

A Census Based Approach to the Assessment of Clinic-Based Longitudinal Care in Alberta

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Presenter Disclosure

Presenters: Drs Samantha Horvey and Martin Tieu

Relationships with financial sponsors:

- Any direct financial relationships, including receipt of honoraria: Employees of the University of Alberta
- Membership on advisory boards or speakers' bureaus: None.
- Patents for drugs or devices: None.
- Other: Members of CFPC Examination Committees and local PCN board.

Disclosure of Financial Support

This program has received financial support from

- a) Northern Alberta Academic Family Medicine Fund in the form of a research grant.
- b) Summer student support from the David and Beatrice Reidford Research Scholarship.

This program has received in-kind support from: None.

Potential for conflict(s) of interest: None.

Longitudinal Care is Important

- It has been reported that 650 000 Albertans are searching for a Family Physician ¹
- Alberta has a deficit of Family Physicians providing clinic-based longitudinal care^{2, 3, 4}
- This deficit will increase as Alberta's population grows and ages^{13,14}
- Longitudinal care has been shown to reduce emergency department visits, hospital admissions, all cause mortality as well as reducing health care costs ^{5, 6}

1. <https://www.albertadoctors.org/make-a-difference/initiatives/understanding-ab-fam-med-crisis>

2. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-625-x/2020001/article/00004-eng.htm>

3. <https://www.cma.ca/news-releases-and-statements/critical-family-physician-shortage-must-be-addressed-cma>

4. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/fewer-family-doctors-accepting-new-patients-1.6432767>

5. *British Journal of General Practice*, 72(715), 84–90. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp.2021.0340>

6. *BMJ Open*, 8(6). 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2017-021161>

13. <https://www.alberta.ca/population-statistics>

14. <https://www.alberta.ca/seniors-resources>

Quantifying FM Longitudinal Care Delivery

- **Simple question: How many family doctors are providing clinic-based longitudinal care in Alberta?**
- Various methods have been used to assess and quantify the delivery of family medicine, each with advantages and challenges
- Specifically, longitudinal relationships are difficult to capture
 - Billing data ^{7, 8}
 - Registration information (e.g. CPSA) ^{9, 10}
 - Voluntary physician survey data (e.g. AMA Family Medicine Viability Survey) ¹¹

7. *CMAJ Open*, 11(6). 2023. DOI:10.9778/cmajo.20220201

8. *CMAJ Open*, 5(4), 856–863. 2017. <https://doi.org/10.9778/cmajo.20170083>

9. *Canada Healthcare Policy*. 2023. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.54194/WKYJ8964>

