



## Summary report

# Physicians in Canada, 2018



Canadian Institute  
for Health Information

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## About CIHI's physician data

Collecting and reporting physician information assists decision-makers in health human resource planning, as well as in the distribution and funding of physicians. Information on the supply, distribution and migration of physicians from the data sources used for this report is available as far back as 1968, and information on physician service utilization and payments is published from 1996–1997 onward. The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) has collected this information since its inception in 1994, and has been reporting on it since 1997.

The Physicians in Canada release provides readers with a complete set of documents for physician-related data on the supply and distribution of physicians, their payments and the services they provide.

To ensure that our work reflects priority needs, we invite our readers to join the discussion using CIHI's Facebook page ([facebook.com/CIHI.ICIS](https://facebook.com/CIHI.ICIS)), Twitter account ([twitter.com/CIHI\\_ICIS](https://twitter.com/CIHI_ICIS)) or email ([physicians@cihi.ca](mailto:physicians@cihi.ca)).

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## More information

The following suite of products that are part of the Physicians in Canada, 2018 release are available on [CIHI's website](#):

- *Physicians in Canada, 2018* (report)
- *A profile of physicians in Canada* (infographic)
- Supply, Distribution and Migration of Physicians in Canada (data tables, historical data, methodological notes, Quick Stats)
- National Physician Database (payments and utilization data tables, historical payments and utilization data tables, methodological notes)
- Physician Services Benefit Rates (data tables, methodological notes)

PowerPoint slides of key findings for use in presentations are available on demand. Please email [physicians@cihi.ca](mailto:physicians@cihi.ca) for more information.

The following health workforce products are also available on [CIHI's website](#):

- *Nursing in Canada, 2018: A Lens on Supply and Workforce* (report)
- *A profile of nursing in Canada* (infographic)
- Nursing in Canada, 2018 (data tables, methodological notes)
- Health Workforce, 2018 (data tables, methodological guide, indicators)
- Canada's Health Care Providers: Provincial Profiles, 2008 to 2017 (data tables)

Feedback and questions are welcome at [physicians@cihi.ca](mailto:physicians@cihi.ca).

## Highlights

This report contains information on the supply of physicians in Canada, physician service utilization and payments to physicians that are administered through the provincial and territorial medical care plans. Data on the supply, distribution and migration of physicians is as of December 31, 2018. Service utilization and payments data is for fiscal year 2017–2018.

**The number of physicians in Canada continues to increase, outpacing the growth of the general population.**

- 2018 saw the largest single-year increase in the number of physicians since 2011. In 2018, there were 89,911 physicians in Canada, representing a 3.8% increase over 2017.
- The growth rate for the number of physicians has more than doubled that of the population since 2014, and there were 241 physicians per 100,000 population in 2018.

**The proportion of female physicians in Canada is rising, particularly among family medicine physicians.**

- In 2018, 46.6% of family medicine physicians and 37.5% of specialist physicians in Canada were female.
- Since 2014, the number of female physicians in the workforce has increased by 21.1%, while the number of male physicians has increased by 7.0%.
- In 2018, Quebec had the highest proportion of female physicians, at 50.0%, while Prince Edward Island had the lowest, at 33.8%.

**Clinical payments to physicians in Canada surpassed \$27.4 billion in 2017–2018.**

- Total clinical payments to physicians increased 3.9% over the previous year to just over \$27.4 billion. Total clinical payments to physicians in Canada have increased 14.1% over the past 5 years.
- Since 2012–2013, the proportion of clinical payments paid through fee for service has gradually increased from 70.6% to 72.6% of total clinical payments, a level last observed 8 years earlier.

**The average gross payment per physician reached \$345,000 in 2017–2018.**

- The average gross clinical payment per physician increased by 1.3% in 2017–2018 to \$345,000. It ranged from \$267,000 in Nova Scotia to \$385,000 in Alberta.
- The average gross clinical payment per family medicine physician increased by 1.4% in 2017–2018 to \$281,000. The average gross clinical payment per medical specialist and the average per surgical specialist remained virtually unchanged from 2016–2017 (up 0.7% to \$360,000 and up 0.8% to \$481,000, respectively).
- Some jurisdictions had increases in average payment, while others had decreases or no change at all. Changes in average payments ranged from an increase of 6.5% in Quebec (\$350,000) to a decrease of 3.9% in Saskatchewan (\$346,000). Newfoundland and Labrador had no change in its average payment (\$274,000).

**Consultations and visits made up the majority of both services and payments.**

- In 2017–2018, the average cost per service paid to physicians was \$67.87. Family medicine physicians billed an average cost per service of \$50.37, while medical and surgical specialists billed an average of \$87.03 and \$91.10 per service, respectively.



## Supply, distribution and migration

Physician supply, distribution and migration data includes active physicians in clinical and non-clinical practice (e.g., research and academia) who have a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree and a valid mailing address. The data excludes residents, physicians in the military, and semi-retired and retired physicians. The data also excludes non-registered physicians who requested that their information not be published as of December 31 of the reference year. Data is as of December 31, 2018.



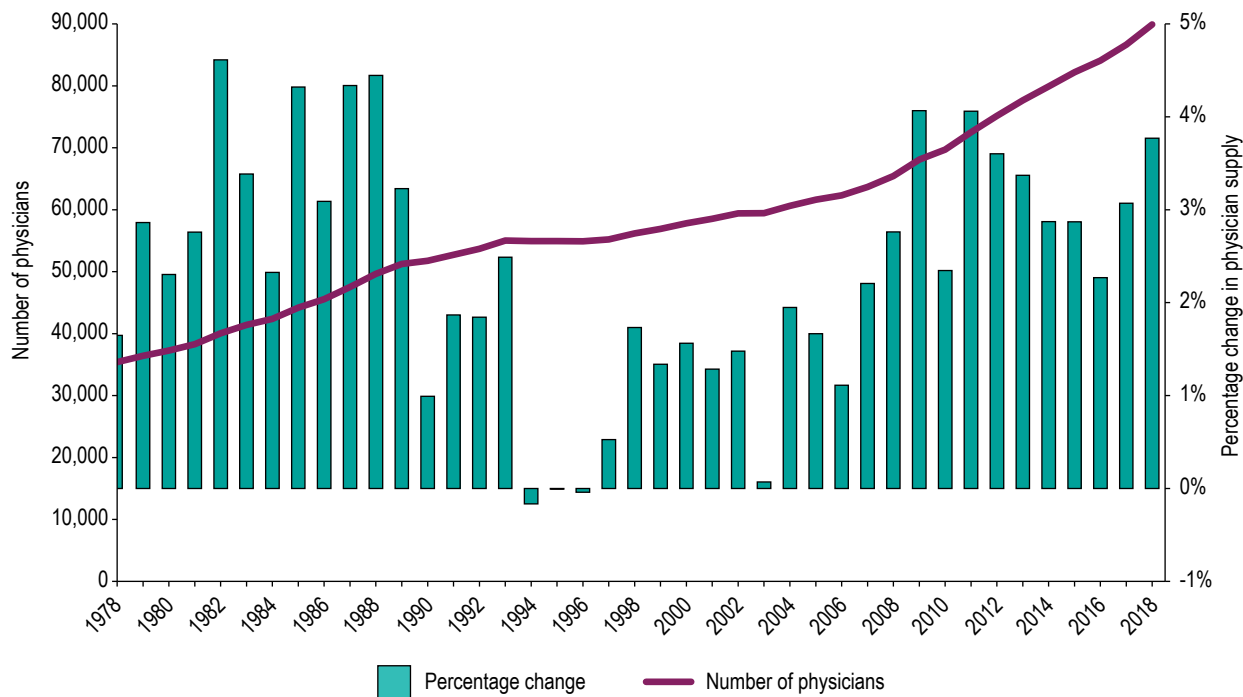


## Physician supply

The physician supply in Canada continues to grow. In 2018, there were more physicians per population than ever before. For the last 12 years, the growth rate of the physician population has outpaced that of the general population, and between 2014 and 2018, the growth rate was more than twice that of the general population.

The number of physicians in Canada has increased each year since 1997.

**Figure 1** Number and percentage growth in the supply of physicians, Canada, 1978 to 2018



In 2018, there were **89,911 physicians in Canada**, representing a **3.8% increase over 2017**.

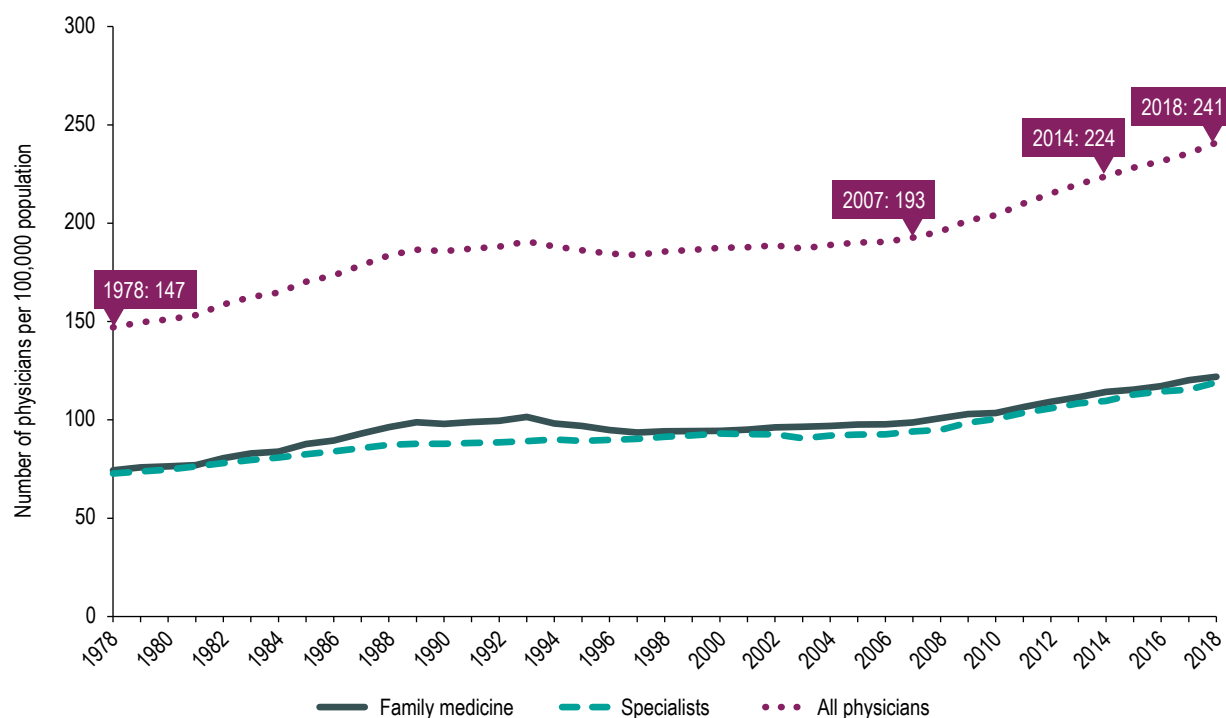
- Canada has sustained yearly increases in the number of physicians of more than 2% since 2007. This type of growth is reminiscent of the 1980s, which also saw significant yearly increases.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

## Physician supply in Canada continues to outpace population growth.

**Figure 2** Number of physicians per 100,000 population, by specialty, Canada, 1978 to 2018



Between 2014 and 2018, the number of physicians increased at a faster pace than the population, resulting in more physicians per 100,000 population than ever before.

