

Rheumatology Profile

Updated August 2018

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Rheumatology is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of rheumatic diseases, which may involve many systems, as well as joint, muscle and skeletal disorders. Specialists in this field have an interest in autoimmune diseases that underlie many rheumatologic conditions. Practice in this specialty is primarily office-based with organized community programs relating to rheumatic disease units or regional centres. There are many opportunities for clinical practice, research and teaching.

A rheumatologist must be effective in the assessment, investigation, management, and rehabilitation of patients with: acute and chronic forms of arthritis; soft tissue rheumatic disorders; collagen-vascular diseases and vasculitides; spinal and regional pain problems; and the musculoskeletal manifestations of systemic disease.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Residents in rheumatology may plan a residency program directed to independent private practice in the community or an academic teaching and research career in a university setting. Private practice rheumatologists, and in particular those with university clinical appointments, may also engage in teaching and research activities. Residents wishing to pursue a career in academic rheumatology are encouraged to take additional research training following completion of the core clinical rheumatology program.

Traditionally, pediatric patients (usually under age 18) are attended to by pediatricians with subspecialty training in pediatric rheumatology. Adult patients (usually over age 18) are attended to by internists with subspecialty training in adult rheumatology. Therefore, upon completion of medical school, a resident in rheumatology must first have primary certification in internal medicine or pediatrics.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Certification training therefore takes approximately 6 years, including:

- 4 years for certification in either internal medicine or pediatrics;
- a further 2 years of Royal College-approved residency in adult or pediatric rheumatology, a maximum of 1 year of which may be undertaken at the third or fourth year residency level. This period must include: 1 year of Royal College-approved clinical residency at a senior level in adult or pediatric rheumatology and a further residency that may include the following: 6 or 12 months of Royal College-approved clinical residency in rheumatology; and 6 or 12 months of approved clinical or basic research training relevant to rheumatology; or 1 year of Royal College-approved residency or research at a hospital or institution in Canada.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

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

[Canadian Rheumatology Association](#)



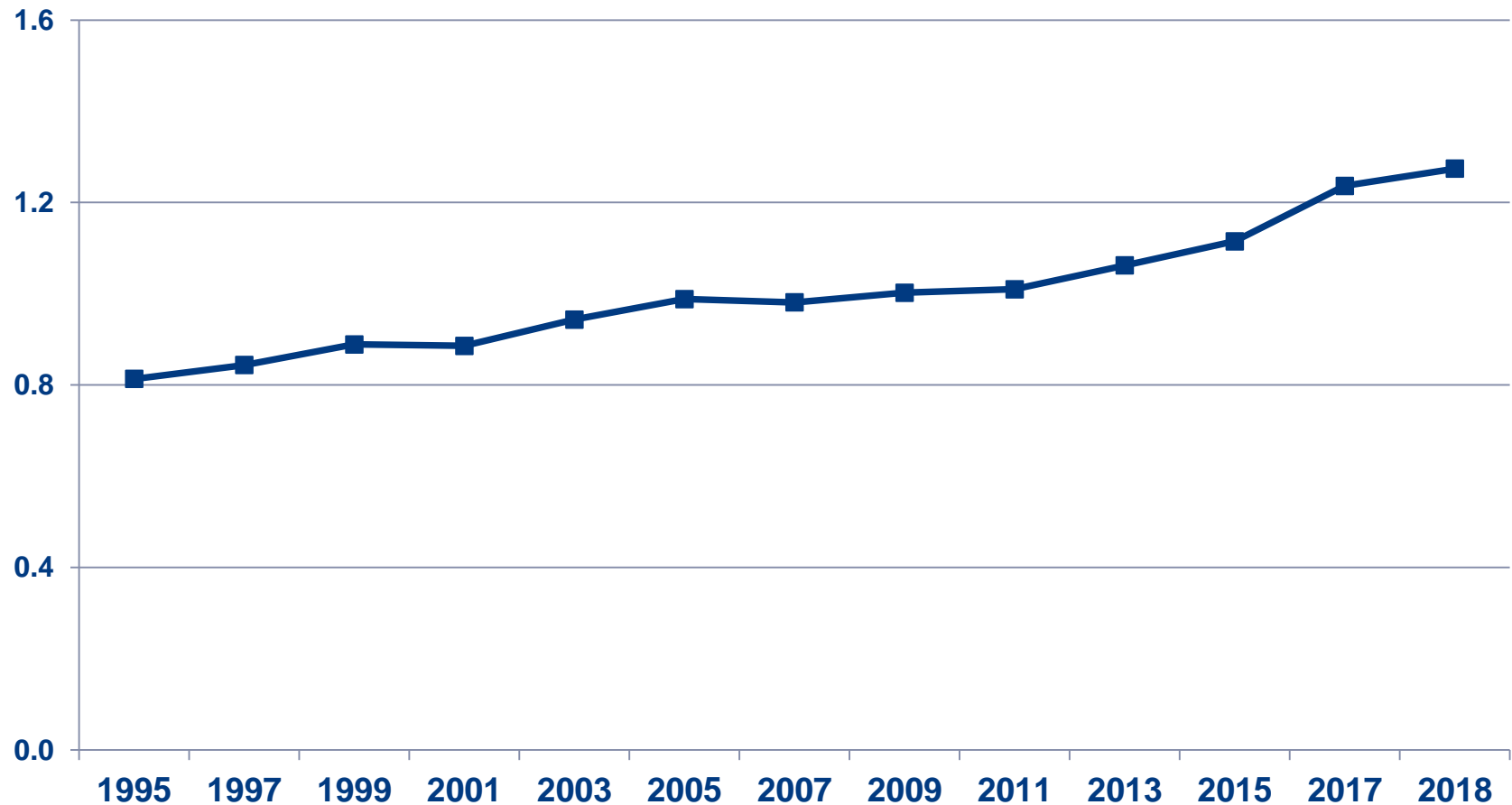
Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2018

Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	7	1.3
Prince Edward Island	0	0.0
Nova Scotia	15	1.6
New Brunswick	5	0.7
Quebec	115	1.4
Ontario	185	1.3
Manitoba	12	0.9
Saskatchewan	9	0.8
Alberta	56	1.3
British Columbia	67	1.4
Territories	0	0.0
CANADA	471	1.3

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile



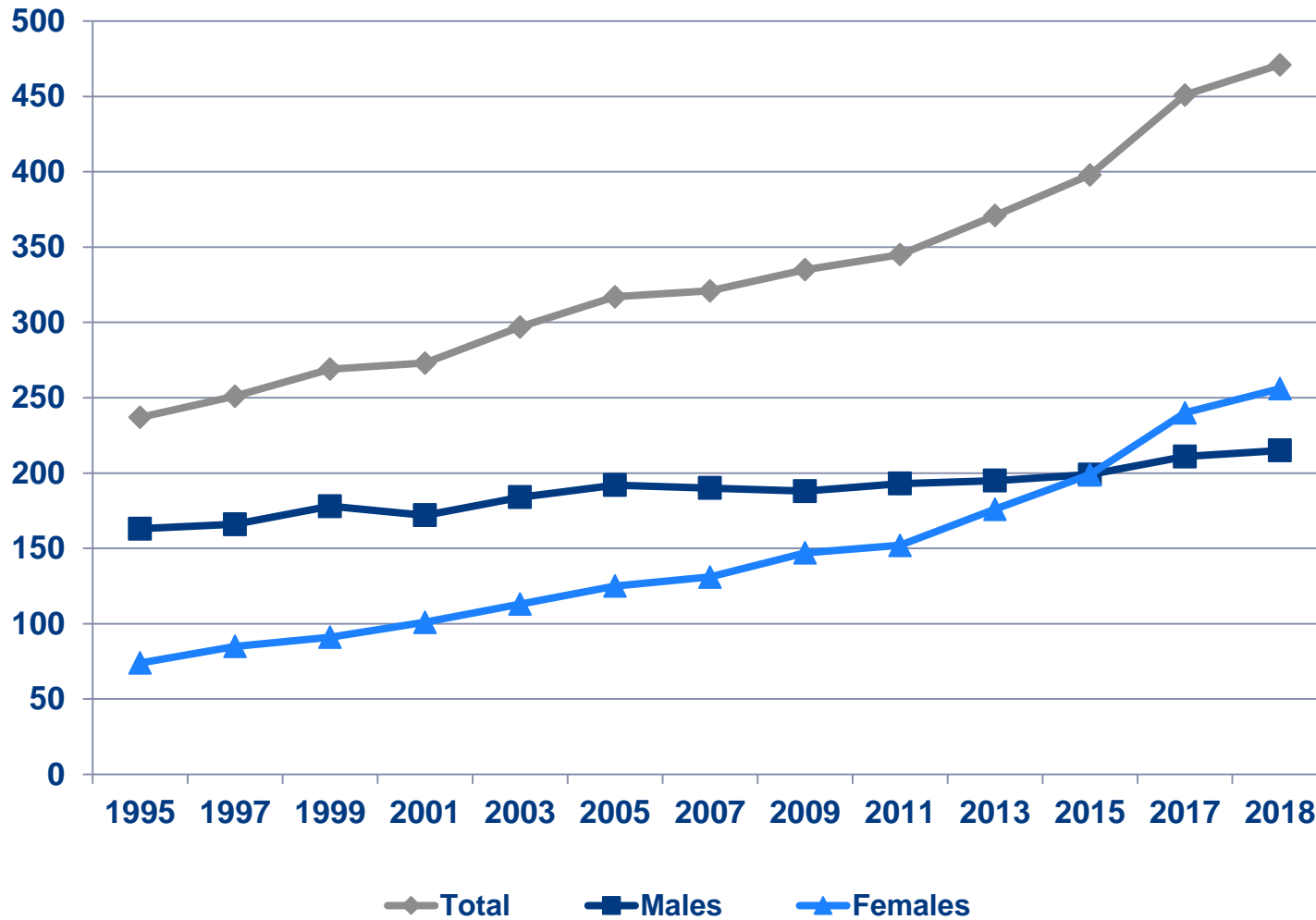
Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2017



