

The Vermont Department of Health

2010 PHYSICIAN SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

Guidance • Support • Prevention • Protection

August, 2011

 **VERMONT**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SURVEY DESCRIPTION

Mailed to physicians with the license renewal forms in the fall of 2010

Followed up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was 99.7%

SUMMARY

- There were 1877 physicians providing patient care in Vermont (1816 MDs and 61 DOs).
- 33% (611) of the physicians were female.
- 43% (792) have worked in Vermont less than 10 years, and 29% (539) have worked in Vermont 20 or more years.
- 35% attended medical school or completed residency training at the University of Vermont.

PRIMARY CARE

- 33% (628) worked mainly in primary care, including:
 - 15% (284) in family practice
 - 9% (167) in primary care internal medicine
 - 4% (68) in obstetrics and gynecology
 - 6% (109) in pediatric primary care
- There were 78.6 primary care Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) per 100,000 population statewide

SPECIALTY CARE

67% (1249) worked mainly in specialty care:

- 5% (93) in anesthesiology
- 6% (113) in emergency medicine
- 12% (227) in specialty internal medicine
- 9% (174) in psychiatry
- 7% (139) in radiology (including tele-radiology)
- 8% (158) in surgery (52 general, 76 orthopedic)
- 18% (345) other specialties (37 neurology, 48 ophthalmology, 55 pathology, 24 urology)

AGE OF PHYSICIANS

- Ages ranged from 29 to 87, with a median age of 51.
- In 7 of 14 counties, 25% or more of the primary care physicians are over age 60
- 21% of specialists are over age 60, including:
 - 37% of psychiatrists
 - 32% of neurologists
 - 31% of ophthalmologists
 - 25% of general surgeons

CHANGES OVER TIME: PRIMARY CARE

As compared with the year 2000:

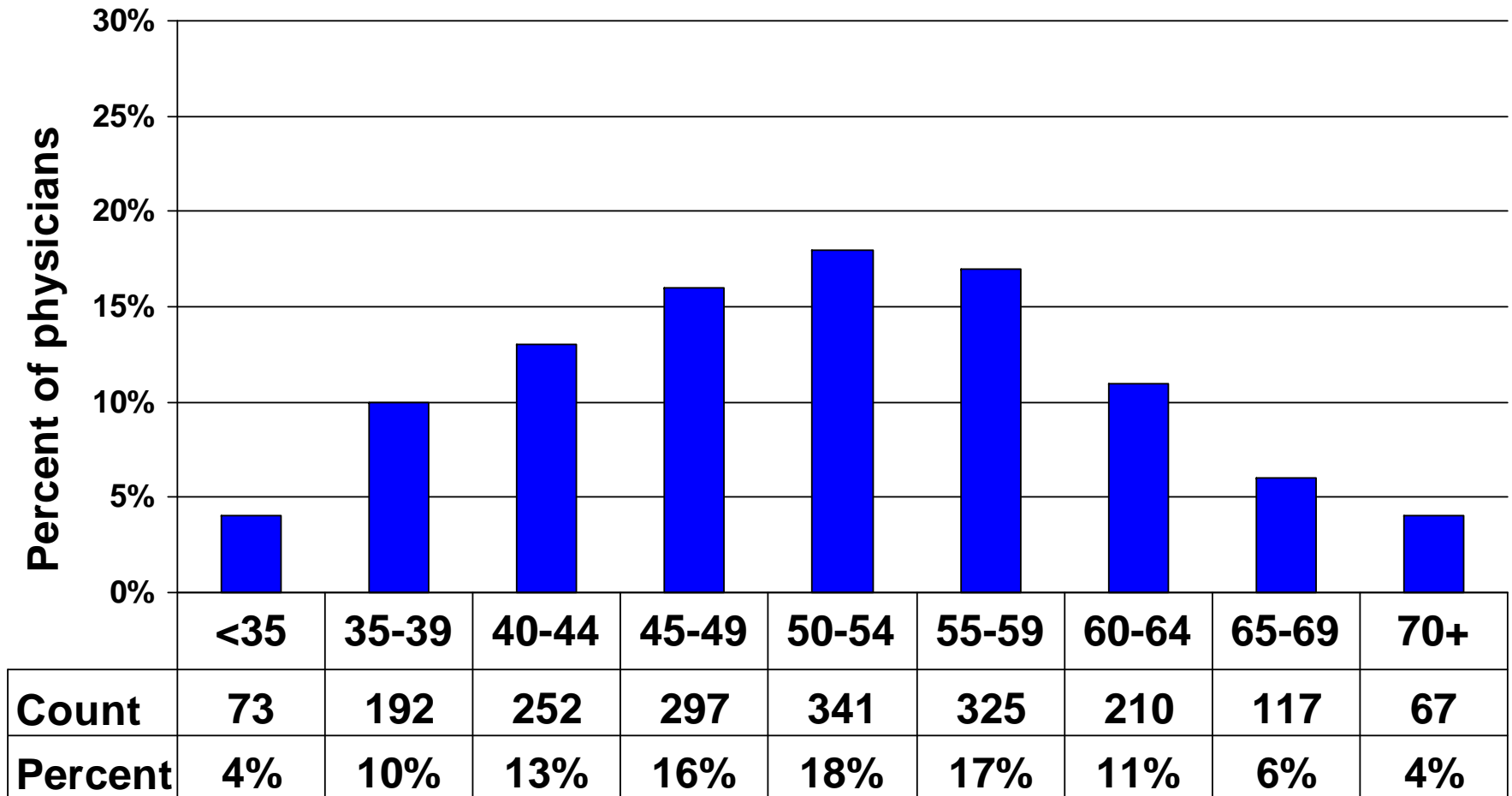
- There are 43 more primary care physicians, but only 19.9 additional FTEs.
- There was a net loss of 7.8 FTEs in primary care internal medicine.
- Statewide, primary care FTEs per 100,000 population increased, from 77.6 to 78.6.
- Outside of Chittenden County, primary care FTEs per 100,000 population decreased, from 73.8 to 72.8.

CHANGES OVER TIME: SPECIALTY CARE

As compared with the year 2000:

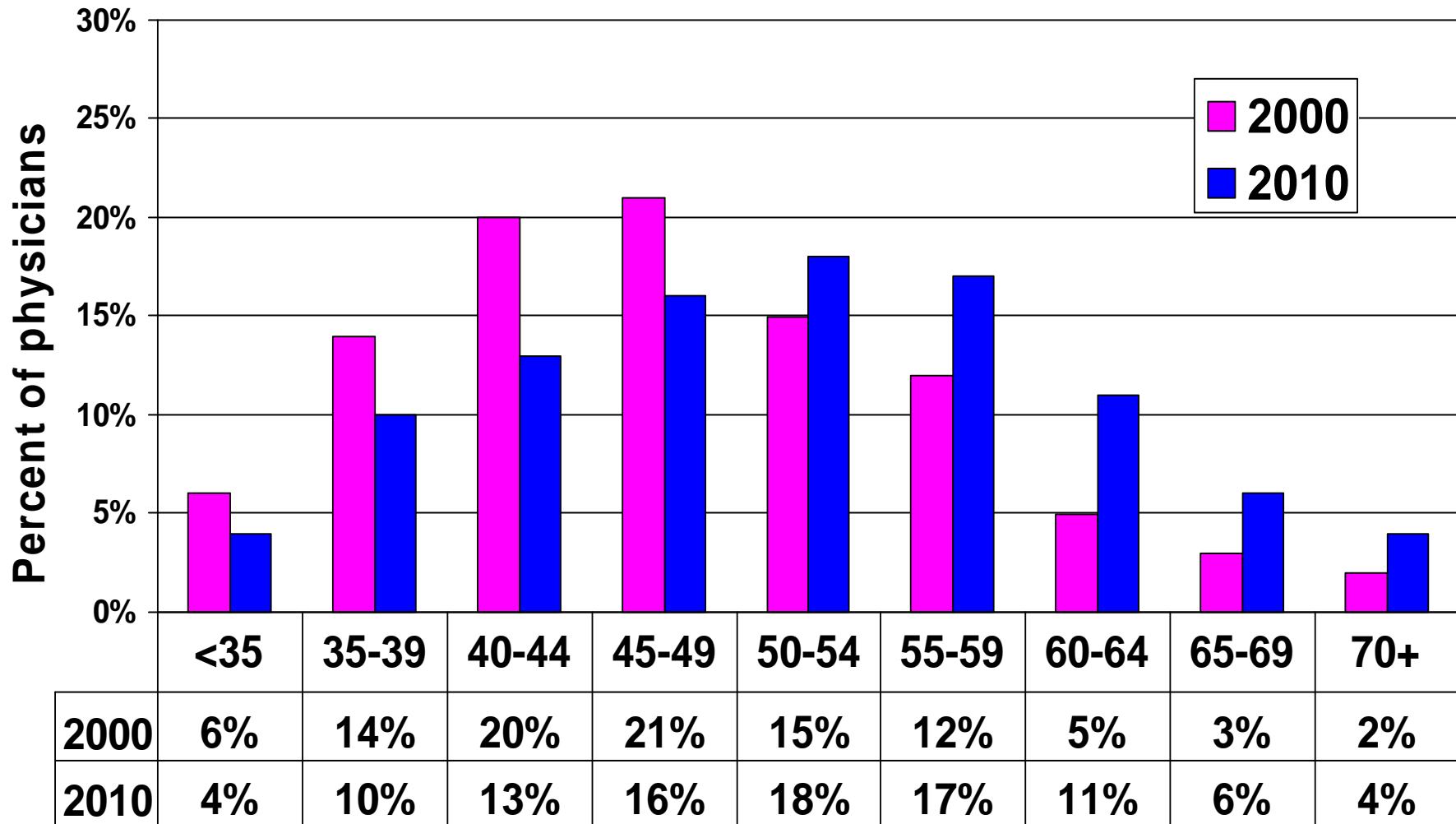
- There are 354 more specialty care physicians.
- Not counting radiology and pathology, there are 274 more specialists, and 222.4 more specialty care FTEs.
- FTE increases were especially large in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, and specialty internal medicine.