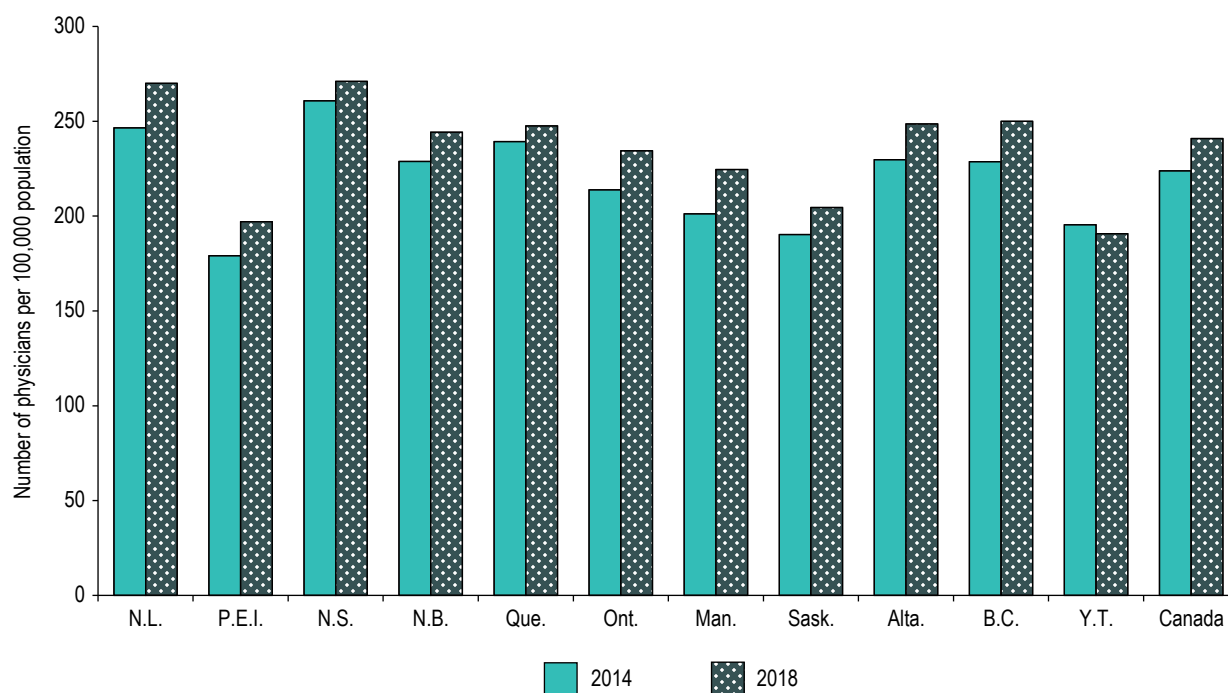
- In 2018, there were 241 physicians per 100,000 population: 122 family medicine physicians and 119 specialists per 100,000 population.
- Nationally, the proportion of family medicine and specialist physicians has remained relatively equal since the late 1970s, with family medicine physicians representing between 50% and 53% of the physician workforce.

### Source

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Over the last 5 years, the number of physicians per 100,000 population has increased in all but 1 jurisdiction.

**Figure 3** Number of physicians per 100,000 population, by jurisdiction, 2014 and 2018



The number of physicians per 100,000 population in Canada increased by 7.6% between 2014 and 2018.

- Jurisdictions with the highest number of physicians per 100,000 population included Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador (271 and 270 per 100,000 population, respectively).
- The number of physicians per 100,000 population in Manitoba increased by 11.6% between 2014 and 2018, representing the largest per capita increase of all jurisdictions during that period.

**Note**

Due to small numbers, data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not displayed individually, but are included in the Canada totals.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

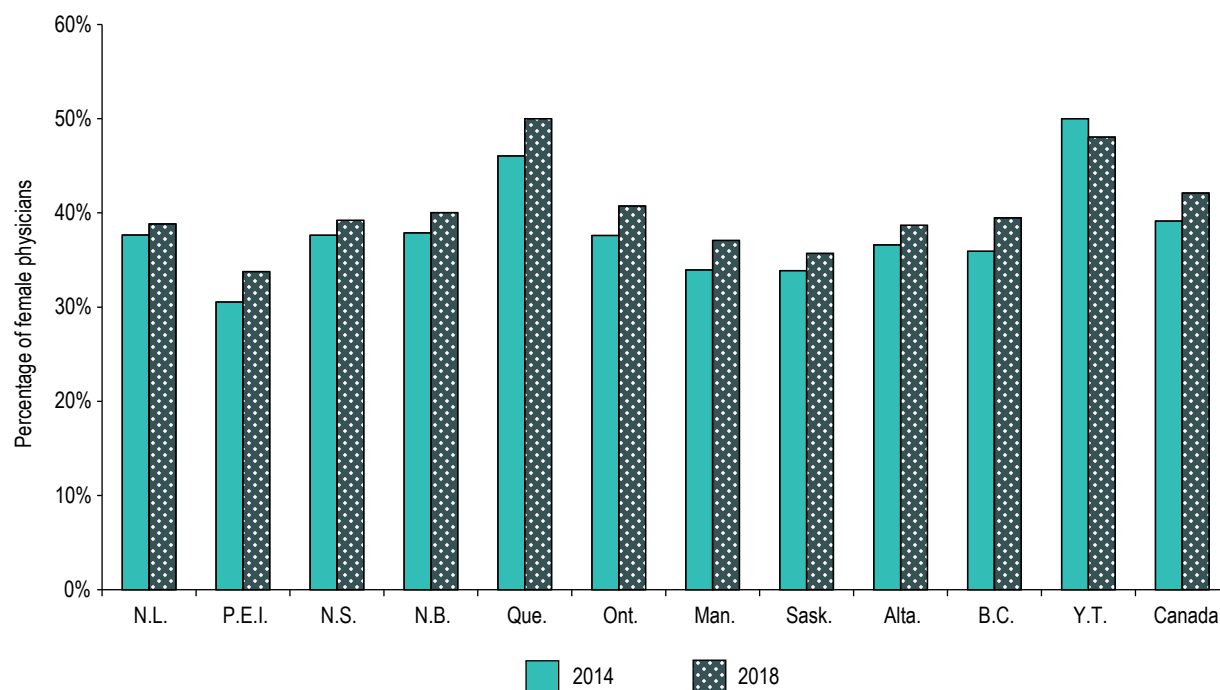


## Physician demographics

The proportion of female physicians continued to rise, particularly among family medicine physicians. The average age of physicians was lower in 2018 than it was 5 years ago.

The proportion of female physicians increased in all but one jurisdiction.

**Figure 4** Percentage of female physicians, by jurisdiction, 2014 and 2018



Between 2014 and 2018, the number of female physicians increased by 21.1%, while the number of male physicians increased by 7.0%.

- In 2018, 42.1% of physicians were women, compared with 39.1% in 2014.
- Quebec had the highest proportion of female physicians, at 50.0%, while P.E.I. had the lowest, at 33.8%.

**Note**

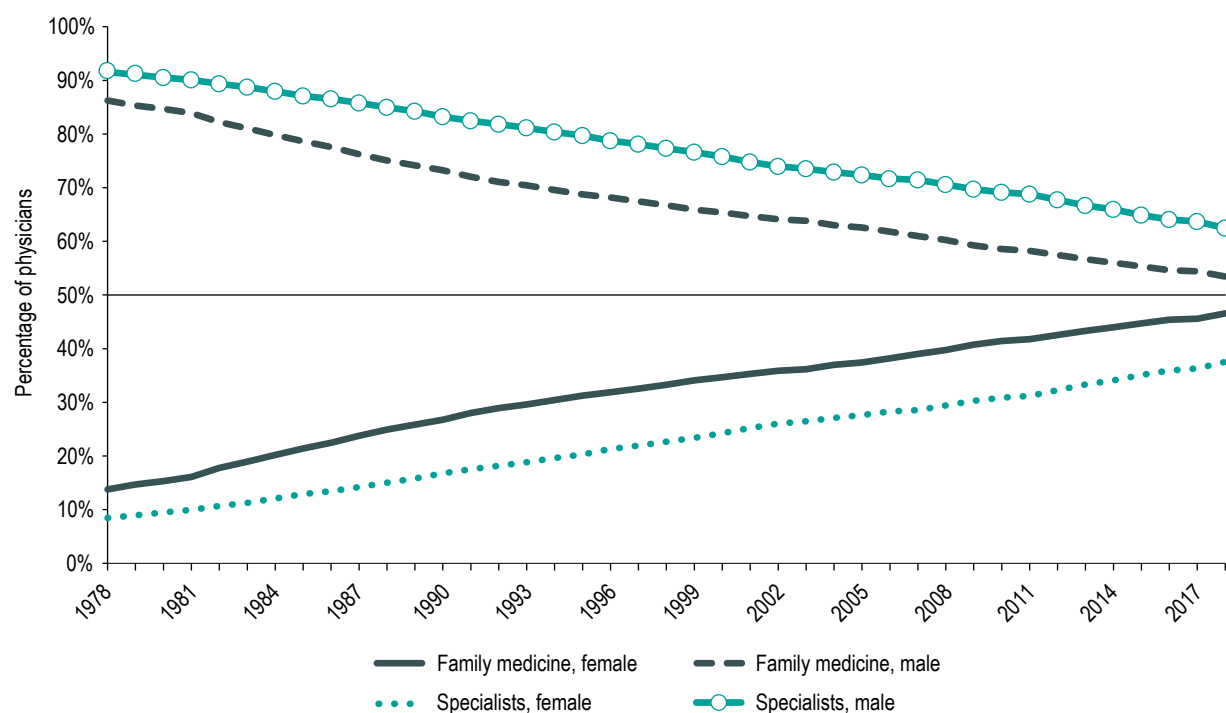
Due to small numbers, data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not displayed individually, but are included in the Canada totals.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The proportion of female physicians is greater among family medicine physicians than specialists.

**Figure 5** Percentage of physicians, by sex and physician type, Canada, 1978 to 2018



Across all jurisdictions, females represented a larger proportion of family medicine physicians than specialists.

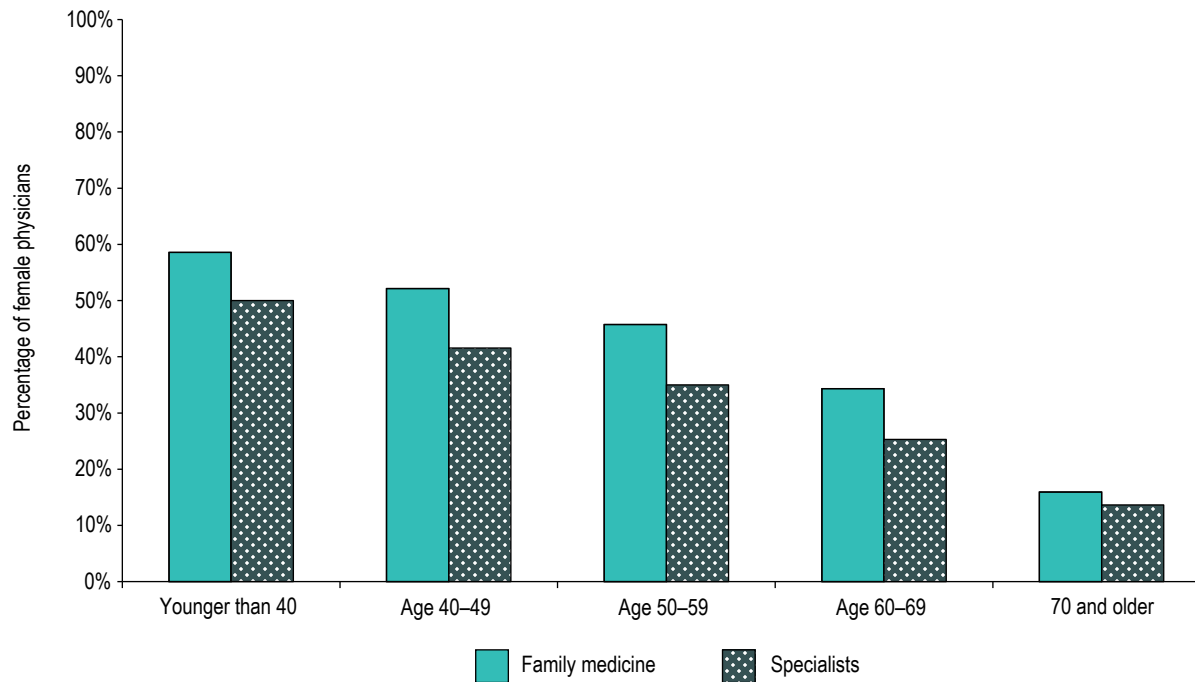
- In 2018, 46.6% of family medicine physicians and 37.5% of specialist physicians in Canada were female.
- The overall proportion of female physicians in the workforce has grown from 11.1% in 1978 to 42.1% in 2018.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The proportion of female physicians is higher among younger age groups.

**Figure 6** Percentage of female physicians, by specialty and age group, Canada, 2018



Across all age groups, the percentage of female physicians was higher among family medicine physicians than specialists.

- In Canada in 2018, 58.6% of family medicine physicians and 50.0% of specialist physicians younger than 40 were female.
- Among physicians age 60 to 69, more than two-thirds (70.1%) were male; among physicians over age 70, 85.3% were male.

