



# Rheumatology Profile

Updated  
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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.

Source: Pathway evaluation program

# 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:

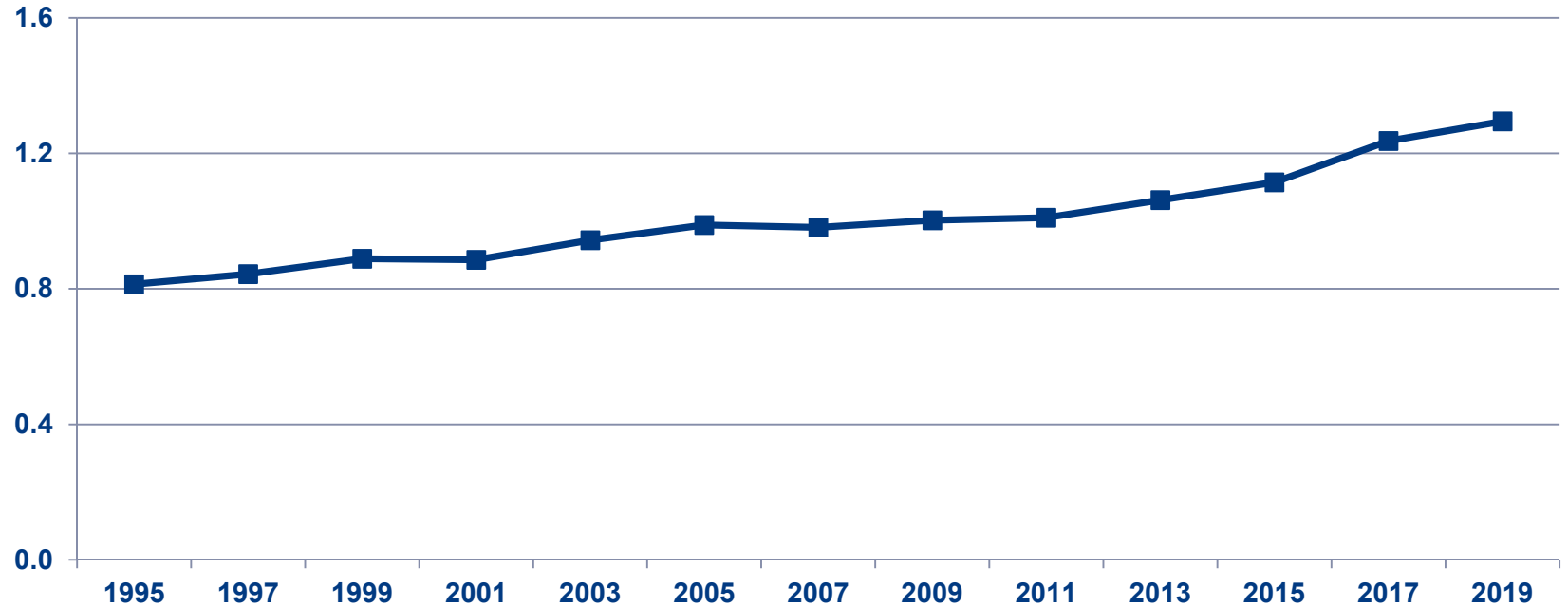
[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)

[Canadian Rheumatology Association](#)