Age Distribution

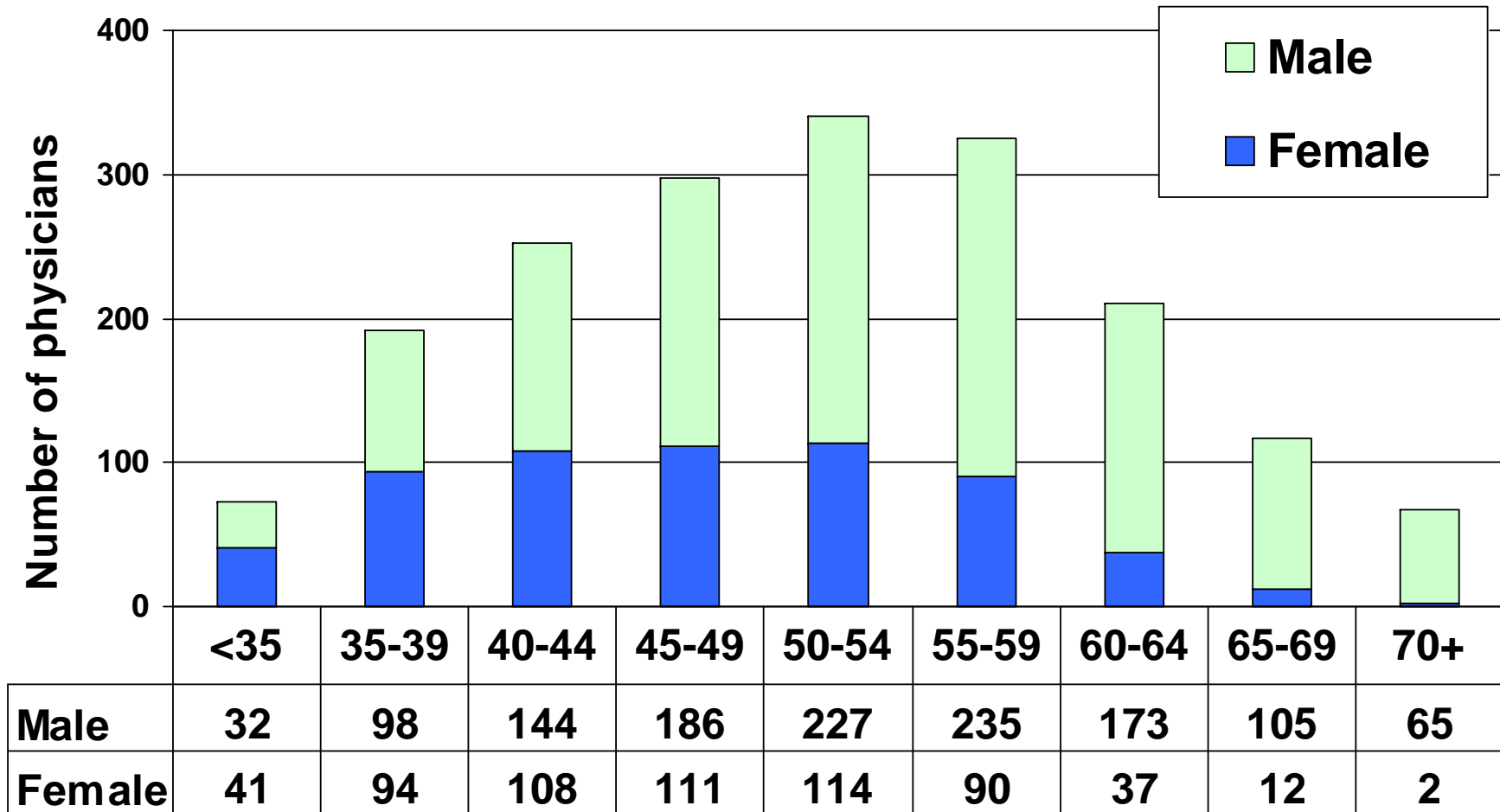


21% of all physicians are over age 60

Age Distribution Over Time: 2010 vs. 2000

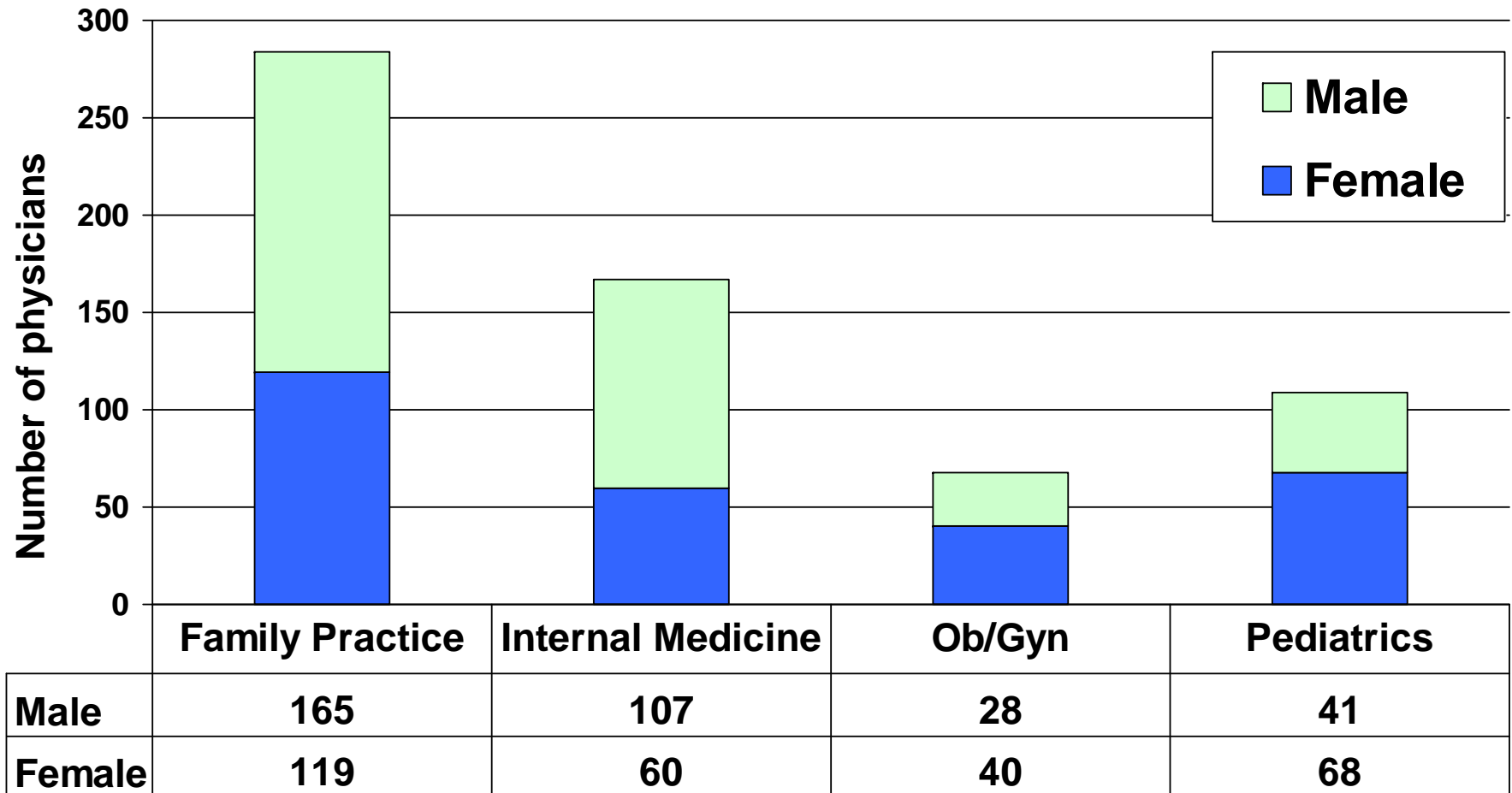


Age Distribution by Gender