Source: 1995-2018 CMA Masterfiles



Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2018

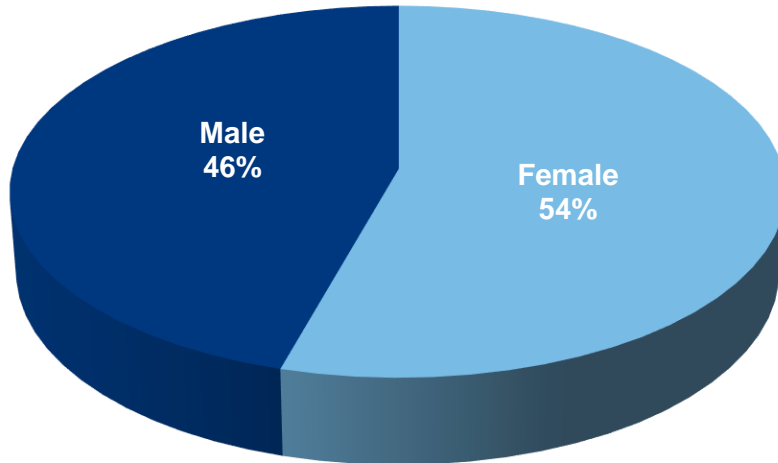


Source: 1995-2017 CMA Masterfiles

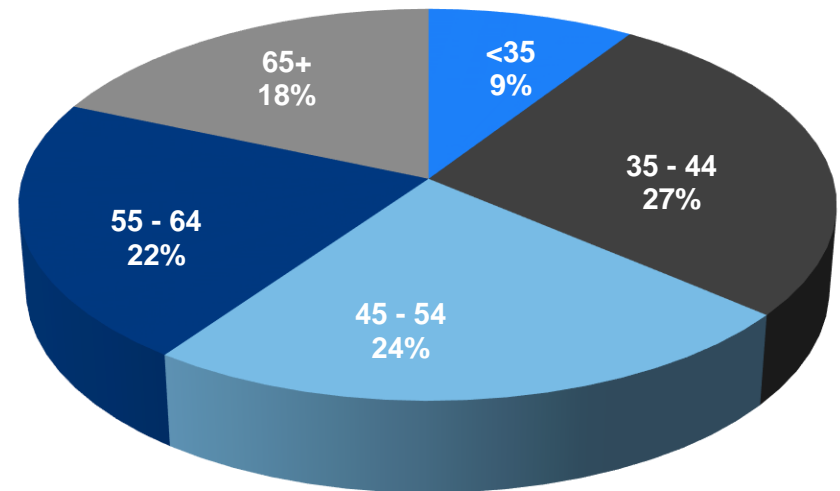


Percentage by gender & age, 2018

Gender



Age Group

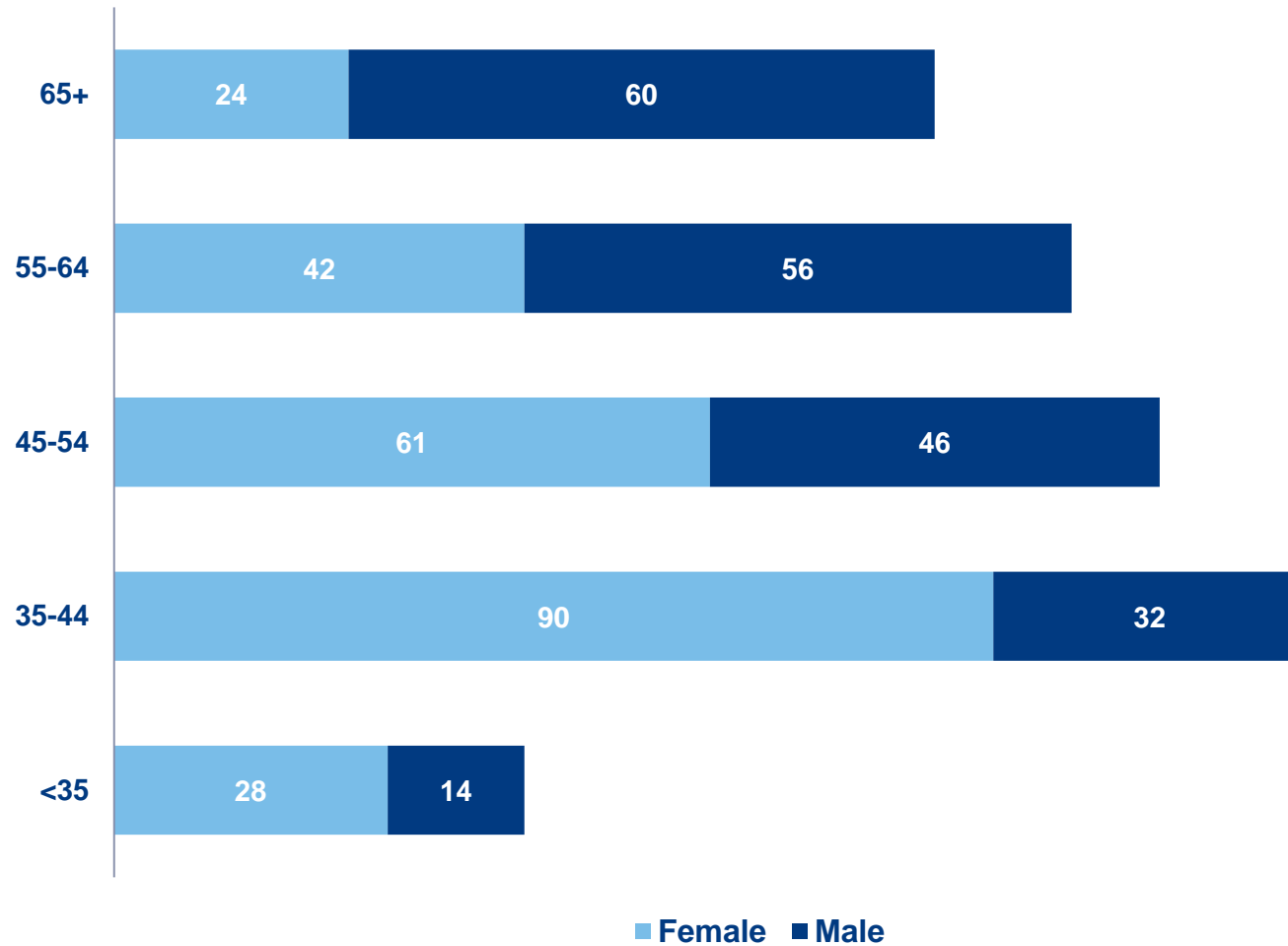


Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile



Number by gender & age, 2018

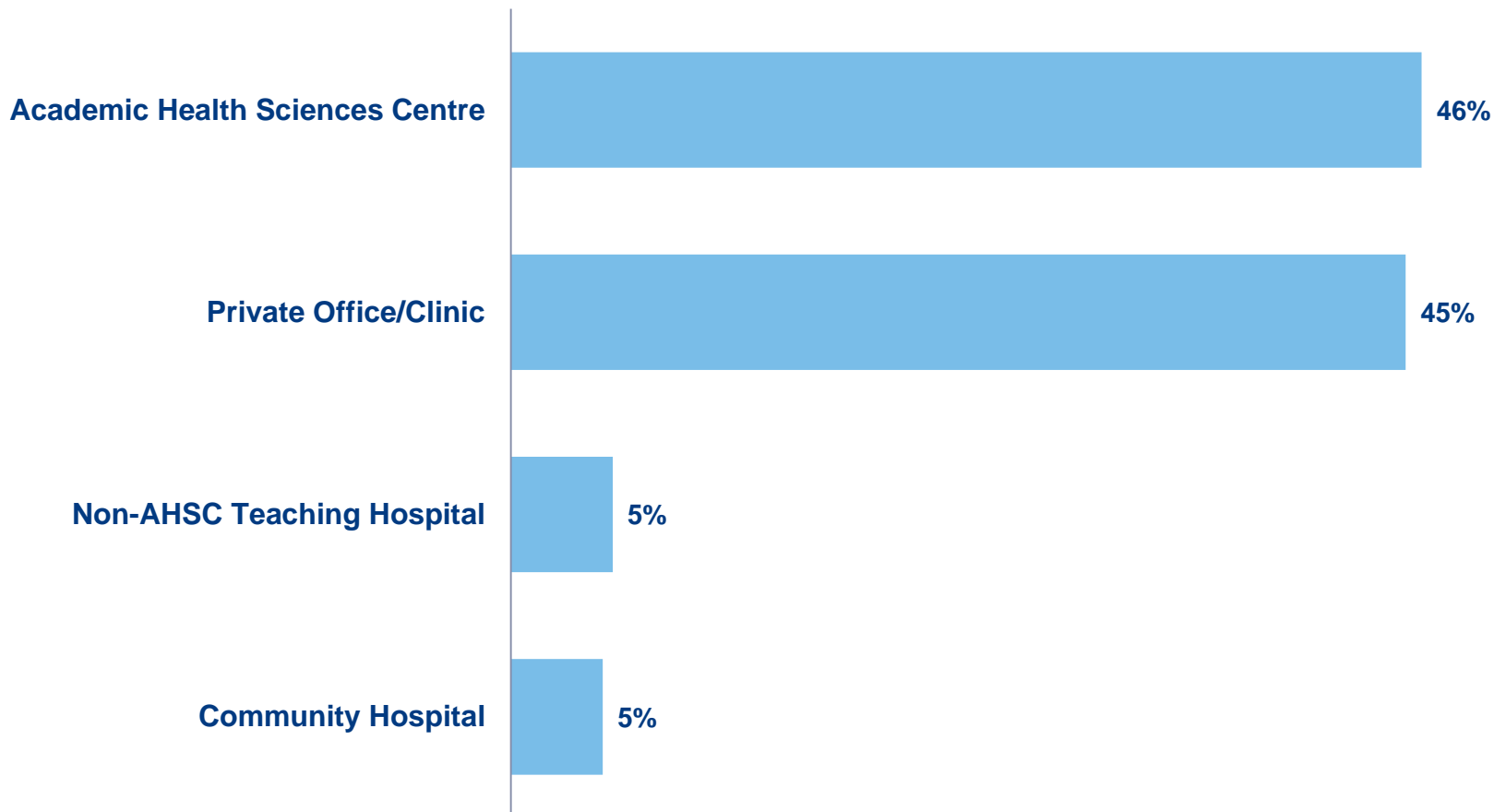


Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2018 CMA Masterfile

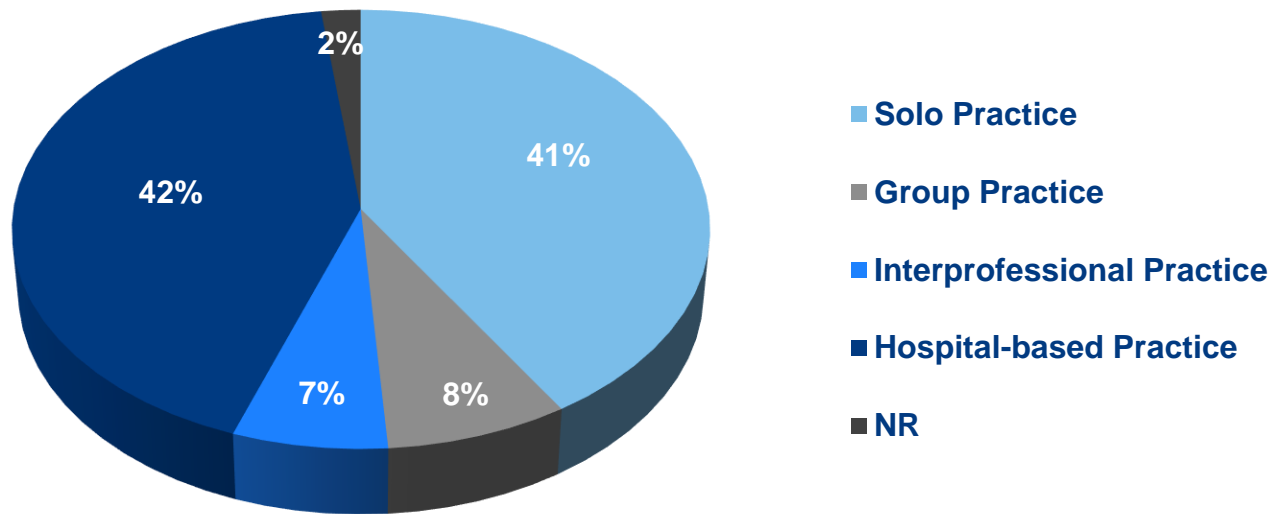


Percentage by main work setting, 2017





Percentage by practice organization, 2017



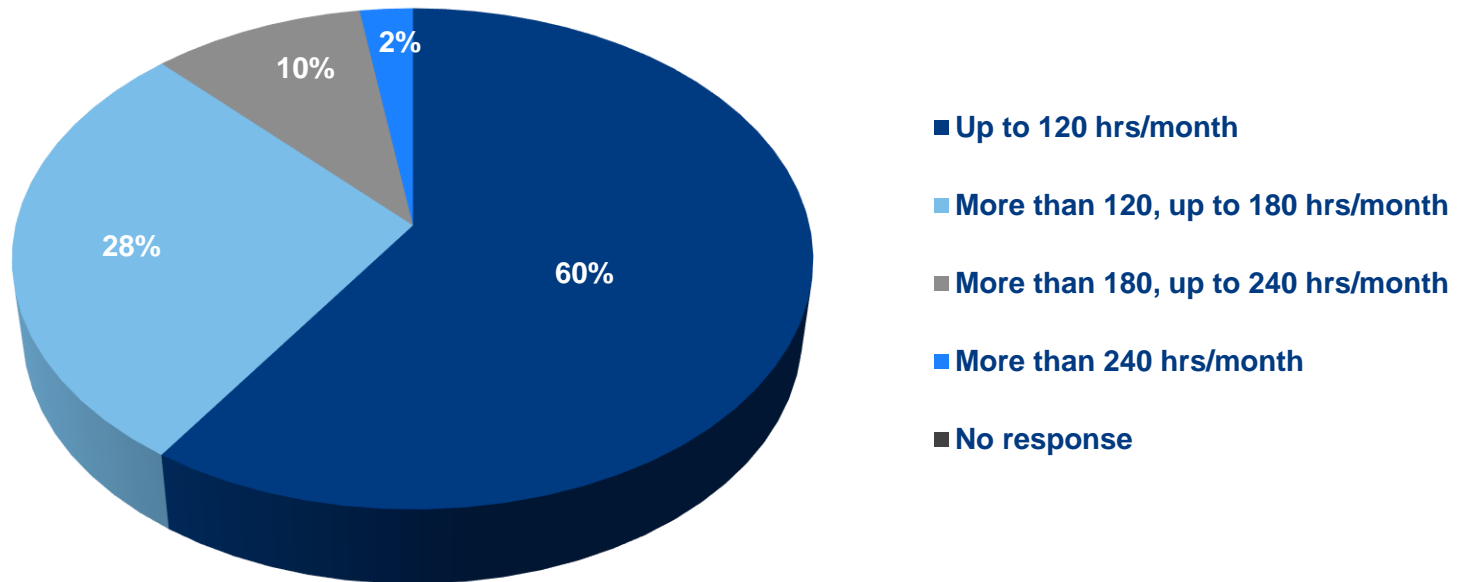


Hours worked per week (excluding on-call), 2017

Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	20.8
Direct patient care with teaching component	8.6
