

The Vermont Department of Health

2008 PHYSICIAN SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

Guidance • Support • Prevention • Protection

August, 2009

 **VERMONT**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SURVEY DESCRIPTION

Mailed to physicians along with the license renewal forms in the fall of 2008

Followed up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was 100%

SUMMARY

- There were 1833 physicians providing patient care in Vermont (1783 MDs and 50 DOs).
- 31% (577) of the physicians were female.
- 44% (812) have worked in Vermont less than 10 years, and 27% (488) have worked in Vermont 20 or more years.
- 35% attended medical school or completed residency training at the University of Vermont.

PRIMARY CARE

- 35% (634) worked mainly in primary care, including:
 - 15% (279) in family practice
 - 10% (175) in primary care internal medicine
 - 4% (75) in obstetrics and gynecology
 - 6% (105) in pediatric primary care
- There were 80.2 primary care FTEs per 100,000 population statewide

SPECIALTY CARE

65% (1199) worked mainly in specialty care:

- 5% (97) in anesthesiology
- 6% (108) in emergency medicine
- 12% (217) in specialty internal medicine
- 9% (172) in psychiatry
- 7% (129) in radiology (including tele-radiology)
- 9% (162) in surgery (50 general, 72 orthopedic)
- 17% (314) other specialties (41 neurology, 46 ophthalmology, 53 pathology, 22 urology)

AGE OF PHYSICIANS

- Ages ranged from 30 to 85, with a median age of 50.
- In 8 of 14 counties, 20% or more of the primary care physicians are over age 60
- 19% of specialists are over age 60, including:
 - 34% of psychiatrists
 - 32% of neurologists
 - 28% of ophthalmologists
 - 25% of pathologists

CHANGES OVER TIME: PRIMARY CARE

As compared with the year 2000:

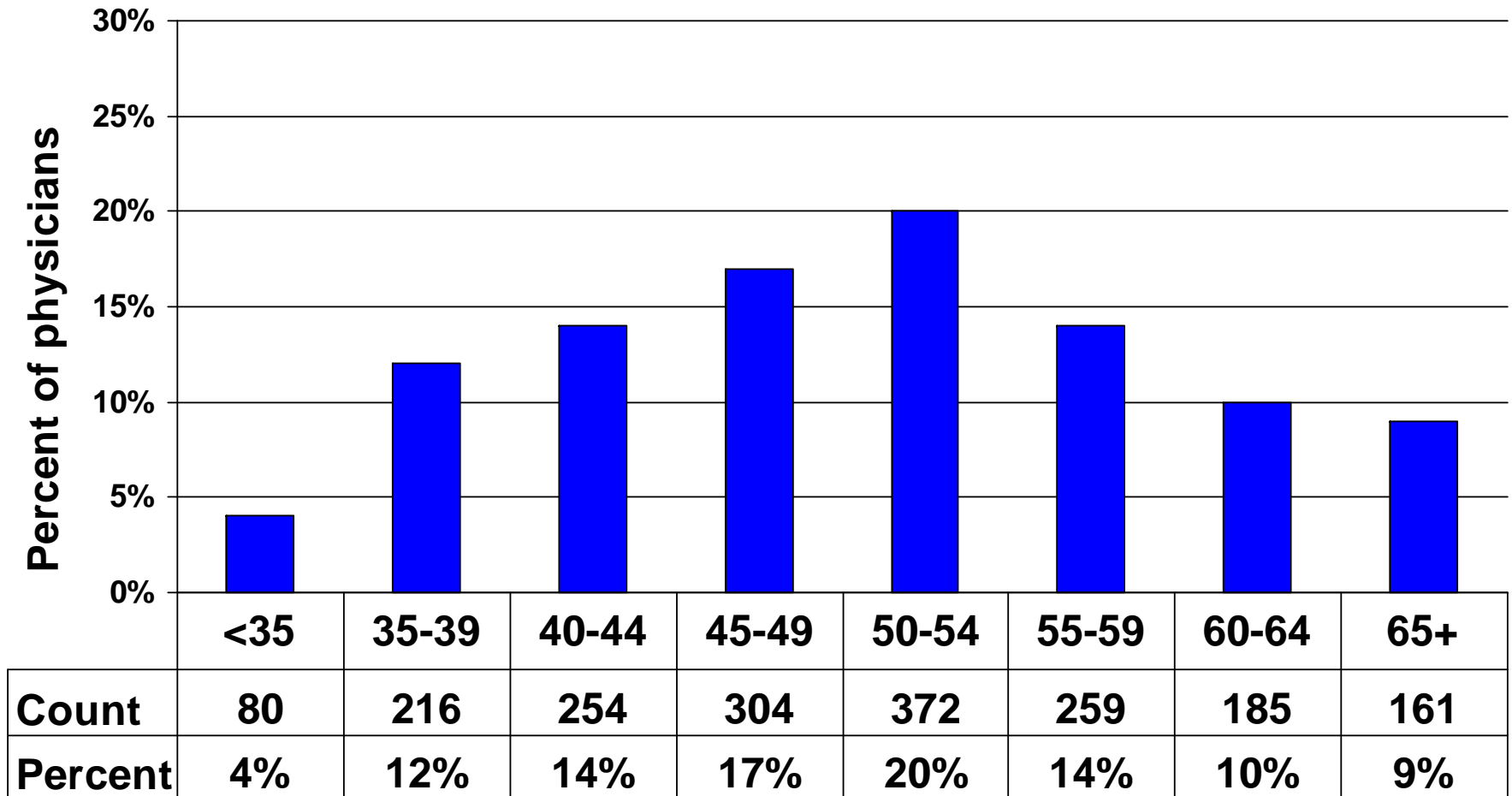
- There are 49 more primary care physicians (but only 26.0 additional FTEs).
- There was a net loss of 2.0 FTEs in primary care internal medicine.
- Primary care FTEs per 100,000 population increased from 77.6 to 80.2 statewide.
- Outside of Chittenden County, primary care FTEs per 100,000 population increased by a much smaller amount, from 73.8 to 74.3.

CHANGES OVER TIME: SPECIALTY CARE

As compared with the year 2000:

