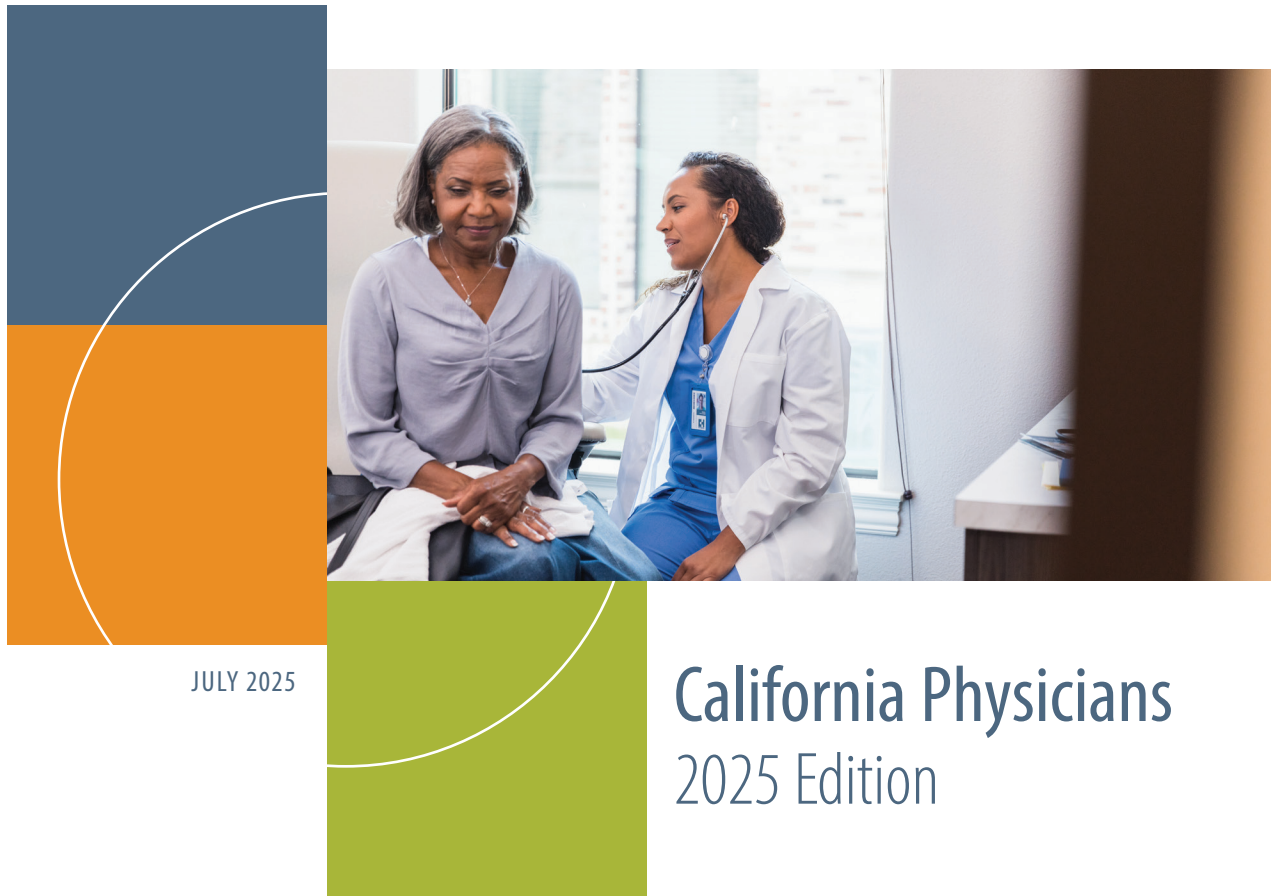


CALIFORNIA Health Care Almanac



JULY 2025

California Physicians
2025 Edition

Executive Summary

Although the number of active physicians in California increased by 33% between 2006 and 2022, a rate that exceeded the 8% population growth, many areas in the state face substantial shortages of primary care and specialist physicians. *California Physicians* presents detailed information about the supply, distribution, and demographic characteristics of the state’s physicians and provides important context for understanding the complexity of caring for California’s aging and increasingly racially/ethnically diverse population.

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- In 2023, the supply of licensed physicians did not reflect their availability to provide care. Only 40% of California’s physicians provided patient care 40 or more hours per week.
- Physician supply varied by region. Out of nine regions in the state, four regions (Central Coast, Inland Empire, Northern and Sierra, and San Joaquin Valley) did not meet the recommended supply of primary care physicians (PCPs), and San Joaquin Valley was below the recommended supply of specialists.
- Twenty-five percent of California’s physicians were age 65 and older. Physicians who are later in their careers dedicate less time to providing patient care per week than their younger counterparts.
- California’s Latino/x population was underrepresented among its physicians. Forty percent of California’s population was Latino/x, yet only 6% of the state’s physicians and 9% of the state’s medical school graduates were Latino/x.
- California ranked first in the nation in the percentages of both medical students and residents who remained in the state to practice.
- Twenty-eight percent of physicians (40% of PCPs and 23% of specialists) attended a medical school outside the US.
- Less than one-third of California’s physicians worked in a private practice. Nearly one-quarter practiced in a hospital (inpatient, outpatient, or emergency department).

CONTENTS

Supply 3

Hours Worked 12

Demographics 15

Education and Training 20

Income 25

Quality of Care 27

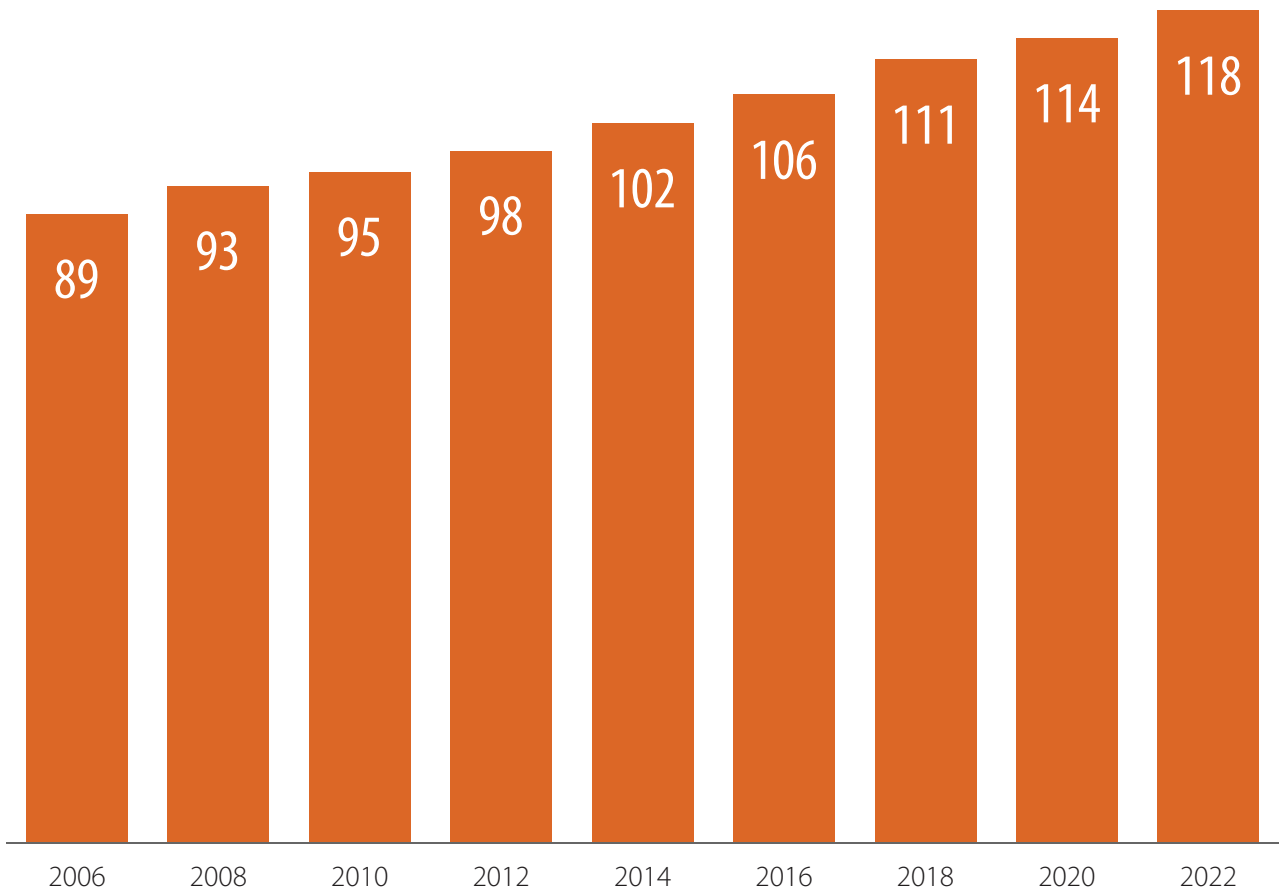
Practice Setting 28

Appendices 30

Active Physicians

California, 2006 to 2022, Selected Years

NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS (IN THOUSANDS)



Note: Data include physicians (doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathic medicine) who indicated they worked more than 20 hours per week, except physicians who are retired, semiretired, temporarily not in practice, inactive for other reasons, or have not completed their graduate medical education.

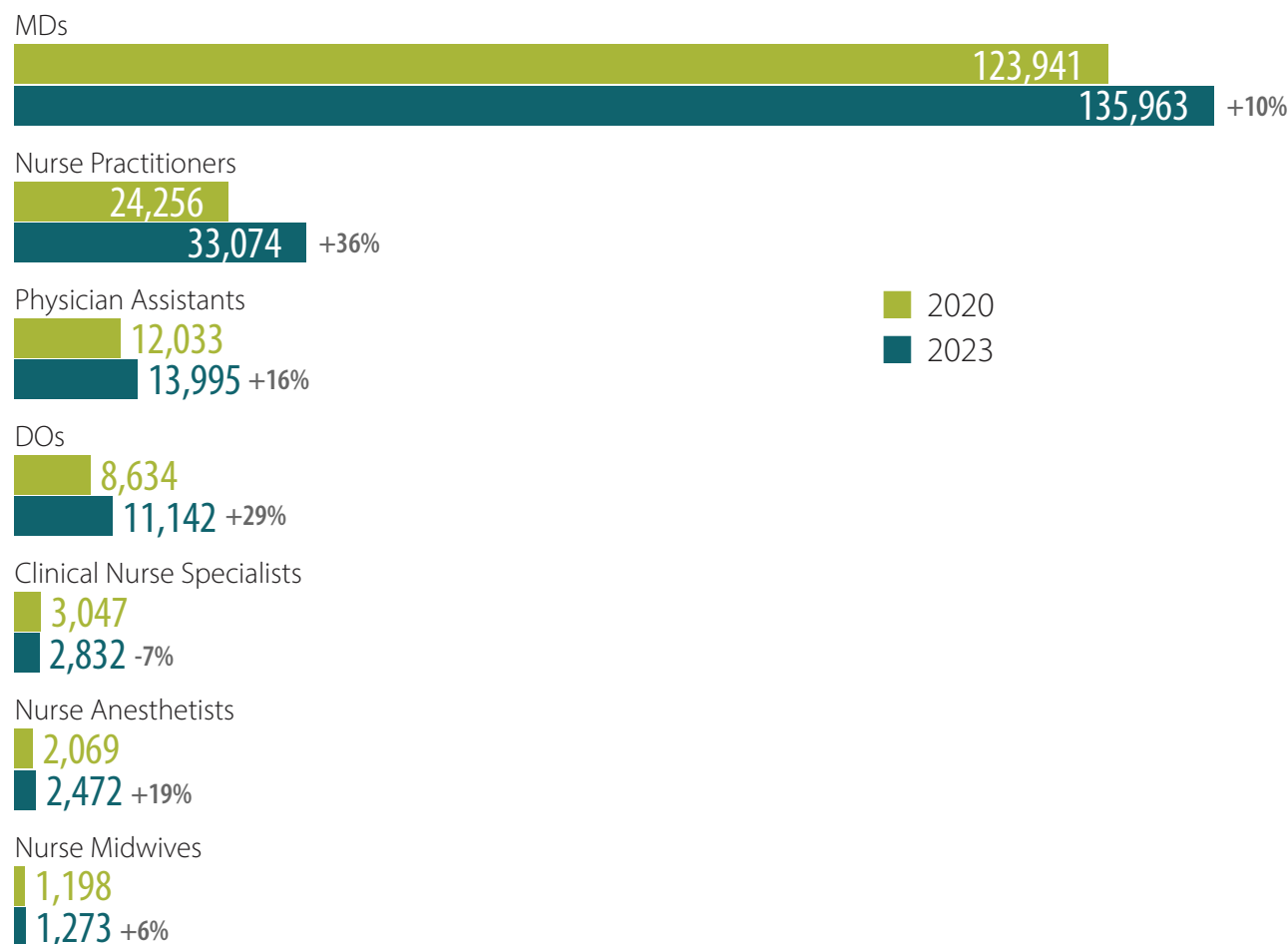
Sources: *State Physician Workforce Data Report* (2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021), Assn. of American Medical Colleges (AAMC); and "U.S. Physician Workforce Data Dashboard," AAMC, 2024.

Physicians Supply

The number of active physicians practicing in California increased 33% between 2006 and 2022. During this time, growth in the state's supply of physicians exceeded population growth, which increased by 8% (not shown).

Supply of Select Providers

California, 2020 and 2023



Notes: Physician assistant data are from 2022. DO is doctor of osteopathic medicine. MD is doctor of medicine. Data include all providers with an active California license and a California address. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has estimated that 52% of nurse practitioners and 43% of physician assistants are primary care practitioners. See *Primary Care Workforce Facts and Stats No. 2: The Number of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants Practicing Primary Care in the United States* (PDF), AHRQ, October 2011.

Sources: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), California Dept. of Consumer Affairs (DCA), 2022; and "Public Information - Licensee Lists Overview," DCA, 2024.

