



2024 Physician Assistant Summary Report

August 2026

Physician Assistant Census In Brief

- Physician assistants took the census online during the 2024 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

- 422 physician assistants* provide patient care in Vermont.
- Between 2014 and 2024, the number of physician assistants in primary care decreased from 103 to 100, and the number in specialty care doubled from 161 to 322.
- 12% of all physician assistants are 60 or older.
- 63% of physician assistants are female.

* including anesthesiologist and radiologist assistants

422 physician assistants provided patient care in Vermont in 2024.

- 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, 2008-2024

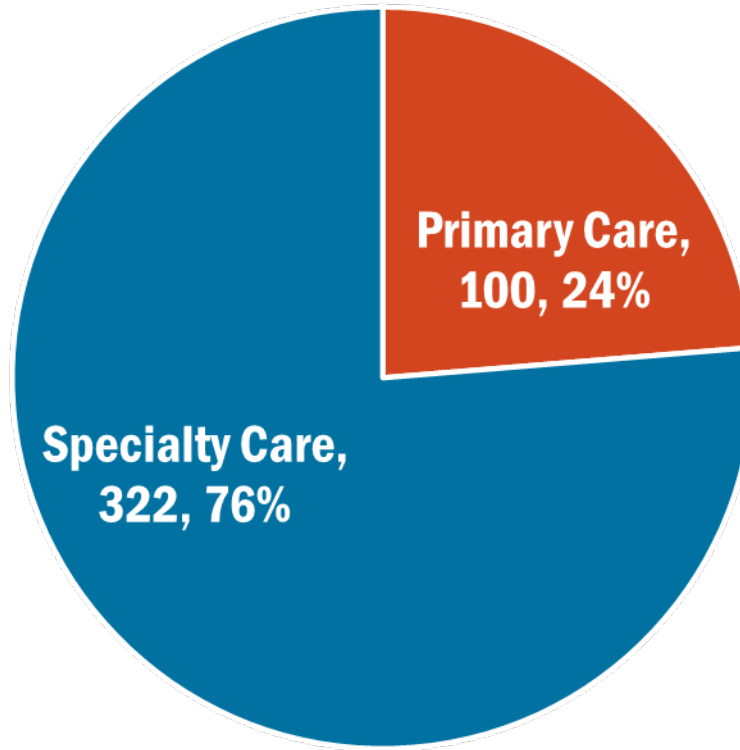
	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
Total active* physician assistants	191	202	240	264	308	355	356	402	422
Percent female	58%	60%	57%	61%	61%	63%	62%	62%	63%
Primary care physician assistants	85	83	98	103	106	111	114	110	100
% accepting new patients**	85%	82%	88%	83%	93%	87%	92%	90%	85%
% accepting new Medicaid patients	66%	73%	78%	80%	88%	84%	88%	89%	81%
% accepting new Medicare patients	77%	73%	82%	77%	88%	87%	85%	88%	78%
Primary care physician assistant FTEs***	64.8	67	76.6	80	82.5	87.1	93.3	87.5	76.4
PC FTEs per 100,000 population	10.4	10.8	12.2	12.8	13.2	14	15	13.5	11.8
Specialty care physician assistants***	106	119	142	161	202	244	242	292	322
Specialty care physician assistants FTEs	93.9	105.7	123.3	139.2	171.9	204.7	204	238.7	252.3

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

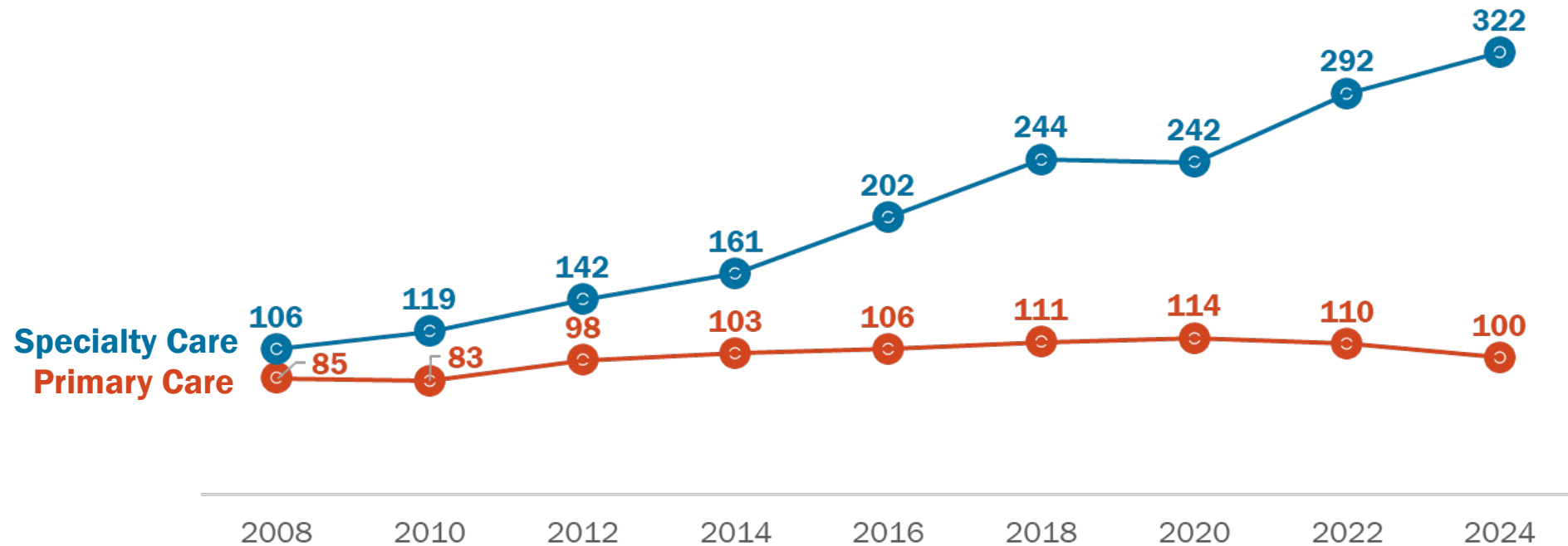
*** Anesthesiologist assistants weren't a separate license type in 2002 and have been added into the PA report since 2012.

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

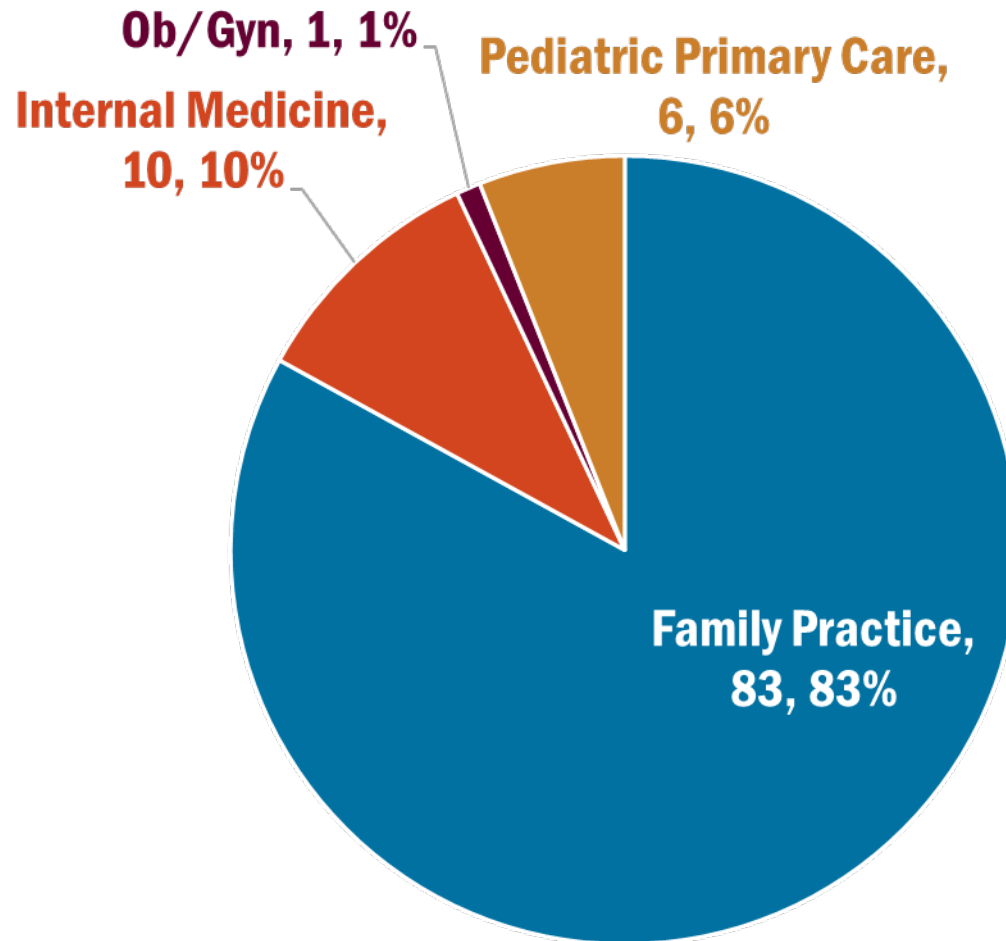
24% of Vermont physician assistants work in primary care.



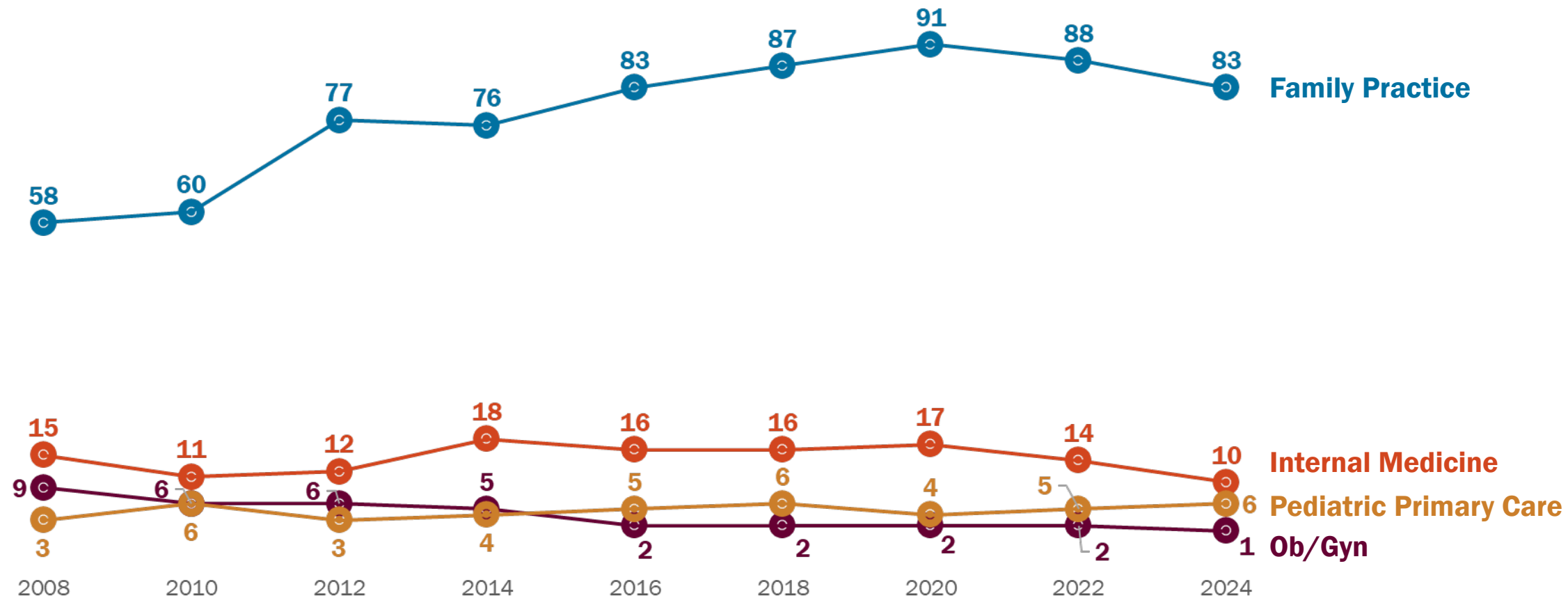
Between 2008 and 2020, the number of physician assistants in primary care slowly increased from 85 to 114 but has since decreased to 100 in 2024. The number in specialty care tripled since 2008.