10. <https://cpsa.ca/about-cpsa/statistics/>

11. <https://www.albertadoctors.org/Media%20PLs%202023/ab-ucp-ama-response.pdf>

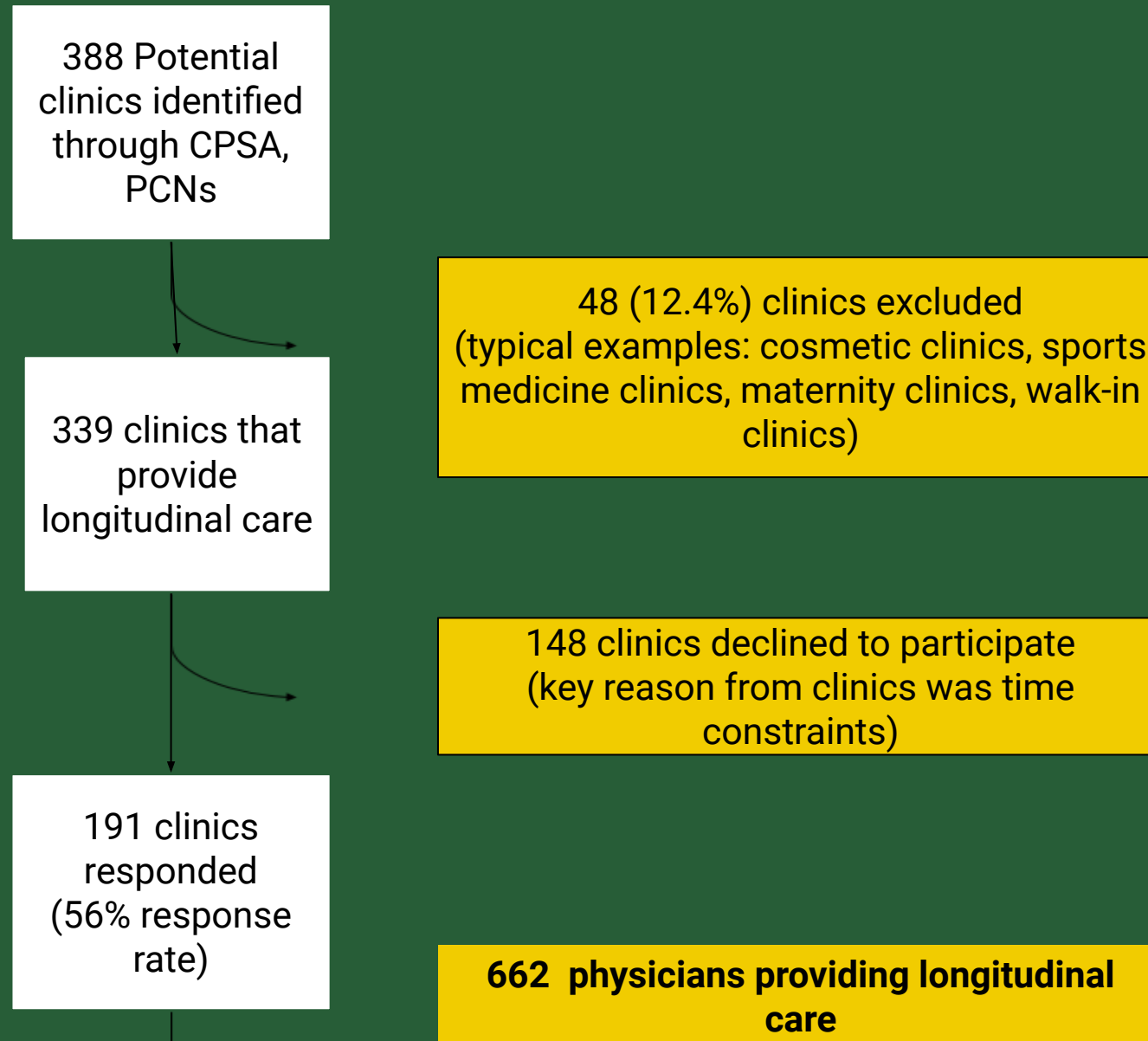
Objective

To determine key metrics on the delivery of clinic-based longitudinal care in the Edmonton and surrounding area through surveying of Family Medicine clinics.