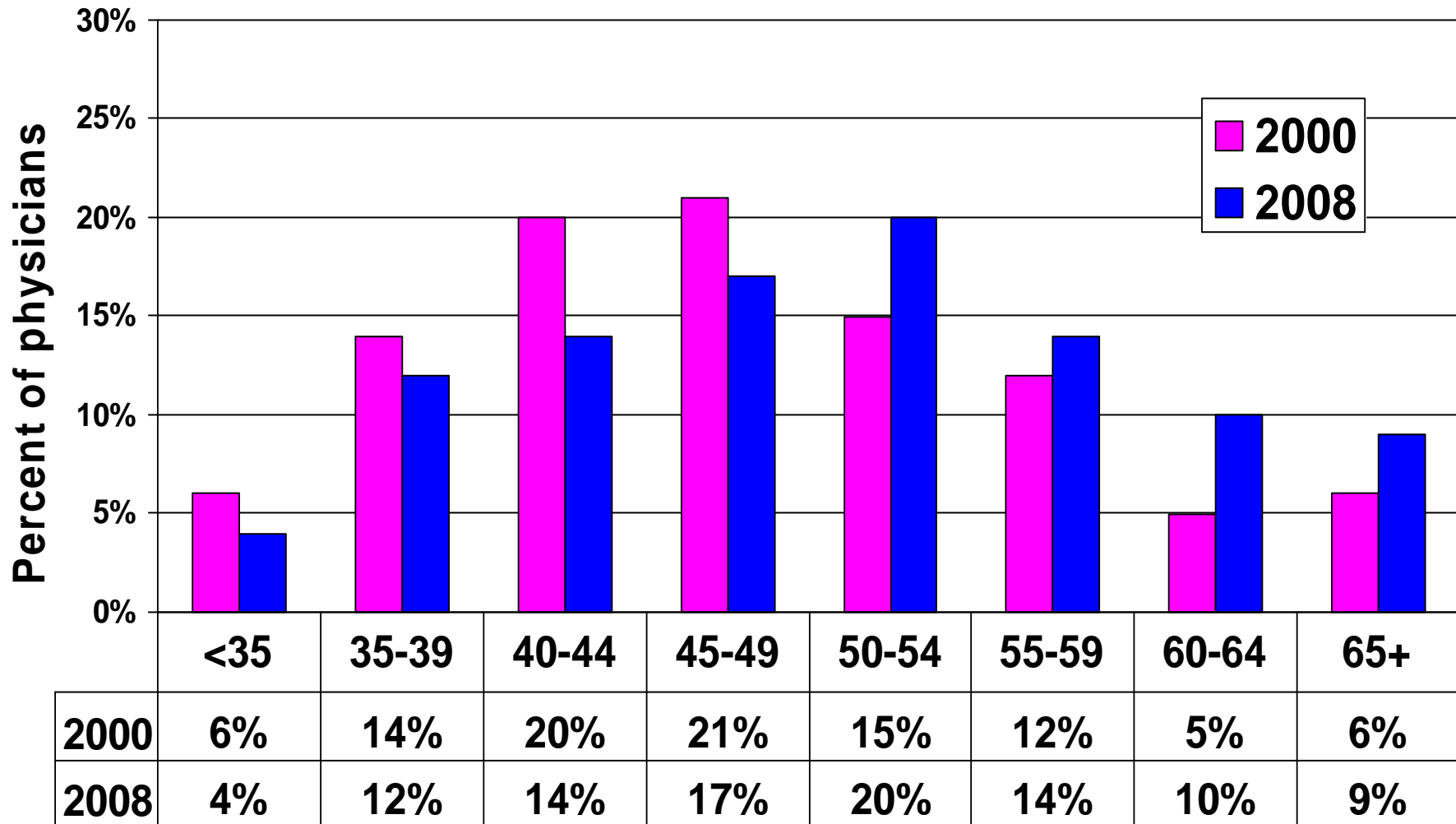
- There are 304 more specialty care physicians.
- There are 196.8 more specialty care FTEs.
- FTE increases were especially large in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, and specialty internal medicine.