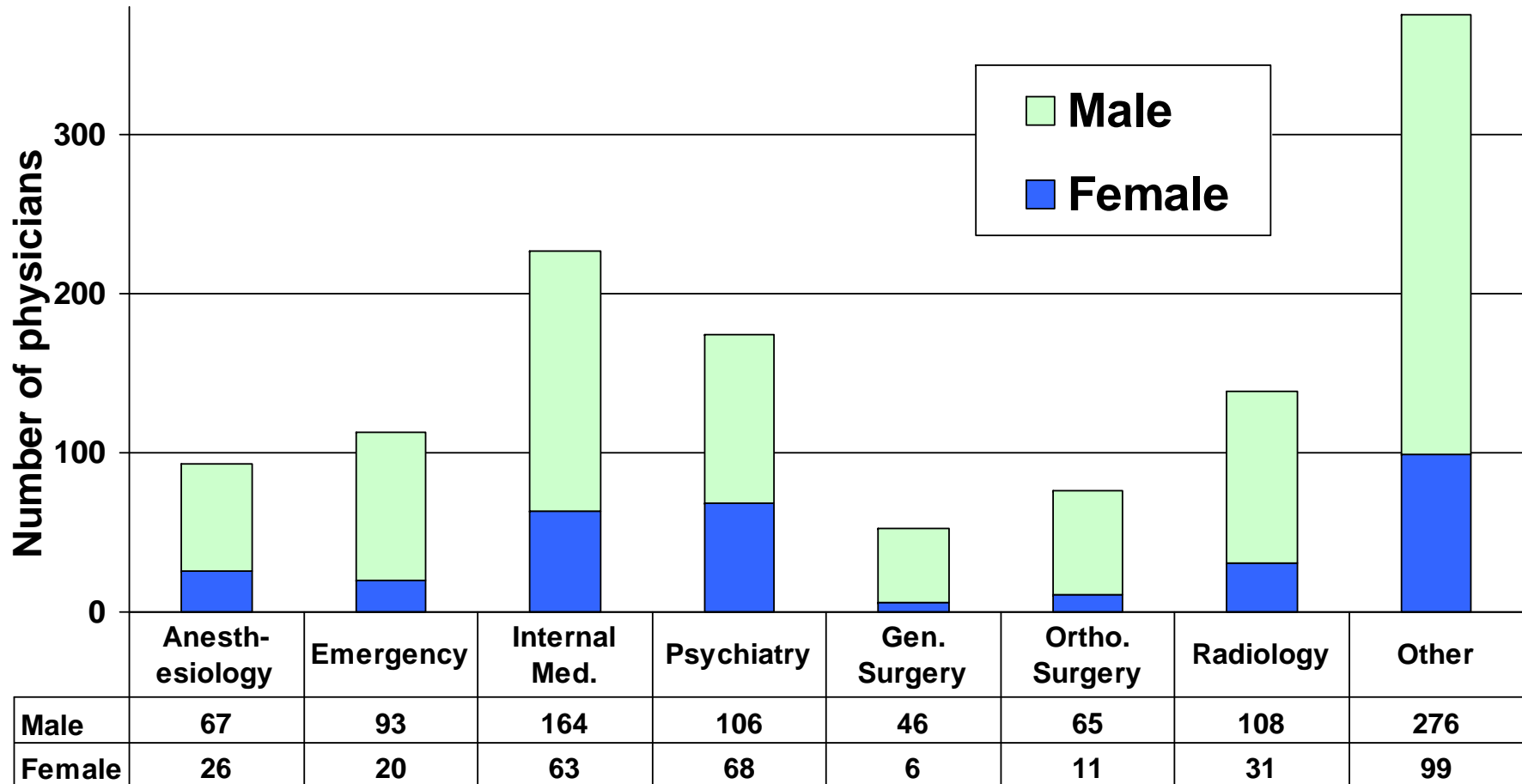
80% of physicians over age 55 are male

Primary Care by Gender



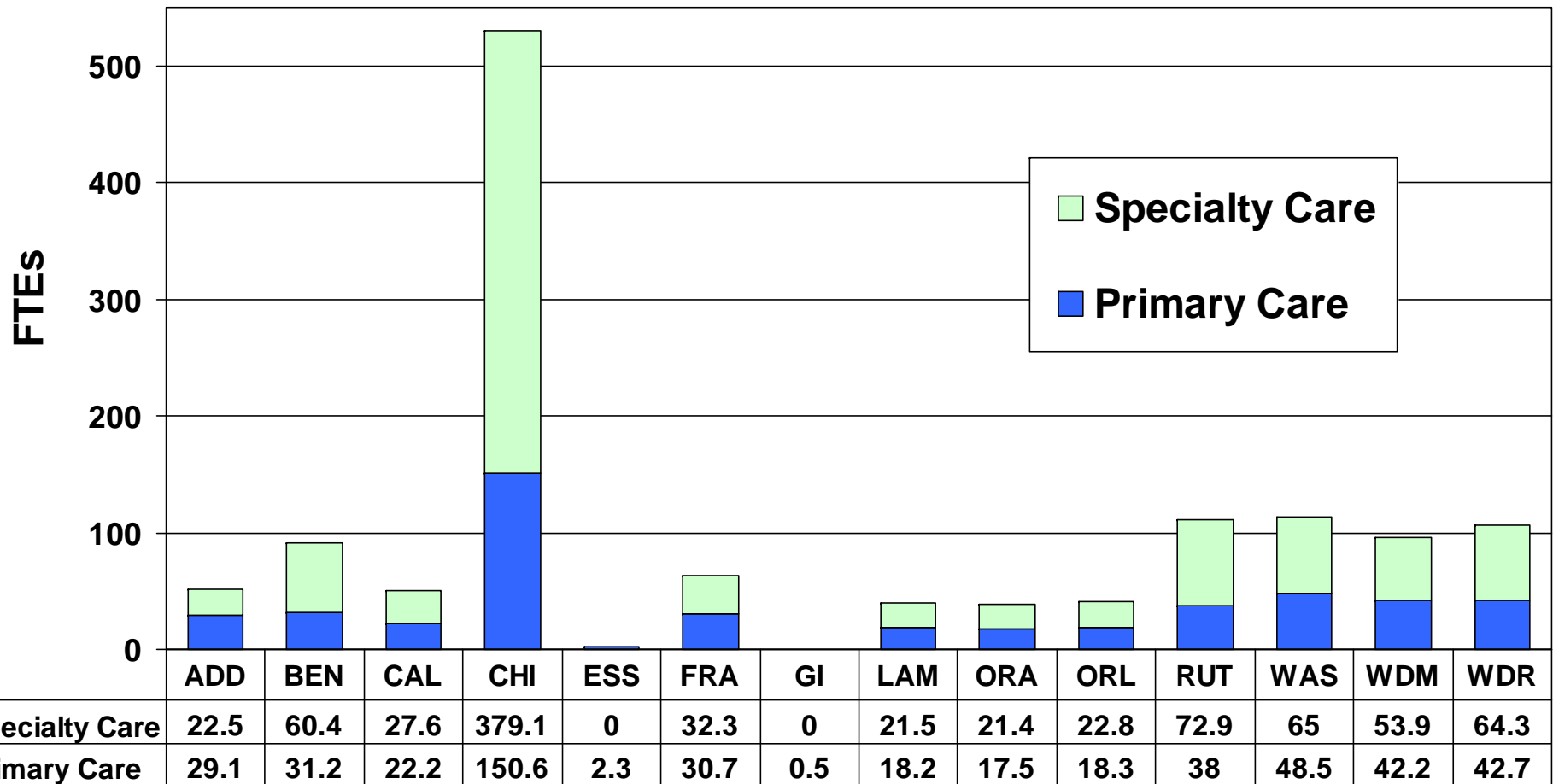
62% of pediatricians and 59% of OB/GYNs are female