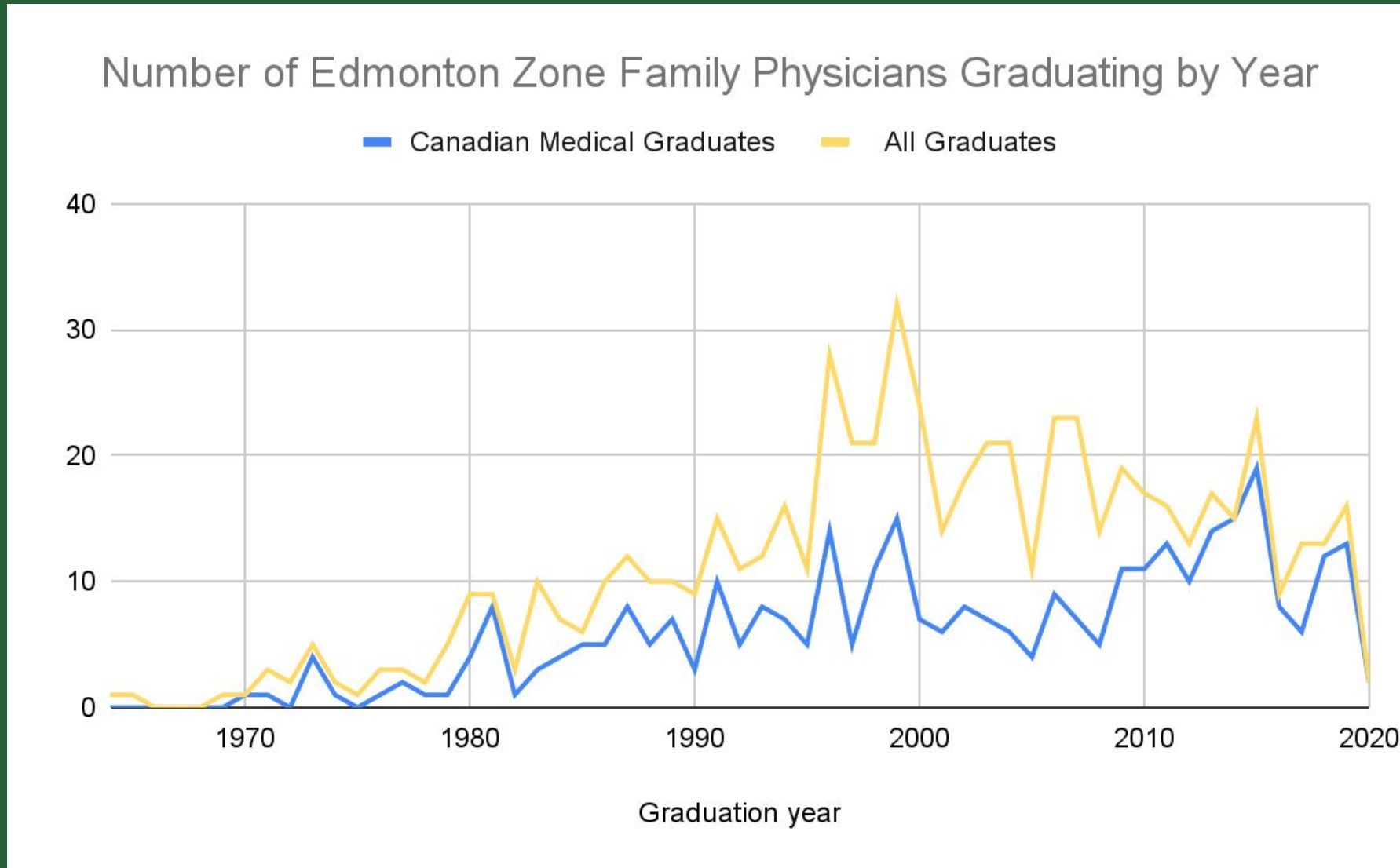
Methods

- Family Medicine clinics identified through Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and College of Physicians of Alberta (CPSA)
- Survey administered via phone/in-person to Family Medicine clinics providing clinic-based longitudinal outpatient care in the Edmonton area in 2023
- Additional data collected from publicly available resources using CPSA
- **Inclusion criteria:** Family Medicine Clinics providing longitudinal outpatient care in the Edmonton area
- **Exclusion criteria:** Clinics not providing longitudinal care including those providing only episodic (walk-in) and specialty clinics (e.g., dermatology only)