Age Distribution

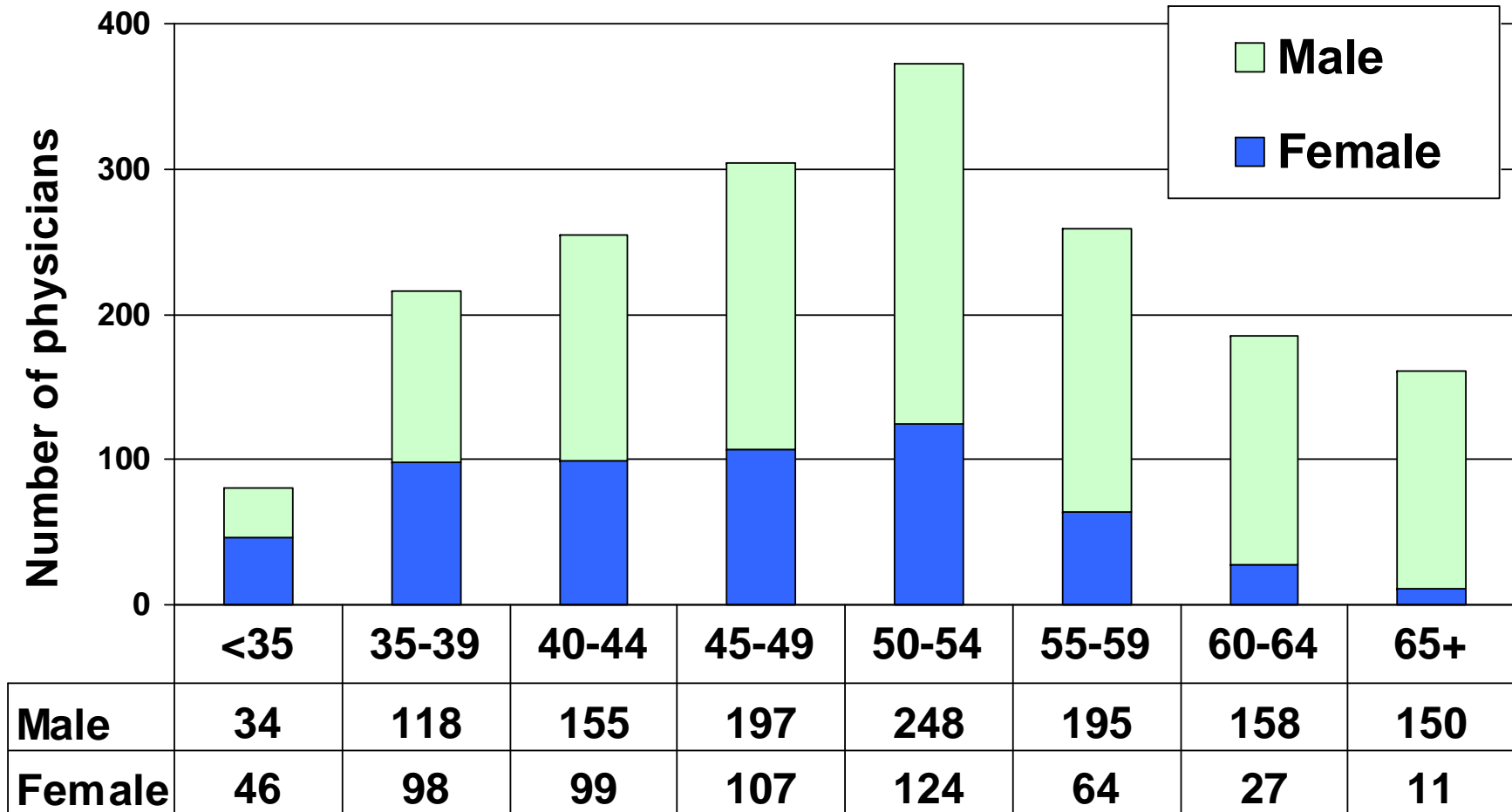


19% of all physicians are over age 60

Age Distribution over time: 2008 vs. 2000

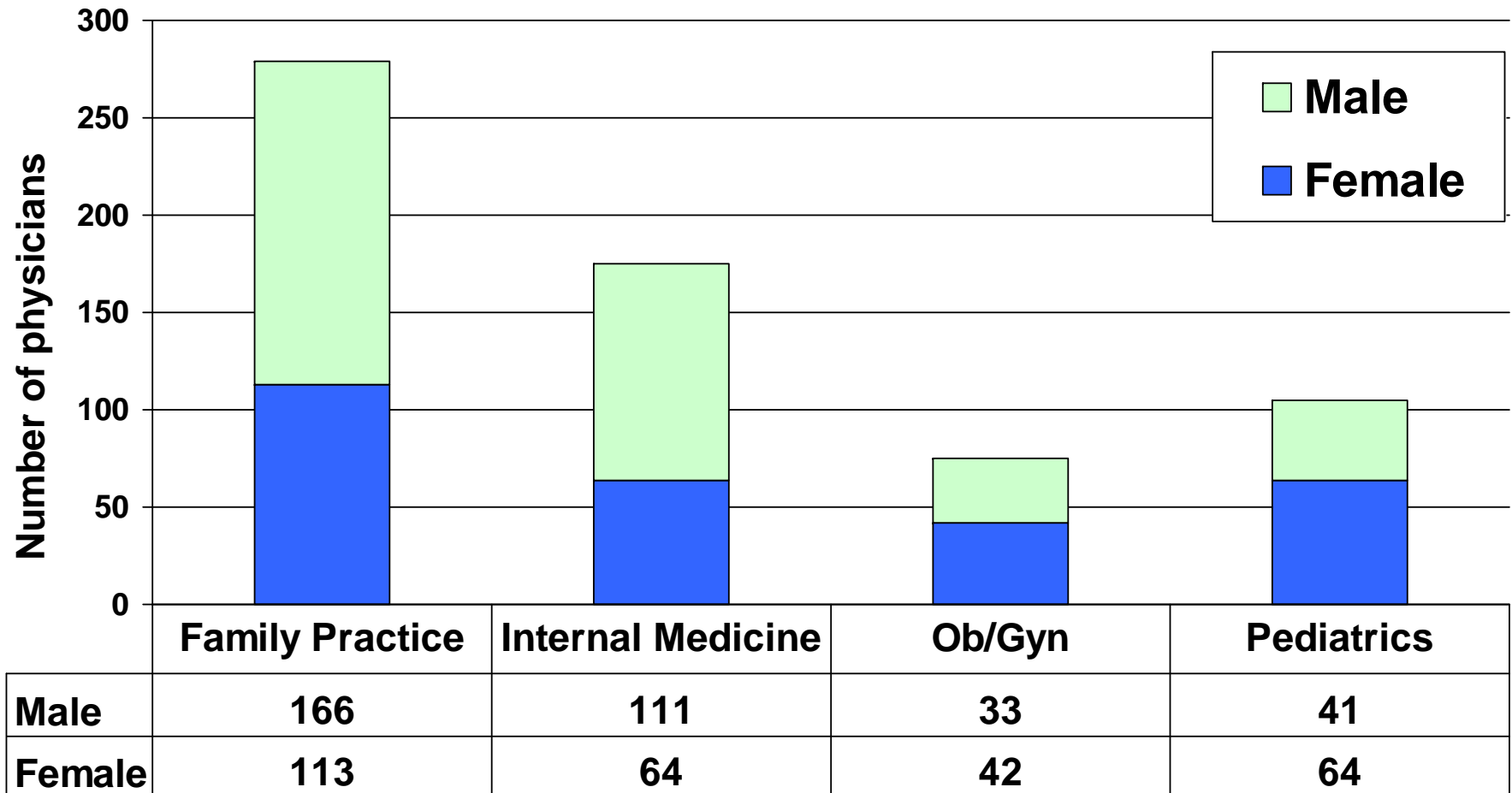


Age Distribution by Gender