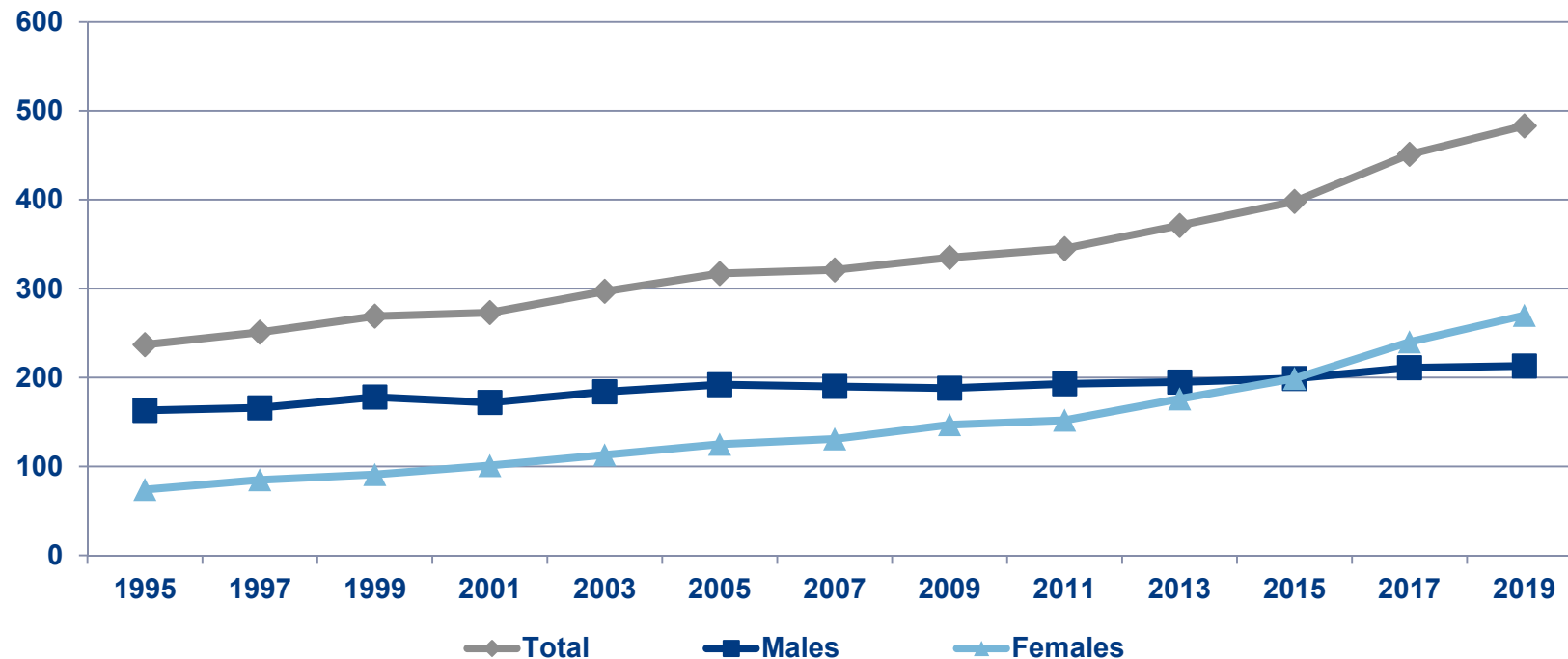
## Total number & number/100,000 population by province, 2019

Province/Territory	Physicians	Phys/100k pop'n
Newfoundland/Labrador	7	1.3
Prince Edward Island	0	0.0
Nova Scotia	14	1.5
New Brunswick	7	0.9
Quebec	124	1.5
Ontario	183	1.3
Manitoba	12	0.9
Saskatchewan	9	0.8
Alberta	60	1.4
British Columbia	67	1.3
Territories	0	0.0
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>1.3</b>