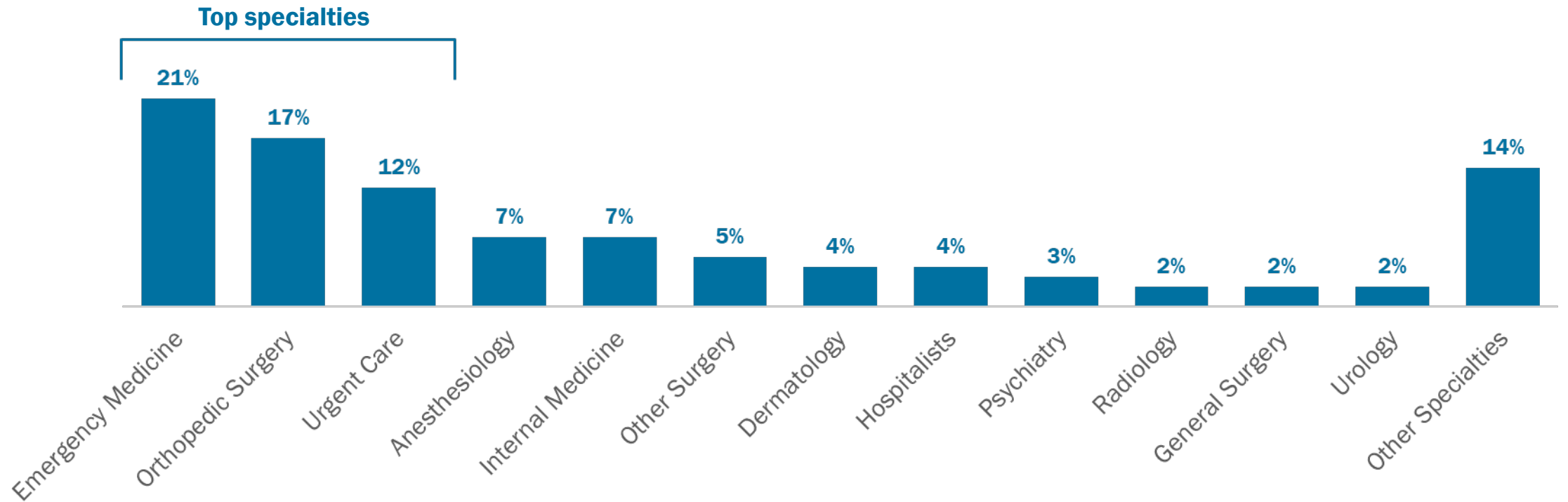
83% of physician assistants provide primary care in family practice.



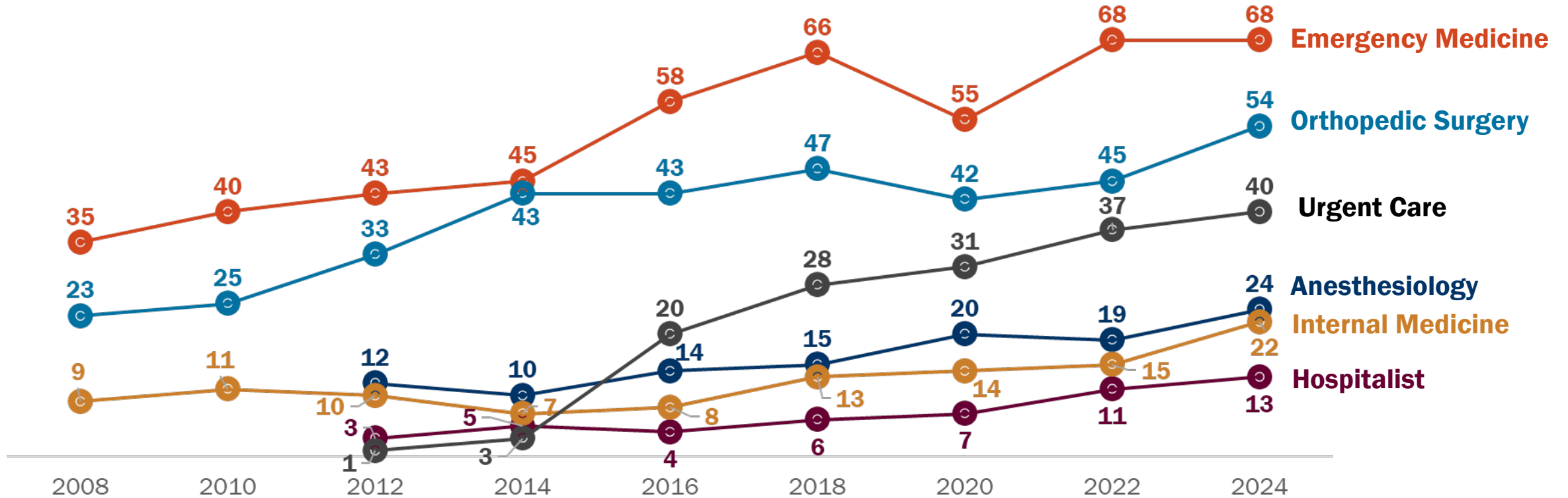
The number of family practice physician assistants increased between 2008 and 2020 and has slowly decreased since then.



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

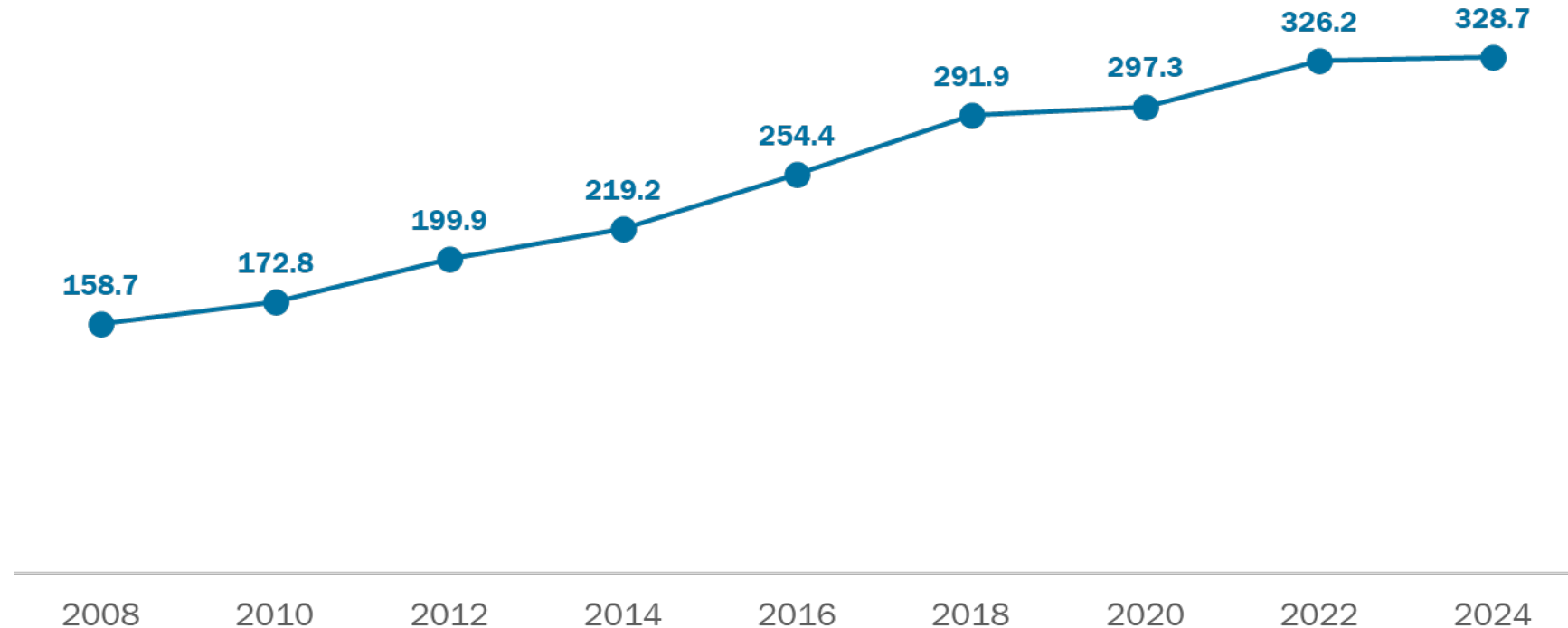


From 2008 to 2024, numbers of PAs in specialty care increased, with large increases in emergency medicine, orthopedic surgery and urgent care.

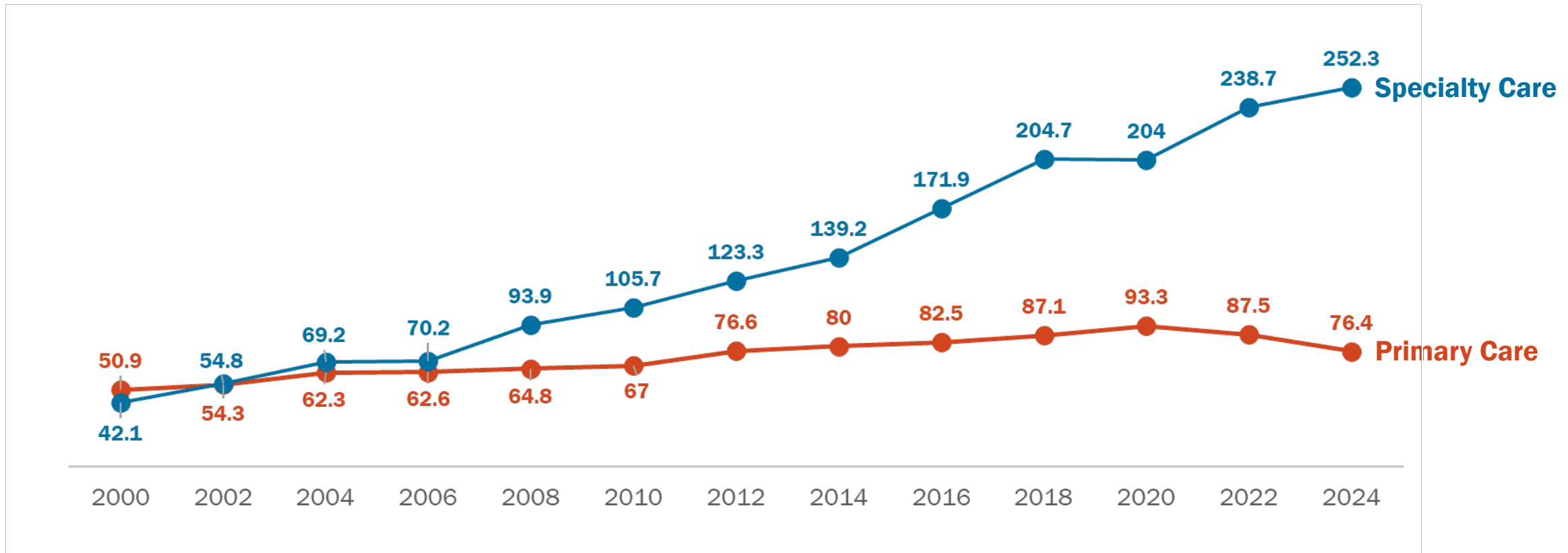


Trends and Distribution of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Total physician assistant FTEs have increased over time, but only slightly between 2022 and 2024.