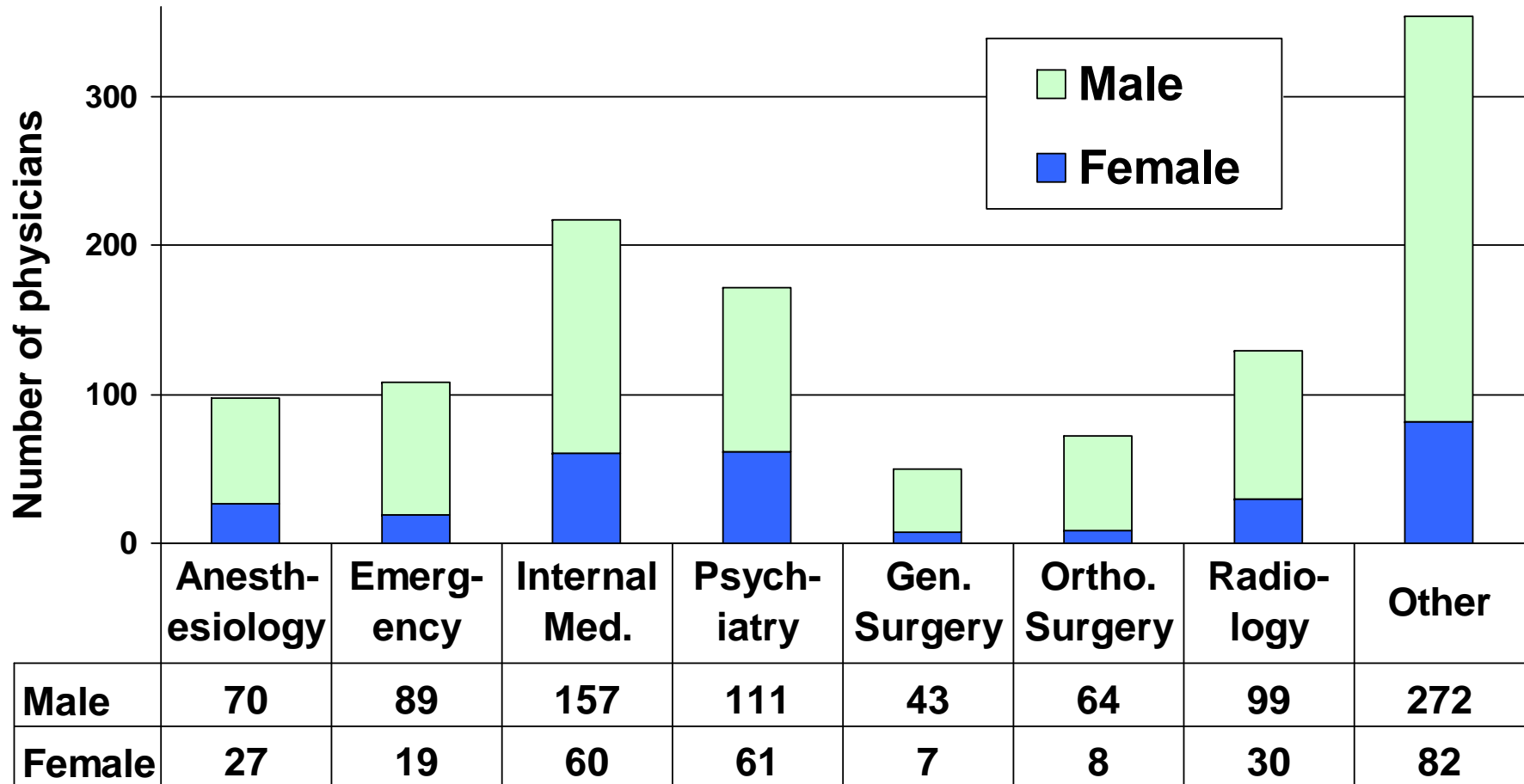
83% of physicians over age 55 are male

Primary Care by Gender



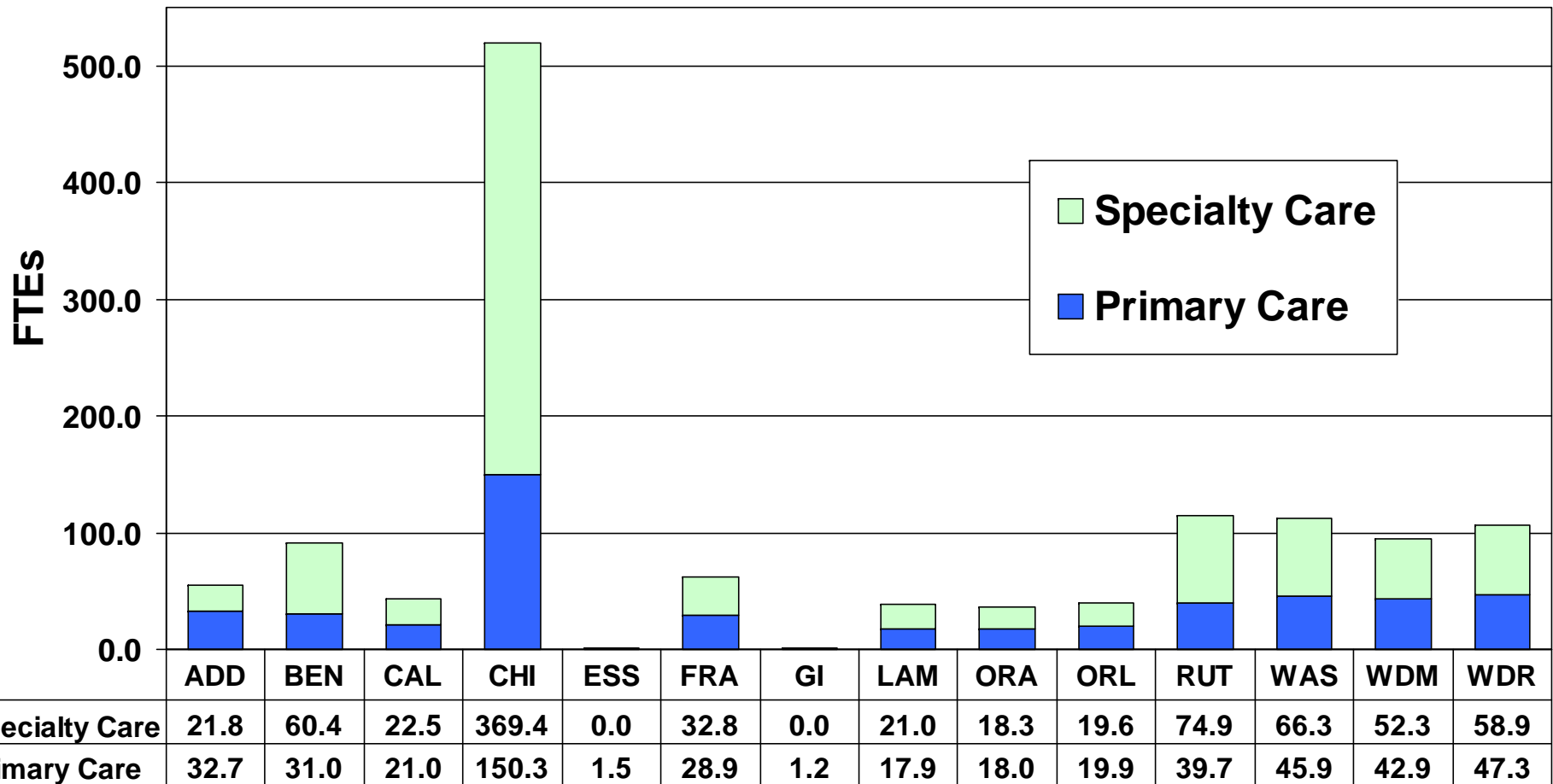
61% of pediatricians and 56% of OB/GYNs are female

