



2022 Physician Assistant Summary Report

July 2026

Physician Assistant Census In Brief

- Physician assistants took the census online during the 2022 Vermont license renewal
 - Survey has been conducted every two years since 1998
 - Data is self-reported
- 100% of physician assistants renewing their license completed the census

Key Takeaways

- 402 physician assistants* provide patient care in Vermont.
- Between 2012 and 2022, the number of physician assistants in primary care increased from 98 to 110, and the number in specialty care increased from 142 to 292.
- 12% of all physician assistants are 60 or older.
- 62% of physician assistants are female.

* including anesthesiologist and radiologist assistants

402 physician assistants provided patient care in Vermont in 2022.

- Anesthesiology assistants (AAs) and radiology assistants (RAs) are included in this report along with the physician assistants (PAs).
- This does not include physician assistants who maintain Vermont licenses but do not practice in Vermont.

Comparison of Selected Physician Assistant Data, 2008-2022

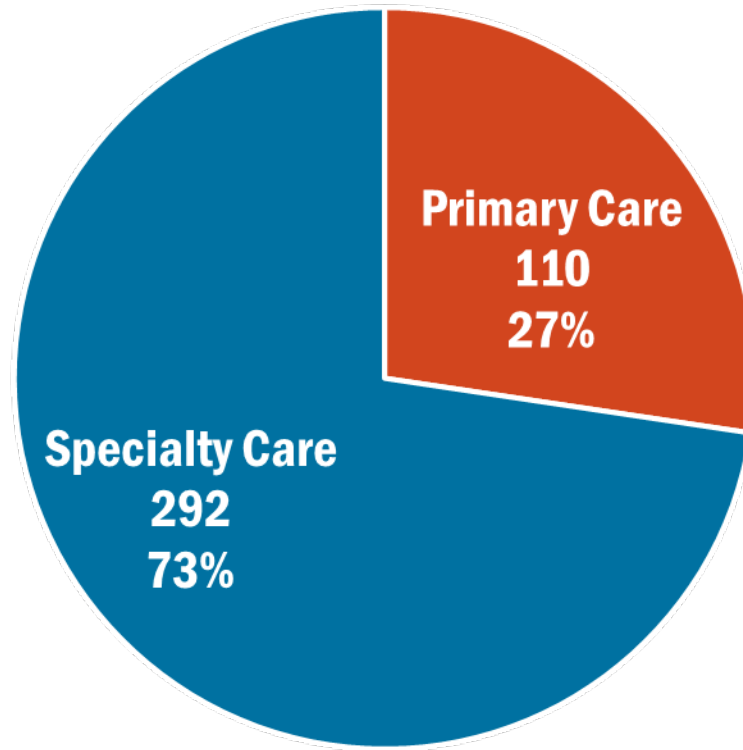
	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Total active* physician assistants	191	202	240	264	308	355	356	402
Percent female	58%	60%	57%	61%	61%	63%	62%	62%
Primary care physician assistants	85	83	98	103	106	111	114	110
% accepting new patients**	85%	82%	88%	83%	93%	87%	92%	90%
% accepting new Medicaid patients	66%	73%	78%	80%	88%	84%	88%	89%
% accepting new Medicare patients	77%	73%	82%	77%	88%	87%	85%	88%
Primary care physician assistant FTEs***	64.8	67	76.6	80	82.5	87.1	93.3	87.5
PC FTEs per 100,000 population	10.4	10.8	12.2	12.8	13.2	14	15	13.5
Specialty care physician assistants***	106	119	142	161	202	244	242	292
Specialty care physician assistants FTEs	93.9	105.7	123.3	139.2	171.9	204.7	204	238.7

*Providing patient care in Vermont, ** % of physician assistants not sites,

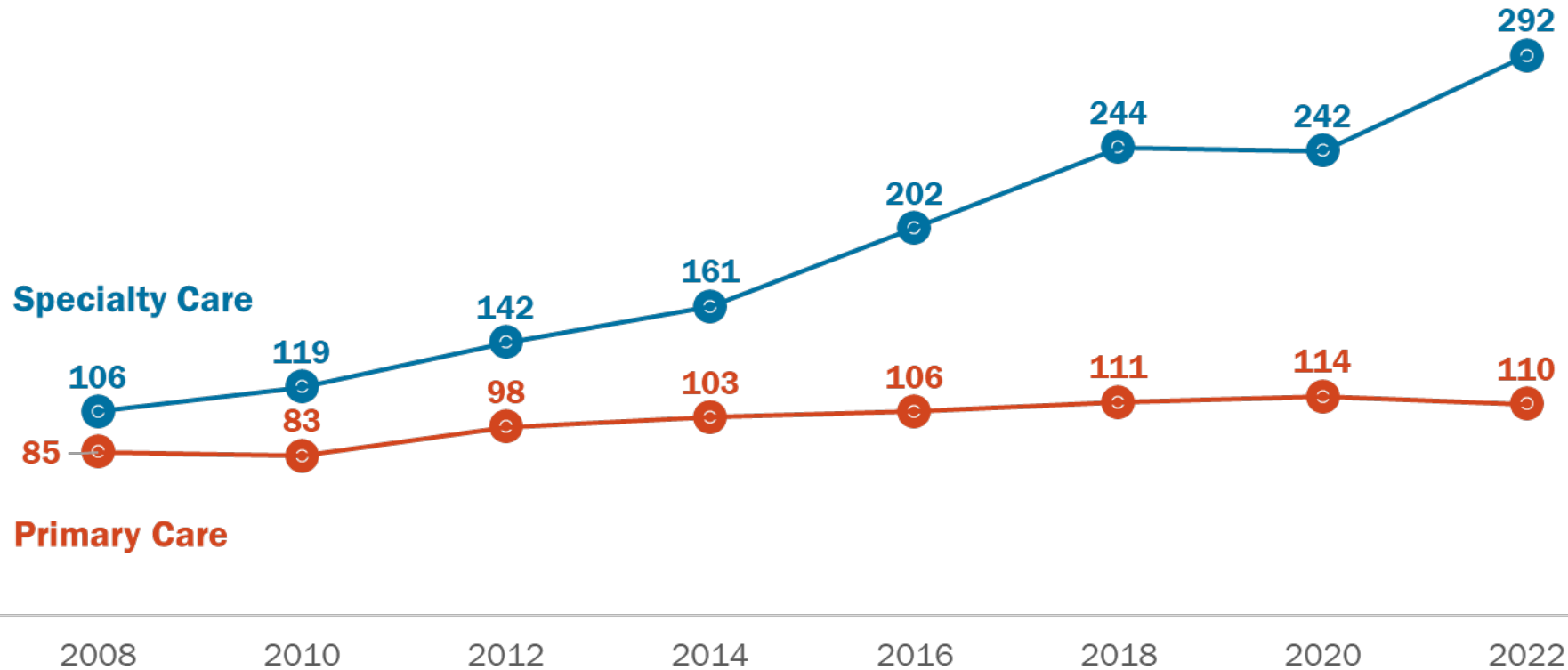
*** Anesthesiologist assistants weren't a separate license type in 2002 and have been added into the PA report since 2012.

Hospitalists and Urgent Care were not listed as specialties until 2012.

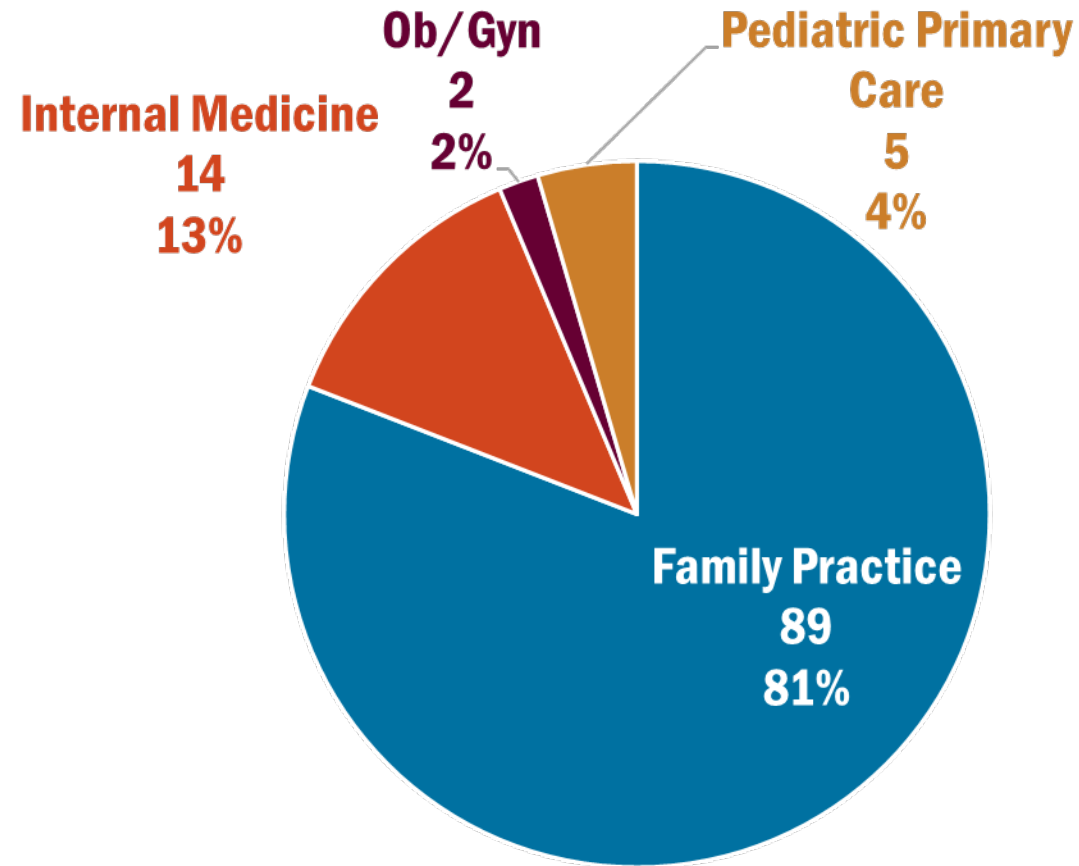
27% of Vermont physician assistants work in primary care.



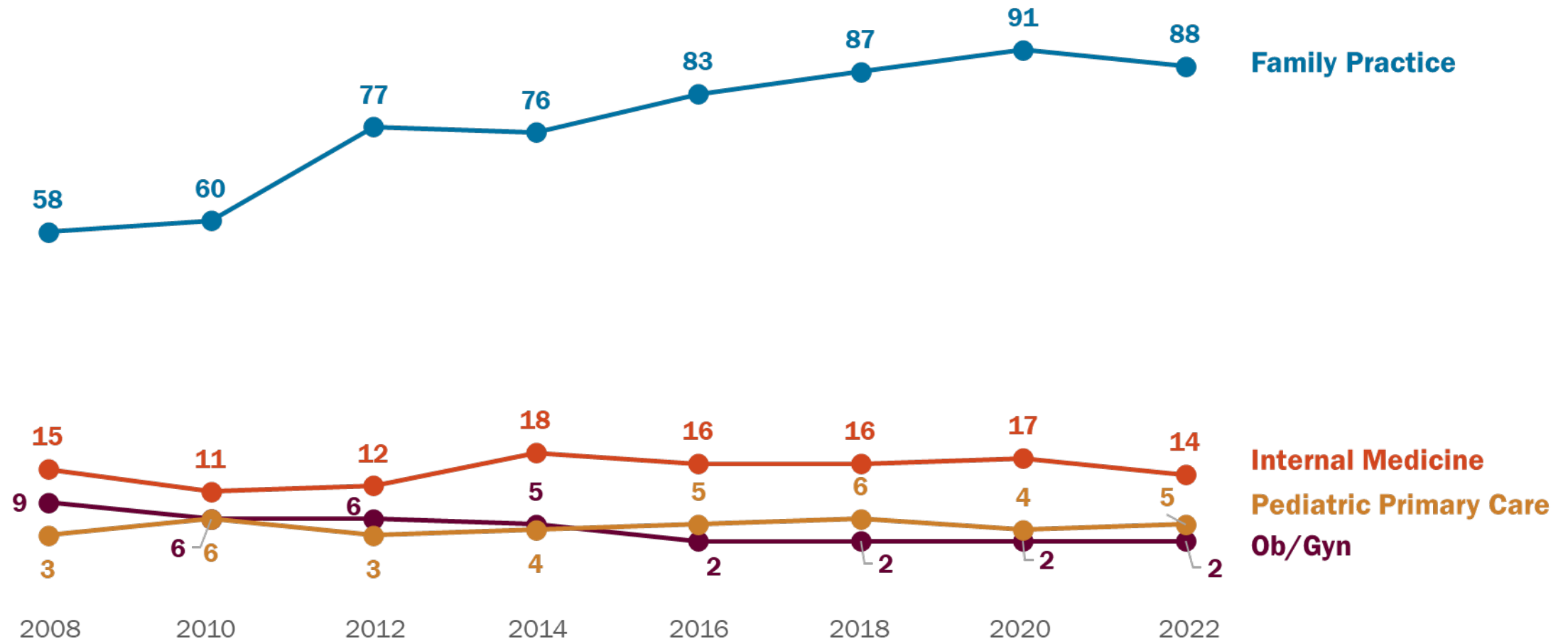
The number of specialty care physician assistants increased by 175% since 2008, while the number of primary care physician assistants has increased more slowly.



