

Anatomical Pathology Profile

Updated
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General information

Anatomical pathology is the branch of medicine concerned with the study of the morphologic aspects of disease. Anatomical pathologists specialize in examining tissues removed by needle aspiration, surgical procedures or autopsy. They are responsible for diagnosing diseased tissue and investigating the mechanisms and development of disease. This may include the structural and physical changes that occur.

Anatomical pathology includes subspecialties that deal specifically with organ systems. These include: gynecological pathology; dermatopathology; gastrointestinal pathology; cardiovascular pathology; respiratory pathology; musculoskeletal pathology; renal pathology, genito-urinary pathology; endocrine pathology; ophthalmic pathology; E.N.T. pathology; and neuropathology. It also involves specific laboratory methods such as cytopathology, immunopathology and electron microscopy, or certain types of clinical cases including pediatric pathology and forensic pathology.

General information

Upon completion of medical school, to become certified in this specialty requires an additional 5 years of approved residency training. This training includes: 1 year of basic clinical training; 3 years of approved residency training in anatomical pathology (including training in surgical pathology and autopsy pathology); a minimum of 3 months' training in cytopathology; and training in forensic pathology and pediatric pathology. A further year of approved residency is also required.

For further details on training requirements please go to:

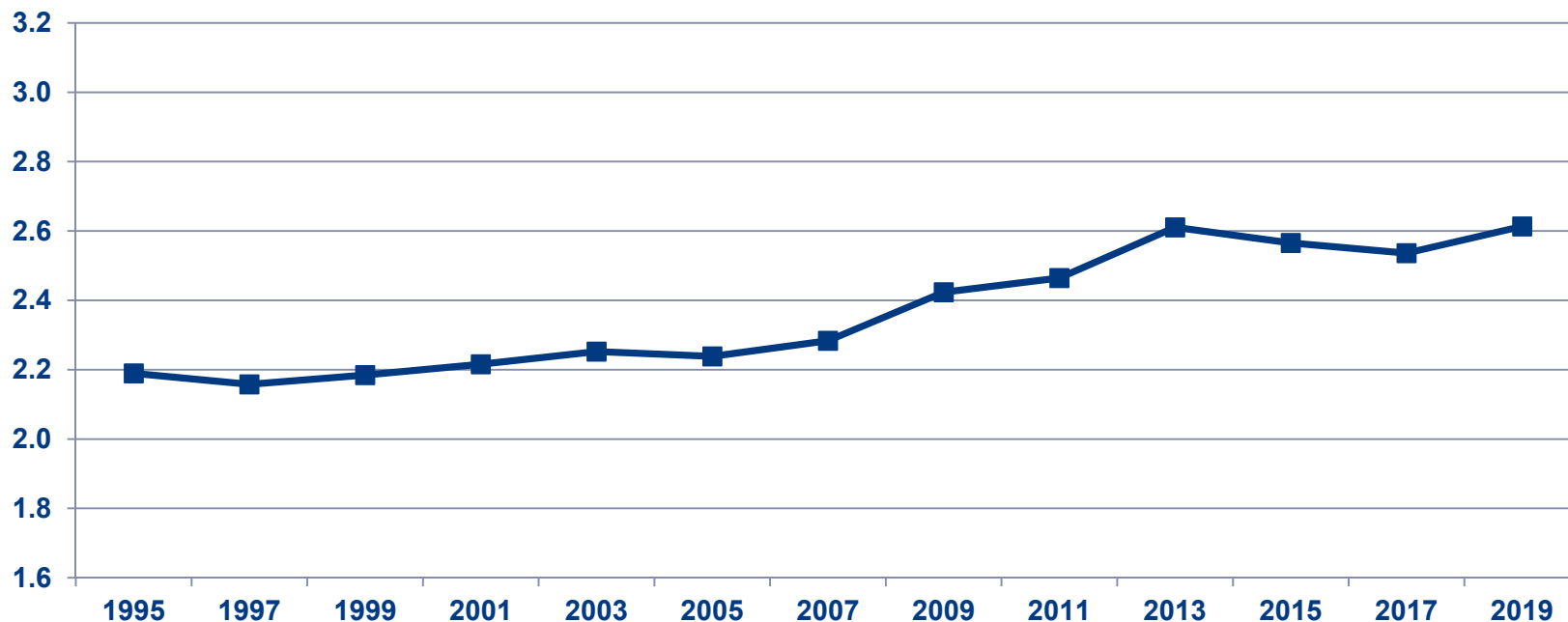
[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)