Specialty Care by Gender



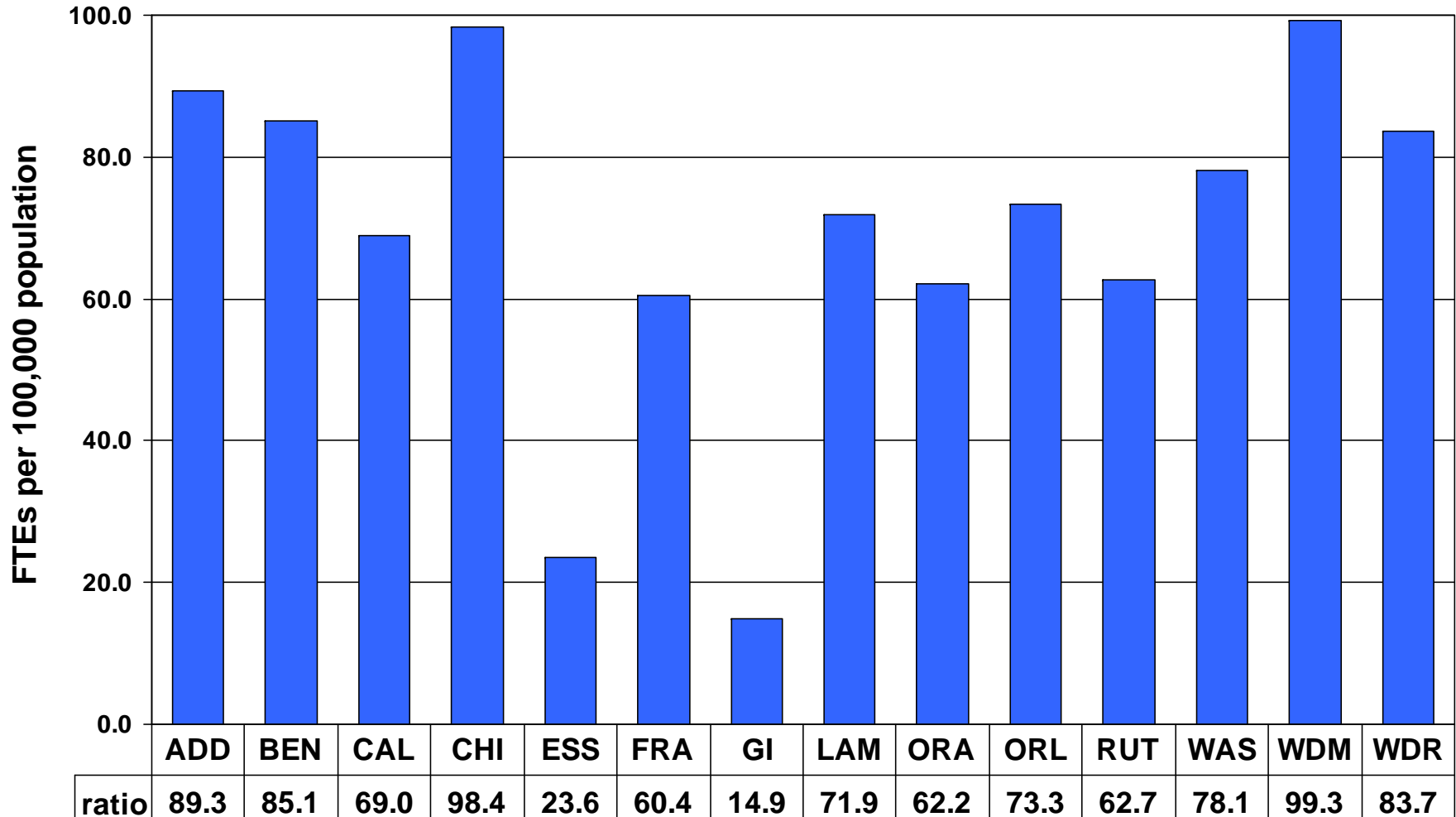
Most specialty care physicians are male

FTEs by County



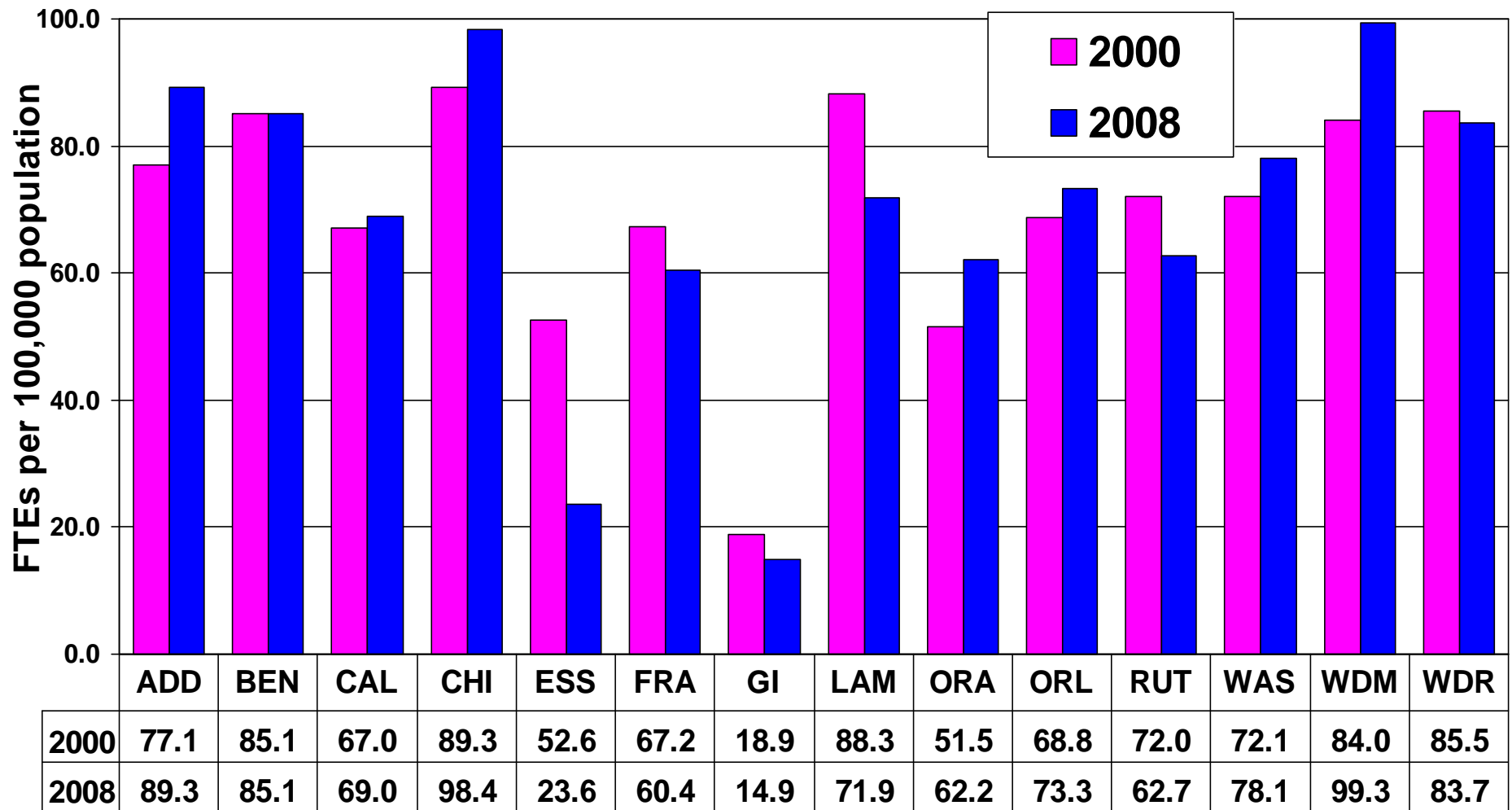
Physicians are highly concentrated in Chittenden County