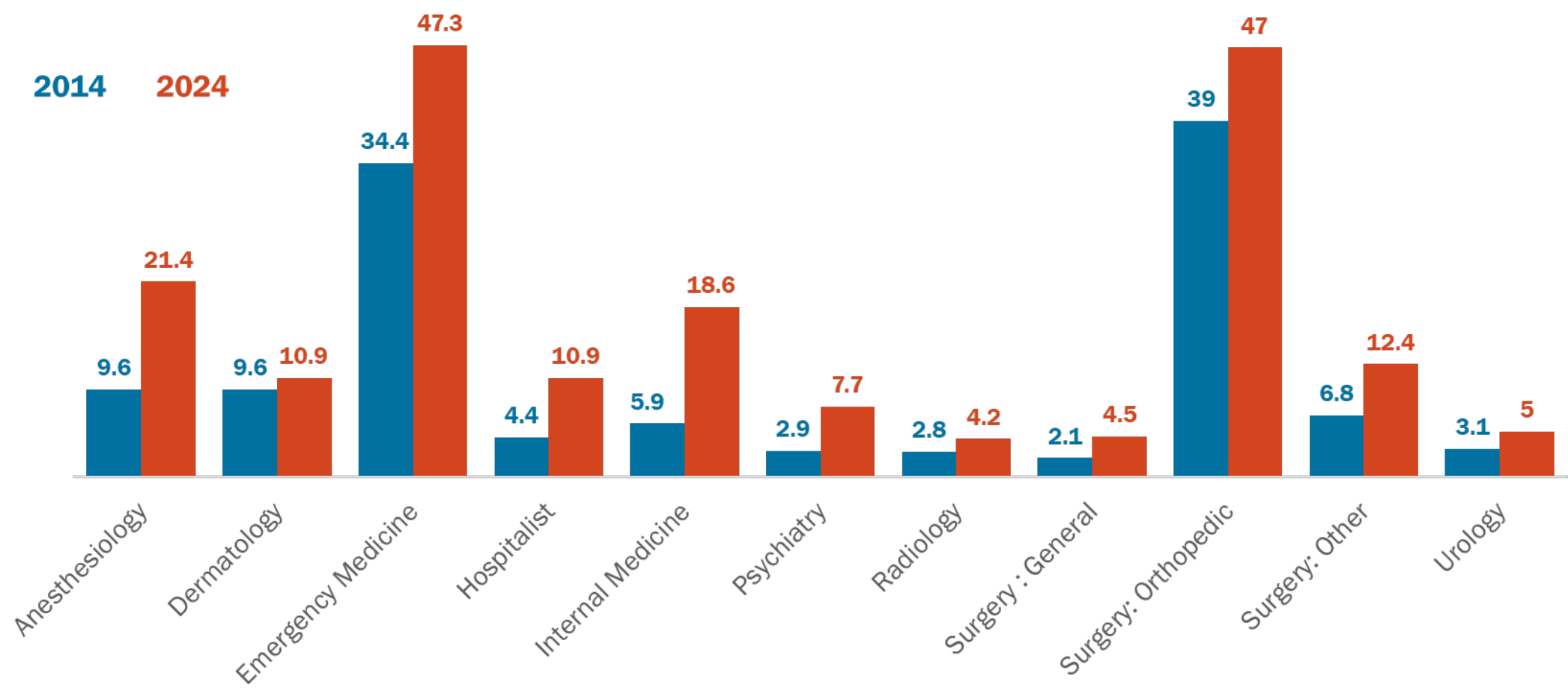
Specialty care FTEs continues to grow, while primary care FTEs are decreasing.



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

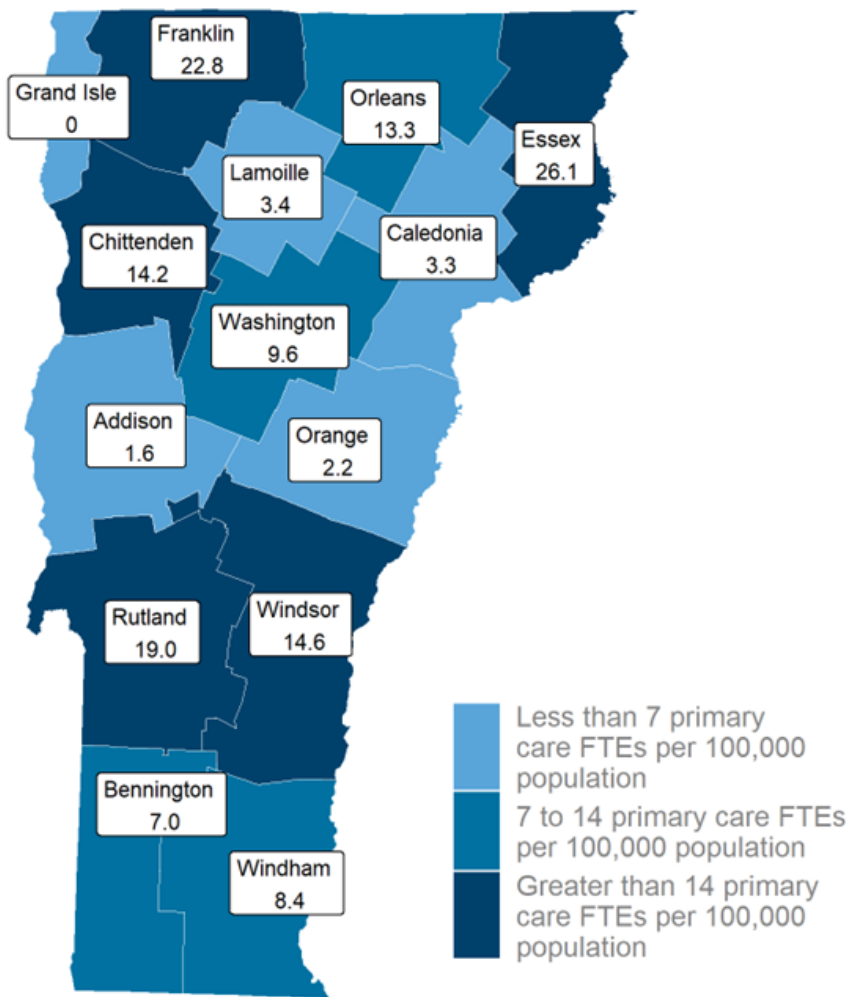
*FTEs not computed for pathology, radiology, and all telemedicine

Specialty care FTEs from 2014 to 2024 increased in all specialties.

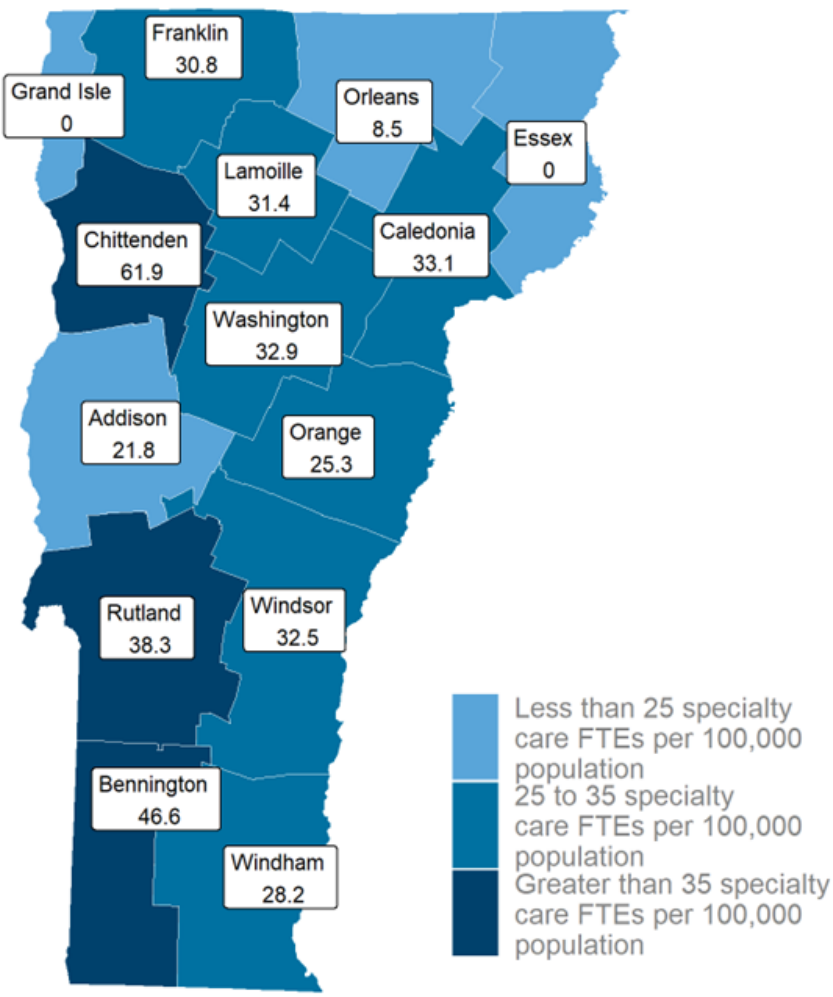


Primary and Specialty care FTEs per 100,000 population

Primary Care

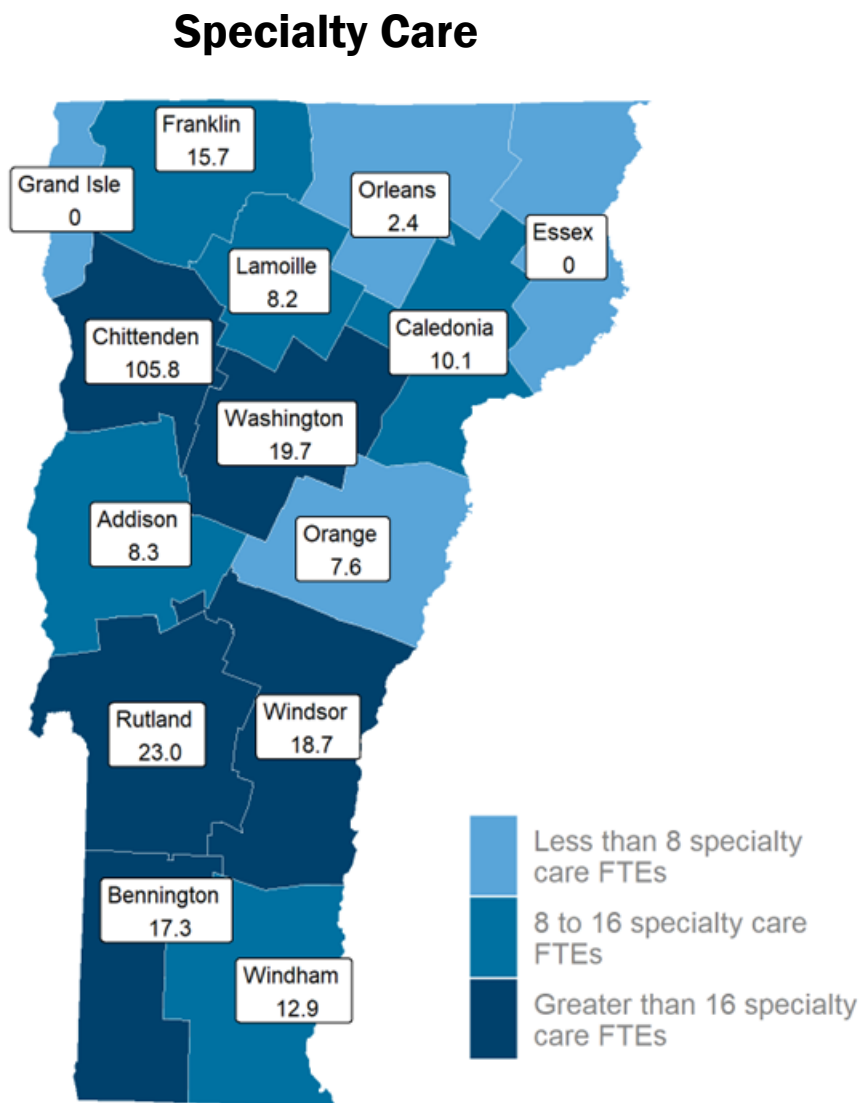
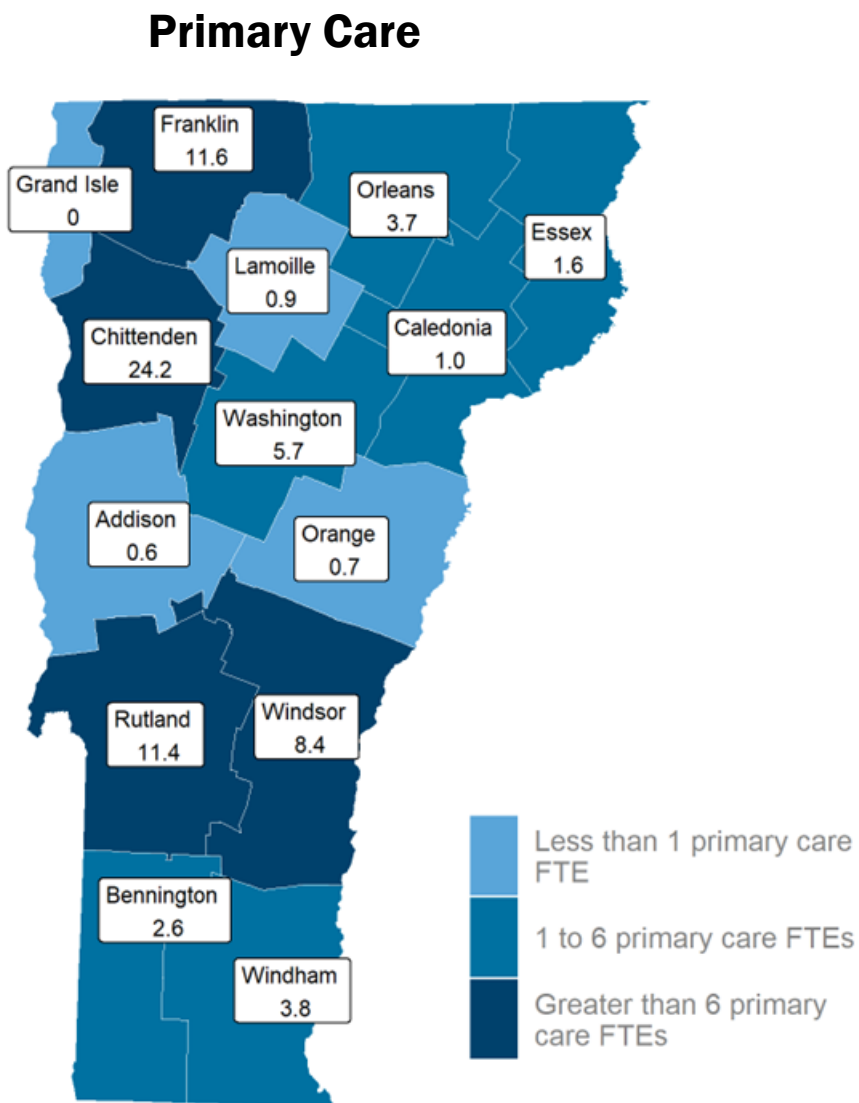