[Canadian Association of Pathologists](#)

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

Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	21	4.0
Prince Edward Island	2	1.3
Nova Scotia	39	4.0
New Brunswick	22	2.8
Quebec	190	2.3
Ontario	390	2.7
Manitoba	48	3.5
Saskatchewan	25	2.1
Alberta	124	2.9
British Columbia	114	2.3
Territories	0	0.0
CANADA	975	2.6

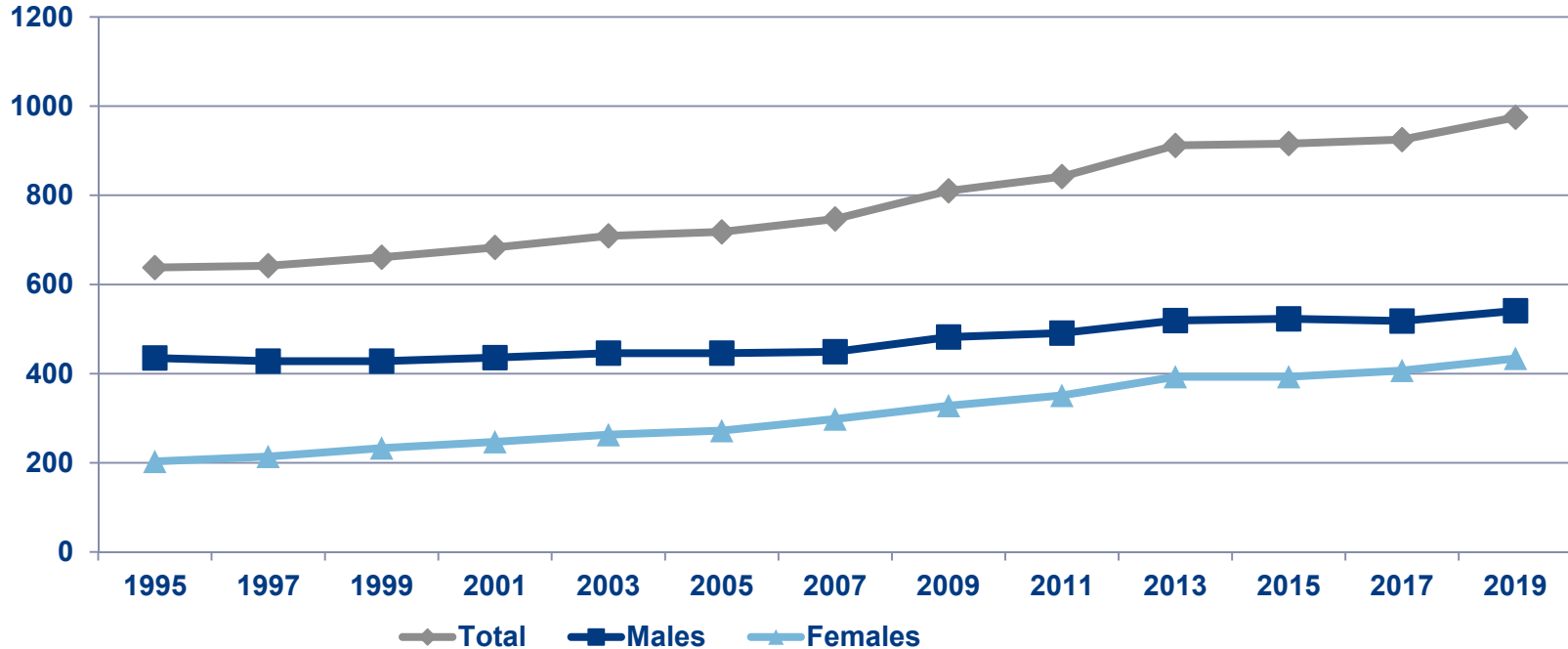
Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles



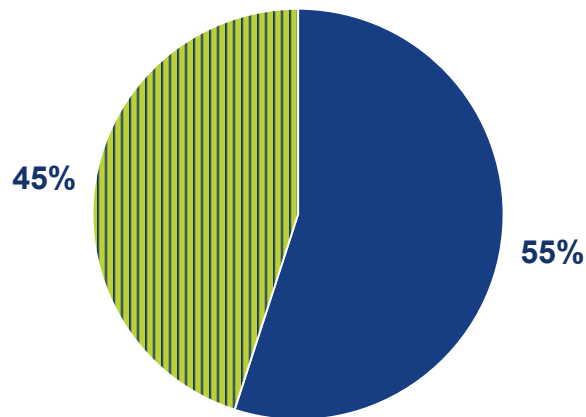
Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019



Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles

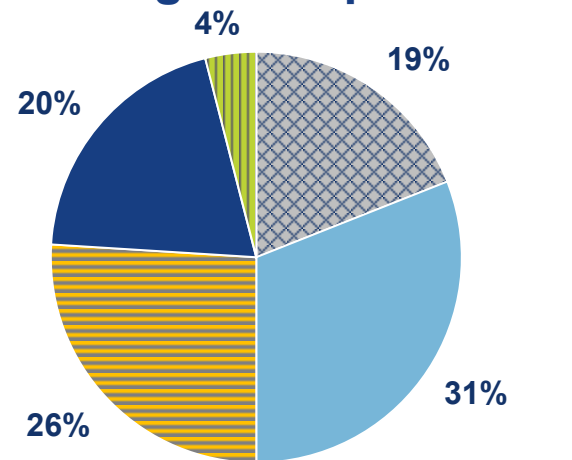
Percentage by gender & age, 2019

Gender



■ Male ■ Female

Age Group

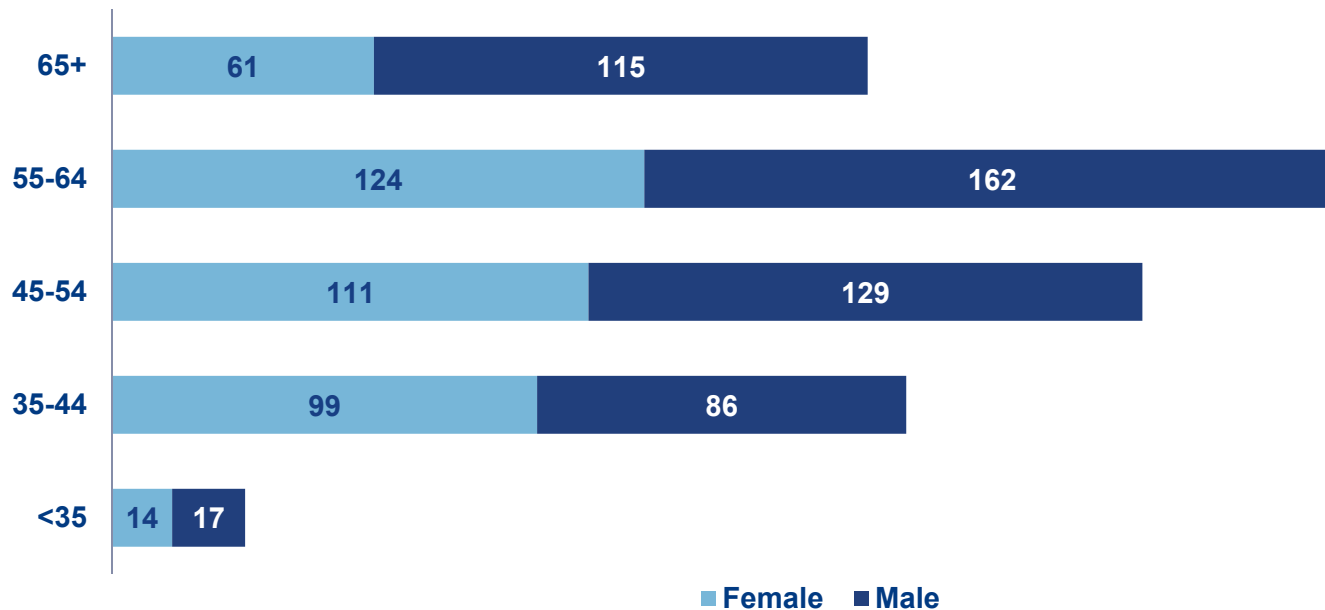


■ 65+ ■ 55 - 64 ■ 45 - 54 ■ 35 - 44 ■ < 35

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