Primary Care FTE to Population Ratios by County

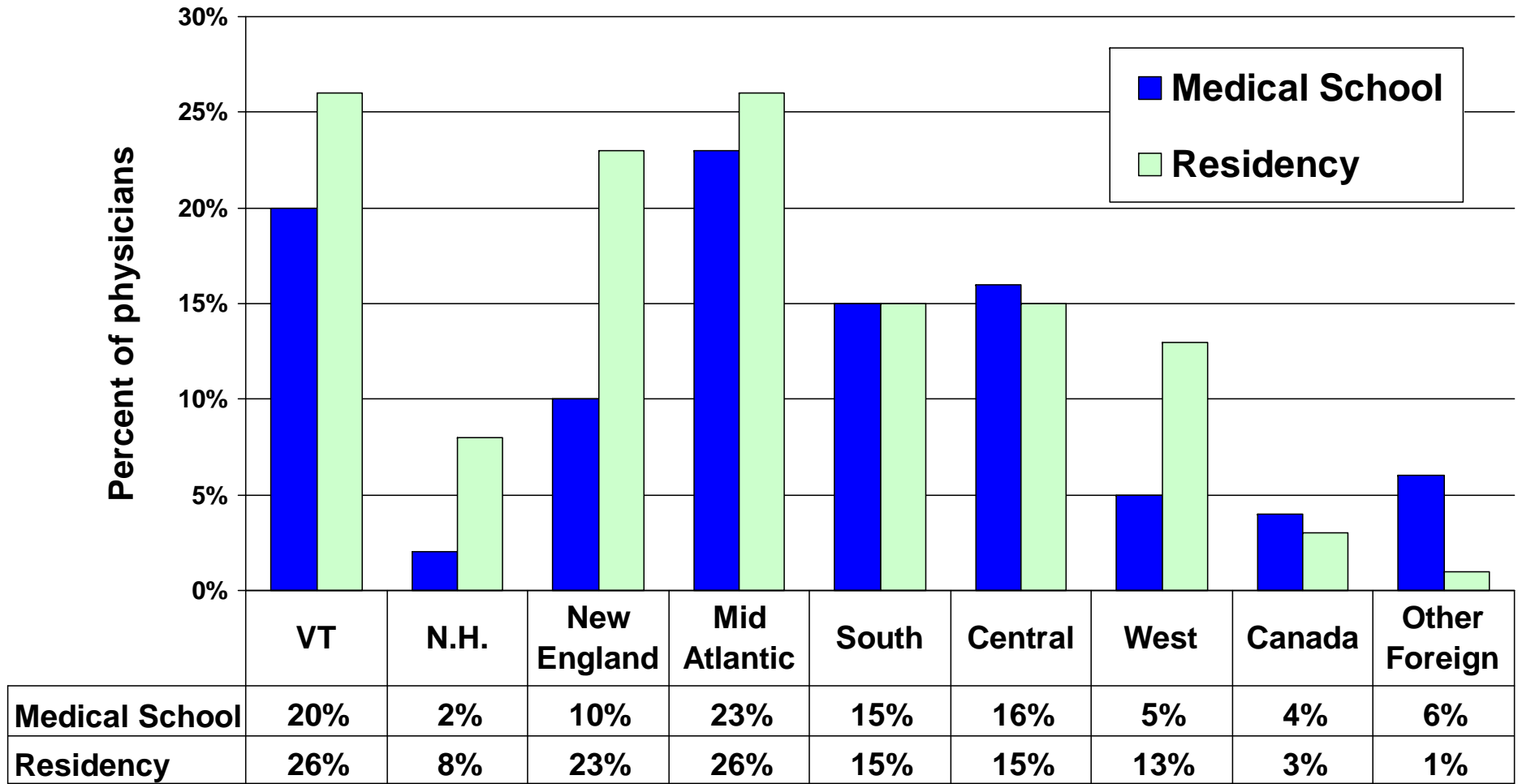


Several counties have few primary care physicians relative to their population

Primary Care FTE to Population Ratios by County

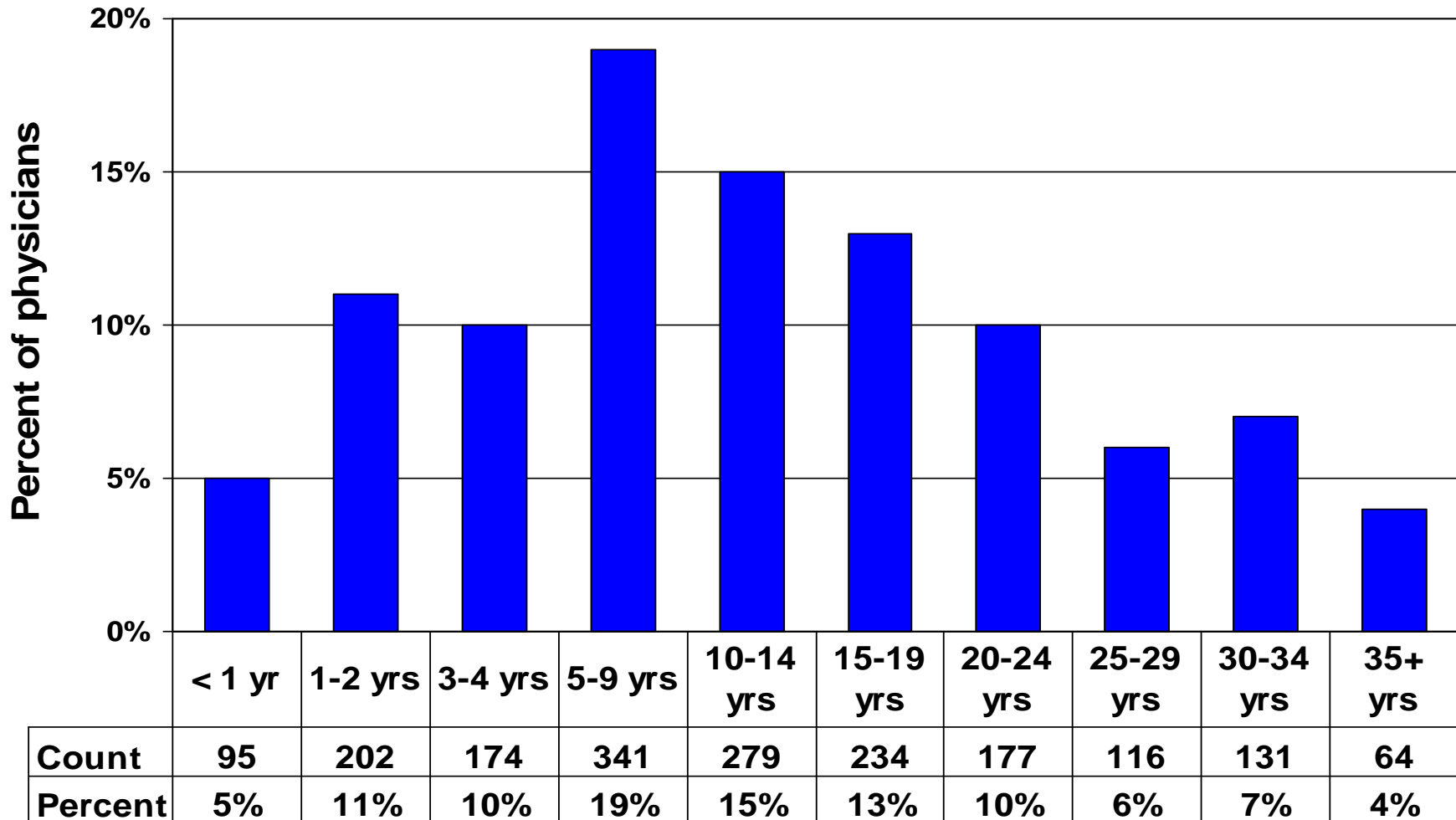


Location of Training



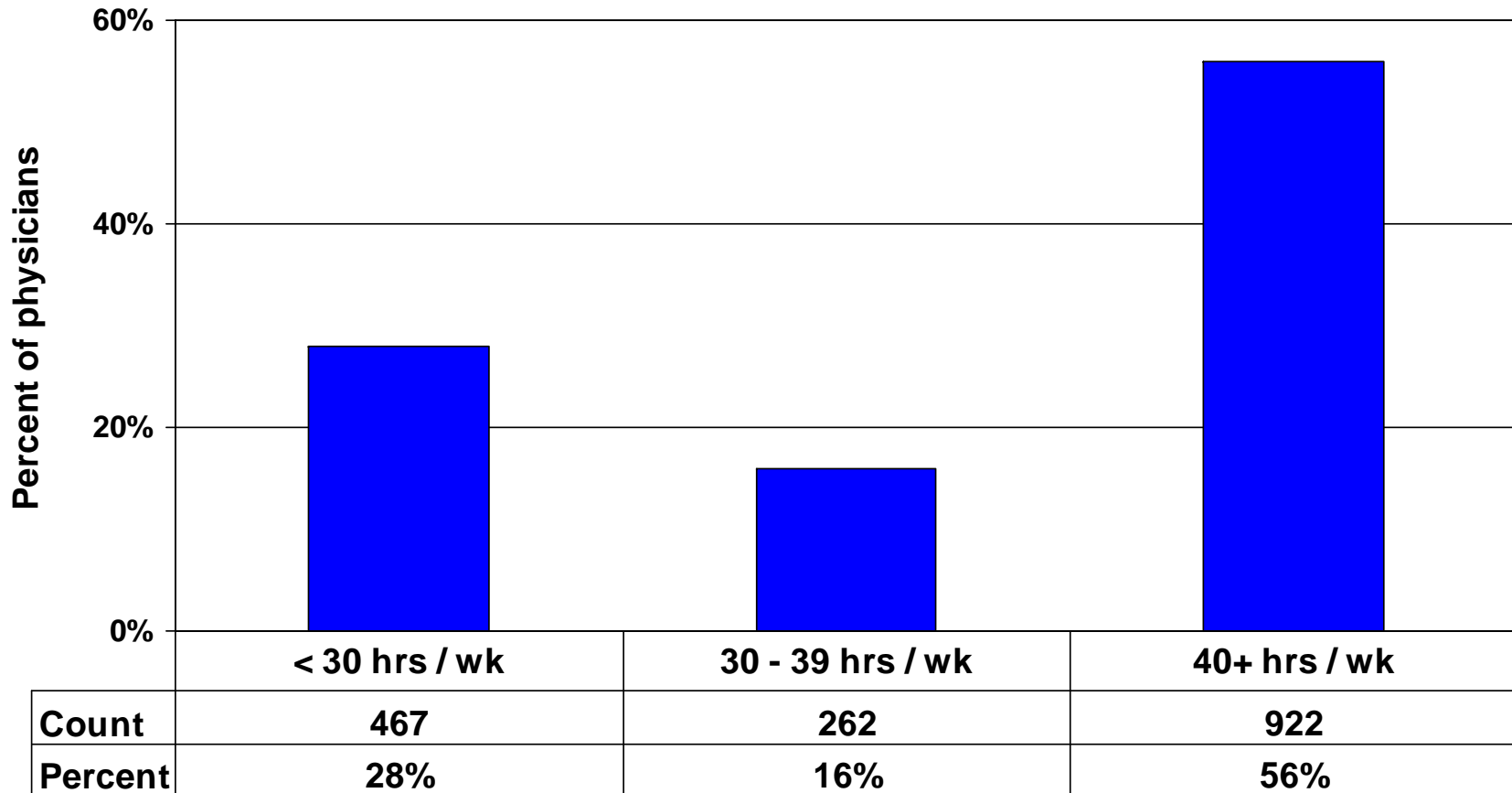
36% of physicians attended medical school or completed residency training at UVM