Specialty Care



2024 population estimates are used in this report.

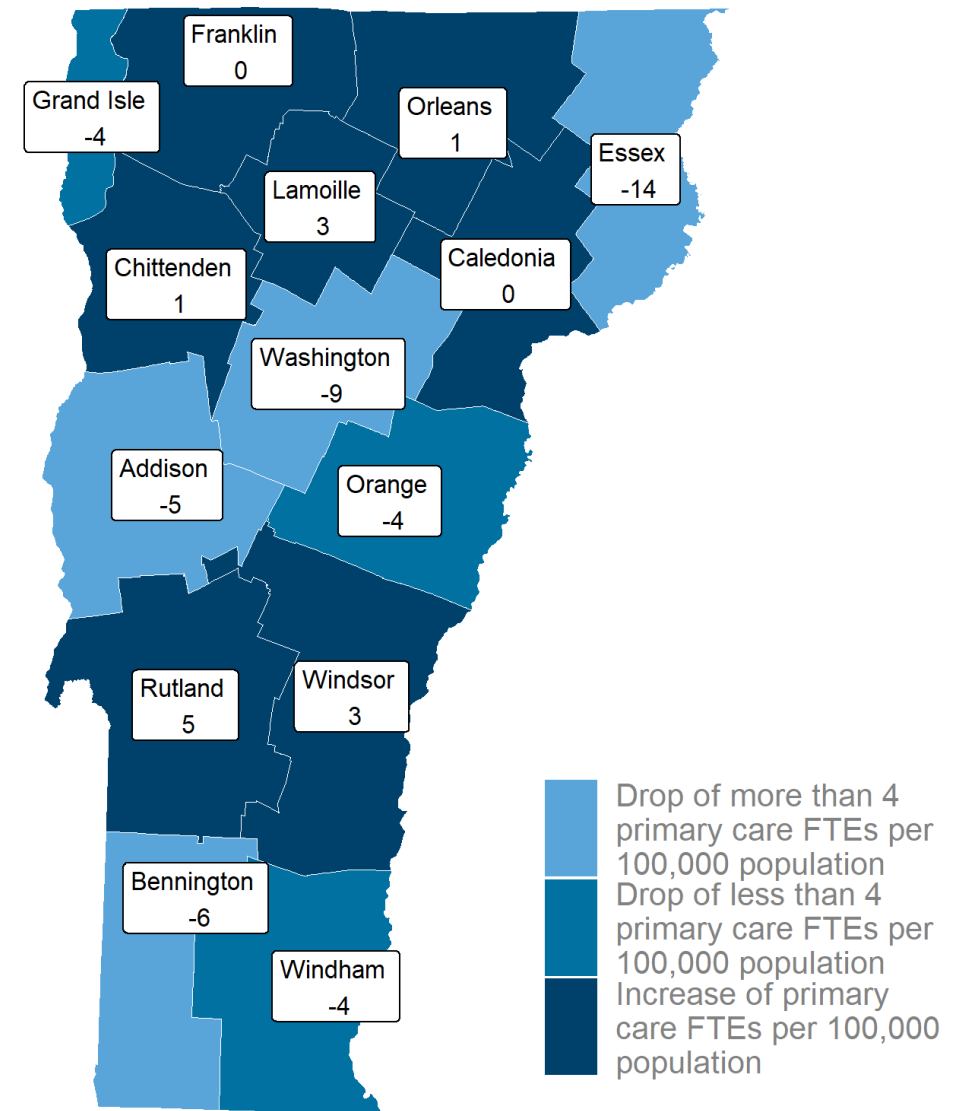
Physician assistants are highly concentrated in Chittenden County.



From 2014 to 2024, 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.

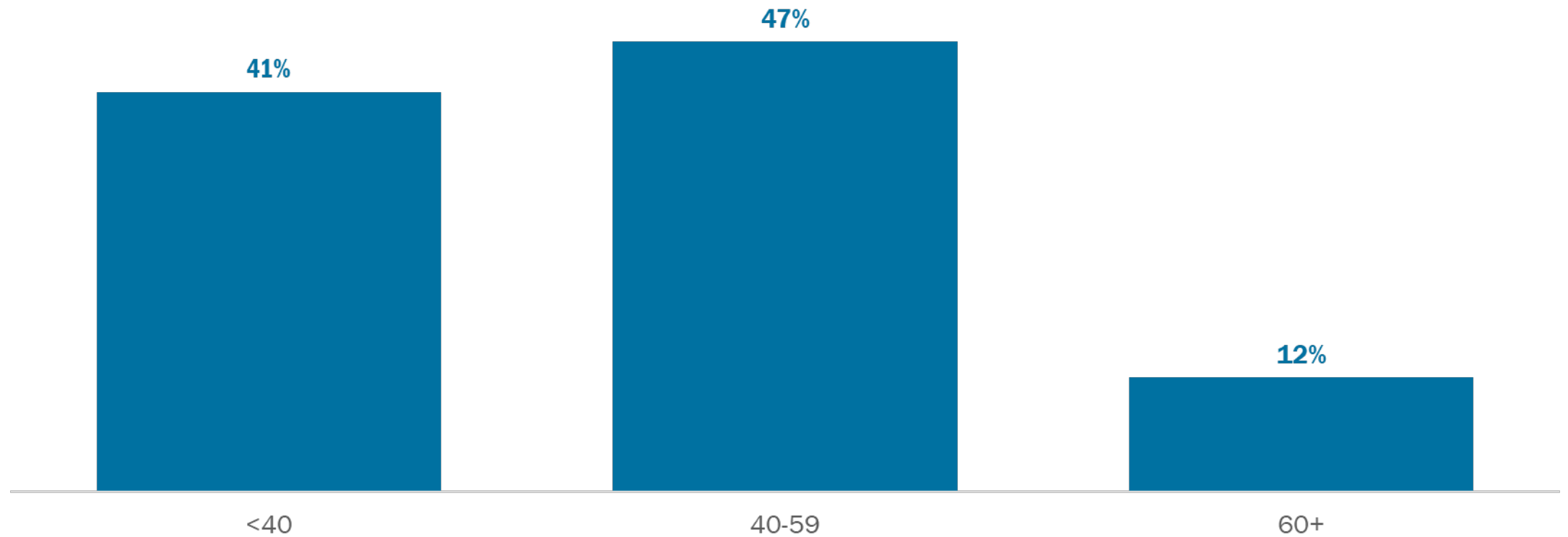
FTEs show the number of FTE PAs in an area while population ratios show that in relation to the population* that they serve.

* 2024 population estimates are used in this report for 2024 data.