Physicians

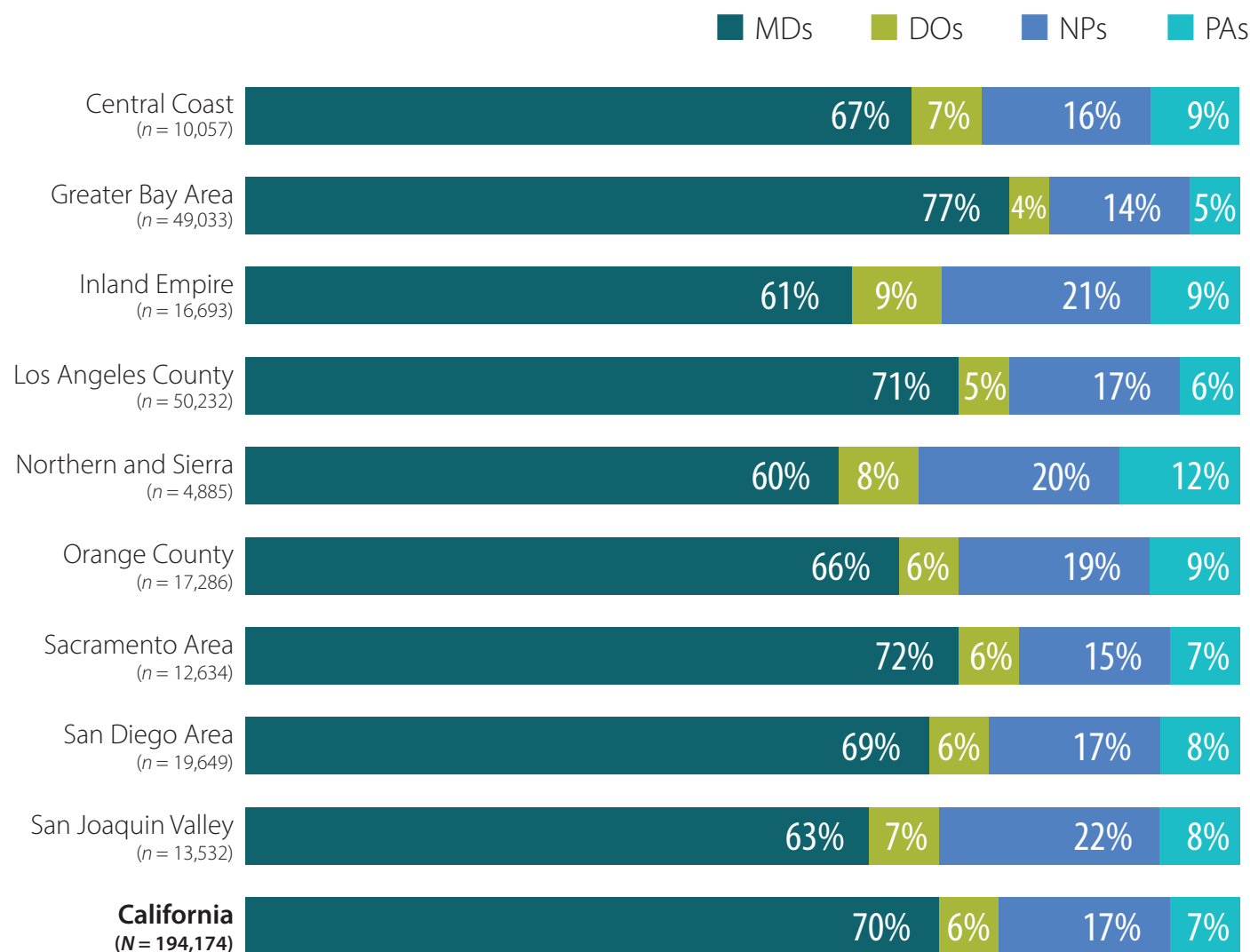
Supply

Supplies of physicians, physician assistants,* and three types of advanced practice nurses in California grew between 2020 and 2023, while the supply of clinical nurse specialists decreased. Nurse practitioners had the highest rate of growth while MDs had the largest increase in the number of professionals.

* Physician assistant data are from 2022.

Health Care Providers, by Type and Region

California, 2023



Notes: Physician assistant data are from 2022. *DO* is a doctor of osteopathic medicine. *MD* is doctor of medicine. *NP* is a nurse practitioner. *PA* is a physician assistant. Data include all providers with an active California license and a California address. The total number of MDs in California includes 173 physicians who could not be allocated to a region because a valid zip code was not provided. Figures may not sum due to rounding. See [Appendix A](#) for a list of counties within each region.

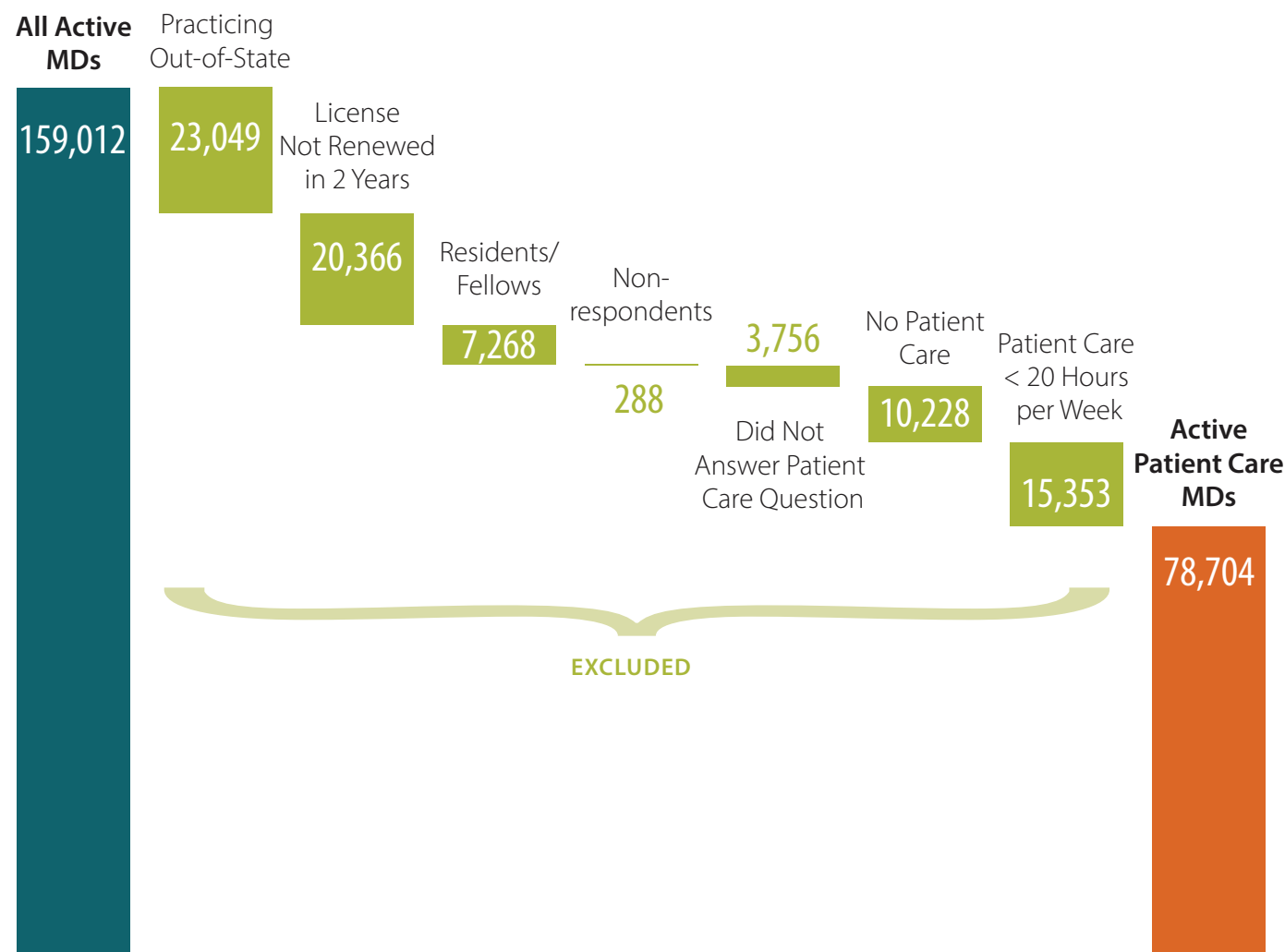
Sources: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), California Dept. of Consumer Affairs (DCA), 2022; and "Public Information - Licensee Lists Overview," DCA, 2024.

Physicians

Supply

Medical care can be obtained from physicians (MDs and DOs), nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. In 2023, MDs and DOs composed 76% of these health care providers in California.

Estimating the Number of Active Patient Care Physicians California, 2023



Physicians Supply

Counting physicians in California is not clear-cut. Many physicians with active California licenses are not considered “active patient care physicians” because they do not practice in California, did not renew their licenses during the last biennial renewal cycle, are residents or fellows, did not respond to the medical board's mandatory survey, or did not provide patient care.

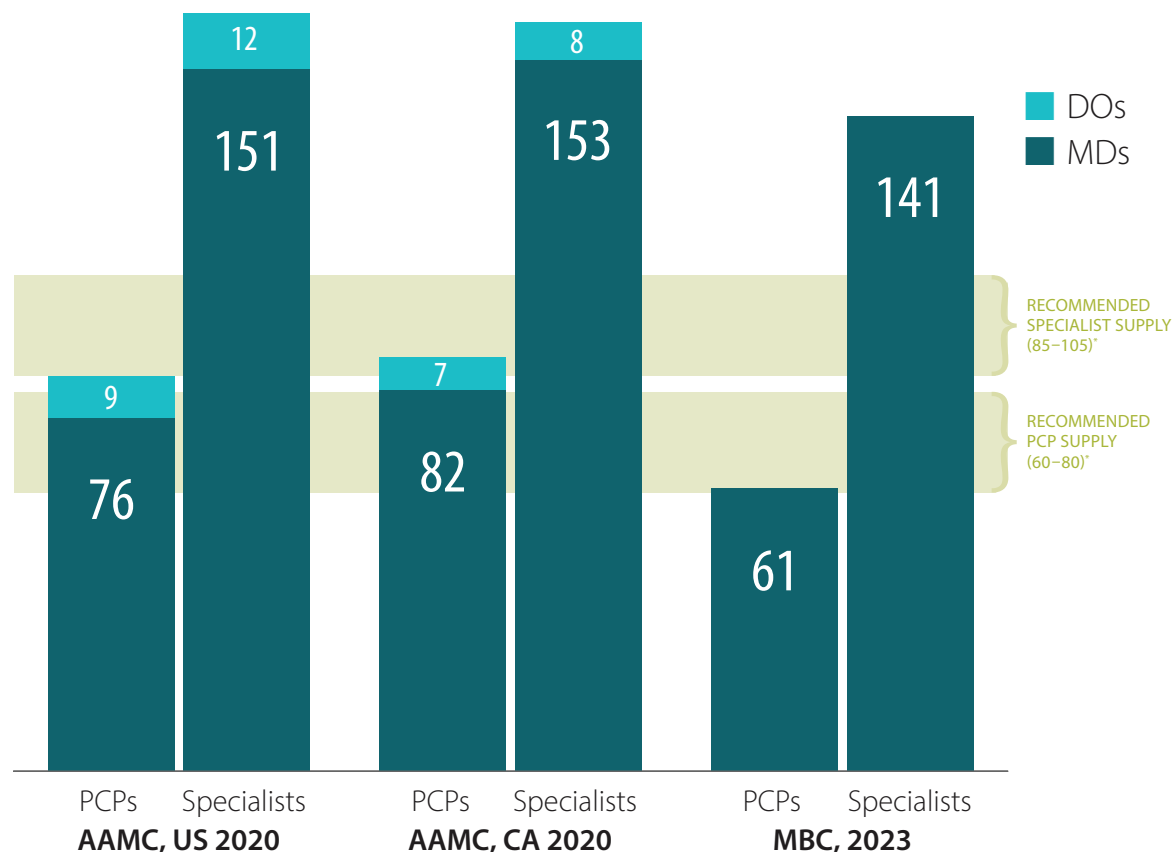
Notes: MD is doctor of medicine. The Medical Board of California surveys MDs when they obtain or renew their licenses. *Nonrespondents* include MDs who did not complete the survey and those who did not respond to questions about hours worked.

Source: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023.

Primary Care Physicians and Specialists

California vs. United States, 2020 and 2023

NUMBER PER 100,000 POPULATION



*The Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME), part of the US Department of Health and Human Services, studies physician workforce trends and needs. COGME ratios include DOs and are shown as ranges in the chart above. MBC data do not include DOs.

Notes: *DO* is doctor of osteopathic medicine. *MD* is doctor of medicine. *PCP* is primary care physician. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) data include those physicians who self-reported their type of practice as "direct patient care." For the AAMC data, the number of specialists per 100,000 was estimated by subtracting the ratio of active patient care primary care physicians per 100,000 population from the ratio of all active patient care physicians per 100,000 population. The Medical Board of California (MBC) data are for 2023 and include MDs who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, provided patient care at least 20 hours per week, and answered the question on the Medical Board of California's survey regarding their specialty and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey or did not answer questions about specialty). Of the 78,704 active patient care physicians in California, 126 (0.2%) did not report their specialty or board certification.

Sources: 2021 *State Physician Workforce Data Report*, AAMC, 2022, tables 1.2, 1.4; Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), MBC, December 2023; and *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States and States: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023* (NC-EST2023-SR11H), US Census Bureau, June 2024.

