



Radiation Oncology Profile

Updated
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General information

Radiation oncologists are medical specialists with unique knowledge, understanding and expertise in the diagnosis and care of patients with malignant disease. They are integrally involved in the formulation and execution of the management plan of cancer patients and therefore require specific knowledge and skills in the application of ionizing radiations to cancer treatment. Using an evidence-based approach, they are responsible for the appropriate recommendation, prescription and supervision of therapeutic ionizing radiation. The competent and ethical discharge of these responsibilities results in improved quality of life and/or survival for cancer patients, which in turn benefits families, society and future care.

Typically, a radiation oncologist practices in a multidisciplinary fashion in close collaboration with general and subspecialty surgeons, medical and gynecological oncologists. Ambulatory patient care is the norm. Cancer centres are generally located in large cities within academic health science centres, thus most radiation oncologists should expect to have an academic career.

General information

Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in radiation oncology requires an additional 5 years of Royal College-approved residency training. This training includes:

- 1 year of approved basic clinical training to introduce and expose the trainee to independent responsibility for decisions involving clinical judgment skills, the further development of an effective, and mature physician-patient relationship, and the achievement of competence in primary technical skills across a broad range of medical practice. The first year of an approved family medicine program is acceptable in fulfillment of this requirement.
- 3 years of approved residency training in radiation oncology, 1 year of which must include: 6 months of approved residency training in internal medicine, which may include up to three months of hematology/oncology; and 6 months of approved training in clinical training, basic science, or research training.

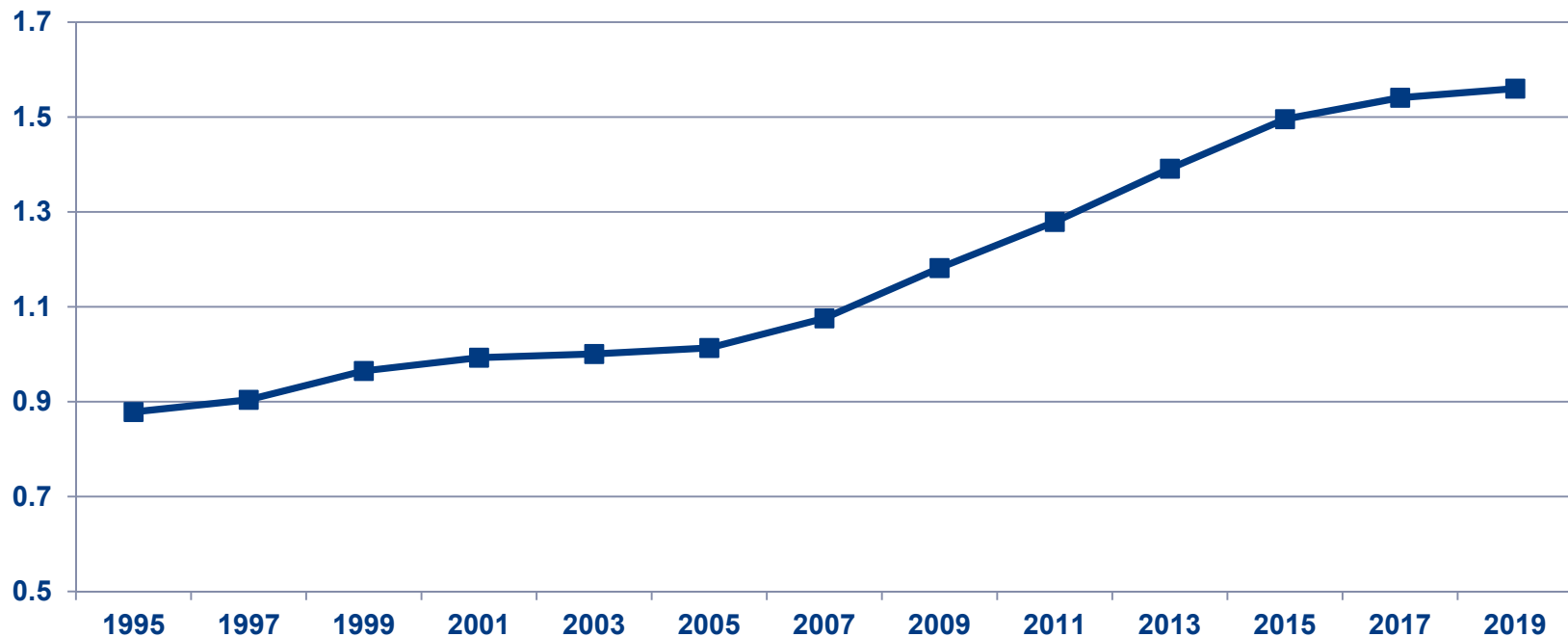
For further details on training requirements please go to:
[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)

[Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology](#)

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

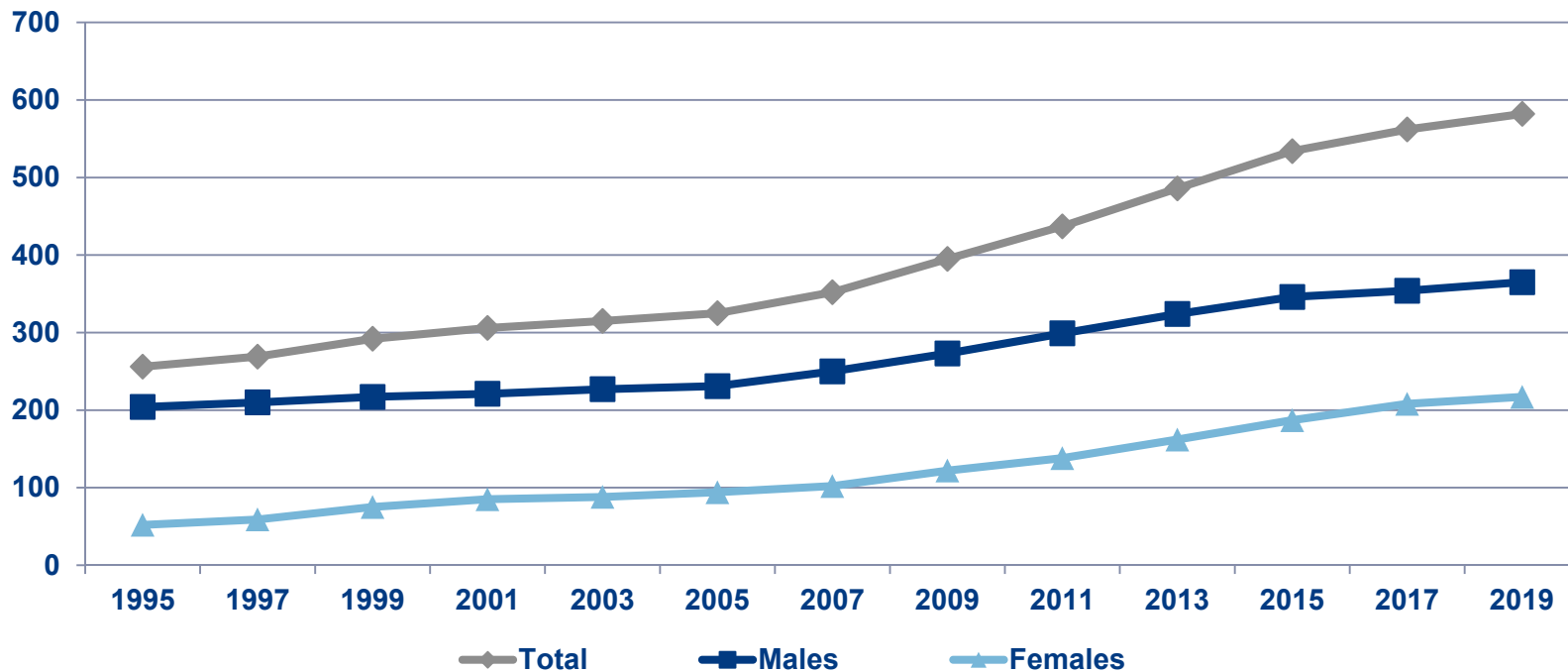
| Province/Territory | Physicians | Phys/100k pop'n |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Newfoundland/Labrador | 11 | 2.1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 2 | 1.3 |
| Nova Scotia | 15 | 1.6 |
| New Brunswick | 8 | 1.0 |
| Quebec | 143 | 1.7 |
| Ontario | 238 | 1.6 |
| Manitoba | 14 | 1.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 14 | 1.2 |
| Alberta | 61 | 1.4 |
| British Columbia | 76 | 1.5 |
| Territories | 0 | 0.0 |
| CANADA | 582 | 1.6 |

Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



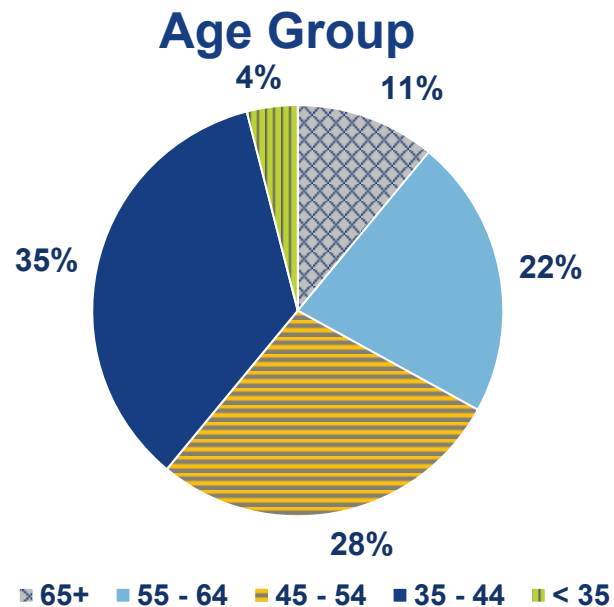
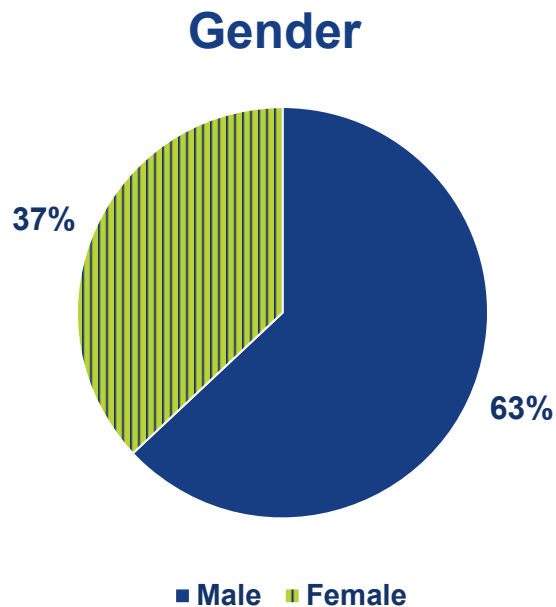
Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