Years Worked in Vermont



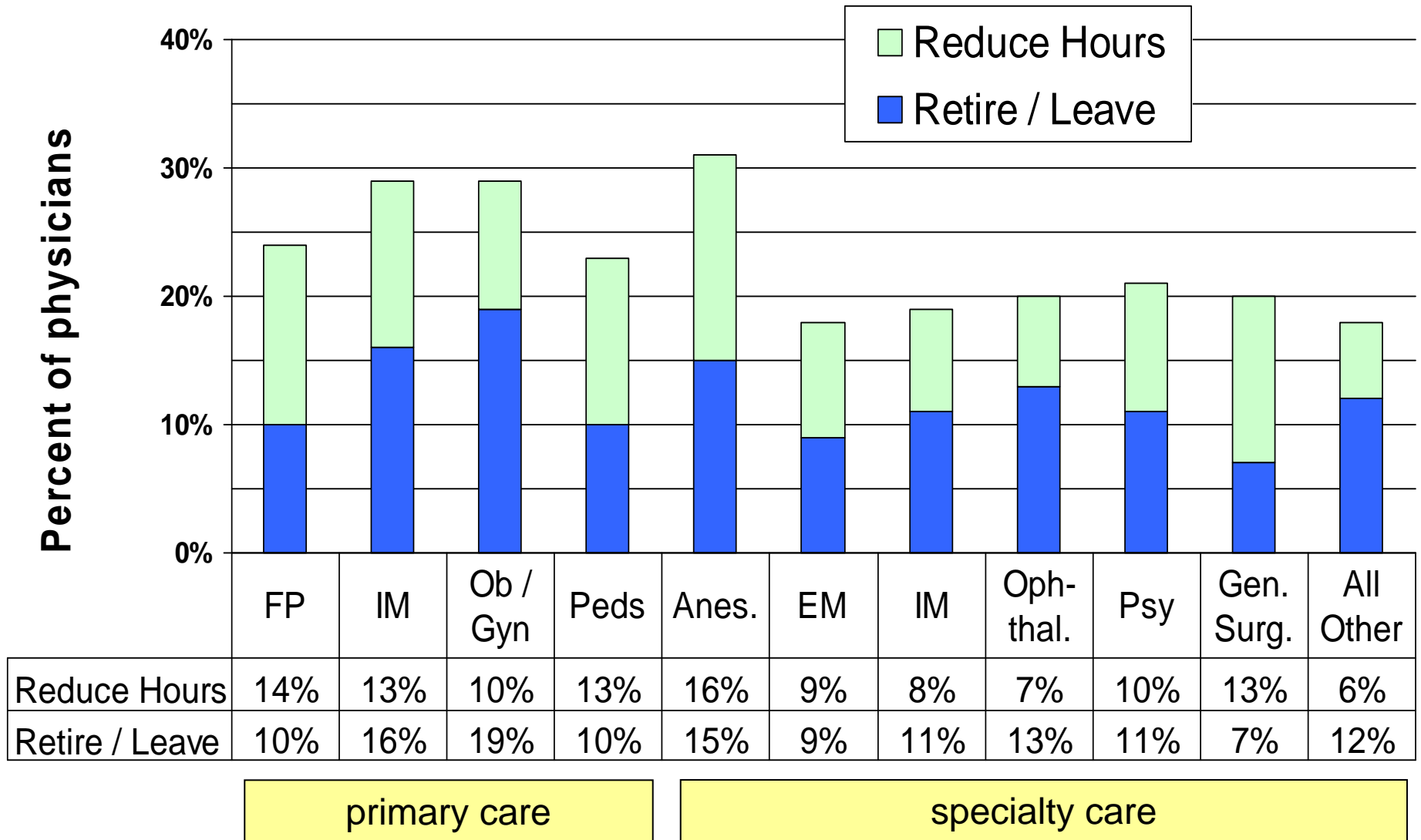
27% of the physicians have worked in Vermont more than 20 years