Physicians

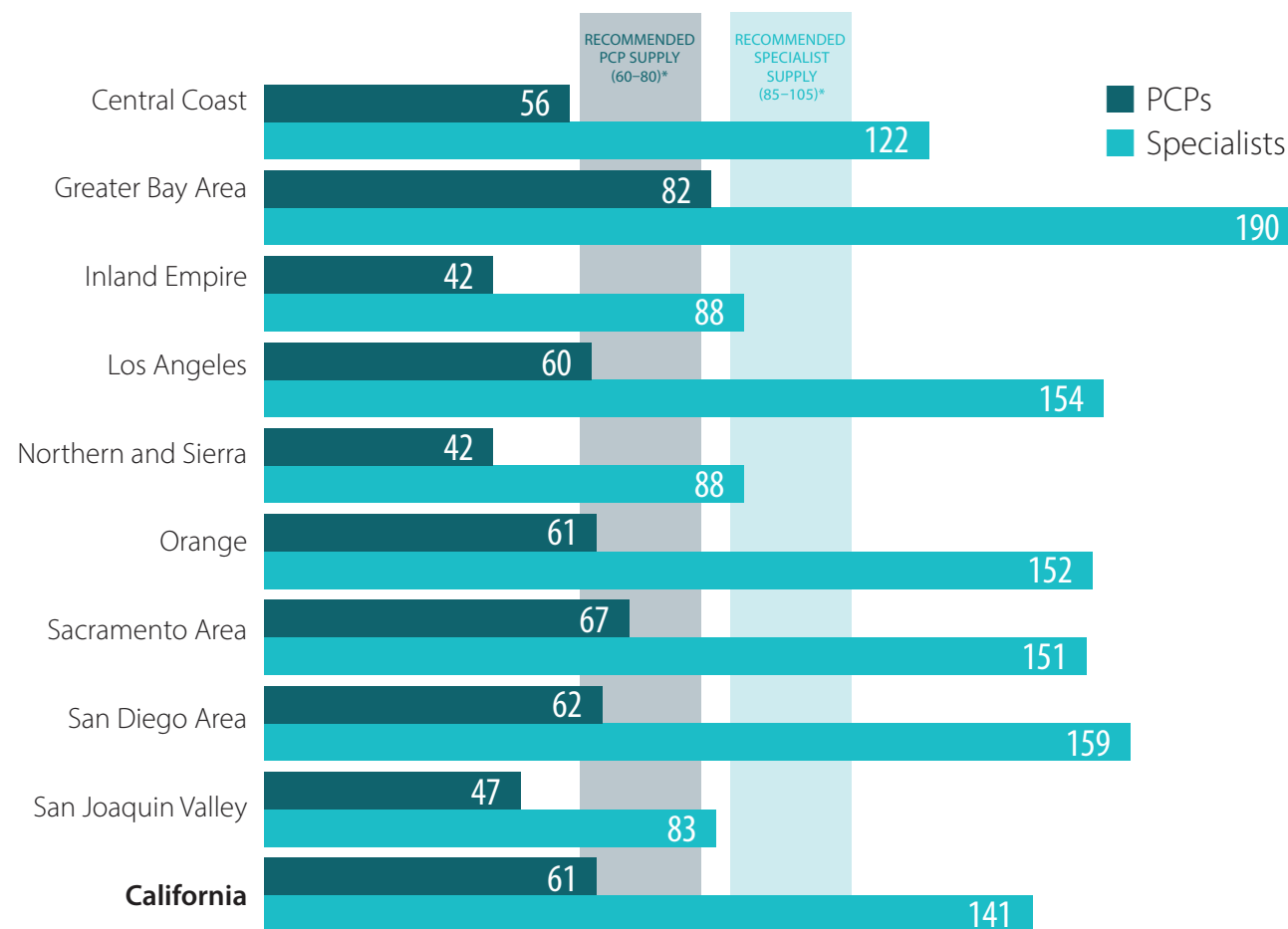
Supply

Data collected by the Association of American Medical Colleges in 2020 and by the Medical Board of California (MBC) in 2023 suggest that California's most recent supplies of primary care physicians (PCPs) and specialists met the minimum per capita ratios recommended by the Council on Graduate Medical Education. According to MBC data, the supply of PCPs in California just barely met the minimum recommended supply.

Primary Care Physicians and Specialists, by Region

California, 2023

NUMBER OF ACTIVE PATIENT CARE PHYSICIANS PER 100,000 POPULATION



*The Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME), part of the US Department of Health and Human Services, studies physician workforce trends and needs. COGME ratios include doctors of osteopathic medicine and are shown as ranges in the chart above.

Notes: PCP is primary care physician. Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, provided patient care at least 20 hours per week, and answered the question on the Medical Board of California's survey regarding their specialty and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey or did not answer questions about specialty). Of the 78,704 active patient care physicians in California, 126 (0.2%) did not report their specialty or board certification. There were 112 physicians who did not provide geographic information. See [Appendix A](#) for a list of counties within each region.

Sources: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023; and *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties in California: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023* (CO-EST2023-POP-06), US Census Bureau, June 2024.

Physicians

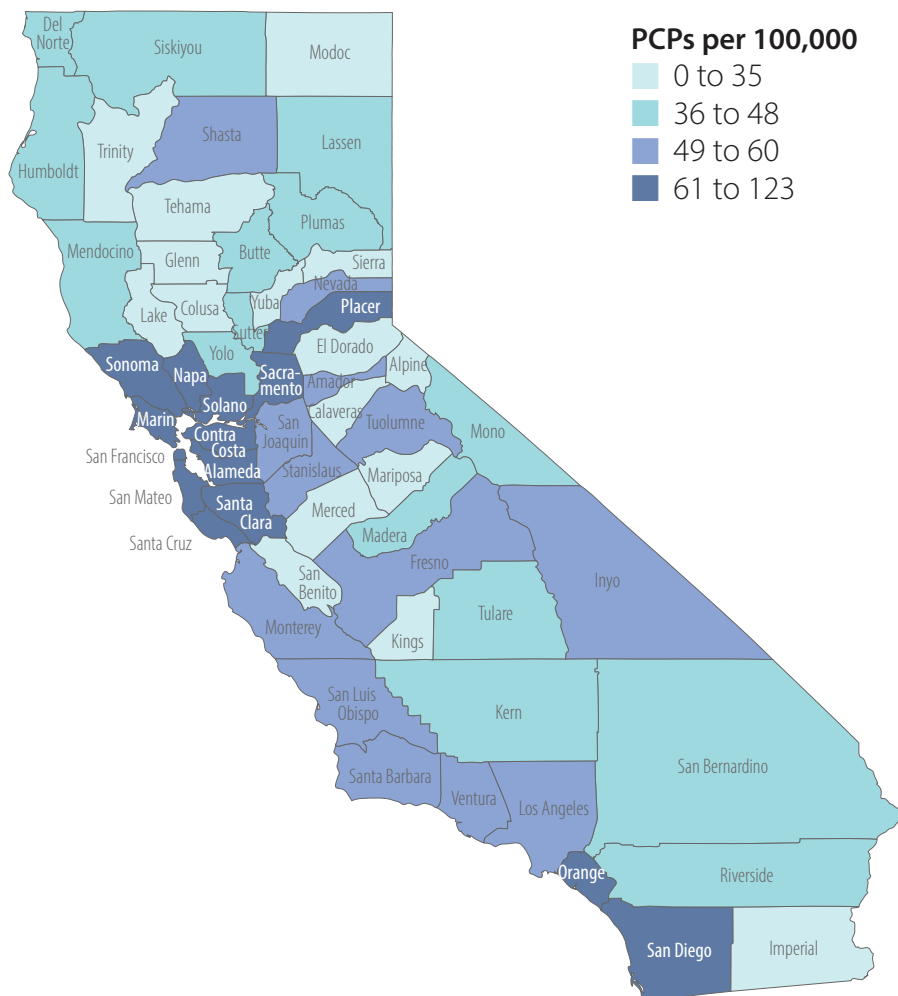
Supply

Physician supply varied by region. Out of the nine regions, four regions fell short of the recommended supply of primary care physicians (PCPs), and one region was below the recommended supply of specialists. The Inland Empire, San Joaquin Valley, and Northern and Sierra regions had the lowest ratios of PCPs and specialists per 100,000 population of all regions in the state.

Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 Population, by County

California, 2023

ACTIVE PATIENT CARE PHYSICIANS



Physicians

Supply

Primary care physicians (PCPs) were mostly concentrated in urban counties along the California coast. Many rural and inland counties had low ratios of PCPs per 100,000 population.

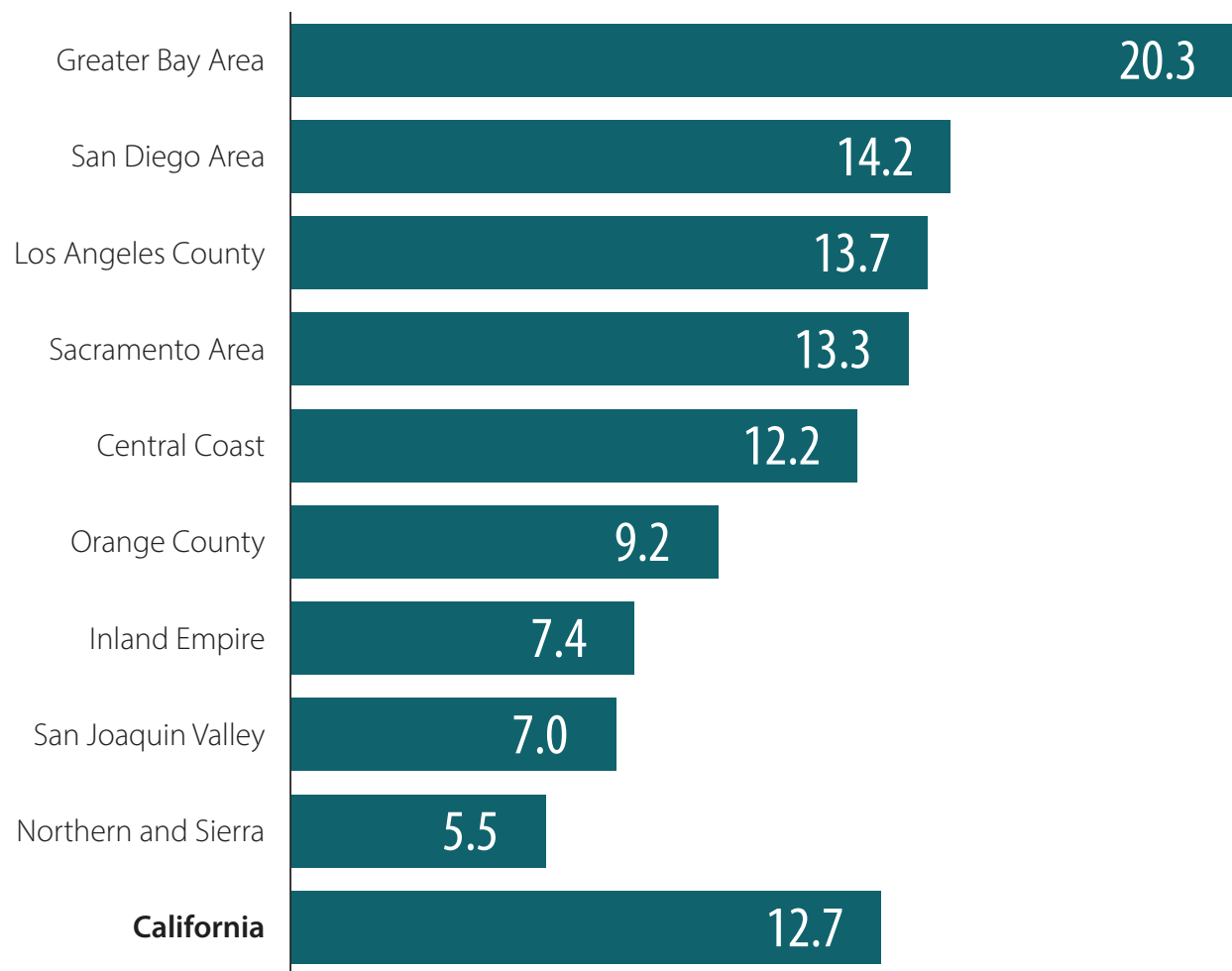
Notes: Data include primary care physicians (PCPs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, provided patient care at least 20 hours per week, and answered the question on the Medical Board of California's survey regarding their specialty and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those doctors of medicine who did not respond to the survey or did not answer questions about specialty). Geographic data were not available for 41 PCPs. See [Appendix C](#) for detail by county.

Sources: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023; and *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties in California: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023* (CO-EST2023-POP-06), US Census Bureau, June 2024.

Patient Care Psychiatrists, by Region

California, 2023

PSYCHIATRISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION



Note: Data include doctors of medicine who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, provided patient care at least 20 hours per week, and indicated that their primary specialty is psychiatry and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents.

Source: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023.

Physicians

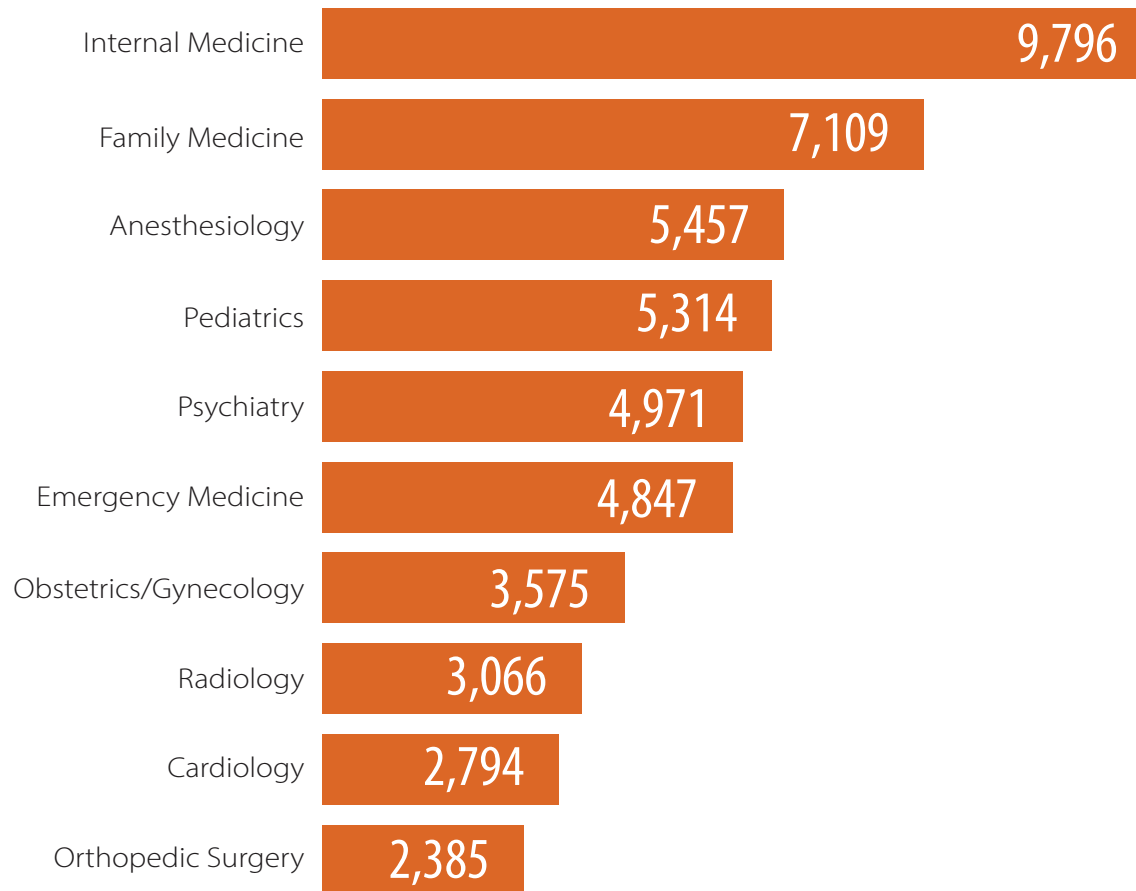
Supply

Ratios of active patient care psychiatrists per 100,000 population vary widely across California. In 2023, the Greater Bay Area had more than three times as many psychiatrists per population than the Northern and Sierra region.