Specialty Care by Gender



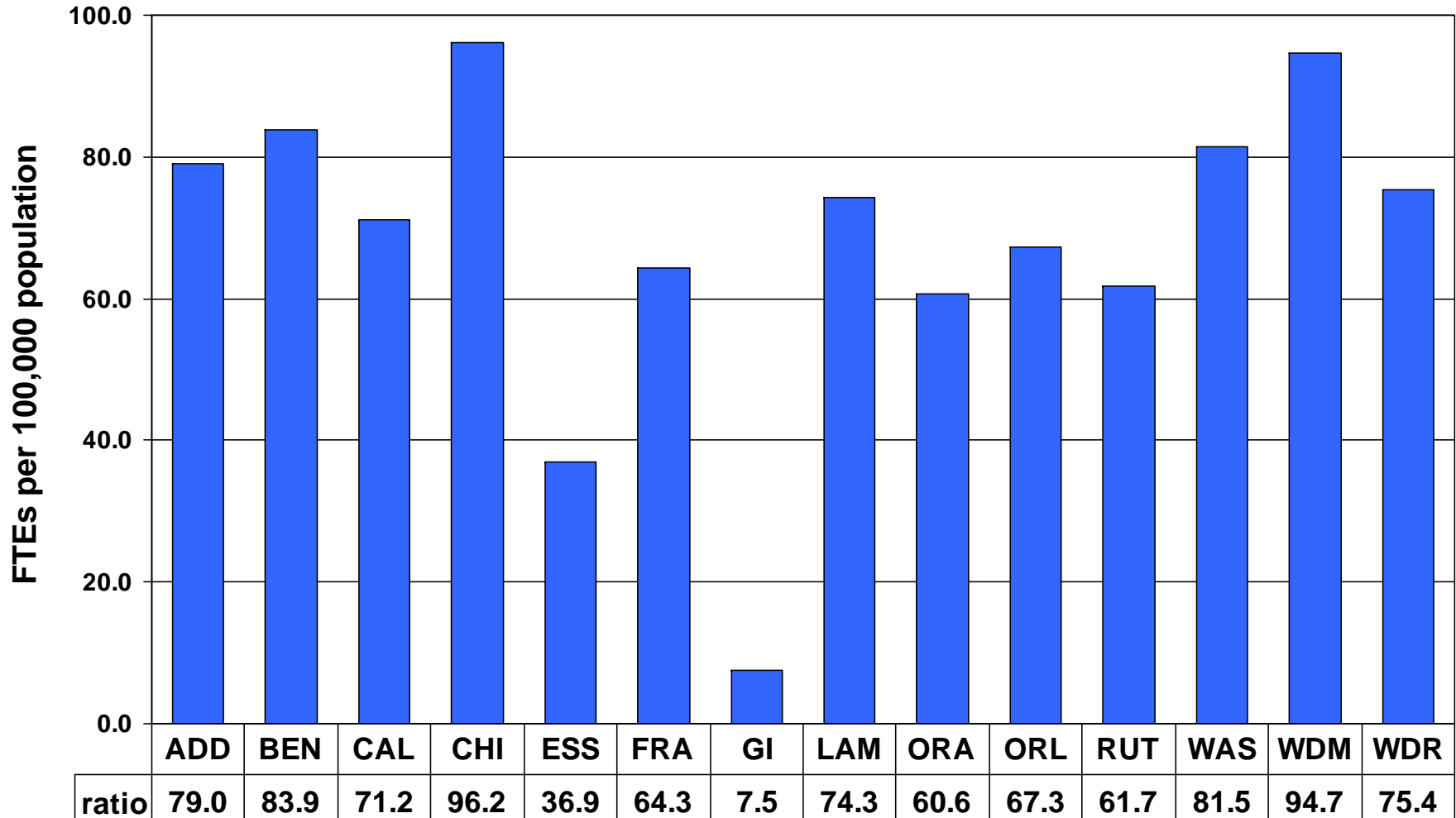
Most specialty care physicians are male

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) by County



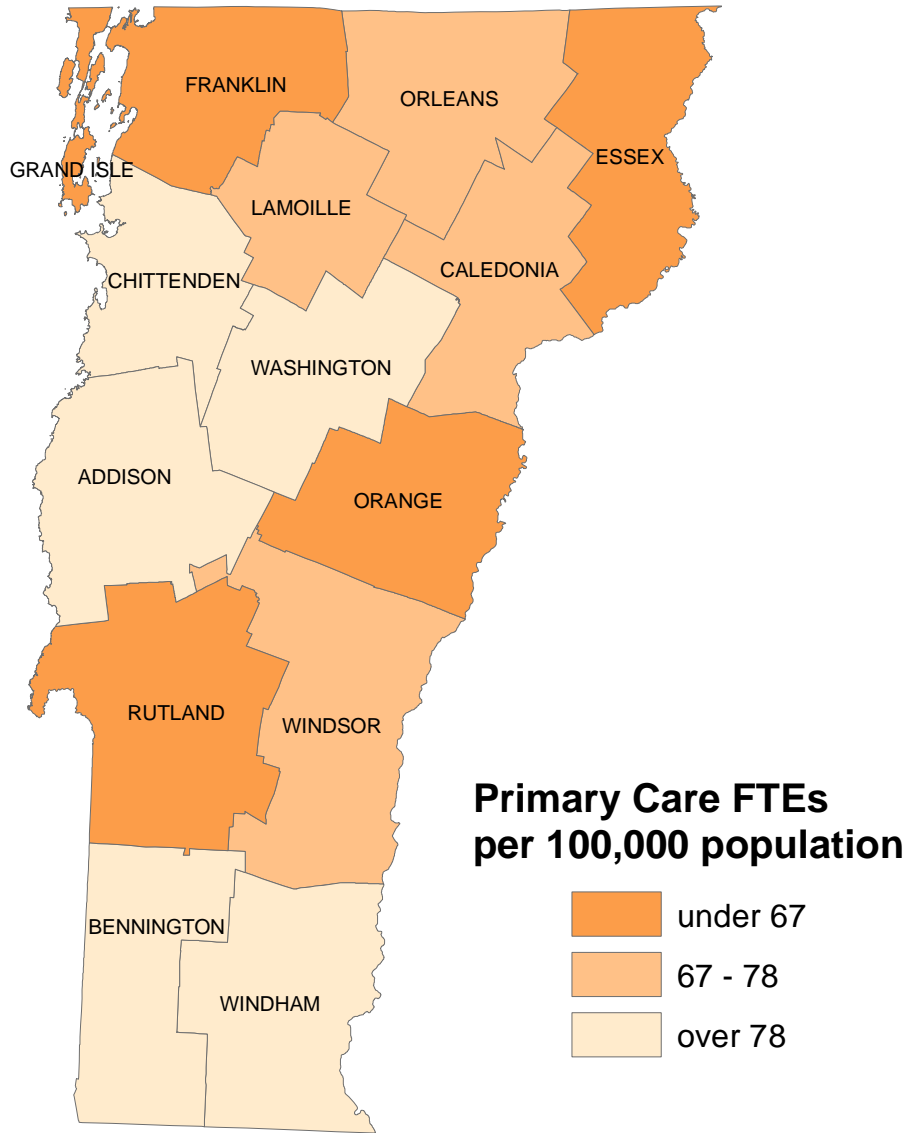
Physicians are highly concentrated in Chittenden County

Primary Care FTE to Population Ratios by County



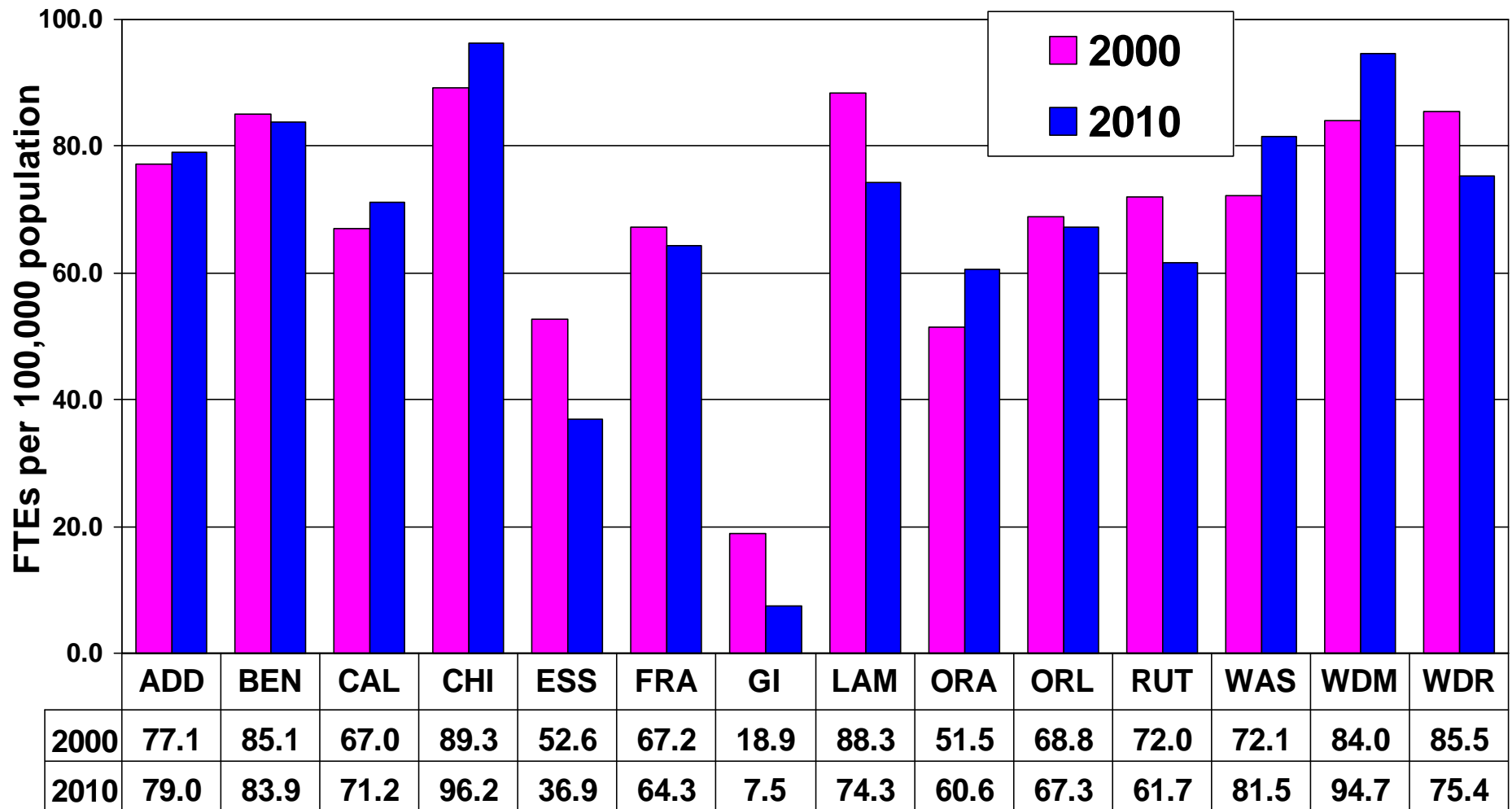
Several counties have few primary care physicians relative to their population