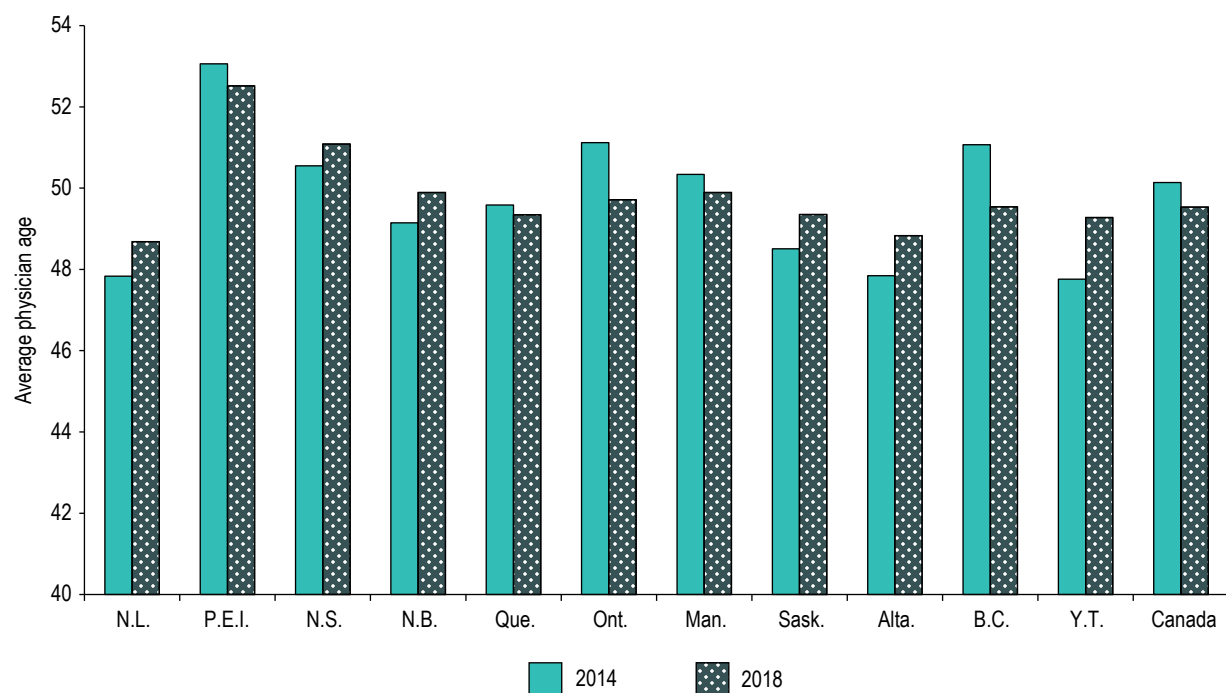
**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



The average age of physicians declined slightly over 5 years.

**Figure 7** Average age of physicians in Canada, by jurisdiction, 2014 and 2018



The average age of physicians in Canada declined slightly from 50.1 years in 2014 to 49.5 years in 2018.

- Overall in 2018, the jurisdiction with the highest average age of physicians was P.E.I., at 52.5 years, and the jurisdiction with the lowest average age was Newfoundland and Labrador, at 48.7.
- Between 2014 and 2018, the average age of physicians decreased in P.E.I., Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and B.C., and increased in all other jurisdictions.

#### Note

Due to small numbers, data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not displayed individually, but are included in the Canada totals.

#### Source

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

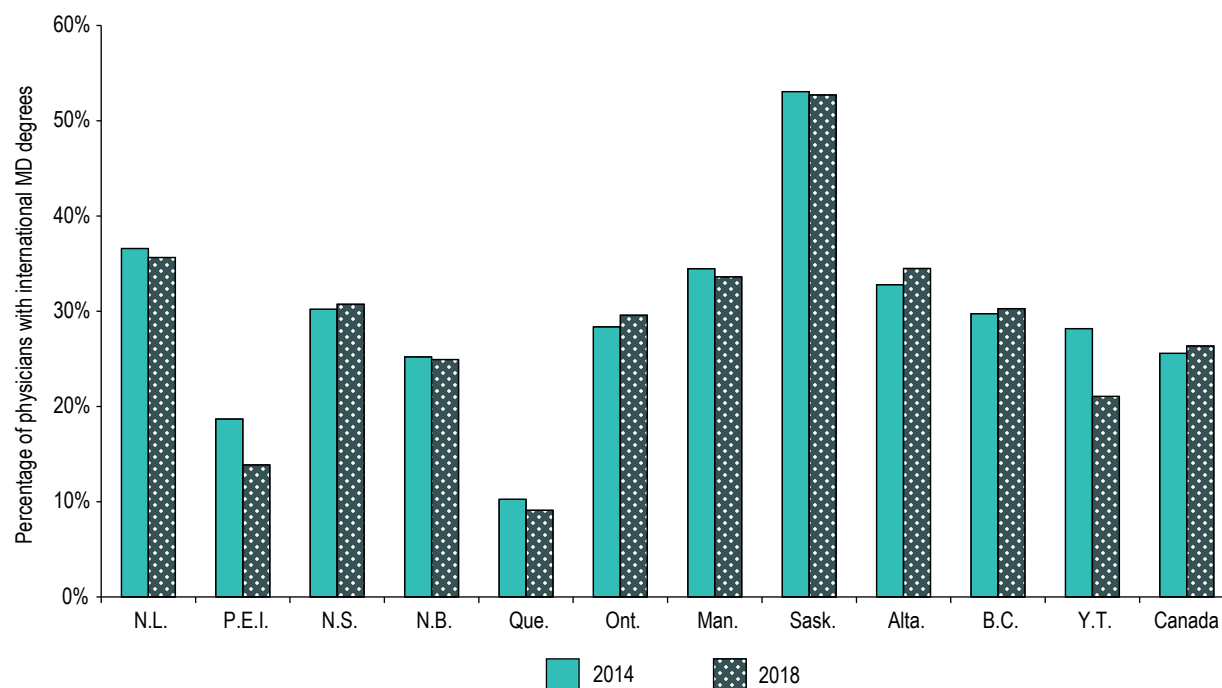


## International medical graduates

Canada continues to gain internationally trained physicians. More family medicine physicians than specialists received their MD degree outside of Canada.

More than a quarter of physicians in Canada were internationally trained.

**Figure 8** Percentage of physicians with international MD degrees, by jurisdiction, 2014 and 2018



The percentage of physicians who received their MD degree outside of Canada has remained relatively stable since 2014, ranging from 25.6% in 2014 to 26.4% in 2018.

- Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador had the largest proportions of internationally trained physicians (52.7% and 35.6%, respectively), while Quebec and P.E.I. had the smallest (9.1% and 13.9%, respectively).

#### Note

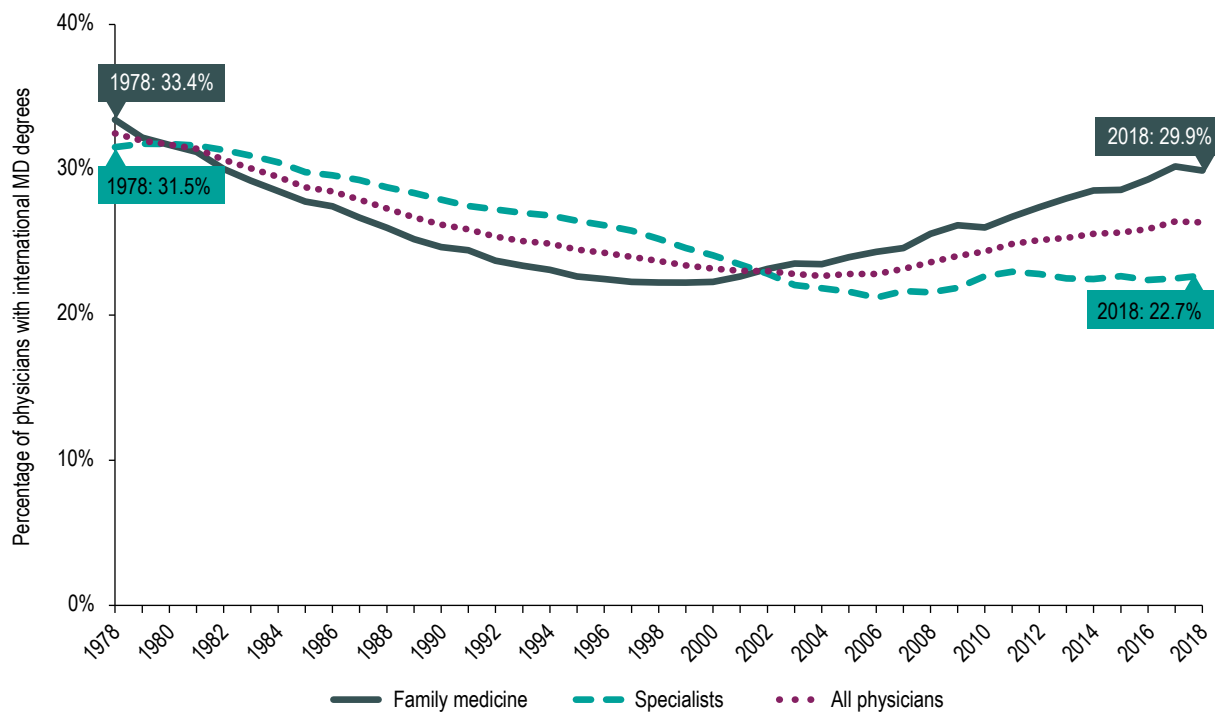
Due to small numbers, data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not displayed individually, but are included in the Canada totals.

#### Source

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

In recent years, more family medicine physicians than specialists have received their MD degree outside of Canada.

**Figure 9** Percentage of physicians with international MD degrees, by physician type, Canada, 1978 to 2018



Over one-quarter (26.4%) of Canada's physicians received their MD degree outside of Canada.

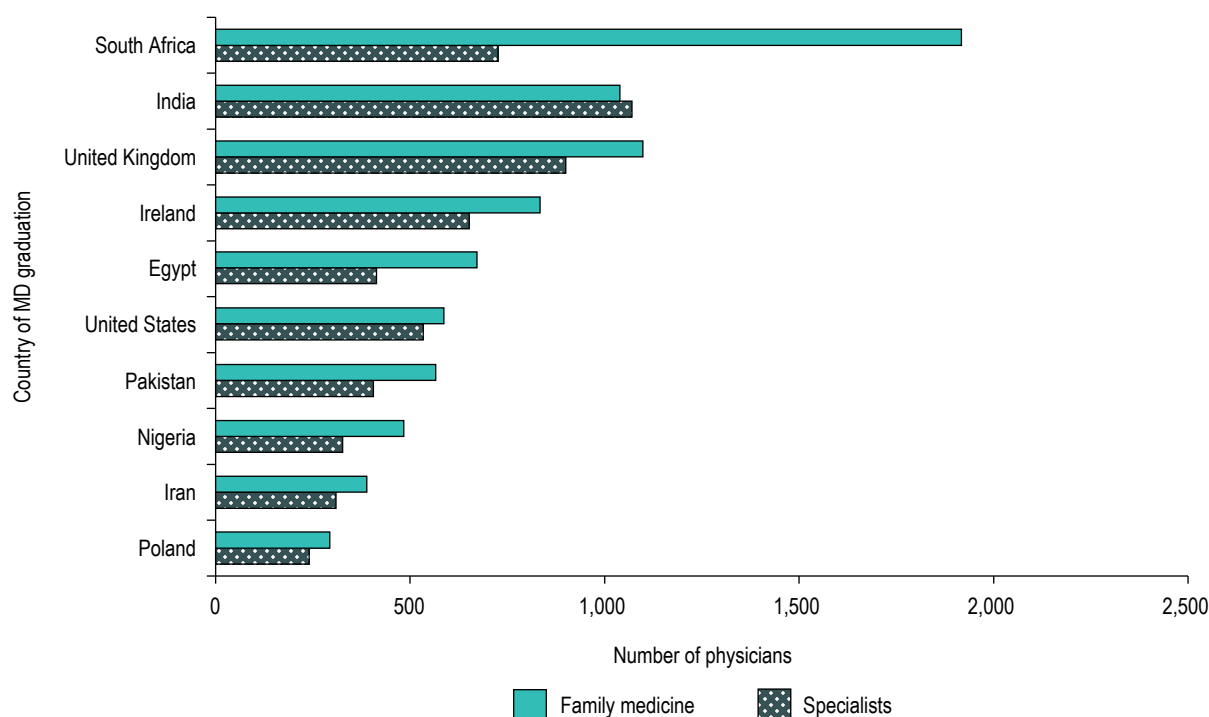
- In 2018, more family medicine physicians (29.9%) than specialists (22.7%) received their MD degree outside of Canada.
- The percentage of internationally trained family medicine physicians in Canada increased from 28.6% in 2014 to 29.9% in 2018, while the percentage of specialists remained virtually the same during that period, rising from 22.5% to 22.7%.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

More internationally trained physicians received their MD degree in South Africa than in any other country.

