

Radiation Oncology Profile

Updated August 2018

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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](#)

Source: Pathway evaluation program

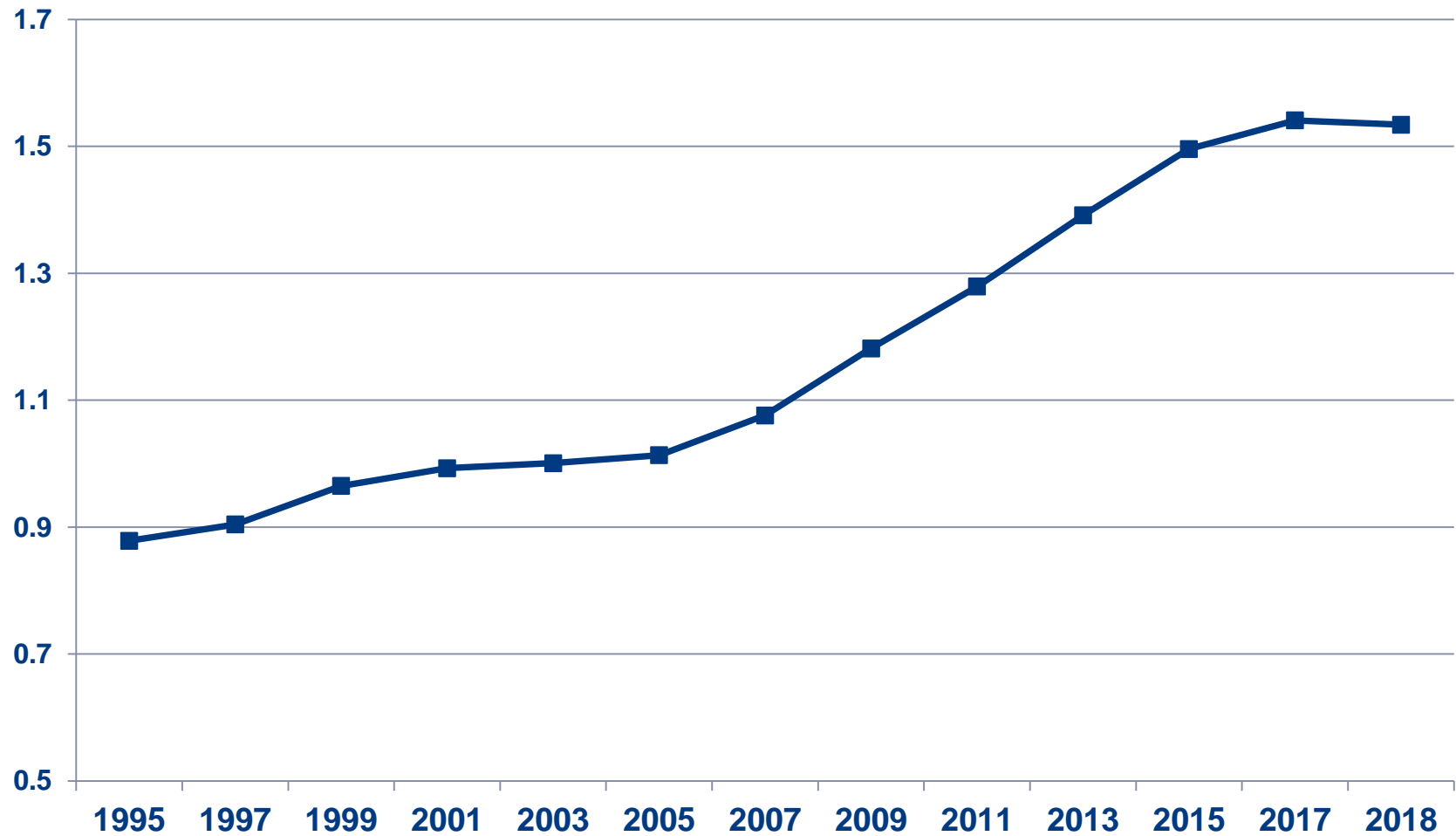
Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2018

Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	12	2.3
Prince Edward Island	2	1.3
Nova Scotia	16	1.7
New Brunswick	9	1.2
Quebec	139	1.6
Ontario	227	1.6
Manitoba	13	1.0
Saskatchewan	11	0.9
Alberta	58	1.3
British Columbia	80	1.6
Territories	0	0.0
CANADA	567	1.5

