



2020 Physician Census

Summary Report

March 2025

Physician Census In Brief

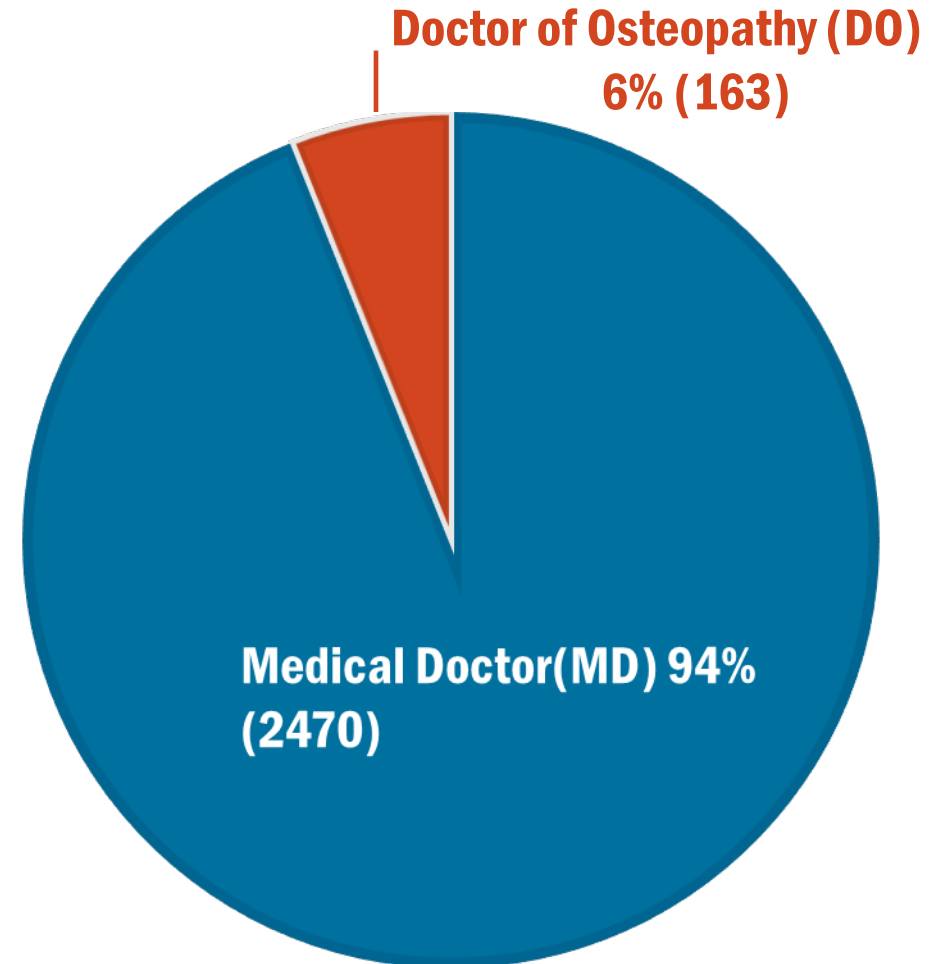
- Physicians took the census online during the 2020 Vermont license renewal
 - Survey has been conducted every two years since 1992
 - Data is self-reported
- All but two physicians renewing licenses completed the census

Key Takeaways

- 2,633 physicians provide patient care in Vermont
- The number of primary care physicians has decreased while specialty care has increased since 2016
- One third of primary care physicians are 60 or older
- 41% of physicians are female
- Physicians are concentrated in Chittenden County
- 80% of primary care physicians accept new patients

2,633 physicians provided patient care in Vermont in 2020.

- This includes 572 in telemedicine and 129 who provide patient care in Vermont less than four hours per week.
- This does not include physicians who maintain Vermont licenses but do not practice in Vermont, residents and fellows, and 42 working in Vermont on a locum tenens basis.



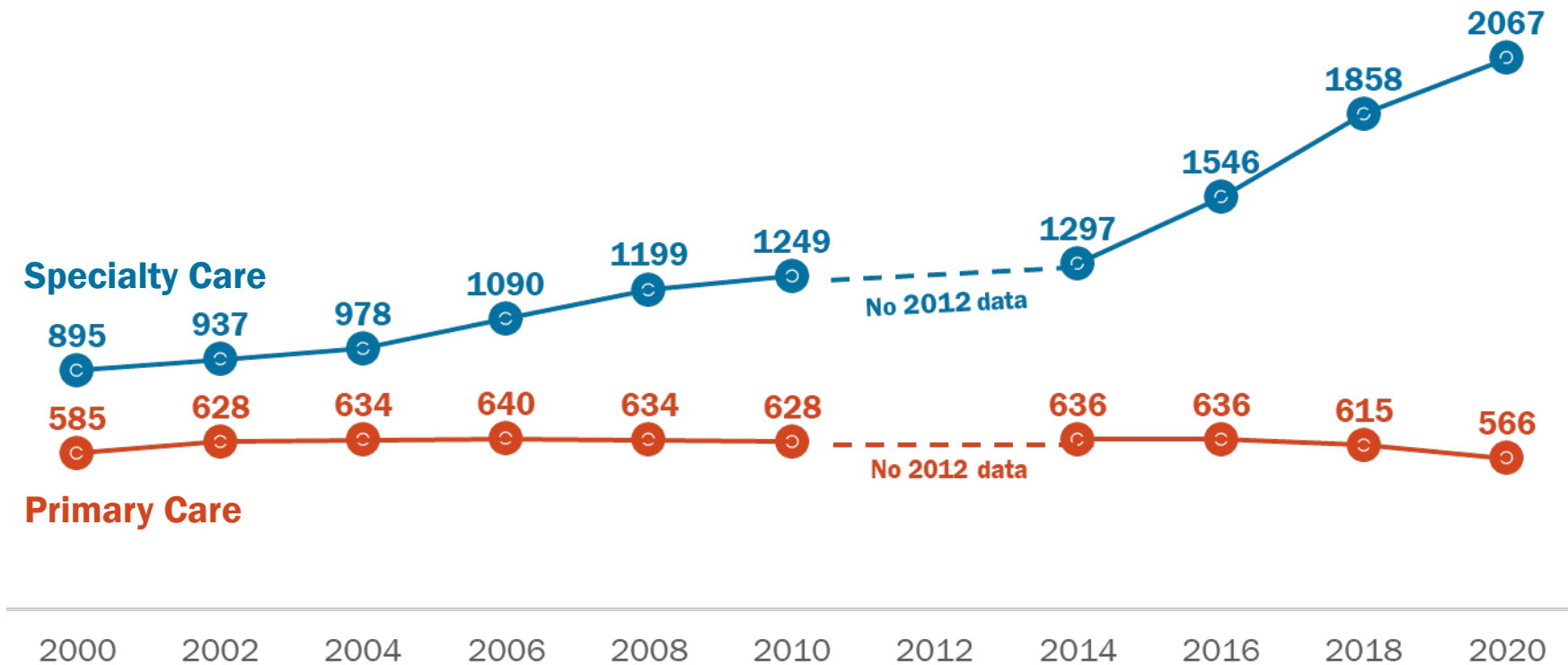
Comparison of Selected Physician Data, 2000-2020

	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2014	2016	2018	2020
Total active* physicians	1480	1565	1612	1730	1833	1877	1933	2182	2473	2633
Percent female	26%	28%	29%	29%	31%	33%	38%	38%	39%	41%
Primary care physicians	585	628	634	640	634	628	636	636	615	566
% accepting new patients**	80%	83%	81%	82%	80%	83%	82%	84%	81%	80%
% accepting new Medicaid patients	73%	75%	70%	68%	69%	72%	76%	78%	78%	76%
% accepting new Medicare patients	74%	78%	71%	71%	69%	69%	72%	75%	74%	71%
Primary care physician FTEs***	472.2	492.9	478.7	503.6	498.2	492.1	476.9	468.6	435.9	426.3
PC Internal Medicine FTEs	128.5	145.5	124.5	129.7	126.5	120.7	114.3	110.0	93.3	90.5
PC FTEs per 100,000 population	77.6	80.1	77.0	80.7	80.2	78.6	76.1	75.0	69.6	66.4
Specialist physicians	895	937	978	1090	1199	1249	1297	1546	1858	2067
Specialist physician FTEs****	621.3	722.1	656.1	736	818.1	843.7	836.1	916.6	932.1	974.2

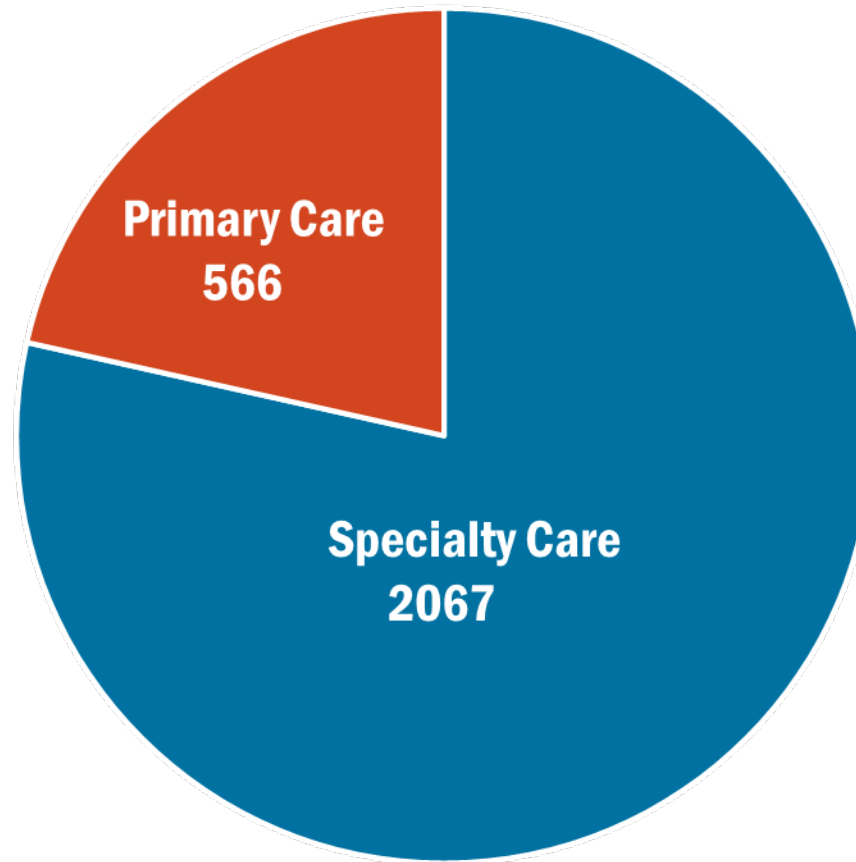
*Providing patient care in Vermont, ** % of physicians not sites, *** 2004 FTEs may be underestimated by as much as 4%

**** FTEs not computed for pathology, radiology, and telemedicine, *****There is no data for 2012

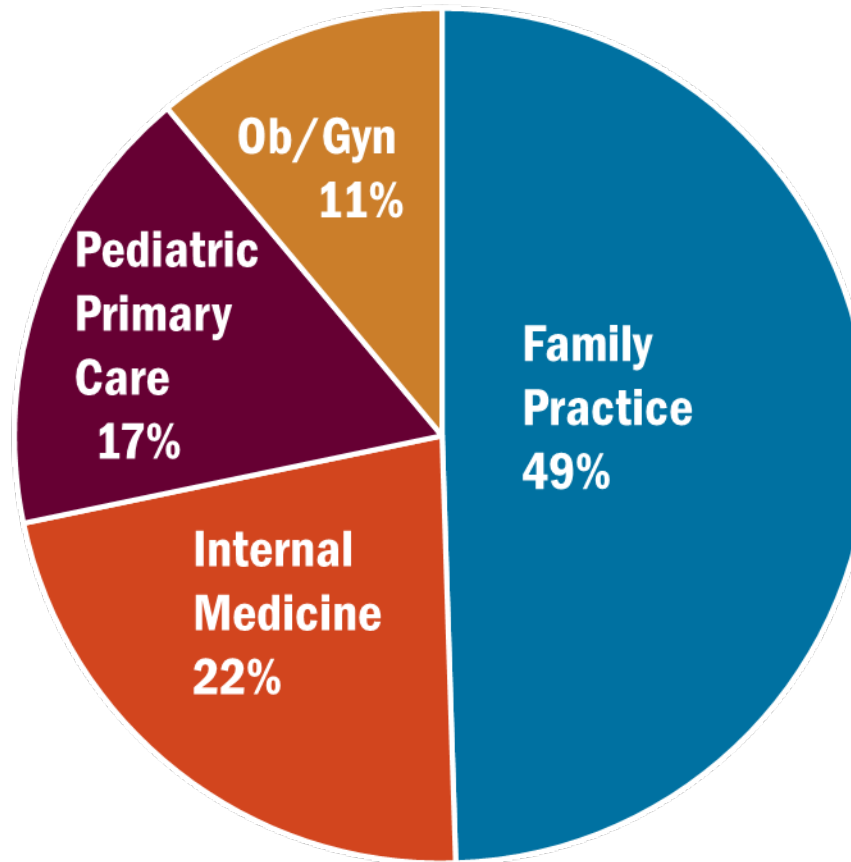
The number of specialty care physicians has increased over time while the number of primary care physicians has been declining since 2016.



