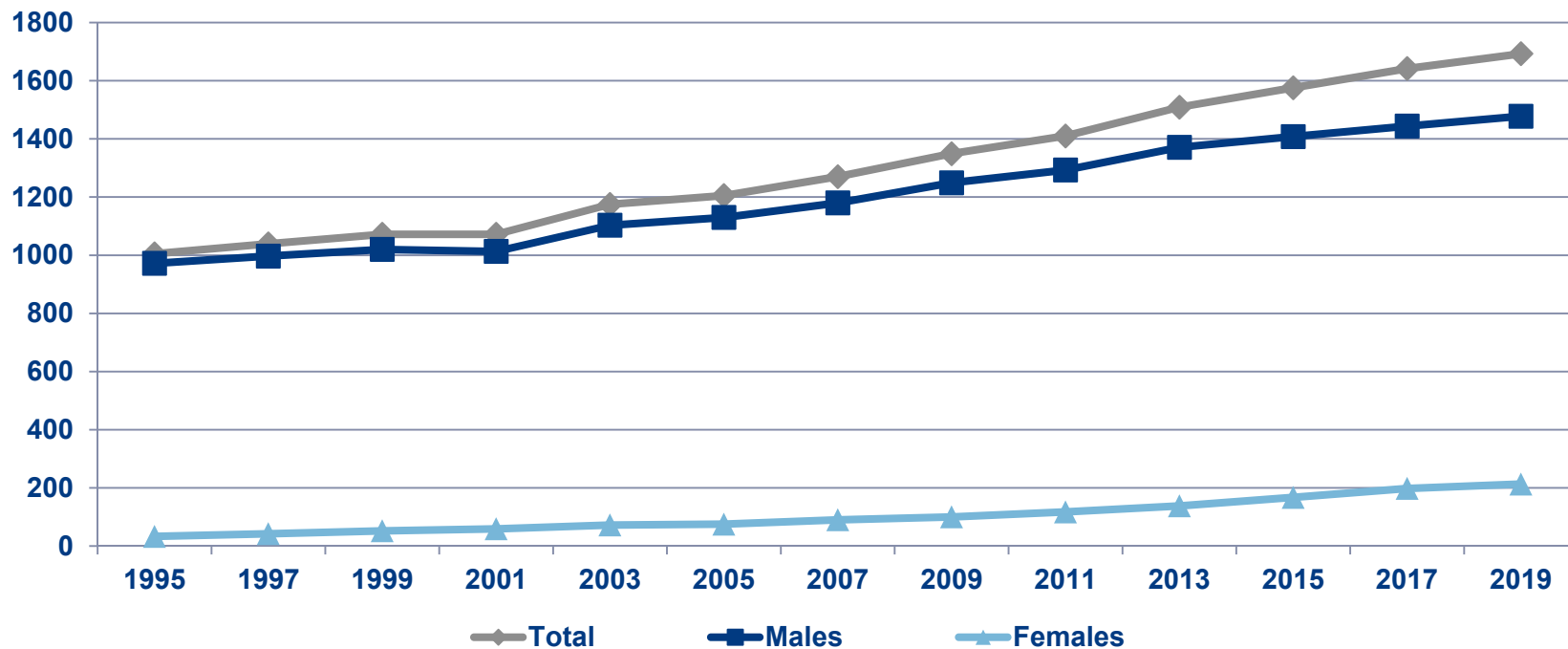
Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	28	5.3
Prince Edward Island	7	4.5
Nova Scotia	51	5.3
New Brunswick	35	4.5
Quebec	434	5.1
Ontario	629	4.4
Manitoba	57	4.2
Saskatchewan	44	3.8
Alberta	181	4.2
British Columbia	225	4.5
Territories	2	1.6
CANADA	1693	4.5

Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



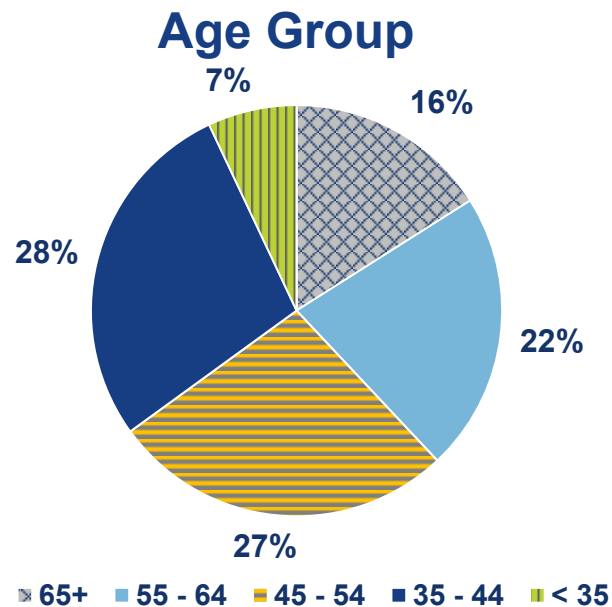
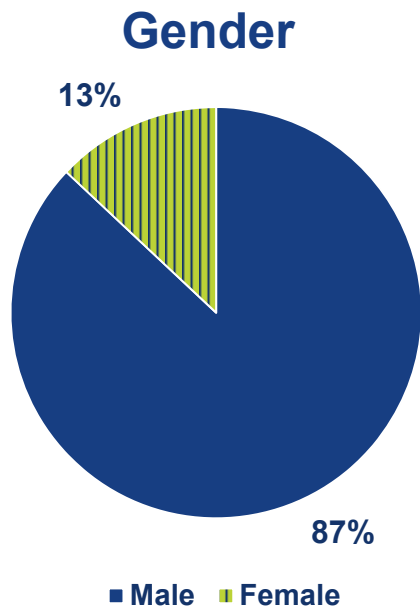
Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