Top Ten Specialties

California, 2023

NUMBER OF ACTIVE PATIENT CARE PHYSICIANS



Notes: Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, provided patient care at least 20 hours per week, and answered the question on the Medical Board of California's survey regarding their specialty and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey or did not answer questions about specialty). Physician self-reported primary, secondary, and board certification specialties were used to determine the specialty. Physicians whose primary specialty was internal medicine and who listed a secondary specialty (e.g., cardiology) were assigned to the secondary specialty. Similarly, pediatricians with a subspecialty were assigned to the secondary specialty. Of the 78,704 active patient care physicians in California, 126 (0.2%) did not respond to the question on the survey regarding their specialty.

Source: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023.

Physicians

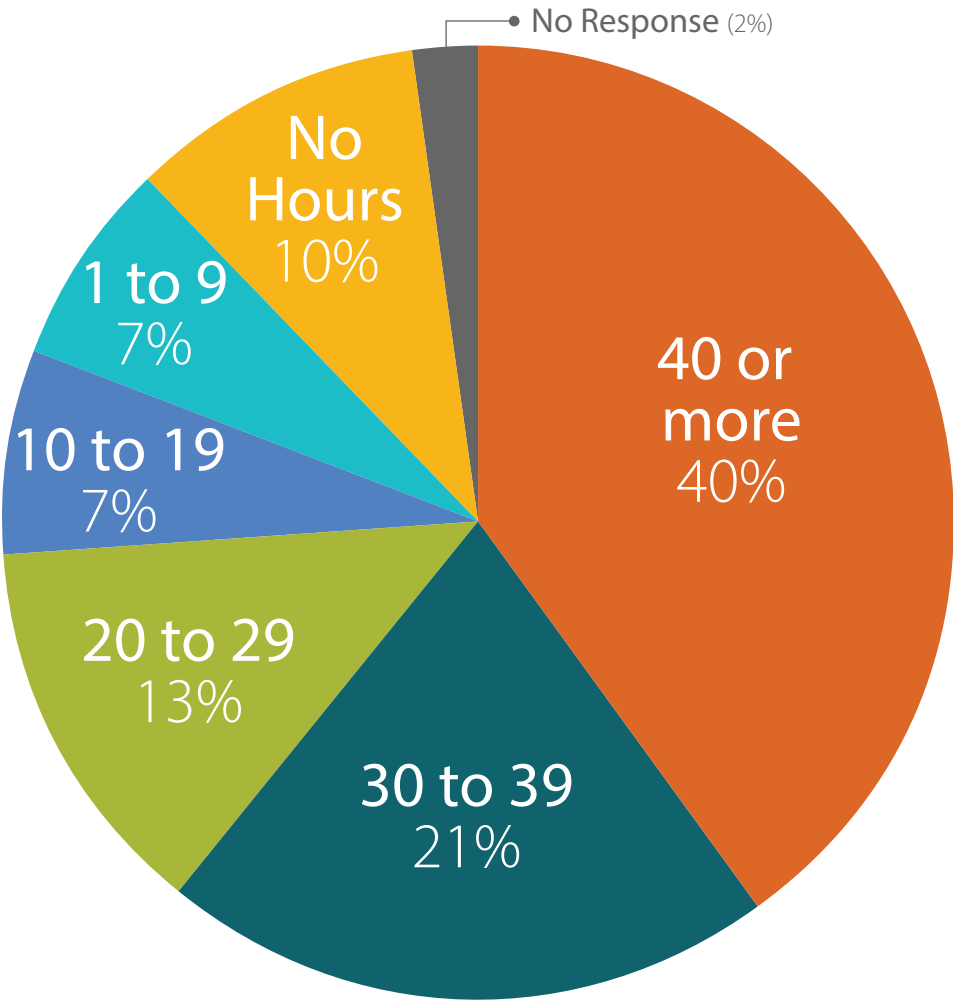
Supply

The two largest specialties in California were primary care specialties. Family medicine and internal medicine together represented 21% of all active patient care physicians in the state.

Patient Care Hours Worked

California, 2023

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS



Notes: Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey or opted to make their responses private). Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023.

Physicians

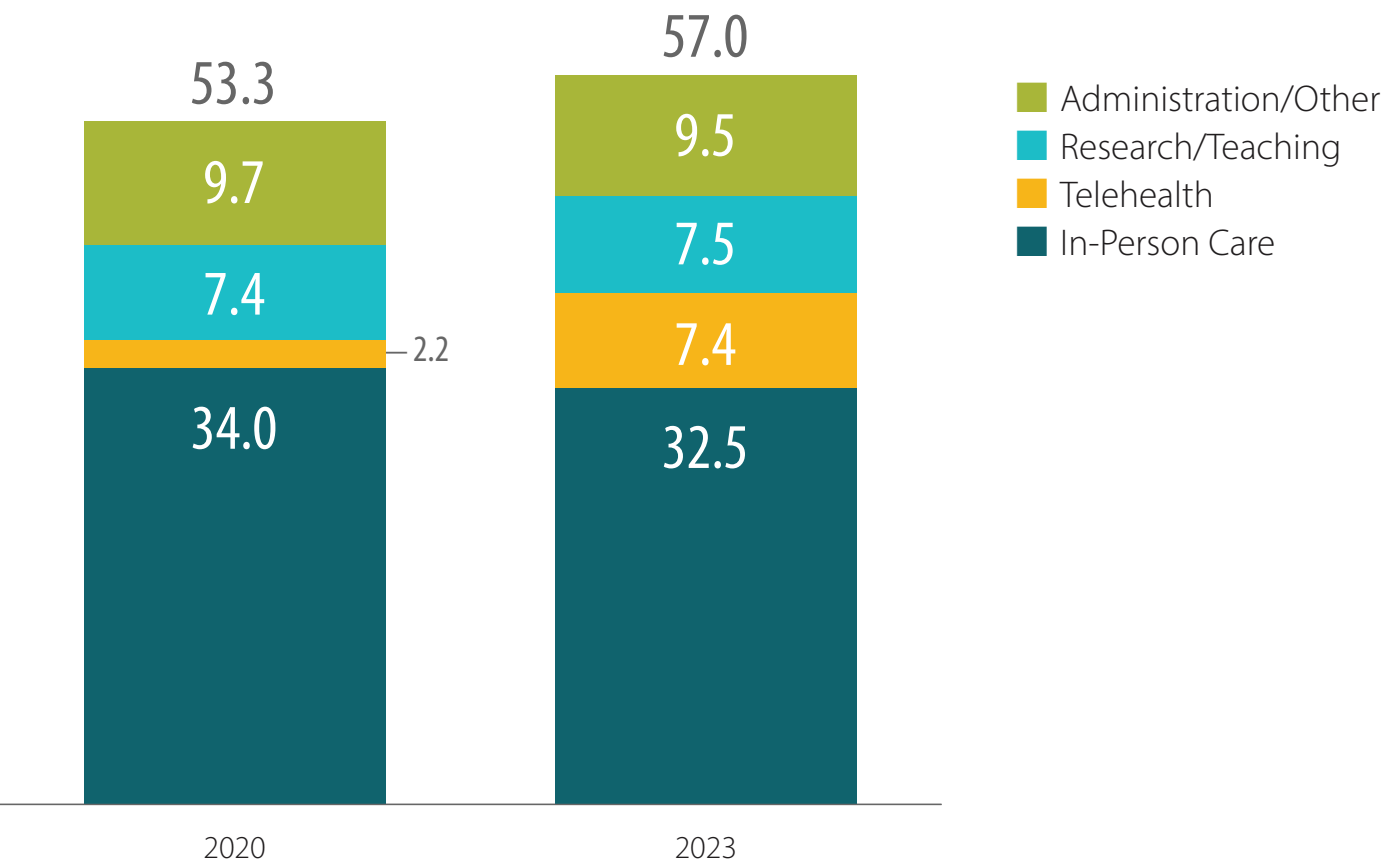
Hours Worked

The total number of physicians with active licenses does not accurately reflect the availability of physicians to provide care. Forty percent of California physicians devoted 40 hours or more per week to patient care. Ten percent of active physicians did not provide patient care. Physicians also spent time on other professional activities, such as administration, research, and teaching.

Physician Hours Worked, by Activity

California, 2020 and 2023

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS



Notes: Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey or did not answer questions about hours worked). The average number of training hours (3.1) reported in 2023 is not included in the chart because this response option was not available in 2020. *Telehealth* is *telemedicine* in the source. *In-person care* is *patient care* in the source. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, 2020 and 2023.

Physicians

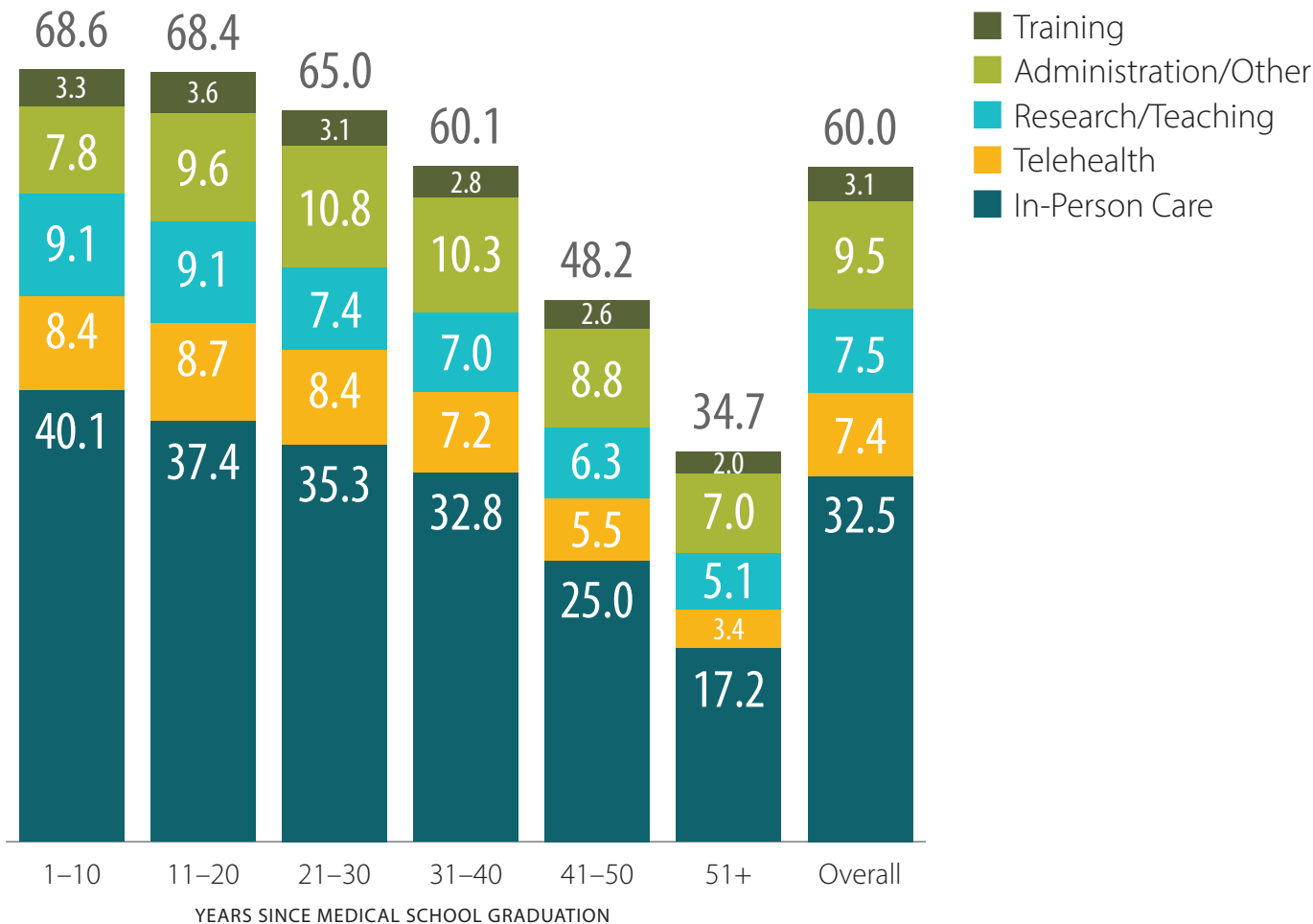
Hours Worked

Physicians reported a substantial increase in the numbers of hours they spent providing health care services through telehealth between 2020 and 2023.

Physician Hours Worked, by Activity and Years Since Graduation

California, 2023

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS



Physicians Hours Worked

Later in their careers, physicians work fewer hours per week and dedicate less time to providing patient care, both in person and via telehealth.

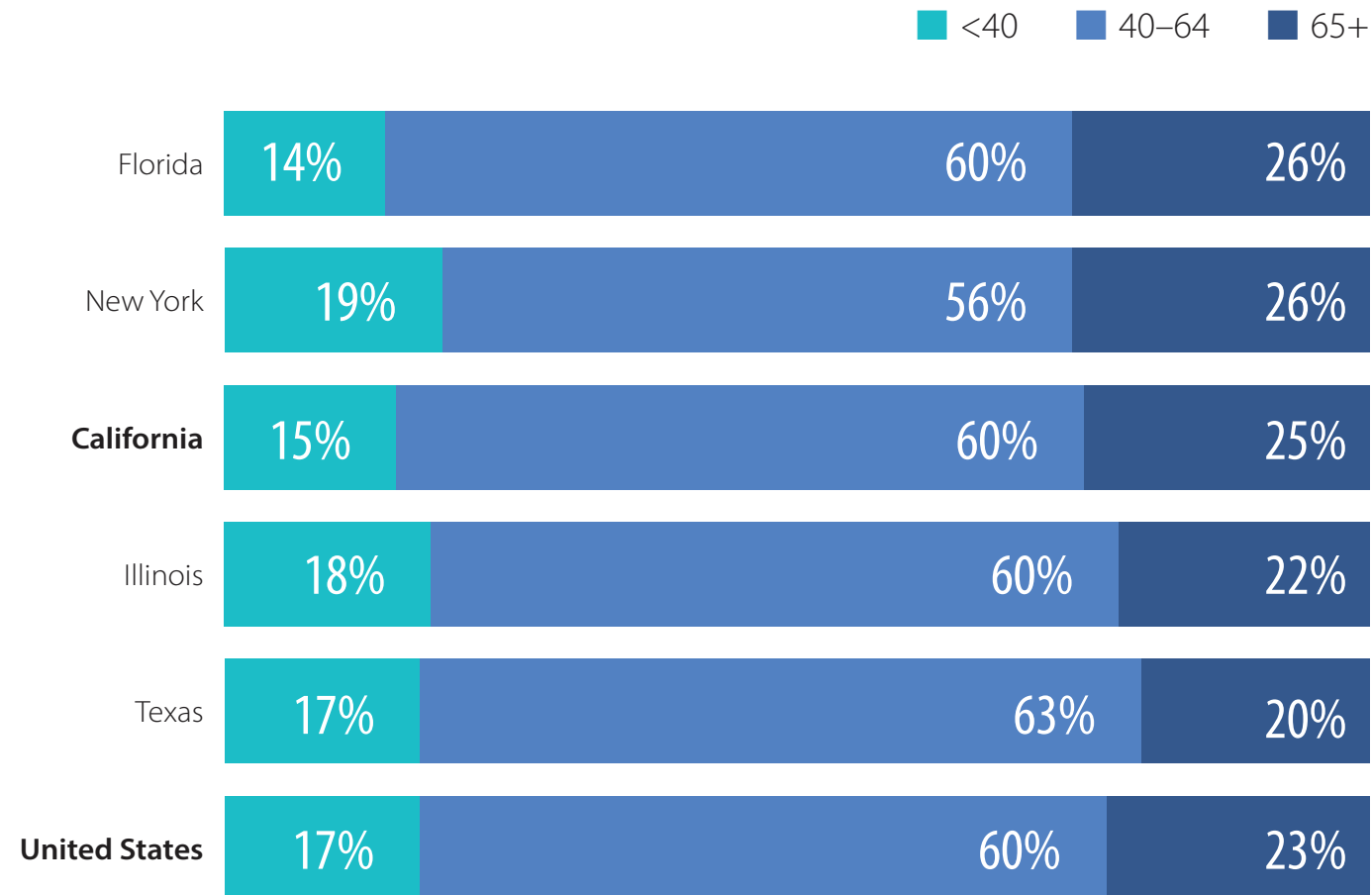
Notes: Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey or did not answer questions about hours worked). *Telehealth* is *telemedicine* in the source. *In-person care* is *patient care* in the source. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023.