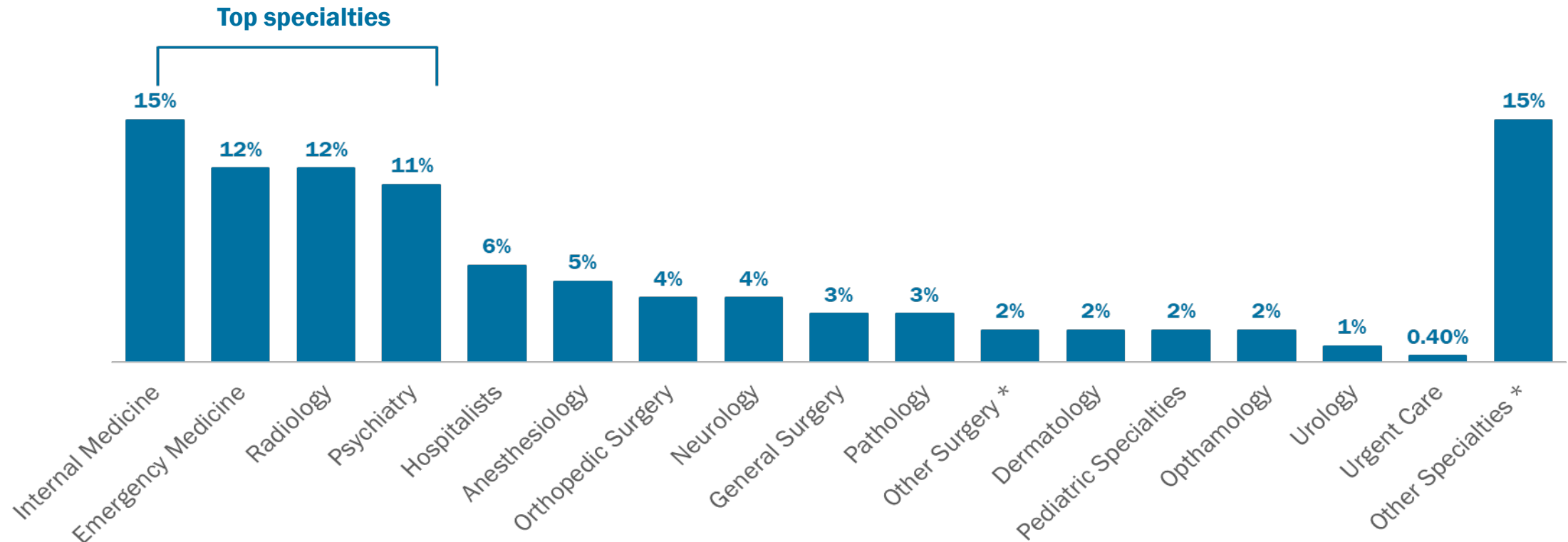
Less than 25% of Vermont physicians are primary care physicians.



49% of physicians who provide primary care are in family practice.



Internal medicine sub-specialties, emergency medicine, and radiology are the top specialties among Vermont physicians.

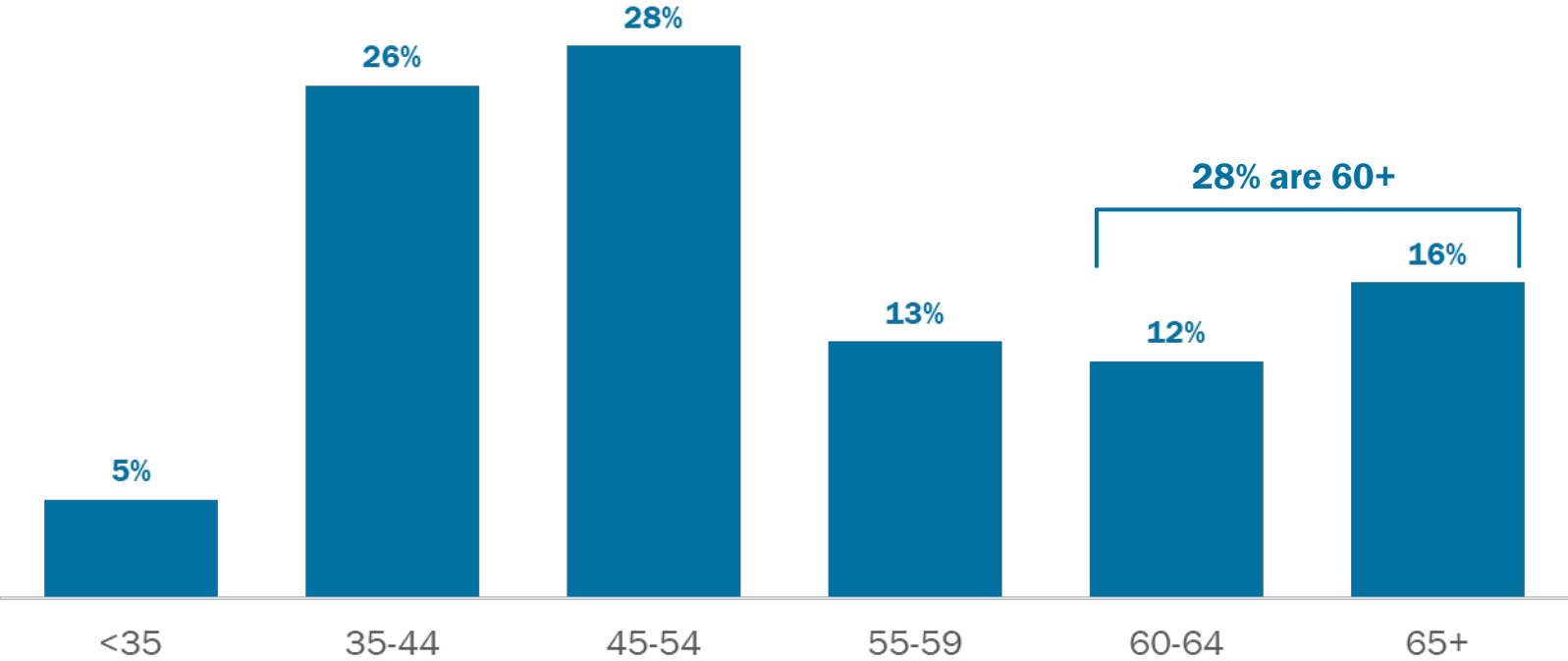


*Other surgery includes most other surgical specialties, such as vascular surgery, abdominal surgery, colon and rectal surgery, neurological surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, pediatric surgery, surgical critical care, and thoracic surgery.

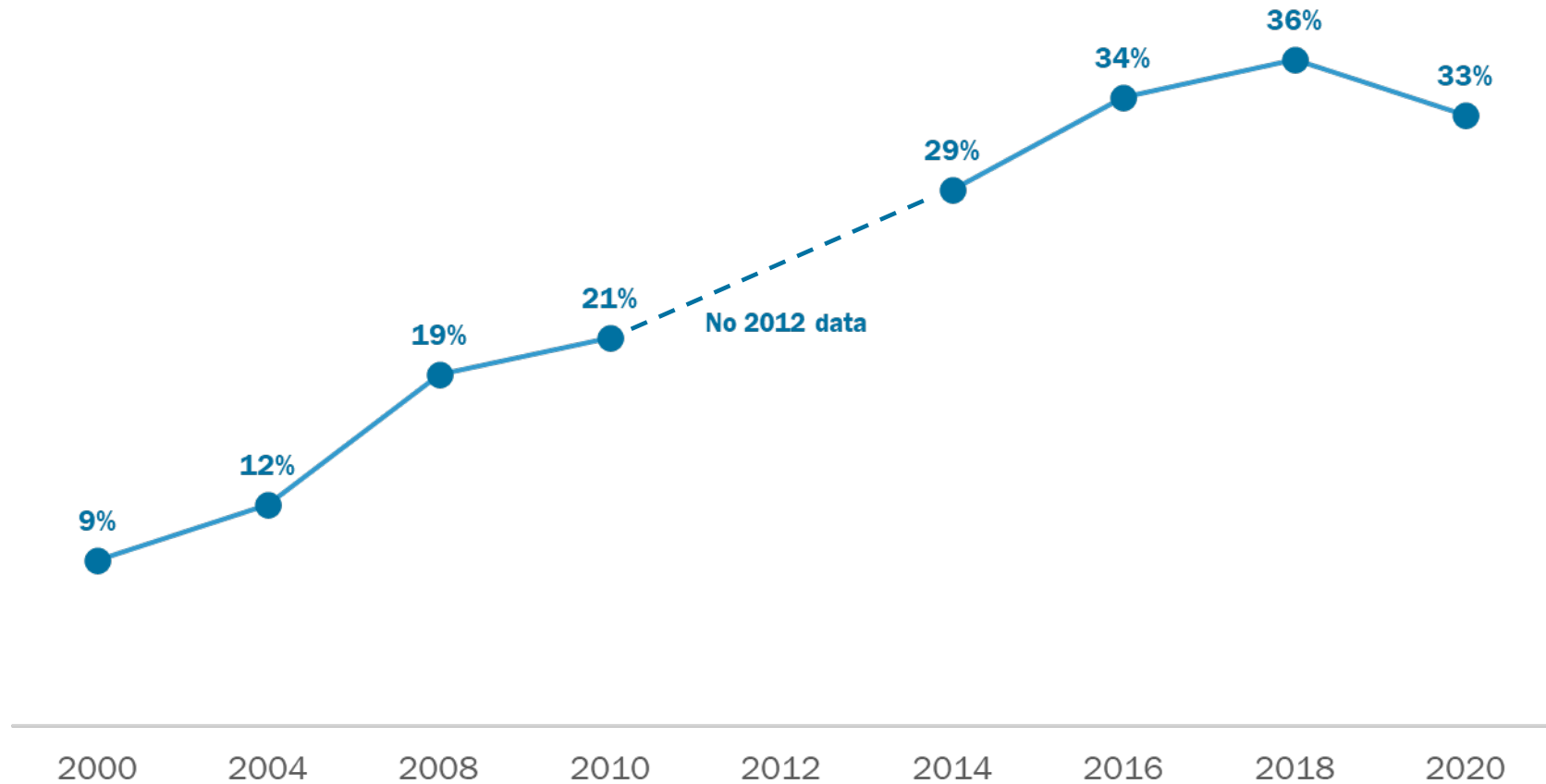
**Other specialties includes all specific specialties that are not included in the specialty groups listed above.

Age and Gender of Physicians

28% of all physicians are 60 or older.



From 2018 to 2020, the percentage of primary care physicians over age 60 decreased for the first time since 2000.



More primary care physicians are over 60 years old than specialty care physicians.