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile

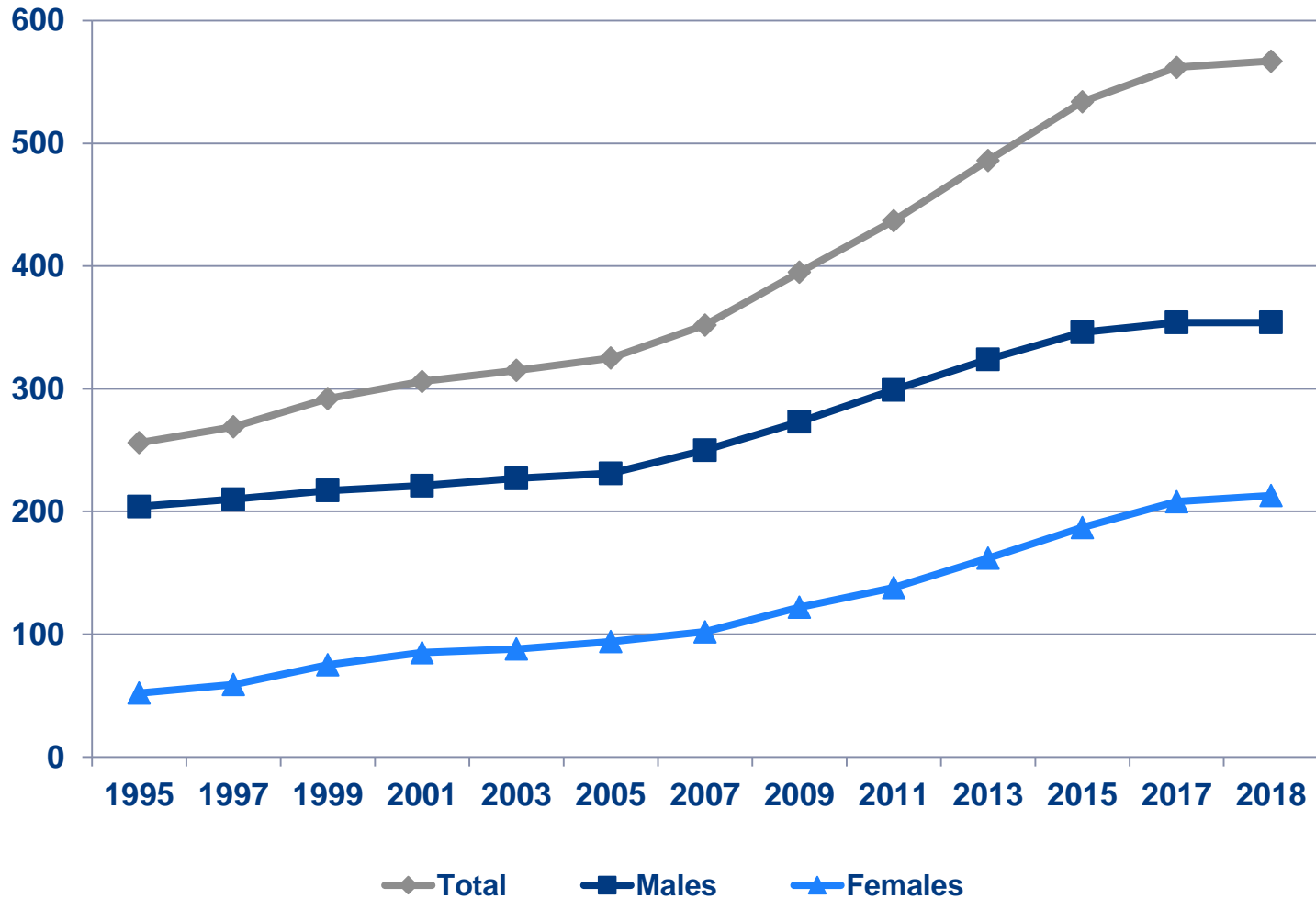


Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2018



Source: 1995-2018 CMA Masterfiles

Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2018