Age of Physicians

Select States vs. United States, 2022

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PHYSICIANS



Notes: Data include all active doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathic medicine. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
Source: *U.S. Physician Workforce Data Dashboard*, Assn. of American Medical Colleges, 2023.

Physicians

Demographics

Like many states, California has a large percentage of physicians 65 and older. One in four physicians in California was in this age group in 2022.

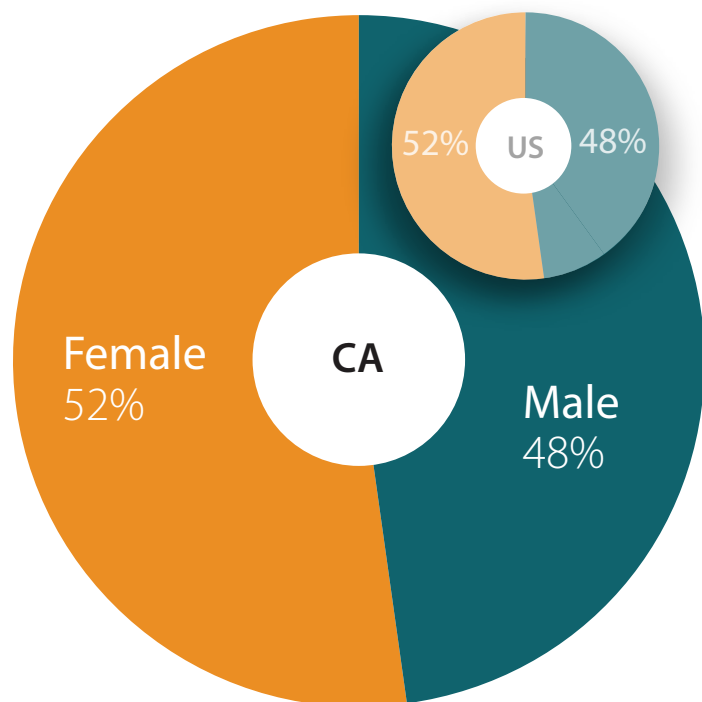
Gender of Medical School Graduates and Physicians

California vs. United States, 2022

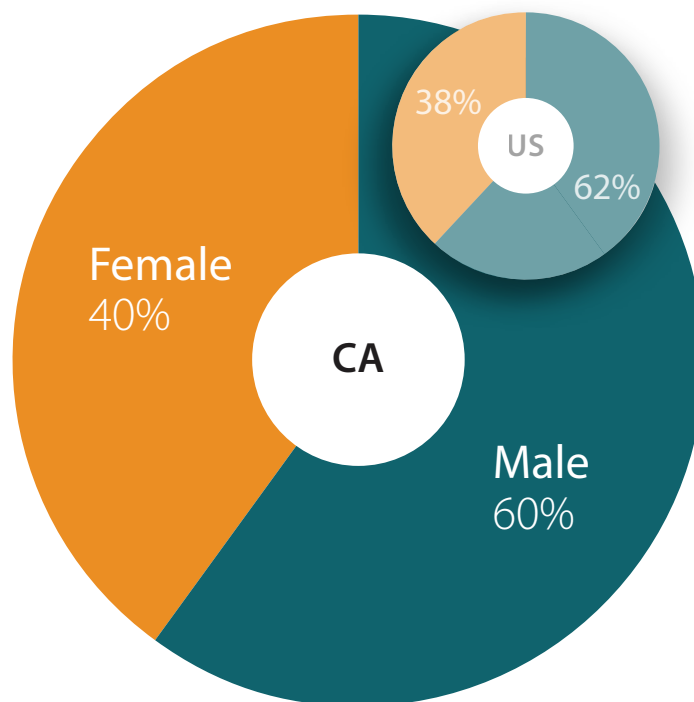
Physicians Demographics

In 2022–23, the proportion of female medical school graduates exceeded that of male graduates within the state of California and nationally. Males represented the majority of active physicians in California and nationwide, largely due to the gender gap in medical school graduates in the past.

Medical School Graduates



Active Physicians



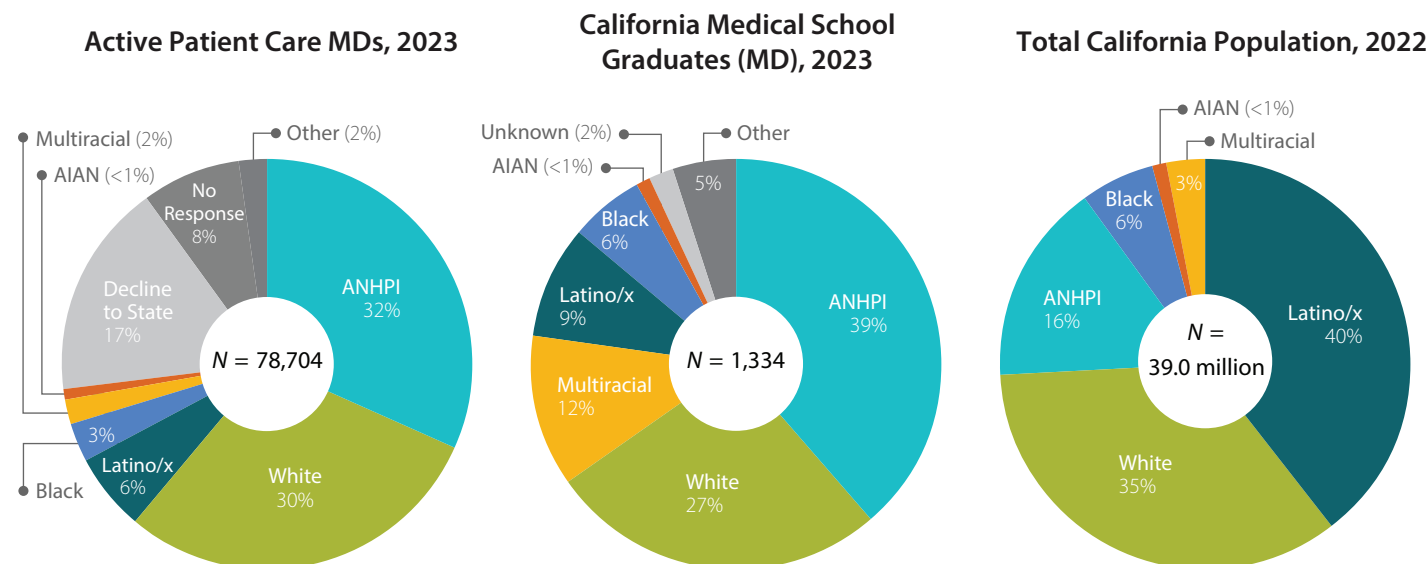
Notes: *Active physicians* are licensed allopathic (MD) or doctors of osteopathic medicine (DO) physicians who work more than 20 hours a week and exclude physicians who are retired, semi-retired, temporarily not in practice, inactive for other reasons, or have not completed their graduate medical education. Medical school graduates are 2022–23 MD graduates. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Sources: *U.S. Physician Workforce Data Dashboard*, Assn. of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), 2023; and *Table B-2.2: Total Graduates by U.S. Medical School, Gender, and Year, 2018–2019 through 2022–2023*, AAMC, July 25, 2023.

Race/Ethnicity of Medical School Graduates, Physicians, and Population, California, 2022 and 2023

Physicians Demographics

The racial/ethnic breakdown of California physicians is not representative of the state's diverse population. Latino/x people represented 40% of the population, yet only 6% of active patient care physicians and 9% of medical school graduates. Studies have found that minority patients who have racial and ethnic concordance with their provider are more likely to use needed health services, are less likely to postpone or delay seeking care, and report greater satisfaction and better patient-provider communication.*



Notes: Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address and provided at least 20 hours of patient care per week, and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey). AIAN is American Indian and Alaska Native. ANHPI is Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander. The Association of American Medical Colleges uses American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian / Pacific Islander; Black or African American; and Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin. The Census Bureau uses Asian / Pacific Islander; Black or African American; and Hispanic. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

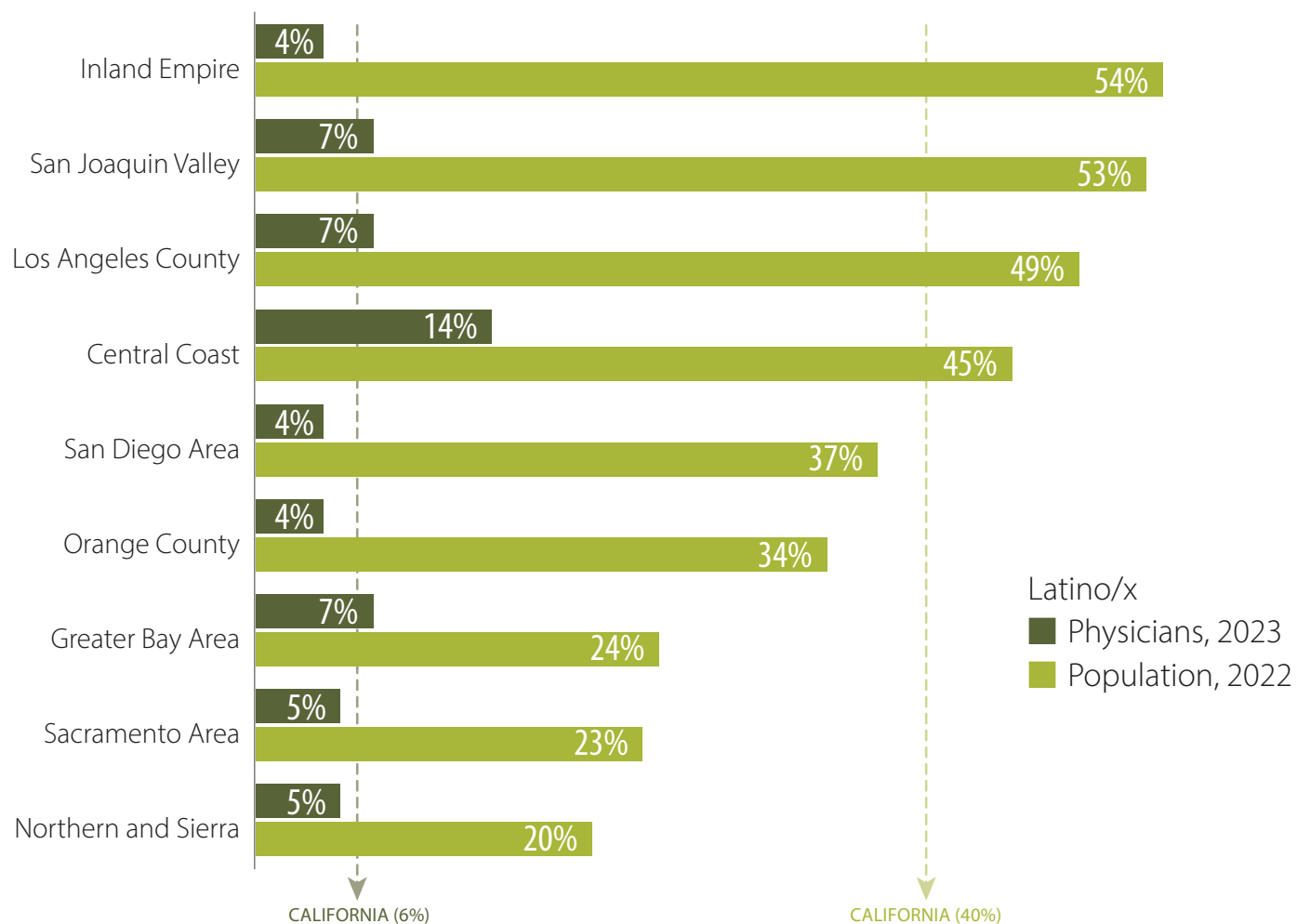
Sources: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023; Table B-6.1: Total Graduates by U.S. Medical School and Race/Ethnicity Alone, 2022-2023, Assn. of American Medical Colleges; and Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for California: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022, US Census Bureau, June 2023.

* Ana H. Traylor et al., "The Predictors of Patient-Physician Race and Ethnic Concordance: A Medical Facility Fixed-Effects Approach," *Health Services Research* 45, no. 3 (2010): 792-805

Latino/x Physicians and Population, by Region

California, 2022 and 2023

ACTIVE PATIENT CARE PHYSICIANS



Latino/x physicians were underrepresented in all regions of California, particularly in regions with the highest proportions of Latino/x population: the Inland Empire, Los Angeles County, and the San Joaquin Valley.