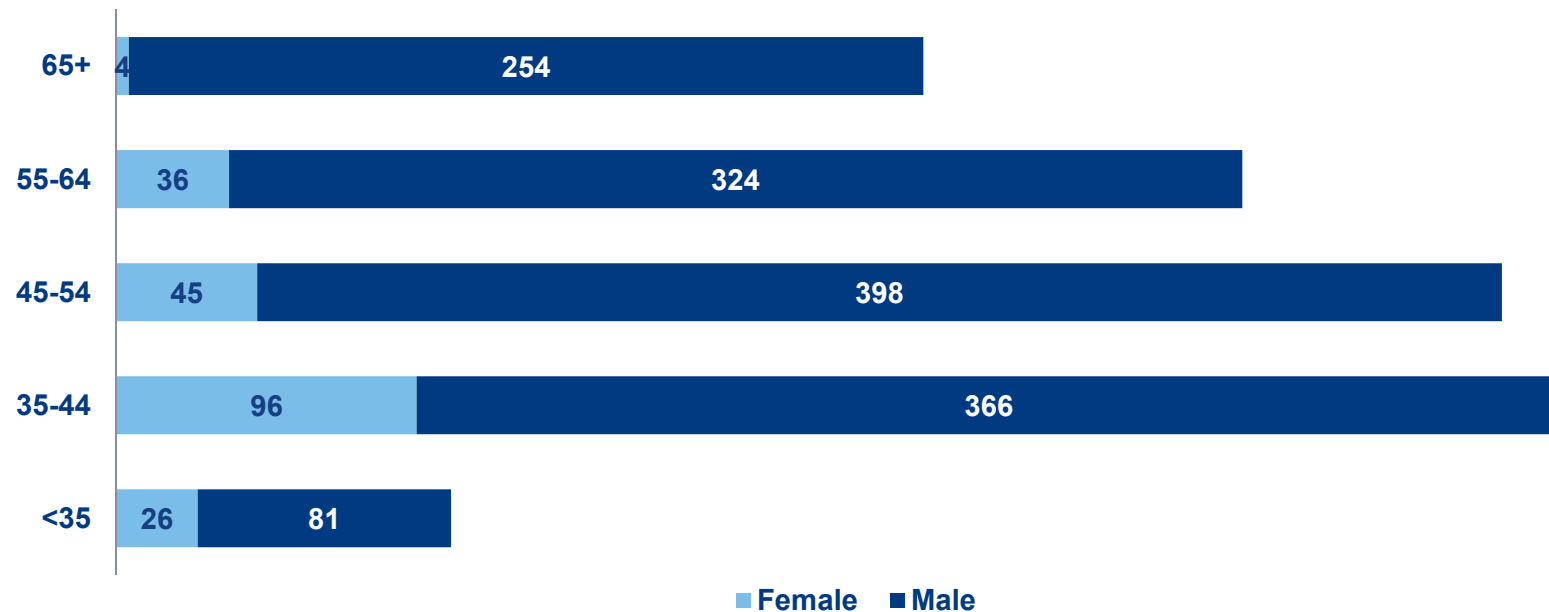
Percentage by gender & age, 2019



Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

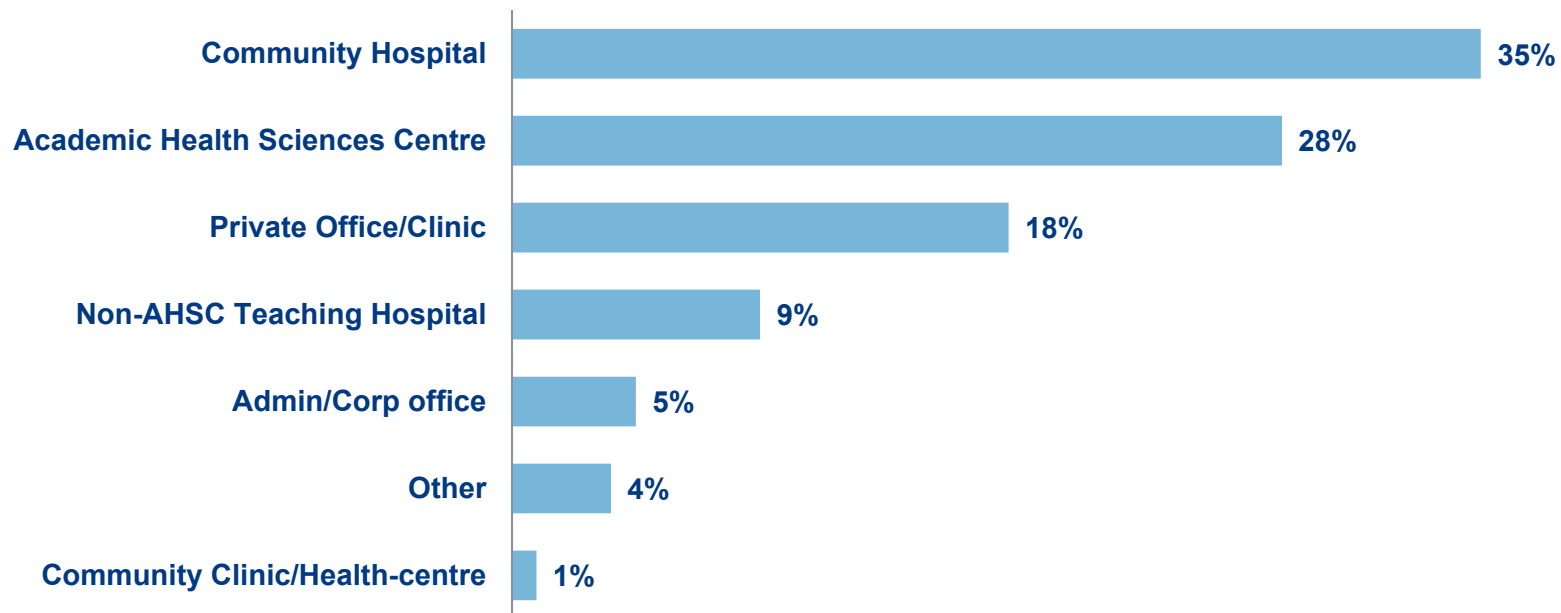
Number by gender & age, 2019



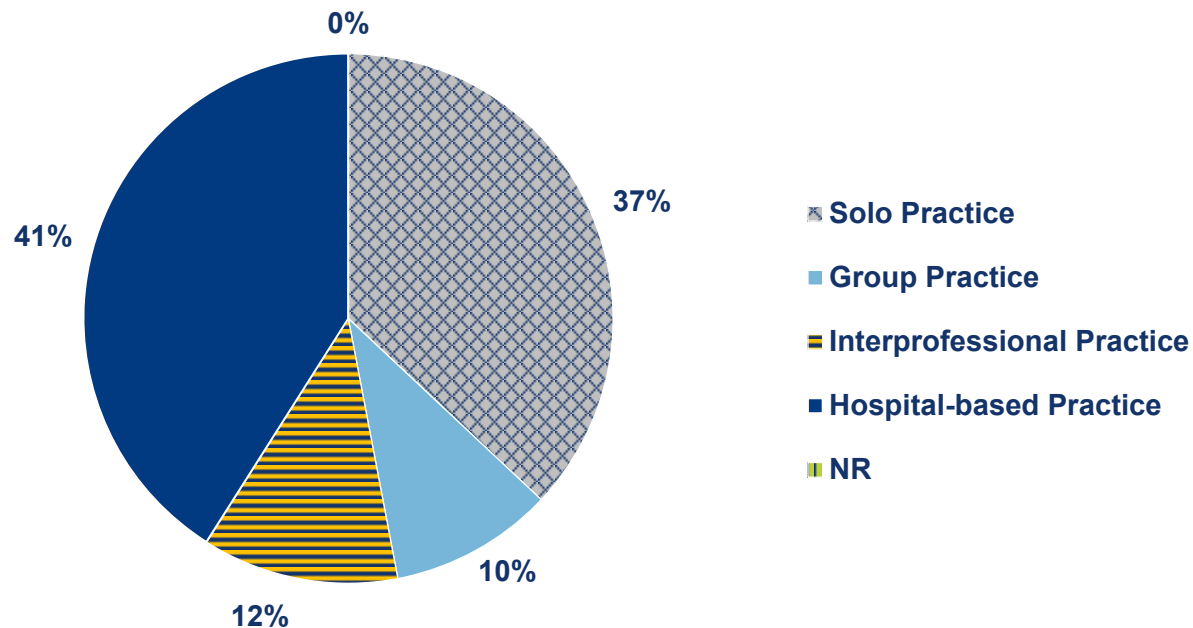
Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

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

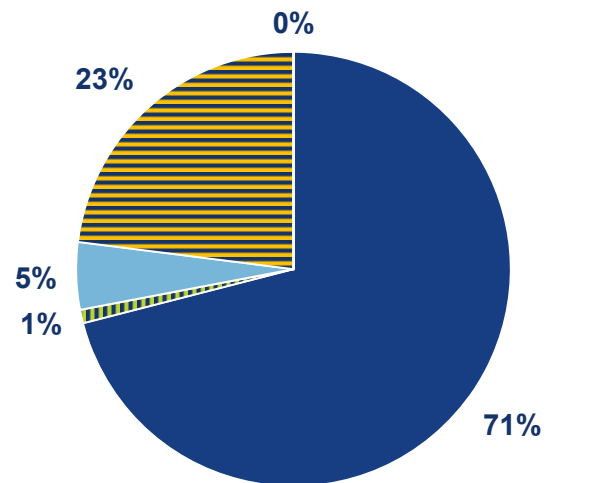
Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	23.7
Direct patient care with teaching component	10.7
Teaching without patient care	1.7
Indirect patient care	5.4
Health facility committees	1.4
Administration	2.9
Research	1.5
Managing practice	1.8
Continued professional development	2.4
Other	0.5
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	52.2

On-call duty hours per month, 2019

- 77% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 124 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 58 hours/month

Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2017



■ 90% + fee-for-service

■ 90% + salary

■ 90% + other*

■ Blended

■ NR

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for Orthopedic Surgery in 2017/18 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$466,050²