2010 Primary Care Physicians by County

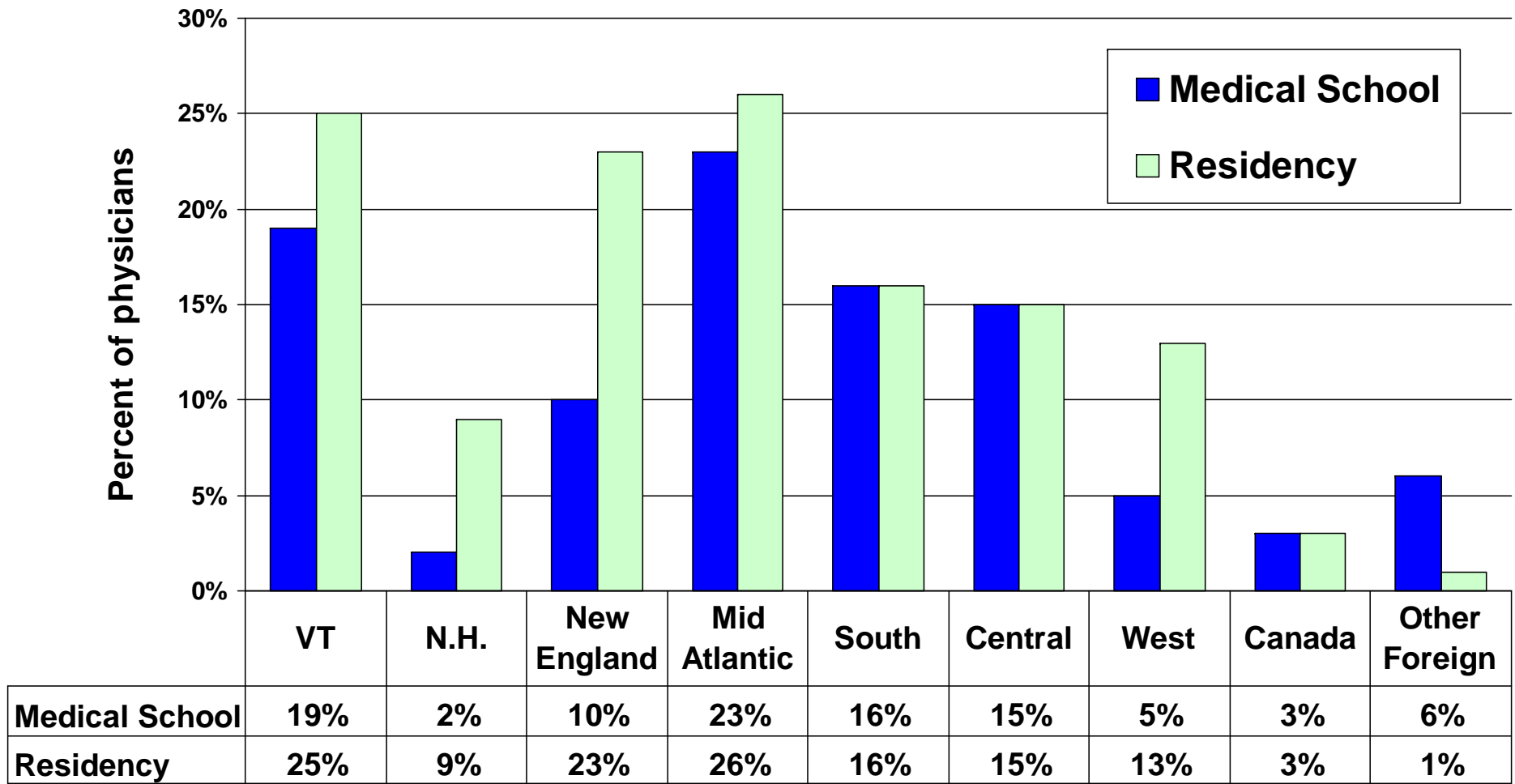


A ratio of 78 FTEs per 100,000 population is considered an adequate supply of primary care physicians. A ratio under 78 is inadequate, and under 67 is severely inadequate, according to the 1980 Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee (GMENAC) report.

Primary Care FTE to Population Ratios by County

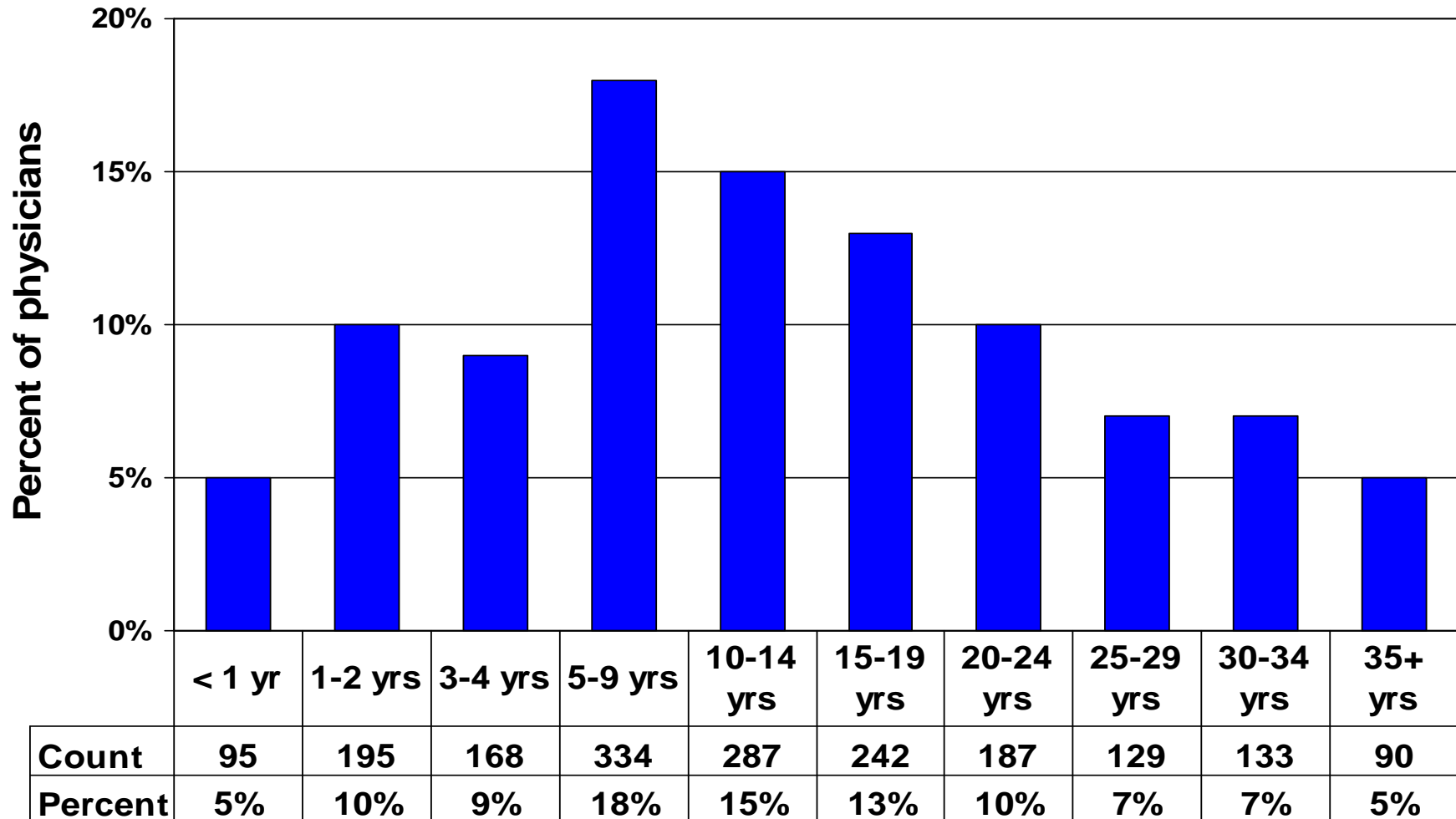


Location of Training



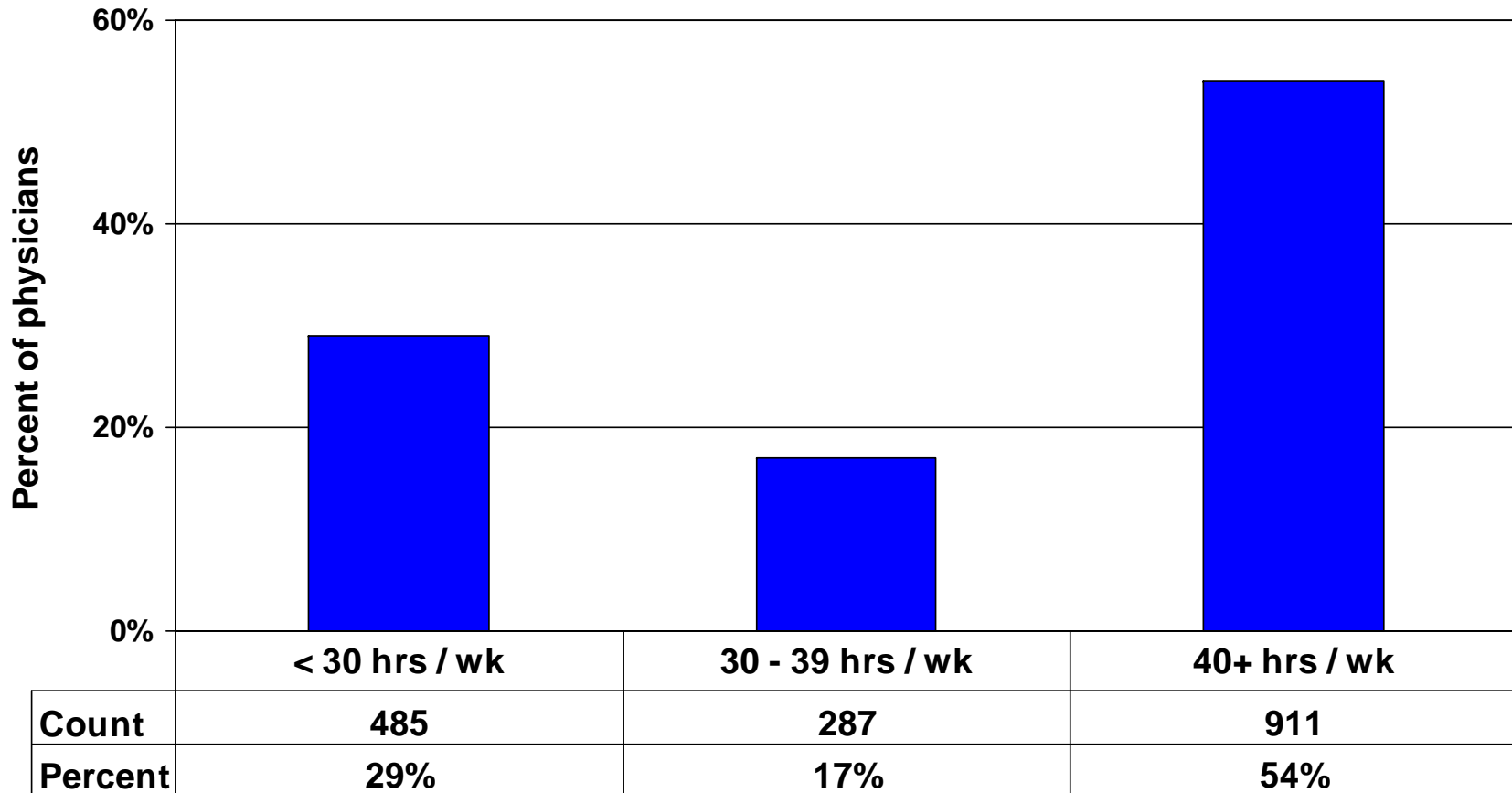
35% of physicians attended medical school or completed residency training at UVM