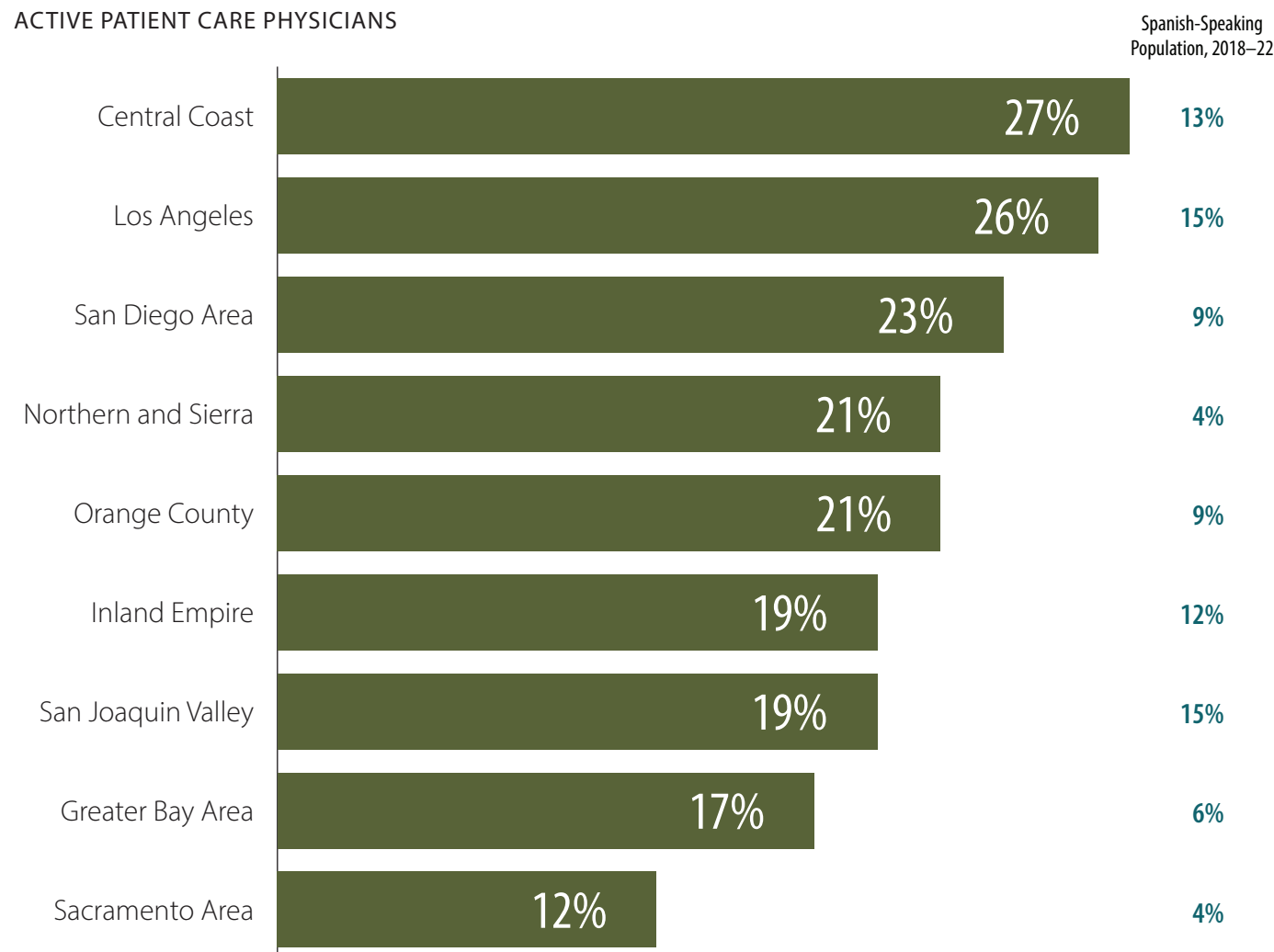
Note: Data include all doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, and provided patient care at least 20 hours per week, and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey).

Sources: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023; and *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for California: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022* (CC-EST2022-ALLDATA-06), US Census Bureau, June 2023.

Spanish-Speaking Physicians, by Region

California, 2023

ACTIVE PATIENT CARE PHYSICIANS



Notes: Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who had renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address and provided at least 20 hours of patient care per week and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey or did not answer questions about language). *Spanish-speaking population* includes all people 5 years and older who are Spanish speakers and speak English "less than very well."

Sources: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023; and *2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates*, US Census Bureau, table S1601.

Physicians

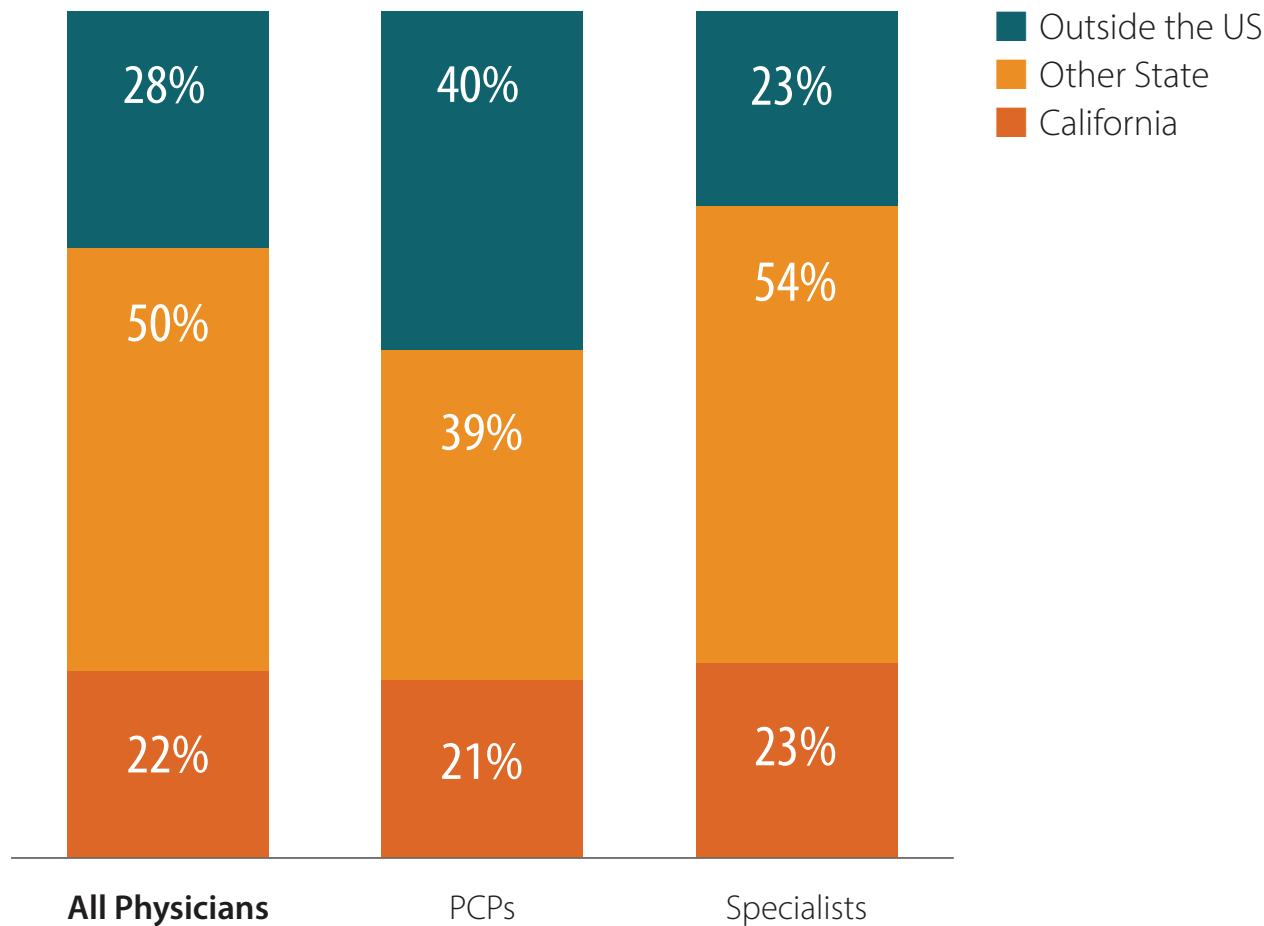
Demographics

In four of the nine regions of California, over 10% of the population primarily spoke Spanish. In all nine regions, the percentage of physicians who reported that they speak Spanish exceeded the percentage of the population that primarily spoke Spanish.

Physicians, by Medical School Location and Specialty

California, 2023

ACTIVE PATIENT CARE PHYSICIANS



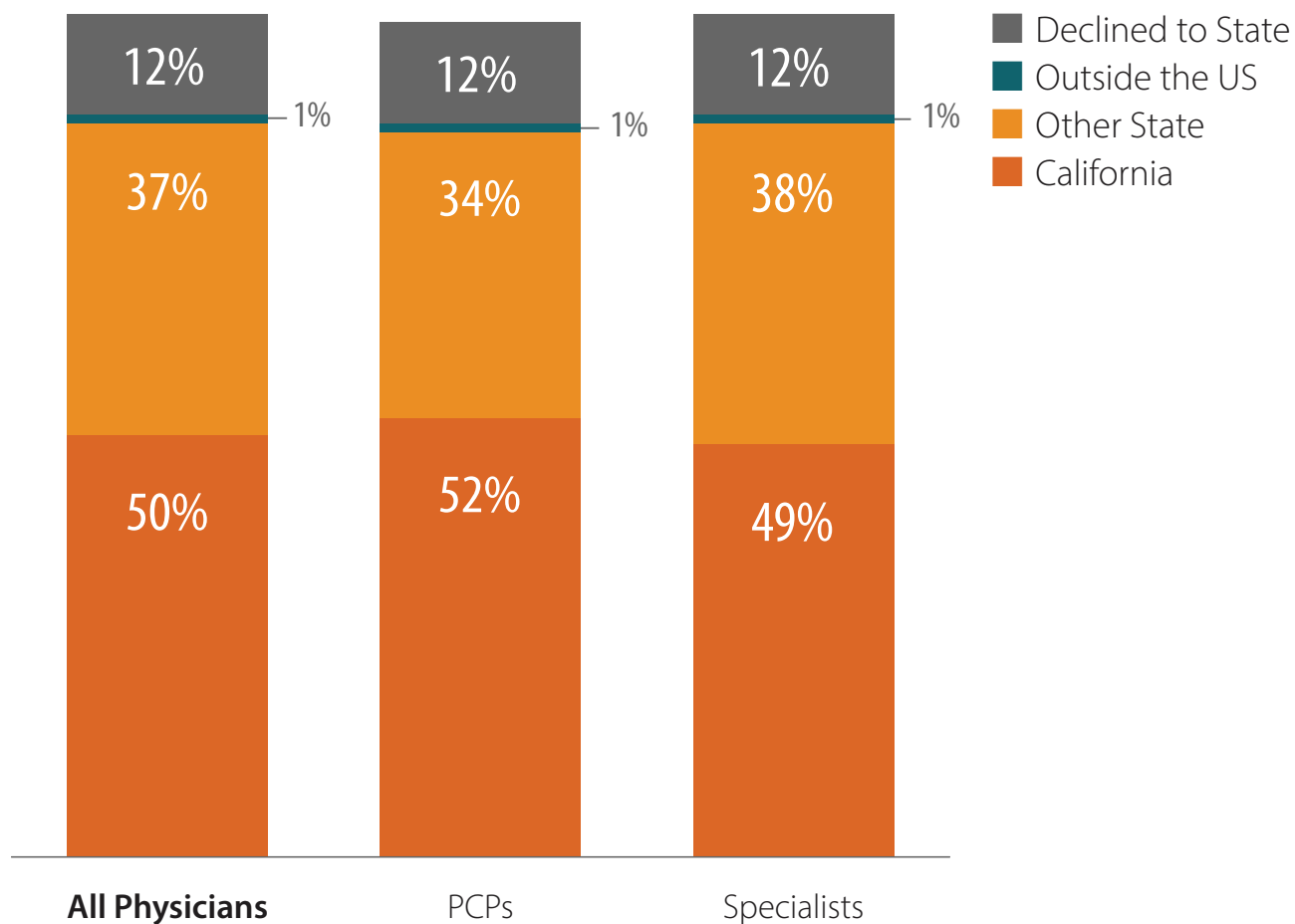
Notes: *PCP* is primary care physician. Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, provided patient care at least 20 hours per week, and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey). Specialty was not reported for 126 physicians (16 who attended medical school in California, 53 who attended medical school in other states, and 57 who attended medical school outside the US). Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023.

Twenty-two percent of California's physicians attended medical school in the state. Forty percent of the state's primary care physicians graduated from a medical school outside the United States.

Active Patient Care Physicians, by Post-Graduate Training Location, California, 2023

ACTIVE PATIENT CARE PHYSICIANS



Notes: PCP is primary care physician. Data include 49,637 doctors of medicine who renewed their license between July 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, provided patient care at least 20 hours per week, and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023.