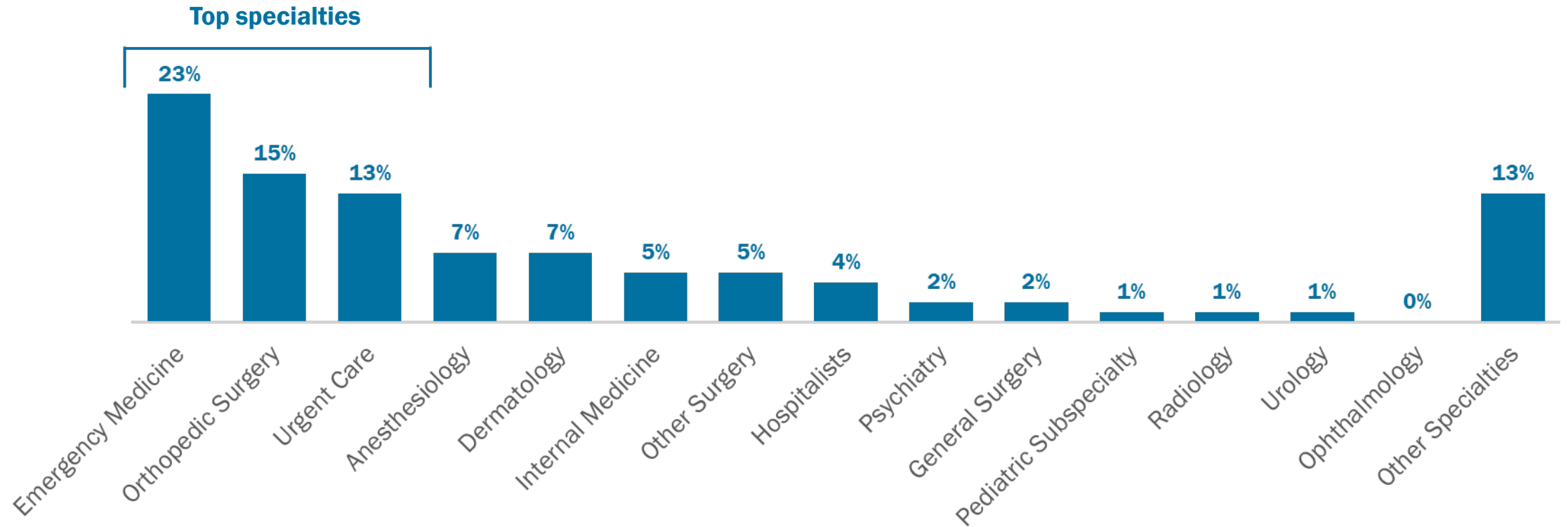
81% of physician assistants provide primary care in family practice.



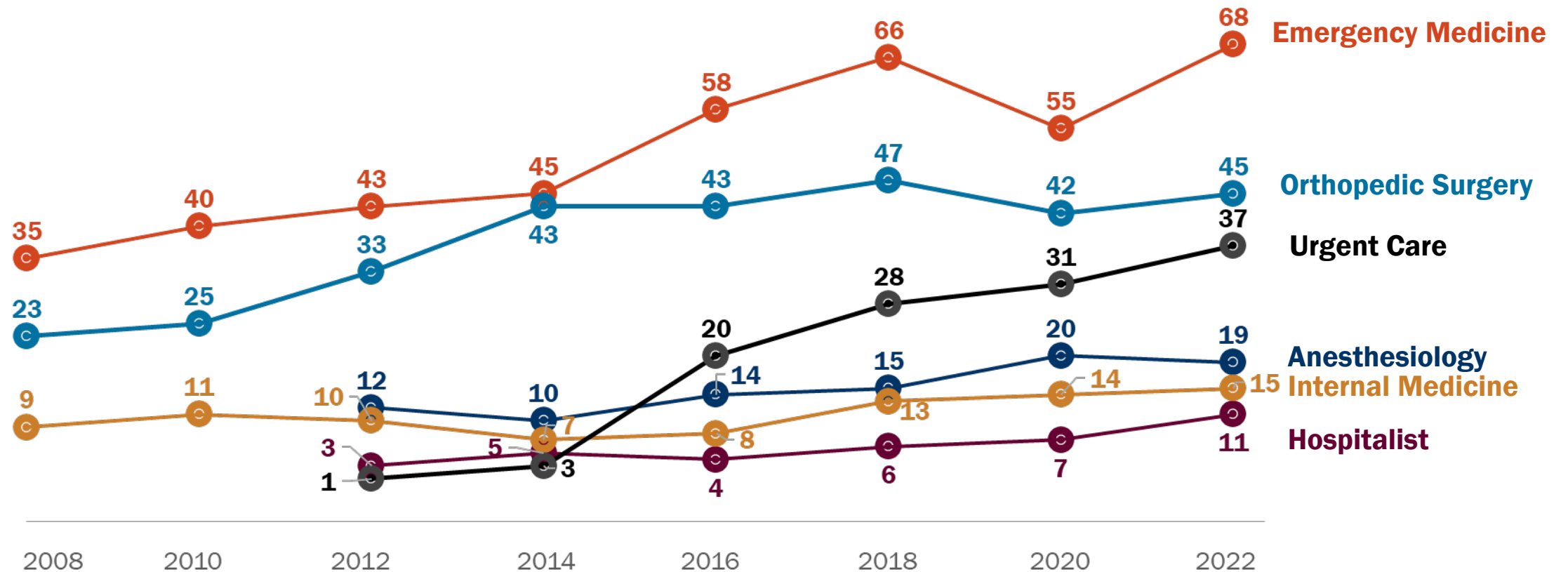
The number of family practice physician assistants increased between 2008 and 2018 and has been relatively stable since then.



Emergency medicine, orthopedic surgery, and urgent care are the top specialties among Vermont physician assistants.

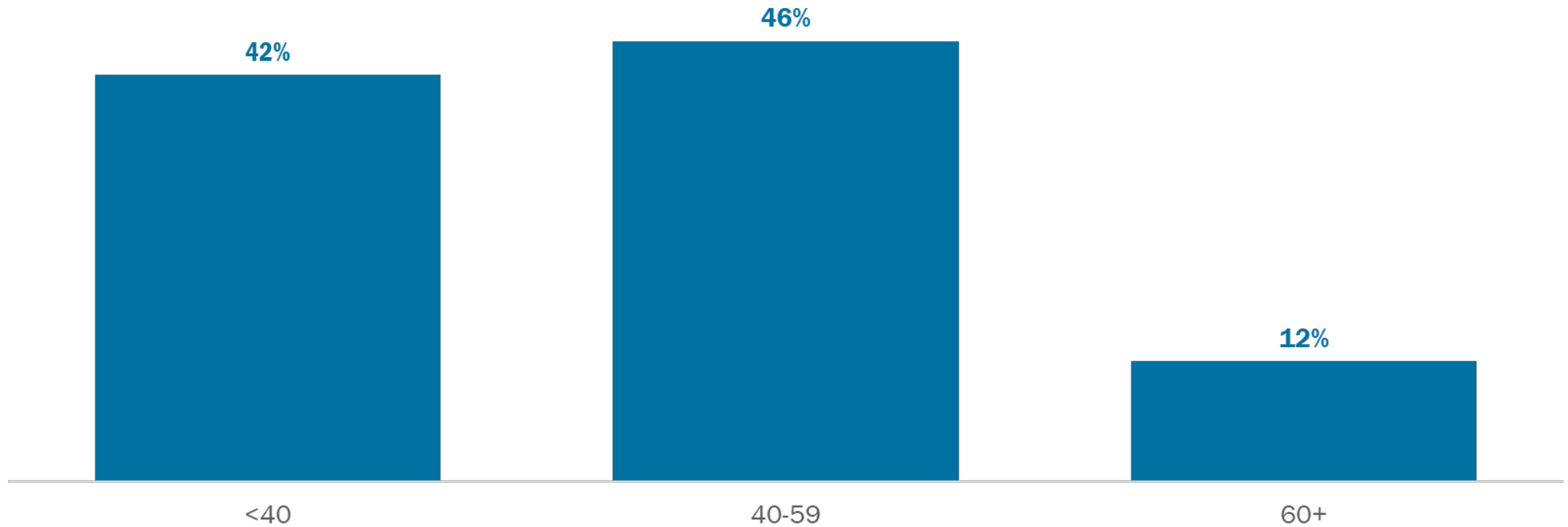


From 2008 to 2022, numbers of PAs in specialty care increased, with large increases in emergency medicine, orthopedic surgery and urgent care.