Results

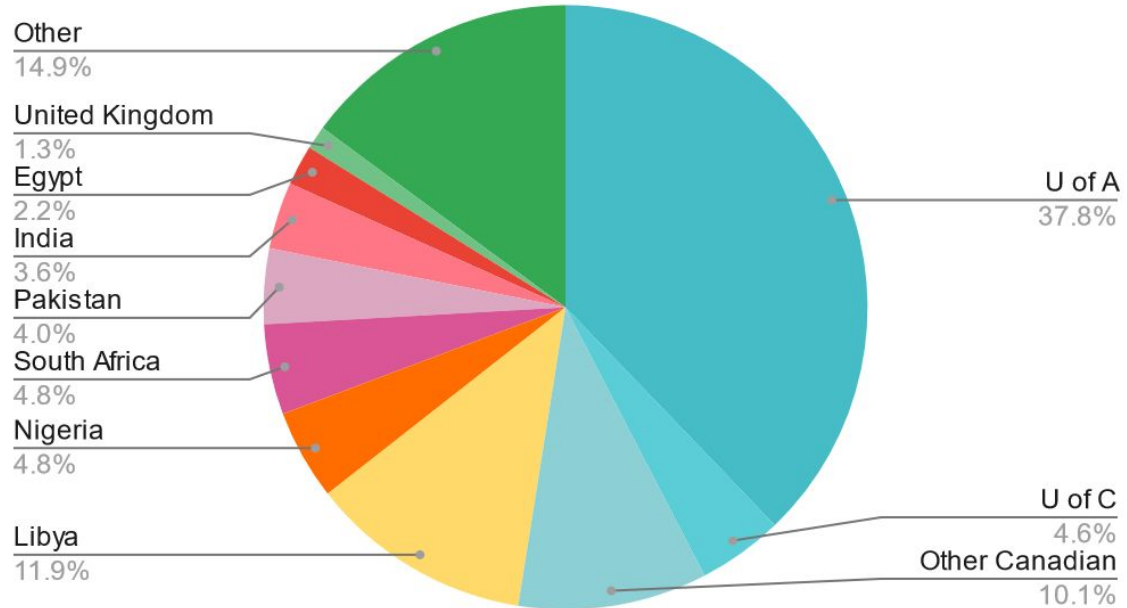


Results: Physician Medical School Graduation Year

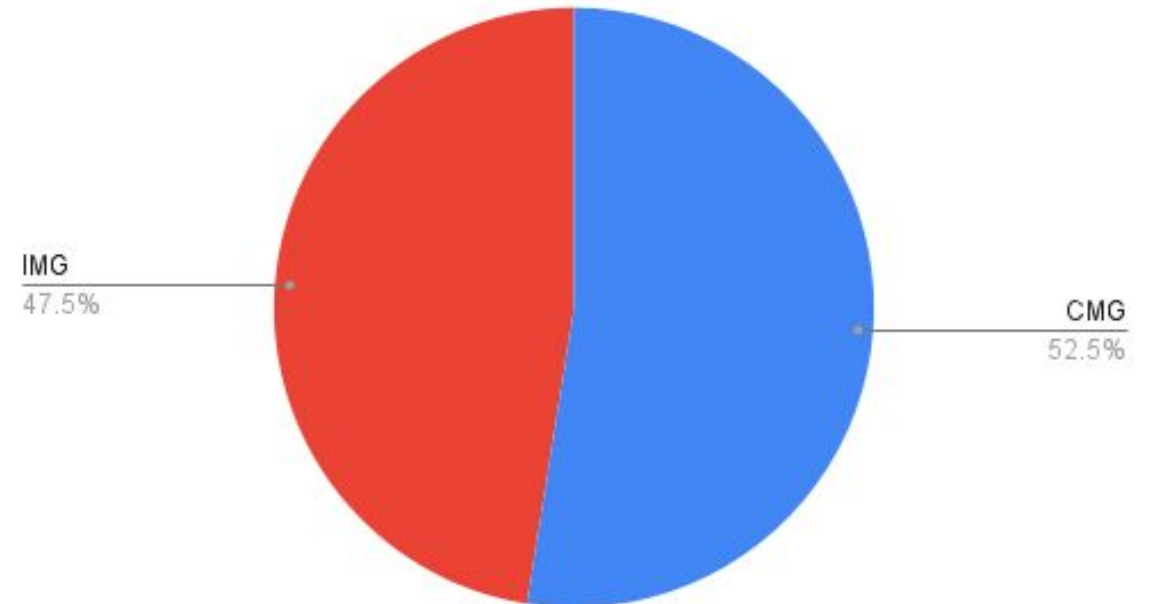