Hours Worked Per Week

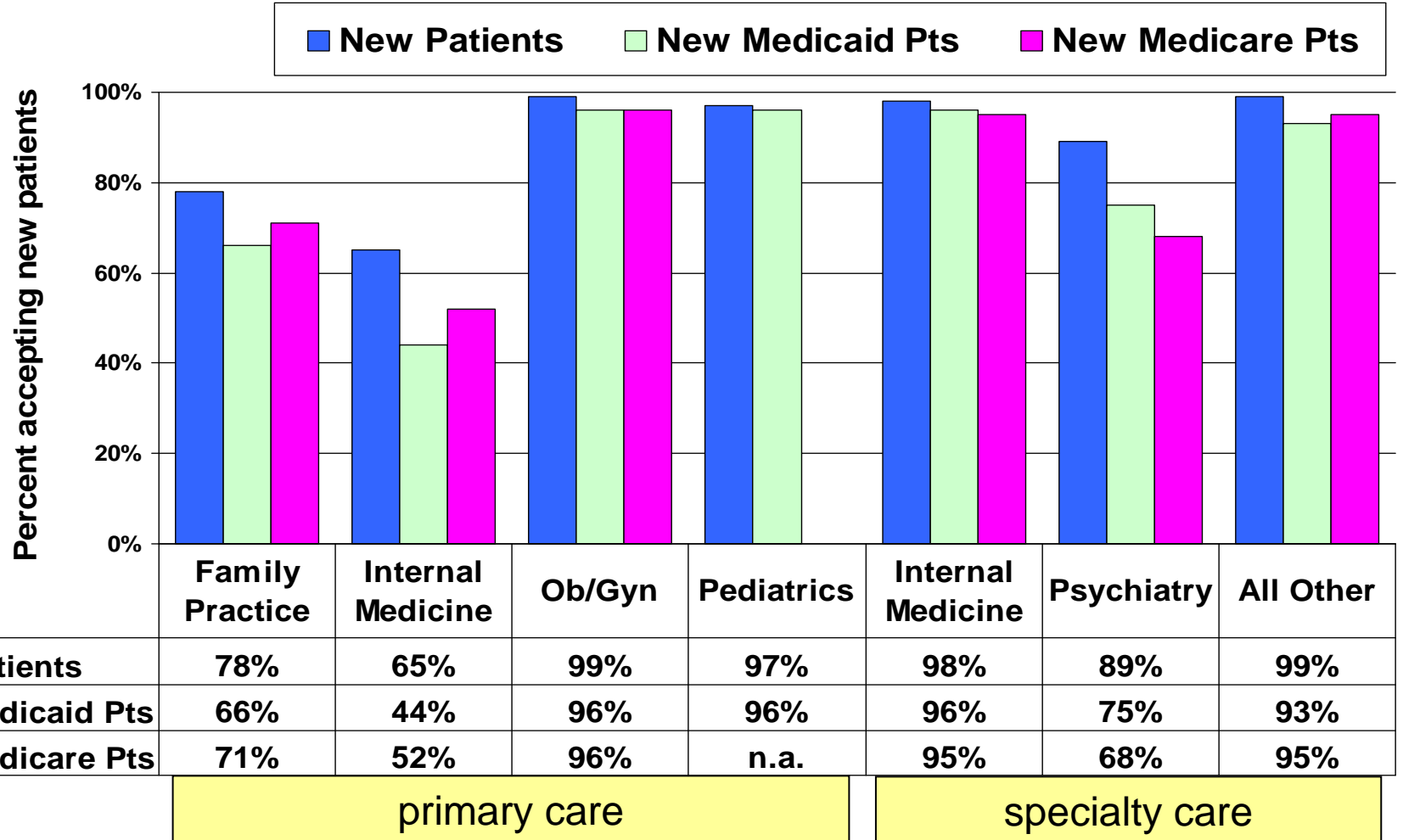


Average patient care hours per week: 38 overall, 28 for ages 65 and older. 62% of males, but only 44% of females, provide patient care 40+ hours per week.

Planning to reduce hours worked in Vermont within 5 years

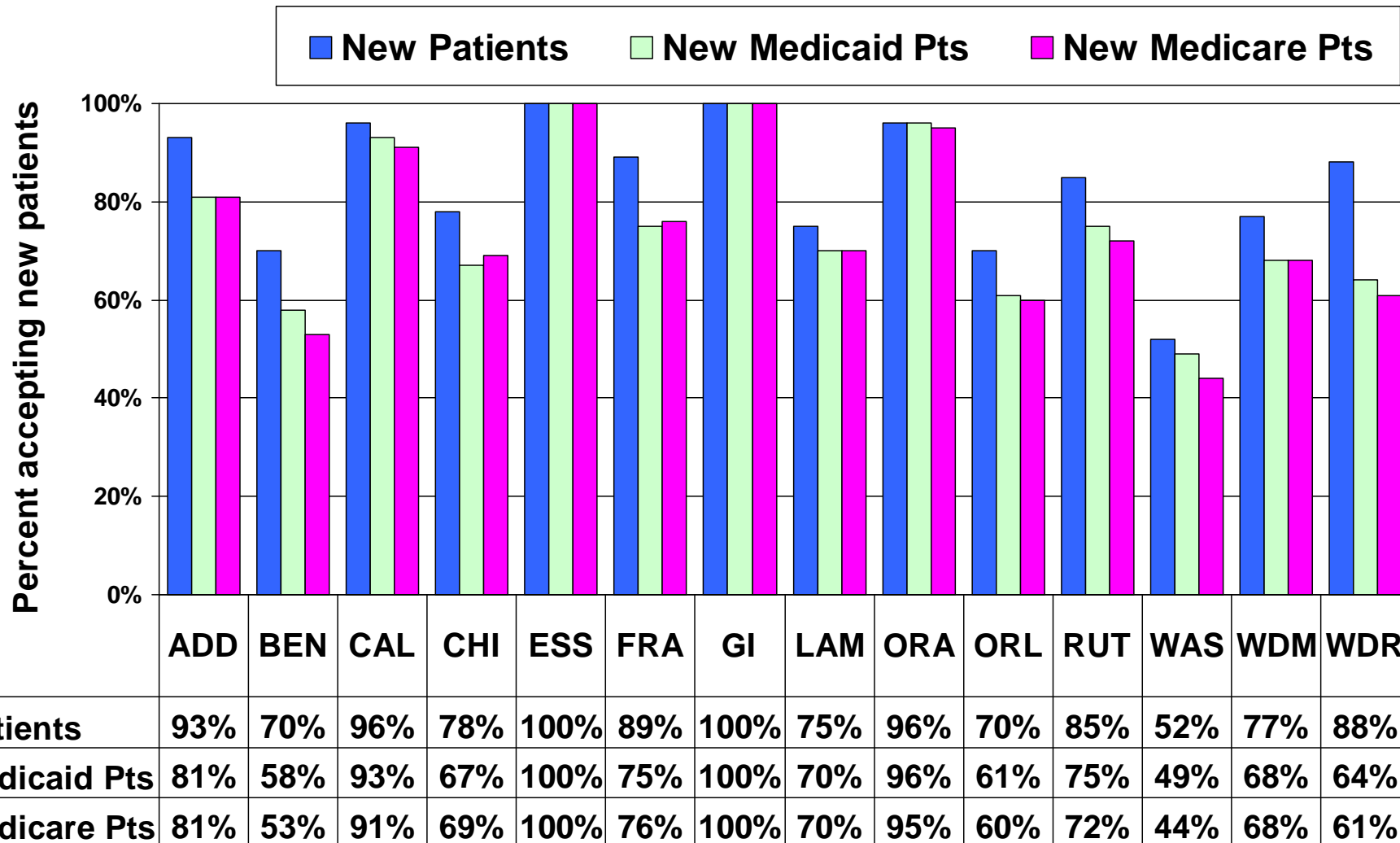


Accepting New Patients – by Specialty



89% accepted new patients overall, 80% accepted new Medicaid, 81% new Medicare patients. Emergency Medicine, Pathology and Radiology excluded.

Accepting New Patients – Primary Care, by County



Comparison of Selected Physician Data, 1996-2008

	1996	2000	2004	2008
Total active * physicians	1384	1480	1612	1833
Percent female	24%	26%	29%	31%
Primary care physicians	535	585	634	634
% accepting new patients	91%	80%	81%	80%
accepting new Medicaid patients	86%	73%	70%	69%
accepting new Medicare patients	87%	74%	71%	69%
Primary care physician FTEs **	438.2	472.2	478.7	498.2
FTEs per 100,000 Population	73.4	77.6	77.0	80.2
Specialist physicians	849	895	978	1199
Specialist physician FTEs **	573.2	621.3	656.1	818.1
% of FTEs in Chittenden County	42%	43%	46%	45%

* providing patient care in Vermont

** FTEs underestimated for 2004, not computed for pathology and radiology

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