**Figure 10** Top 10 countries of MD graduation for internationally trained physicians licensed in Canada, by physician type, 2018



Physicians from South Africa, India and the United Kingdom made up 28.7% of all internationally trained physicians in Canada in 2018.

- In 2018, family medicine physicians accounted for 57.3% of all internationally trained physicians.
- South Africa was the top country of graduation for internationally trained family medicine physicians, while India was the top country of graduation for internationally trained specialists.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



## Physician payments and utilization

This section contains information on physician service utilization and on payments to physicians that are administered through the provincial and territorial medical care plans. This data is for 2017–2018.



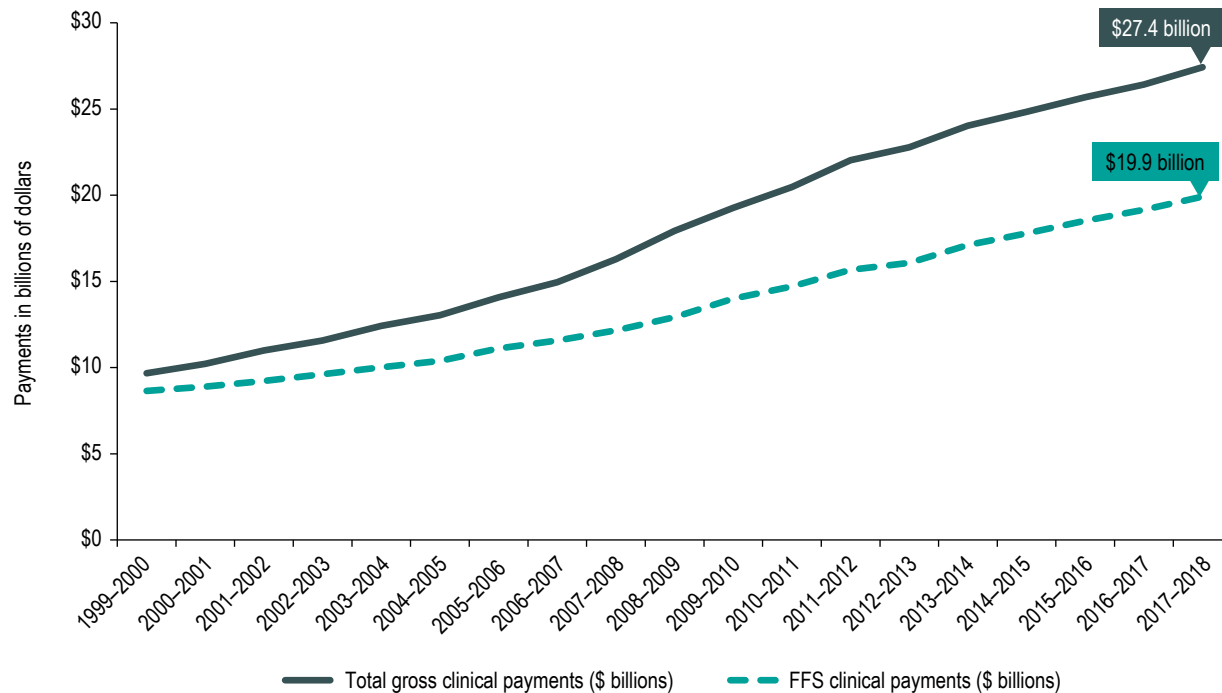
## How much are physicians paid?

The cost of physician services in Canada can be understood by examining total and average clinical payments to physicians, the types of services paid for, and information about the providers and recipients of these services.

Since 2009, CIHI has reported average gross clinical payments made to physicians by provincial/territorial medical care plans. These payment amounts are calculated as the sum of all gross clinical payments (fee-for-service [FFS] and alternative payments) divided by the total number of physicians reported to CIHI by the jurisdictions. In addition to total average payments per physician, CIHI publishes a series of specialty-level payment indicators, including distribution of payments, standard deviations and average payments with monetary cut-offs.

Total gross clinical payments to physicians increased to \$27.4 billion in 2017–2018.

**Figure 11** Total gross clinical and FFS payments to physicians, Canada, 1999–2000 to 2017–2018



FFS clinical payments to physicians reached \$19.9 billion in 2017–2018, while alternative payments reached \$7.5 billion.

- In 2017–2018, total clinical payments to physicians increased 3.9% over the previous year to \$27.4 billion; this is the highest single-year increase since 2013–2014.
- Total clinical payments to physicians in Canada have increased 14.1% over the past 5 years.

**Notes**

FFS: Fee for service.

Excludes Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

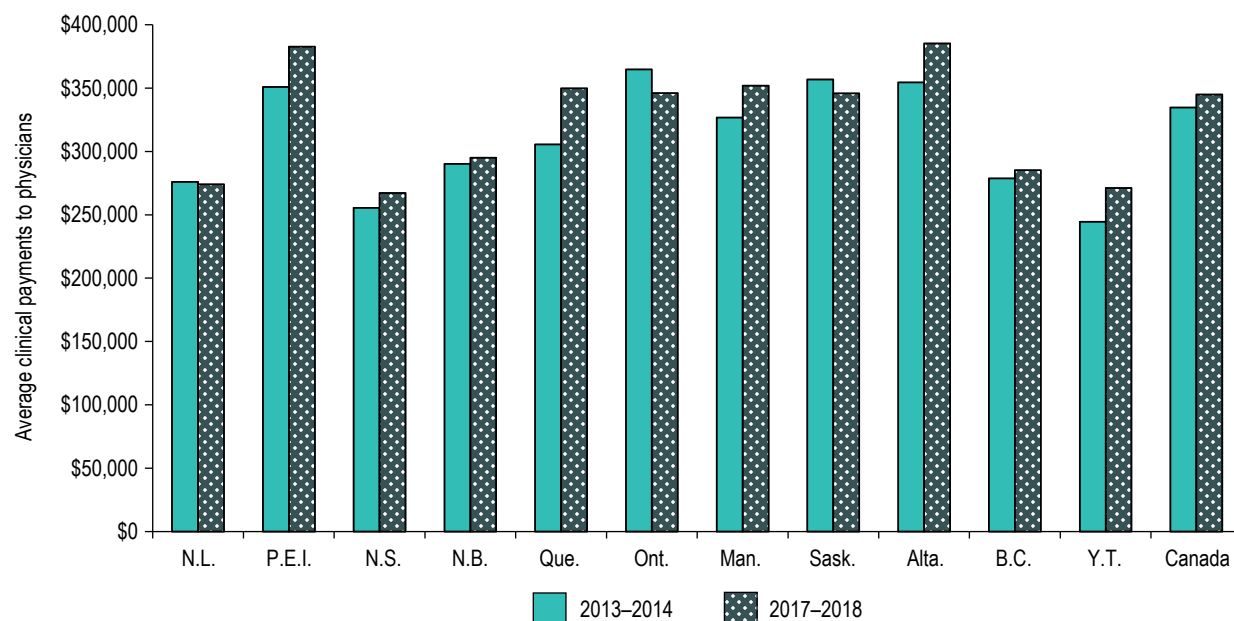
**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



Average gross clinical payments to physicians have increased 3.1% over 5 years.

**Figure 12** Average gross clinical payments to physicians, by jurisdiction, 2013–2014 and 2017–2018



The average gross clinical payment per physician in Canada was \$345,000 in 2017–2018, a 3.1% increase over 2013–2014. Some jurisdictions saw increases, while others saw decreases.

- Quebec saw the greatest 5-year increase in average gross payment, from \$306,000 to \$350,000 (14.5%).
- Ontario saw the largest 5-year decrease in average gross payment, from \$365,000 to \$346,000 (-5.1%).

#### Notes

Due to the greater proportion of short-term, visiting and locum physicians and their lower associated payments in certain smaller jurisdictions relative to larger ones, in an attempt to improve comparability, CIHI has agreed to calculate the average payment per physician for P.E.I. using only permanent in-province physicians, and for Yukon using only physicians whose total gross payments are at least \$60,000.

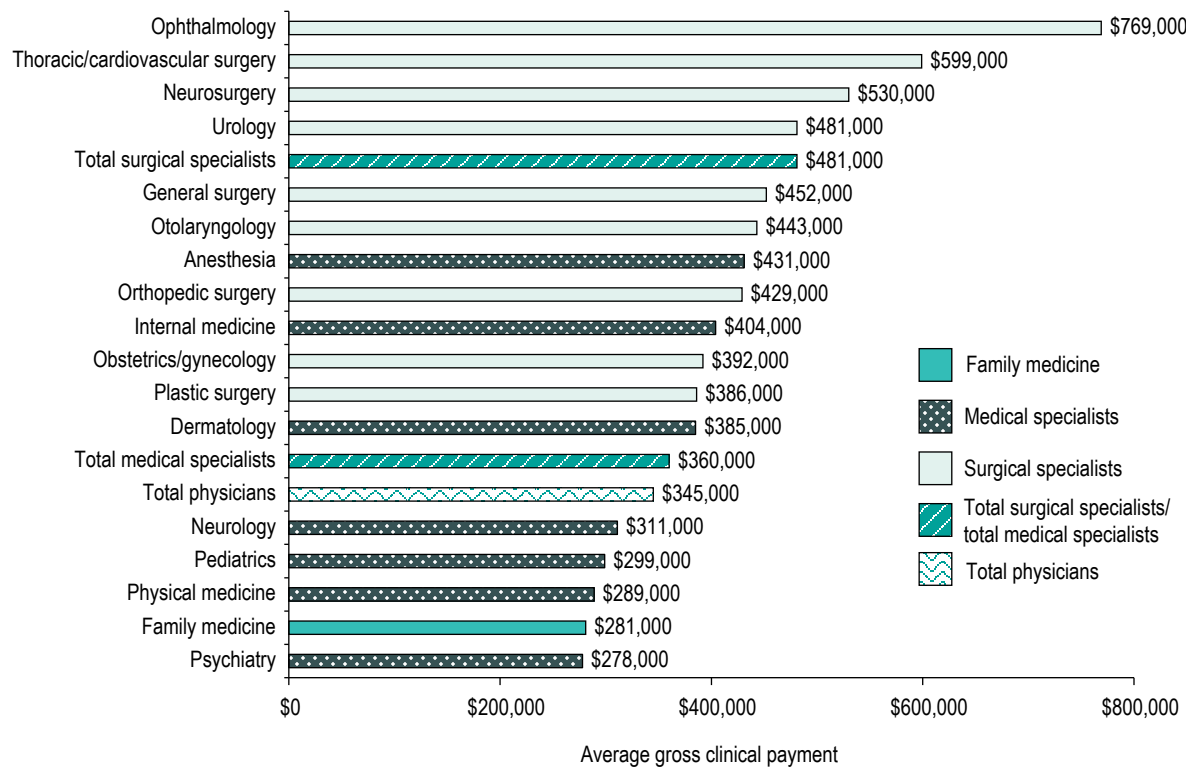
Data is not available for the Northwest Territories or Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database. Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

#### Source

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The average gross clinical payment per surgical specialist was higher than that per medical specialist and per family medicine physician.

**Figure 13** Average gross clinical payments, by physician specialty, Canada, 2017–2018



By combining FFS data with physician-level alternative payment data, CIHI is able to report comprehensive average payments per physician by specialty.

- The average gross clinical payment per family medicine physician was \$281,000.
- The average gross clinical payment per medical specialist was \$360,000.
- The average gross clinical payment per surgical specialist was \$481,000.