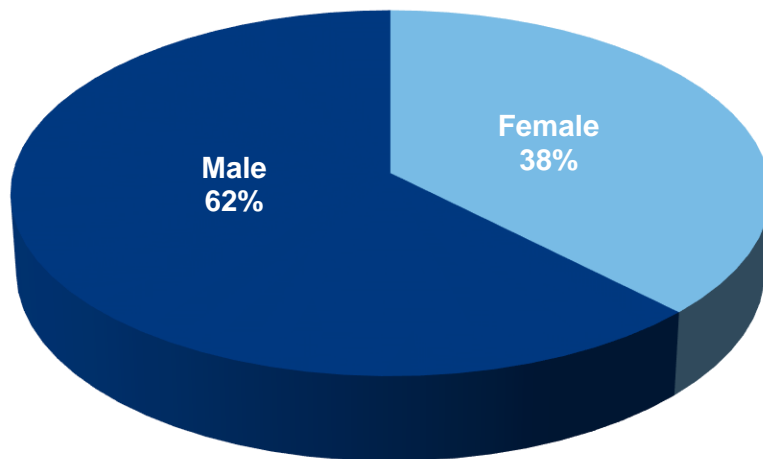


Source: 1995-2018 CMA Masterfiles

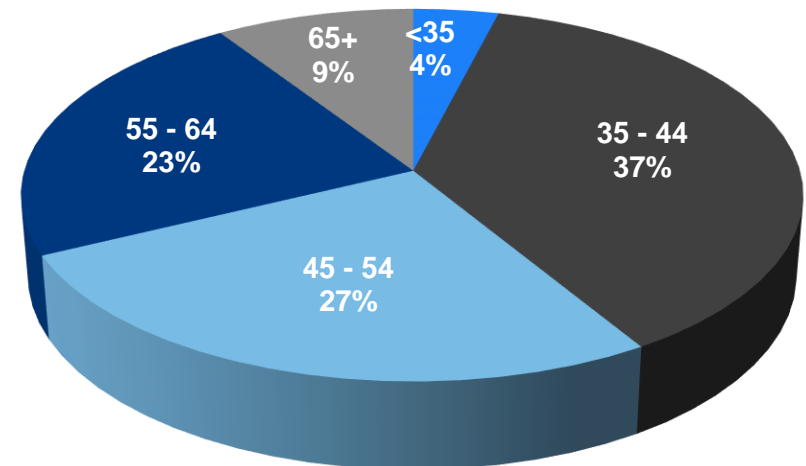


Percentage by gender & age, 2018

Gender



Age Group

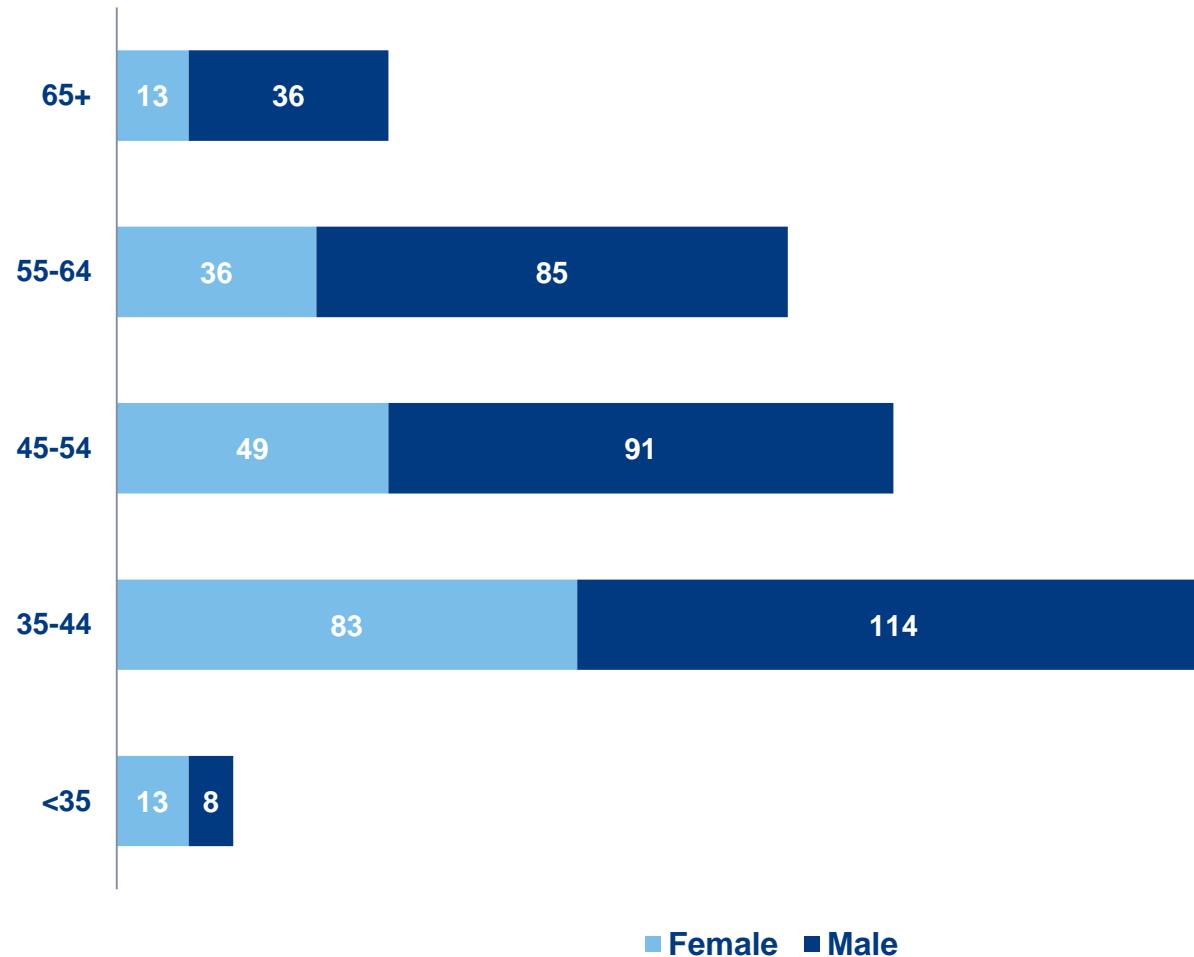


Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile



Number by gender & age, 2018