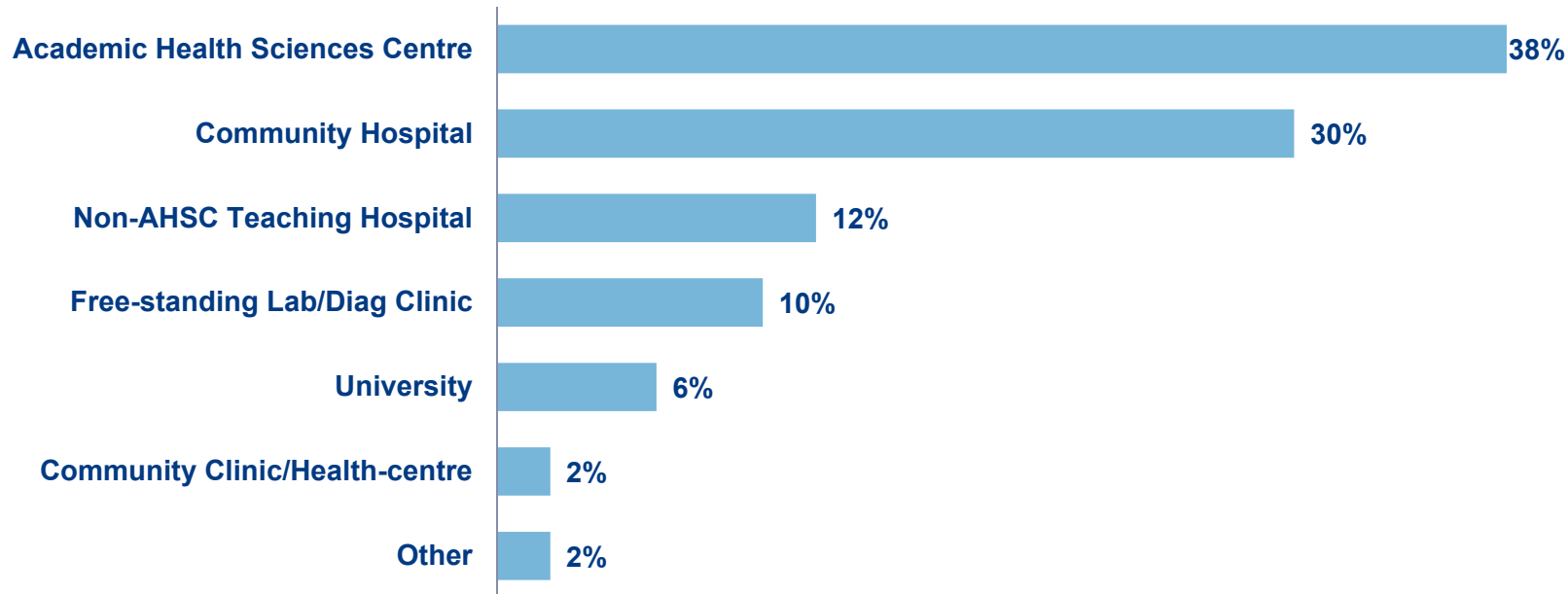
Number by gender & age, 2019



Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

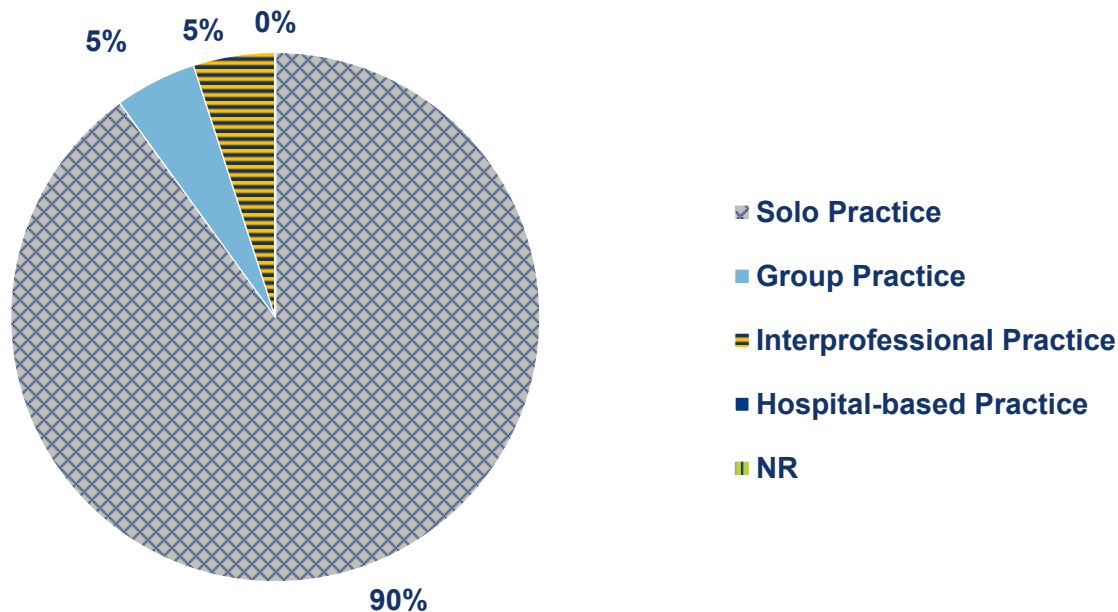
Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

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

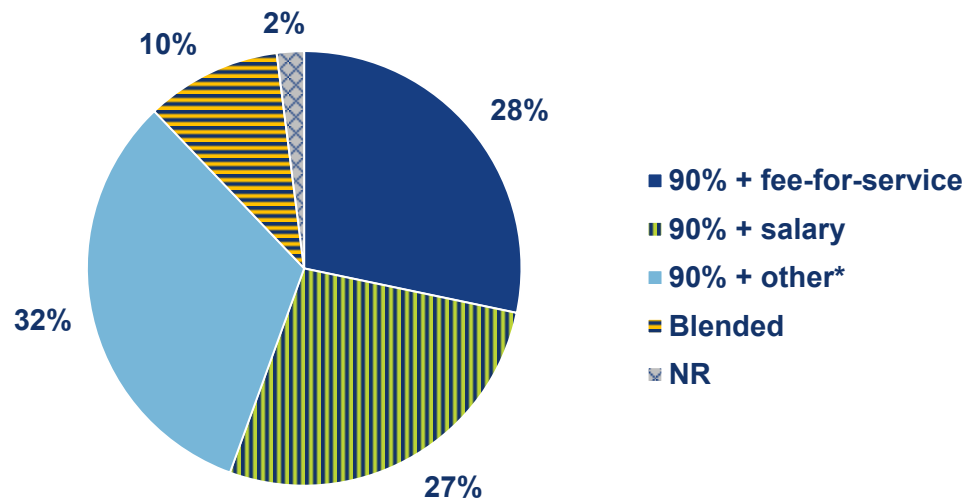
Activity	Hours worked per week
Direct patient care without teaching component	28.7
Direct patient care with teaching component	3.9
Teaching without patient care	2.1
Indirect patient care	9.2
Health facility committees	1.3
Administration	1.9
Research	1.2
Managing practice	0.7
Continued professional development	2.6
Other	0.9
TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK	52.5

On-call duty hours per month, 2019

- 85% provide on-call services
- On-call hours = 51 hours/month
- On-call hours spent in direct patient care = 4 hours/month