## Number/100,000 population, 1995 to 2019



## Number by gender & year, 1995 to 2019

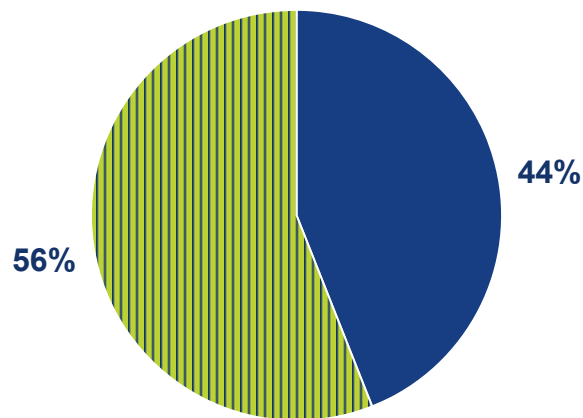


Source: 1995-2019 CMA Masterfiles



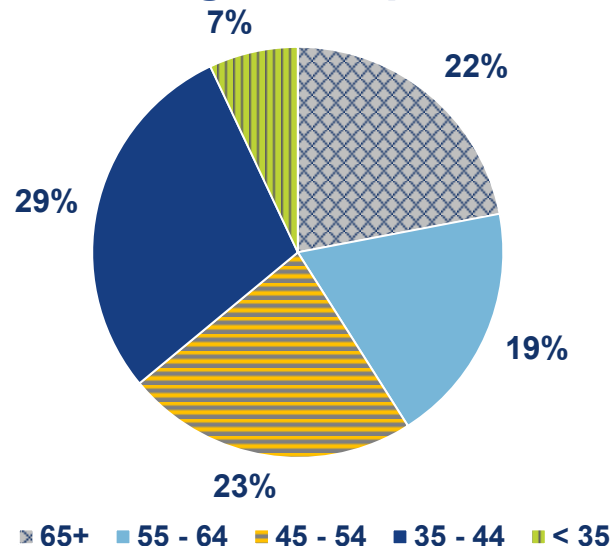
## Percentage by gender & age, 2019

### Gender



■ Male ■ Female