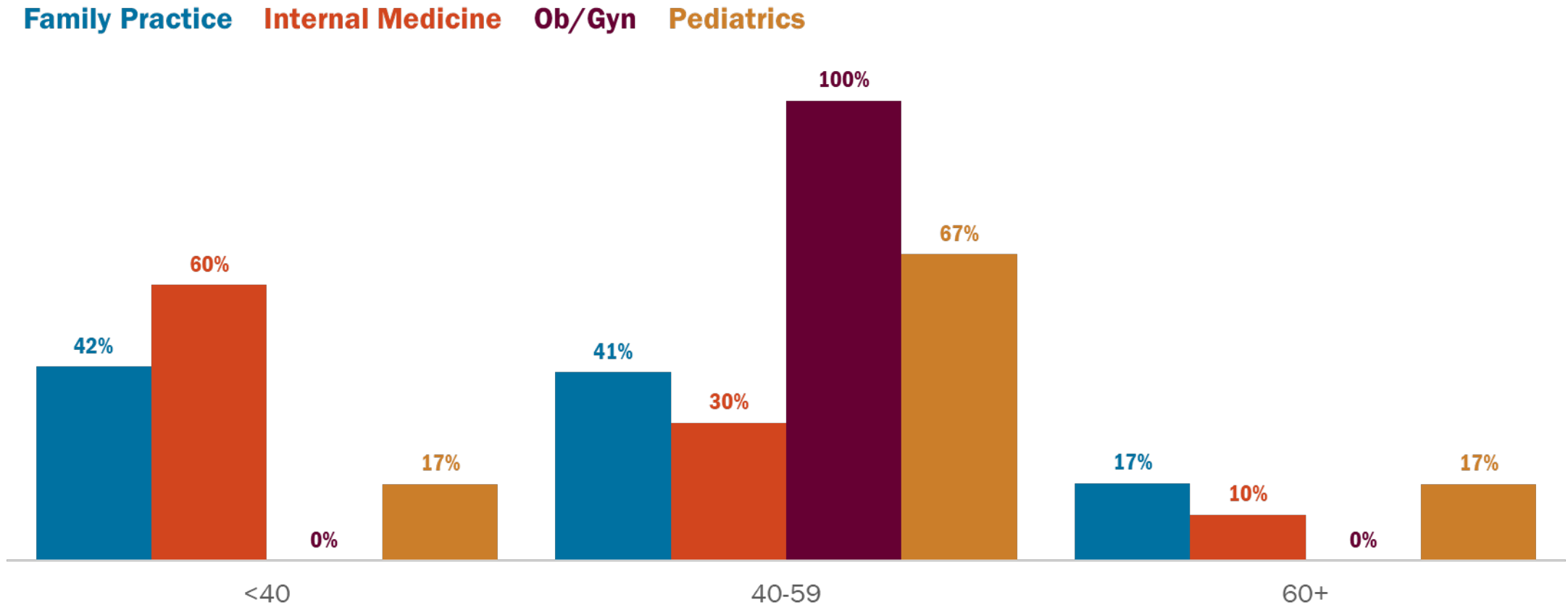


Age, Gender, Ethnicity and Race of Physician Assistants

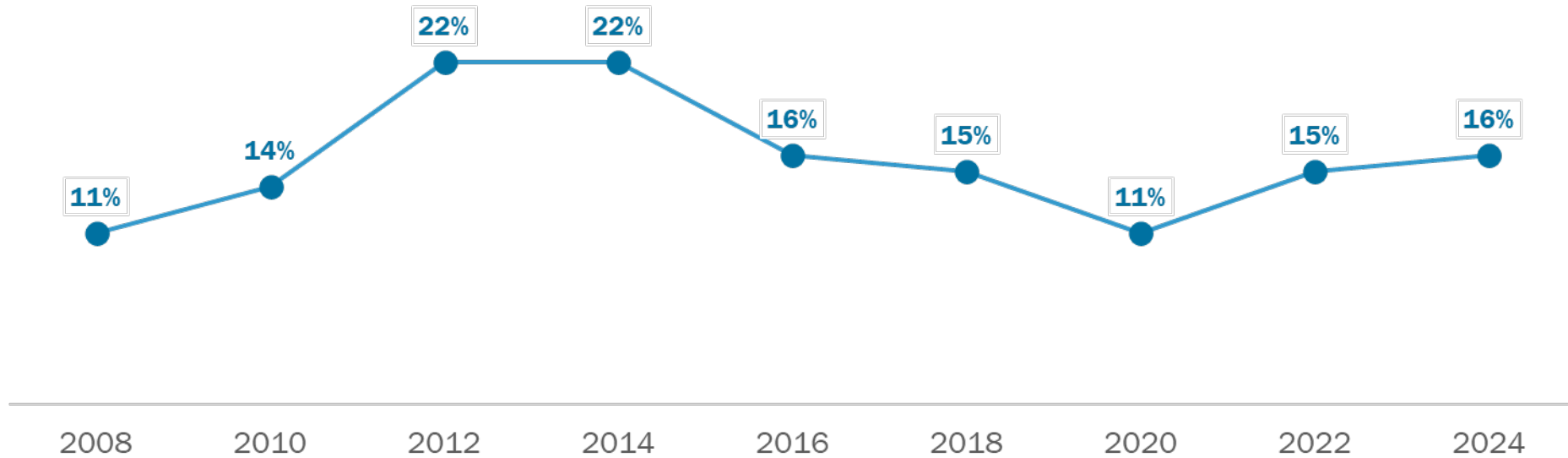
12% of all physician assistants are 60 or older.



Age Distribution of Primary Care Physician Assistants



The percentage of primary care physician assistants over age 60 was 16% in 2024.



Of the PAs in primary care, 16% are age 60 or older, compared to 11% of those in specialty care.

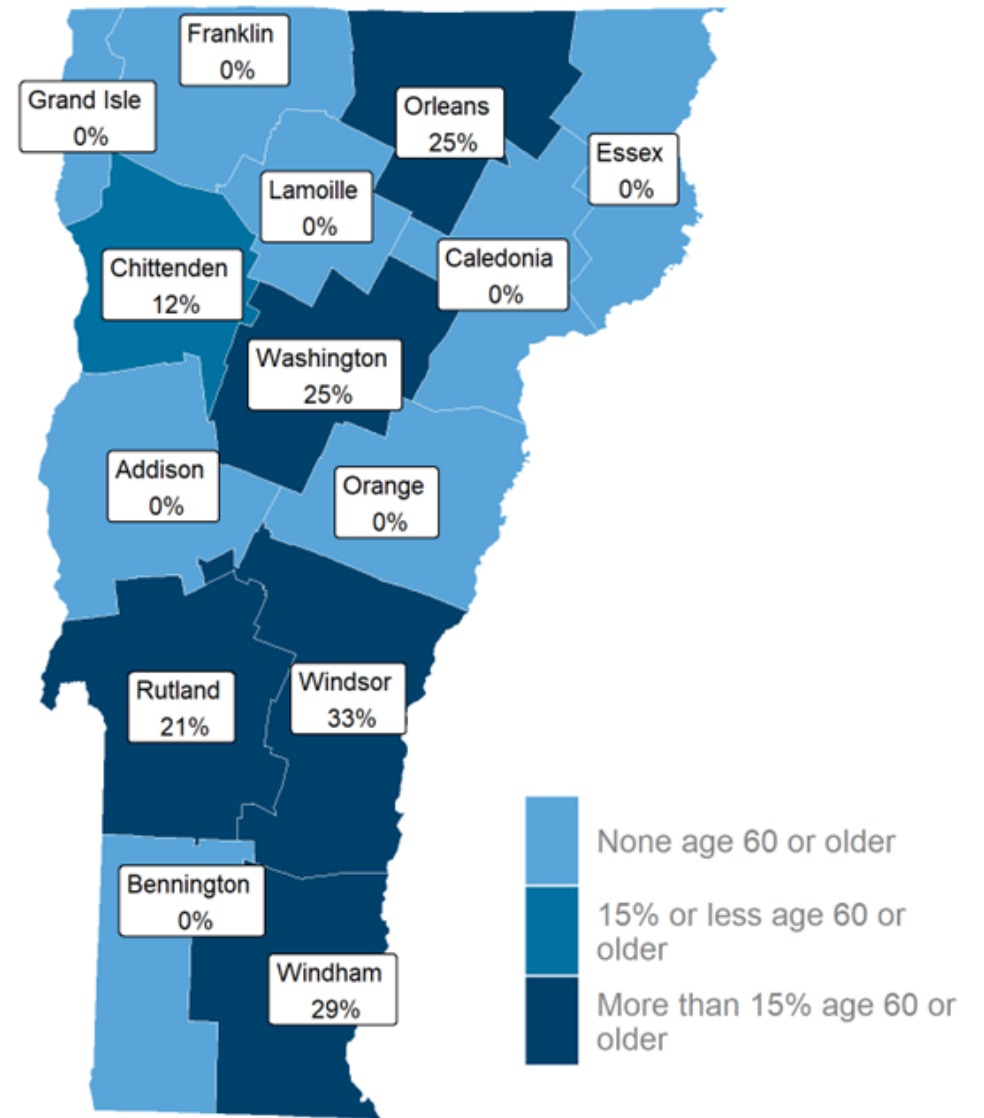
16% (16) of primary care physician assistants are 60 years or older, including...

- 17% of family practice PAs
- 10% of internal medicine PAs

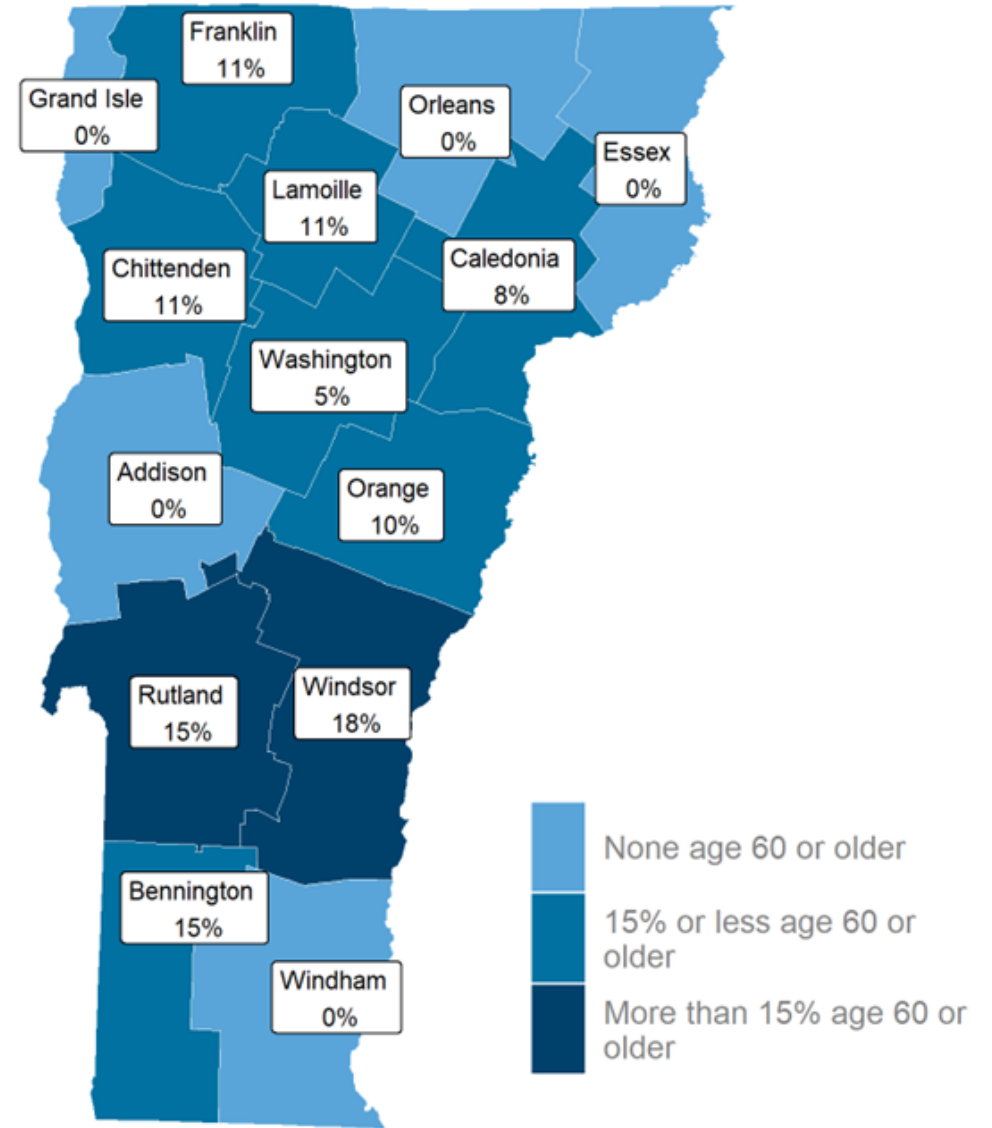
11% (34) of specialty care physician assistants are 60 years or older, including...