**Note**

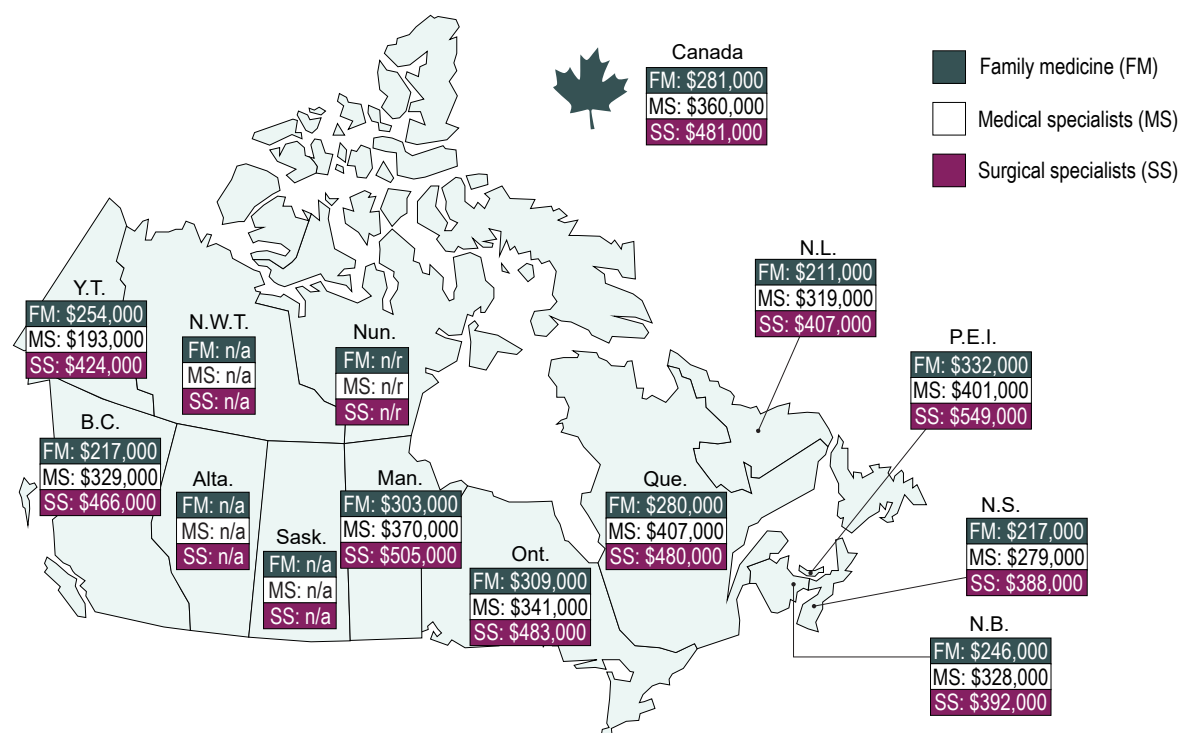
Specialty-level information for Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories at the level needed for this analysis was not available. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

## The average gross clinical payment varies across Canada.

**Figure 14** Average gross clinical payments, by physician specialty and jurisdiction, 2017–2018



- The average gross clinical payment per family medicine physician ranged from \$211,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador to \$309,000 in Ontario.
- The average gross clinical payment per medical specialist ranged from \$279,000 in Nova Scotia to \$407,000 in Quebec.
- The average gross clinical payment per surgical specialist ranged from \$388,000 in Nova Scotia to \$505,000 in Manitoba.

### Notes

n/a: Specialty-level information for Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories at the level needed for this analysis was not available.

n/r: Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

Due to cell suppression at the specialty level, the average payment for medical specialists in Yukon includes only payments to pediatric specialists.

Due to the greater proportion of short-term, visiting and locum physicians and their lower associated payments in certain smaller jurisdictions relative to larger ones, in an attempt to improve comparability, CIHI has agreed to calculate the average payment per physician for P.E.I. using only permanent in-province physicians, and for Yukon using only physicians whose total gross payments are at least \$60,000.

Canada figures exclude Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

### Source

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



## Physician full-time equivalents

Another metric that can be used to analyze physician payments and supply is the full-time equivalent (FTE). The FTE is used to adjust the total count of physicians to reflect their activity based on their clinical payments.

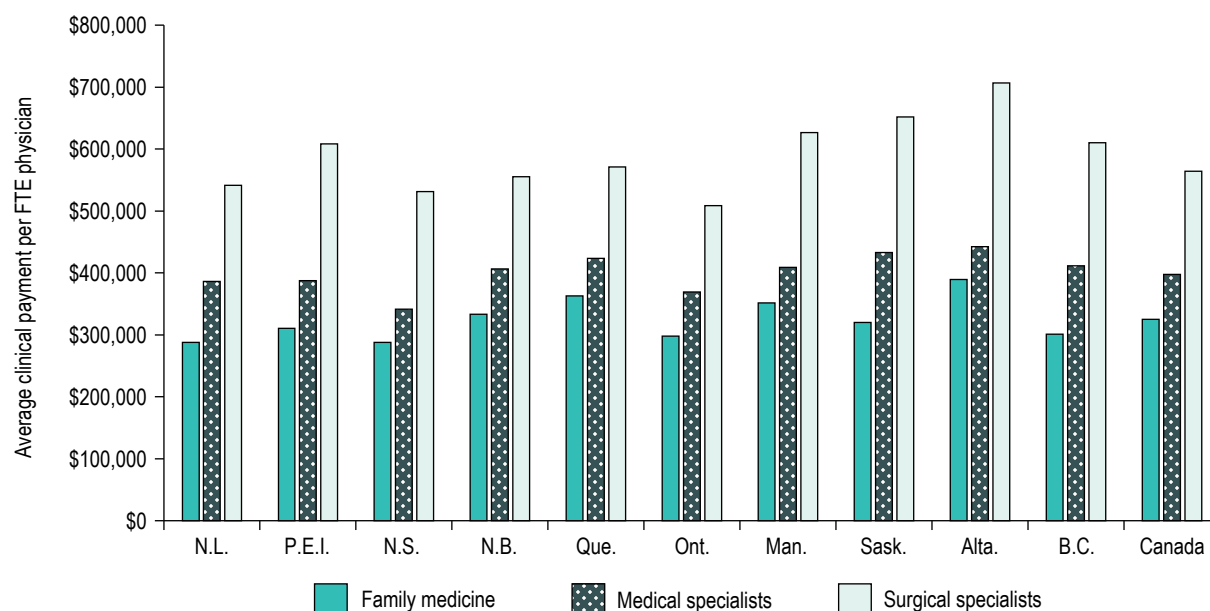
Historically, CIHI published an FTE indicator based on FFS payments only. Since the late 1990s, there has been considerable migration from FFS to alternative payments. As a result, CIHI has developed an enhanced FTE indicator that focuses on a physician's full clinical payments by including both FFS and alternative payments to physicians and replaces the former FTE indicator that used only FFS payment data.

The aim of the FTE indicator remains the same: to produce statistics that are comparable in 3 dimensions — over time, across jurisdictions and across specialties.

A full description of the FTE indicator methodologies is provided in the National Physician Database Methodological Notes document in appendices C and G.

Average gross clinical payment per FTE physician includes both fee-for-service and alternative payments.

**Figure 15** Average gross clinical payment per FTE physician, by physician specialty and jurisdiction, 2017–2018



The FTE methodology uses payments as a proxy for activity and computes FTEs that reflect clinical activity for each given specialty.

- The average payment per family medicine FTE in Canada in 2017–2018 was \$325,000.
- The average payment per medical specialist FTE in Canada in 2017–2018 was \$398,000, and the average payment per surgical specialist FTE was \$564,000.

#### Notes

FTE: Full-time equivalent.

Saskatchewan and Alberta FTEs are based on fee-for-service payments only.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

Data is not available for Yukon, the Northwest Territories or Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

#### Source

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



## Types of physician remuneration

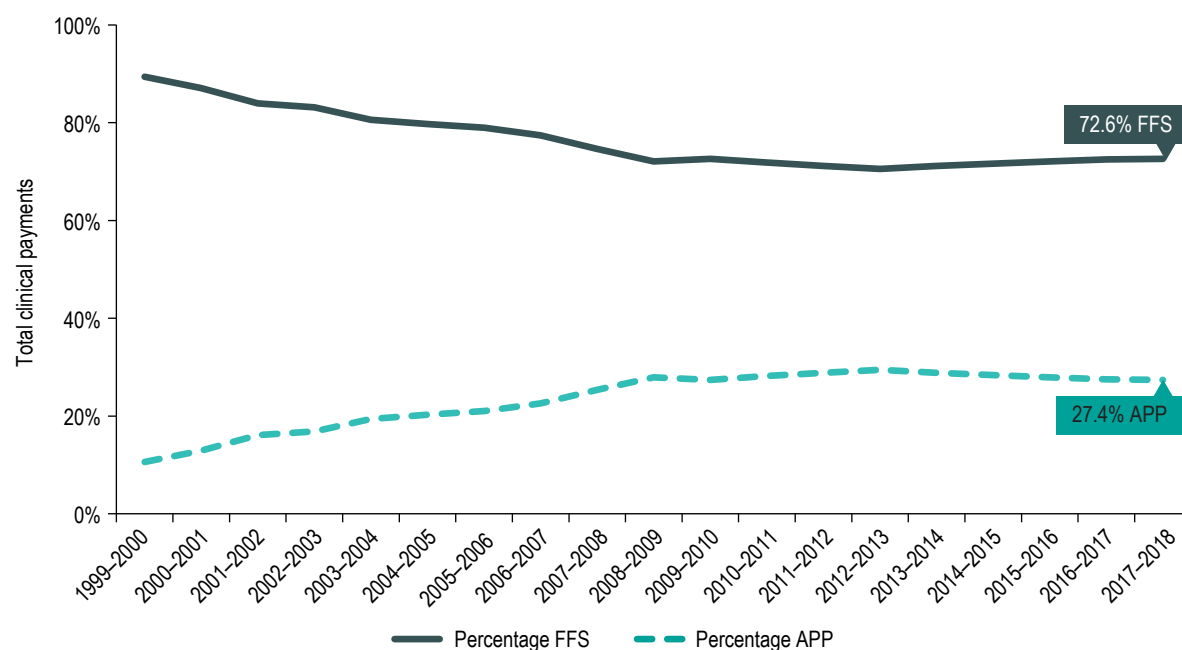
Since the introduction of the public medical care system in the 1960s, most physicians in Canada have been compensated through FFS payments. Alternative payment plan (APP) programs first became prevalent in the mid-1990s and have become an increasingly popular method of remuneration to physicians in the last 2 decades. Payments through alternative methods have shown a slight decrease from nearly 30% of total clinical payments in 2012–2013 to 27.4% in 2017–2018.

Alternative methods of paying physicians include salaries, sessional and hourly rates, capitation models and contract-based payments.

Many physicians receive compensation through multiple models, which could include both FFS and alternative payments; however, funding through the different payment models varies significantly across jurisdictions.

The proportion of APP clinical payments stabilized between 2008–2009 and 2017–2018.

**Figure 16** FFS and alternative payments as a percentage of total clinical payments to physicians, Canada, 1999–2000 to 2017–2018



#### Notes

FFS: Fee for service.

APP: Alternative payment plan.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

Excludes Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

#### Source

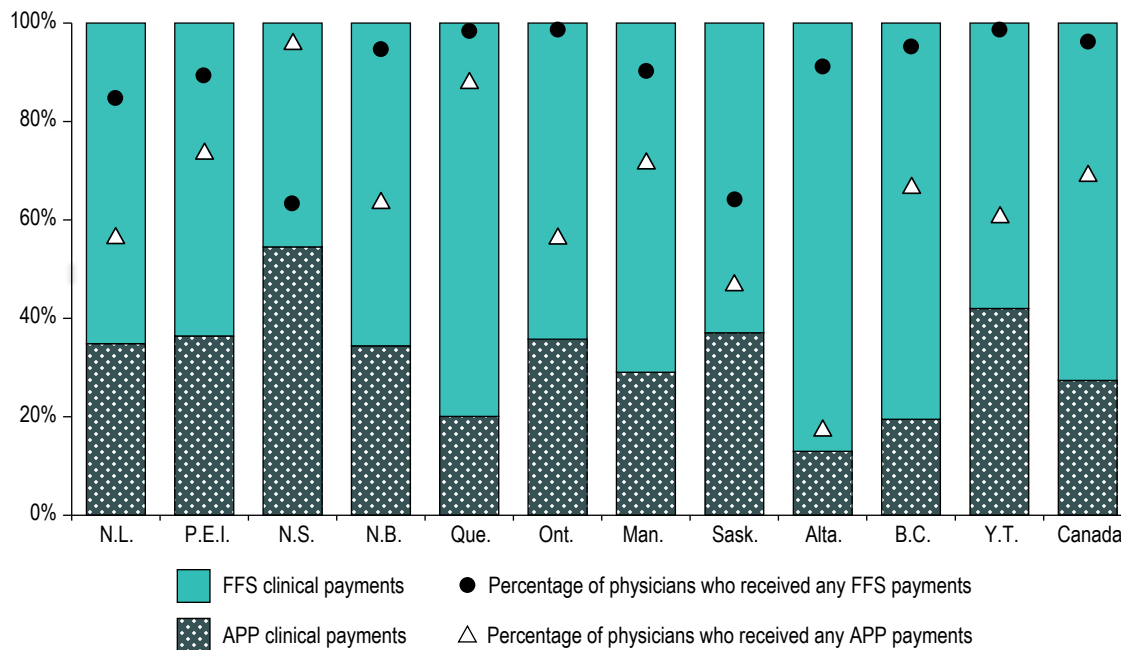
National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

A shift toward APPs in place of FFS payments appears to have stabilized; since 2008–2009, FFS payments have made up between 70% and 73% of total clinical payments.