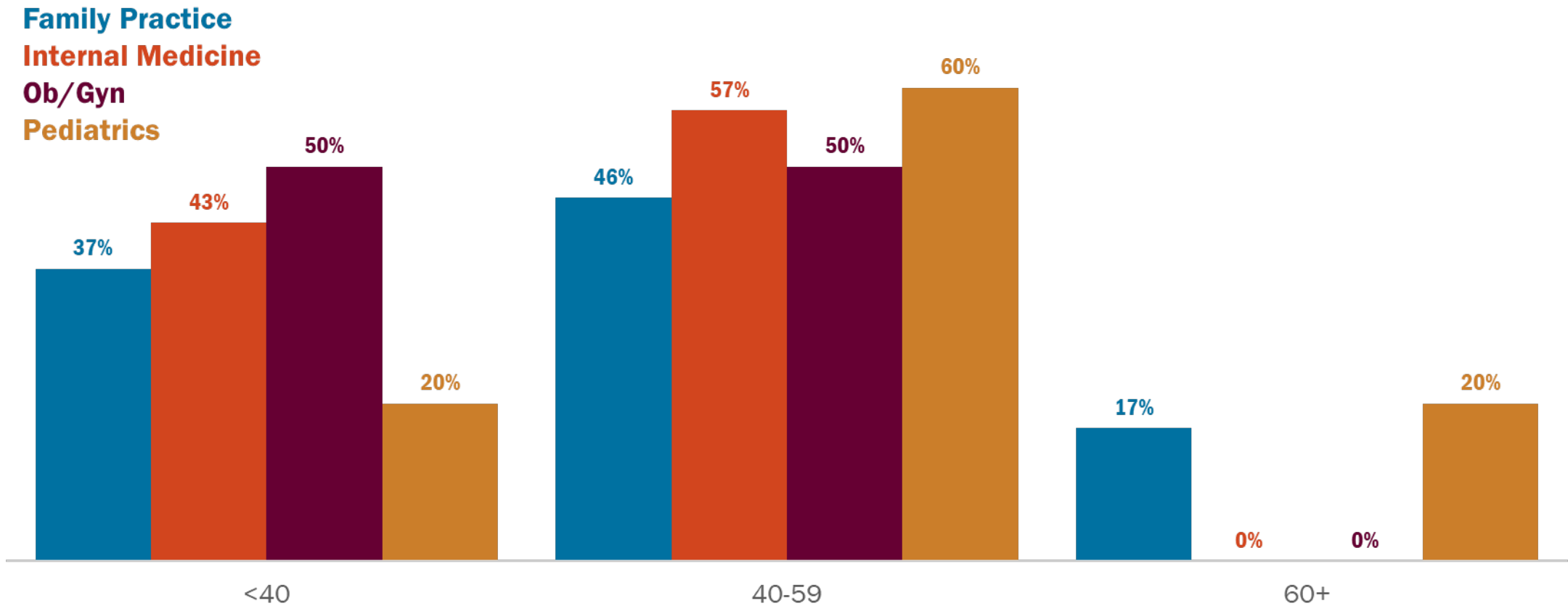


Age and Gender of Physician Assistants

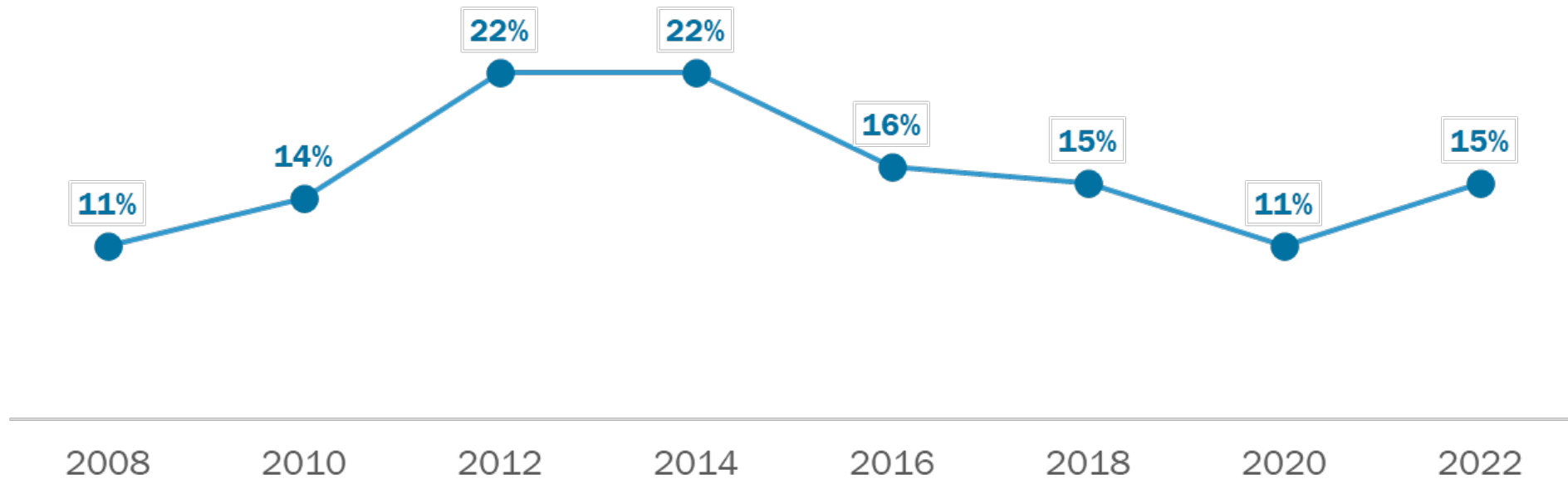
12% of all physician assistants are 60 or older.



Age Distribution of Primary Care Physician Assistants



The percentage of primary care physician assistants over age 60 was 15% in 2022.



Of the PAs in primary care, 15% are age 60 or older, compared to 12% of those in specialty care.

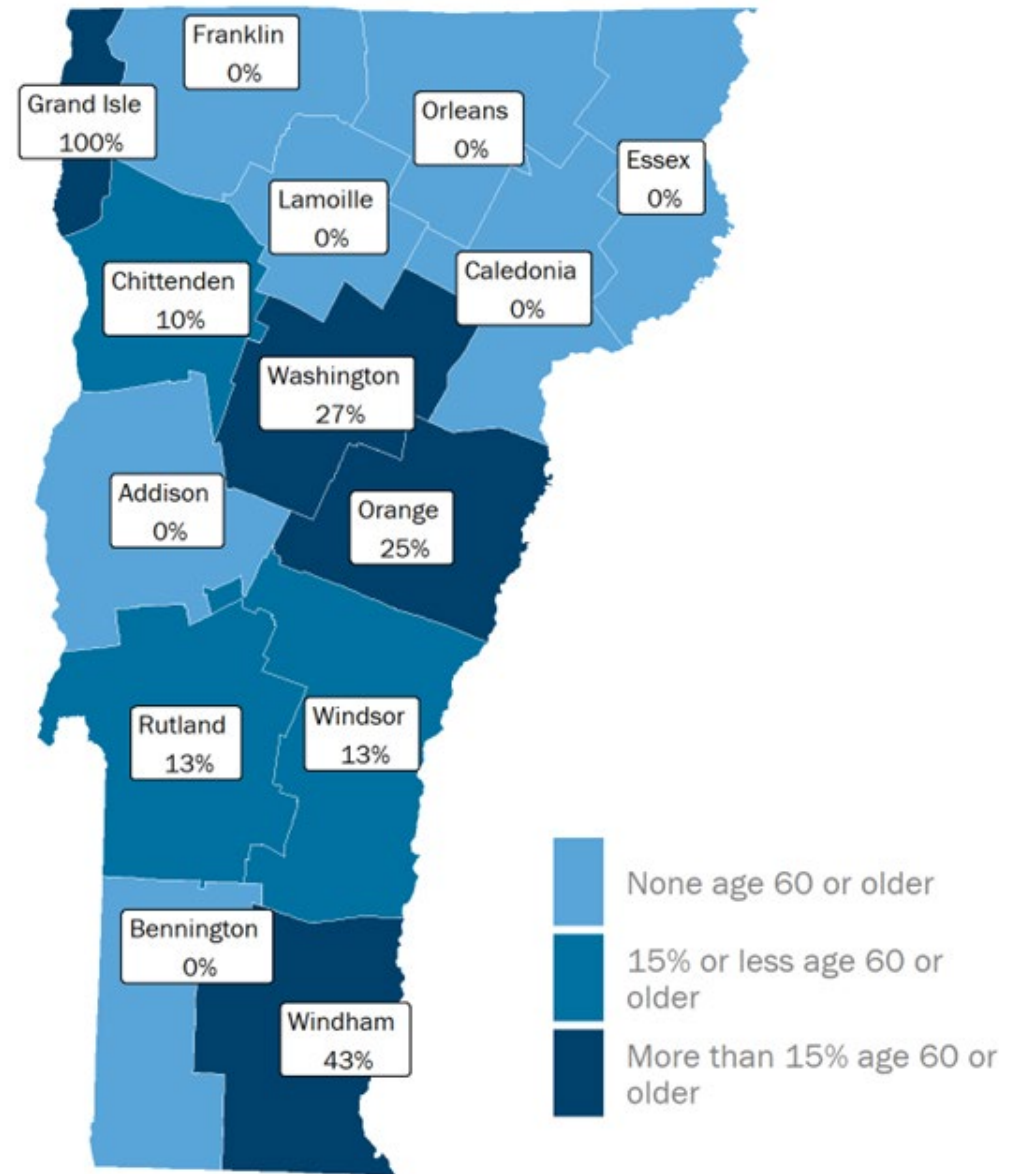
15% (16) of primary care physician assistants are 60 years or older, including...

- 17% of family practice physician assistants
- 20% of pediatric physician assistants

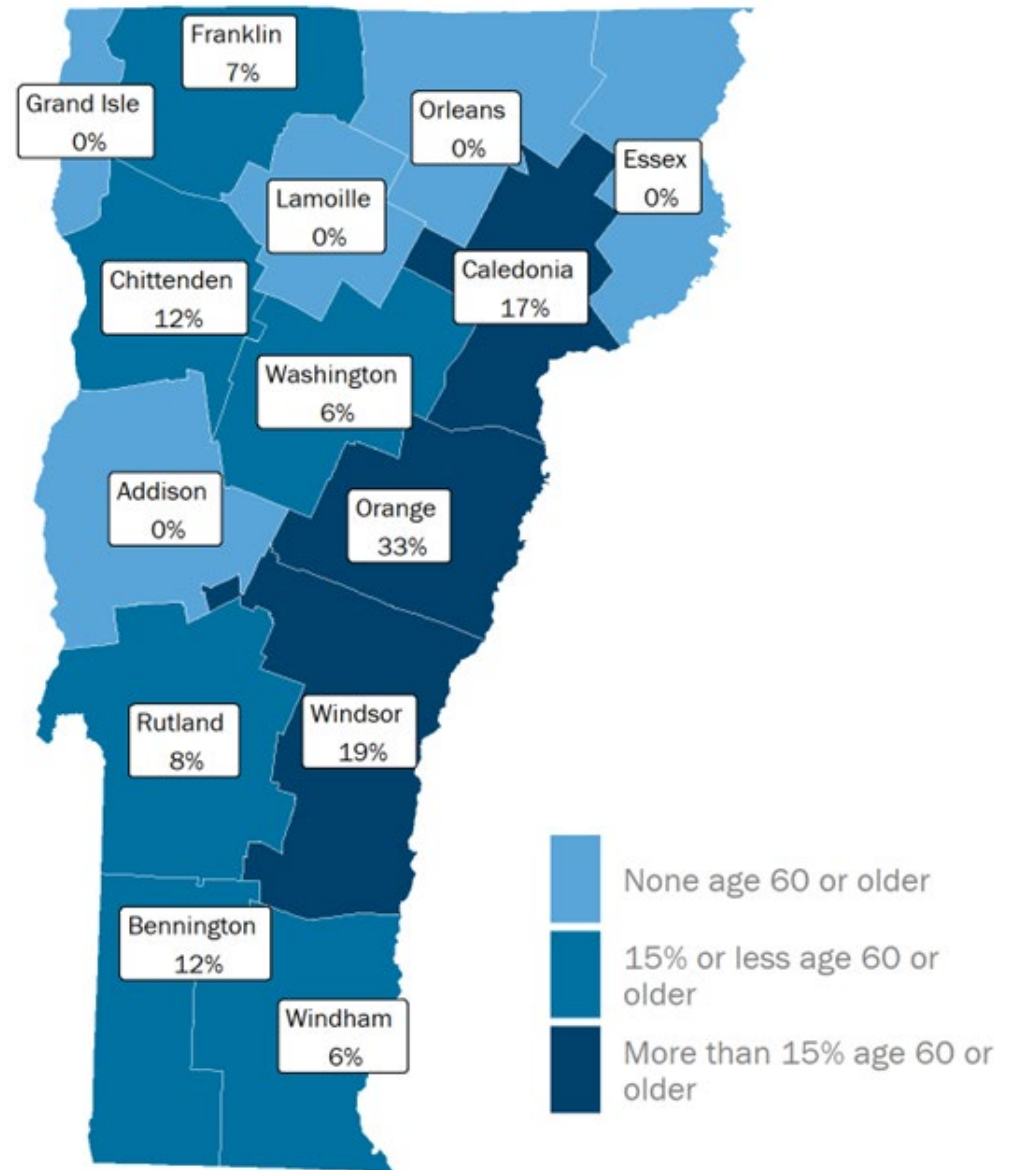
12% (34) of specialty care physician assistants are 60 years or older, including...

- 21% of anesthesiology
- 16% of urgent care physician assistants
- 27% of internal medicine physician assistants
- 11% of orthopedic surgeons

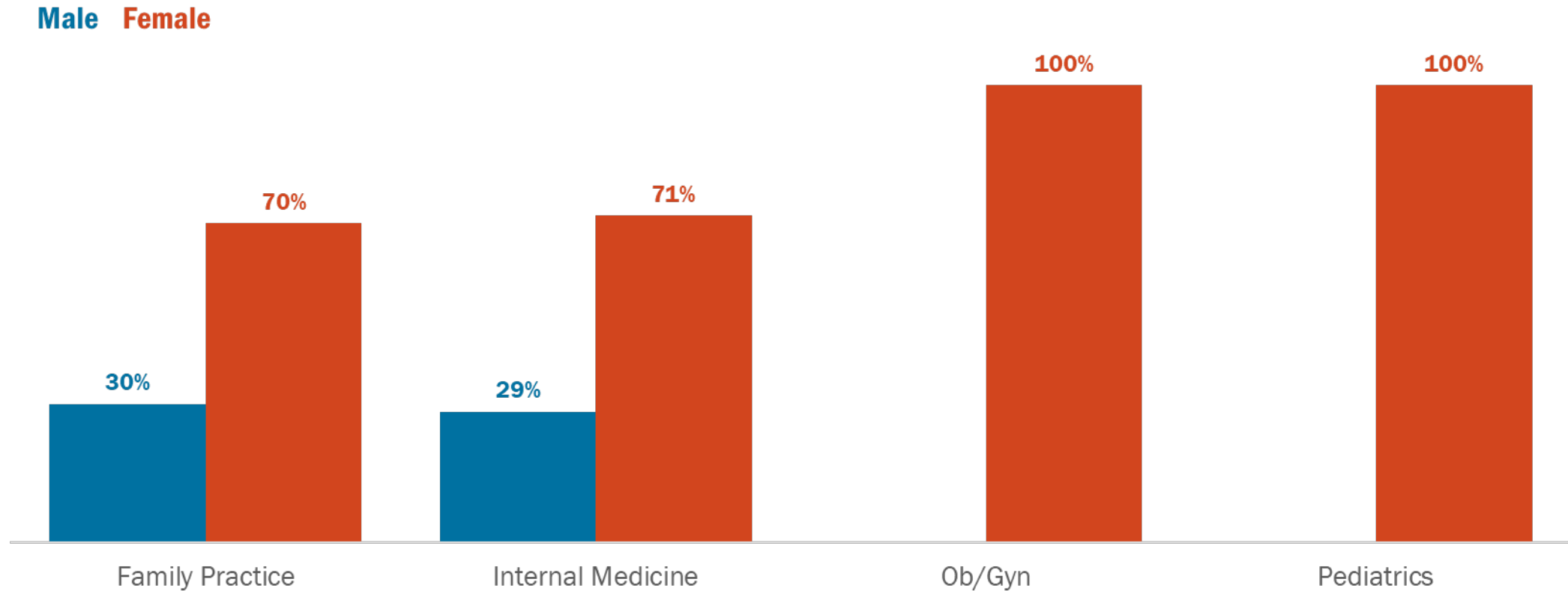
The percentage of primary care physician assistants age 60 or older are highest in Grand Isle and Windham Counties.