### Age Group

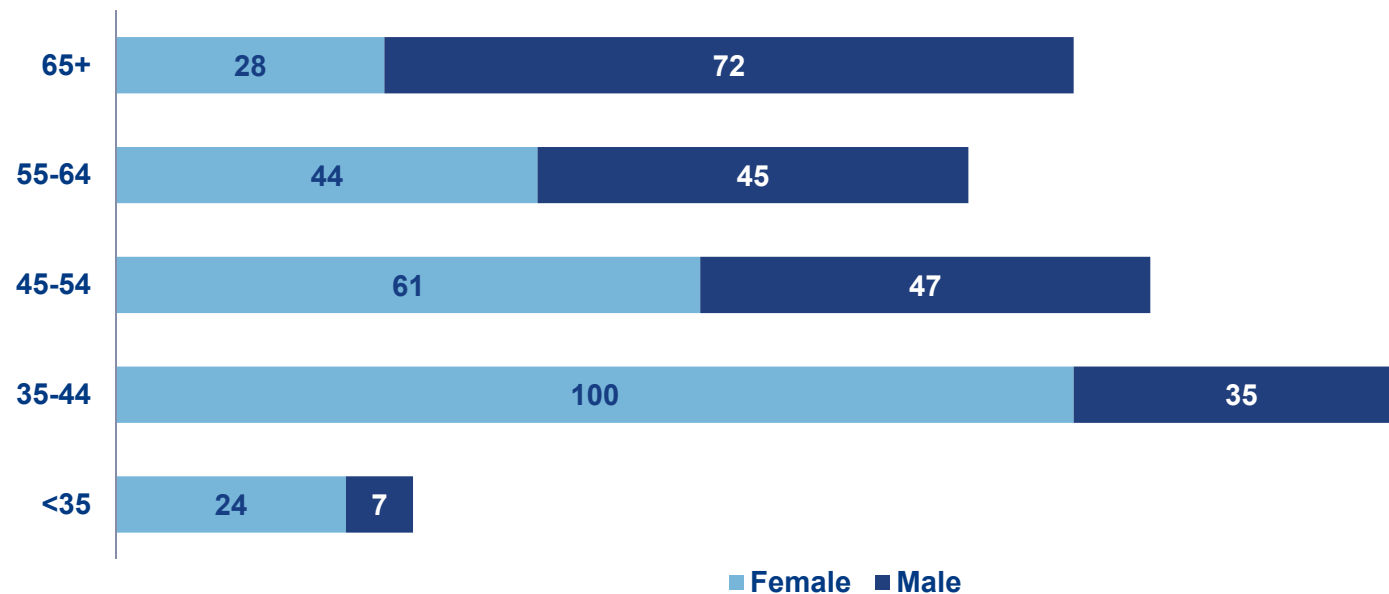


■ 65+ ■ 55 - 64 ■ 45 - 54 ■ 35 - 44 ■ < 35

Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

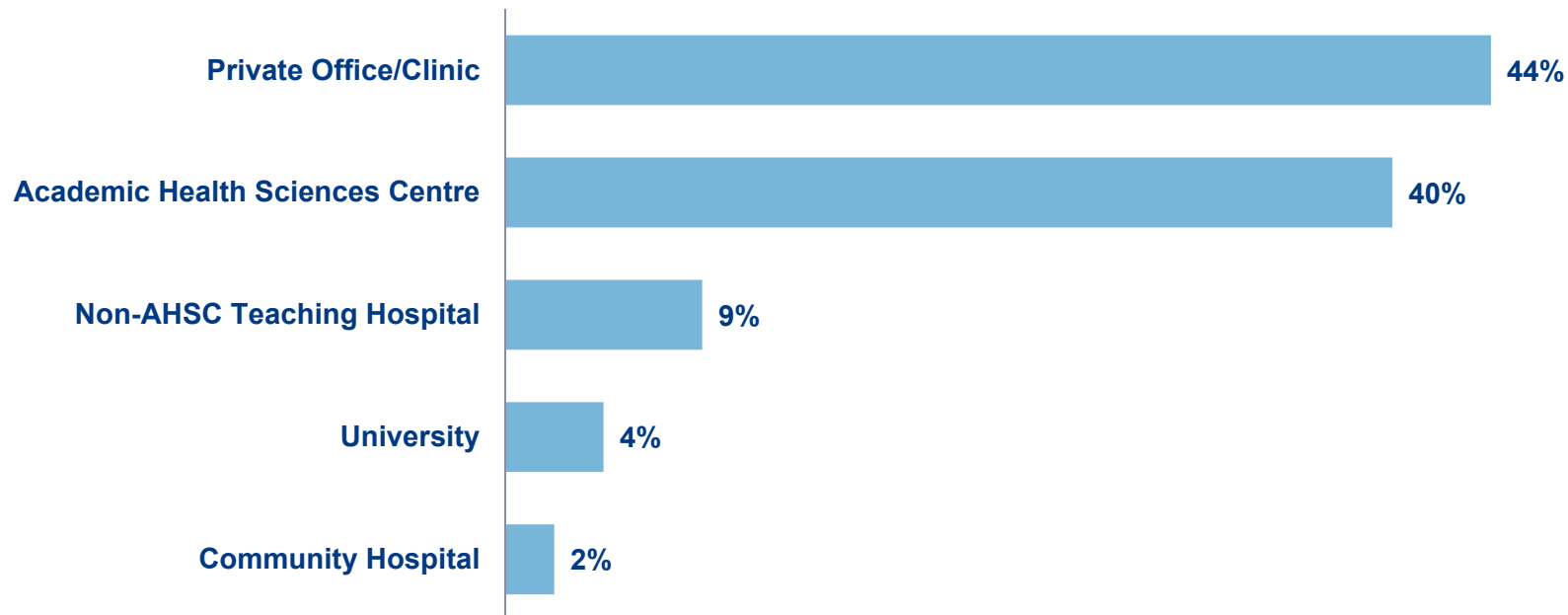
## Number by gender & age, 2019



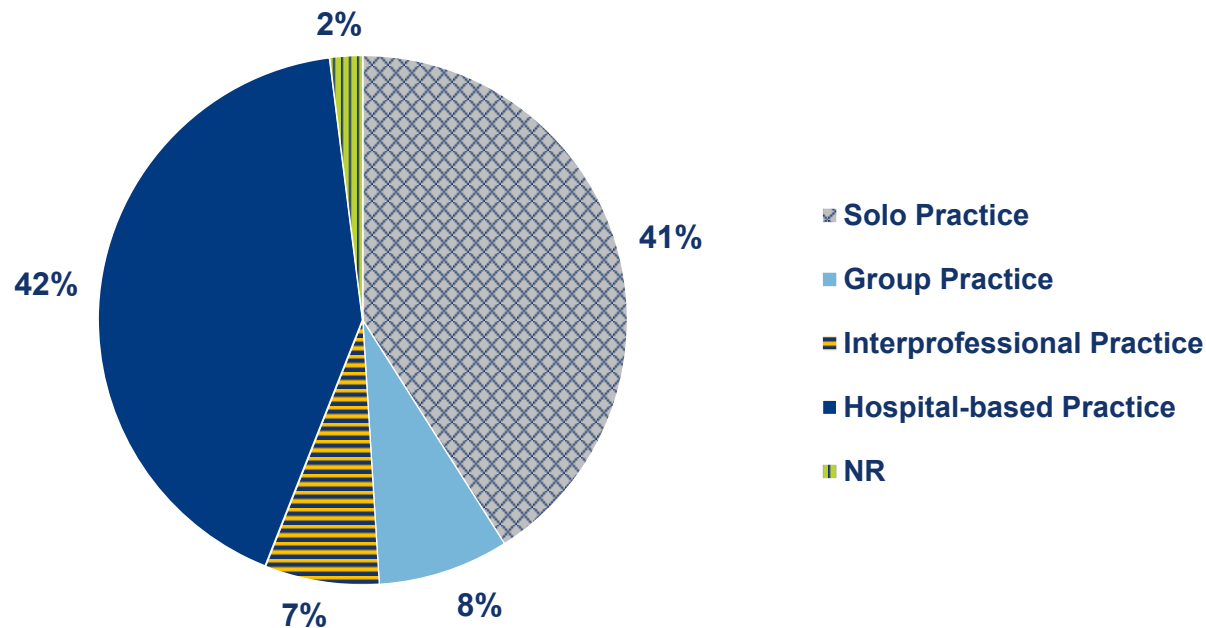
