



Psychiatry Profile

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General information

Psychiatry is the medical specialty that deals with the diseases of the mind. Psychiatric patients manifest illnesses and problems that require a comprehensive biological, psychological and social evaluation to understand their illnesses and their needs. Central to the psychiatrist's role is a comprehensive assessment, leading to a diagnosis and a treatment plan for the care and rehabilitation of patients with mental illness, and emotional and behavioural disorders.

Psychiatrists use a combination of biological, psychological and social treatment modalities. They must be comfortable in working with the patient, as opposed to working on the patient. To do this successfully, they must possess the skills and comfort level to work and lead a team that includes the patient, their family and other mental health professionals and agencies.

General information

Most psychiatrists work in multiple settings and their role may vary somewhat in these different settings, including:

- In a general hospital, they are responsible for the care and treatment of psychiatric inpatients, as well as providing consultation and liaison to the medical/surgical units and patients.
- In community outpatient clinics, the psychiatrist works as a member of a community-based multidisciplinary mental health team. The psychiatrist will usually work in close liaison with (or indeed share care) with the community family physician.
- In a specialized psychiatric hospital, they would lead a multidisciplinary team in the assessment, care and treatment of the hospital's inpatients, outpatients or a combination of both. Most specialized hospitals are outreach and community-focused, providing a wide range of programs to their patients.
- In community office practice, their emphasis would be on working individually with a patient using a variety of management, rehabilitative and psychotherapeutic techniques.

General information

As a full- or part-time academic, psychiatrists would combine education or research responsibilities with their clinical practice. The majority of psychiatrists work as general psychiatrists and others subspecialize in areas including:

- child/adolescent psychiatry;
- geriatric psychiatry;
- or forensic psychiatry.

Others specialize in a specific area of practice such as addictions and substance abuse disorders, mood and anxiety disorders, schizophrenia or eating disorders. Other areas of interest include Aboriginal mental health, women's mental health, gender issues, cross-cultural psychiatry, sleep medicine, or psychosomatic medicine and the care of patients with cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

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

General information

This training includes:

- 1 year of basic clinical training that must include: broadly based medical experience relevant to psychiatry with core elements in medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, neurology (neuroimaging is strongly recommended), emergency medicine and psychiatry;
- 2 years of junior residency that must encompass basic and foundational training with a focus on the role of the psychiatrist practicing across the life span in a variety of practice settings. Patients with developmental delay across the life span, with or without comorbid psychiatric disorder, must be included. The settings must include accredited hospital-based and ambulatory care placements;
- 2 years of senior residency: during this period the resident assumes more leadership in the education and supervision of junior colleagues while consolidating and further developing career track interest through electives and selectives, including research electives and selectives that must be acceptable to the psychiatry residency program and to the Royal College.

General information

The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) and the Royal College have created an agreement that accepts the credentials of applicants to each other's examinations.