Years Worked in Vermont



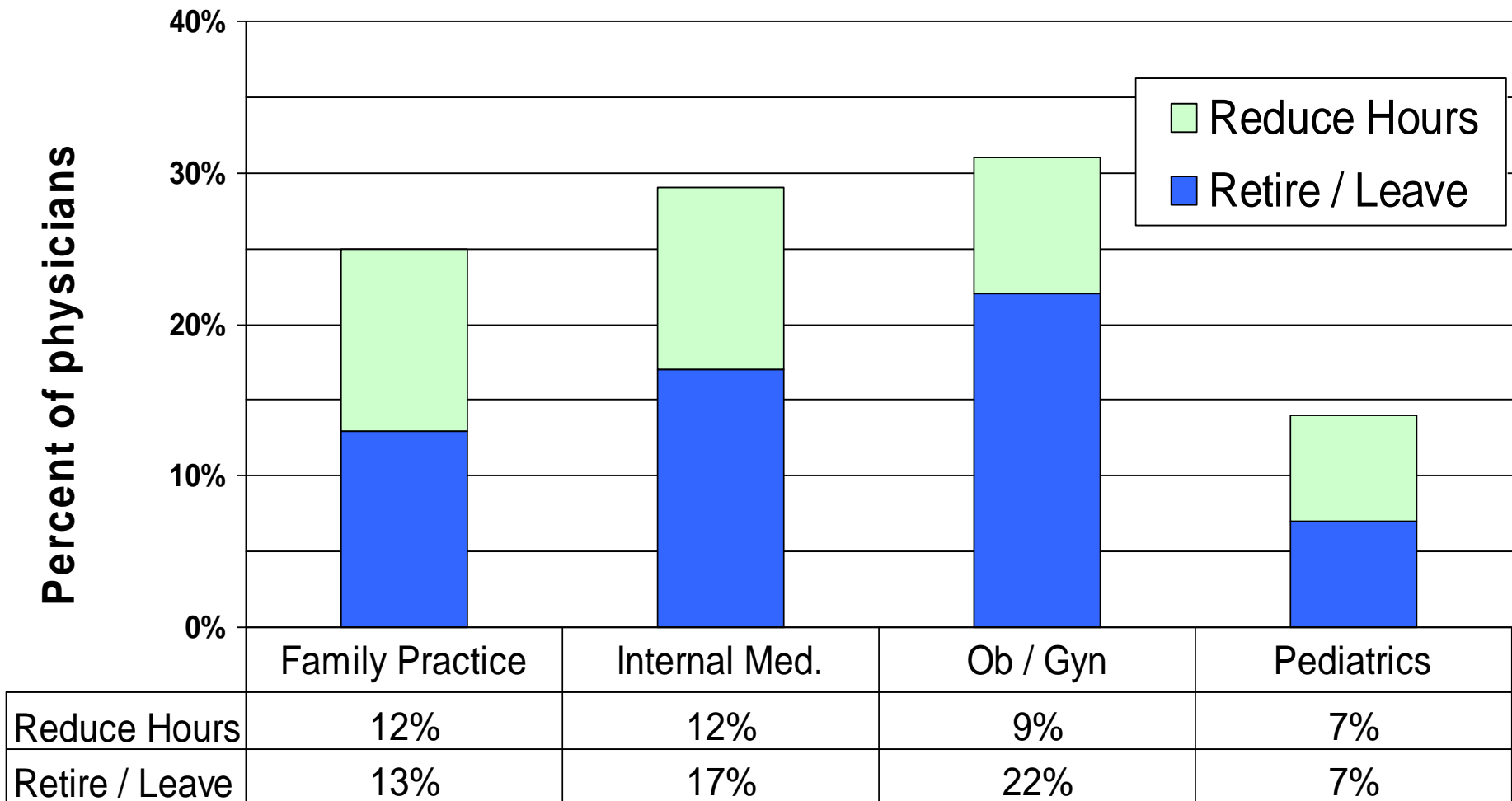
29% of the physicians have worked in Vermont more than 20 years

Patient Care Hours Per Week

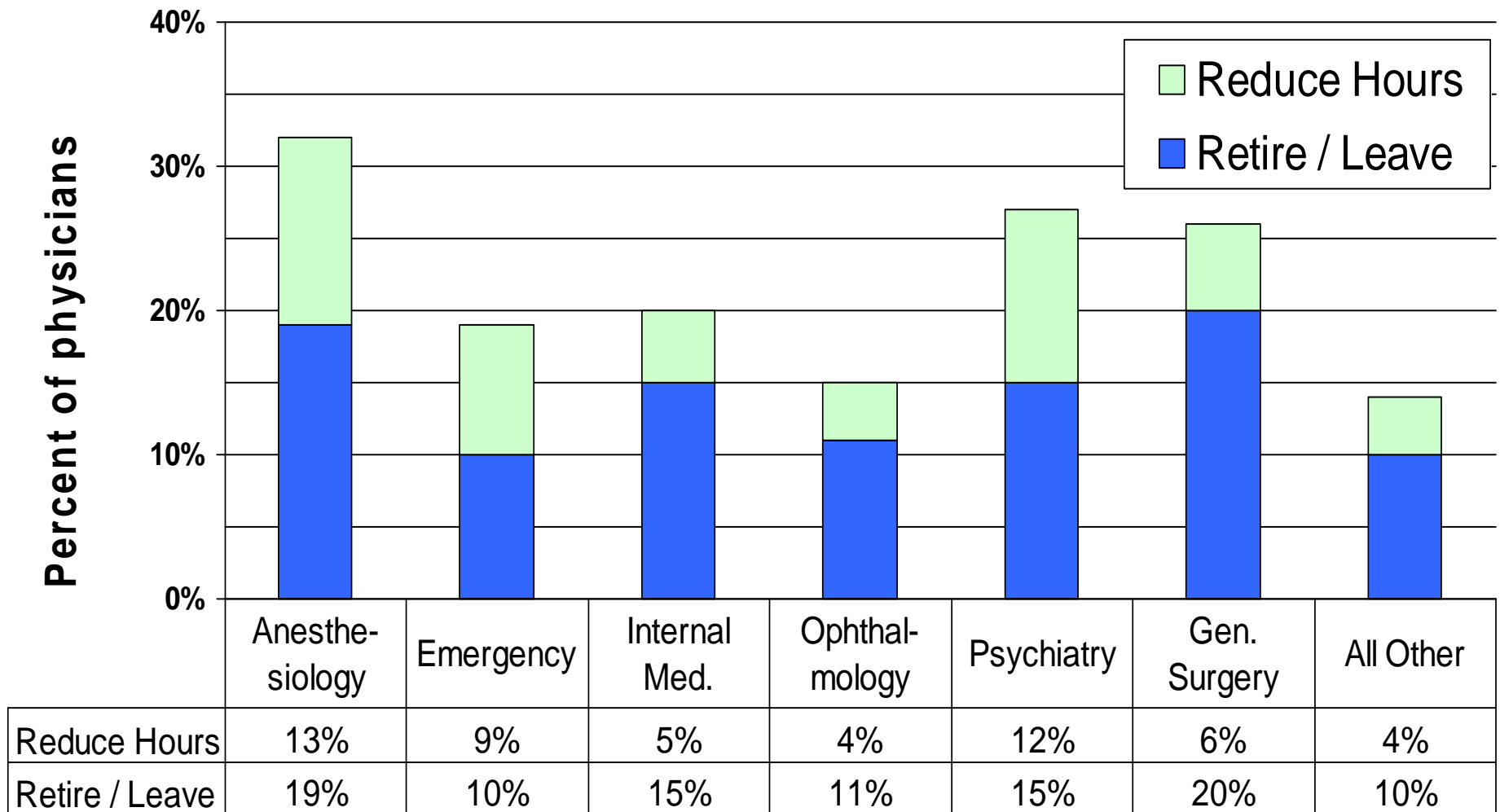


Average patient care hours per week: 37 overall, 28 for ages 65 and older. 58% of males, but only 47% of females, provide patient care 40+ hours per week.