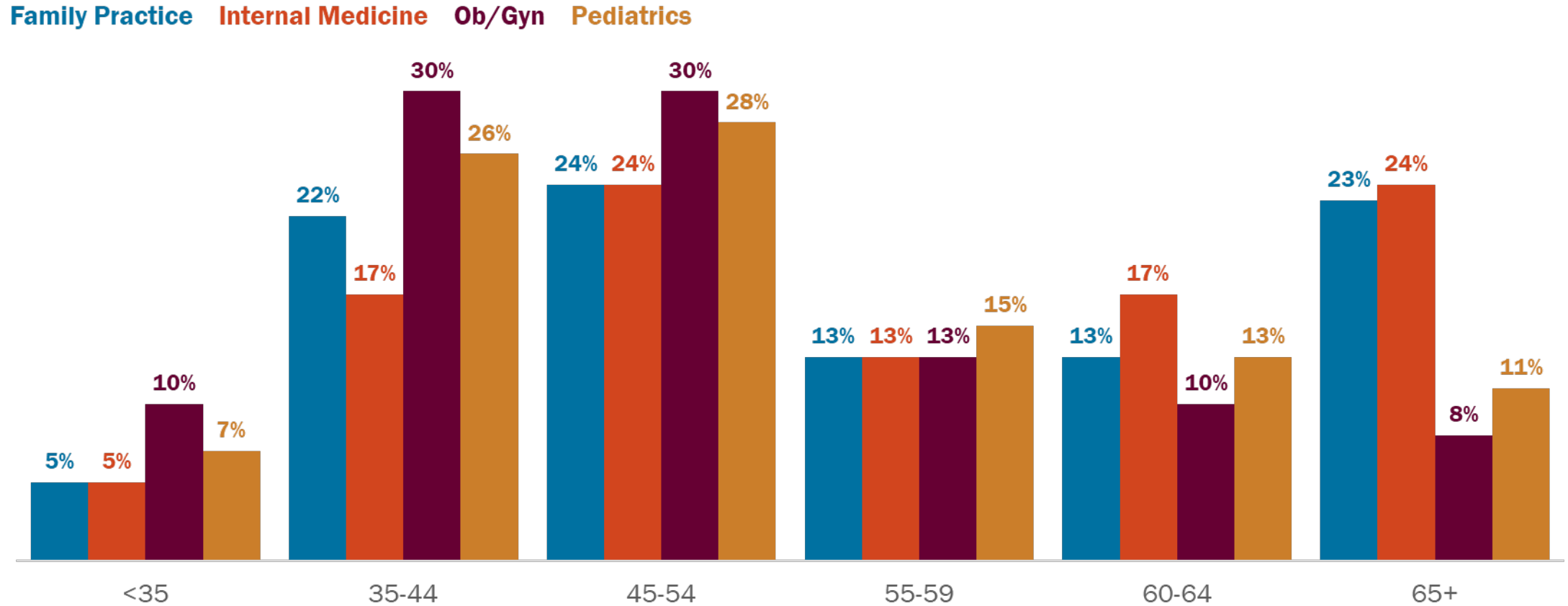
33% (187) of primary care physicians are 60 years or older, including...

- 36% of family practice physicians
- 40% of internal medicine physicians
- 17% of ob/gyns

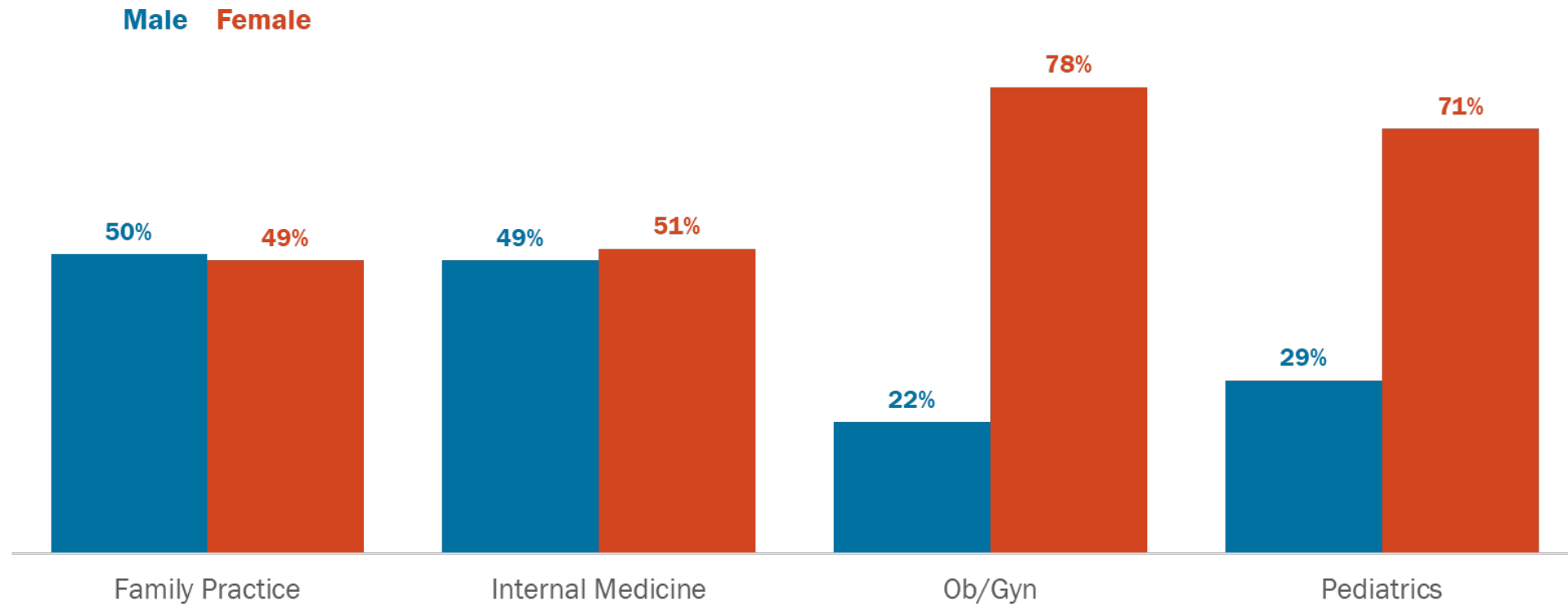
27% (550) of specialty care physicians are 60 years or older, including...

- 42% of psychiatrists
- 33% of urgent care physicians
- 32% of internal medicine physicians
- 29% of orthopedic surgeons

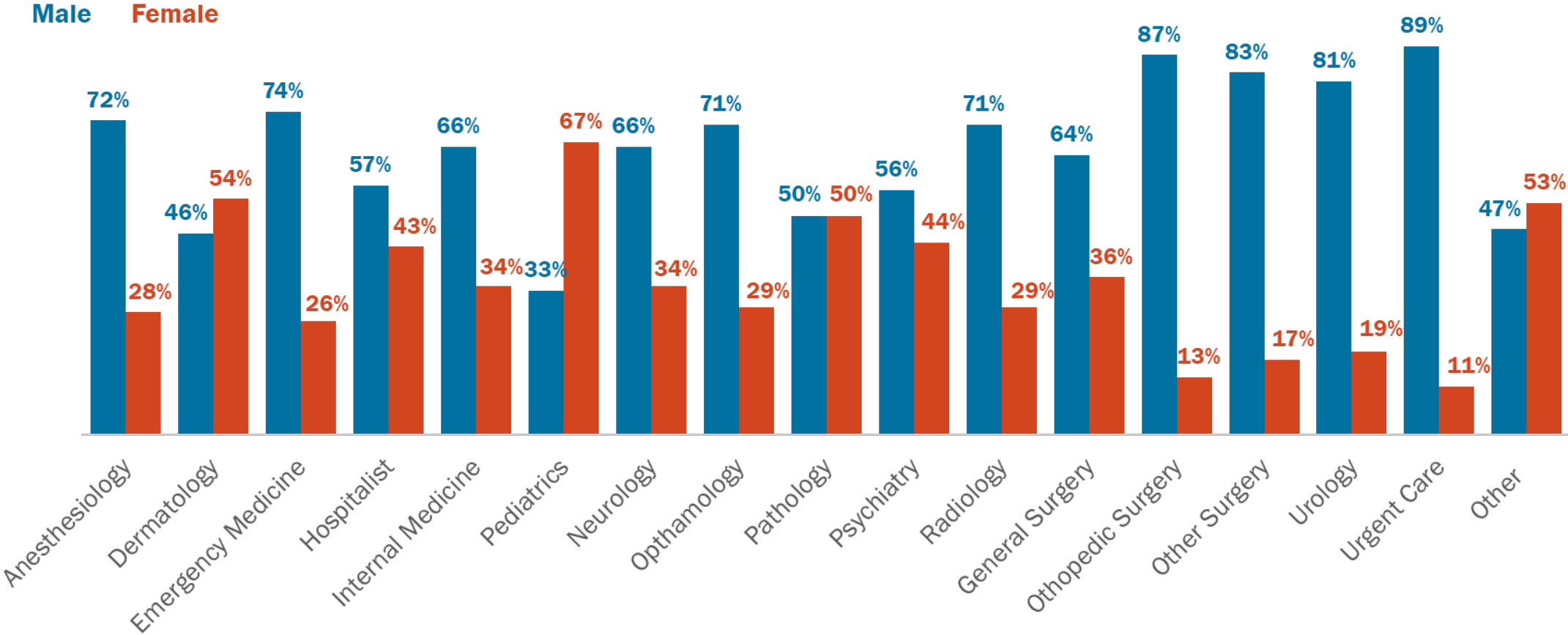
Age Distribution of Primary Care Physicians



41% of all Vermont physicians, including 57% of primary care physicians, are female.



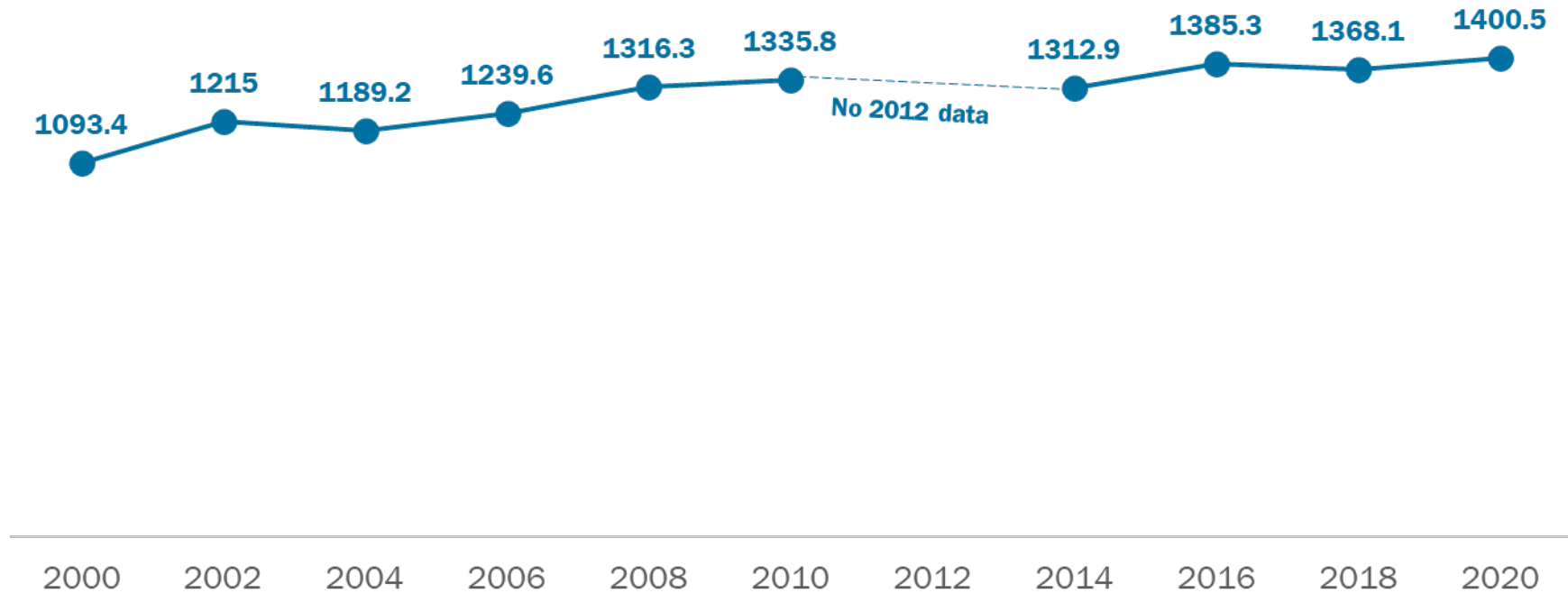
Most specialty care physicians are male.