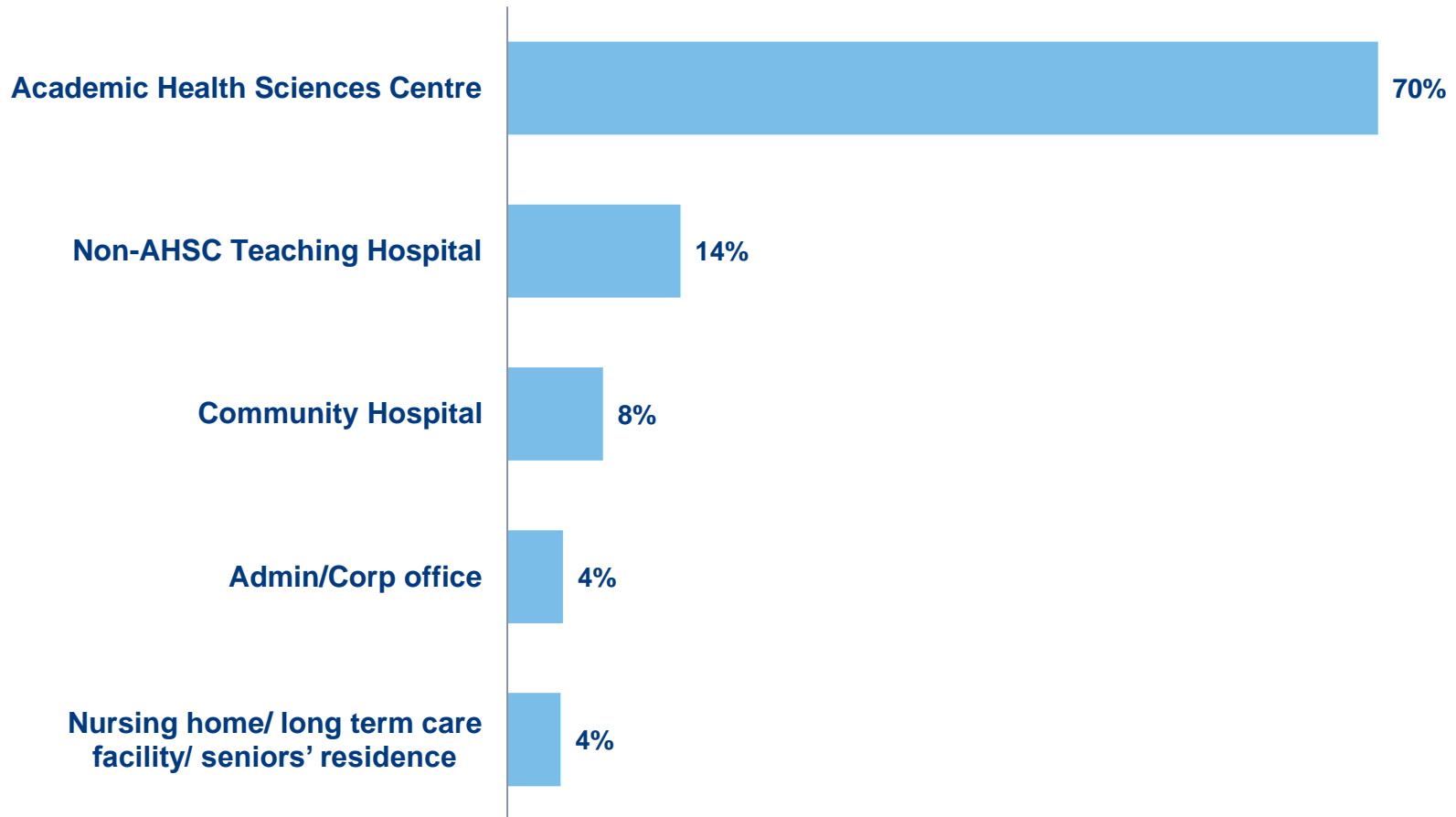


Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile



Percentage by main work setting, 2014*

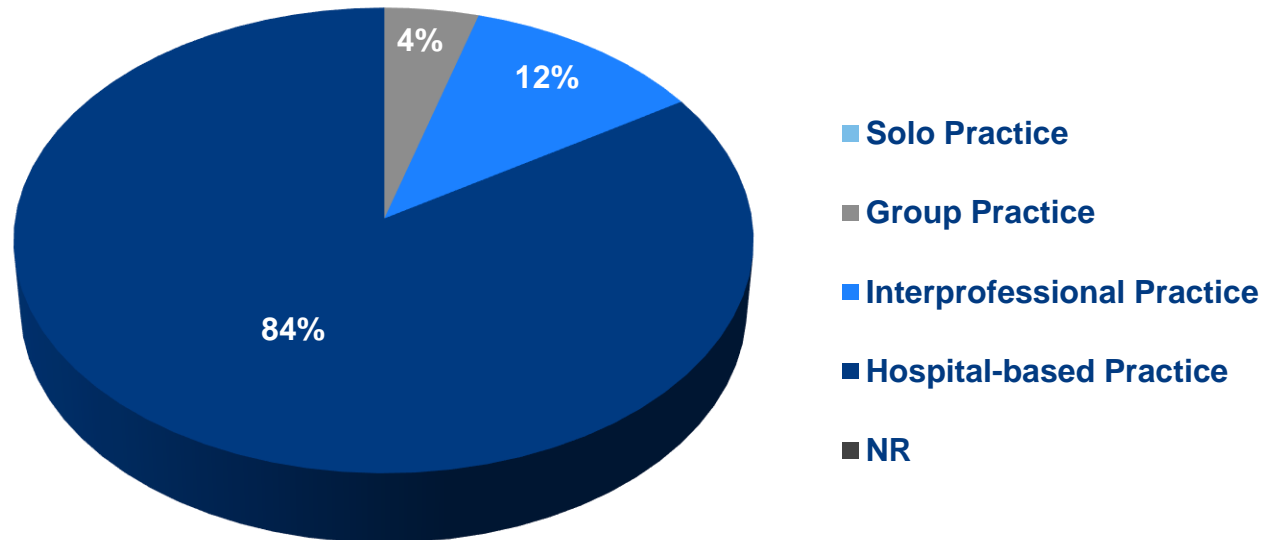


*Most recent available data for this specialty

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