- In 2017–2018, alternative payments accounted for 27.4% of all gross clinical payments, compared with 10.6% in 1999–2000.
- For the fifth consecutive year, alternative payments as a proportion of total clinical payments decreased slightly.

Most physicians receive compensation through multiple models, including both FFS and alternative payments.

**Figure 17** Distribution of physicians and clinical payments, by payment type and jurisdiction, 2017–2018



Over 96% of all physicians in 2017–2018 were paid a portion of their total payments via FFS, and 69% were paid a portion via APPs.

- In Ontario, Quebec and Yukon, almost all physicians (99%) received some FFS payments. The proportion receiving APP payments in those provinces differed: 56% in Ontario, 88% in Quebec and 61% in Yukon.
- Alberta had the lowest proportion of physicians receiving some payments through APPs, at 17%, and Nova Scotia had the highest proportion, at 96%.

**Notes**

FFS: Fee for service.

APP: Alternative payment plan.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

Data is not available for the Northwest Territories or Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

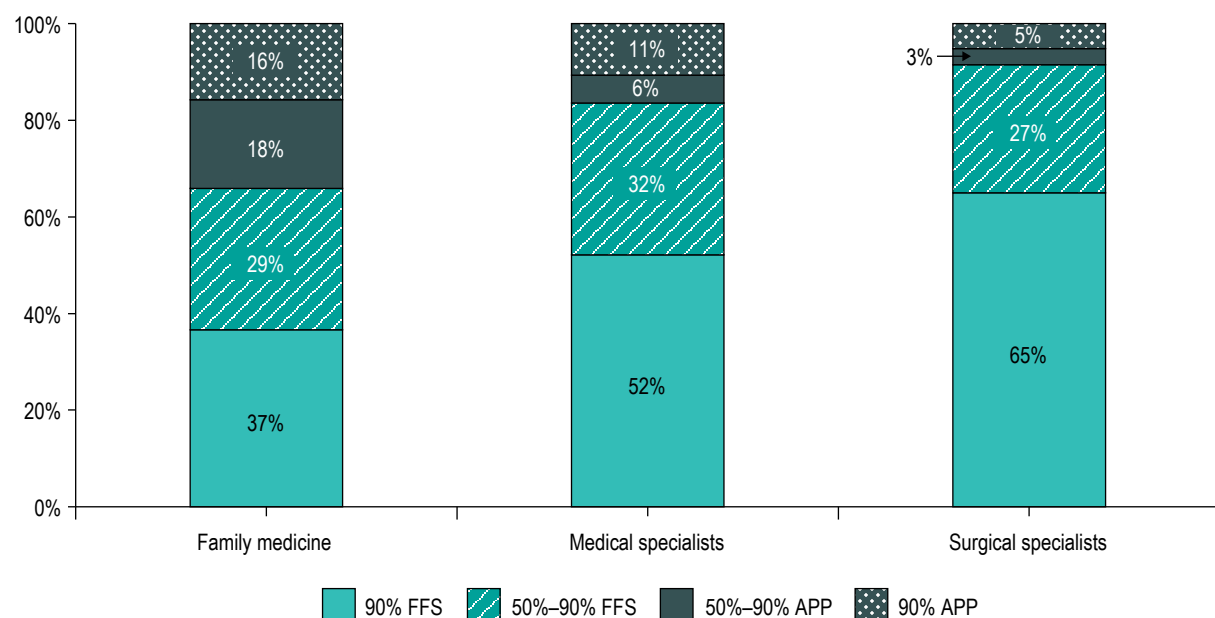
**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



Family medicine physicians are more likely to be paid through alternative methods than medical specialists and surgical specialists.

**Figure 18** Distribution of physicians, by payment type and physician specialty, Canada, 2017–2018



Alternative methods of paying physicians include salaries, sessional and hourly rates, capitation models and contract-based payments.

- In Canada, 34% of family medicine physicians, 17% of medical specialists and 8% of surgical specialists received more than half of their total clinical payments through alternative methods in 2017–2018.

#### Notes

FFS: Fee for service.

APP: Alternative payment plan.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

Excludes Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.

#### Source

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



## Fee-for-service utilization

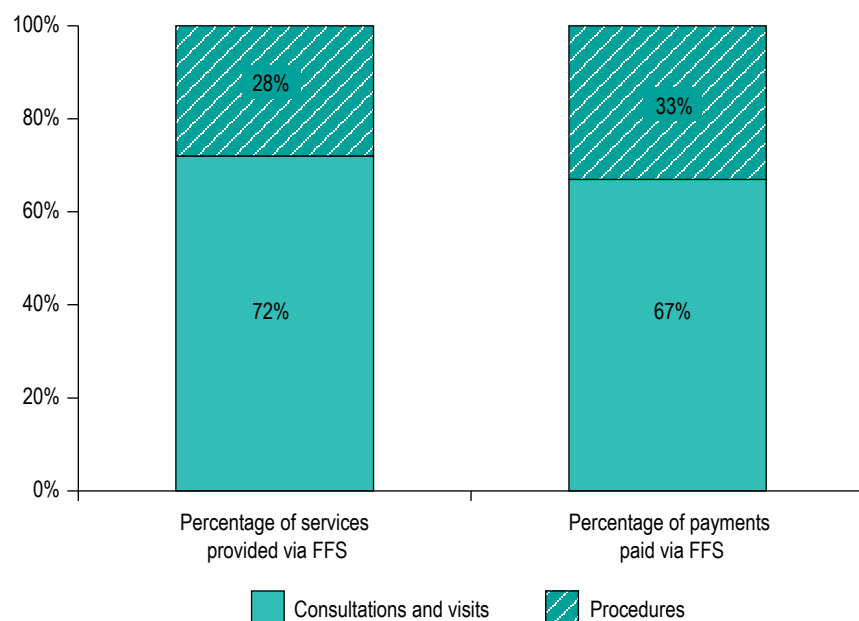
The largest payment program as a proportion of total gross clinical payments to physicians in Canada is still FFS, at about 73% of total payments in 2017–2018. FFS services provided by physicians can be split into 2 broad types: consultations/visits and procedures.

The cost and amount of physician services can be analyzed to determine which types of services physicians who are paid under FFS are providing and which types of physicians are providing the FFS services, as well as information on patients who are receiving these services.

Although family medicine physicians perform the greatest number of services and receive the largest proportion of payments, medical and surgical specialists are paid more per service on average. Services may not always be comparable, as the amount of work required differs depending on the type of service.

The types of services provided by physicians under the FFS model can be grouped into 2 broad categories: consultations/visits and procedures.

**Figure 19** FFS services and payments, Canada, 2017–2018



Although the majority of services provided by a physician are consultations and visits, procedures cost more.

- In 2017–2018, consultations and visits made up 72% of services delivered and accounted for 67% of payments.
- Procedures made up 28% of services delivered and accounted for 33% of payments.

#### Notes

FFS: Fee for service.

Excludes reciprocal billing, imaging and laboratory services, anesthesia services and anesthesiology specialists, and unclassified physicians.

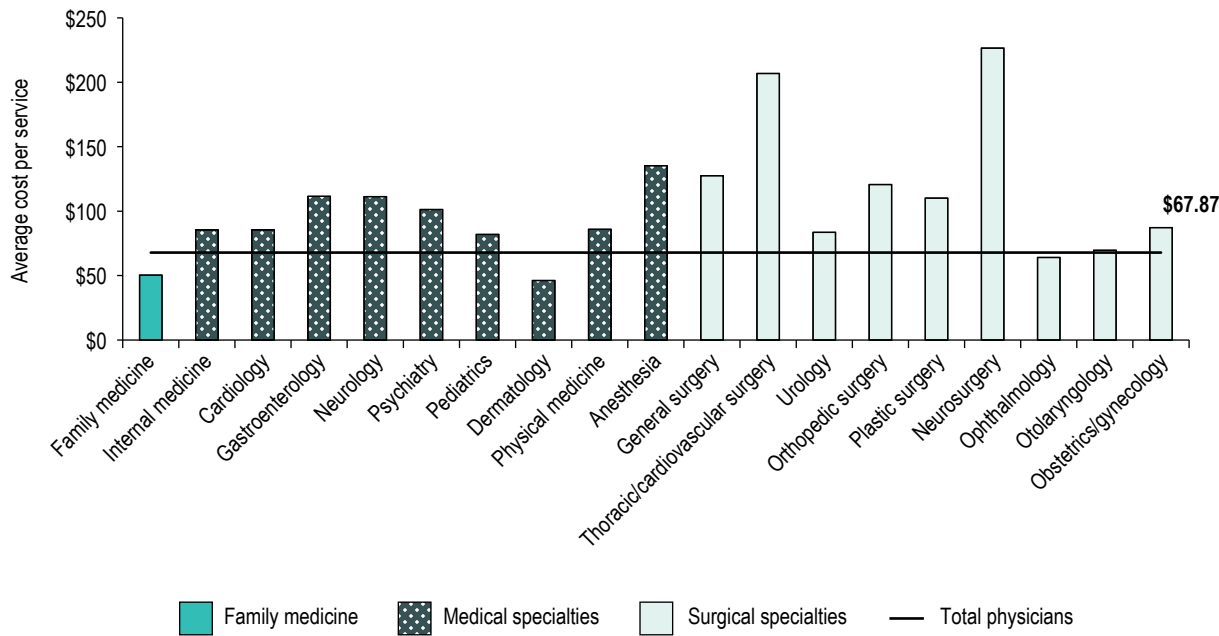
Excludes the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

#### Source

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Medical and surgical specialists paid through FFS receive more per service on average than family medicine physicians.

**Figure 20** Average cost per service, by physician specialty, Canada, 2017–2018



- In 2017–2018, the average cost per service was \$67.87.
- Family medicine physicians billed an average cost per service of \$50.37, while medical and surgical specialists billed an average of \$87.03 and \$91.10 per service, respectively.

**Notes**

Includes fee-for-service payments only.

Excludes the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

## Appendix: Text alternatives for figures

**Figure 1** Number and percentage growth in the supply of physicians, Canada, 1978 to 2018

| Year | Number of physicians | Percentage change |
|------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1978 | 35,400               | 1.6%              |
| 1979 | 36,413               | 2.9%              |
| 1980 | 37,252               | 2.3%              |
| 1981 | 38,280               | 2.8%              |
| 1982 | 40,046               | 4.6%              |
| 1983 | 41,401               | 3.4%              |
| 1984 | 42,364               | 2.3%              |
| 1985 | 44,194               | 4.3%              |
| 1986 | 45,560               | 3.1%              |
| 1987 | 47,536               | 4.3%              |
| 1988 | 49,649               | 4.4%              |
| 1989 | 51,251               | 3.2%              |
| 1990 | 51,759               | 1.0%              |
| 1991 | 52,726               | 1.9%              |
| 1992 | 53,698               | 1.8%              |
| 1993 | 55,035               | 2.5%              |
| 1994 | 54,944               | -0.2%             |
| 1995 | 54,940               | 0.0%              |

| Year | Number of physicians | Percentage change |
|------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1996 | 54,918               | 0.0%              |
| 1997 | 55,207               | 0.5%              |
| 1998 | 56,163               | 1.7%              |
| 1999 | 56,914               | 1.3%              |
| 2000 | 57,803               | 1.6%              |
| 2001 | 58,546               | 1.3%              |
| 2002 | 59,412               | 1.5%              |
| 2003 | 59,454               | 0.1%              |
| 2004 | 60,612               | 1.9%              |
| 2005 | 61,622               | 1.7%              |
| 2006 | 62,307               | 1.1%              |
| 2007 | 63,682               | 2.2%              |
| 2008 | 65,440               | 2.8%              |
| 2009 | 68,101               | 4.1%              |
| 2010 | 69,699               | 2.3%              |
| 2011 | 72,529               | 4.1%              |
| 2012 | 75,142               | 3.6%              |
| 2013 | 77,674               | 3.4%              |
| 2014 | 79,905               | 2.9%              |
| 2015 | 82,198               | 2.9%              |
| 2016 | 84,063               | 2.3%              |
| 2017 | 86,644               | 3.1%              |
| 2018 | 89,911               | 3.8%              |