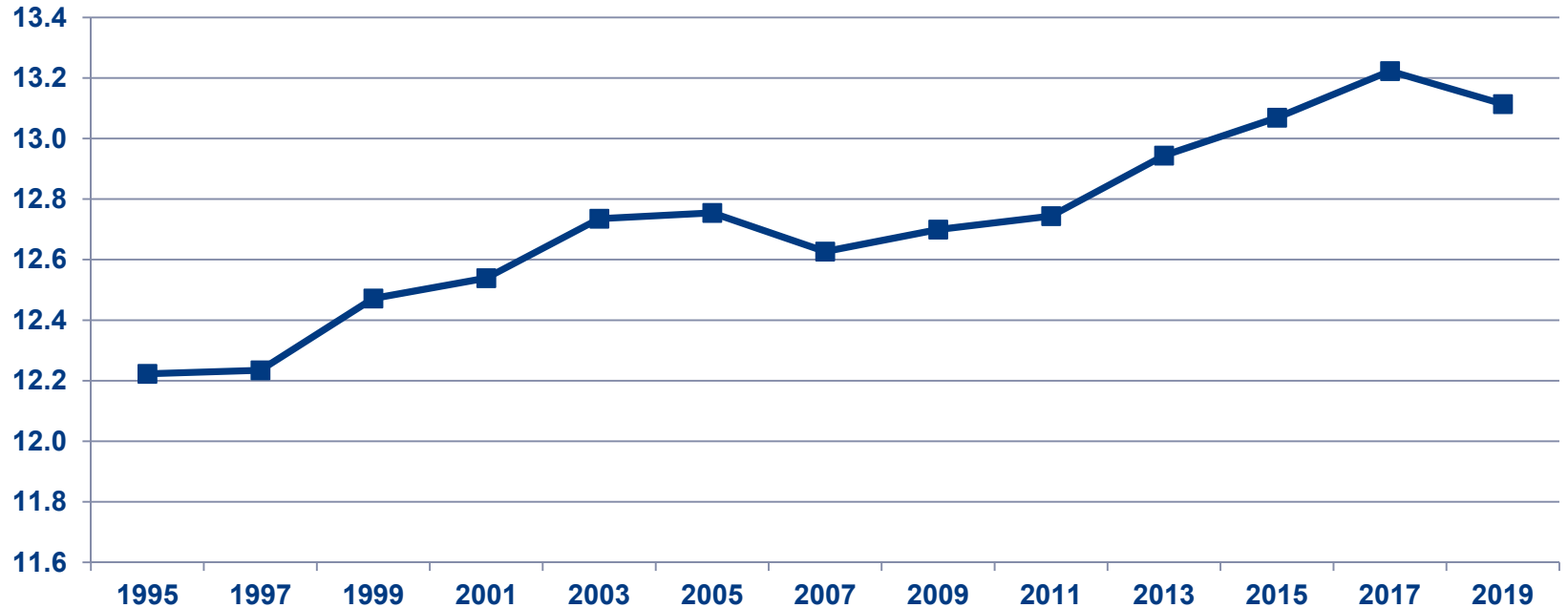
For further details on training requirements please go to:

- [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)
- [Canadian Psychiatric Association](#)

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

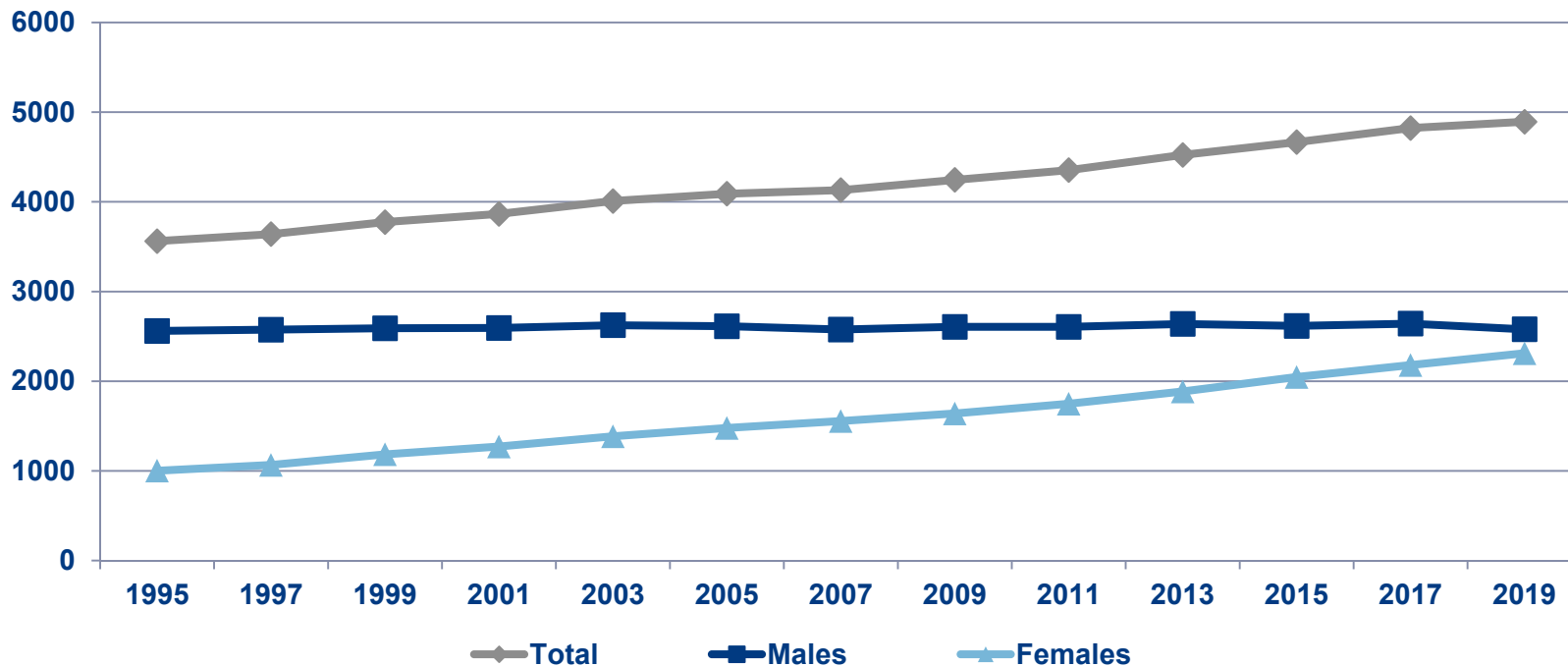
Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	61	11.6
Prince Edward Island	8	5.2
Nova Scotia	140	14.5
New Brunswick	51	6.6
Quebec	1215	14.4
Ontario	1938	13.4
Manitoba	181	13.3
Saskatchewan	87	7.4
Alberta	461	10.6
British Columbia	747	14.8
Territories	4	3.2
CANADA	4893	13.1

Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

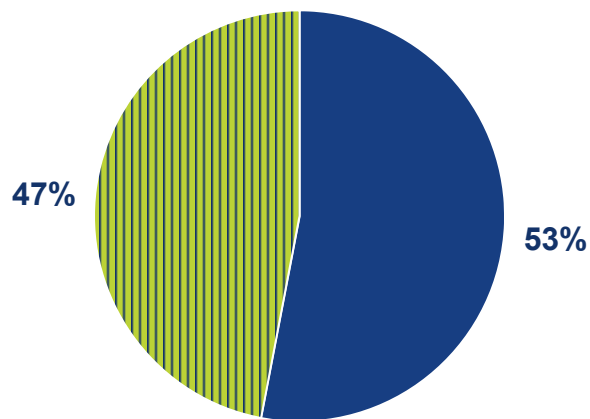
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

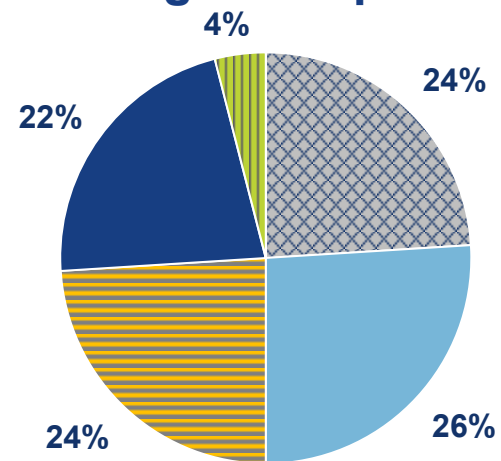
Percentage by gender & age, 2019

Gender



■ Male ■ Female

Age Group

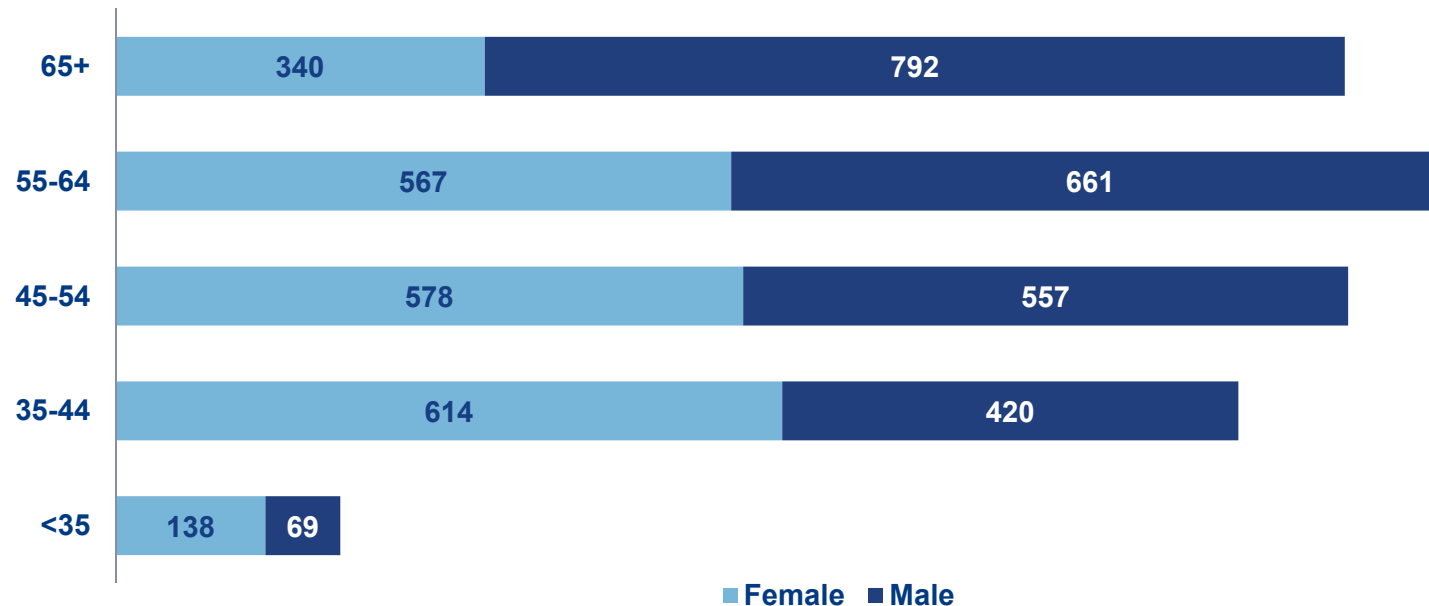


■ 65+ ■ 55 - 64 ■ 45 - 54 ■ 35 - 44 ■ < 35

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

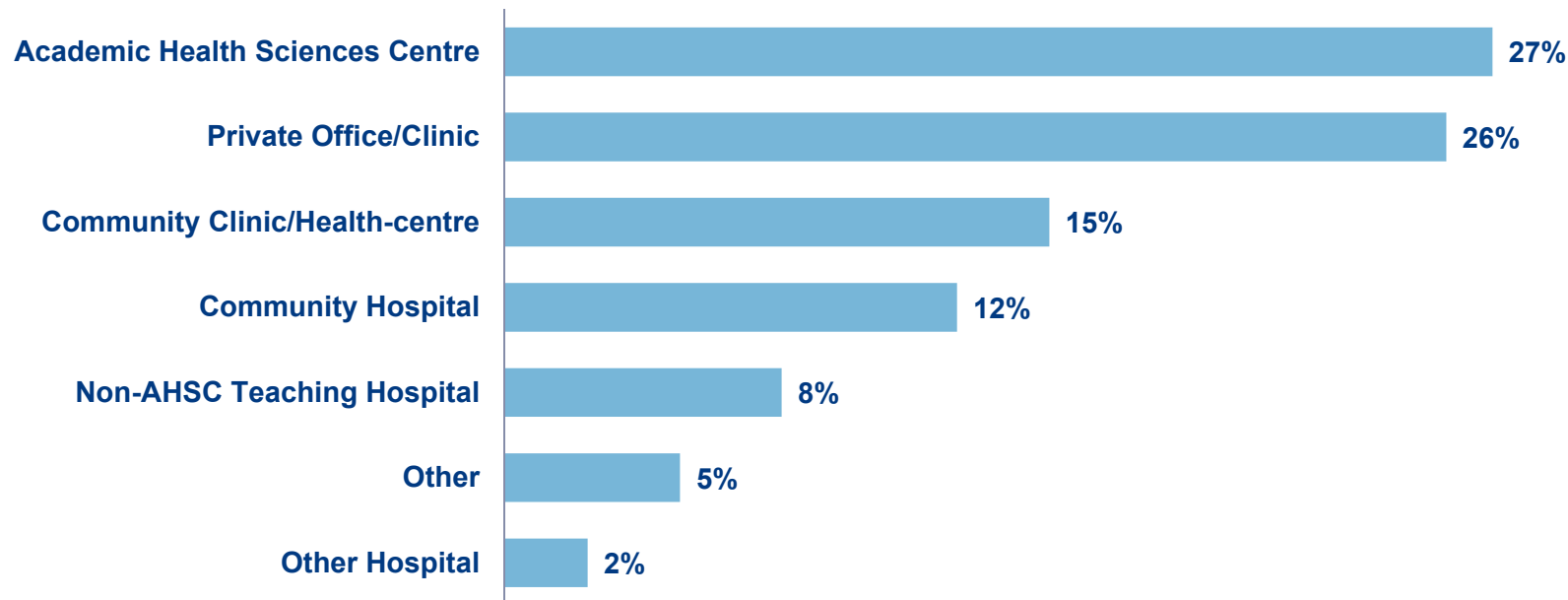