The percentage of specialty care physician assistants age 60 or older is highest in Orange County.

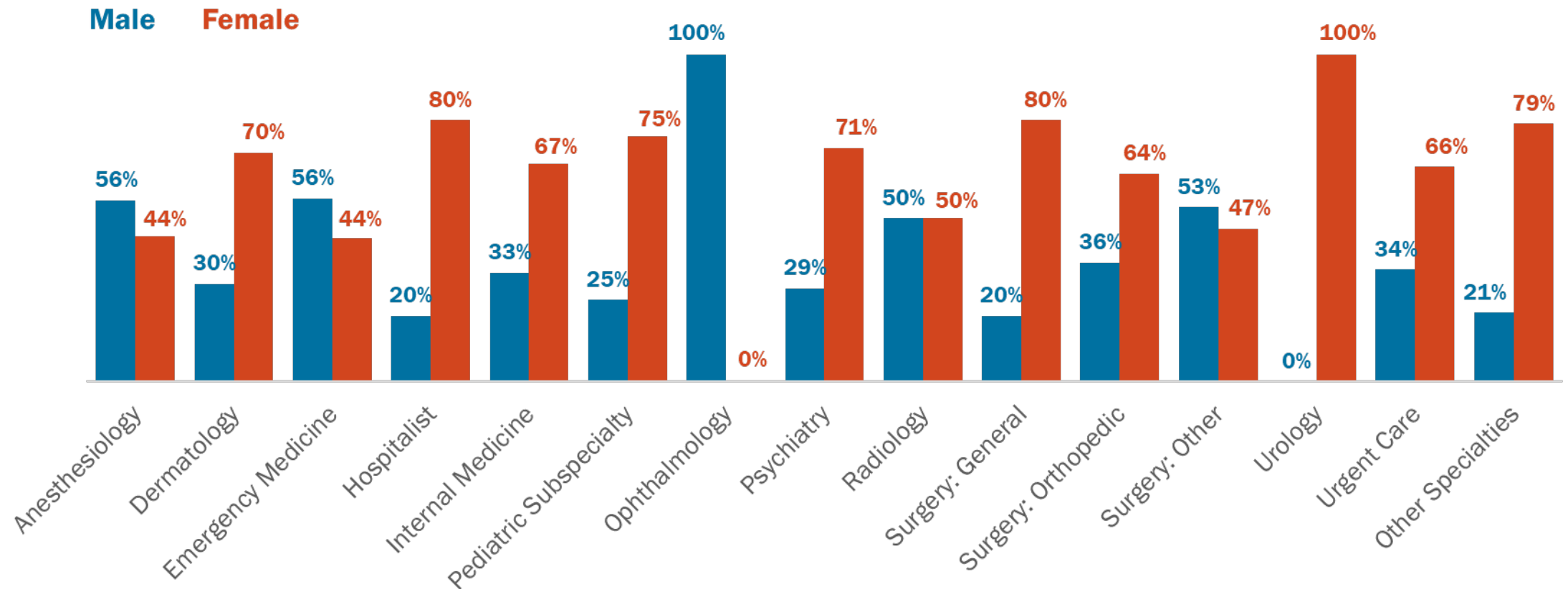


64% of all Vermont physician assistants, including 72% of primary care physician assistants, are female.



Physician assistants who self-described or chose not to answer the question on gender are not included in the graph above.

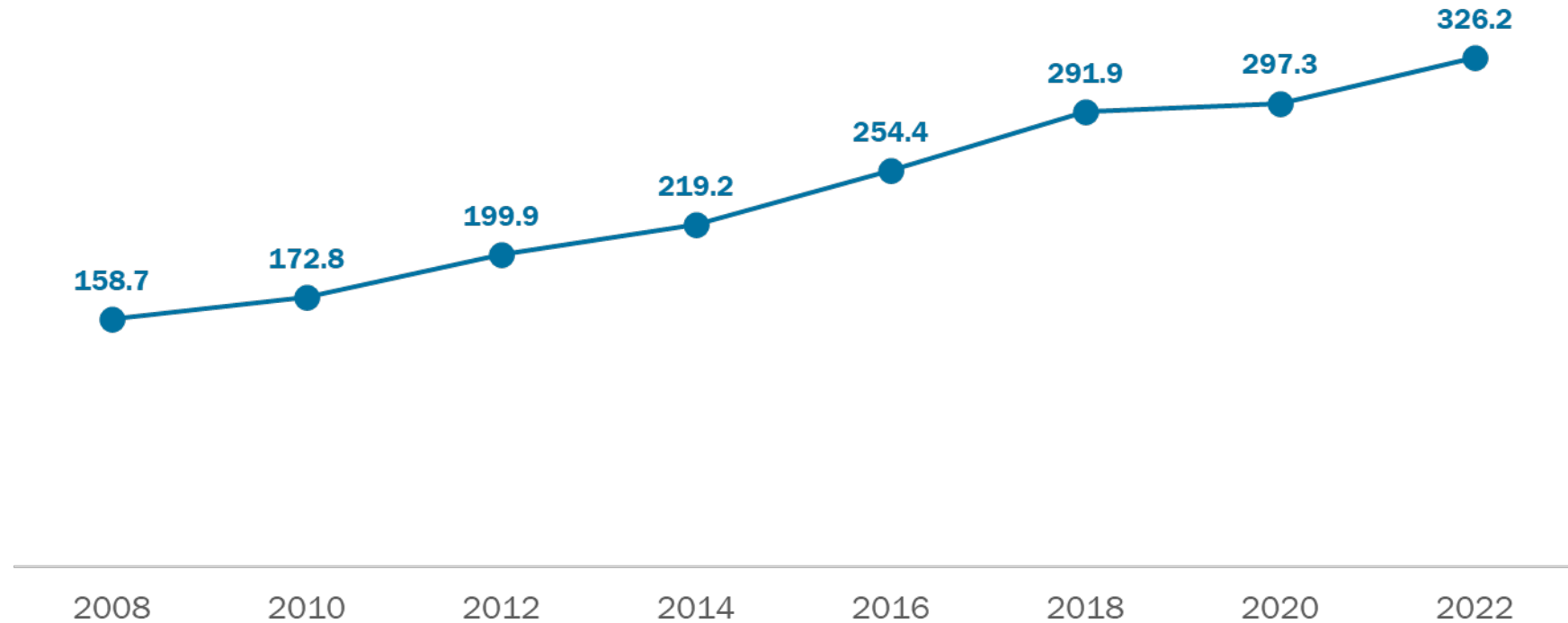
61% of specialty care physician assistants are female.



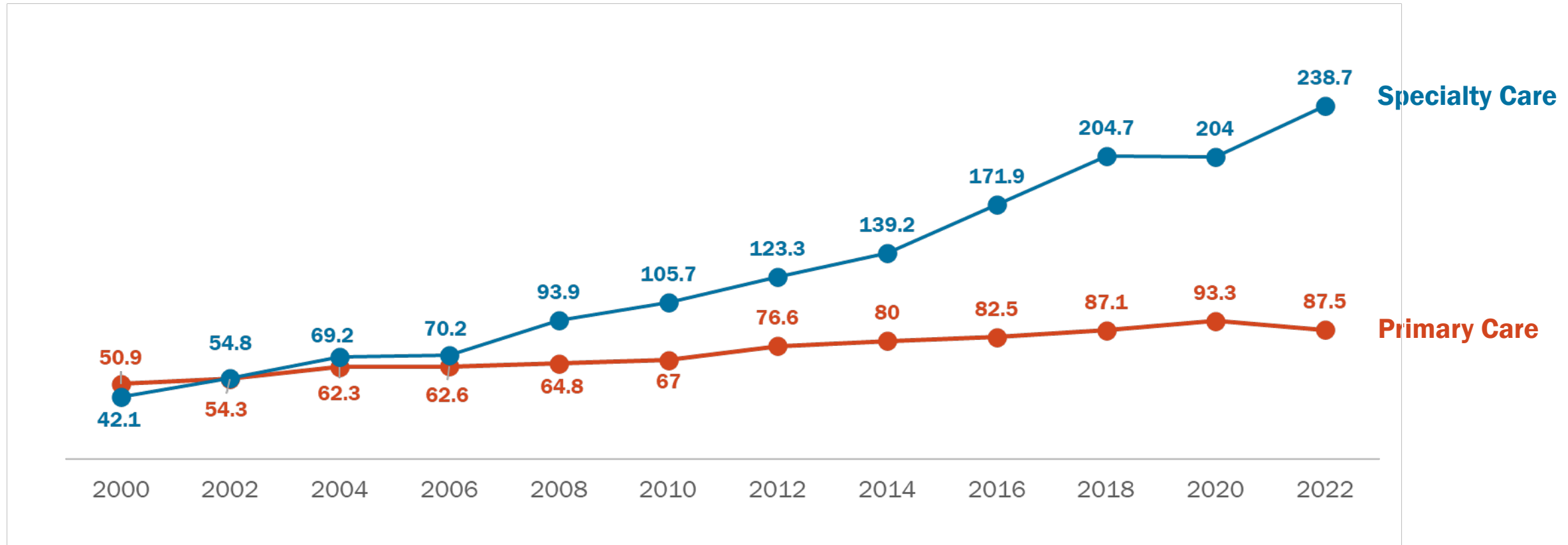
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Trends and Distribution of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Total physician assistant FTEs have increased over time.