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*

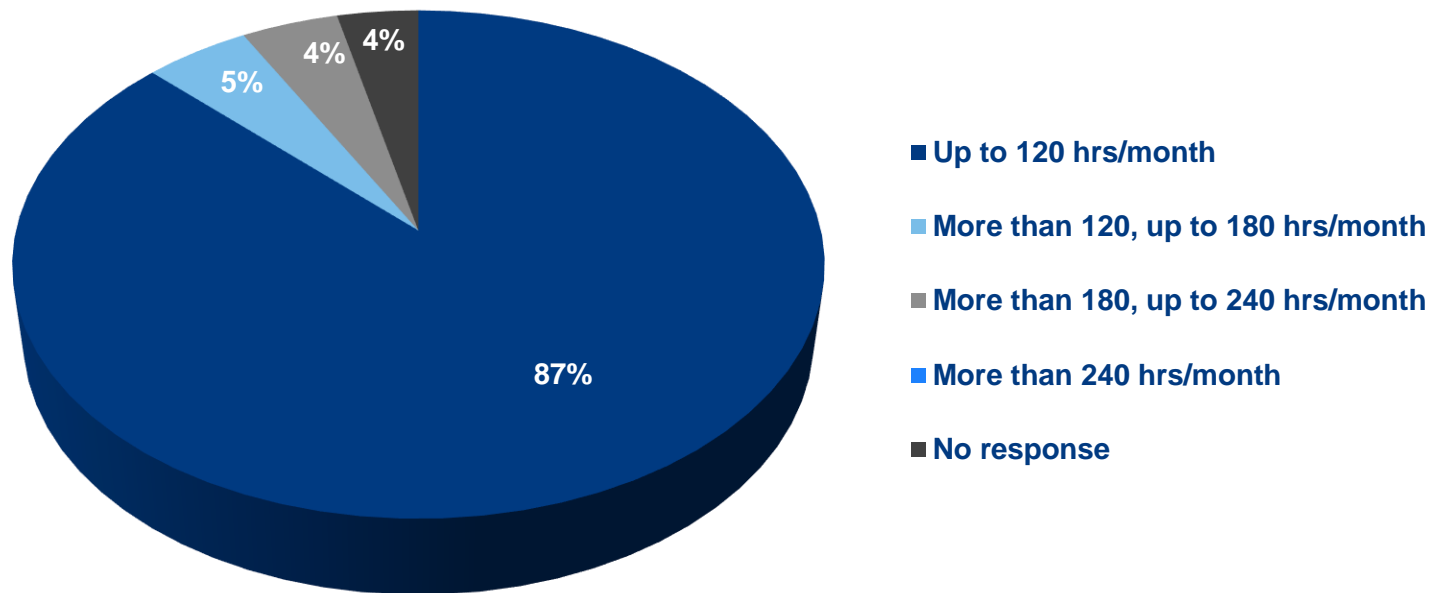
Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	18.9
Direct patient care with teaching component	7.3
Teaching without patient care	2.5
Indirect patient care	9.1