Excludes those where gender or age is unknown.

Source: 2019 CMA Masterfile

## Percentage by main work setting, 2019



## Percentage by practice organization, 2017\*



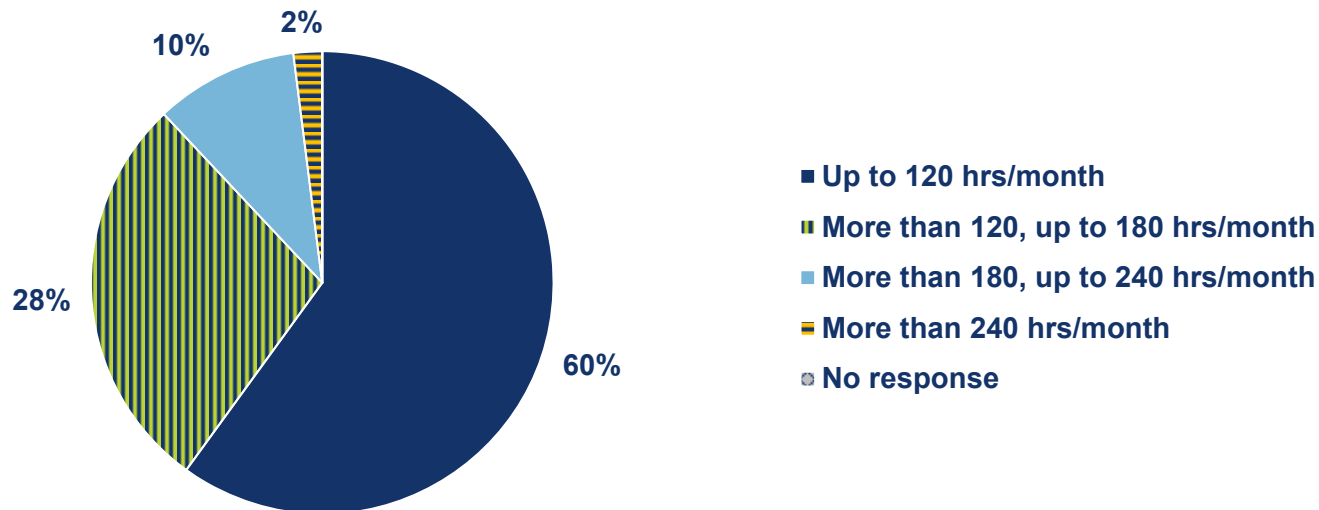
\*Most recent available data for this specialty