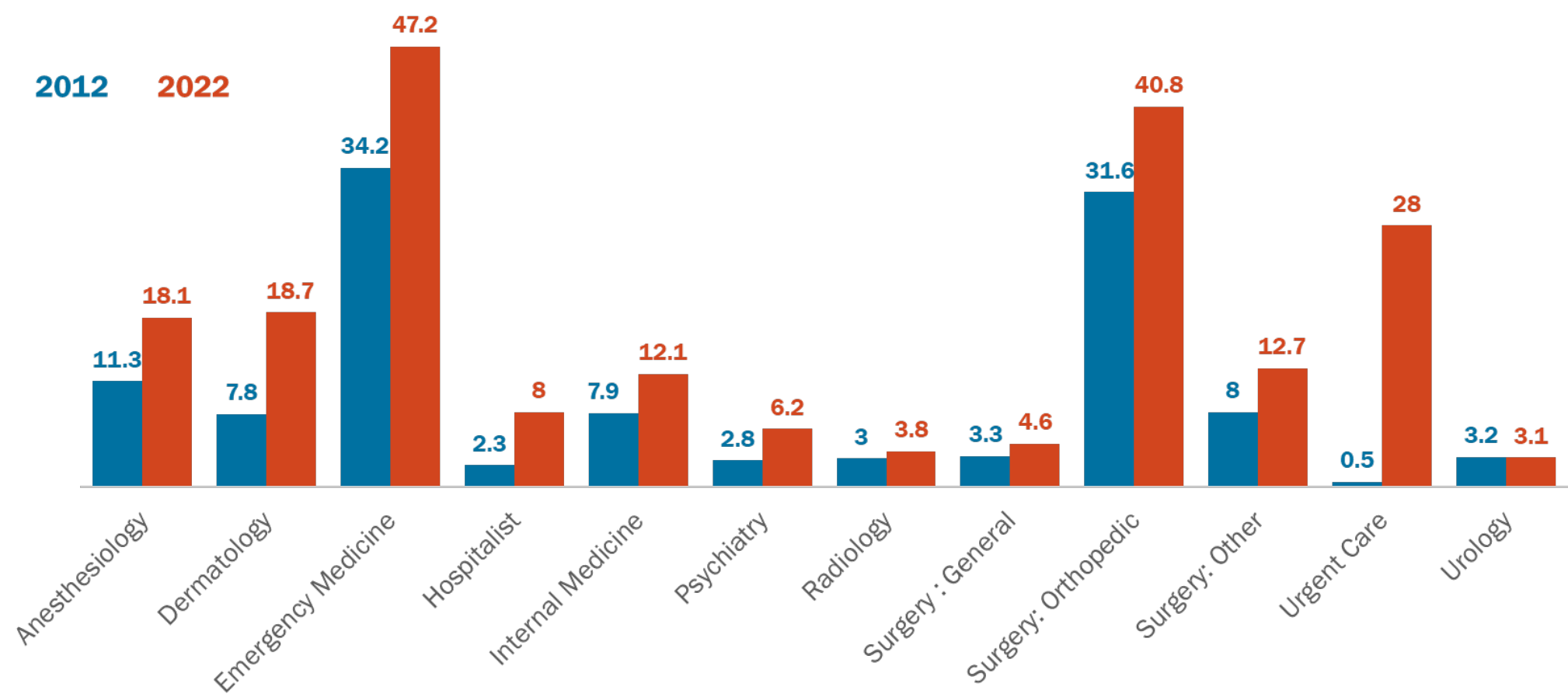
Specialty care FTEs have grown much faster than primary care.



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

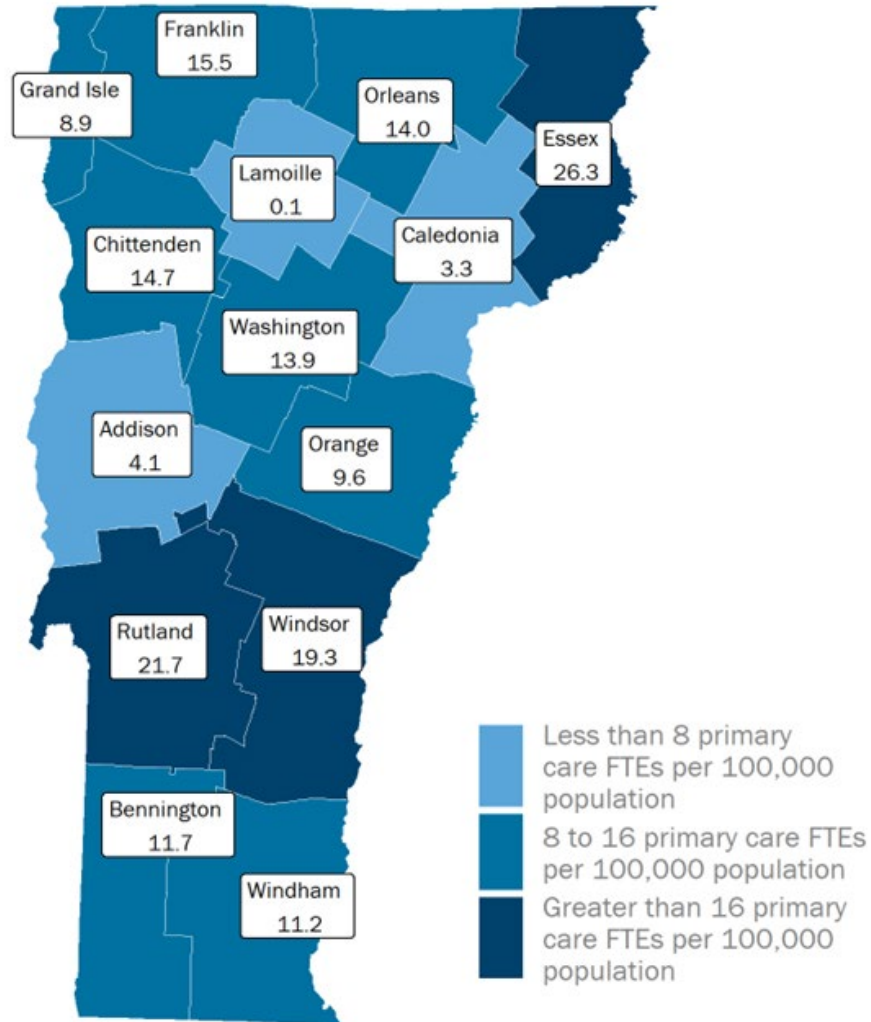
*FTEs not computed for pathology, radiology, and all telemedicine

The largest specialty care FTE increases from 2012 to 2022 were in urgent care, emergency medicine, and dermatology.

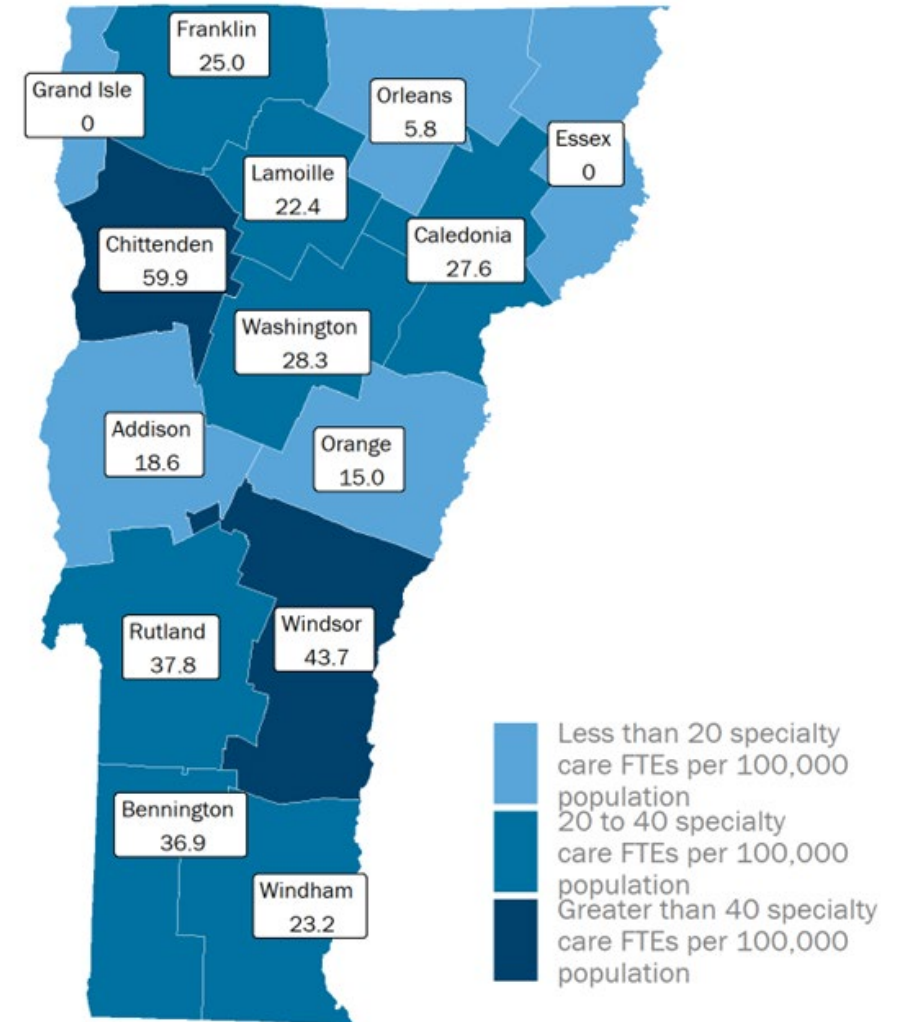


Primary and Specialty care FTEs per 100,000 population

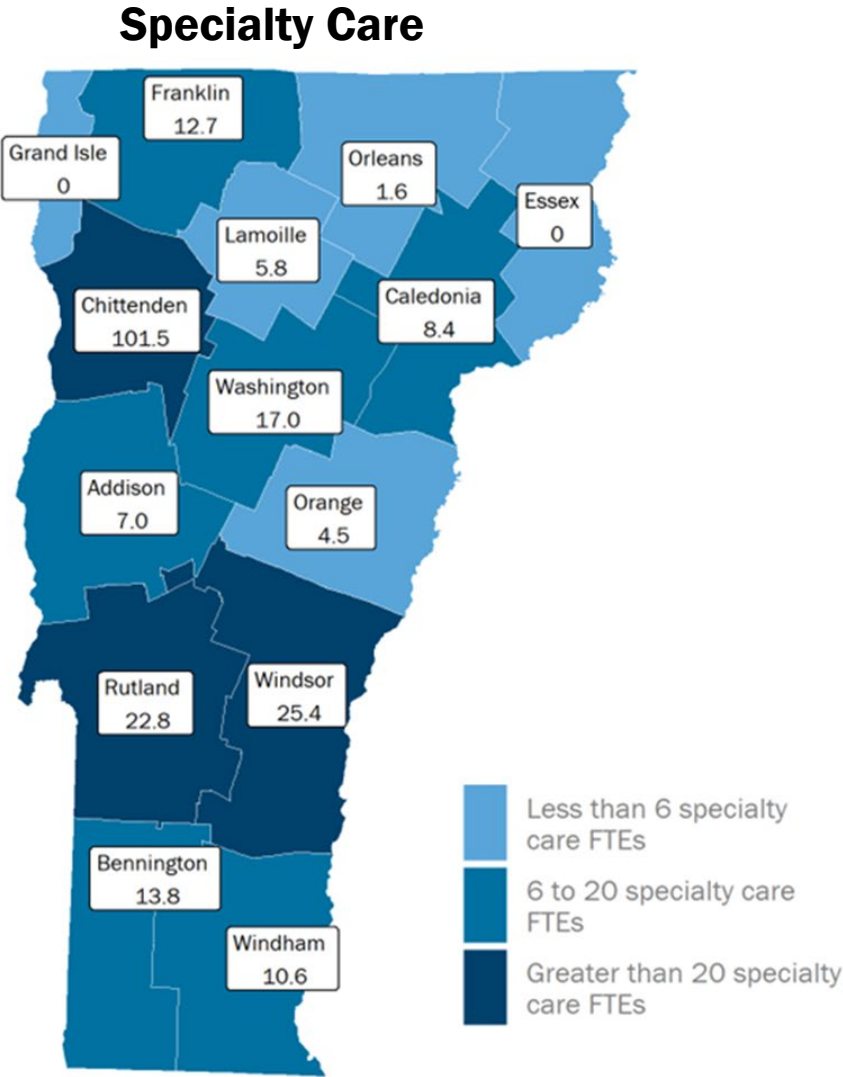
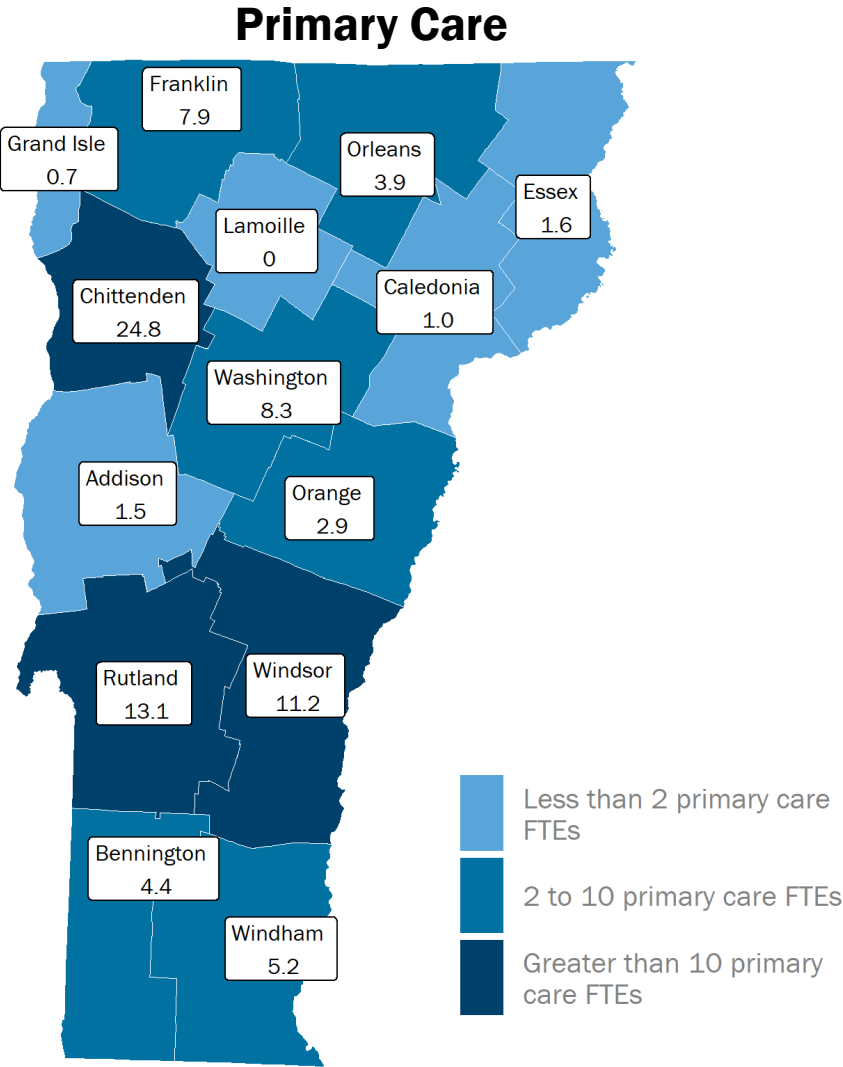
Primary Care