Health facility committees	1.6
Administration	2.1
Research	4.5
Managing practice	1.1
Continued professional development	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

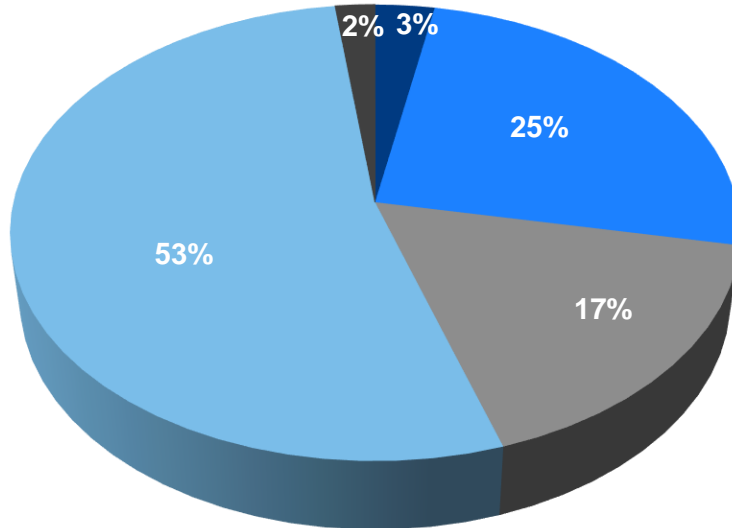
*Most recent available data for this specialty