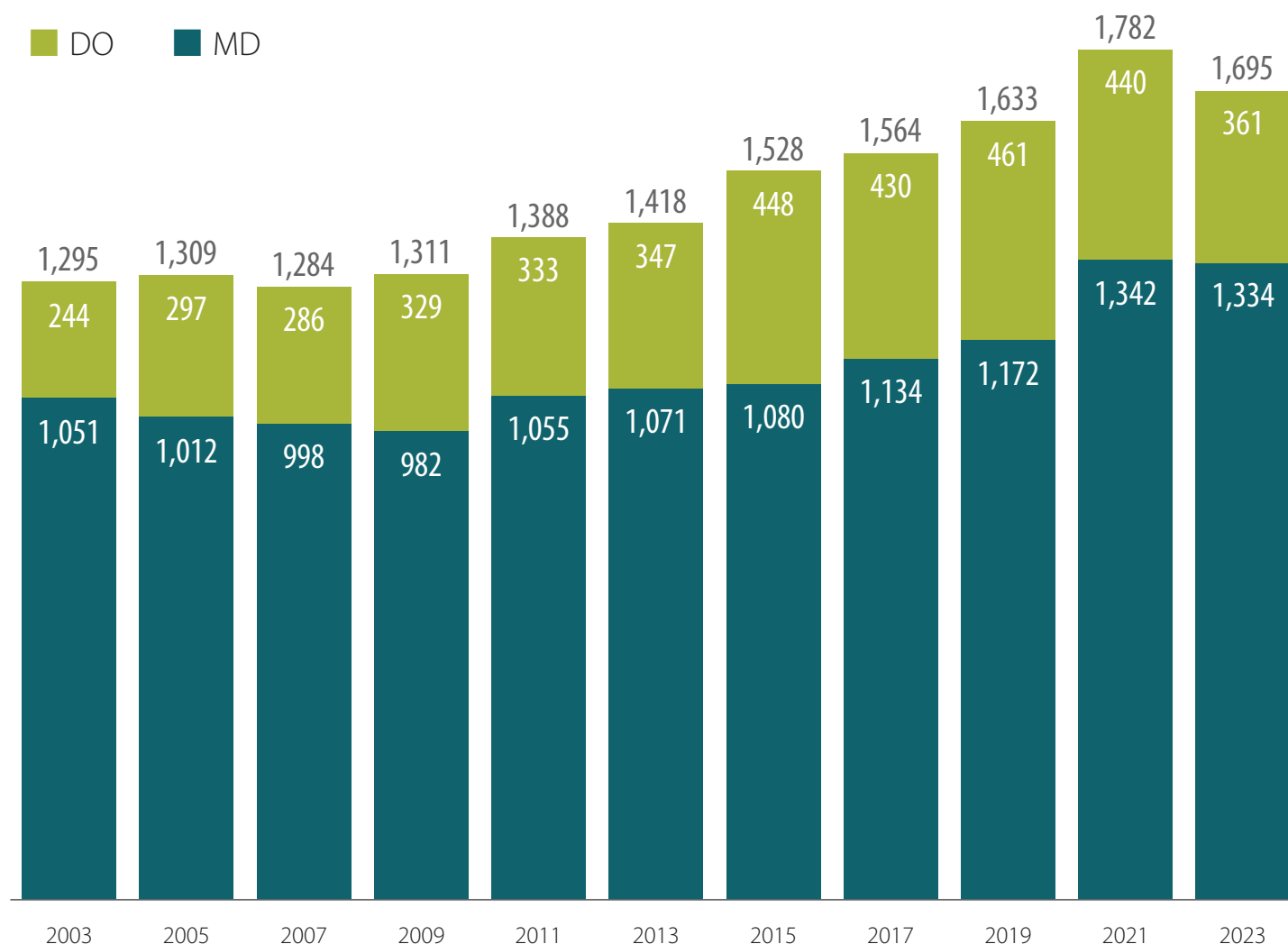
Physicians

Education and Training

Half of licensed active patient care physicians in California completed their post-graduate training in the state.

Medical School Graduates, by Degree

California, 2003 to 2023, Selected Years



Note: MD is graduates of allopathic medical schools and DO is graduates of osteopathic medical schools.

Sources: *Osteopathic Medical College Graduates by Gender 2000-2023*, American Assn. of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, April 1, 2024; B-2.2: *Total Graduates by U.S. Medical School, Sex, and Year, 2018-2019 through 2022-2023*, Assn. of American Medical Colleges, July 17, 2024; and *Table 27: Total Graduates by Medical School and Sex, 2010-2014*, AAMC.

Physicians

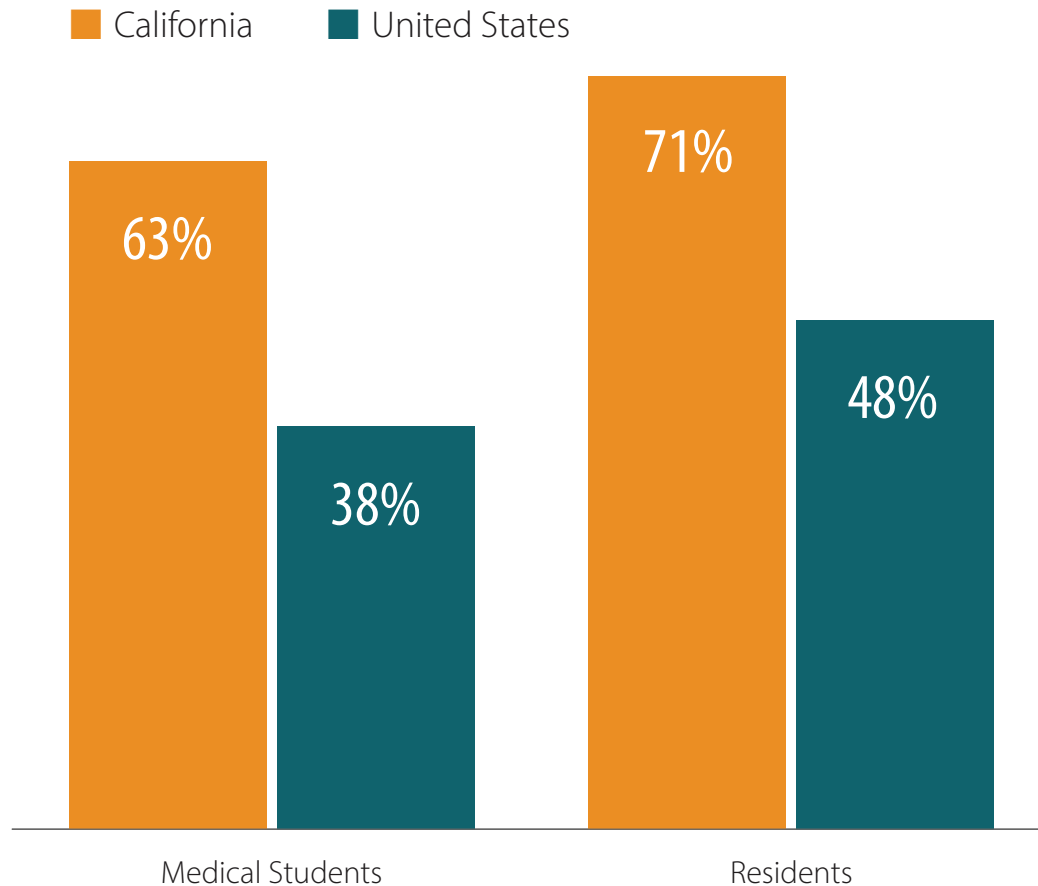
Education and Training

In California, the number of allopathic medical (MD) school graduates grew by 27% between 2003 and 2023. During the same time, doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) graduates increased by 48%. The increase in medical school graduates is primarily due to the opening of four new medical schools. Three of the schools grant MD degrees and one grants the DO degree.

Retention of Medical Students and Residents

California vs. United States, 2020

PERCENTAGE OF PHYSICIANS PRACTICING IN SAME STATE WHERE EDUCATED



Notes: *Medical students* are active physicians who graduated from an allopathic (MD) or osteopathic (DO) granting school in state and are active in state. *Residents* are active physicians who completed residency (i.e., graduate medical education) in state and are active in state.

Source: 2021 *State Physician Workforce Data Report*, Assn. of American Medical Colleges, tables 4.1, 4.3.

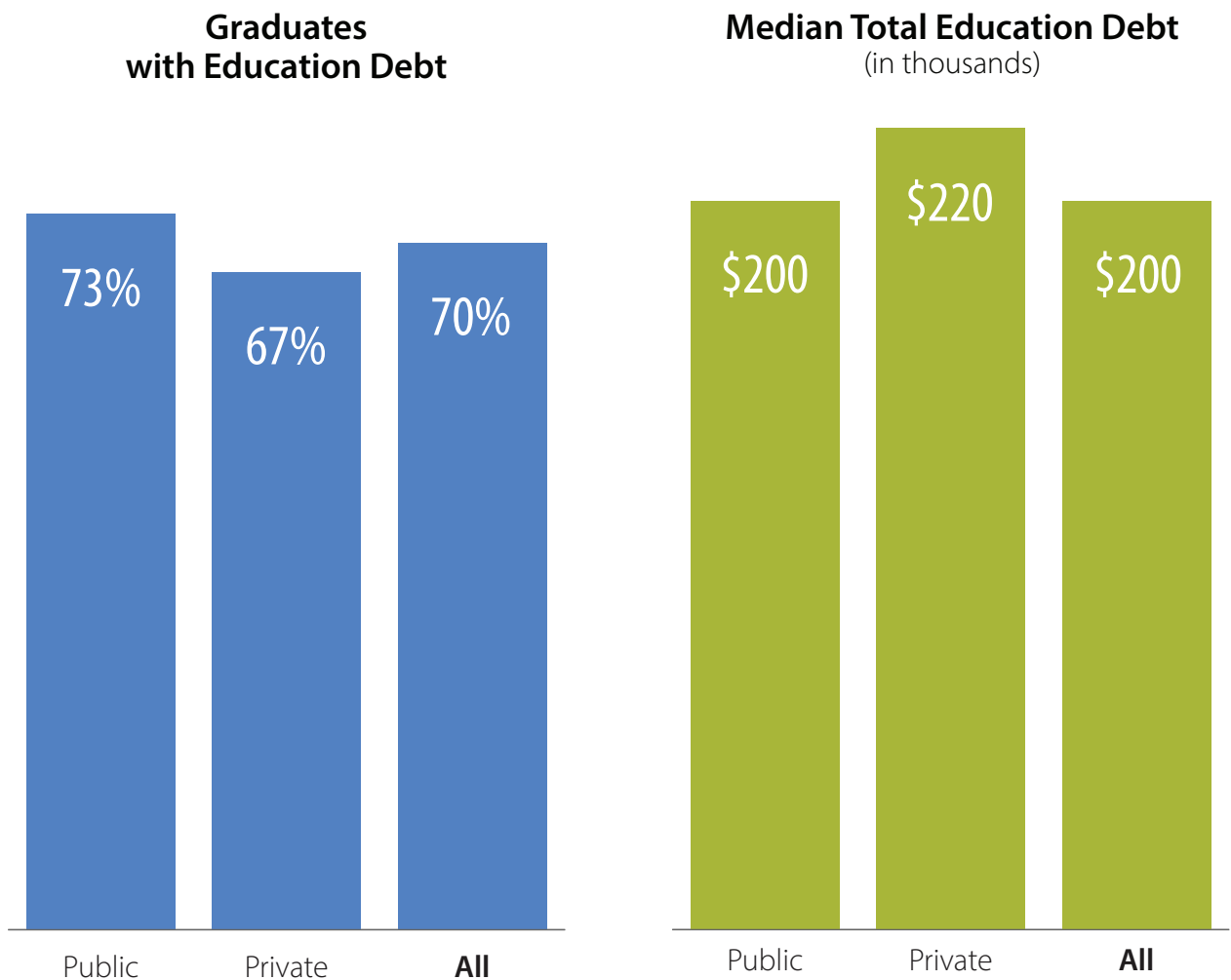
Physicians

Education and Training

California retains a high proportion of physicians who completed medical school or residency in the state. In 2020, California ranked first in the nation for the percentages of both medical students and residents who remained in the state to practice.

Medical Student Education Debt

United States, 2023



Physicians
Education and Training

Seventy percent of all medical school graduates in the class of 2023 had education debt. A higher proportion of public medical school graduates had education debt than private medical school graduates. However, the median education debt for graduates of private medical schools was \$20,000 higher than the median education debt for graduates of public medical schools.

Note: Education debt includes both premedical and medical education debt.
Source: *Medical Student Education: Debt, Costs, and Loan Repayment Fact Card 2023* (PDF), Assn. of American Medical Colleges, October 2023.

Employed Physician Earnings, Selected Specialties

California, 2019 to 2023, Selected Years

	AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME (REAL)			% CHANGE
	2019	2021	2023	2019 TO 2023
Primary Care				
Family Medicine	\$ 203,320	\$ 249,680	\$ 204,196	<1%
General Internal Medicine	\$ 212,510	\$ 230,743	\$ 223,241	5%
Pediatricians, General	\$ 200,270	\$ 189,814	\$ 169,327	-15%
Specialists				
Anesthesiologists	N/A	\$ 306,290	\$ 367,535	N/A
Obstetricians and Gynecologists	\$ 236,730	\$ 298,383	\$ 231,647	-2%
Psychiatrists	\$ 236,930	\$ 305,675	\$ 233,920	-1%
Surgeons	\$ 248,100	\$ 339,101	\$ 276,107	11%
Consumer Price Index (2019 = \$100,000 base)	\$ 100,000	\$ 103,921	\$ 118,854	19%

Physicians

Income

Since 2019, average incomes for physicians in most specialties have not kept pace with the increase in the Consumer Price Index. Among specialties listed, surgeons experienced the largest increase in wages (11%). Pediatricians experienced the largest decrease in wages (15%).

Notes: Wages were adjusted for inflation using estimates of the change in the Consumer Price Index from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2019 to May 2021 and from May 2019 to May 2023. Does not include self-employed or physicians employed by government. Does not include ancillary income from sources such as directorships or call coverage. The Bureau of Labor Statistics did not report an estimate of average income for anesthesiologists in California in 2019.

Source: "Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics," US Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed May 6, 2024.