Specialty Care

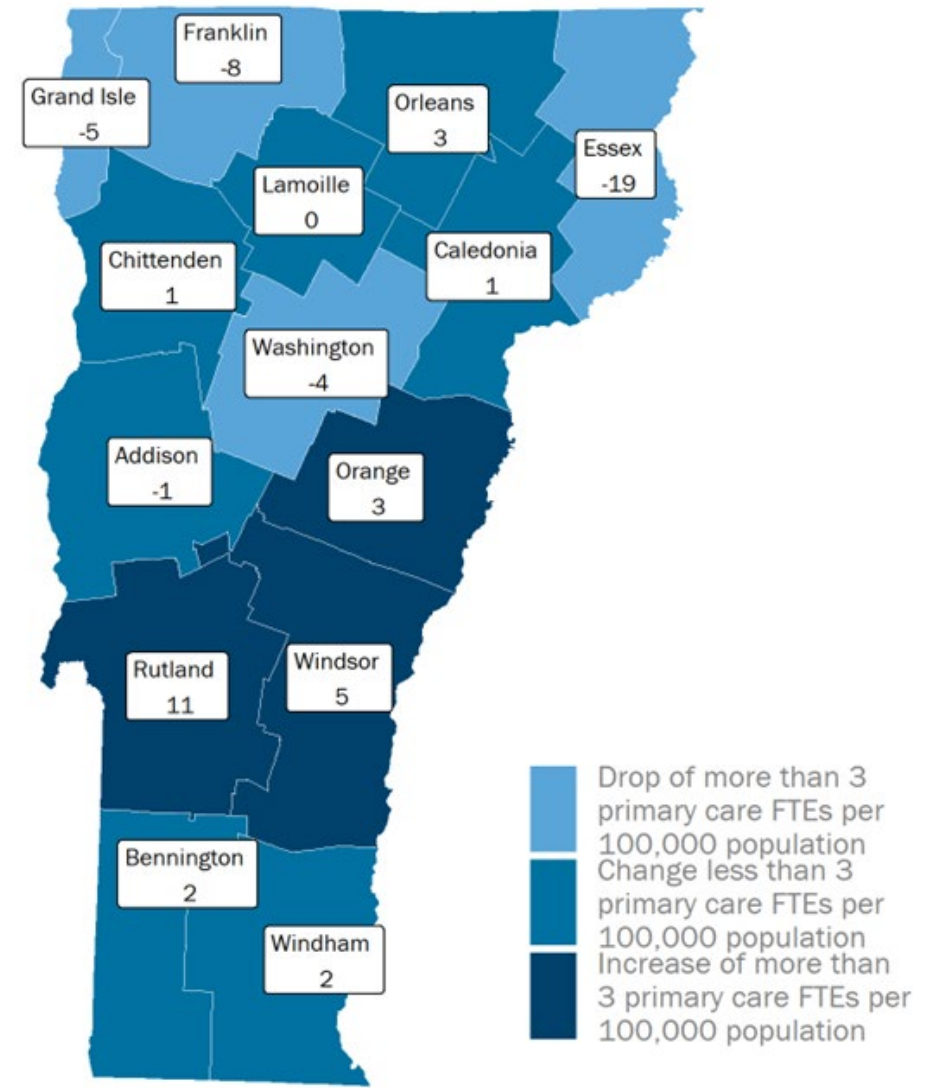


Physician assistants are highly concentrated in Chittenden County.



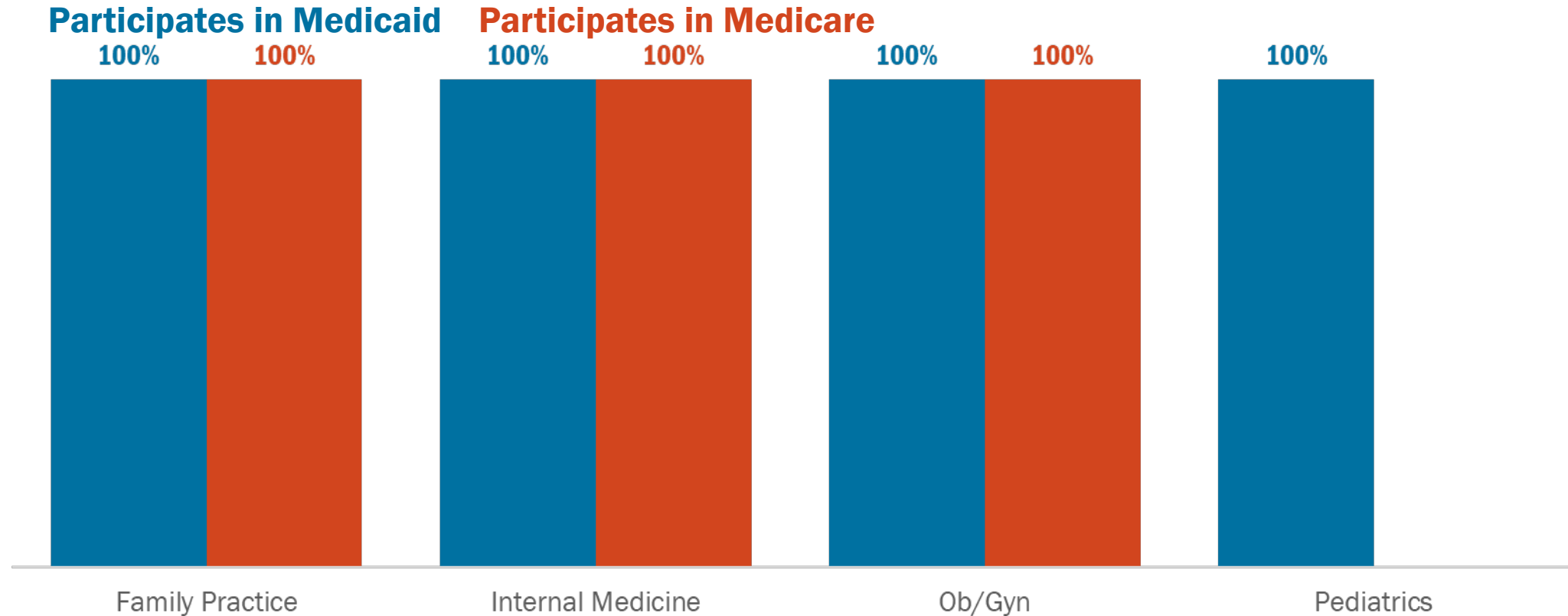
From 2012 to 2022, change in primary care FTE to population ratios varied across the state - Rutland County had the largest increase and Essex County had the largest decrease.

FTEs show the number of FTE PAs in an area while population ratios show that in relation to the population that they serve.



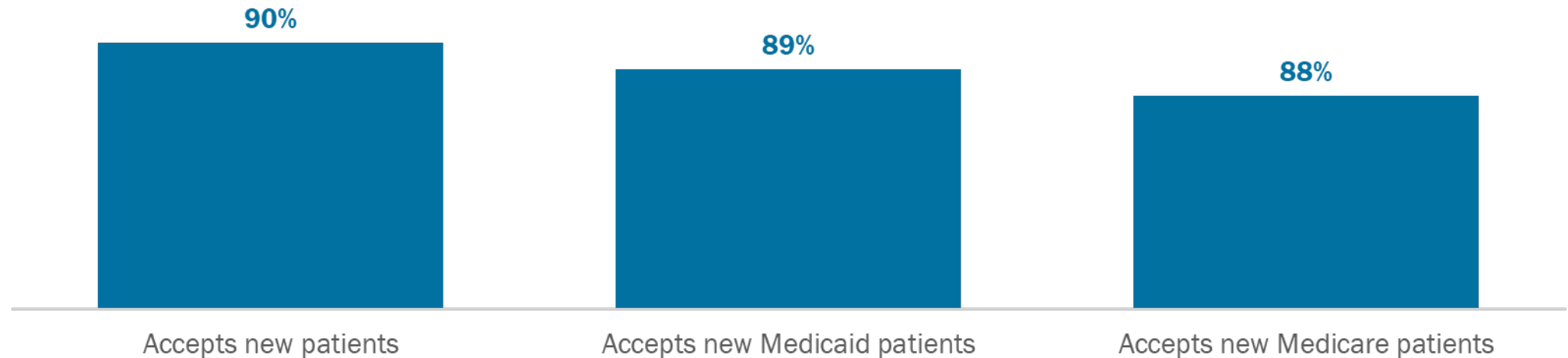
Practice Availability

All primary care physician assistants participate in Medicaid and Medicare.

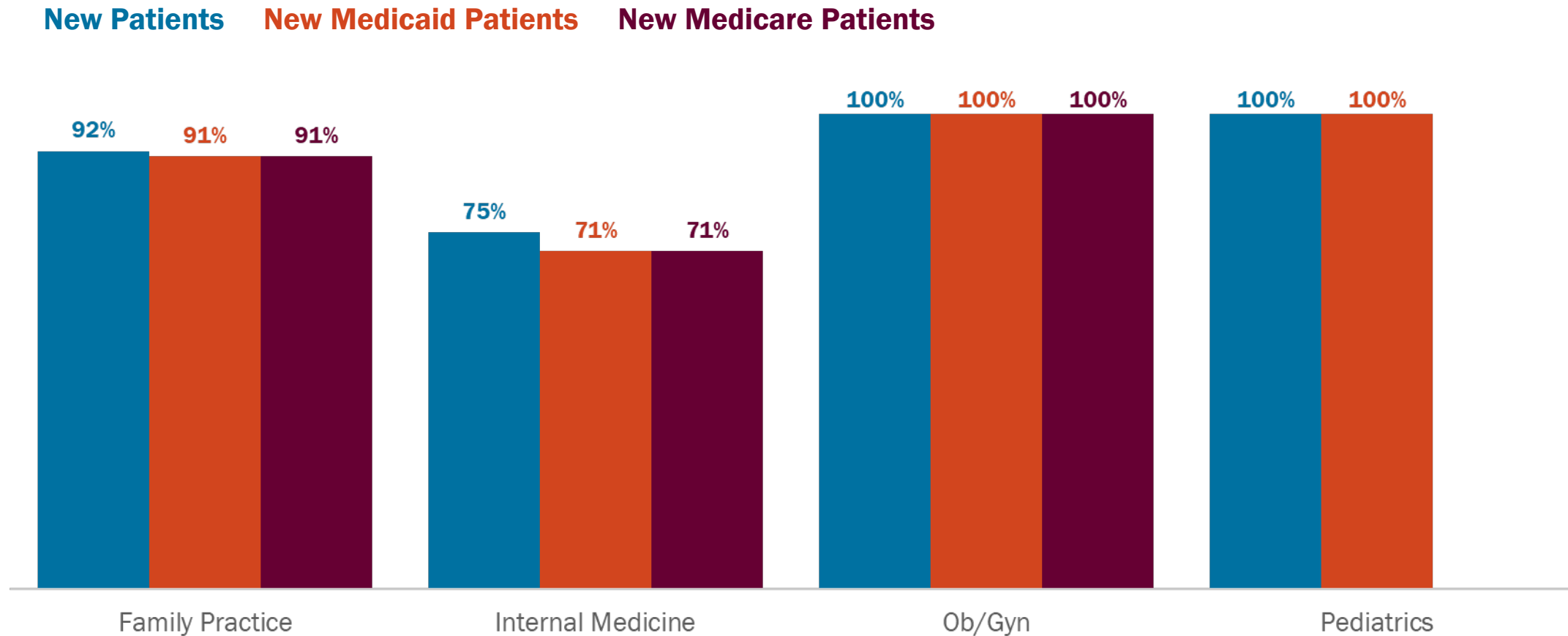


*Medicare covers people aged 65 and older and younger people with disabilities.