Trends and Distribution of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

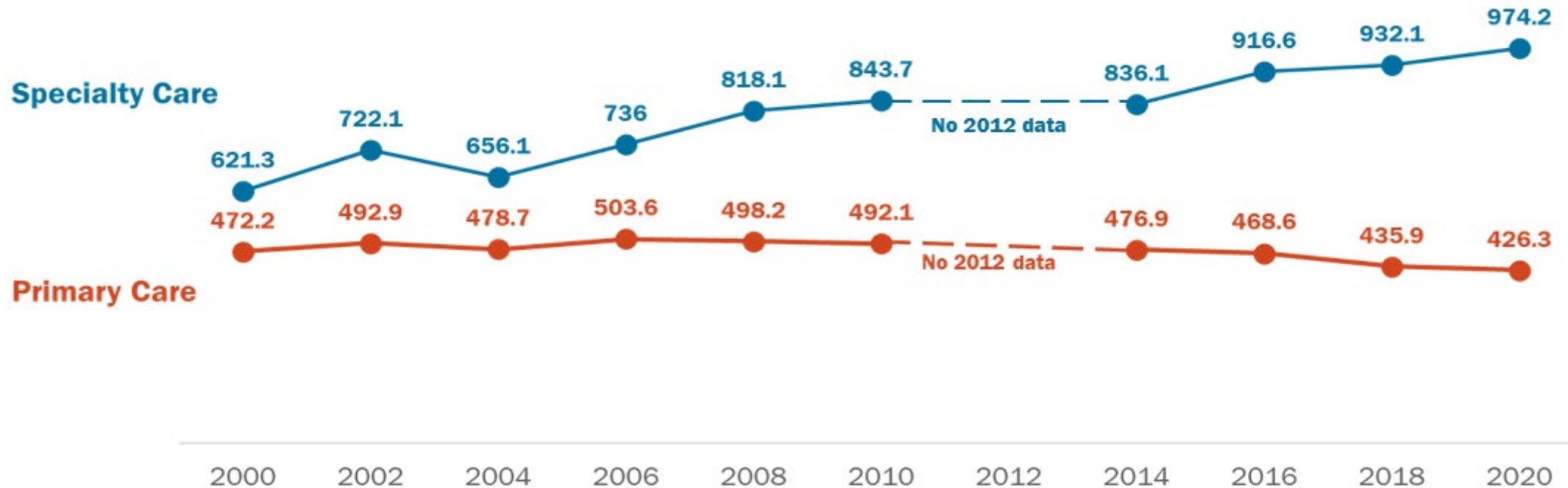
One FTE is defined as 40 hours or more per week, 48 weeks per year.

Total physician FTEs have increased slowly over time, with decreases in 2014 and 2018.



*There were not enough census responses in 2012 to use the data to prepare a report.

Specialty care FTEs have grown rapidly over time while primary care FTEs have slowly declined.

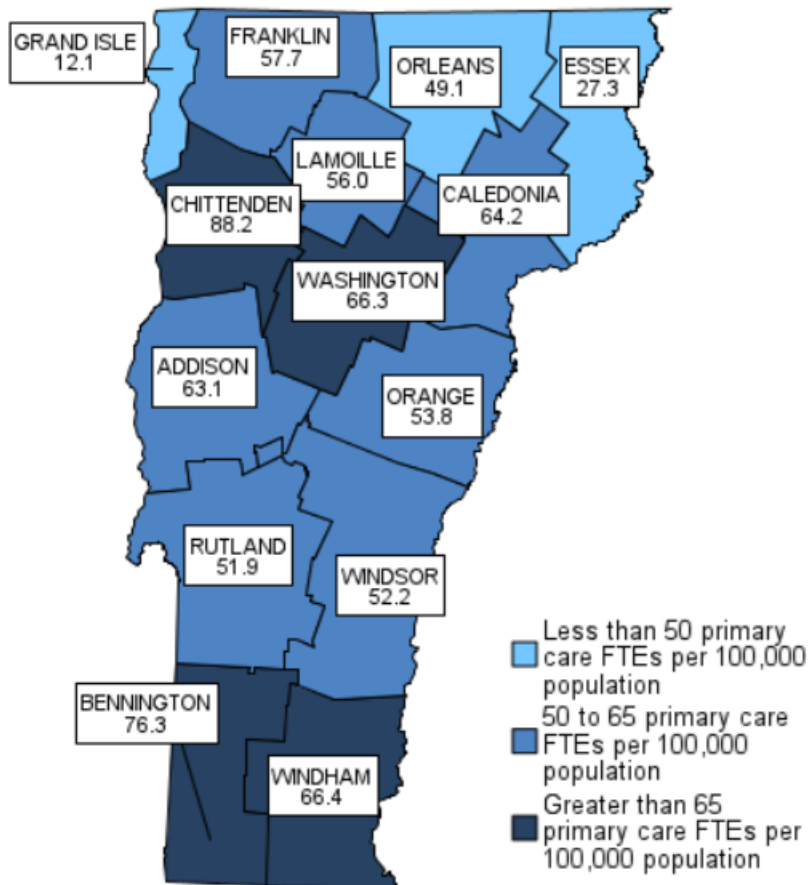


*FTEs for 2004 may be underestimated by as much as 4% overall

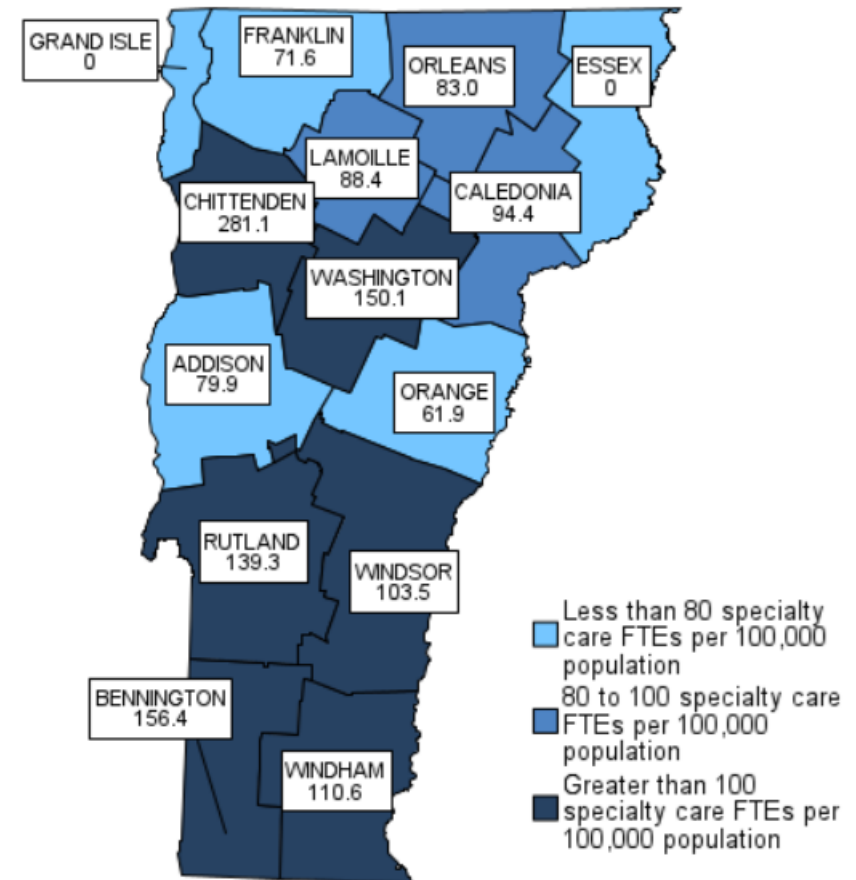
*FTEs not computed for pathology, radiology, and all telemedicine

Primary and Specialty care FTEs per 100,000 population.

Primary Care

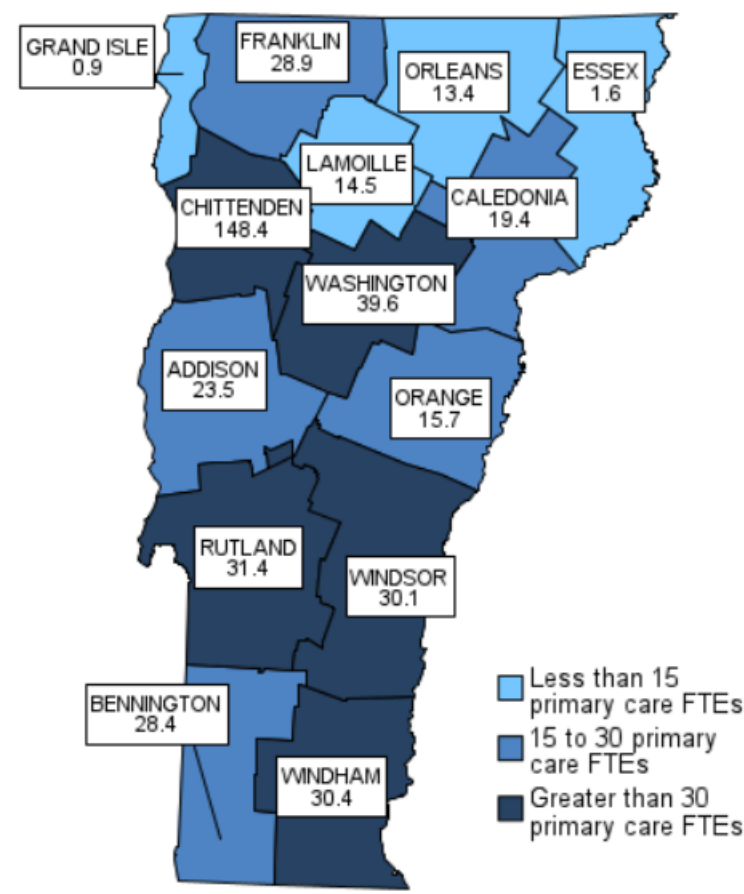


Specialty Care

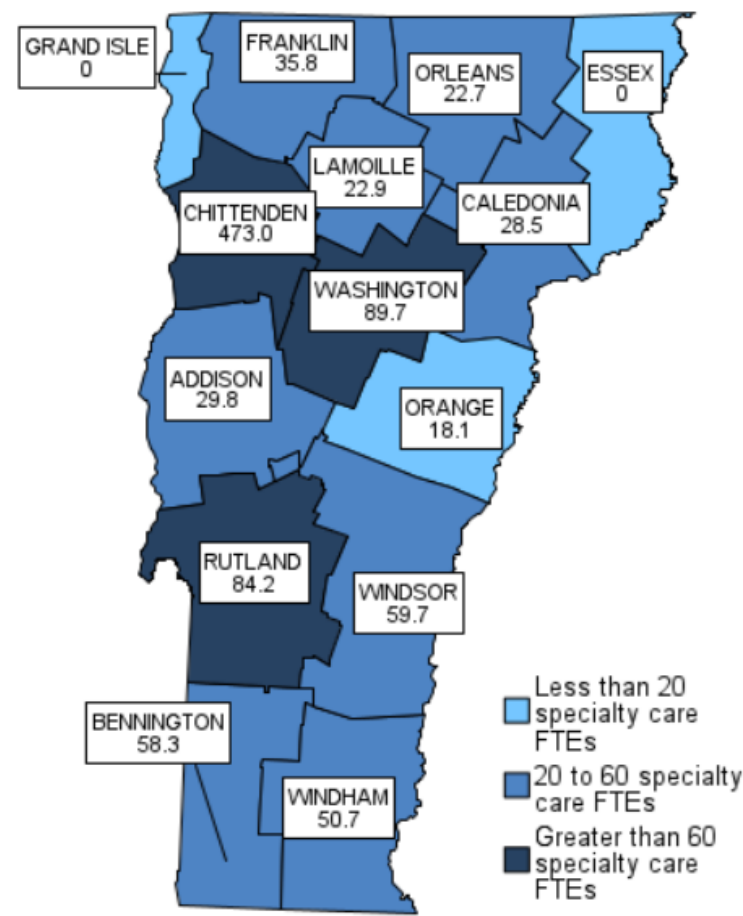


Physicians are highly concentrated in Chittenden County.