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



Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2013**



- 90% + fee-for-service
- 90% + salary
- 90% + other*
- Blended
- NR

* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

**Most recent available data for this specialty

¹ National Physician Survey, 2013, CFPC, CMA, Royal College

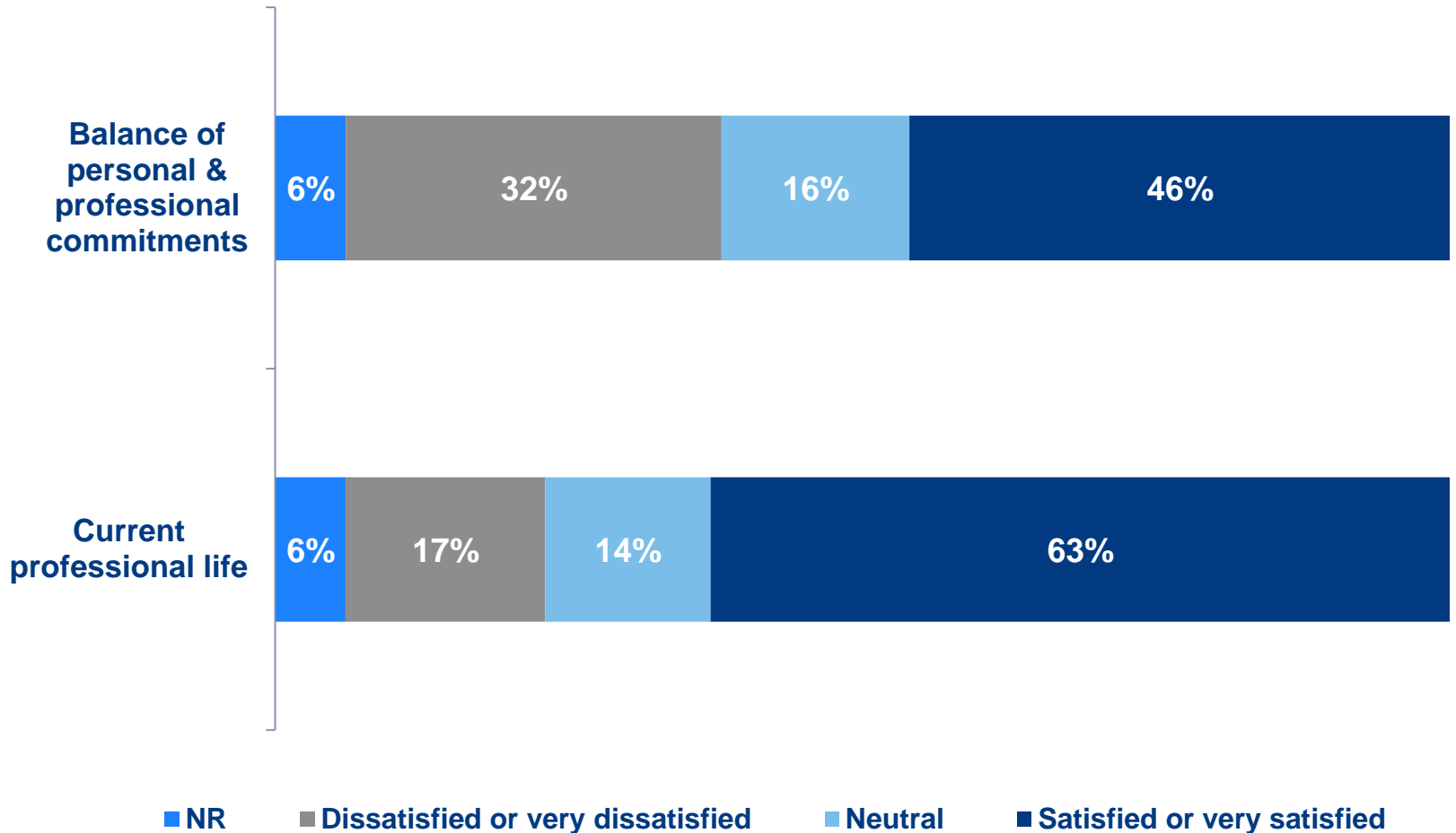
² National Physician Database, 2015/16, CIHI