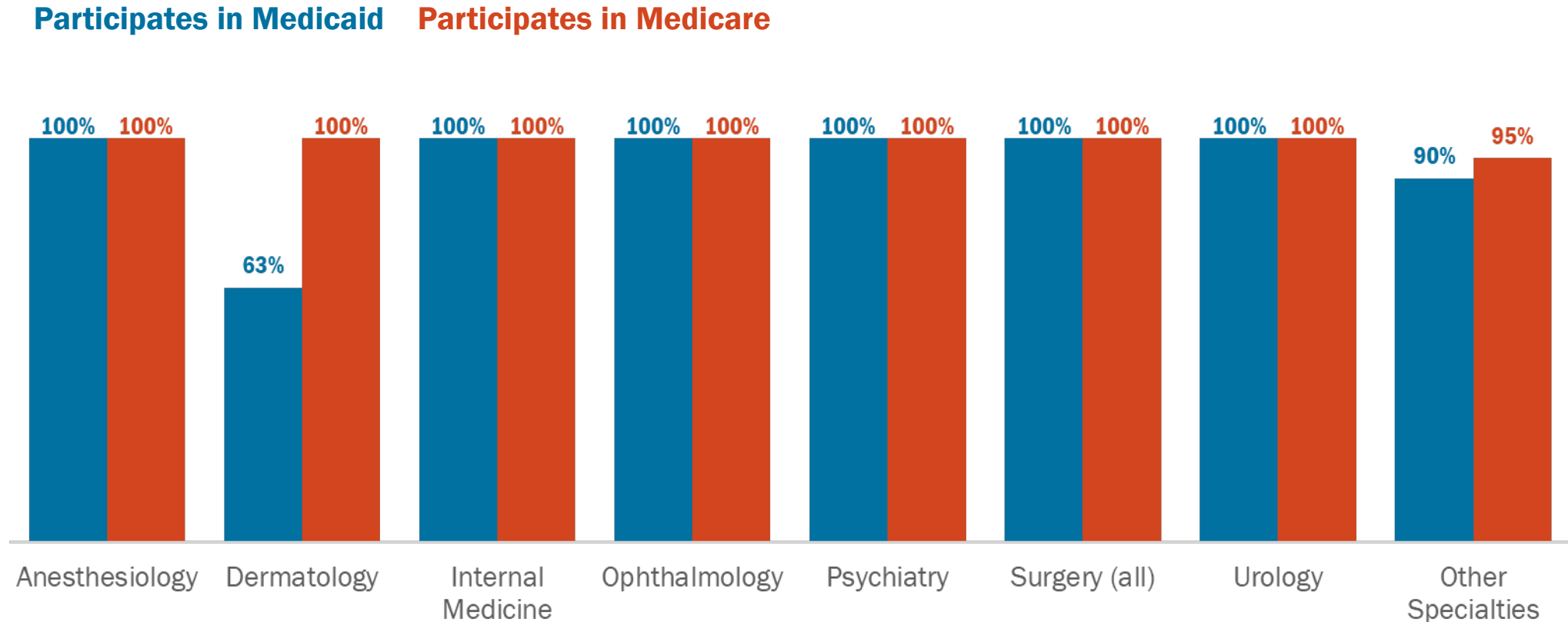
90% of primary care physician assistants accept new patients and slightly less accept new Medicaid or Medicare patients.



Primary care physician assistants practicing internal medicine are the most likely to not be accepting new patients.

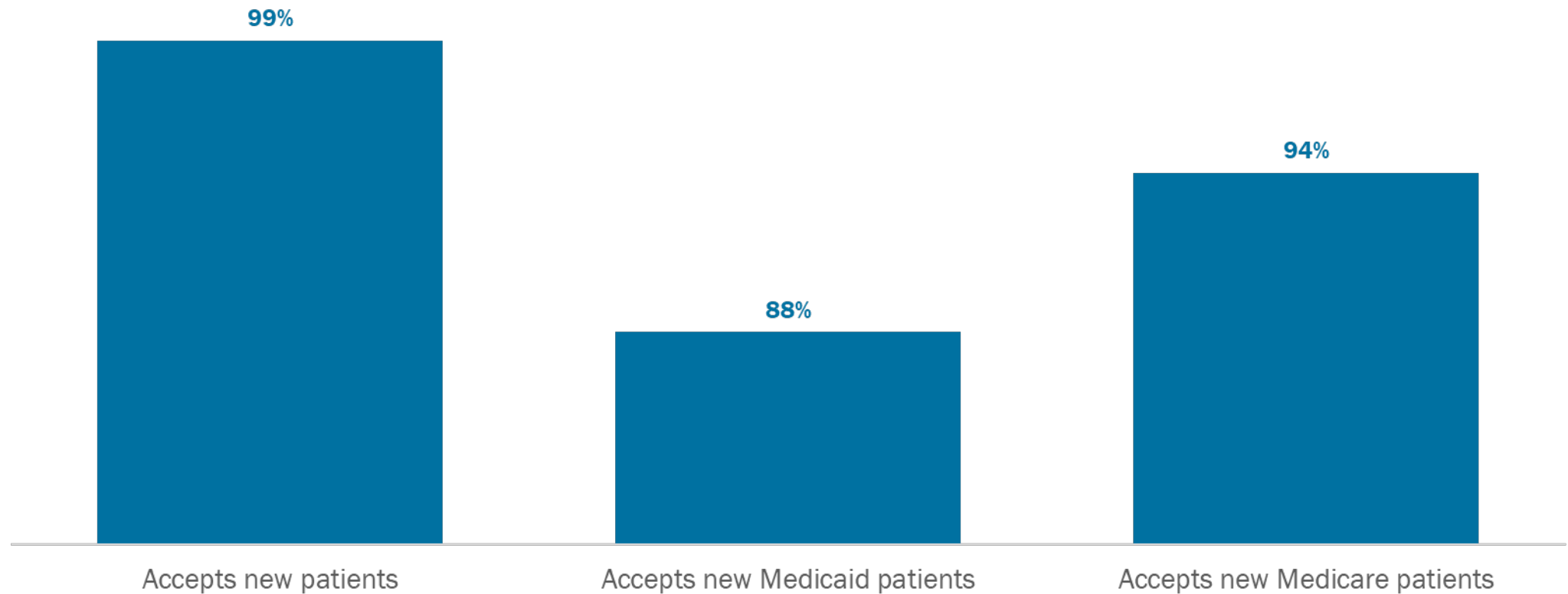


93% of all specialty care physician assistants participate in Medicaid and 99% participate in Medicare.



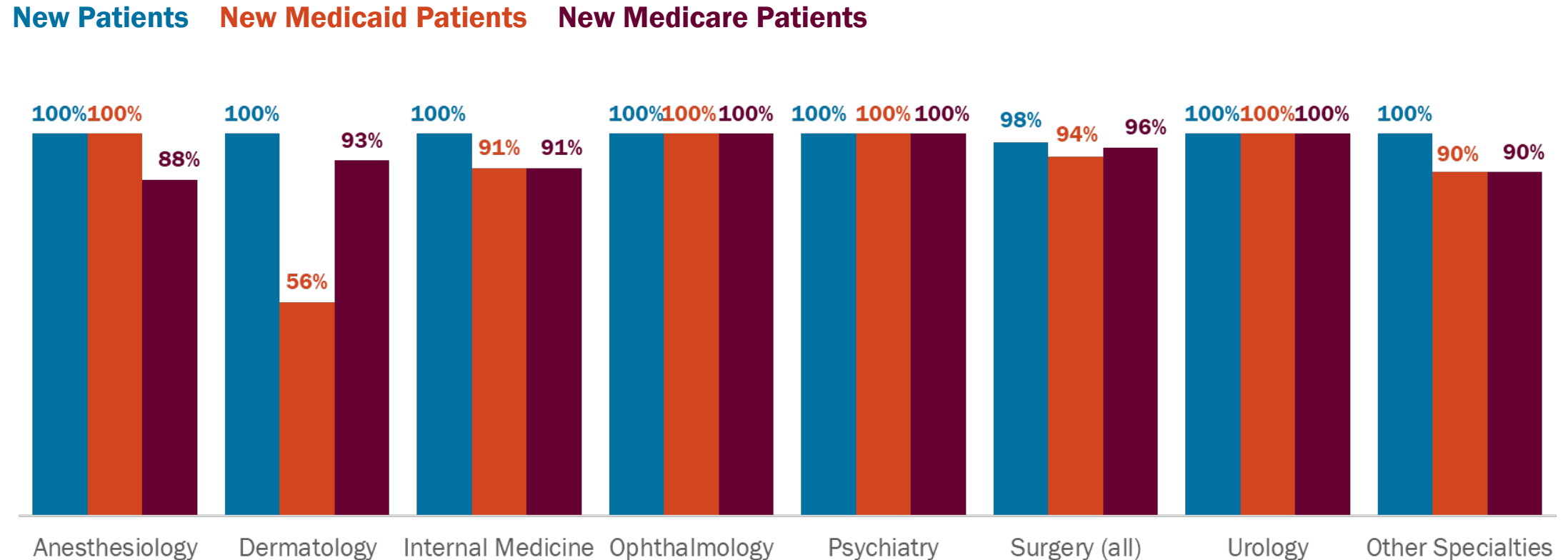
*Medicare covers people aged 65 and older and younger people with disabilities.
Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care are excluded from this graph.

Almost all specialty care physician assistants accept new patients, 94% accept new Medicare patients, and 88% accept new Medicaid patients.



Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care are excluded from this graph.

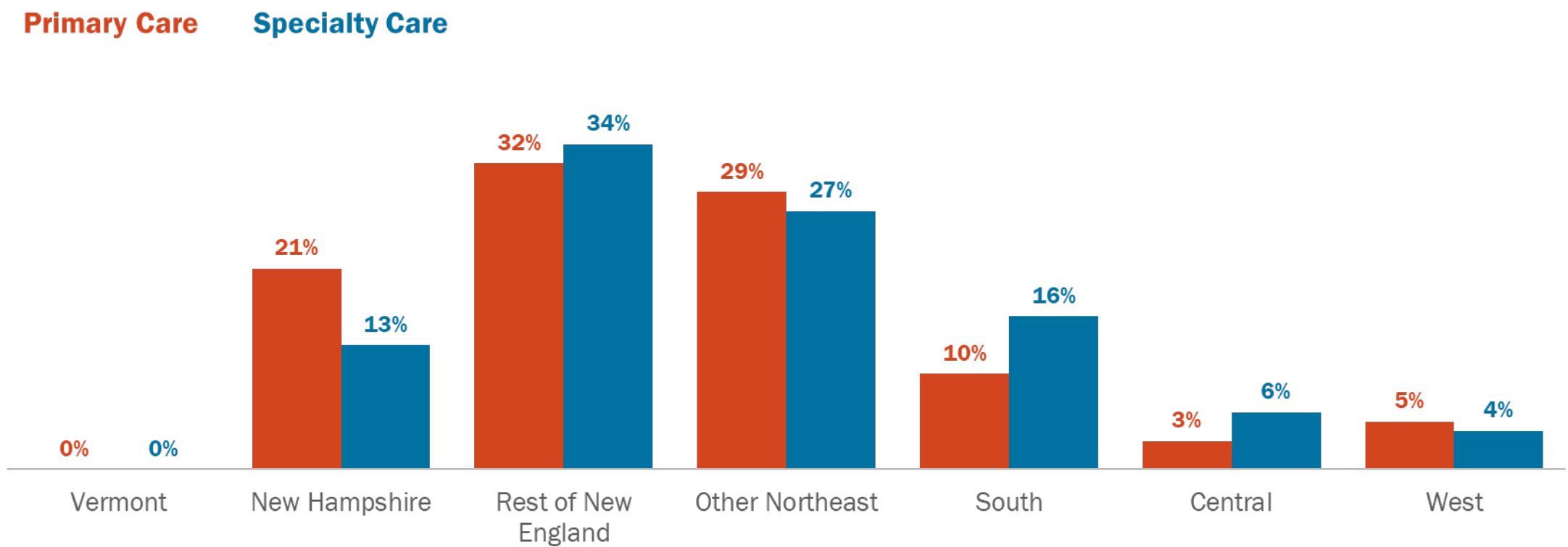
Fewer physician assistants practicing dermatology are accepting new Medicaid patients than other specialists.