Results: Physician Medical School Location & Graduation Status

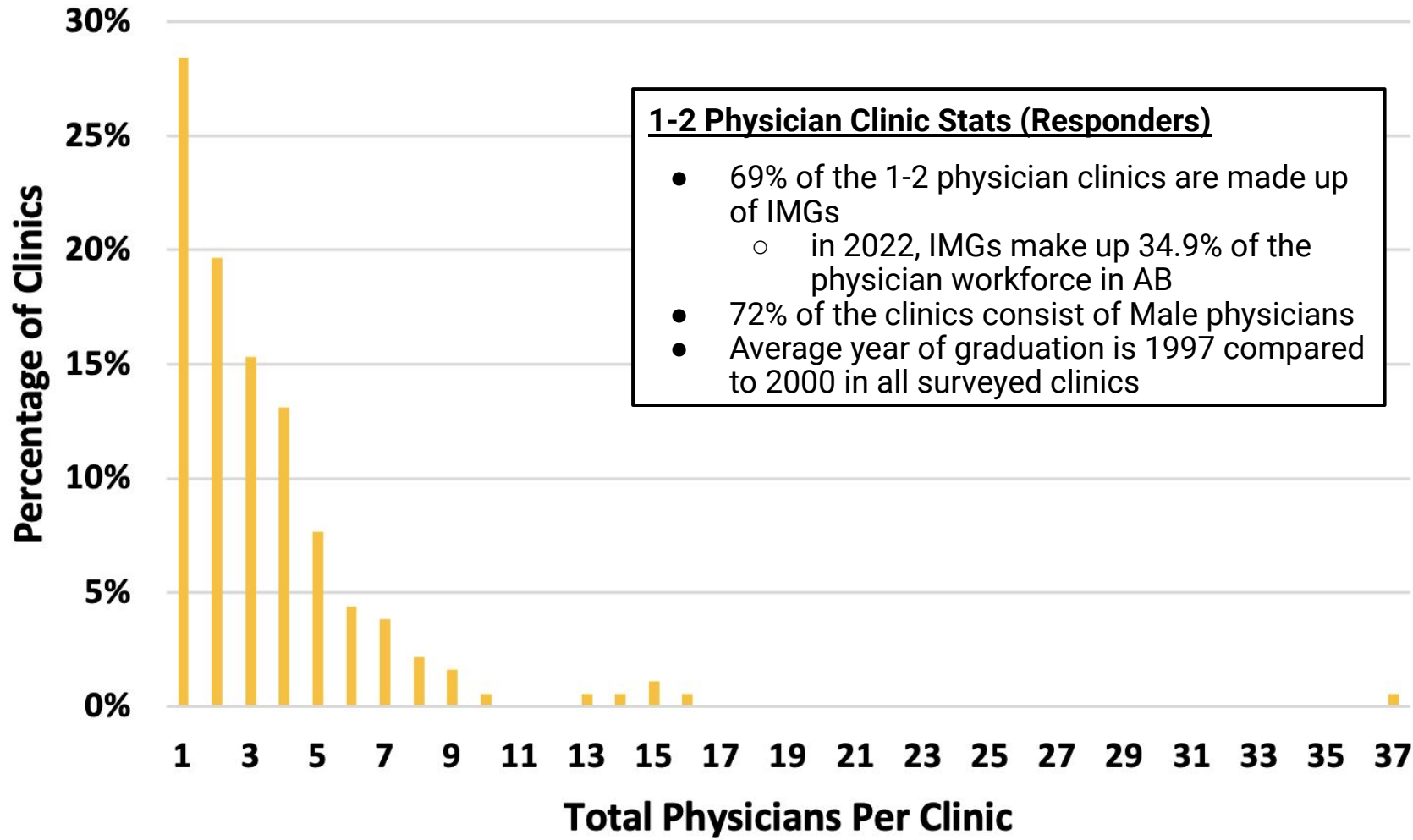
Percentage of Edmonton zone family physicians by place of graduation