- 18% of urgent care PAs
- 14% of internal medicine PAs
- 14% of dermatology PAs
- 11% of orthopedic surgeons

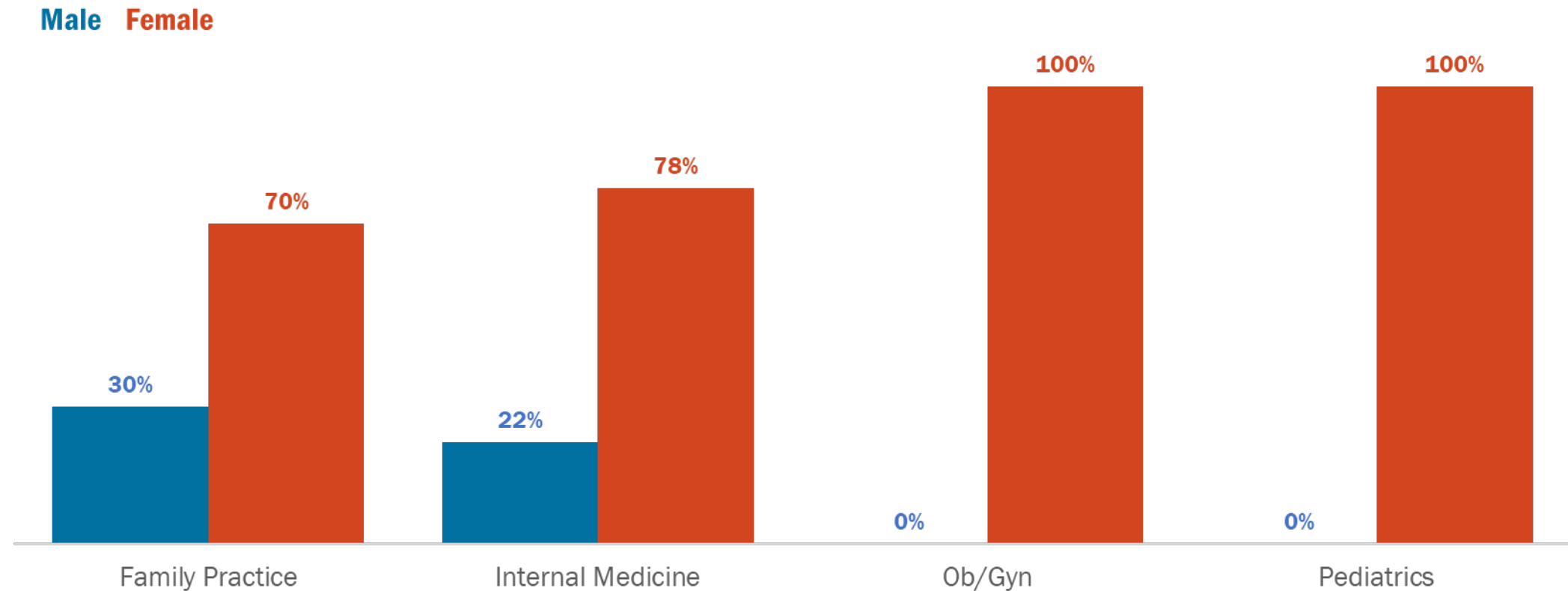
The percentage of *primary* care physician assistants age 60 or older are highest in Windsor and Windham Counties.



The percentage of *specialty* care physician assistants age 60 or older is highest in Windsor and Rutland Counties.

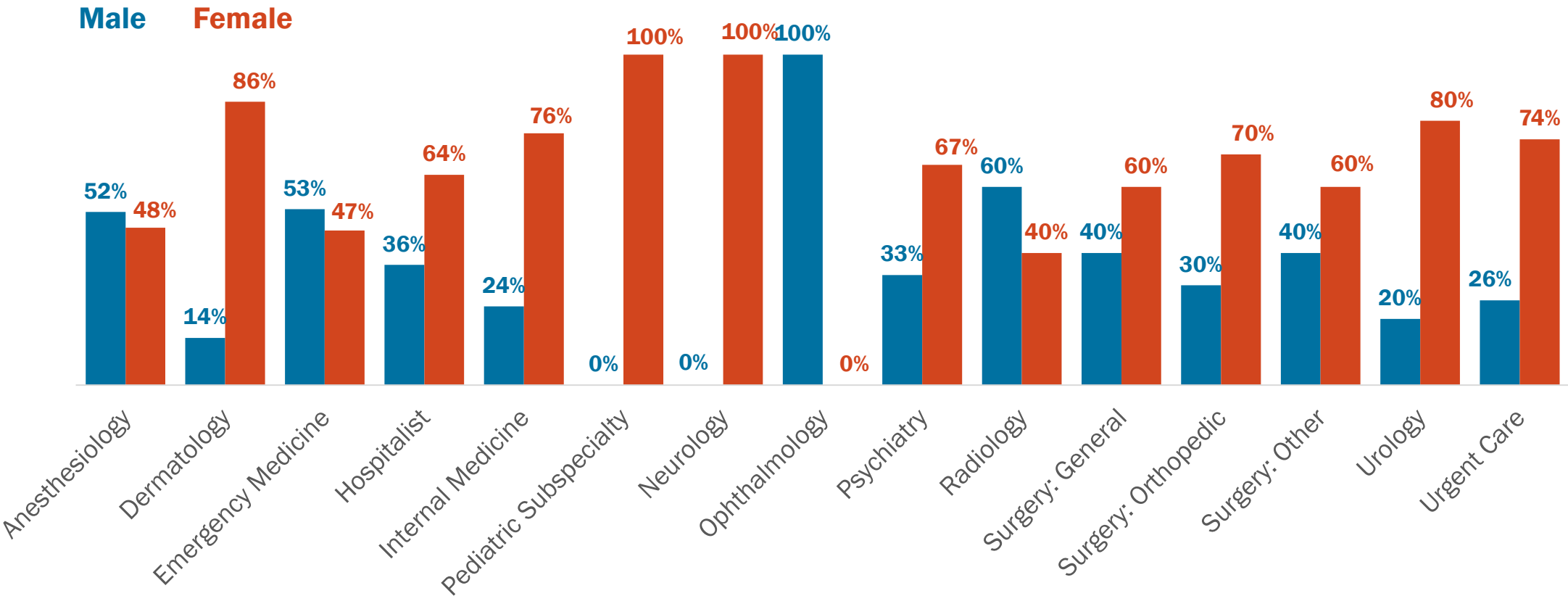


67% of all Vermont physician assistants, including 73% of primary care physician assistants, are female.



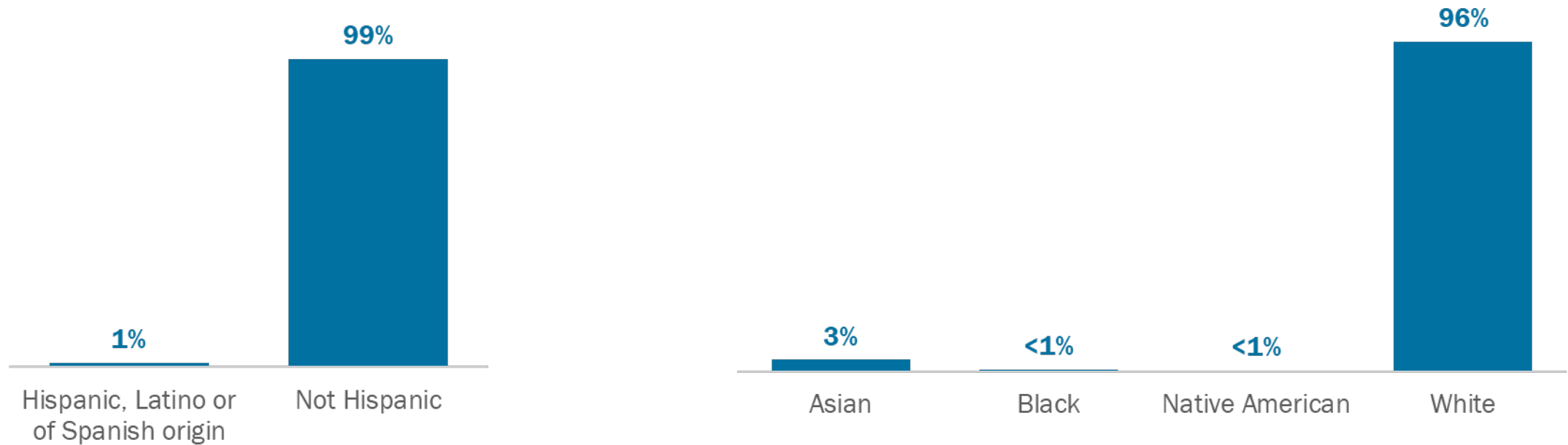
Physician assistants who self-described or chose not to answer the question on gender are not included in the graph above.

65% of specialty 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.

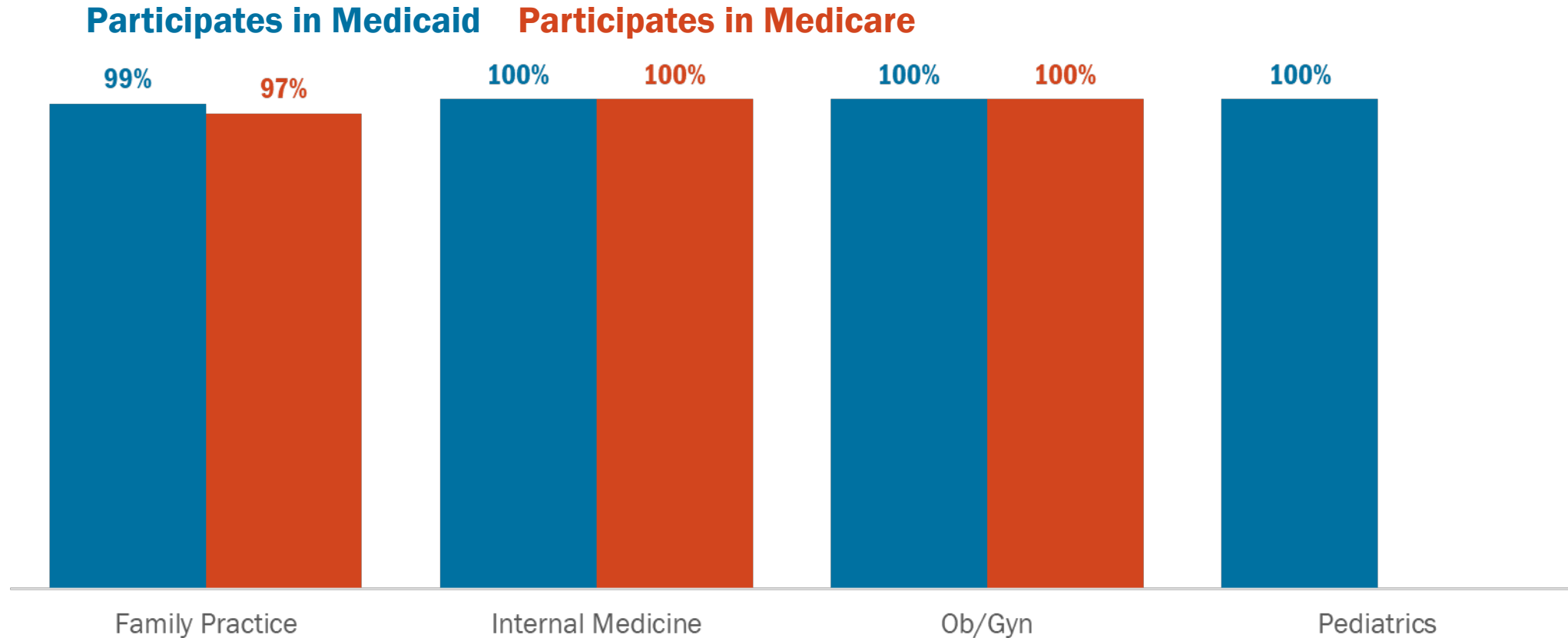
99% of all Vermont physician assistants identify as not Hispanic and 96% identify as white.



Physician assistants who chose not to answer the questions on race and ethnicity are not included in the graph above. More than one race could be selected so the sum of that section may not equal the total number of PAs.