Teaching without patient care	2.0
Indirect patient care	6.7
Health facility committees	1.1
Administration	2.6
Research	4.2
Managing practice	1.1
Continued professional development	3.3
Other	0.6
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	51.0



On-call duty hours per month, 2014*



Time spent on call in direct patient care = 29 hrs./month

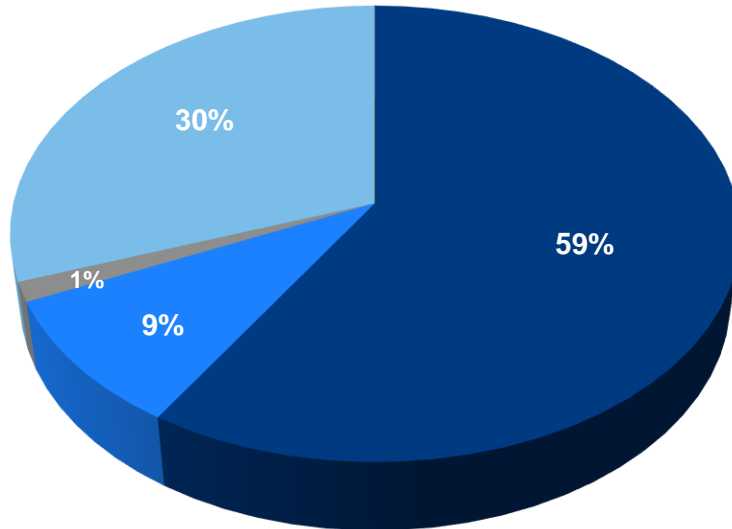
*Most recent available data for this specialty

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



Percentage by remuneration method

Primary payment method¹ in 2017



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

* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract and other methods

Average gross fee-for-service payment per physician for Internal Medicine & subspecialties in 2015/16 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$407,224²