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	20.7
Direct patient care with teaching component	9.6
Teaching without patient care	2.4
Indirect patient care	8.9
Health facility committees	1.3
Administration	3.1
Research	5.9
Managing practice	1.7
Continued professional development	2.8
Other	0.7
<b>TOTAL HOURS PER WEEK</b>	<b>57.0</b>

## On-call duty hours per month, 2014\*

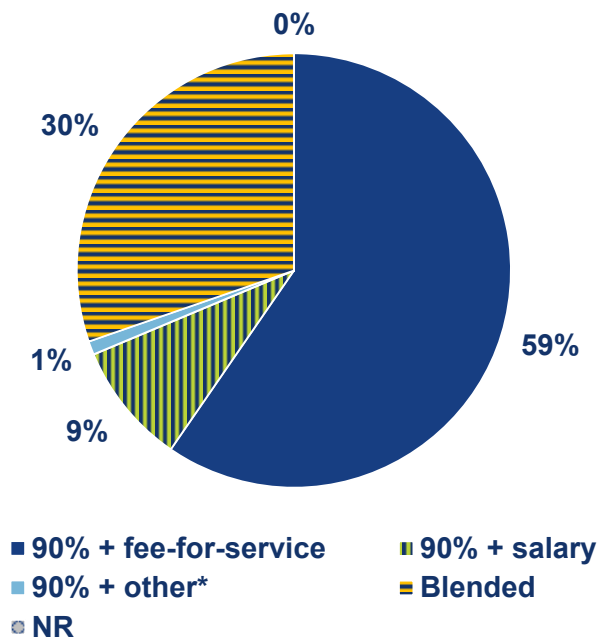


Time spent on call in direct patient care = 29 hrs./month

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

## Percentage by remuneration method

### Primary payment method<sup>1</sup> in 2017



Average gross payment per physician for Internal Medicine & subspecialties in 2017/18 (those earning at least \$60,000) = \$437,000<sup>2</sup>