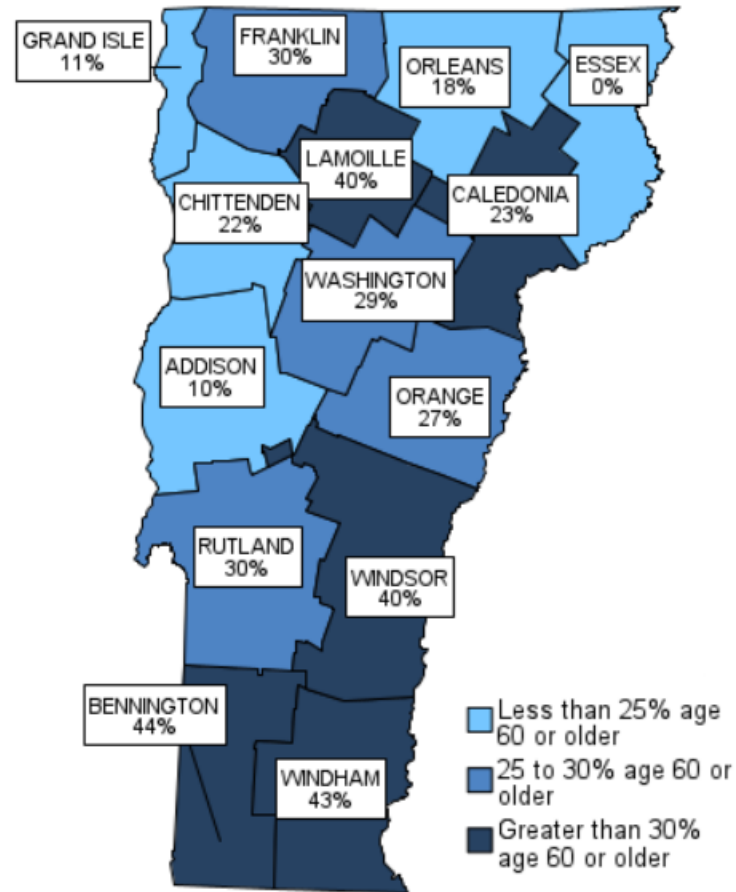
Primary Care



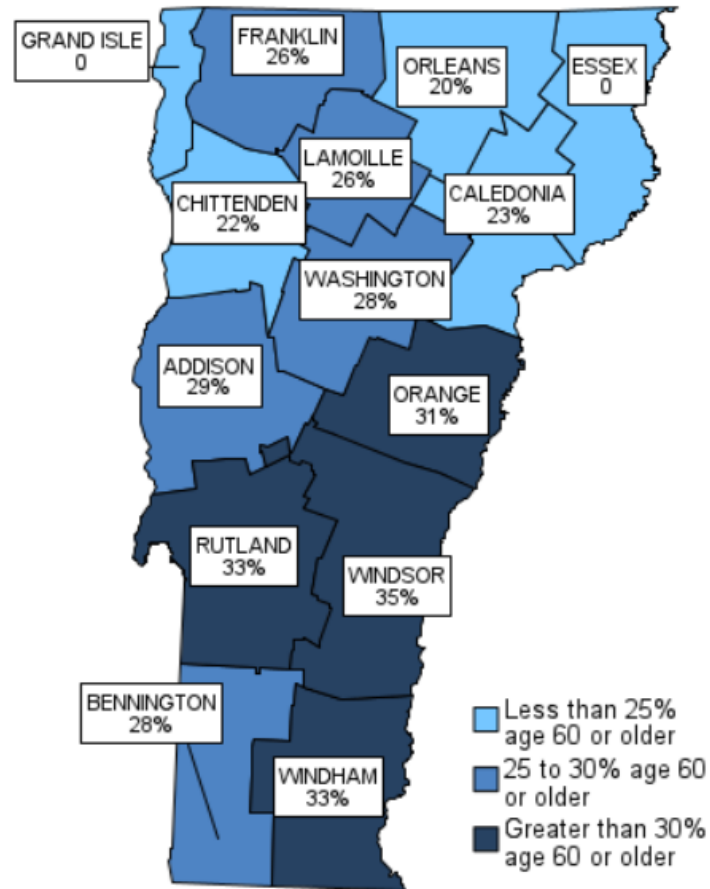
Specialty Care



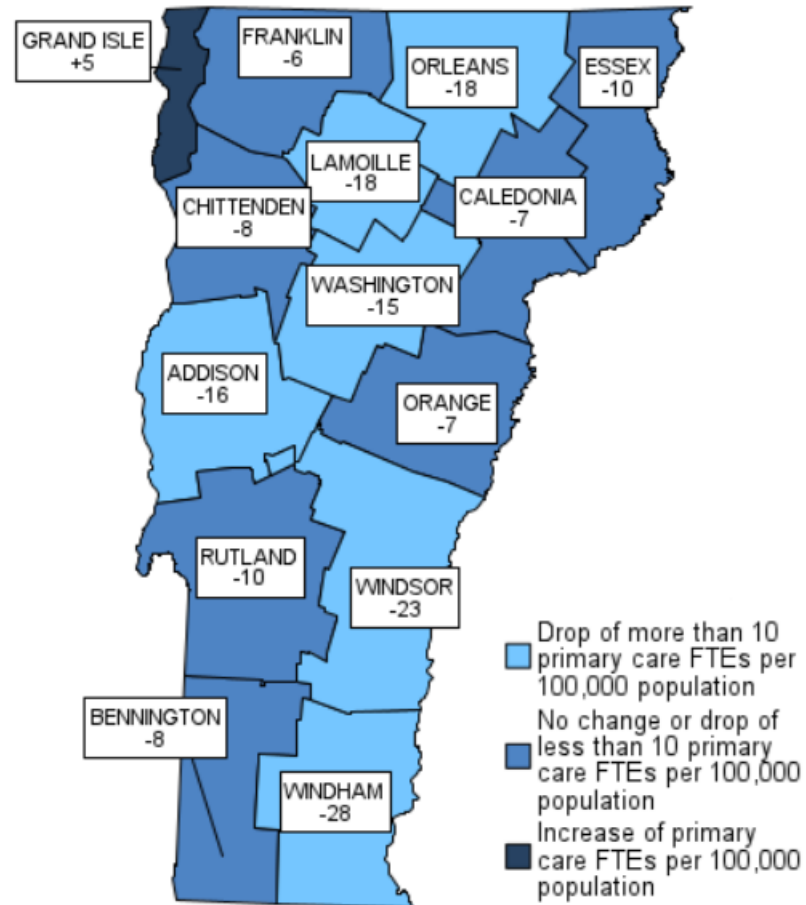
More primary care physicians are 60+ in southern Vermont.



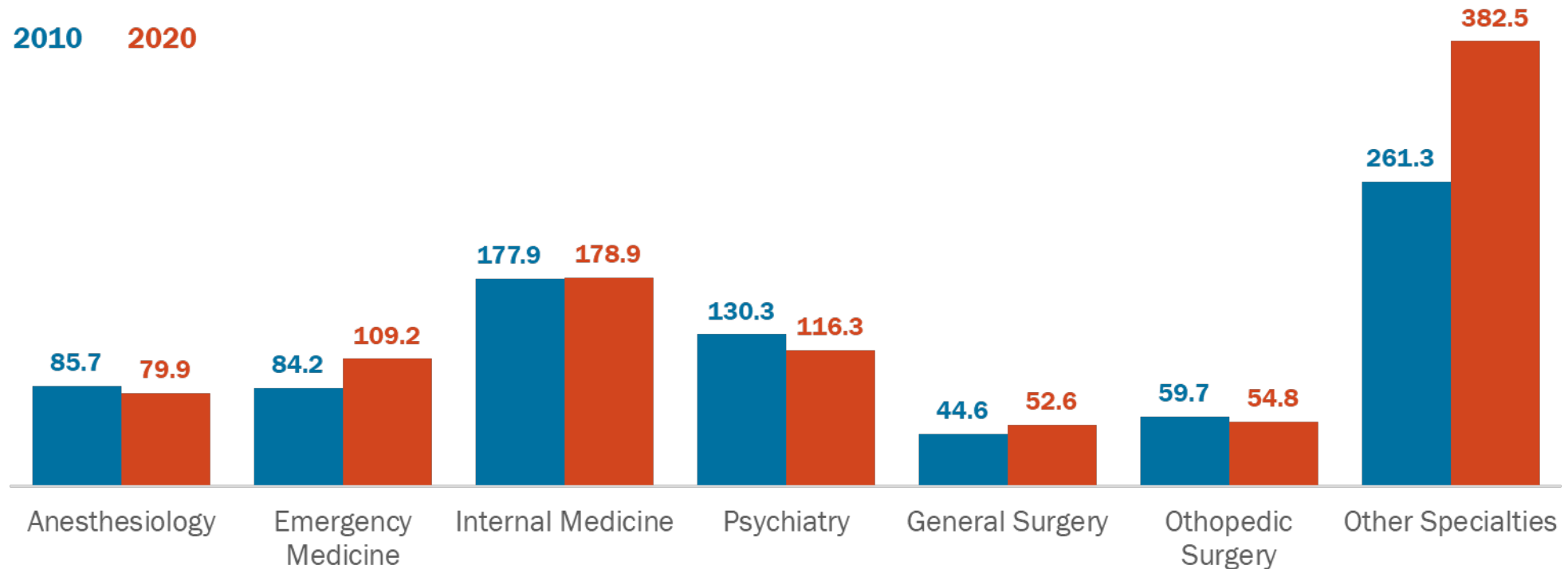
Distribution of specialty care physicians age 60+ is fairly consistent throughout Vermont.



For all counties except Grand Isle there was a decrease in primary care FTE to 100,000 population ratios from 2010 to 2020.

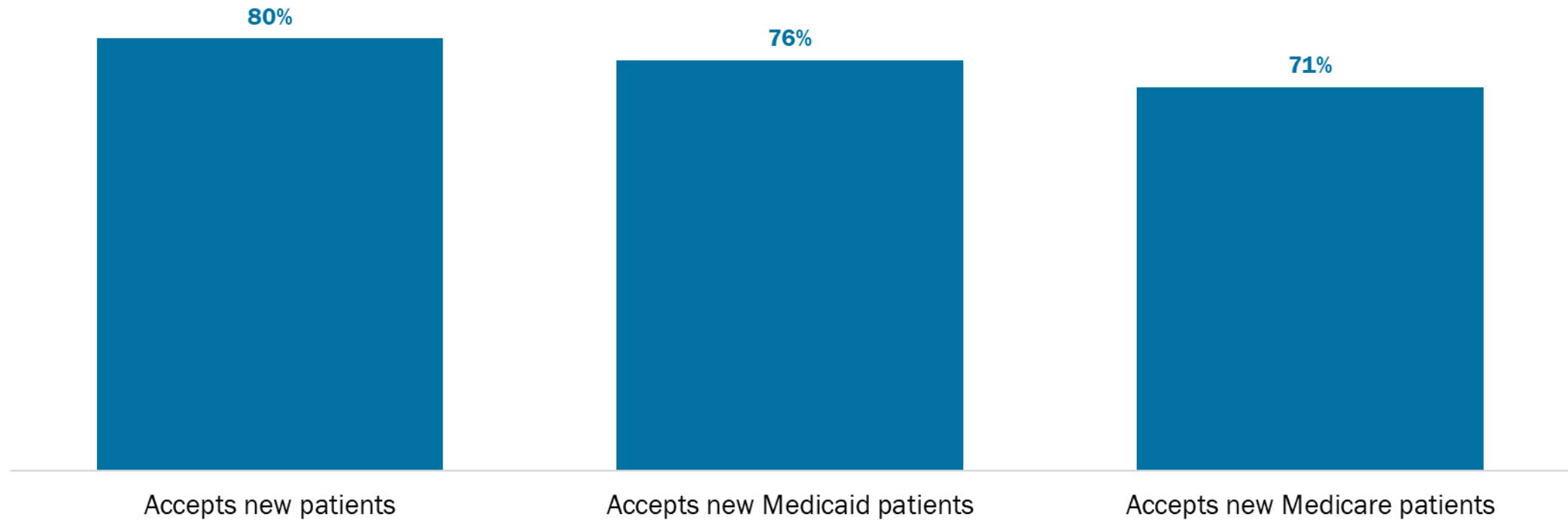


There were larger FTE increases in emergency medicine and other specialties from 2010 to 2020. FTE decreases occurred in anesthesiology, psychiatry, and orthopedic surgery.