³ National Physician Survey, 2010, CFPC, CMA, Royal College

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for all medical specialties in 2015/16 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$350,629²

Average percent overhead reported by all medical specialists in 2010** = 20%³

Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2013*

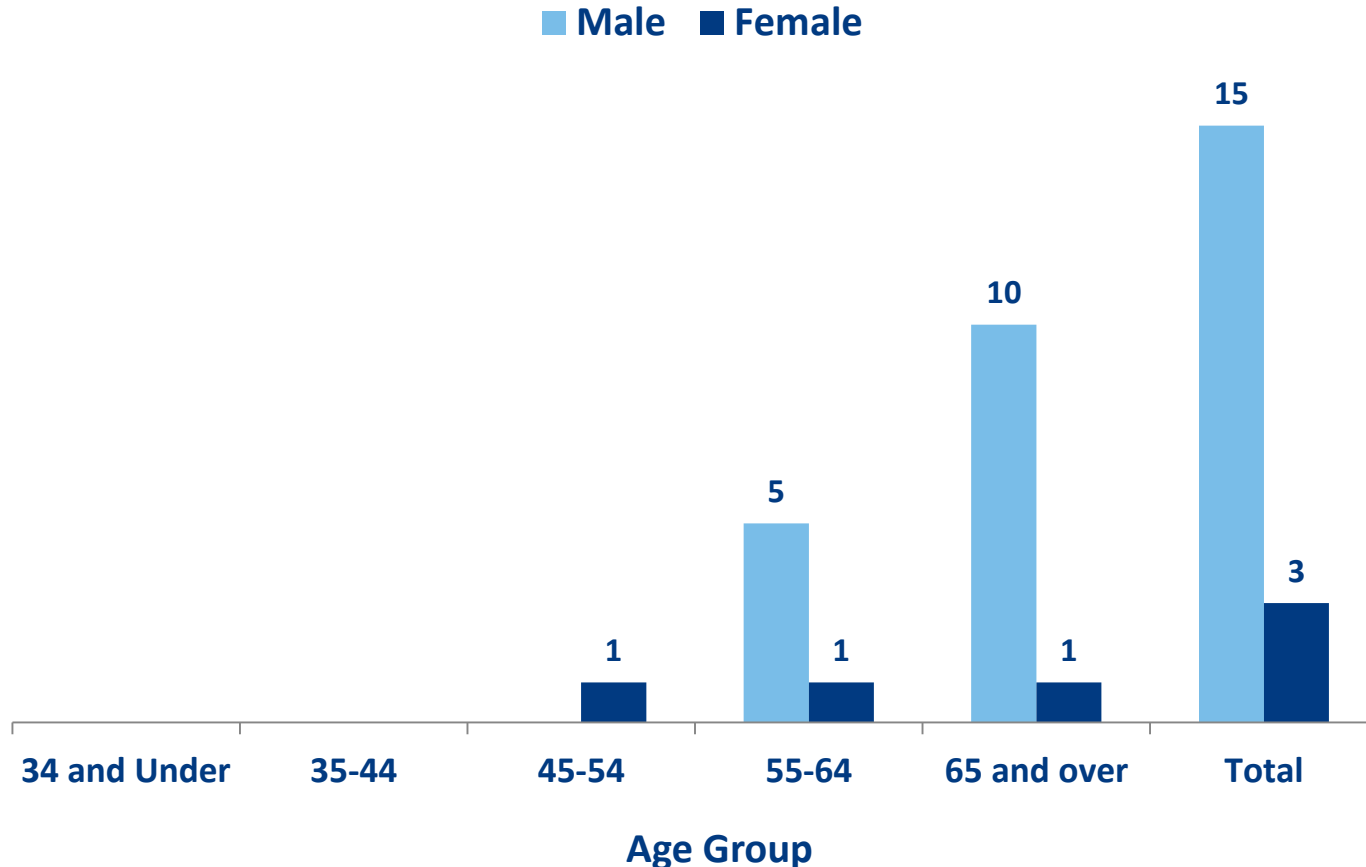


*Most recent available data for this specialty

Source: 2013 National Physician Survey. CFPC, CMA, Royal College



Number of retirees during the three year period of 2014-2016



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](#)