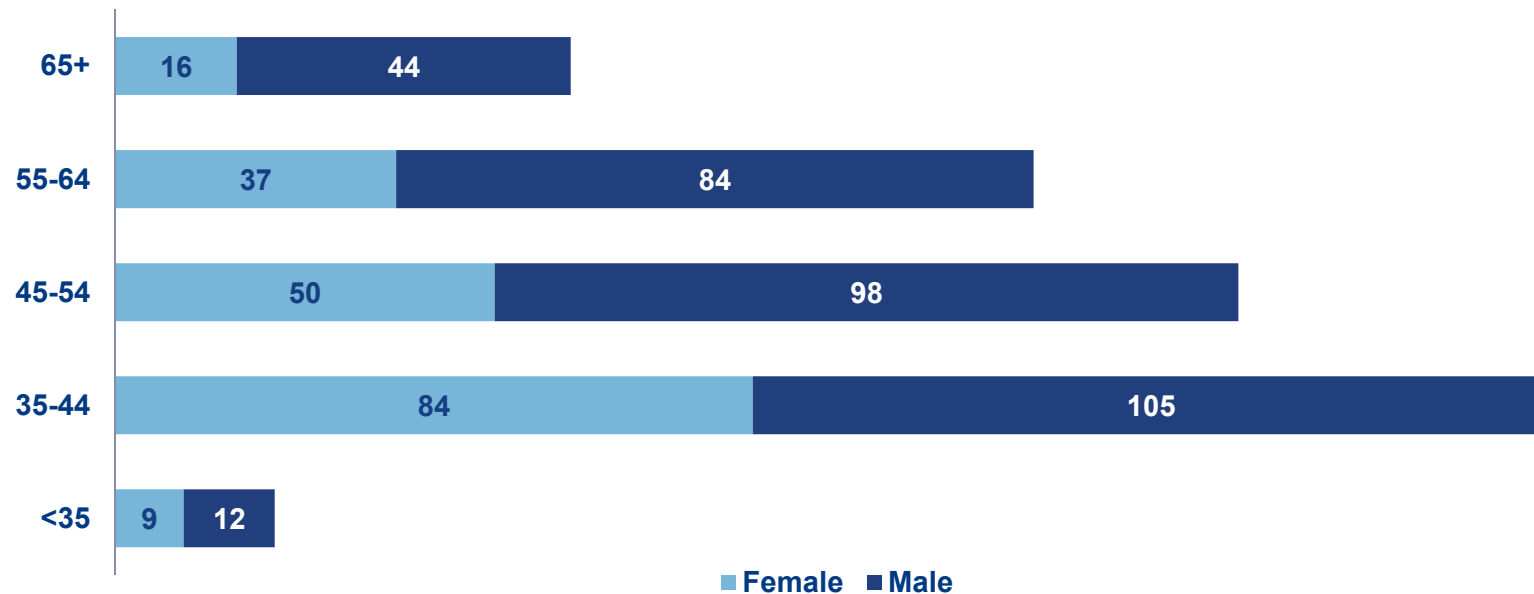
Percentage by gender & age, 2019



Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

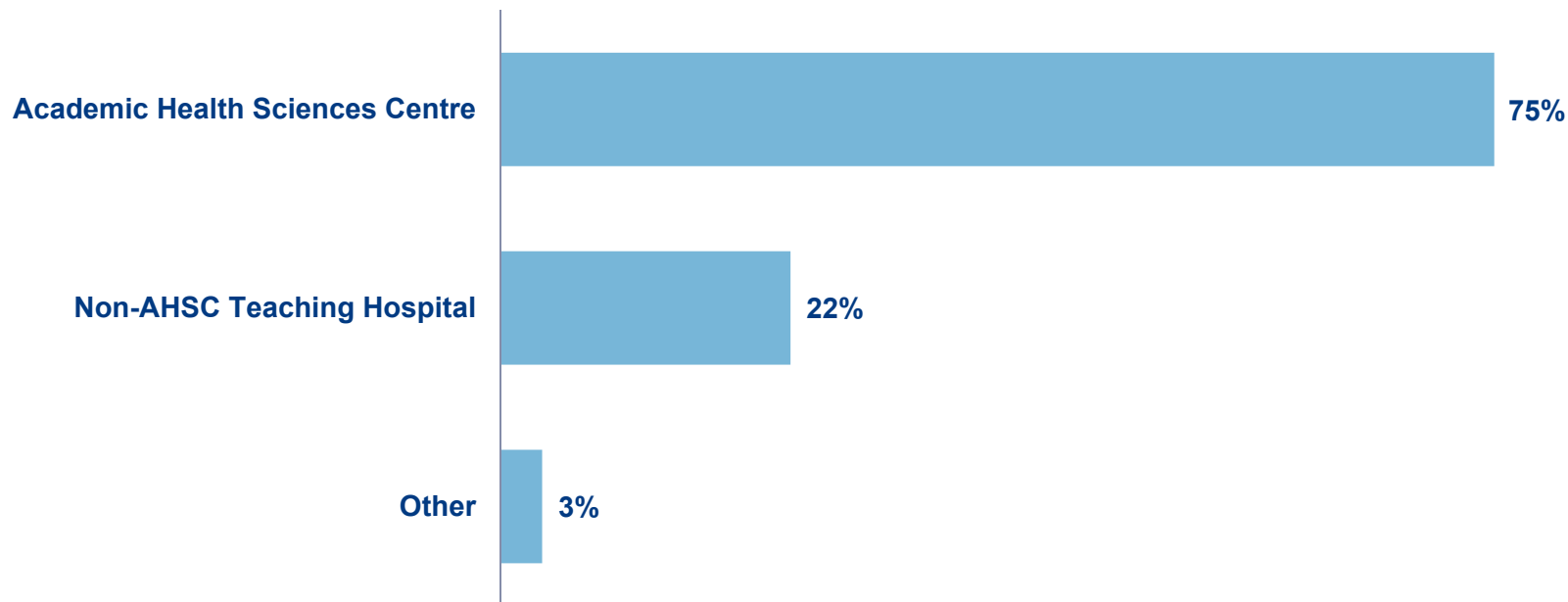
Number by gender & age, 2019



Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

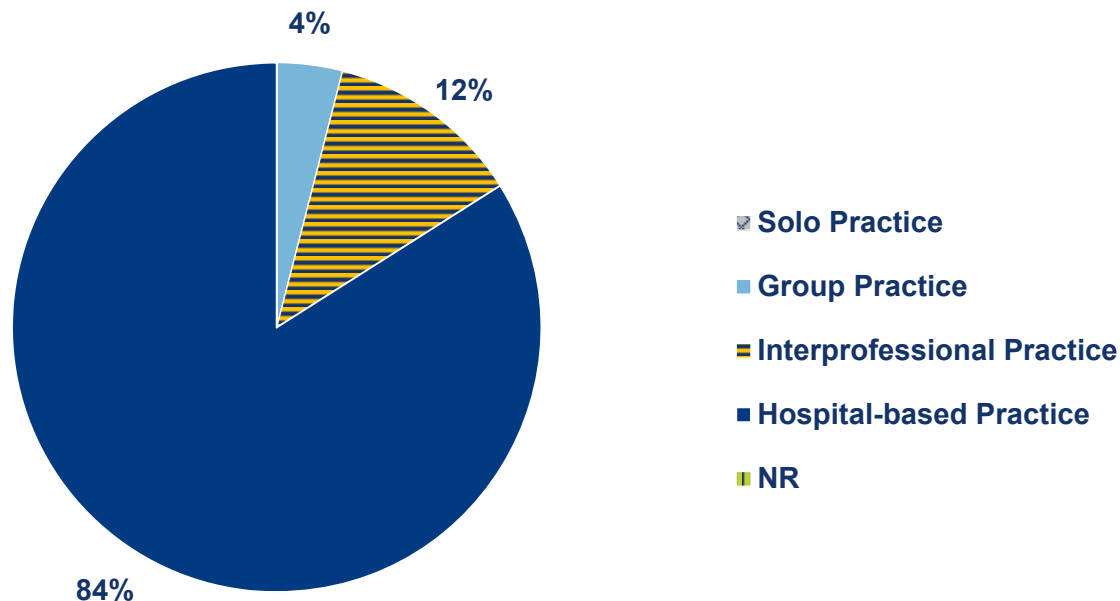
Percentage by main work setting, 2019