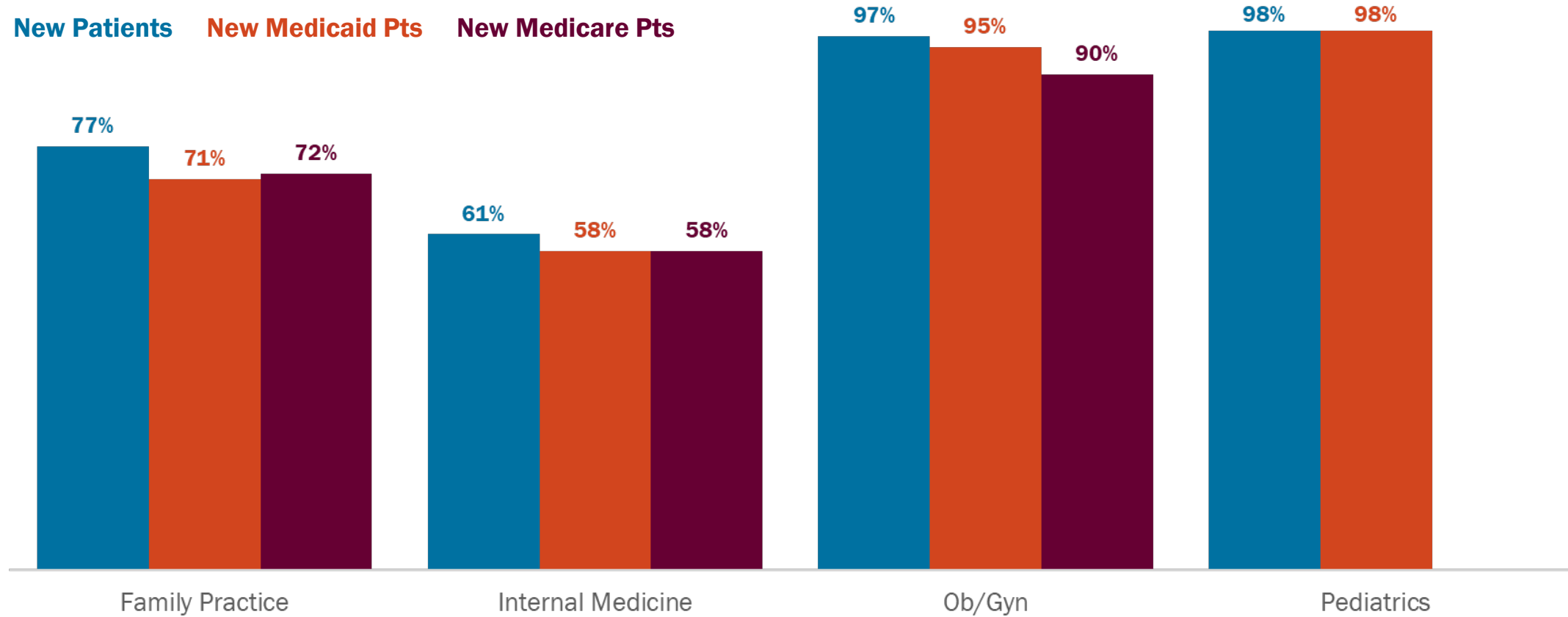


Practice Availability

80% of primary care physicians accept new patients while 76% accept new Medicaid patients and 71% accept new Medicare patients.



Some primary care physicians, especially internists, are not accepting new patients.



Primary care acceptance of new patients varies by county.

	ADD	BEN	CAL	CHI	ESS	FRA	GI	LAM	ORA	ORL	RUT	WAS	WDM	WDR
New Patients	83%	70%	83%	73%	46%	93%	11%	85%	96%	84%	96%	87%	82%	84%
New Medicaid Patients	77%	66%	81%	68%	46%	87%	11%	85%	94%	84%	96%	87%	82%	77%
New Medicare Patients	80%	61%	76%	62%	40%	65%	11%	84%	92%	89%	88%	85%	74%	77%

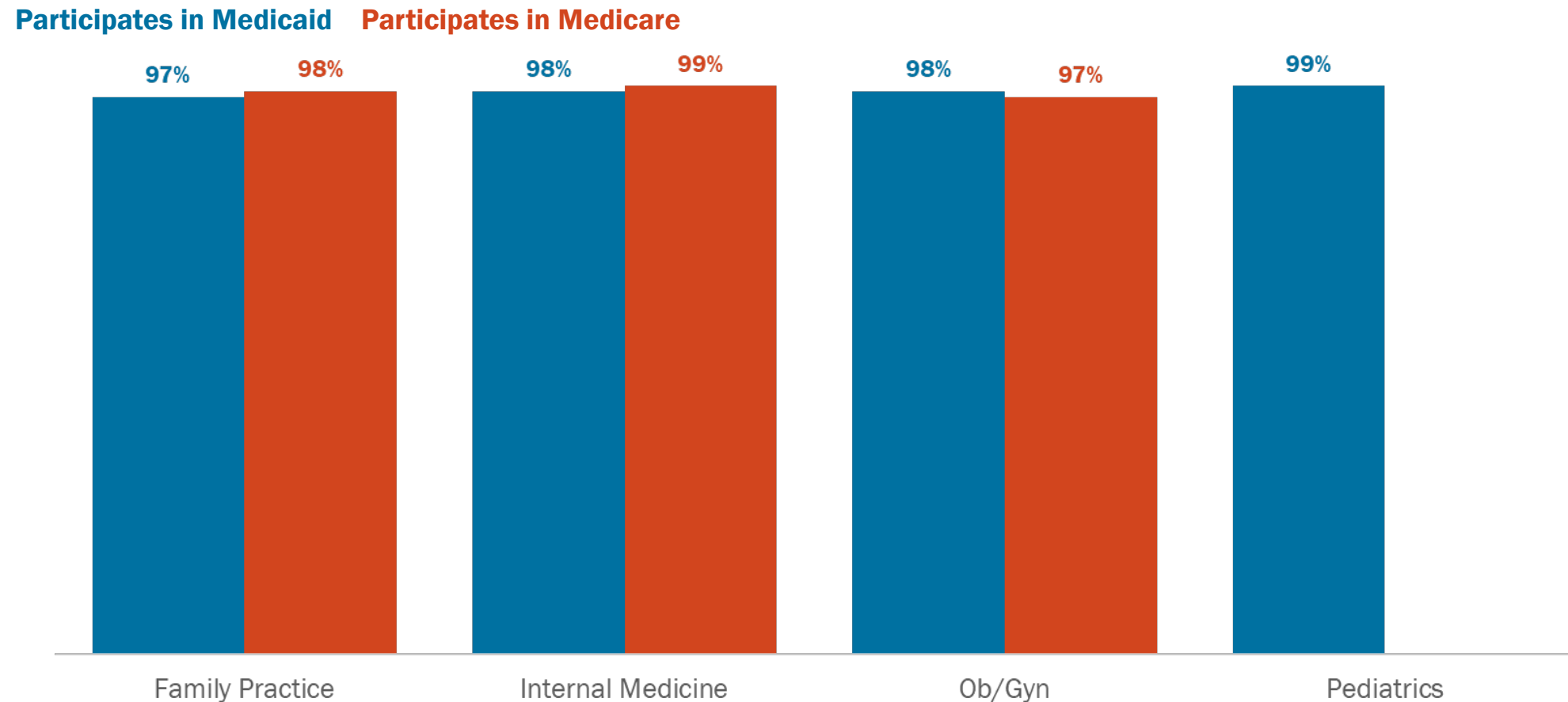
- Franklin, Orange and Rutland Counties have the highest rates of new patient acceptance.
- Franklin, Orange, Rutland, and Washington Counties have the highest rates of new Medicaid patient acceptance.
- Orange, Orleans, and Rutland Counties have the highest rates of new Medicare patient acceptance.

Most specialty care physicians are accepting new patients.

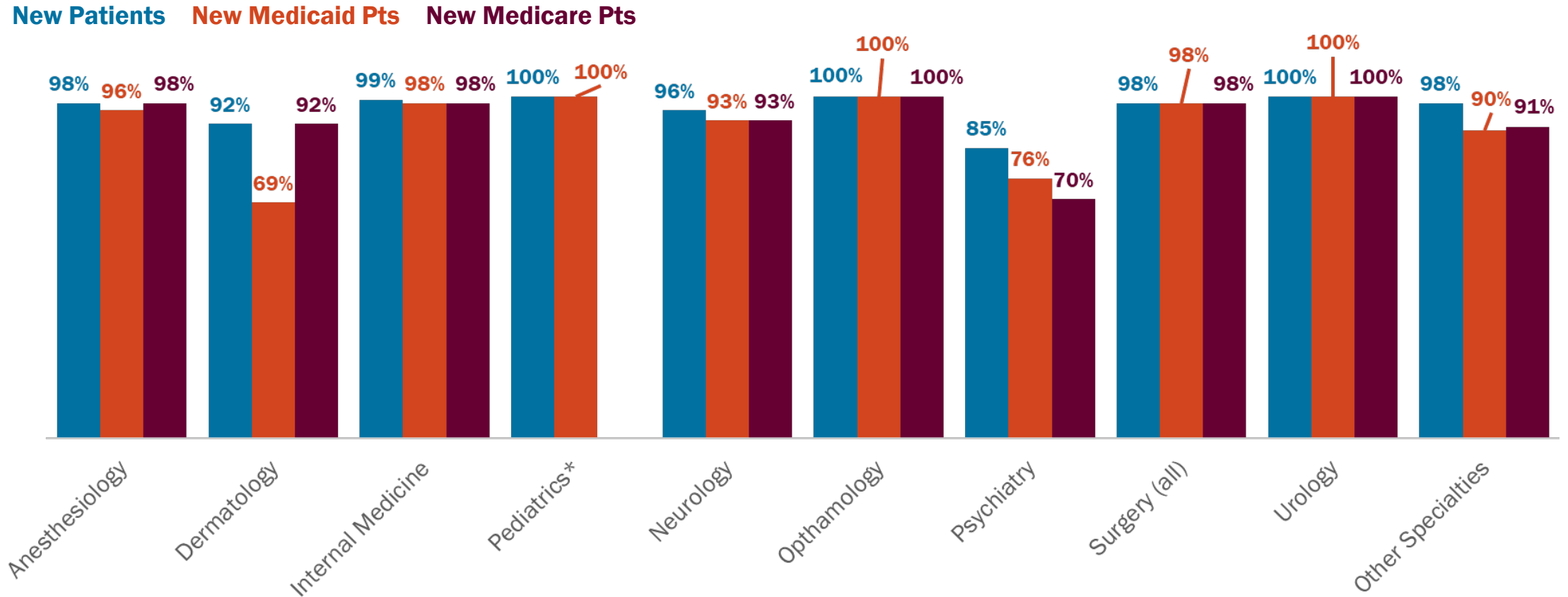
	ADD	BEN	CAL	CHI	ESS	FRA	GI	LAM	ORA	ORL	RUT	WAS	WDM	WDR
New Patients	96%	100%	100%	97%	n/a	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	92%	99%	100%
New Medicaid Patients	96%	89%	100%	94%	n/a	100%	100%	99%	97%	100%	96%	87%	97%	90%
New Medicare Patients	92%	94%	100%	93%	n/a	100%	0%	96%	93%	93%	100%	89%	97%	94%

- Eight counties, Bennington, Caledonia, Franklin, Grand Isle, Orange, Orleans, Rutland and Windsor, are accepting 100% of new patients.
- More than 86% of new Medicaid and Medicare patients are accepted across all counties.
- Overall, specialty care physicians have a higher acceptance rate than primary care physicians for all patients.