Number by gender & age, 2019



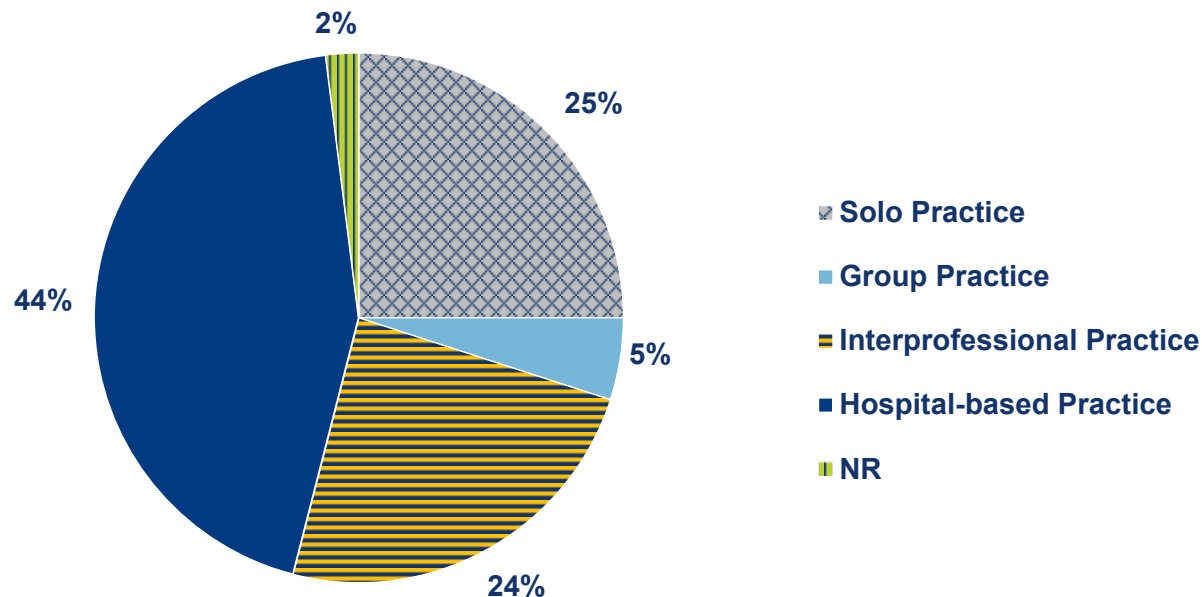
Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

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

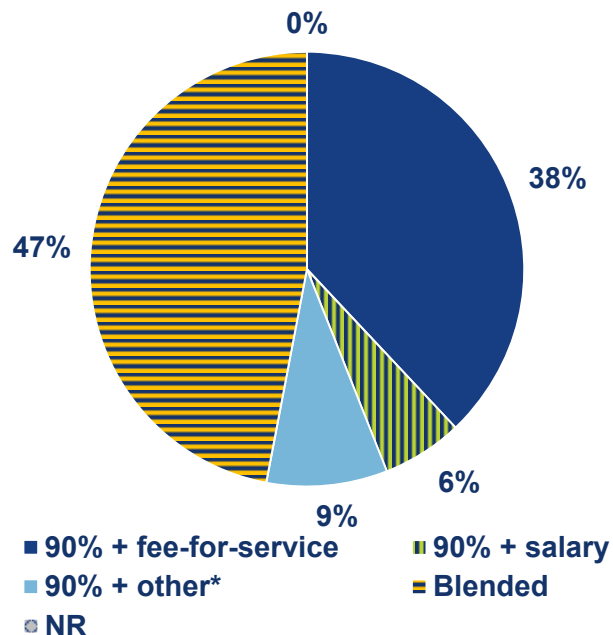
Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	23.9
Direct patient care with teaching component	5.1
Teaching without patient care	1.5
Indirect patient care	7.4
Health facility committees	1.0
Administration	2.4
Research	1.3
Managing practice	1.3
Continued professional development	2.4
Other	0.4
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	46.6

On-call duty hours per month, 2019

- 62% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 64 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 19 hours/month

Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2017



Average gross payment per physician for Psychiatry in 2017/18 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$311,334²