Percentage of Edmonton zone family physicians by graduation status



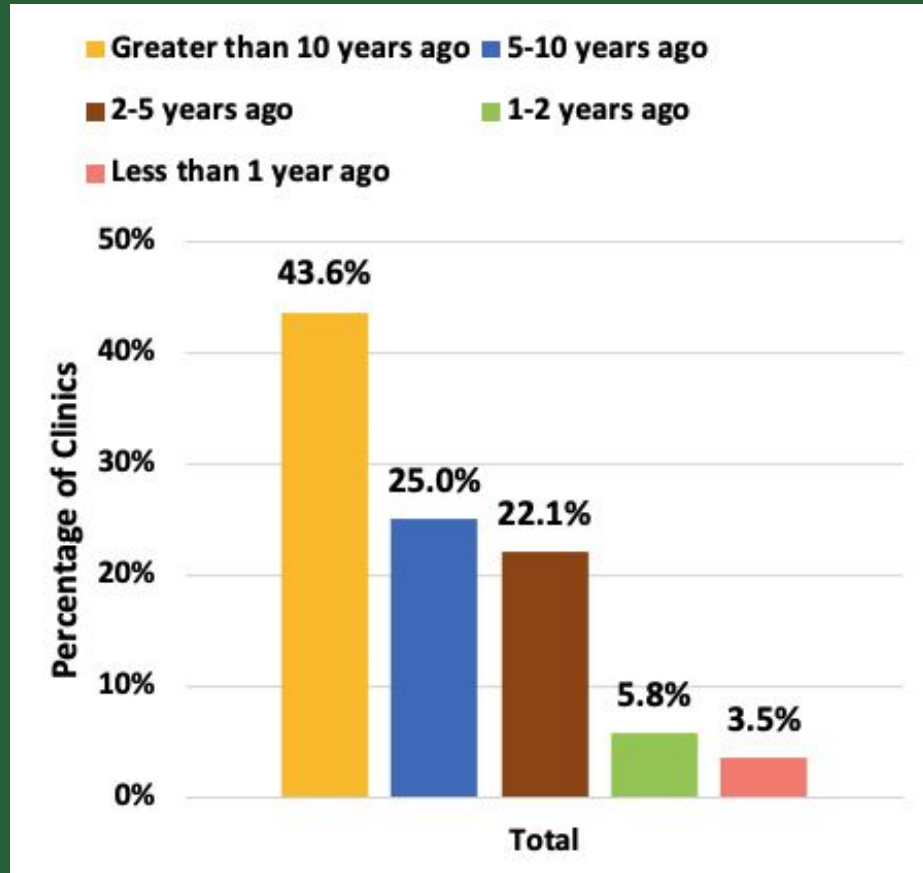
Results: Number of Physicians in Clinic



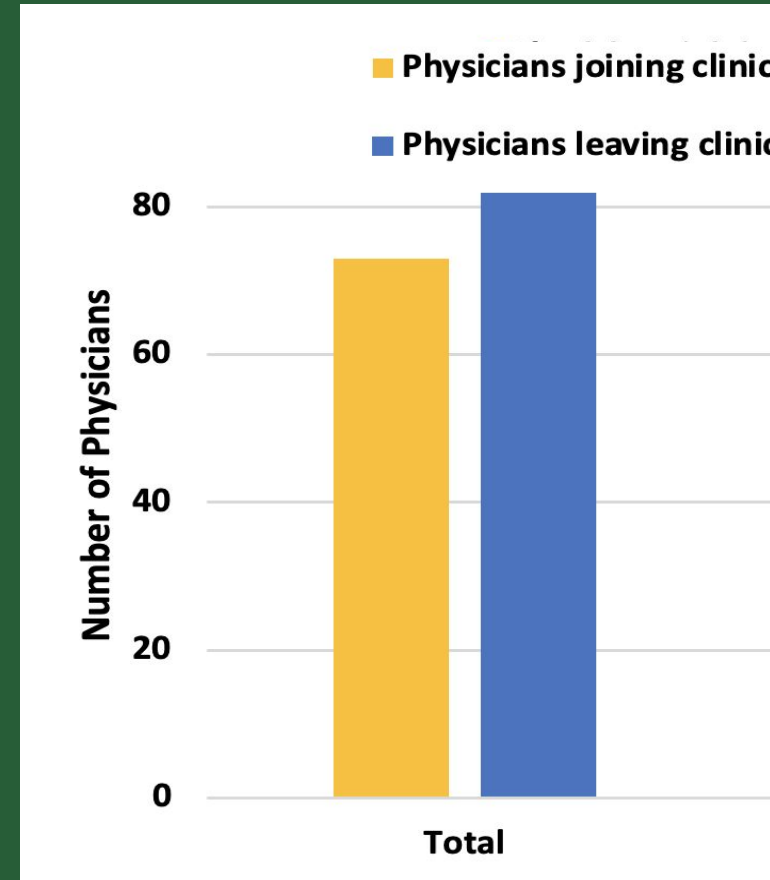
Total Physicians Per Clinic	Percentage of Clinics
1	28%
2	20%
3	15%
4	13%
5	8%
6	4%
7	4%
8+	8%

Family physicians providing longitudinal care work an average of 7.7 half days per week