98% of all primary care physicians participate in Medicaid and Medicare.



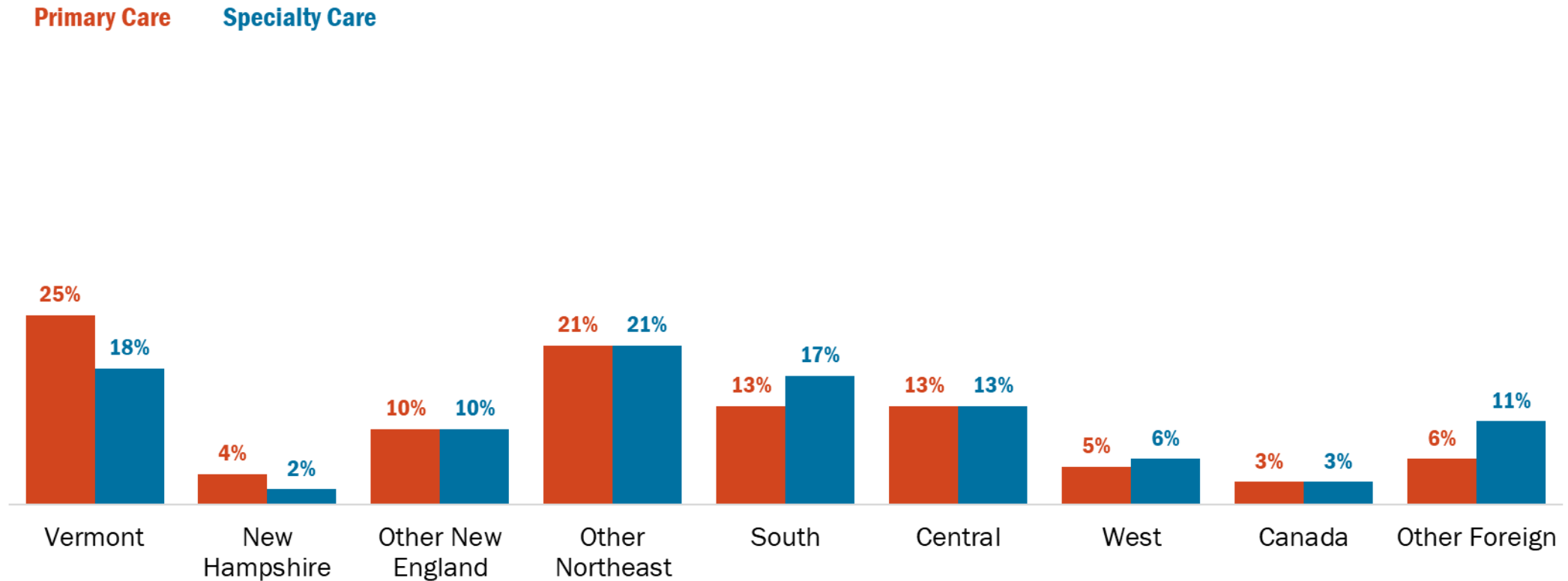
96% of specialty care physicians participate in Medicaid while 97% participate in Medicare.



*Medicare covers people aged 65 and older and younger people with disabilities.

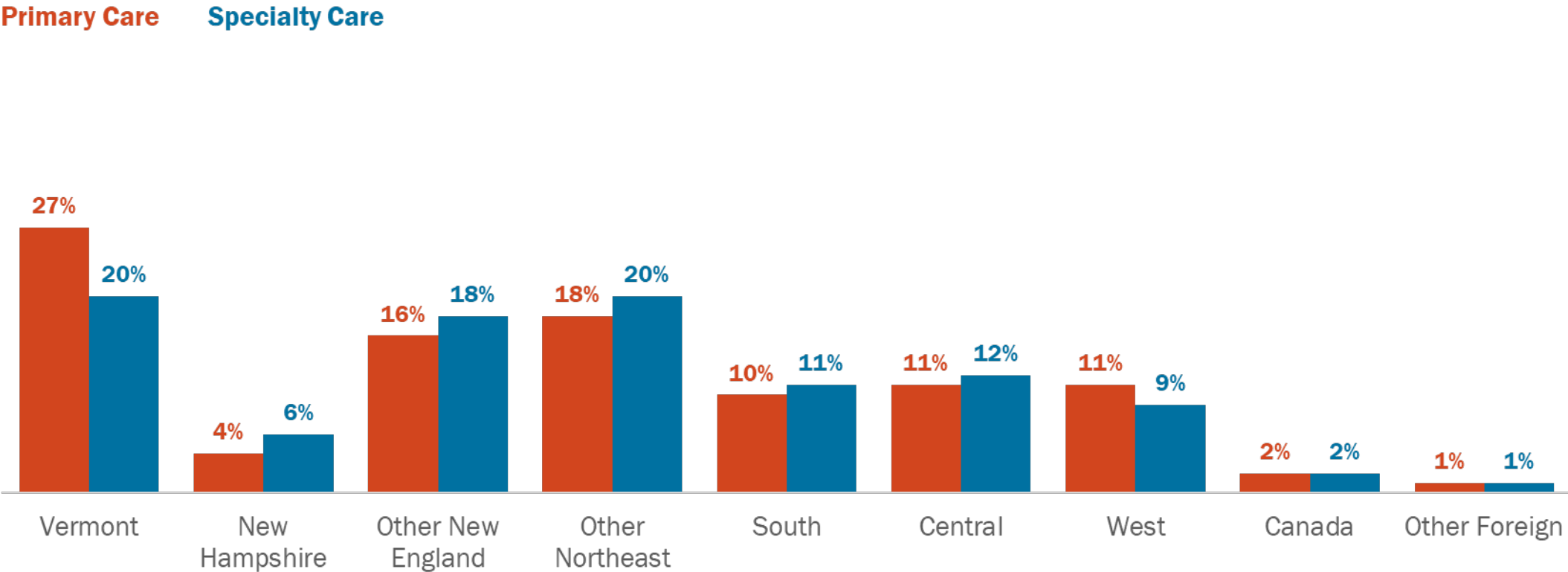
Education, Training, and Future Plans

Primary care physicians are more likely to have graduated from medical school in New England than specialty care physicians.

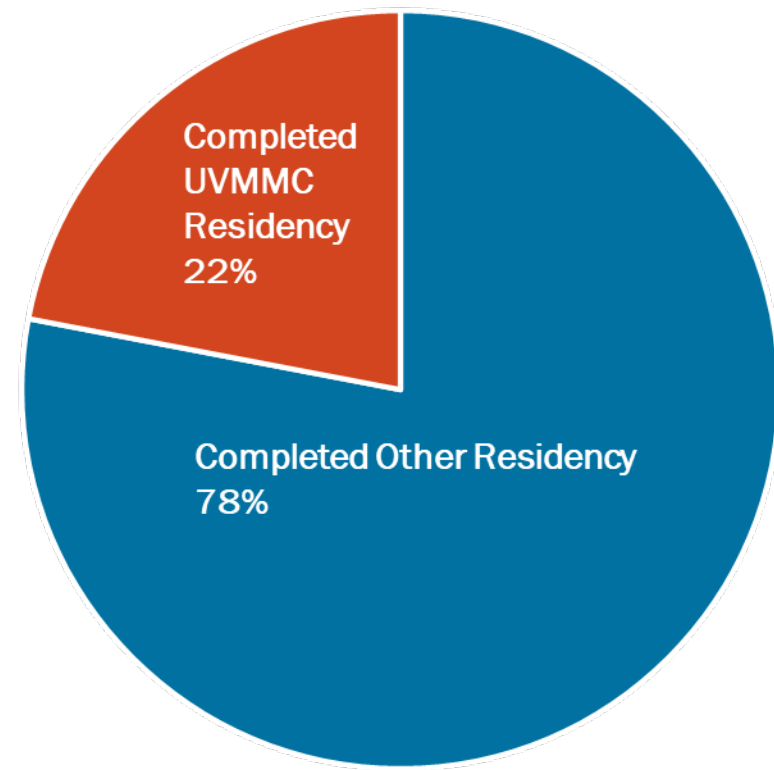
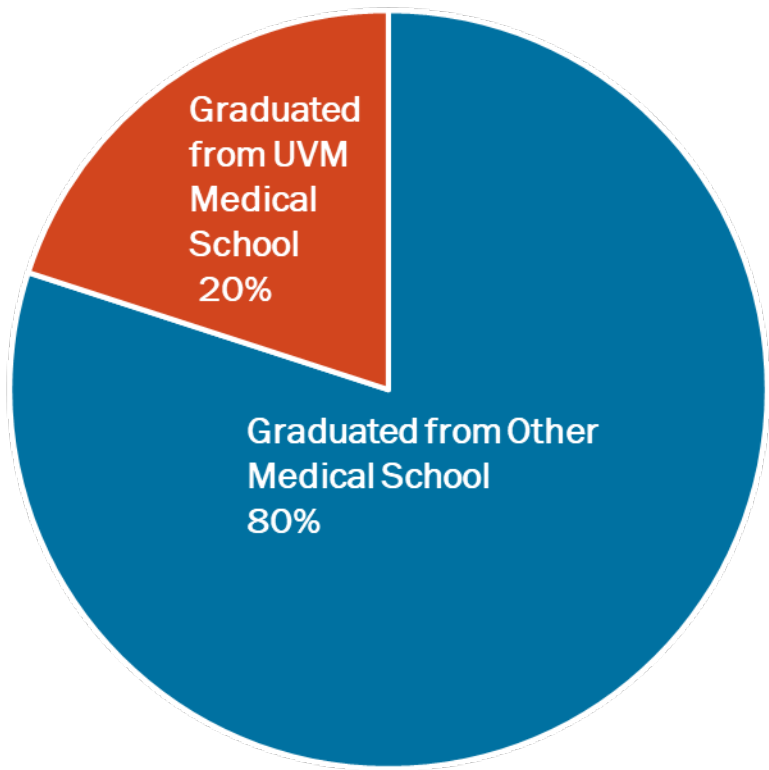


*State of medical school is not known for 4 primary care physicians and 10 specialty care physicians.