Average percent overhead reported by psychiatrists in 2017 = 19%³

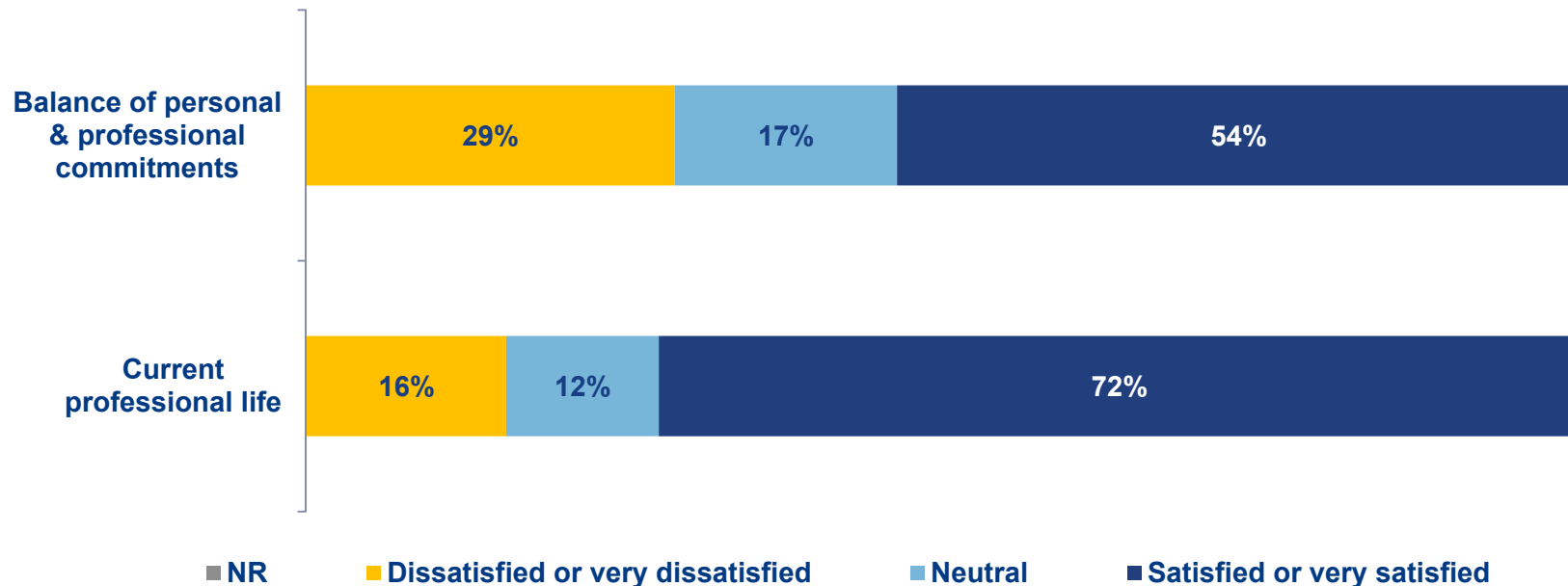
*Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