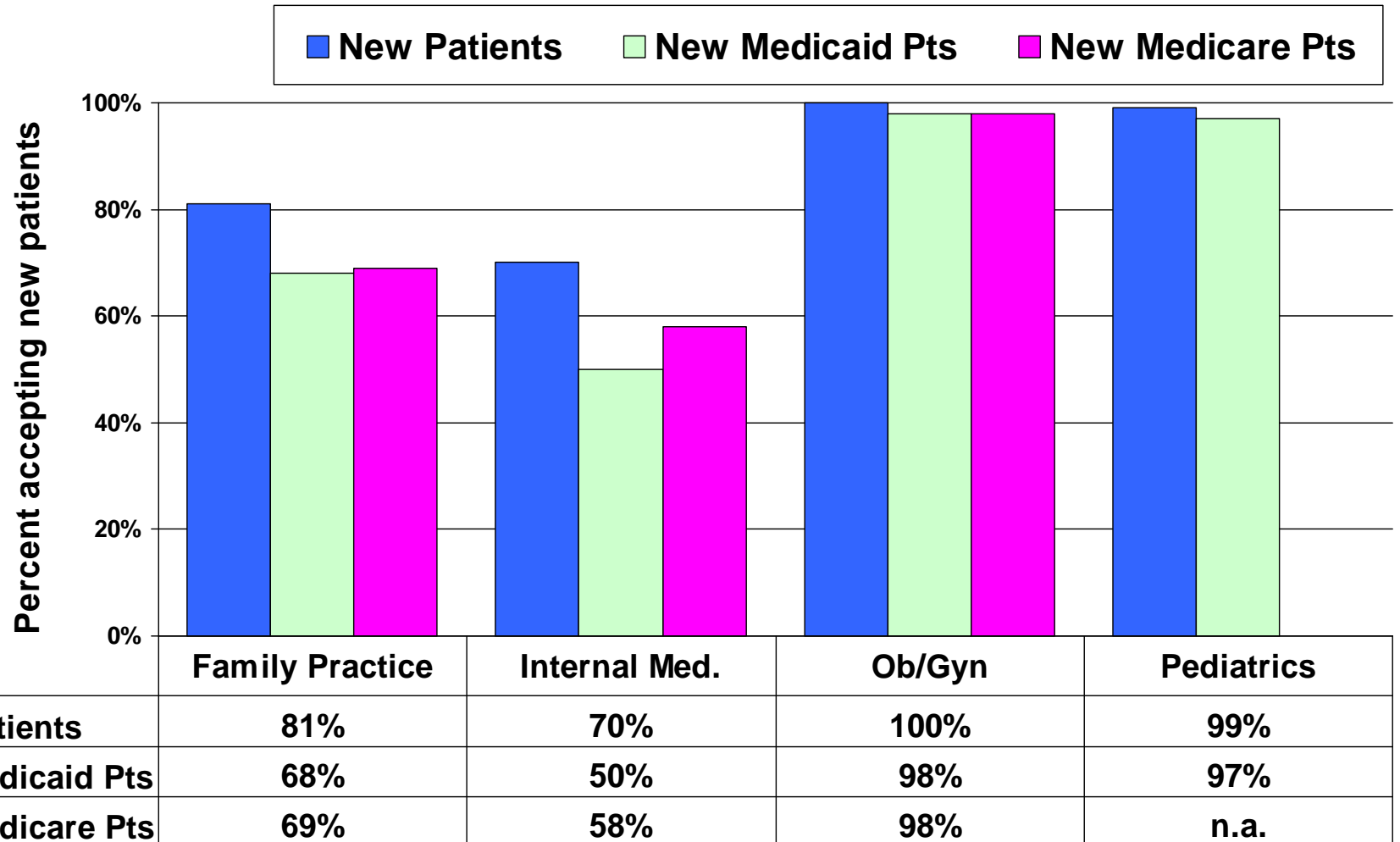
Planning to Retire or Reduce Hours Worked in Vermont Within 5 Years – Primary Care



Planning to Retire or Reduce Hours Worked in Vermont Within 5 Years – Specialty Care