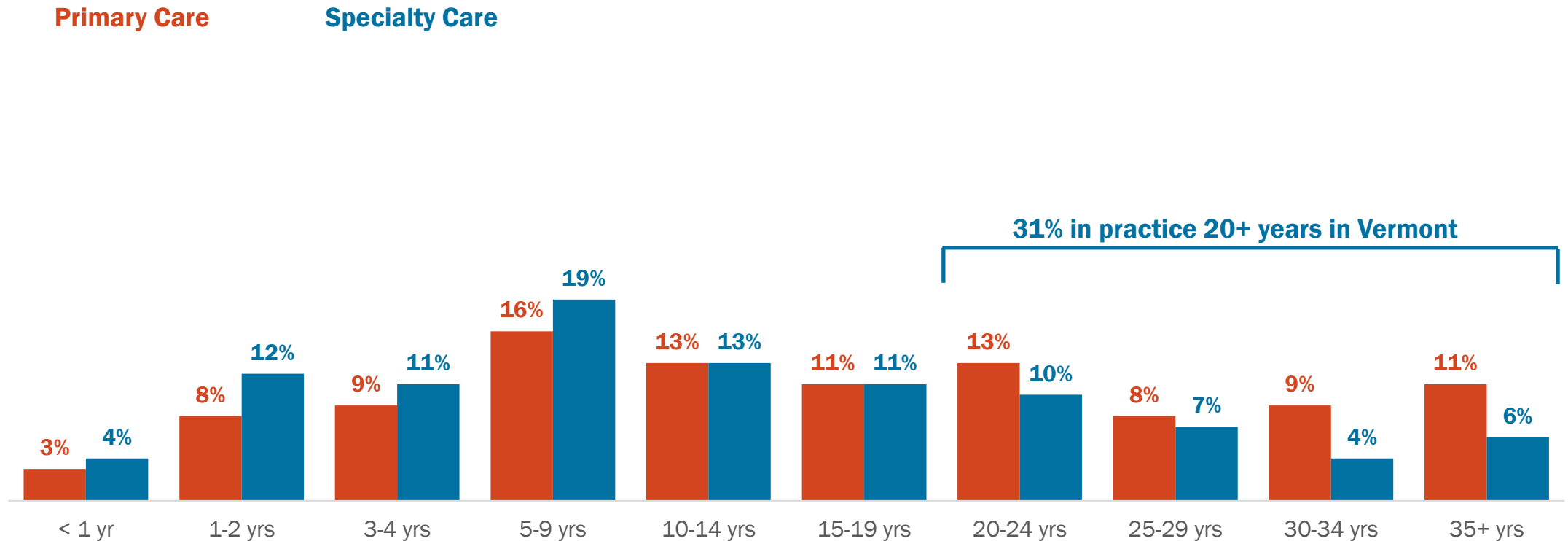
Primary care physicians are more likely to have received residency training in New England than specialty care physicians.



33% of Vermont's physicians have attended the University of Vermont's College of Medicine and/or have completed a residency or fellowship there.

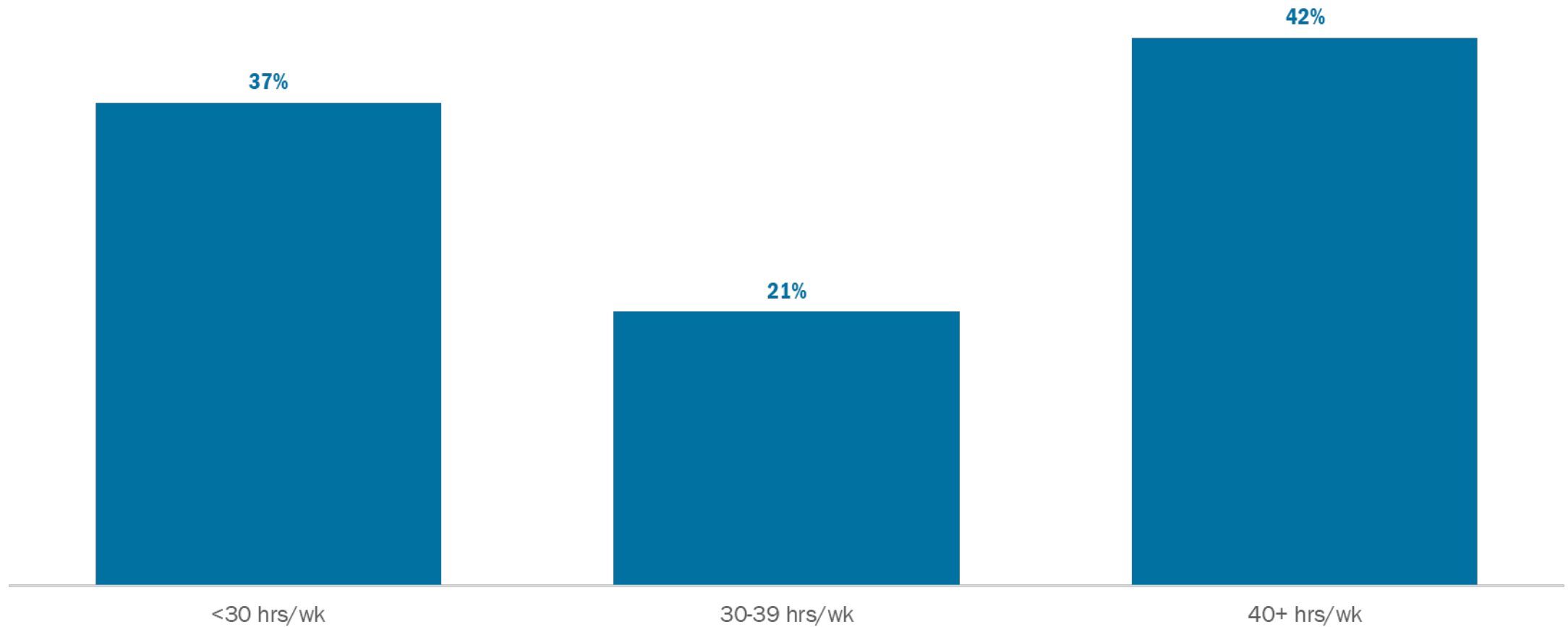


41% of Primary Care and 27% of Specialty Care physicians have been in practice 20 years or more in Vermont.

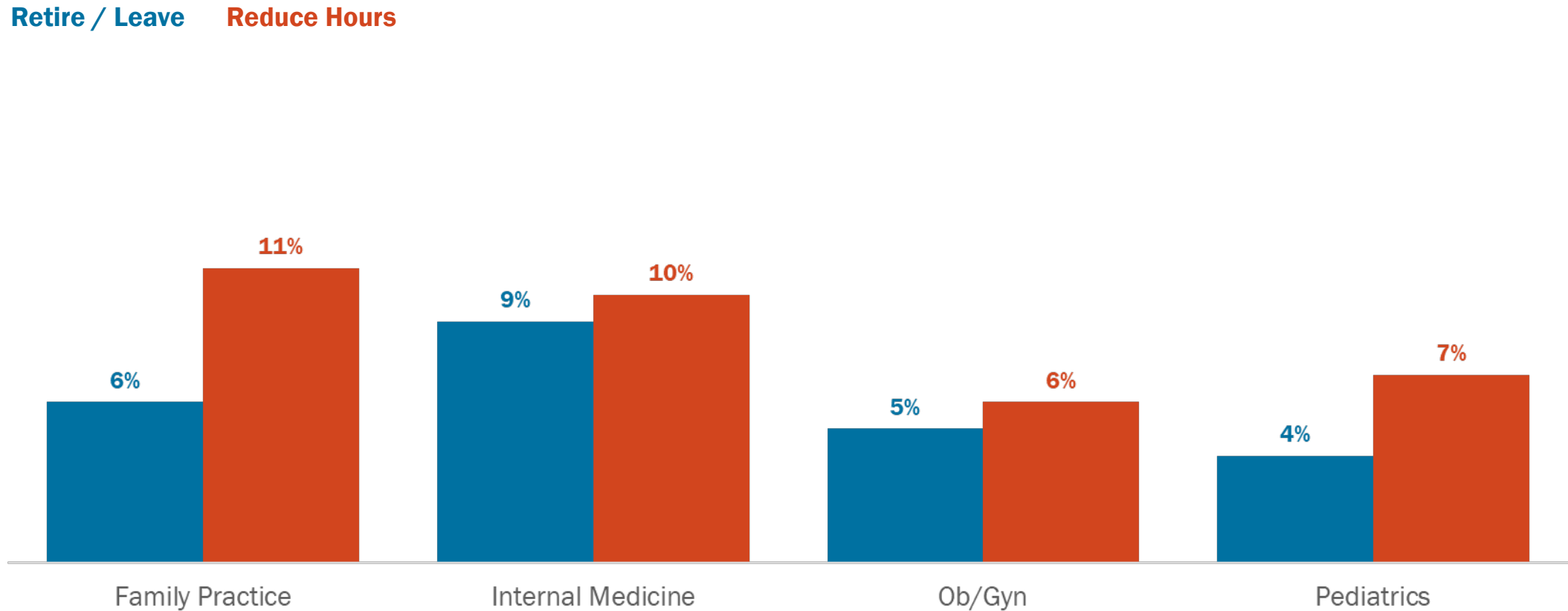


- * X axis bars do not all cover an equal time period
- * Excludes all telemedicine, even VT-specific telemedicine

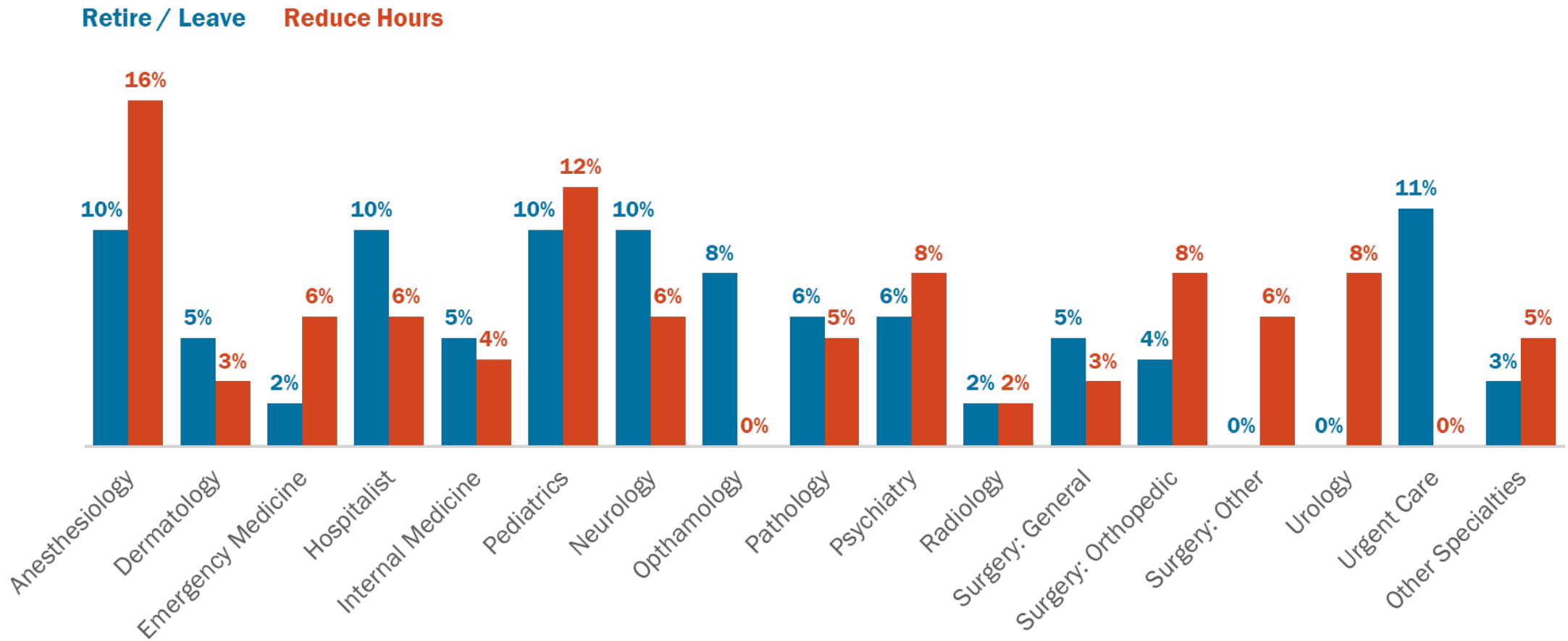
More than 60% of physicians work 30+ hours per week. Average hours per week for all ages is 33 hours, average hours for age 65+ is 26 hours.



16% of primary care physicians are planning to retire or reduce hours in Vermont within 12 months.



11% of specialty care physicians are planning to retire or reduce hours in Vermont within 12 months.



For more information, contact us.

- 1 Email: AHS.VDHPhysicianCensus@vermont.gov
- 2 Mail: Health Care Workforce Census
Dept. of Health, Health Statistics and Informatics
280 State Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-8370
- 3 [Health Care Workforce | Vermont Department of Health](#)
- 4 [2020 Physician Census Statistical Report](#)