Employed Physician Earnings, Selected Specialties

California and United States, 2023

AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME

	United States	California	California as a % of the US
Anesthesiologists	\$ 339,470	\$ 452,930	133%
Family Medicine	\$ 240,790	\$ 251,640	105%
General Internal Medicine	\$ 245,450	\$ 275,110	112%
Obstetricians/Gynecologists	\$ 278,660	\$ 285,470	102%
Pediatricians, General	\$ 205,860	\$ 208,670	101%
Psychiatrists	\$ 256,930	\$ 288,270	112%
Surgeons	\$ 252,040	\$ 340,260	135%
Physicians	\$ 248,640	\$ 249,660	100%
All Occupations	\$ 65,470	\$ 76,960	118%

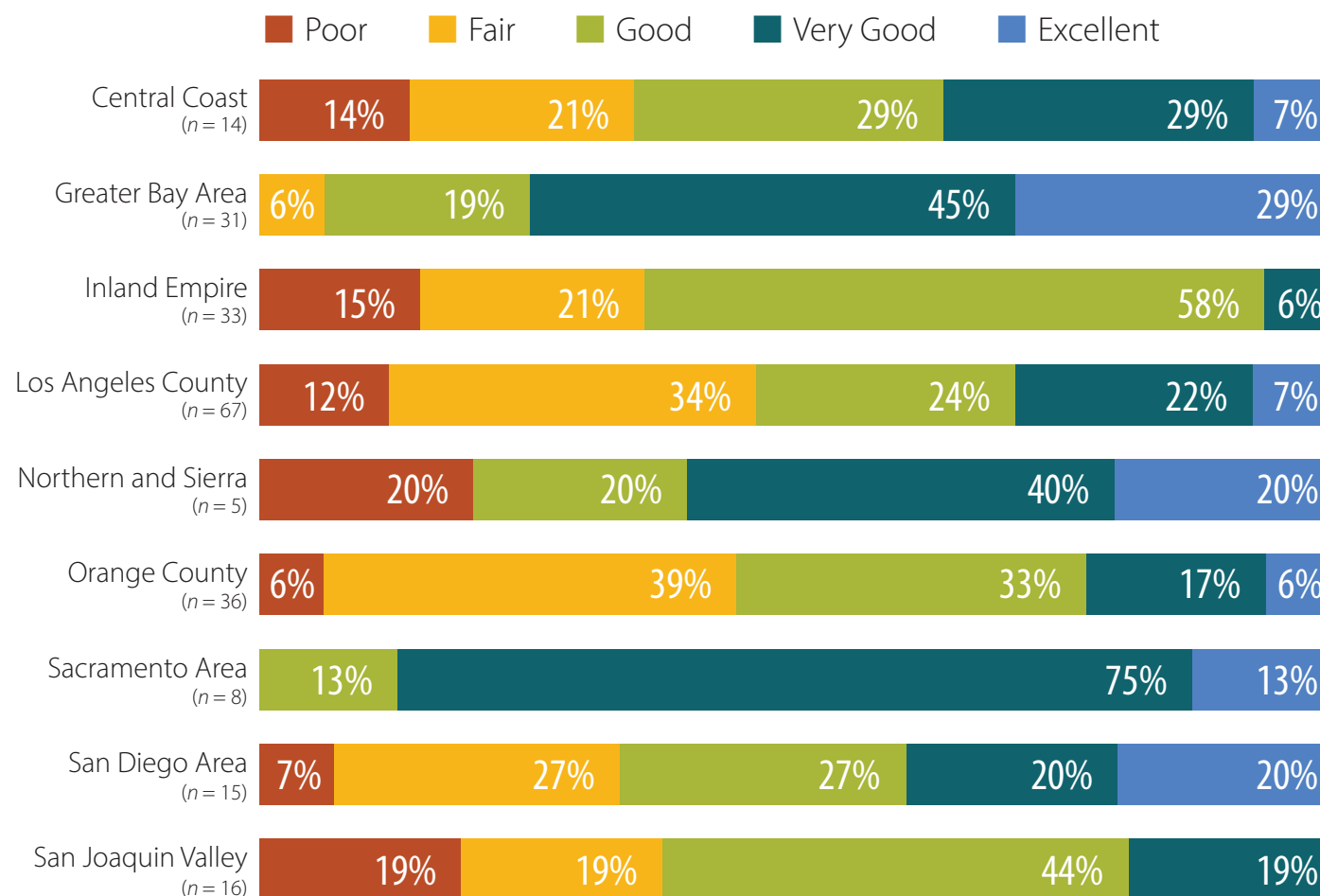
Notes: Surgeons is surgeons, all other and physicians is physicians, all other in the source
 Source: "Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics," US Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed May 20, 2024.

Physicians

Income

The average income for anesthesiologists and surgeons was 30% higher than the national average.

Medical Groups Meeting National Standards of Care, by Region California, 2022



Notes: Performance results are reported for medical groups with commercial HMO health plan members. Each medical group's patient records are compared annually to a set of national standards for quality of care to make sure that medical groups offer high-quality preventive care and treatment services to members. Quality measures include immunizations for children, diabetes care, and cancer screening. Each group is awarded an aggregate quality score of excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor. Excludes medical groups who were not willing to report or had too few patients to report. See [Appendix A](#) for a list of counties within each region. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

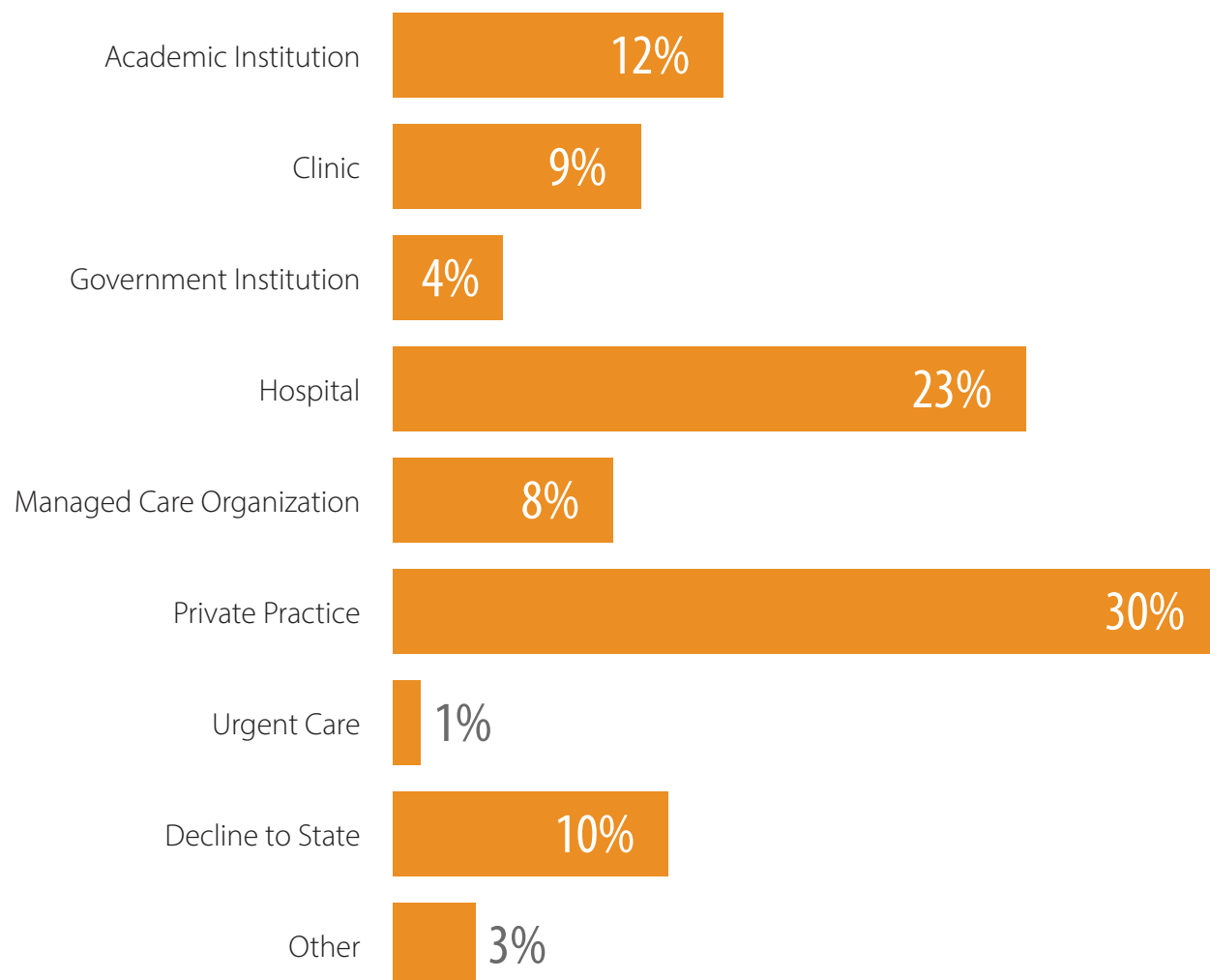
Source: "Medical Group Report Card for Commercial HMO Plan Members," California Office of the Patient Advocate, accessed August 12, 2024.

Physicians Quality of Care

The percentage of medical groups providing very good or excellent care varied substantially across California. The Greater Bay Area and the Sacramento Area had the highest percentages of medical groups that provided very good or excellent care.

Active Patient Care Physicians, by Primary Practice Setting

California, 2023



Physicians

Practice Setting

Nearly one in three physicians in California reported working in a private practice.

Notes: Data include 49,637 doctors of medicine who renewed their license between July 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, and provided at least 20 hours of patient care per week, and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents. *Clinic* includes community health centers and Federally Qualified Health Centers. *Government institution* includes federal and state levels of government. *Hospital* includes inpatient/outpatient and emergency department settings. *Private practice* includes group and individual practices. *Other* includes correctional facility, home health, long-term care / skilled nursing facility, and other. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Survey of Licensees (private tabulation), Medical Board of California, December 2023.

Physicians

ABOUT THIS SERIES

The California Health Care Almanac is an online clearinghouse for data and analysis examining the state's health care system. It focuses on issues of quality, affordability, insurance coverage and the uninsured, and the financial health of the system with the goal of supporting thoughtful planning and effective decisionmaking. Learn more at www.chcf.org/almanac.

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Appendix A. California Counties Included in Regions



REGION	COUNTIES
Central Coast	Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura
Greater Bay Area	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma
Inland Empire	Riverside, San Bernardino
Los Angeles County	Los Angeles
Northern and Sierra	Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yuba
Orange County	Orange
Sacramento Area	El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Yolo
San Diego Area	Imperial, San Diego
San Joaquin Valley	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare

Appendix B. Definitions

Practice Settings

Medical group. A group of doctors who have a business together and have a contract with a health plan to give services to plan members.

Managed care organization. Networks of organized systems of care that emphasize primary and preventive care; in some cases, physicians in the networks provide care exclusively to people who receive health insurance through a single managed care organization (e.g., Kaiser Permanente).

Clinic / community clinic / health center / FQHC. A clinic that operates under California Health and Safety Code 1204(a), which requires that it provide care to low-income and underserved populations, and charge fees based on the patient's ability to pay. A community clinic is operated by a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and is supported by either public or private donations and contributions.

Physicians

Physician classifications can differ between organizations. This report relies on two organizations for physician counts: the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Medical Board of California (MBC).

Active physicians are licensed physicians who are:

- Not retired, semiretired, working part-time, temporarily not in practice, or not active for other reasons and who work 20 or more hours per week (AMA)
- Currently licensed (MBC)

Active patient care physicians are active physicians who:

- Identify their major professional activity as direct patient care (AMA)
- Provide patient care at least 20 hours per week (MBC)

Primary care physicians (PCPs) are those physicians whose primary specialty is:

- Family medicine / general practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics, including the respective subspecialties (AMA)
- Family medicine, internal medicine, general pediatrics, or geriatrics and do not have a secondary specialty that suggests they may provide specialty care (MBC)

Specialists are those physicians whose primary specialty is not considered primary care. (MBC)

Appendix C. Physicians, Total and per 100,000 Population, by County, California, 2023

	NUMBER OF MDs, 2023				MDs PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2023			
	NON-PRIMARY CARE	PRIMARY CARE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL	NON-PRIMARY CARE	PRIMARY CARE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Alameda	2,456	1,253	2	3,711	151	77	0	229
Alpine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amador	28	25	0	53	67	60	0	127
Butte	272	92	0	364	131	44	0	176
Calaveras	18	11	0	29	39	24	0	62
Colusa	3	4	0	7	14	18	0	32
Contra Costa	1,515	832	3	2,350	131	72	0	203
Del Norte	18	11	0	29	68	41	0	109
El Dorado	157	67	0	224	82	35	0	117
Fresno	1,062	568	0	1,630	104	56	0	160
Glenn	4	3	0	7	14	11	0	25
Humboldt	146	63	1	210	109	47	1	157
Imperial	100	47	0	147	56	26	0	82
Inyo	27	9	0	36	146	49	0	194
Kern	659	376	1	1,036	72	41	0	113
Kings	71	55	1	127	47	36	1	83
Lake	44	21	1	66	65	31	1	97
Lassen	9	11	0	20	31	38	0	69
Los Angeles	14,923	5,840	35	20,798	154	60	0	215
Madera	192	66	1	259	118	41	1	159
Marin	556	230	0	786	219	90	0	309

Notes: Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, and provided patient care at least 20 hours per week and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey). Nine primary care physicians did not provide geographic information. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Sources: Author calculations based on Survey of Licensees, Medical Board of California, December 2023; and *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties in California: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023* (CO-EST2023-POP-06), US Census Bureau, March 2024.

Appendix C. Physicians, Total and per 100,000 Population, by County, California, 2023, *cont.*

	NUMBER OF MDs, 2023				MDs PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2023			
	NON-PRIMARY CARE	PRIMARY CARE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL	NON-PRIMARY CARE	PRIMARY CARE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Mariposa	5	6	0	11	30	35	0	65
Mendocino	66	43	0	109	74	48	0	122
Merced	121	73	0	194	41	25	0	66
Modoc	10	2	0	12	118	24	0	141
Mono	21	6	0	27	161	46	0	207
Monterey	485	221	1	707	113	51	0	164
Napa	209	96	0	305	157	72	0	229
Nevada	115	54	0	169	113	53	0	166
Orange	4,774	1,919	15	6,708	152	61	0	214
Placer	722	372	0	1,094	170	88	0	258
Plumas	11	8	0	19	57	42	0	99
Riverside	1,867	948	11	2,826	75	38	0	113
Sacramento	2,614	1,086	6	3,706	165	69	0	234
San Benito	32	9	0	41	47	13	0	60
San Bernardino	2,242	1,016	4	3,262	102	46	0	149
San Diego	5,367	2,090	14	7,471	164	64	0	228
San Francisco	2,855	995	9	3,859	353	123	1	477
San Joaquin	628	419	1	1,048	78	52	0	131
San Luis Obispo	380	147	1	528	135	52	0	187
San Mateo	1,282	563	1	1,846	176	78	0	254
Santa Barbara	604	241	1	846	137	55	0	192

Notes: Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, and provided patient care at least 20 hours per week and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey). Nine primary care physicians did not provide geographic information. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

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Appendix C. Physicians, Total and per 100,000 Population, by County, California, 2023, *cont.*

	NUMBER OF MDs, 2023				MDs PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2023			
	NON-PRIMARY CARE	PRIMARY CARE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL	NON-PRIMARY CARE	PRIMARY CARE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Santa Clara	4,108	1,567	10	5,685	219	83	1	303
Santa Cruz	299	192	0	491	114	73	0	188
Shasta	193	89	0	282	107	49	0	156
Sierra	1	0	0	1	31	0	0	31
Siskiyou	34	20	0	54	79	47	0	126
Solano	599	292	0	891	133	65	0	198
Sonoma	656	347	1	1,004	136	72	0	208
Stanislaus	619	312	2	933	112	57	0	169
Sutter	83	47	0	130	85	48	0	133
Tehama	27	20	0	47	42	31	0	72
Trinity	4	1	0	5	26	6	0	32
Tulare	266	177	1	444	55	37	0	93
Tuolumne	59	32	1	92	109	59	2	170
Ventura	1,027	488	2	1,517	124	59	0	183
Yolo	167	105	0	272	76	48	0	123
Yuba	47	20	0	67	55	23	0	78
Unknown	71	41	0	112	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	54,930	23,648	126	78,704	141	61	0	202

Notes: Data include doctors of medicine (MDs) who renewed their license between January 2022 and December 2023, had a California address, and provided patient care at least 20 hours per week and exclude residents, fellows, and nonrespondents (i.e., those MDs who did not respond to the survey). Nine primary care physicians did not provide geographic information. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

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