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

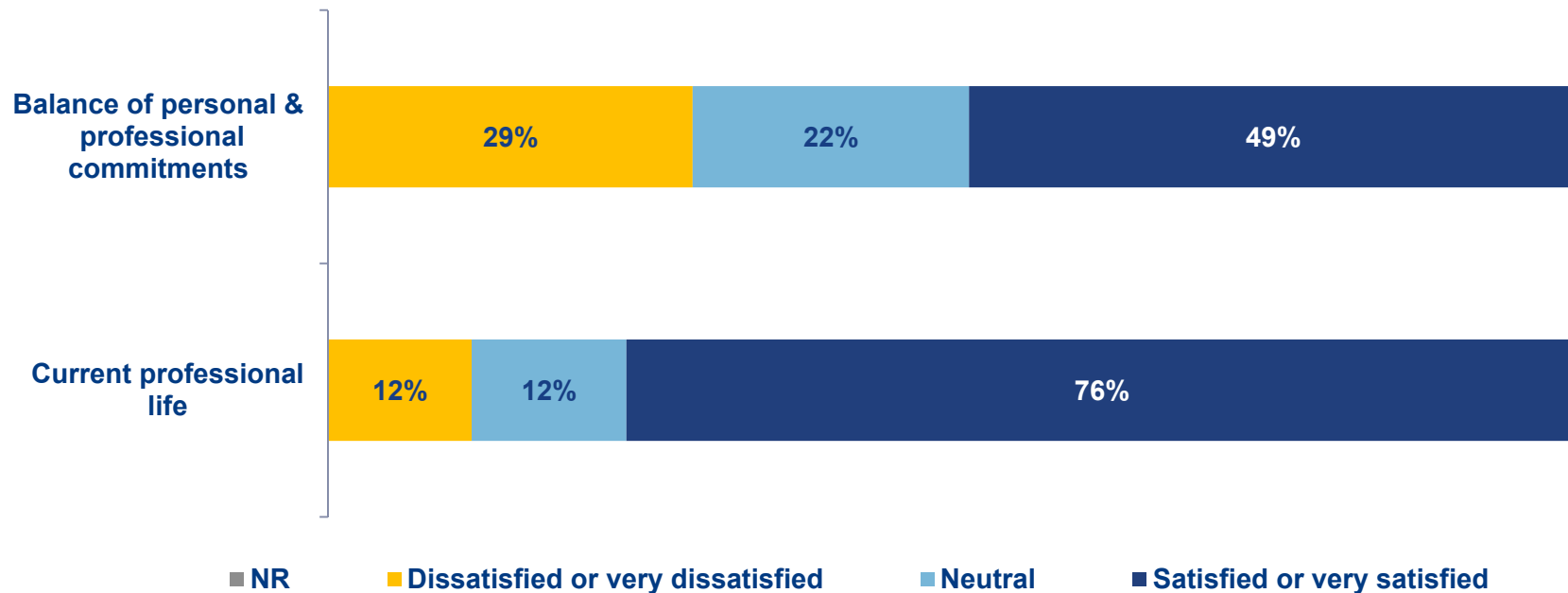
*Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

¹ 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

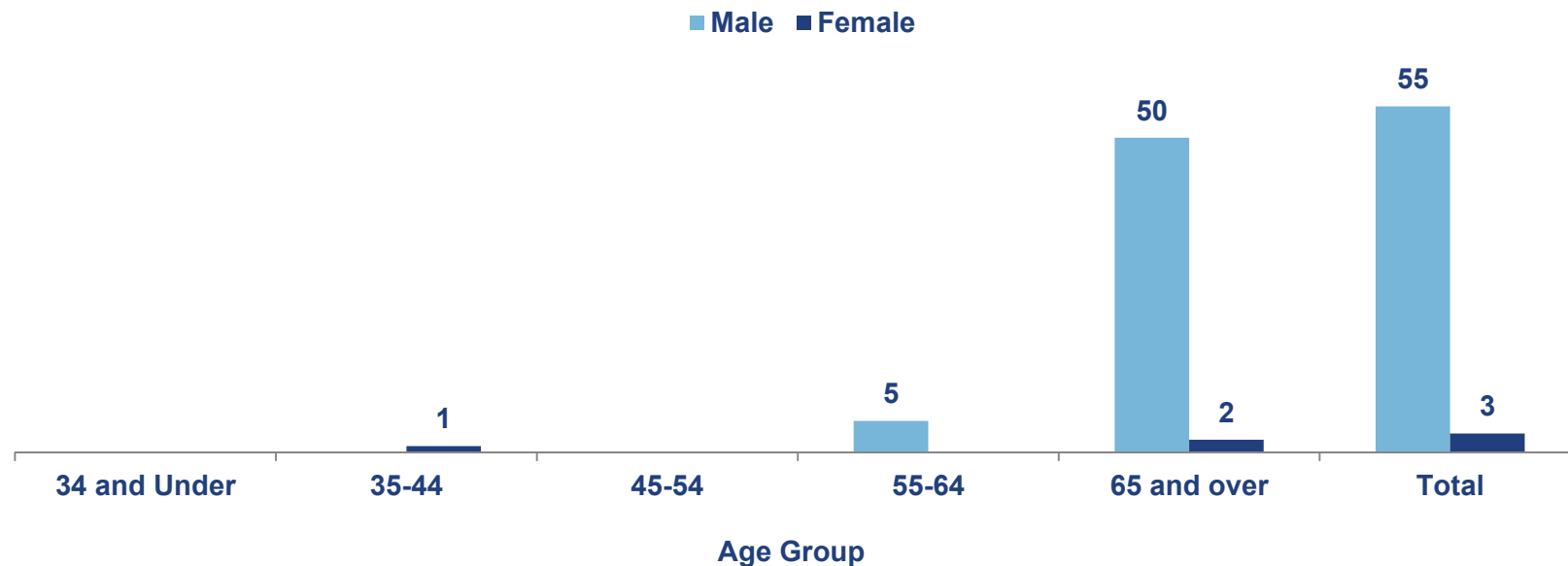
² National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI

³ 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019



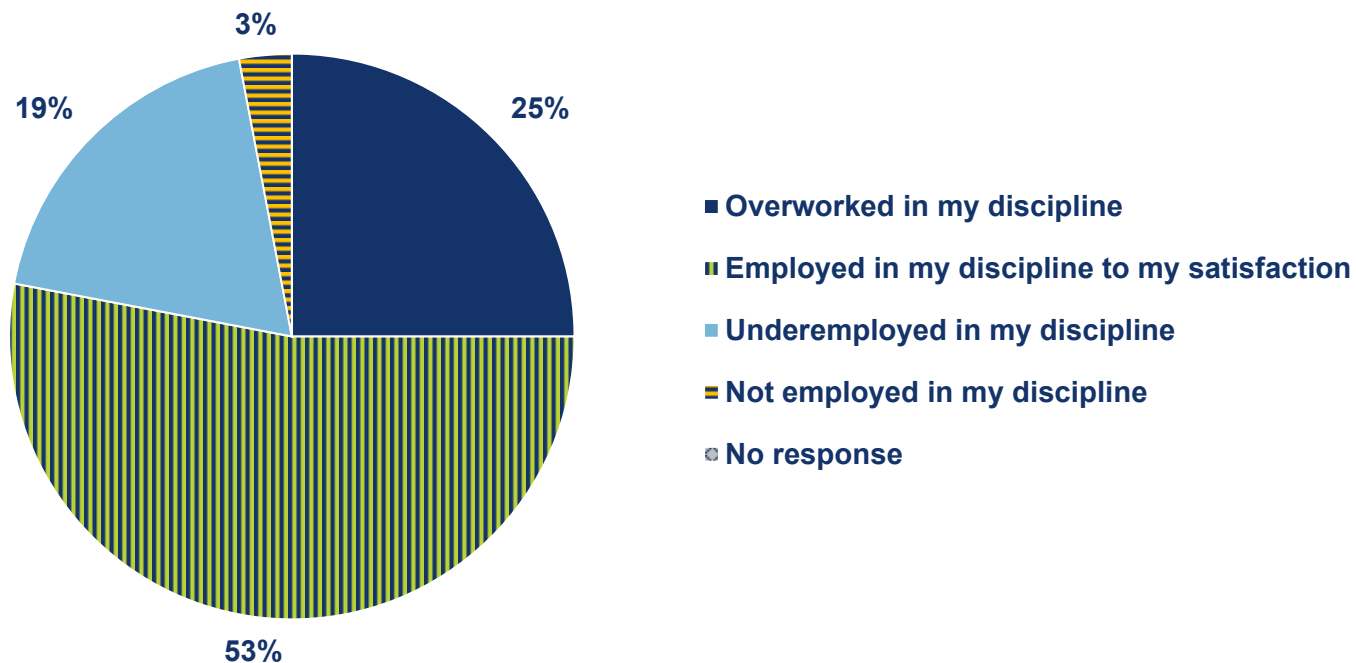
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018



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



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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