Average percent overhead reported by Rheumatologists in 2017 = 26%<sup>3</sup>

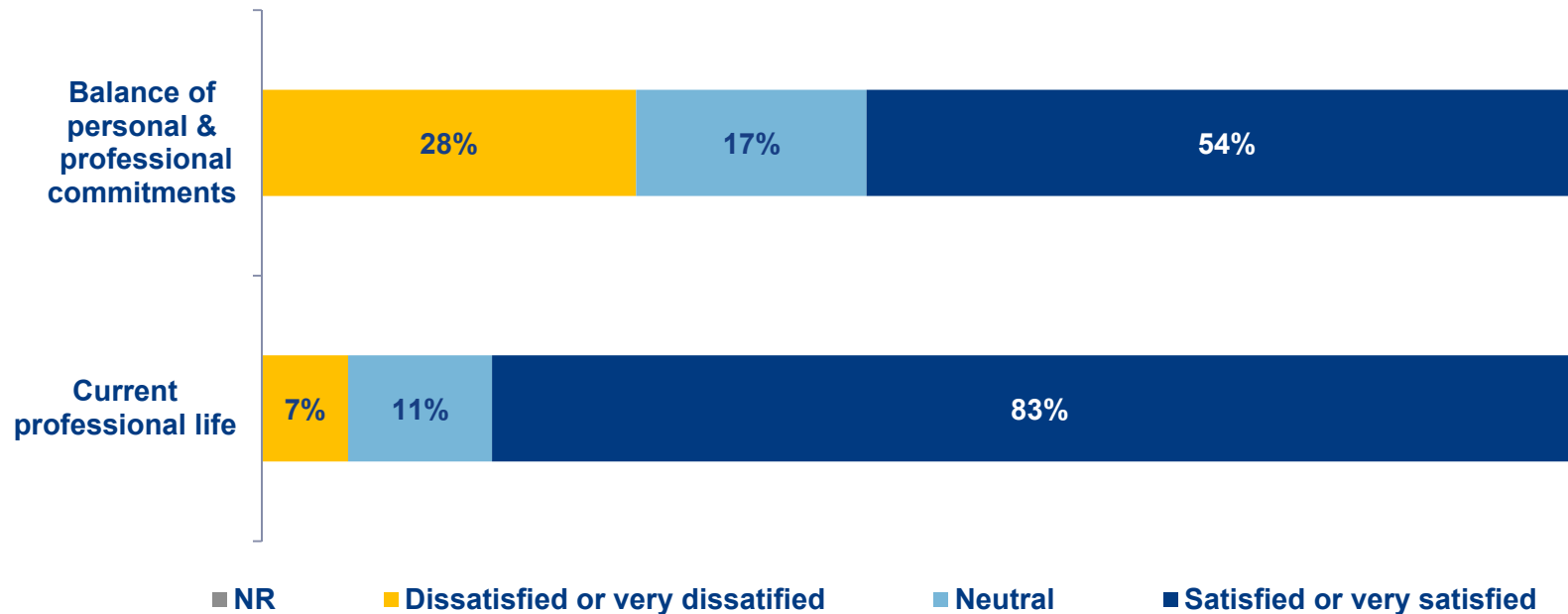
\* Other includes capitation, sessional, contract or other method

<sup>1</sup> 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

<sup>2</sup> National Physician Database, 2017/18, CIHI

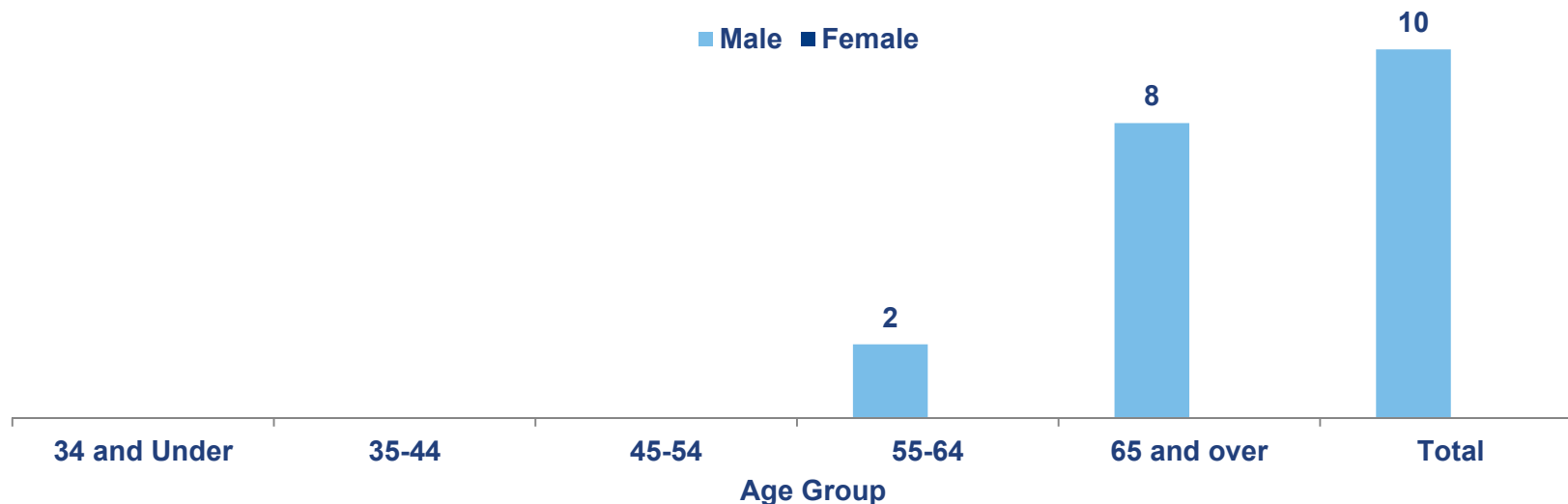
<sup>3</sup> 2017 CMA Workforce Survey. Canadian Medical Association