*Most recent available data for this specialty

Source: 2019 CMA Physician Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Percentage by practice organization, 2014*



*Most recent available data for this specialty

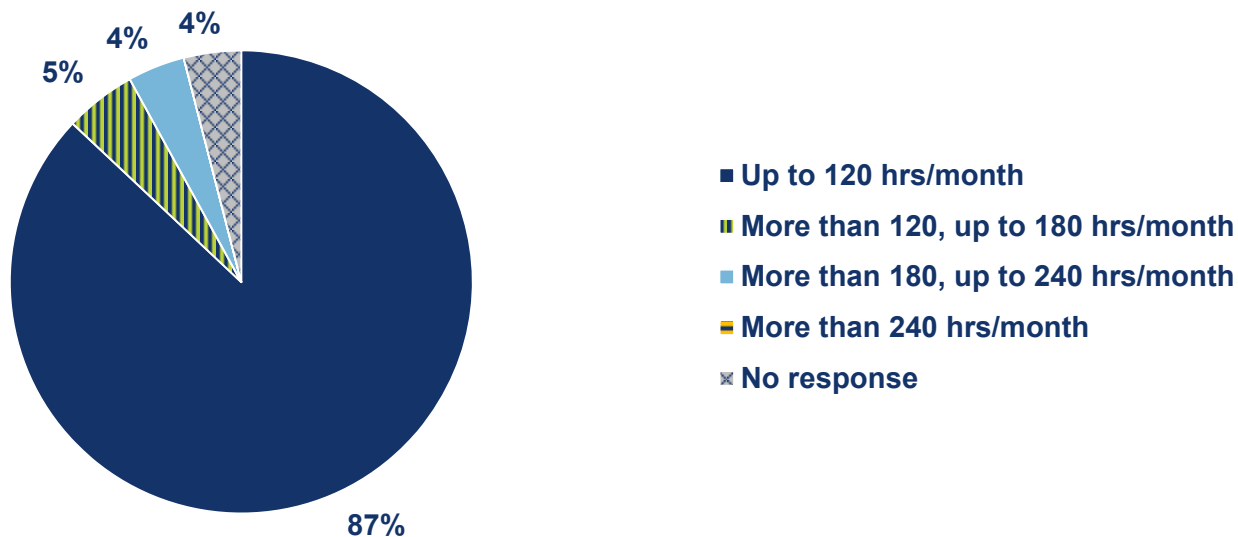
Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College