Average percent overhead reported by Rheumatologists in 2017 = 26%³

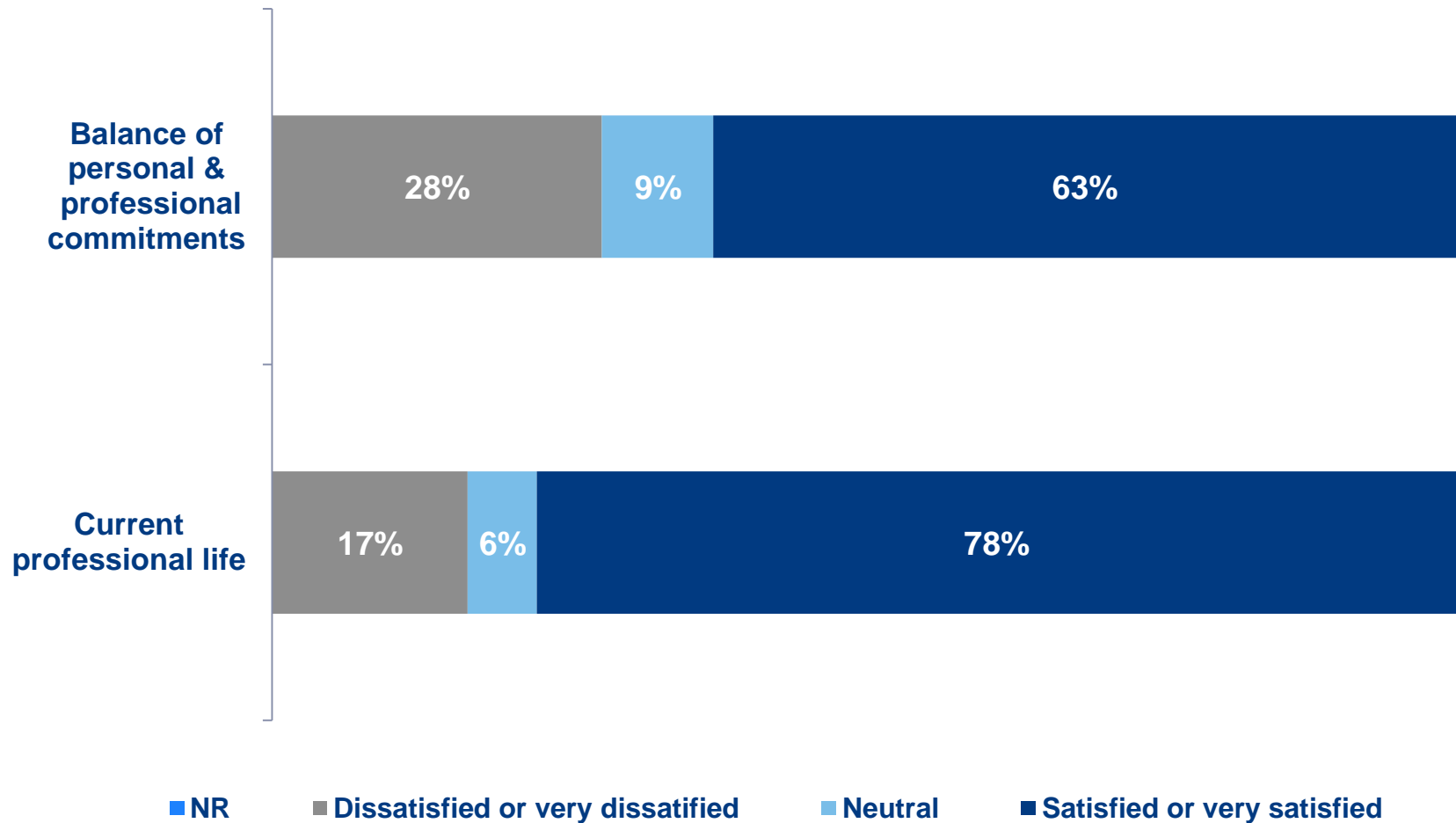
¹ Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

² National Physician Database, 2015/16, CIHI

³ Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association



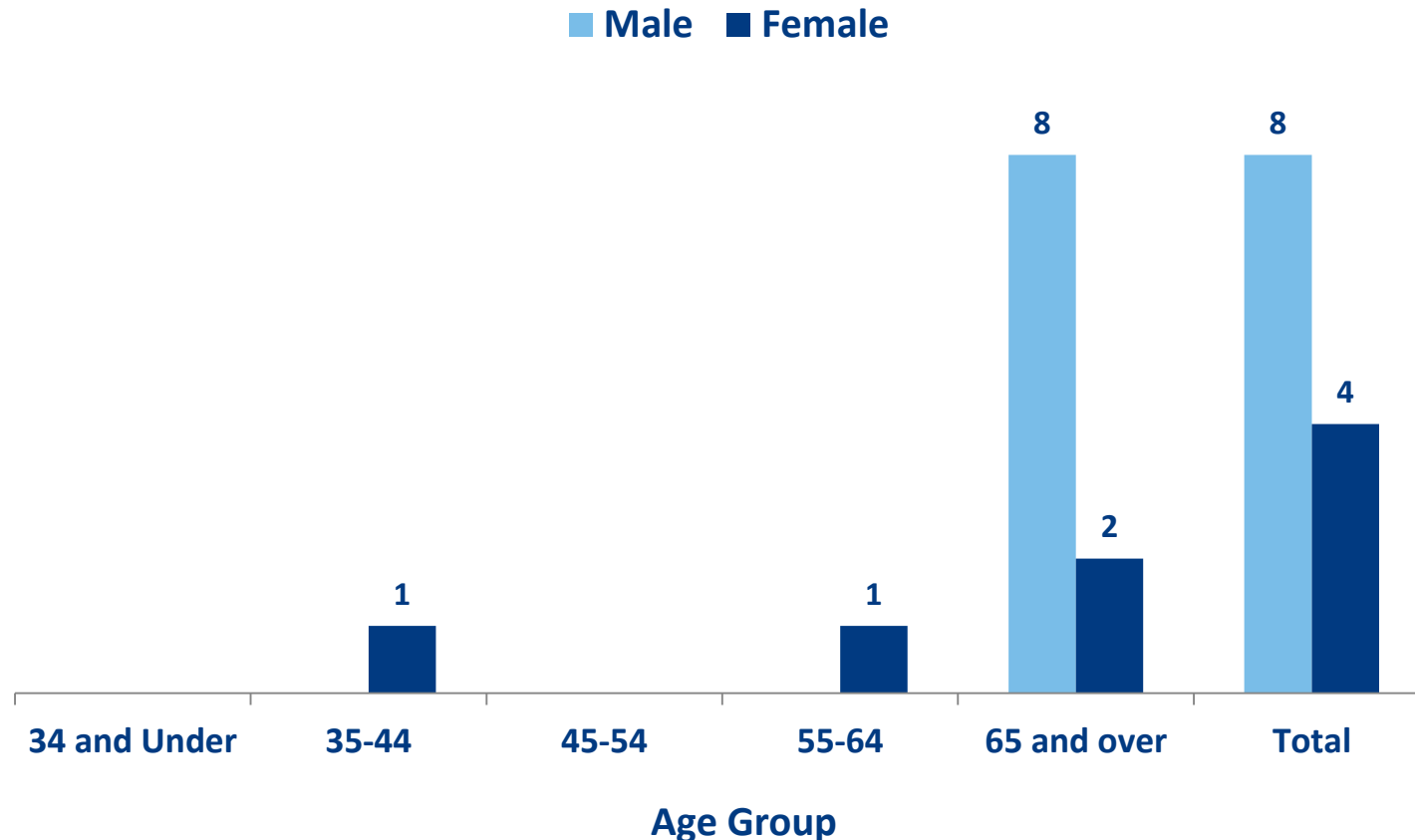
Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2017



Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association



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

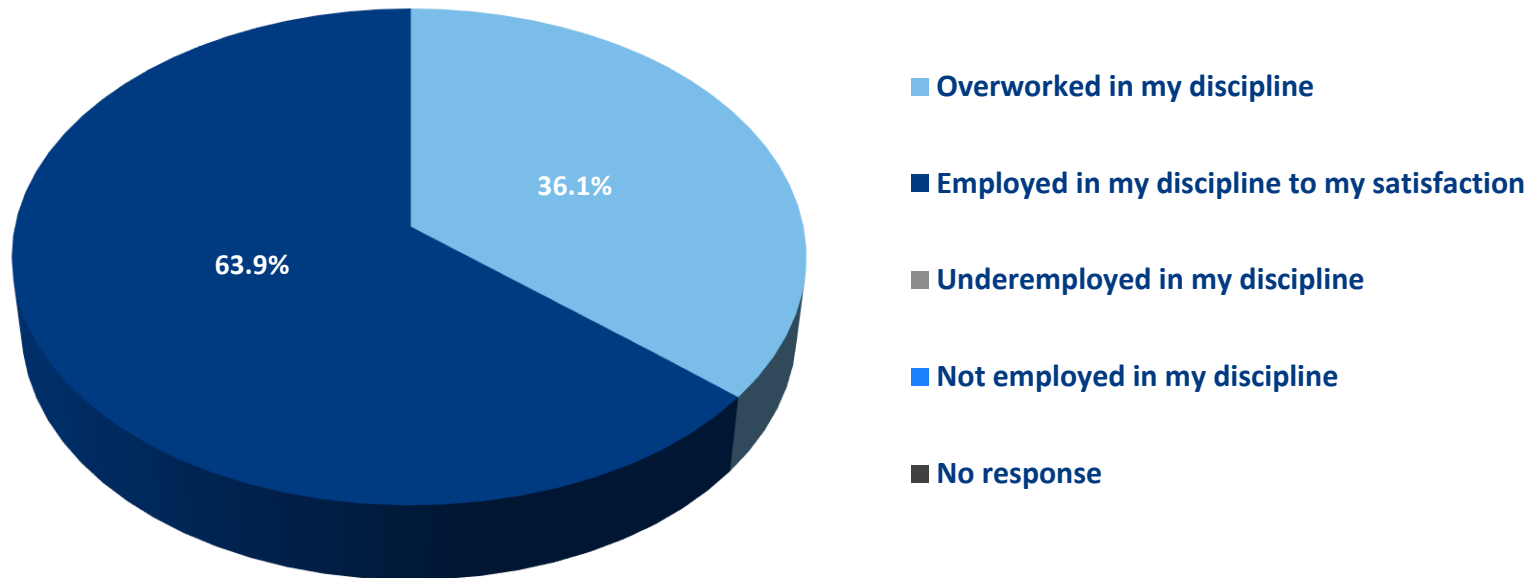


Source: CMA Masterfile – year over year comparisons

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.



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](#)