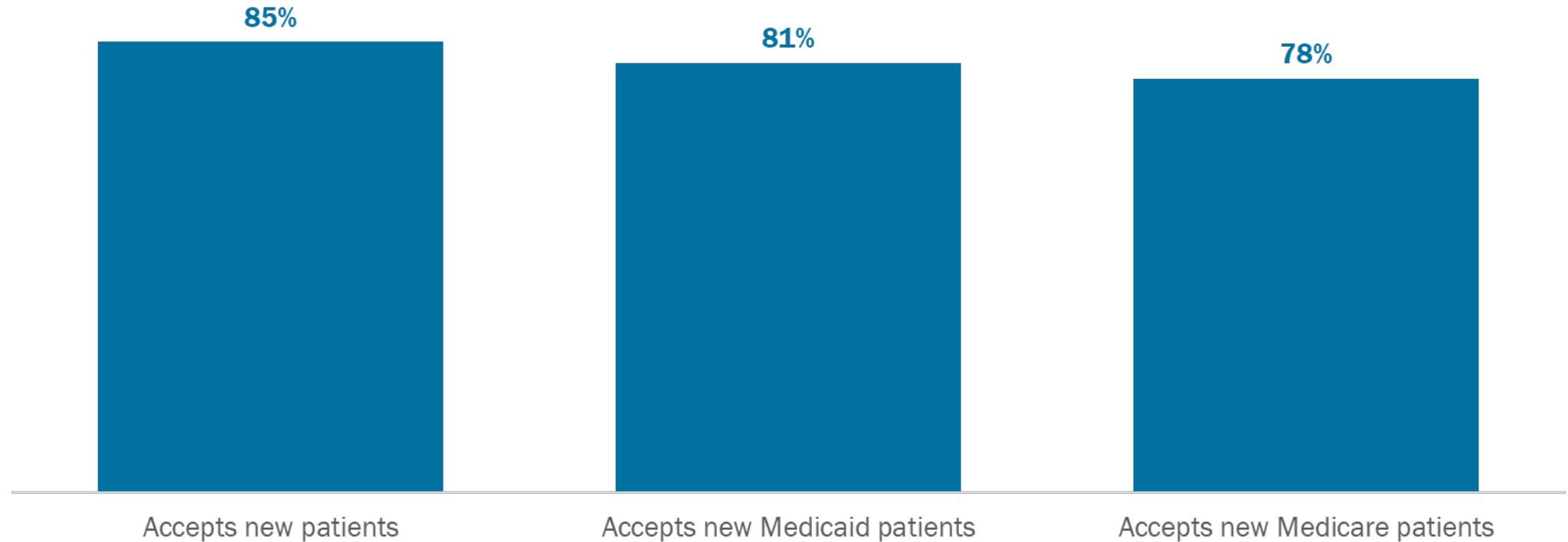
Practice Availability

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

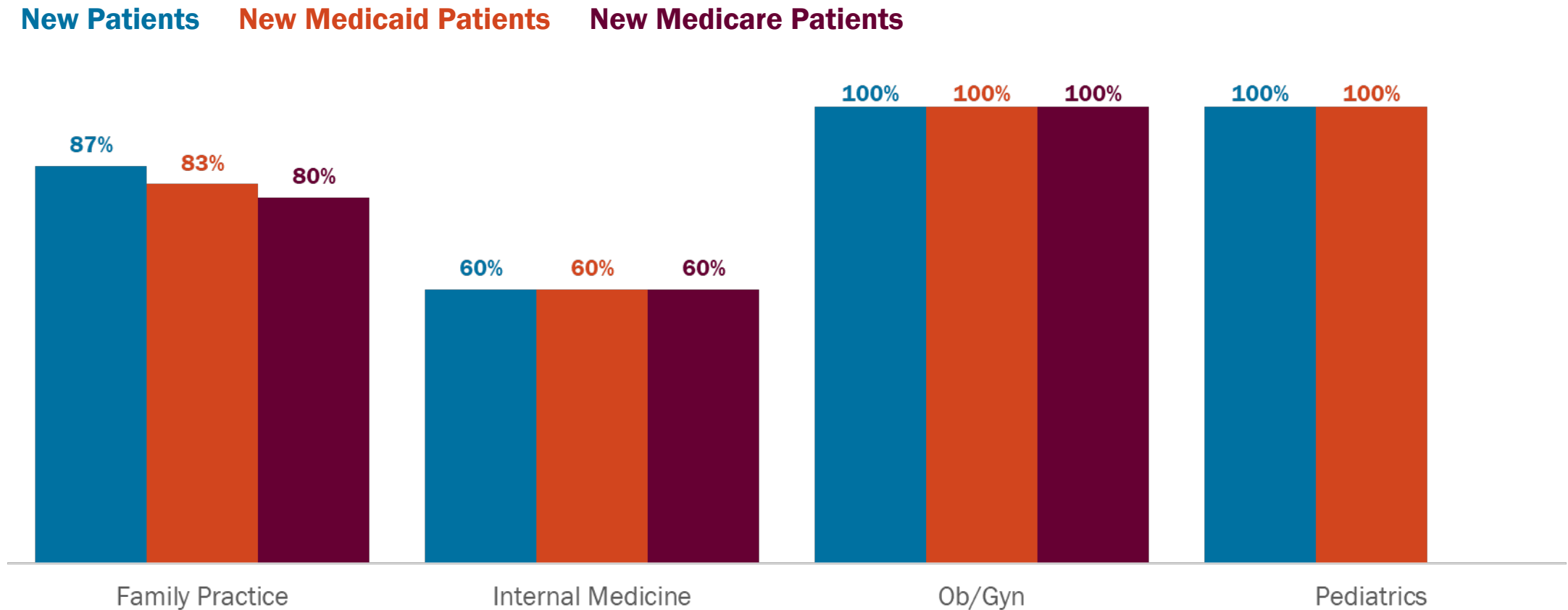


*Medicare covers people aged 65 and older and younger people with disabilities.

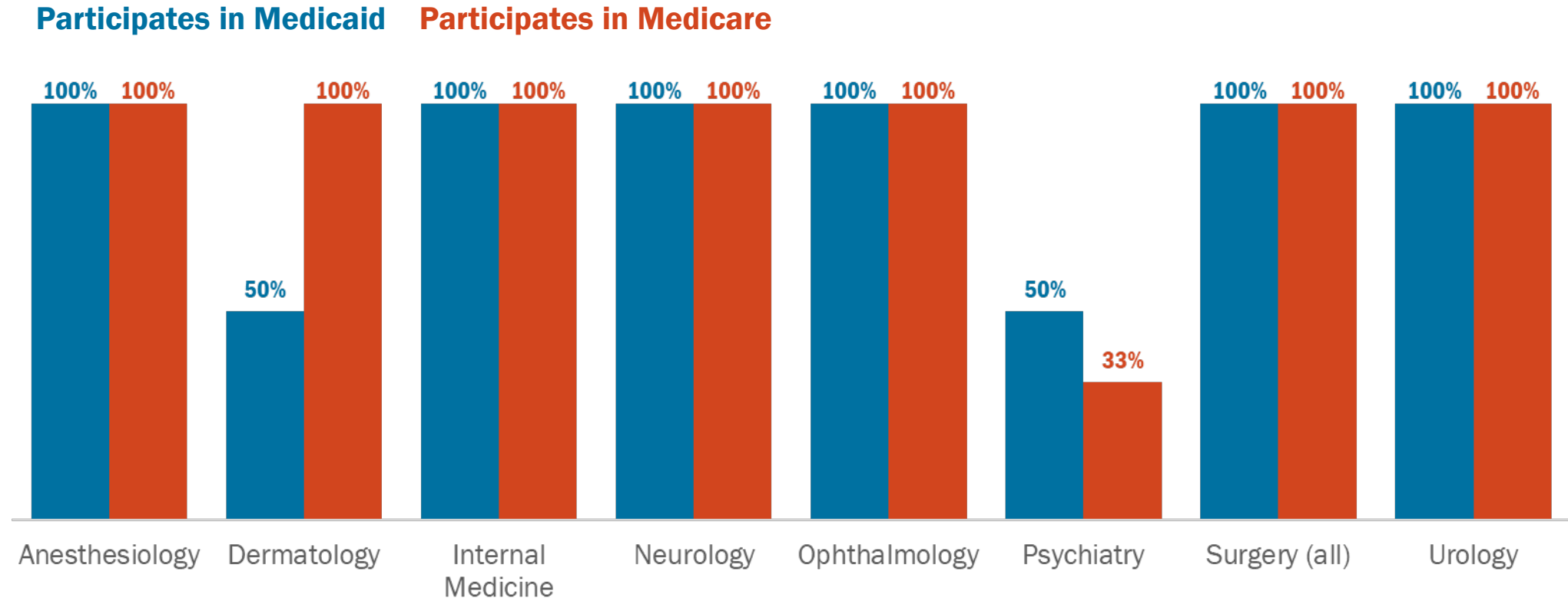
85% of primary care physician assistants accept new patients and slightly less accept new Medicaid or Medicare patients.



Primary care physician assistants practicing internal medicine are the least likely to be accepting new patients.

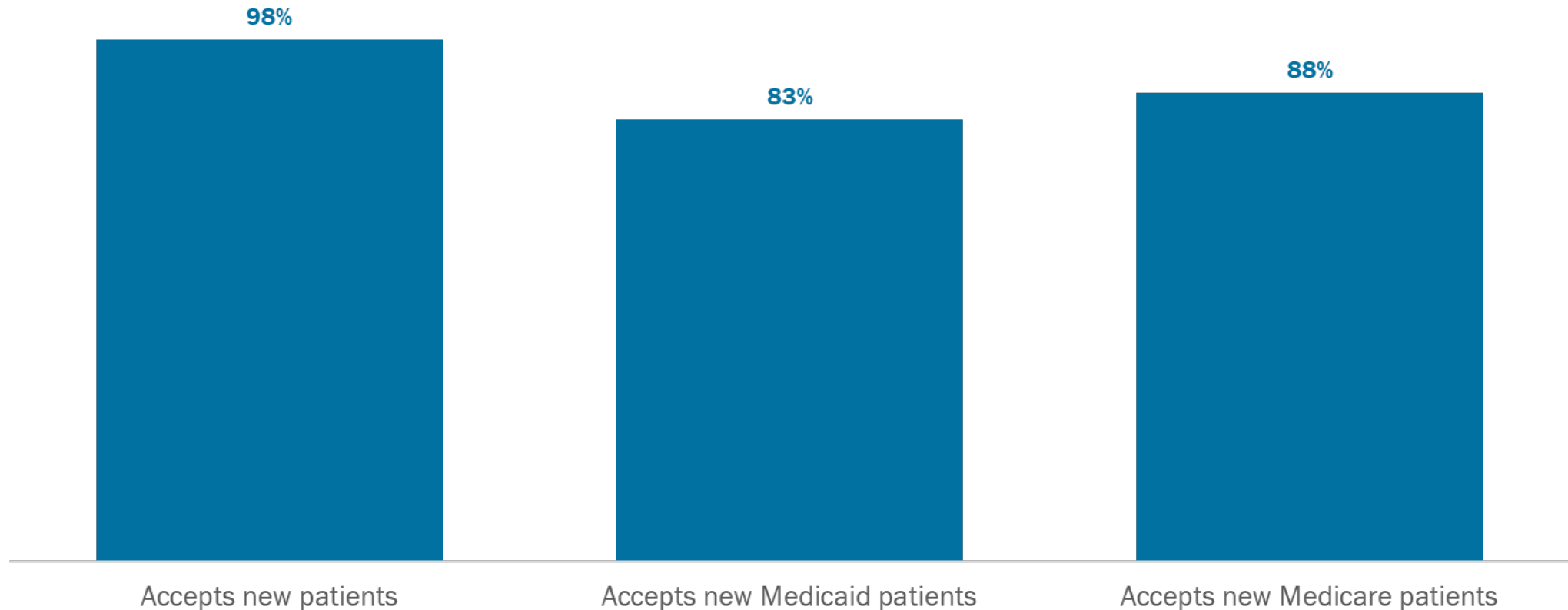


92% of all specialty care physician assistants participate in Medicaid while 97% participate in Medicare.