Hours worked per week (excluding on-call), 2014*

| Activity | Hours worked per week |
|--|-----------------------|
| Direct patient care without teaching component | 18.9 |
| Direct patient care with teaching component | 7.3 |
| Teaching without patient care | 2.5 |
| Indirect patient care | 9.1 |
| Health facility committees | 1.6 |
| Administration | 2.1 |
| Research | 4.5 |
| Managing practice | 1.1 |
| Continued professional development | 3.0 |
| Other | 1.3 |
| TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK | 51.4 |

*Most recent available data for this specialty
Source: 2014 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College

On-call duty hours per month, 2014*



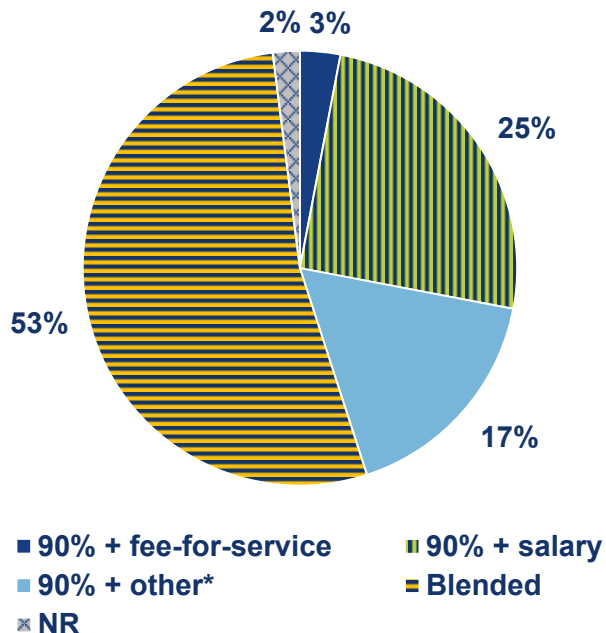
Time spent on call in direct patient care = 14 hrs./month

*Most recent available data for this specialty

Source: 2019 CMA Physician Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2013**



Average gross payment per physician for all medical specialties in 2017/18 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$390,195²

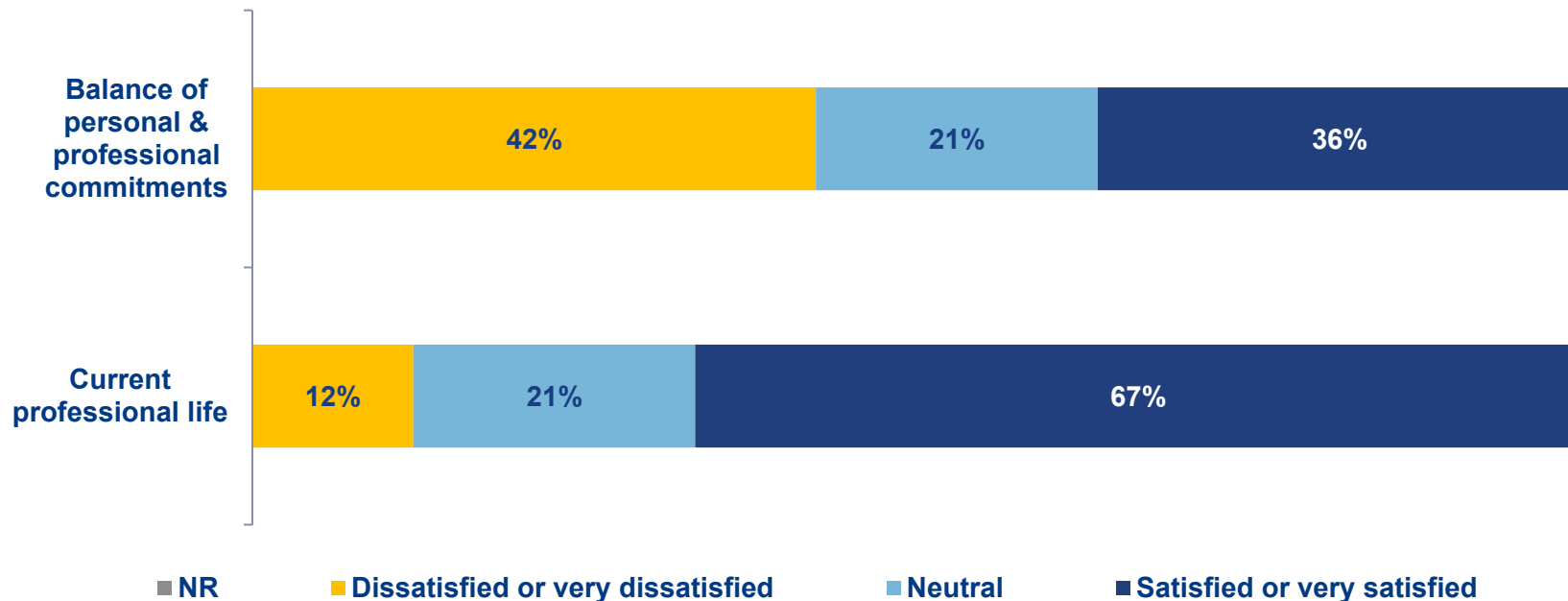
*Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