## Professional & work-life balance satisfaction, 2019





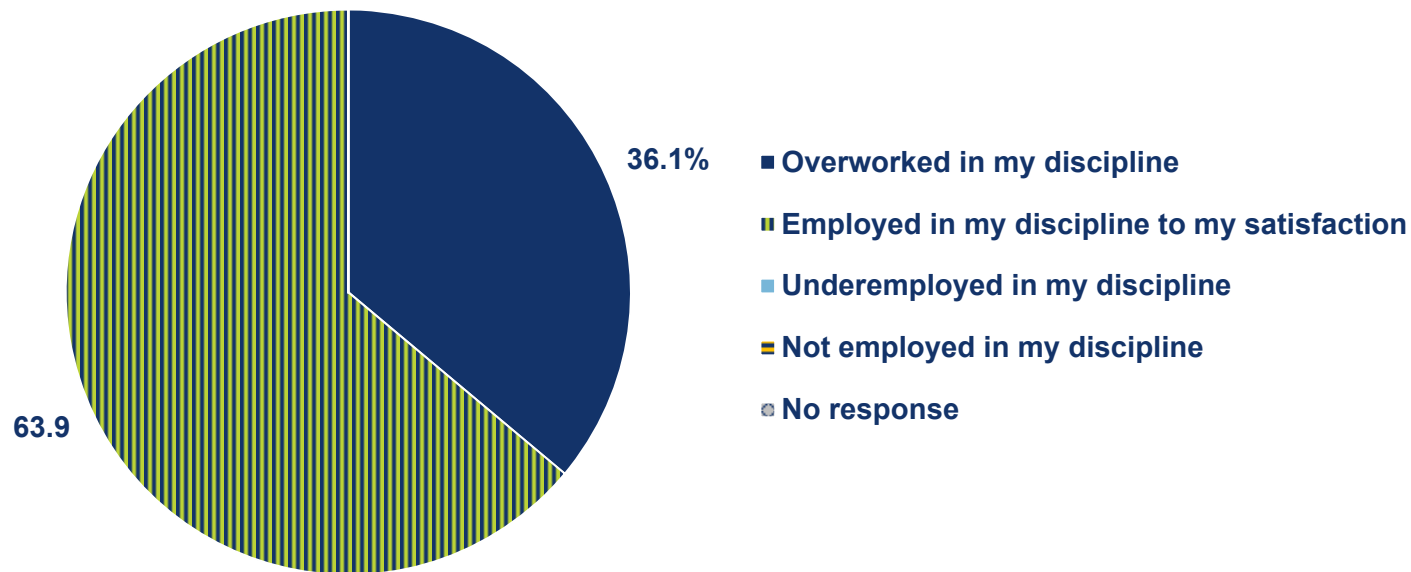
## Number of retirees during the three year period of 2016-2018



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



## 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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