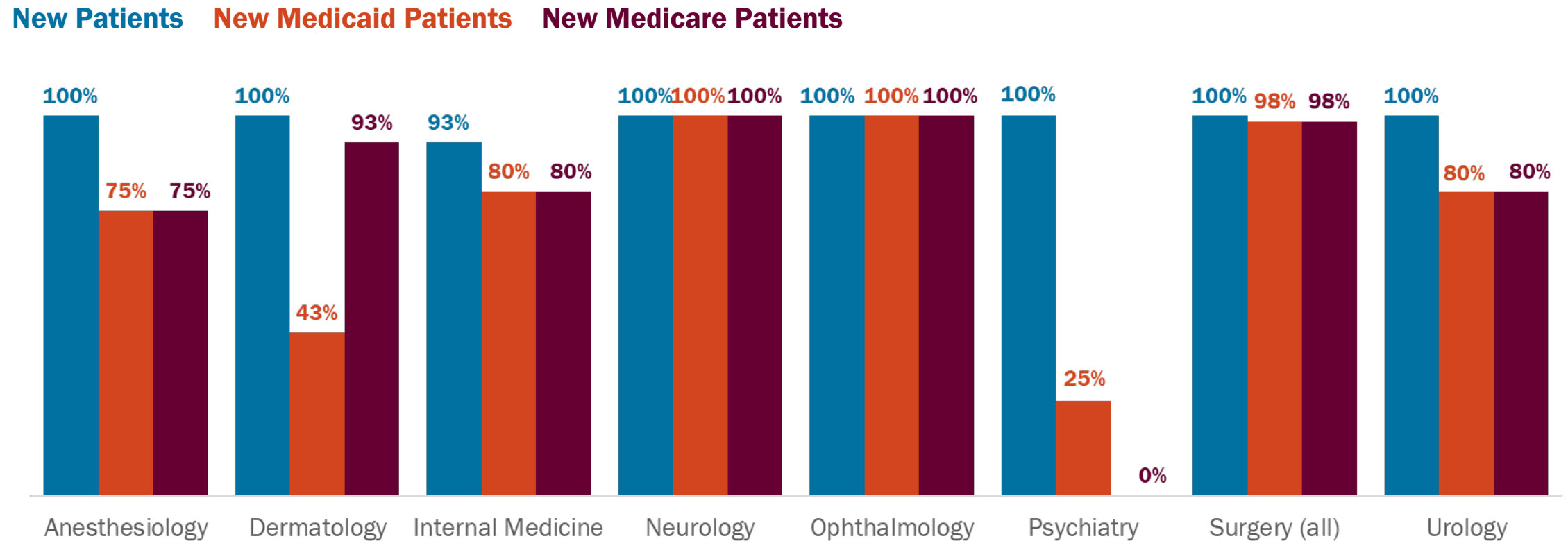
*Medicare covers people aged 65 and older and younger people with disabilities.
Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care are excluded from this graph.

98% of specialty care physician assistants accept new patients, 83% accept new Medicaid patients, and 88% accept new Medicare patients.



Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care are excluded from this graph.

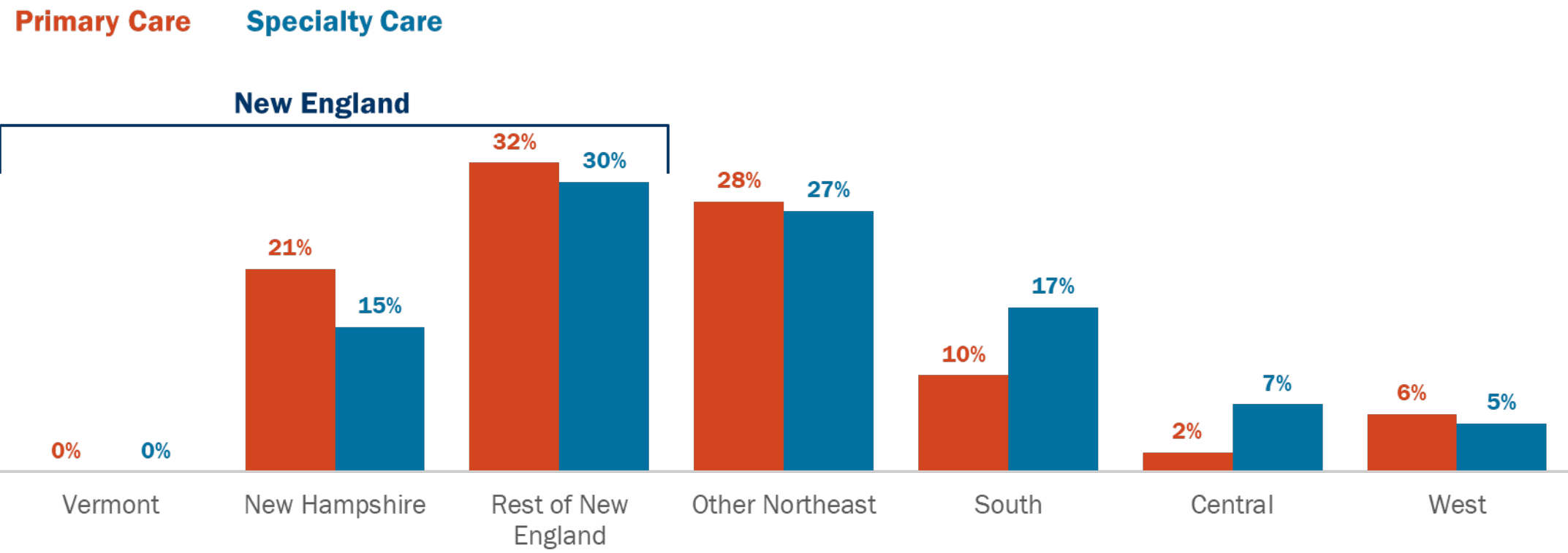
Fewer physician assistants practicing dermatology and psychiatry are accepting new Medicaid patients than other specialists.



Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care are excluded from this graph.

Education, Training, and Future Plans

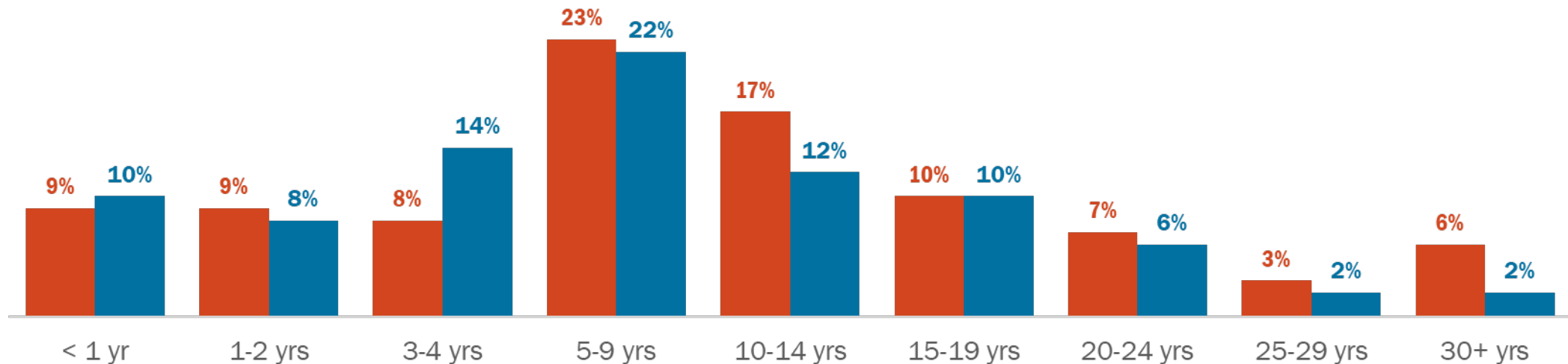
53% of primary care and 45% of specialty care physician assistants were trained in New England.



Data are missing for 29 people.

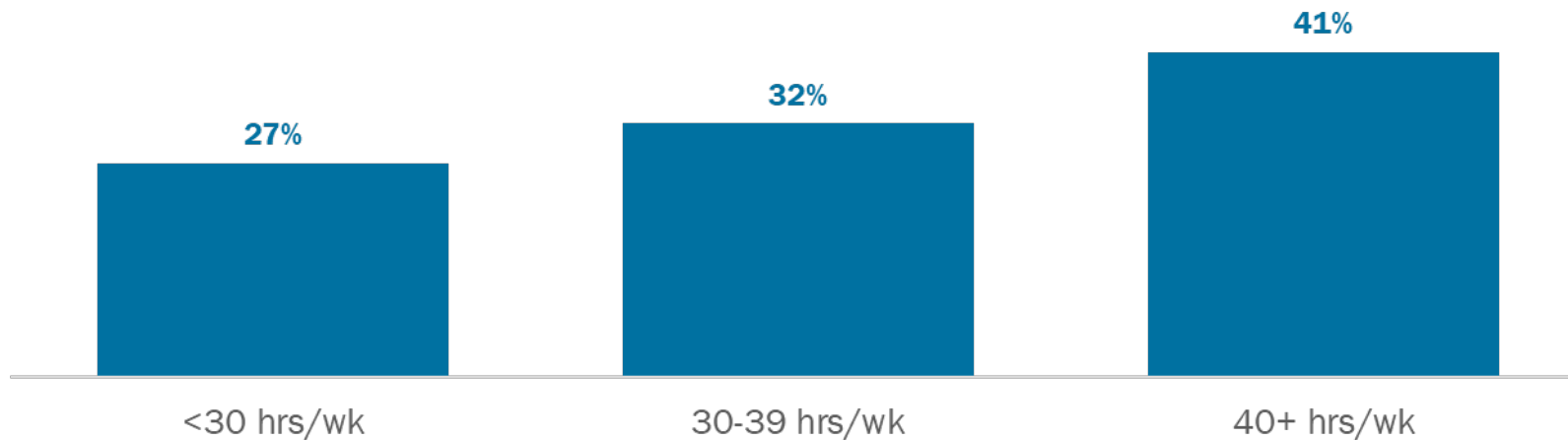
26% of primary care and 32% of specialty care physician assistants have been in practice less than 5 years in Vermont.

Primary Care **Specialty Care**



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

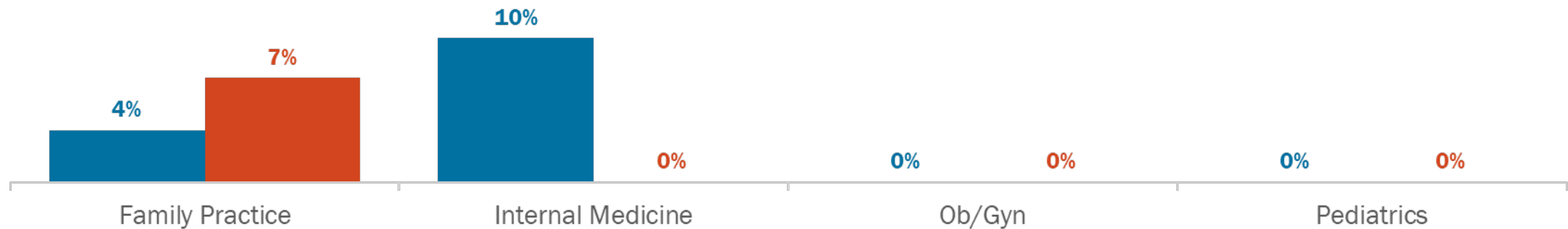
73% of physician assistants work 30 hours or more per week in direct patient care.



10% of all primary care physician assistants are planning to retire or reduce hours in Vermont within 12 months.

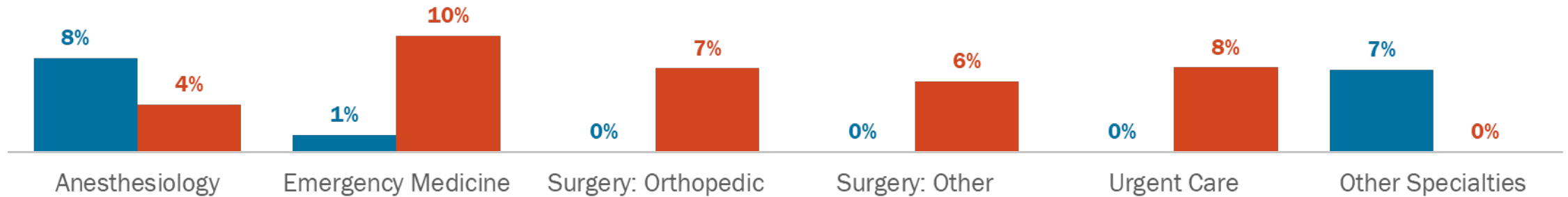
Retire / Leave

Reduce Hours



7% of all specialty care physician assistants are planning to retire or reduce hours in Vermont within 12 months.

Retire / Leave Reduce Hours



None of the PAs working in Dermatology, Hospitalist, Internal Medicine, Pediatric Subspecialty, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, Radiology, Surgery: General, or Urology plan to retire or reduce hours in the next 12 months.

For more information, contact us.

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280 State Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-8370
- 3 [Health Care Workforce | Vermont Department of Health](#)
- 4 [2024 Physician Assistants Census Statistical Report](#)