Results: Clinic Age, Physician Supply & Recruitment

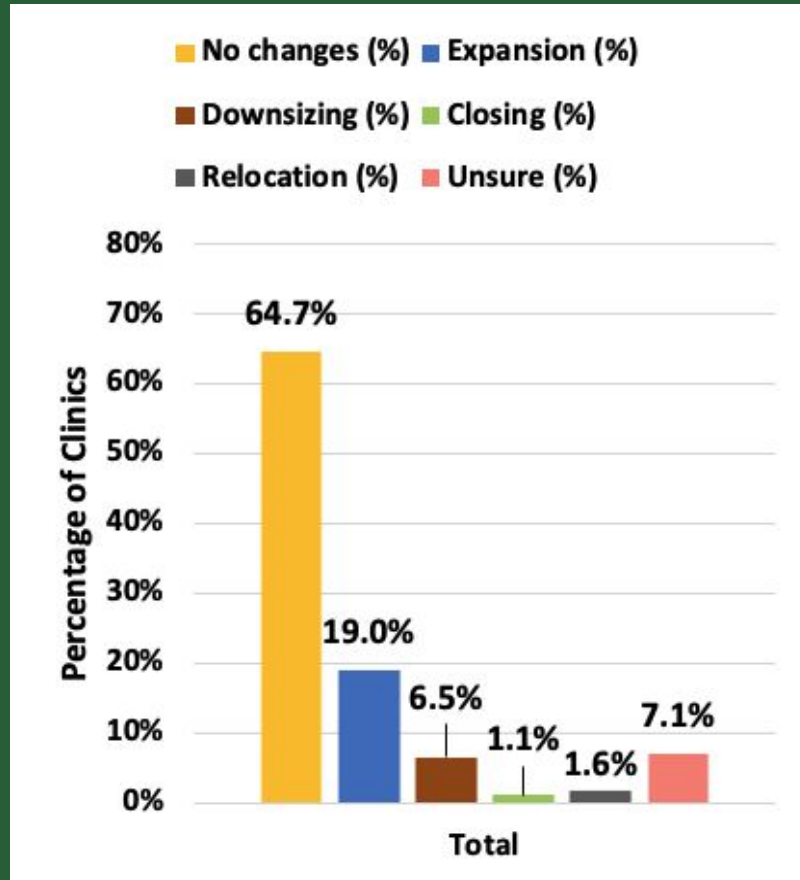


Clinic Age

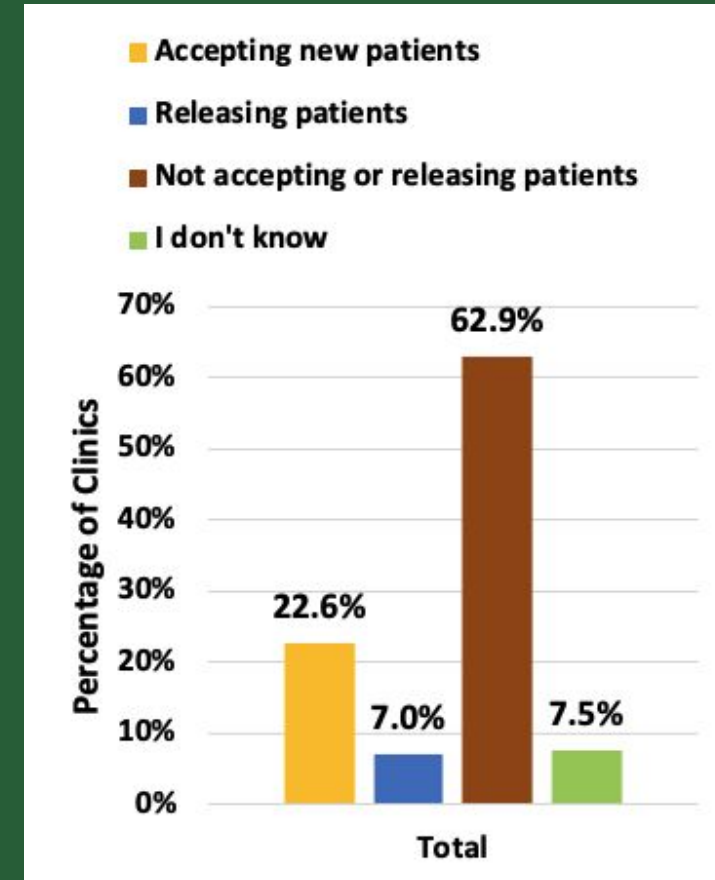


Physician Recruitment

Results: Anticipated Changes in Next Year



Changes for Clinic Overall



Changes for Patient Panels

Discussion

- These results provide a snapshot of clinic-based longitudinal care in the Edmonton Area
- Limitations
 - Response rate of 55%
 - Both administrators and physicians eligible to complete survey
 - Changing environment

Conclusions

- The rate of physician loss is higher than the rate of gain
- To ameliorate existing and growing deficits, attention should be paid to policies that increase delivery of longitudinal care.
- Next steps:
 - Expansion of data collection to other areas in Alberta
 - Repeat survey data collection in 2025

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