Percentage by remuneration method

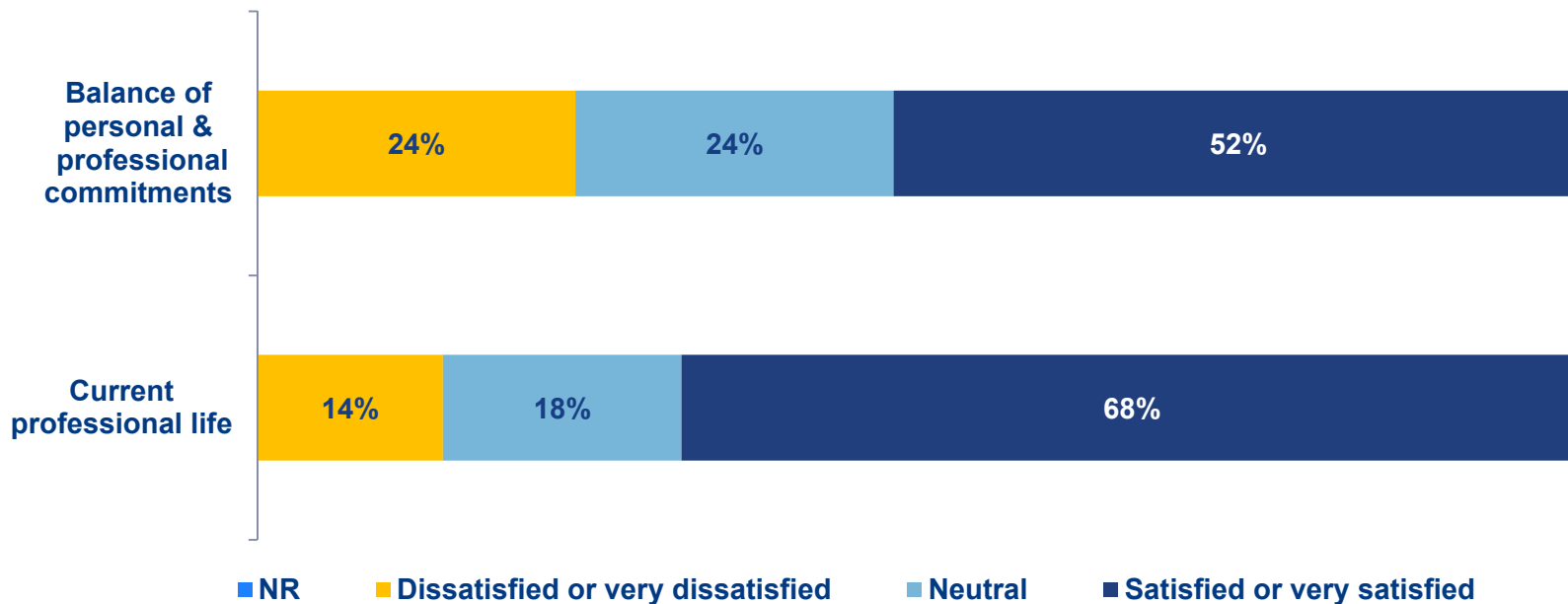
Primary payment method¹ in 2017



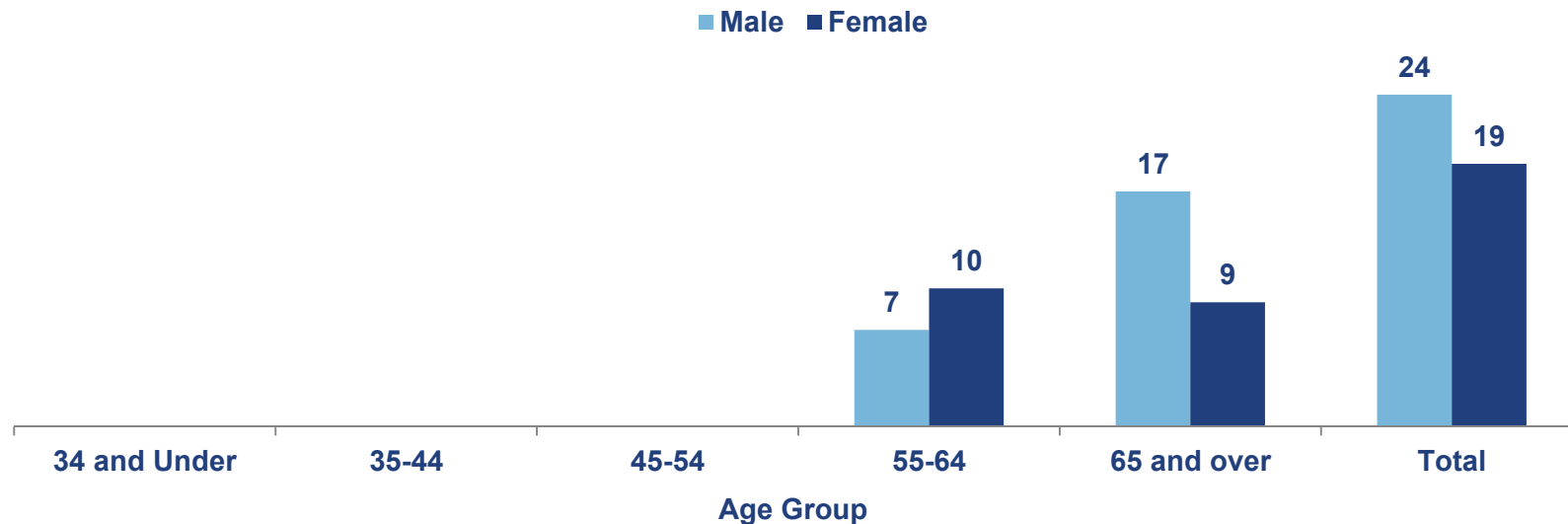
* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract or other methods