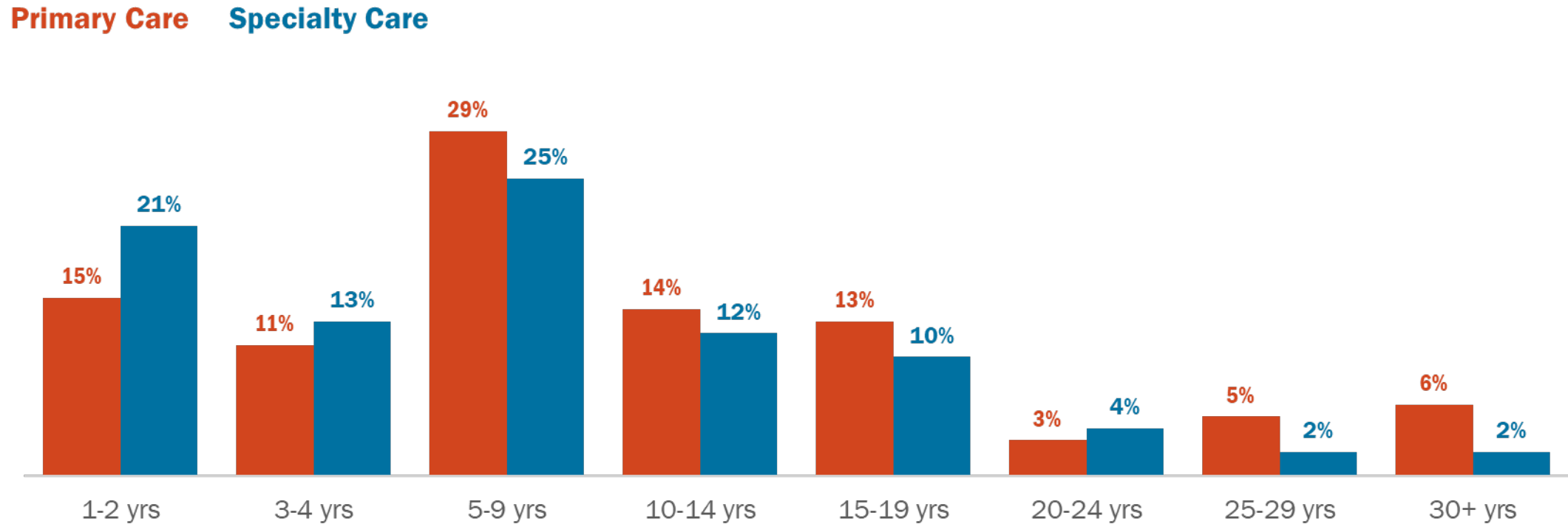
Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care are excluded from this graph.

Education, Training, and Future Plans

53% of primary care and 47% of specialty care physician assistants were trained in New England.

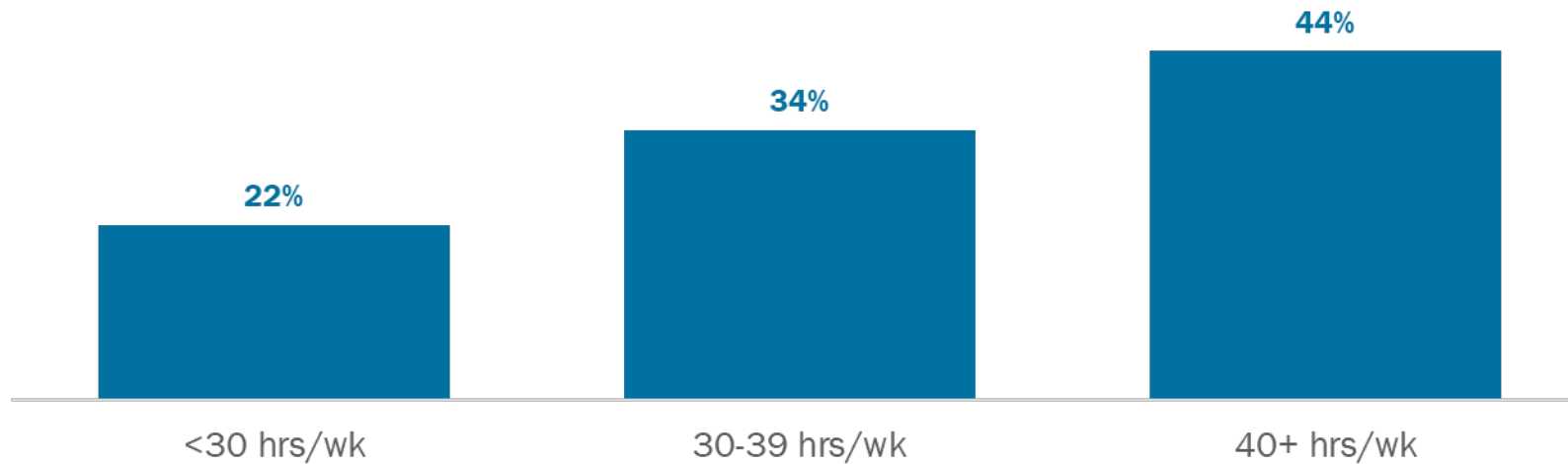


26% of primary care and 34% of specialty care physician assistants have been in practice less than 5 years in Vermont.

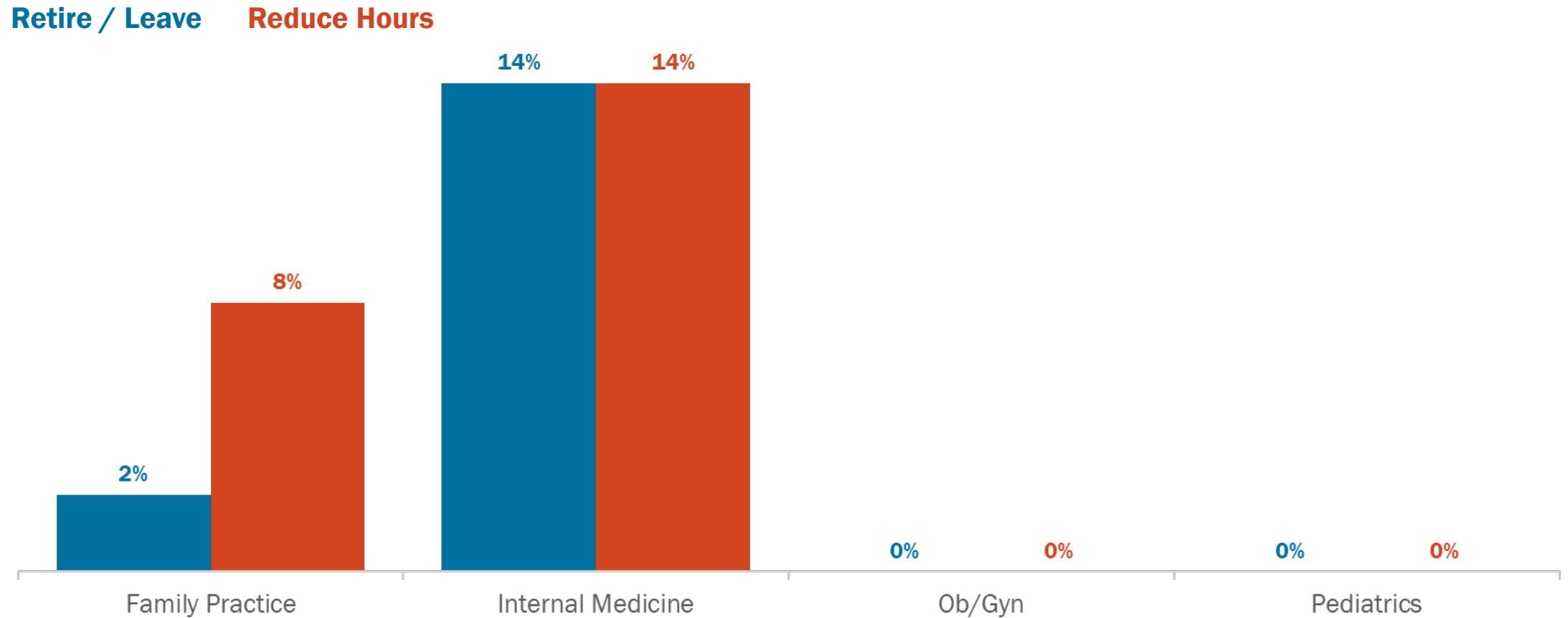


* X axis bars do not all cover an equal time period

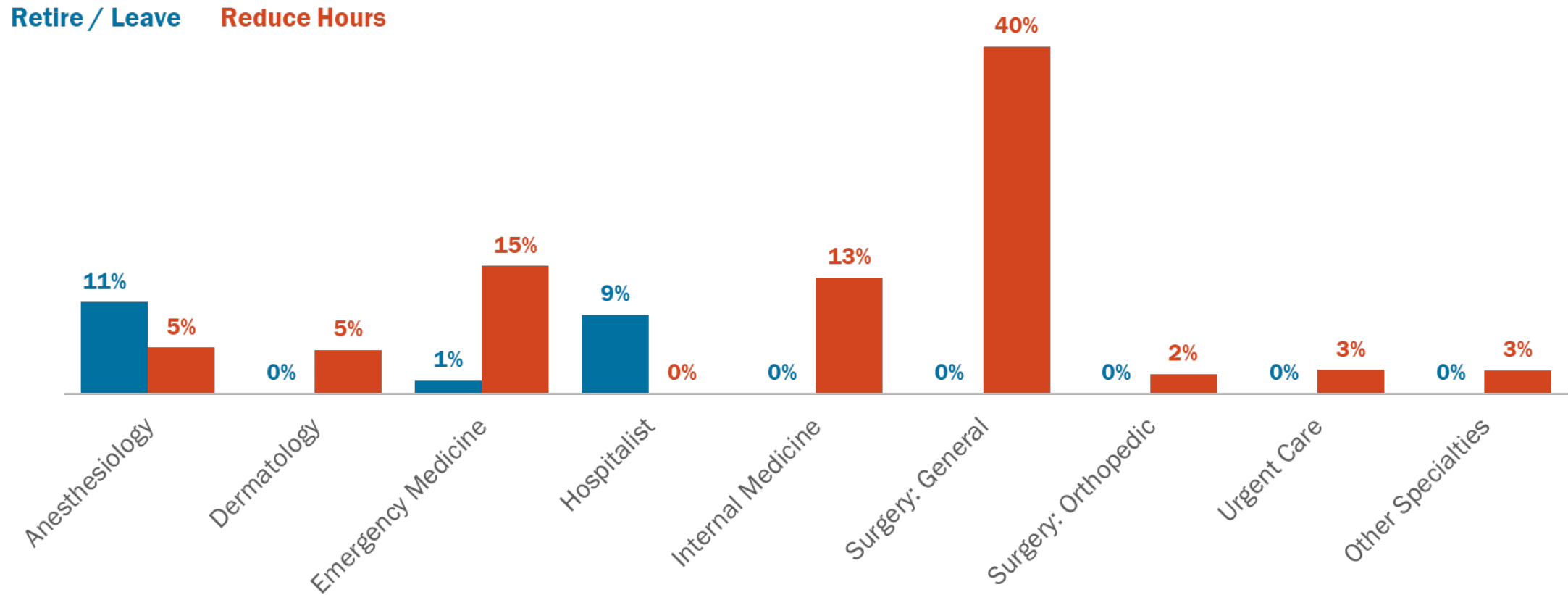
78% of physician assistants work 30 hours or more per week.



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



8% of specialty care physician assistants are planning to retire or reduce hours in Vermont within 12 months.



For more information, contact us.

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- 3 [Health Care Workforce | Vermont Department of Health](#)
- 4 [2022 Physician Assistants Census Statistical Report](#)