¹ Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

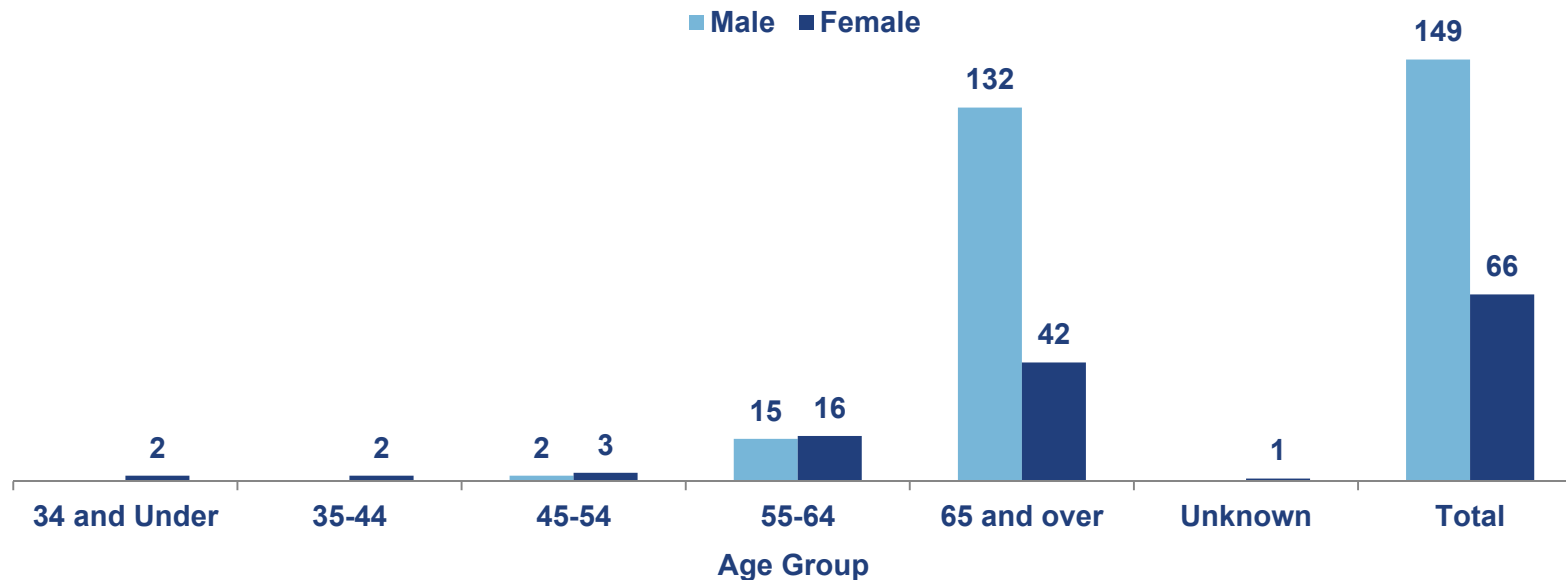
² National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI

³ Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019



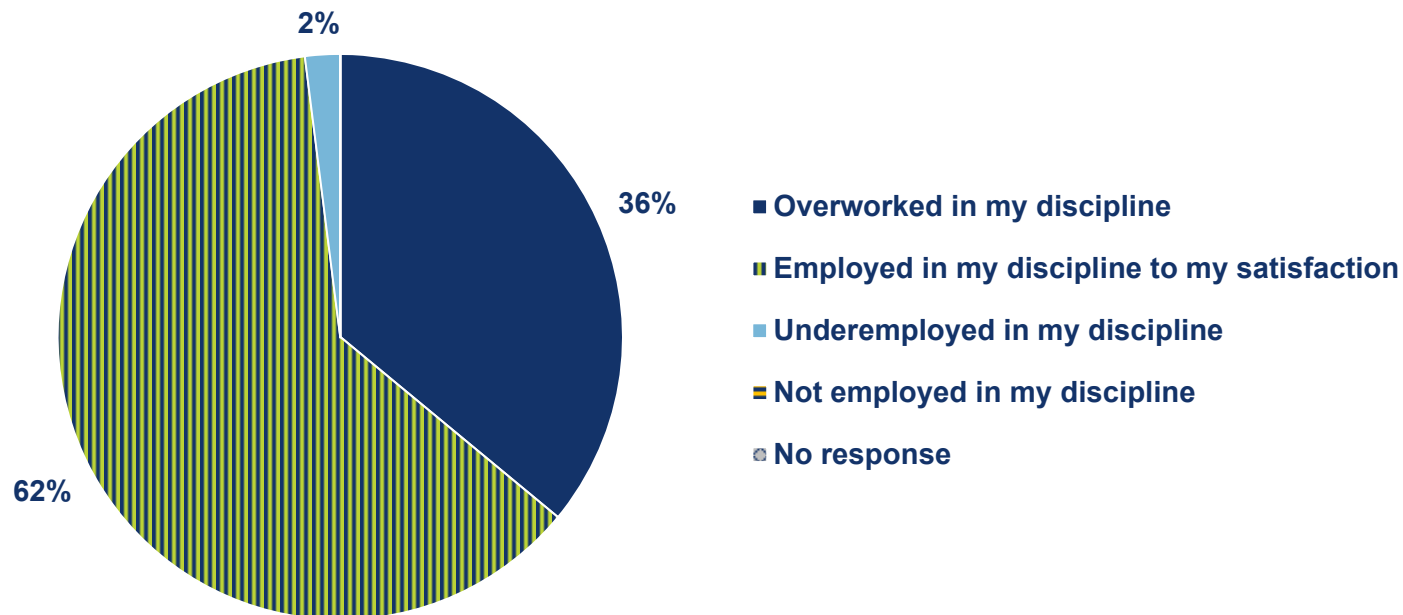
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018



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](#)