**Most recent available data for this specialty

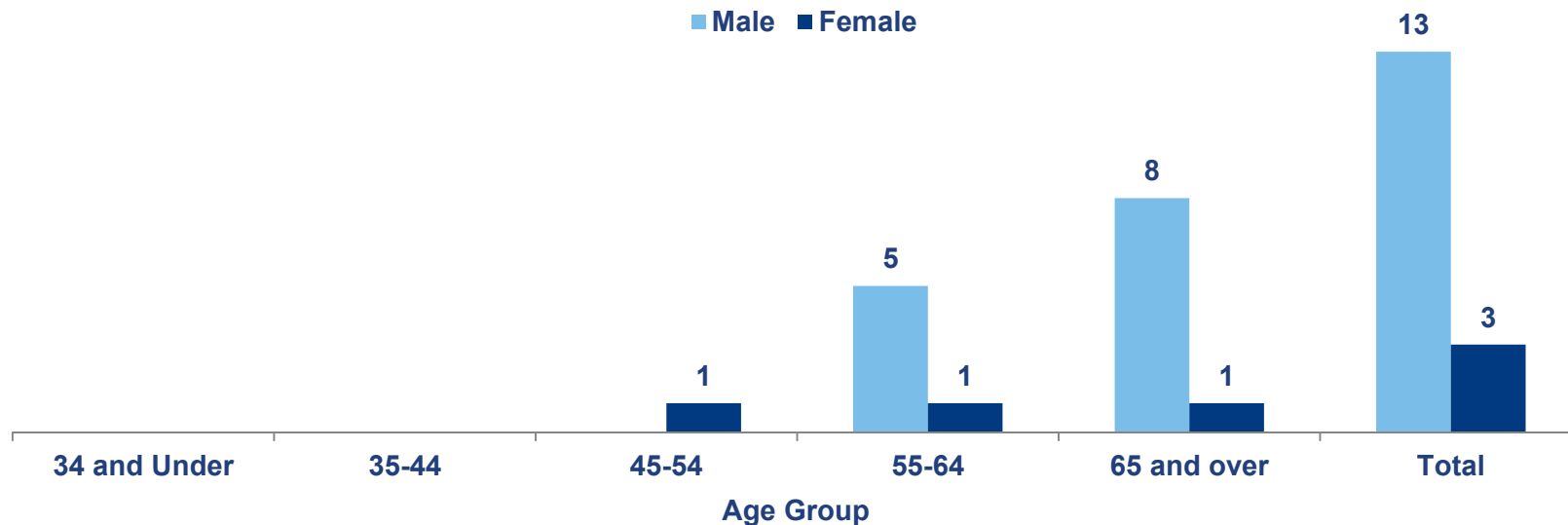
¹ Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

² National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI

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.

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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