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 2** Number of physicians per 100,000 population, by specialty, Canada, 1978 to 2018

| Year | Physicians per 100,000 population | Family medicine physicians per 100,000 population | Specialist physicians per 100,000 population |
|------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1978 | 147.1                             | 74.3  | 72.7   |
| 1979 | 149.6                             | 75.8  | 73.8   |
| 1980 | 151.0                             | 76.4  | 74.7   |
| 1981 | 153.2                             | 76.9  | 76.3   |
| 1982 | 158.6                             | 80.6  | 78.1   |
| 1983 | 162.5                             | 82.9  | 79.6   |
| 1984 | 164.7                             | 83.9  | 80.8   |
| 1985 | 170.2                             | 87.7  | 82.5   |
| 1986 | 173.5                             | 89.5  | 84.0   |
| 1987 | 178.6                             | 93.0  | 85.6   |
| 1988 | 183.6                             | 96.3  | 87.3   |
| 1989 | 186.5                             | 98.7  | 87.8   |
| 1990 | 185.8                             | 98.0  | 87.8   |
| 1991 | 187.1                             | 98.9  | 88.2   |
| 1992 | 188.1                             | 99.5  | 88.6   |
| 1993 | 190.7                             | 101.5   | 89.1   |
| 1994 | 188.2                             | 98.2  | 90.0   |
| 1995 | 186.2                             | 96.9  | 89.3   |
| 1996 | 184.6                             | 94.8  | 89.8   |

| Year | Physicians per<br>100,000 population | Family medicine physicians<br>per 100,000 population | Specialist physicians<br>per 100,000 population |
|------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1997 | 183.8                                | 93.5   | 90.3  |
| 1998 | 185.6                                | 94.2   | 91.3  |
| 1999 | 186.4                                | 94.3   | 92.1  |
| 2000 | 187.5                                | 94.4   | 93.1  |
| 2001 | 187.8                                | 95.0   | 92.8  |
| 2002 | 188.7                                | 96.1   | 92.6  |
| 2003 | 187.1                                | 96.5   | 90.6  |
| 2004 | 189.0                                | 96.9   | 92.0  |
| 2005 | 190.2                                | 97.6   | 92.6  |
| 2006 | 190.4                                | 97.8   | 92.7  |
| 2007 | 192.7                                | 98.6   | 94.1  |
| 2008 | 195.8                                | 100.9  | 94.9  |
| 2009 | 201.4                                | 102.9  | 98.5  |
| 2010 | 204.0                                | 103.5  | 100.5   |
| 2011 | 210.0                                | 106.5  | 103.5   |
| 2012 | 215.1                                | 109.2  | 105.9   |
| 2013 | 219.8                                | 111.5  | 108.3   |
| 2014 | 223.9                                | 114.3  | 109.6   |
| 2015 | 228.2                                | 115.4  | 112.9   |
| 2016 | 231.5                                | 117.1  | 114.4   |
| 2017 | 235.5                                | 120.1  | 115.4   |
| 2018 | 241.0                                | 121.9  | 119.0   |

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



**Figure 3** Number of physicians per 100,000 population, by jurisdiction, 2014 and 2018

| Year | N.L.  | P.E.I. | N.S.  | N.B.  | Que.  | Ont.  | Man.  | Sask. | Alta. | B.C.  | Y.T.  | Canada |
|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 2014 | 246.6 | 179.1  | 260.8 | 228.8 | 239.3 | 213.9 | 201.2 | 190.3 | 229.7 | 228.7 | 195.4 | 223.9  |
| 2018 | 270.0 | 197.1  | 271.1 | 244.3 | 247.6 | 234.5 | 224.6 | 204.5 | 248.7 | 250.0 | 190.7 | 241.0  |

**Note**

Due to small numbers, data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not displayed individually, but are included in the Canada totals.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 4** Percentage of female physicians, by jurisdiction, 2014 and 2018

| Year | N.L.  | P.E.I. | N.S.  | N.B.  | Que.  | Ont.  | Man.  | Sask. | Alta. | B.C.  | Y.T.  | Canada |
|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 2014 | 37.7% | 30.5%  | 37.6% | 37.9% | 46.0% | 37.6% | 33.9% | 33.9% | 36.6% | 35.9% | 50.0% | 39.1%  |
| 2018 | 38.8% | 33.8%  | 39.2% | 40.0% | 50.0% | 40.7% | 37.1% | 35.7% | 38.7% | 39.5% | 48.1% | 42.1%  |

**Note**

Due to small numbers, data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not displayed individually, but are included in the Canada totals.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 5** Percentage of physicians, by sex and physician type, Canada, 1978 to 2018

| Year | Family medicine, female | Family medicine, male | Specialists, female | Specialists, male |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1978 | 13.8%                   | 86.2%                 | 8.5%                | 91.5%             |
| 1979 | 14.7%                   | 85.3%                 | 9.0%                | 91.0%             |
| 1980 | 15.3%                   | 84.7%                 | 9.5%                | 90.5%             |
| 1981 | 16.1%                   | 83.9%                 | 9.9%                | 90.1%             |
| 1982 | 17.8%                   | 82.2%                 | 10.7%               | 89.3%             |
| 1983 | 18.9%                   | 81.1%                 | 11.3%               | 88.7%             |
| 1984 | 20.2%                   | 79.8%                 | 12.1%               | 87.9%             |
| 1985 | 21.4%                   | 78.6%                 | 12.9%               | 87.1%             |
| 1986 | 22.4%                   | 77.6%                 | 13.5%               | 86.5%             |
| 1987 | 23.8%                   | 76.2%                 | 14.2%               | 85.8%             |
| 1988 | 24.9%                   | 75.1%                 | 15.0%               | 85.0%             |
| 1989 | 25.8%                   | 74.2%                 | 15.8%               | 84.2%             |
| 1990 | 26.8%                   | 73.2%                 | 16.8%               | 83.2%             |
| 1991 | 28.0%                   | 72.0%                 | 17.5%               | 82.5%             |
| 1992 | 28.9%                   | 71.1%                 | 18.2%               | 81.8%             |
| 1993 | 29.6%                   | 70.4%                 | 18.9%               | 81.1%             |
| 1994 | 30.4%                   | 69.6%                 | 19.6%               | 80.4%             |
| 1995 | 31.2%                   | 68.8%                 | 20.3%               | 79.7%             |
| 1996 | 31.9%                   | 68.1%                 | 21.3%               | 78.7%             |
| 1997 | 32.6%                   | 67.4%                 | 21.9%               | 78.1%             |
| 1998 | 33.3%                   | 66.7%                 | 22.7%               | 77.3%             |

| Year | Family medicine, female | Family medicine, male | Specialists, female | Specialists, male |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1999 | 34.1%                   | 65.9%                 | 23.4%               | 76.6%             |
| 2000 | 34.7%                   | 65.3%                 | 24.2%               | 75.8%             |
| 2001 | 35.3%                   | 64.7%                 | 25.2%               | 74.8%             |
| 2002 | 35.9%                   | 64.1%                 | 26.0%               | 74.0%             |
| 2003 | 36.2%                   | 63.8%                 | 26.5%               | 73.5%             |
| 2004 | 37.0%                   | 63.0%                 | 27.1%               | 72.9%             |
| 2005 | 37.4%                   | 62.6%                 | 27.6%               | 72.4%             |
| 2006 | 38.2%                   | 61.8%                 | 28.3%               | 71.7%             |
| 2007 | 39.0%                   | 61.0%                 | 28.5%               | 71.5%             |
| 2008 | 39.8%                   | 60.2%                 | 29.4%               | 70.6%             |
| 2009 | 40.7%                   | 59.3%                 | 30.3%               | 69.7%             |
| 2010 | 41.4%                   | 58.6%                 | 30.9%               | 69.1%             |
| 2011 | 41.8%                   | 58.2%                 | 31.2%               | 68.8%             |
| 2012 | 42.5%                   | 57.5%                 | 32.3%               | 67.7%             |
| 2013 | 43.3%                   | 56.7%                 | 33.3%               | 66.7%             |
| 2014 | 44.0%                   | 56.0%                 | 34.1%               | 65.9%             |
| 2015 | 44.7%                   | 55.3%                 | 35.1%               | 64.9%             |
| 2016 | 45.4%                   | 54.6%                 | 35.9%               | 64.1%             |
| 2017 | 45.6%                   | 54.4%                 | 36.3%               | 63.7%             |
| 2018 | 46.6%                   | 53.4%                 | 37.5%               | 62.5%             |

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 6** Percentage of female physicians,  
by specialty and age group, Canada, 2018

| Specialty       | Younger<br>than 40 | Age<br>40–49 | Age<br>50–59 | Age<br>60–69 | 70 and<br>older |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Family medicine | 58.6%              | 52.1%        | 45.7%        | 34.3%        | 16.0%           |
| Specialists     | 50.0%              | 41.6%        | 35.0%        | 25.3%        | 13.6%           |

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 7** Average age of physicians in Canada, by jurisdiction, 2014 and 2018

| Year | N.L. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. | Y.T. | Canada |
|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|--------|
| 2014 | 47.8 | 53.1   | 50.5 | 49.1 | 49.6 | 51.1 | 50.3 | 48.5  | 47.8  | 51.1 | 47.8 | 50.1   |
| 2018 | 48.7 | 52.5   | 51.1 | 49.9 | 49.3 | 49.7 | 49.9 | 49.4  | 48.8  | 49.5 | 49.3 | 49.5   |

**Note**

Due to small numbers, data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not displayed individually, but are included in the Canada totals.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 8** Percentage of physicians with international MD degrees, by jurisdiction, 2014 and 2018

| Year        | N.L.  | P.E.I. | N.S.  | N.B.  | Que.  | Ont.  | Man.  | Sask. | Alta. | B.C.  | Y.T.  | Canada |
|-------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| <b>2014</b> | 36.6% | 18.7%  | 30.2% | 25.2% | 10.2% | 28.4% | 34.5% | 53.1% | 32.8% | 29.7% | 28.2% | 25.6%  |
| <b>2018</b> | 35.6% | 13.9%  | 30.7% | 24.9% | 9.1%  | 29.6% | 33.6% | 52.7% | 34.5% | 30.3% | 21.1% | 26.4%  |

**Note**

Due to small numbers, data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not displayed individually, but are included in the Canada totals.

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 9** Percentage of physicians with international MD degrees, by physician type, Canada, 1978 to 2018

| Year | Family medicine | Specialists | All physicians |
|------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1978 | 33.4%           | 31.5%       | 32.5%          |
| 1979 | 32.2%           | 31.8%       | 32.0%          |
| 1980 | 31.7%           | 31.8%       | 31.7%          |
| 1981 | 31.2%           | 31.7%       | 31.4%          |
| 1982 | 30.0%           | 31.4%       | 30.7%          |
| 1983 | 29.2%           | 31.0%       | 30.1%          |
| 1984 | 28.5%           | 30.5%       | 29.5%          |
| 1985 | 27.8%           | 29.8%       | 28.8%          |
| 1986 | 27.5%           | 29.6%       | 28.5%          |
| 1987 | 26.7%           | 29.3%       | 27.9%          |
| 1988 | 26.0%           | 28.8%       | 27.3%          |
| 1989 | 25.2%           | 28.4%       | 26.7%          |
| 1990 | 24.7%           | 27.9%       | 26.2%          |
| 1991 | 24.5%           | 27.5%       | 25.9%          |
| 1992 | 23.7%           | 27.3%       | 25.4%          |
| 1993 | 23.4%           | 27.0%       | 25.1%          |
| 1994 | 23.1%           | 26.9%       | 24.9%          |
| 1995 | 22.6%           | 26.5%       | 24.5%          |
| 1996 | 22.5%           | 26.2%       | 24.3%          |
| 1997 | 22.3%           | 25.8%       | 24.0%          |
| 1998 | 22.2%           | 25.2%       | 23.7%          |

| Year | Family medicine | Specialists | All physicians |
|------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1999 | 22.2%           | 24.6%       | 23.4%          |
| 2000 | 22.3%           | 24.1%       | 23.2%          |
| 2001 | 22.6%           | 23.5%       | 23.0%          |
| 2002 | 23.2%           | 22.9%       | 23.0%          |
| 2003 | 23.5%           | 22.1%       | 22.8%          |
| 2004 | 23.5%           | 21.8%       | 22.7%          |
| 2005 | 24.0%           | 21.6%       | 22.8%          |
| 2006 | 24.4%           | 21.2%       | 22.8%          |
| 2007 | 24.6%           | 21.7%       | 23.2%          |
| 2008 | 25.6%           | 21.5%       | 23.6%          |
| 2009 | 26.2%           | 21.9%       | 24.1%          |
| 2010 | 26.0%           | 22.7%       | 24.4%          |
| 2011 | 26.8%           | 23.0%       | 24.9%          |
| 2012 | 27.4%           | 22.8%       | 25.2%          |
| 2013 | 28.0%           | 22.5%       | 25.3%          |
| 2014 | 28.6%           | 22.5%       | 25.6%          |
| 2015 | 28.6%           | 22.7%       | 25.7%          |
| 2016 | 29.3%           | 22.4%       | 25.9%          |
| 2017 | 30.2%           | 22.5%       | 26.4%          |
| 2018 | 29.9%           | 22.7%       | 26.4%          |