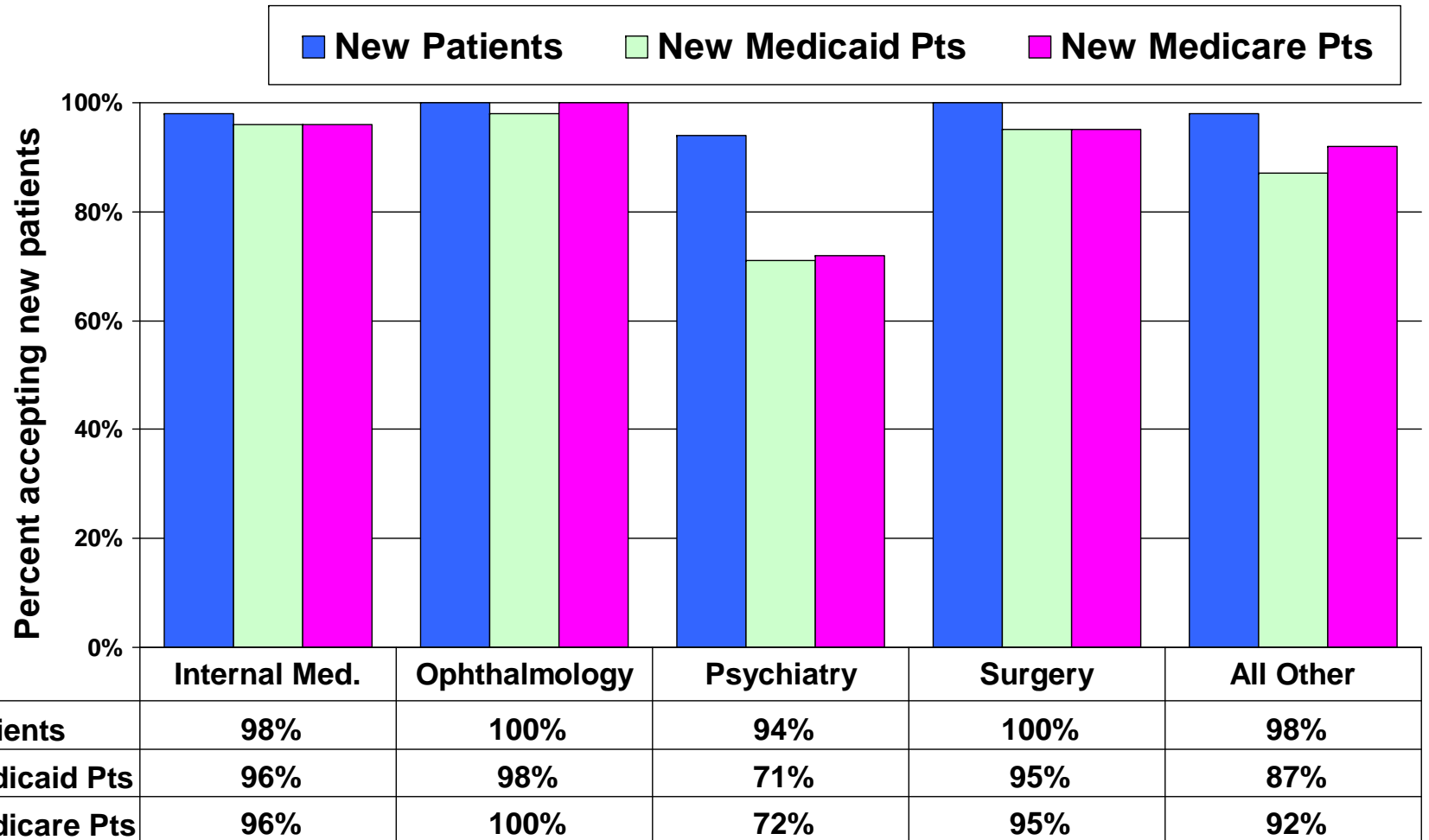


Accepting New Patients – Primary Care



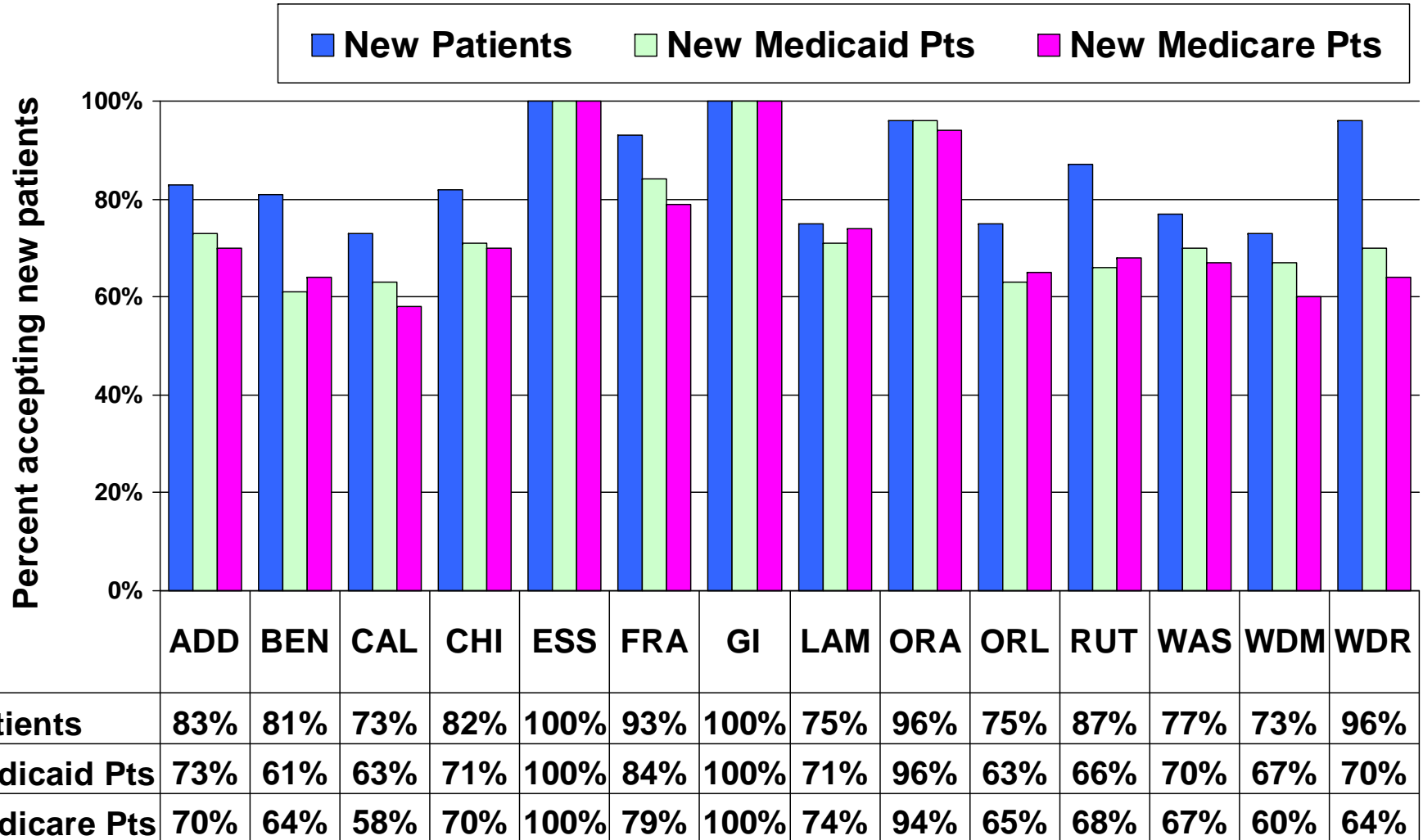
83% accepted new patients overall, 72% accepted new Medicaid, 69% new Medicare patients.

Accepting New Patients – Specialty Care

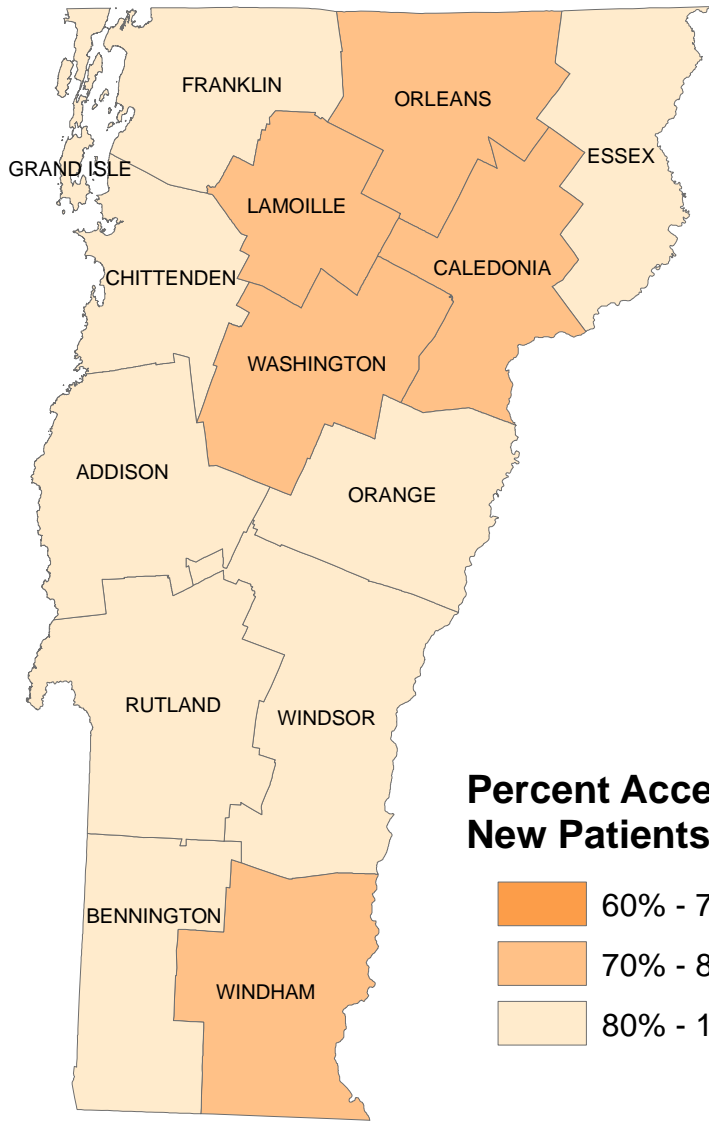


98% accepted new patients overall, 88% accepted new Medicaid, 91% new Medicare patients. Emergency Medicine, Pathology and Radiology excluded.

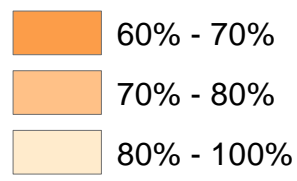
Accepting New Patients – Primary Care, by County



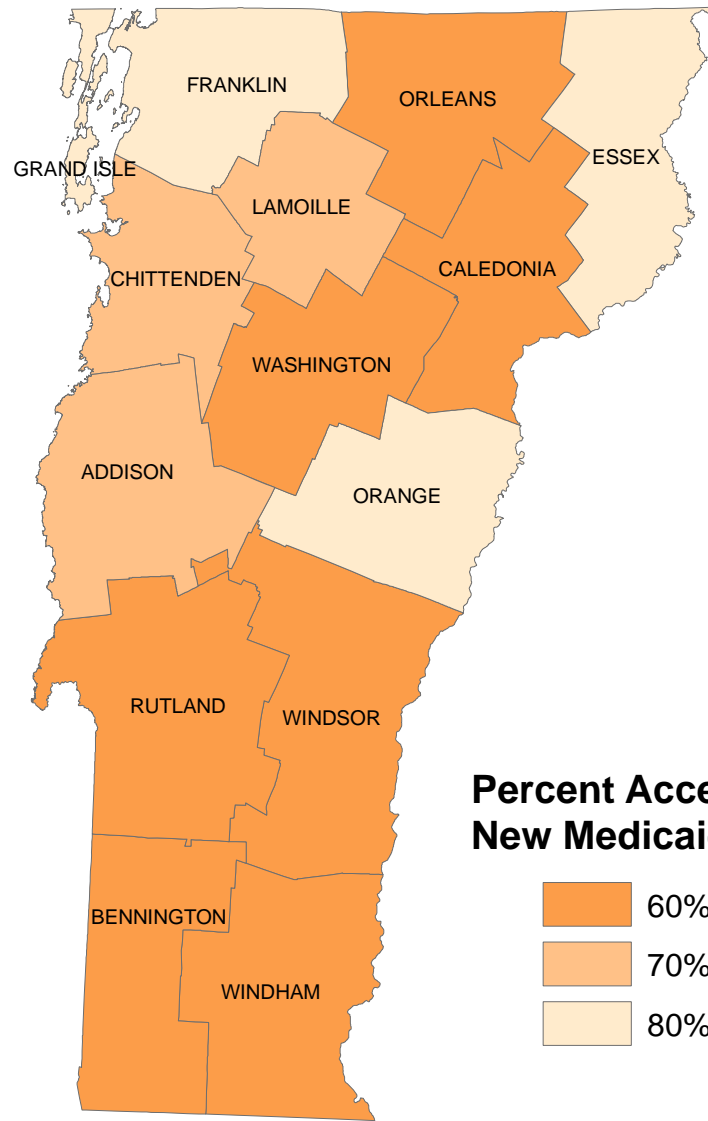
2010 Primary Care Physicians by County



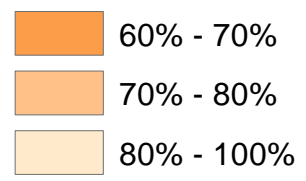
Percent Accepting New Patients



2010 Primary Care Physicians by County



Percent Accepting New Medicaid Patients



Comparison of Selected Physician Data, 1998-2010

	1998	2002	2006	2010
Total active * physicians	1410	1565	1730	1877
Percent female	24%	28%	29%	33%
Primary care physicians	554	628	640	628
% accepting new patients	87%	83%	82%	83%
accepting new Medicaid patients	82%	75%	68%	72%
accepting new Medicare patients	82%	78%	72%	69%
Primary care physician FTEs	450.3	492.9	503.6	492.1
FTEs per 100,000 Population	75.0	80.1	80.7	78.6
Specialist physicians	856	937	1090	1249
Specialist physician FTEs **	596.4	657.5	736.0	843.7
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	43%	44%	46%	45%

* providing patient care in Vermont

** FTEs not computed for pathology and radiology

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