Source: 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019



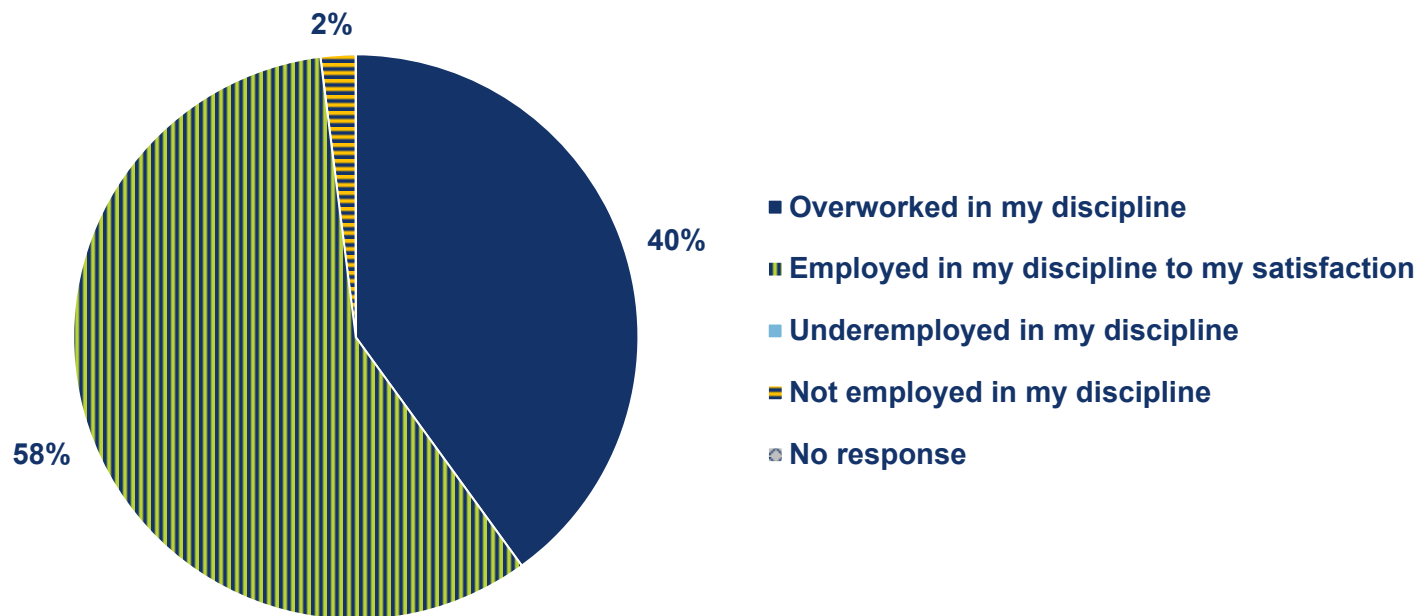
Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018



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.

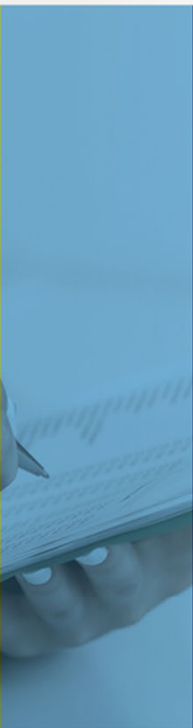
Employment situation, 2017



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](#)



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