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 10** Top 10 countries of MD graduation for internationally trained physicians licensed in Canada, by physician type, 2018

| Country        | Family medicine | Specialists | All physicians |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| South Africa   | 1,917           | 726         | 2,643          |
| India          | 1,039           | 1,070       | 2,109          |
| United Kingdom | 1,098           | 900         | 1,998          |
| Ireland        | 834             | 652         | 1,486          |
| Egypt          | 587             | 534         | 1,121          |
| United States  | 672             | 414         | 1,086          |
| Pakistan       | 566             | 406         | 972            |
| Nigeria        | 484             | 326         | 810            |
| Iran           | 389             | 309         | 698            |
| Poland         | 293             | 240         | 533            |

**Source**

Scott's Medical Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



**Figure 11** Total gross clinical and FFS payments to physicians, Canada, 1999–2000 to 2017–2018

| Fiscal year | Total gross clinical payments<br>(billions of dollars) | FFS clinical payments<br>(billions of dollars) |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1999–2000   | \$9.7  | \$8.6  |
| 2000–2001   | \$10.2   | \$8.9  |
| 2001–2002   | \$11.0   | \$9.2  |
| 2002–2003   | \$11.6   | \$9.6  |
| 2003–2004   | \$12.4   | \$10.0   |
| 2004–2005   | \$13.0   | \$10.4   |
| 2005–2006   | \$14.1   | \$11.1   |
| 2006–2007   | \$14.9   | \$11.6   |
| 2007–2008   | \$16.3   | \$12.2   |
| 2008–2009   | \$17.9   | \$12.9   |
| 2009–2010   | \$19.3   | \$14.0   |
| 2010–2011   | \$20.5   | \$14.7   |
| 2011–2012   | \$22.0   | \$15.7   |
| 2012–2013   | \$22.8   | \$16.1   |
| 2013–2014   | \$24.0   | \$17.1   |
| 2014–2015   | \$24.8   | \$17.8   |
| 2015–2016   | \$25.7   | \$18.5   |
| 2016–2017   | \$26.4   | \$19.2   |
| 2017–2018   | \$27.4   | \$19.9   |

**Notes**

FFS: Fee for service.

Excludes Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 12** Average gross clinical payments to physicians, by jurisdiction, 2013–2014 and 2017–2018

| Fiscal year      | N.L.      | P.E.I.    | N.S.      | N.B.      | Que.      | Ont.      | Man.      | Sask.     | Alta.     | B.C.      | Y.T.      | Canada    |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>2013–2014</b> | \$275,937 | \$350,863 | \$255,551 | \$290,193 | \$305,580 | \$364,694 | \$362,723 | \$356,776 | \$354,492 | \$278,718 | \$244,514 | \$334,693 |
| <b>2017–2018</b> | \$273,986 | \$382,771 | \$267,215 | \$295,088 | \$349,768 | \$346,003 | \$351,976 | \$345,856 | \$385,174 | \$285,138 | \$271,092 | \$344,978 |

**Notes**

Due to the greater proportion of short-term, visiting and locum physicians and their lower associated payments in certain smaller jurisdictions relative to larger ones, in an attempt to improve comparability, CIHI has agreed to calculate the average payment per physician for P.E.I. using only permanent in-province physicians, and for Yukon using only physicians whose total gross payments are at least \$60,000.

Data is not available for the Northwest Territories or Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 13** Average gross clinical payments, by physician specialty, Canada, 2017–2018

| Specialty                       | Average gross clinical payment |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Psychiatry                      | \$278,000                      |
| Family medicine                 | \$281,000                      |
| Physical medicine               | \$289,000                      |
| Pediatrics                      | \$299,000                      |
| Neurology                       | \$311,000                      |
| Total physicians                | \$345,000                      |
| Total medical specialists       | \$360,000                      |
| Dermatology                     | \$385,000                      |
| Plastic surgery                 | \$386,000                      |
| Obstetrics/gynecology           | \$392,000                      |
| Internal medicine               | \$404,000                      |
| Orthopedic surgery              | \$429,000                      |
| Anesthesia                      | \$431,000                      |
| Otolaryngology                  | \$443,000                      |
| General surgery                 | \$452,000                      |
| Total surgical specialists      | \$481,000                      |
| Urology                         | \$481,000                      |
| Neurosurgery                    | \$530,000                      |
| Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery | \$599,000                      |
| Ophthalmology                   | \$769,000                      |

**Note**

Specialty-level information for Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories at the level needed for this analysis was not available. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 14** Average gross clinical payments, by physician specialty and jurisdiction, 2017–2018

| Jurisdiction | Family medicine | Medical specialists | Surgical specialists |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| N.L.         | \$211,000       | \$319,000           | \$407,000            |
| P.E.I.       | \$332,000       | \$401,000           | \$549,000            |
| N.S.         | \$217,000       | \$279,000           | \$388,000            |
| N.B.         | \$246,000       | \$328,000           | \$392,000            |
| Que.         | \$280,000       | \$407,000           | \$480,000            |
| Ont.         | \$309,000       | \$341,000           | \$483,000            |
| Man.         | \$303,000       | \$370,000           | \$505,000            |
| Sask.        | n/a             | n/a                 | n/a                  |
| Alta.        | n/a             | n/a                 | n/a                  |
| B.C.         | \$217,000       | \$329,000           | \$466,000            |
| Y.T.         | \$254,000       | \$193,000           | \$424,000            |
| N.W.T.       | n/a             | n/a                 | n/a                  |
| Nun.         | n/r             | n/r                 | n/r                  |
| Canada       | \$281,000       | \$360,000           | \$481,000            |

**Notes**

n/a: Specialty-level information for Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories at the level needed for this analysis was not available.

n/r: Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

Due to cell suppression at the specialty level, the average payment for medical specialists in Yukon includes only payments to pediatric specialists.

Due to the greater proportion of short-term, visiting and locum physicians and their lower associated payments in certain smaller jurisdictions relative to larger ones, in an attempt to improve comparability, CIHI has agreed to calculate the average payment per physician for P.E.I. using only permanent in-province physicians, and for Yukon using only physicians whose total gross payments are at least \$60,000. Canada figures exclude Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 15** Average gross clinical payment per FTE physician, by physician specialty and jurisdiction, 2017–2018

| Physician specialty  | N.L.      | P.E.I.    | N.S.      | N.B.      | Que.      | Ont.      | Man.      | Sask.     | Alta.     | B.C.      | Canada    |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Family medicine      | \$287,626 | \$310,562 | \$288,019 | \$333,105 | \$362,969 | \$297,627 | \$351,811 | \$319,974 | \$389,429 | \$301,398 | \$324,879 |
| Medical specialists  | \$386,024 | \$387,587 | \$341,721 | \$406,587 | \$423,252 | \$367,995 | \$408,701 | \$432,782 | \$442,347 | \$411,353 | \$397,563 |
| Surgical specialists | \$541,387 | \$608,026 | \$531,192 | \$555,238 | \$571,234 | \$508,889 | \$626,552 | \$651,777 | \$706,664 | \$610,124 | \$563,955 |

**Notes**

FTE: Full-time equivalent.

Saskatchewan and Alberta FTEs are based on fee-for-service payments only.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

Data is not available for Yukon, the Northwest Territories or Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 16** FFS and alternative payments as a percentage of total clinical payments to physicians, Canada, 1999–2000 to 2017–2018

| Fiscal year | Percentage FFS clinical payments | Percentage APP clinical payments |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1999–2000   | 89.4%                            | 10.6%                            |
| 2000–2001   | 87.1%                            | 12.9%                            |
| 2001–2002   | 83.9%                            | 16.1%                            |
| 2002–2003   | 83.2%                            | 16.8%                            |
| 2003–2004   | 80.6%                            | 19.4%                            |
| 2004–2005   | 79.7%                            | 20.3%                            |
| 2005–2006   | 79.0%                            | 21.0%                            |
| 2006–2007   | 77.4%                            | 22.6%                            |
| 2007–2008   | 74.7%                            | 25.3%                            |
| 2008–2009   | 72.1%                            | 27.9%                            |
| 2009–2010   | 72.6%                            | 27.4%                            |
| 2010–2011   | 71.8%                            | 28.2%                            |
| 2011–2012   | 71.2%                            | 28.8%                            |
| 2012–2013   | 70.6%                            | 29.4%                            |
| 2013–2014   | 71.2%                            | 28.8%                            |
| 2014–2015   | 71.7%                            | 28.4%                            |
| 2015–2016   | 72.1%                            | 27.9%                            |
| 2016–2017   | 72.5%                            | 27.5%                            |
| 2017–2018   | 72.6%                            | 27.4%                            |

**Notes**

FFS: Fee for service.

APP: Alternative payment plan.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

Excludes Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 17** Distribution of physicians and clinical payments, by payment type and jurisdiction, 2017–2018

| Jurisdiction | APP clinical payments | FFS clinical payments | Percentage of physicians who received any FFS payments | Percentage of physicians who received any APP payments |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| N.L.         | 34.9%                 | 65.1%                 | 85%  | 57%  |
| P.E.I.       | 36.4%                 | 63.6%                 | 89%  | 74%  |
| N.S.         | 54.5%                 | 45.5%                 | 63%  | 96%  |
| N.B.         | 34.4%                 | 65.6%                 | 95%  | 63%  |
| Que.         | 20.1%                 | 79.9%                 | 99%  | 88%  |
| Ont.         | 35.8%                 | 64.2%                 | 99%  | 56%  |
| Man.         | 29.0%                 | 71.0%                 | 90%  | 72%  |
| Sask.        | 37.1%                 | 62.9%                 | 64%  | 47%  |
| Alta.        | 13.0%                 | 87.0%                 | 91%  | 17%  |
| B.C.         | 19.5%                 | 80.5%                 | 95%  | 67%  |
| Y.T.         | 42.0%                 | 58.0%                 | 99%  | 61%  |
| Canada       | 27.4%                 | 72.6%                 | 96%  | 69%  |

**Notes**

FFS: Fee for service.

APP: Alternative payment plan.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

Data is not available for the Northwest Territories or Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 18** Distribution of physicians, by payment type and physician specialty, Canada, 2017–2018

| Physician specialty  | 90% APP | 50%–90% APP | 90% FFS | 50%–90% FFS |
|----------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| Family medicine      | 16%     | 18%         | 37%     | 29%         |
| Medical specialists  | 11%     | 6%          | 52%     | 32%         |
| Surgical specialists | 5%      | 3%          | 65%     | 27%         |

**Notes**

FFS: Fee for service.

APP: Alternative payment plan.

Imaging and laboratory specialists are not included.

Excludes Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

**Figure 19** FFS services and payments, Canada, 2017–2018

| Percentage via FFS | Consultations and visits | Procedures |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Services provided  | 72%                      | 28%        |
| Payments paid      | 67%                      | 33%        |

**Notes**

FFS: Fee for service.

Excludes reciprocal billing, imaging and laboratory services, anesthesia services and anesthesiology specialists, and unclassified physicians.

Excludes the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



**Figure 20** Average cost per service, by physician specialty, Canada, 2017–2018

| Group                | Physician specialty             | Average cost per service |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Family medicine      | Family medicine                 | \$50.37                  |
| Medical specialties  | Internal medicine               | \$85.46                  |
|                      | Cardiology                      | \$85.51                  |
|                      | Gastroenterology                | \$111.51                 |
|                      | Neurology                       | \$111.29                 |
|                      | Psychiatry                      | \$101.28                 |
|                      | Pediatrics                      | \$81.95                  |
|                      | Dermatology                     | \$46.19                  |
|                      | Physical medicine               | \$85.92                  |
|                      | Anesthesia                      | \$135.29                 |
| Surgical specialties | General surgery                 | \$127.51                 |
|                      | Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery | \$206.84                 |
|                      | Urology                         | \$83.56                  |
|                      | Orthopedic surgery              | \$120.66                 |
|                      | Plastic surgery                 | \$110.12                 |
|                      | Neurosurgery                    | \$226.52                 |
|                      | Ophthalmology                   | \$64.07                  |
|                      | Otolaryngology                  | \$69.65                  |
|                      | Obstetrics/gynecology           | \$87.24                  |
|                      | Total physicians                | \$67.87                  |

**Notes**

Includes fee-for-service payments only.

Excludes the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Nunavut does not report to the National Physician Database.

**Source**

National Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.



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