

# Care-of-the-Elderly Graduates Provide Essential Services in Alberta

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## BACKGROUND

- The Care of the Elderly (COE) Program is a 6-month to 1-year residency program on the care of older persons.
- This program was developed by The College of Family Physicians of Canada to address the increasing demand for health services among seniors.
- At the University of Alberta, the program has trained more than 60 COE physicians since 1993.

## OBJECTIVE

- To determine the practice characteristics, practice preparedness, and service provision among graduates of the COE program at the University of Alberta.

## METHODS

**Design.** Online survey in 2019.

**Participants.** Graduates of the COE Program in the University of Alberta.

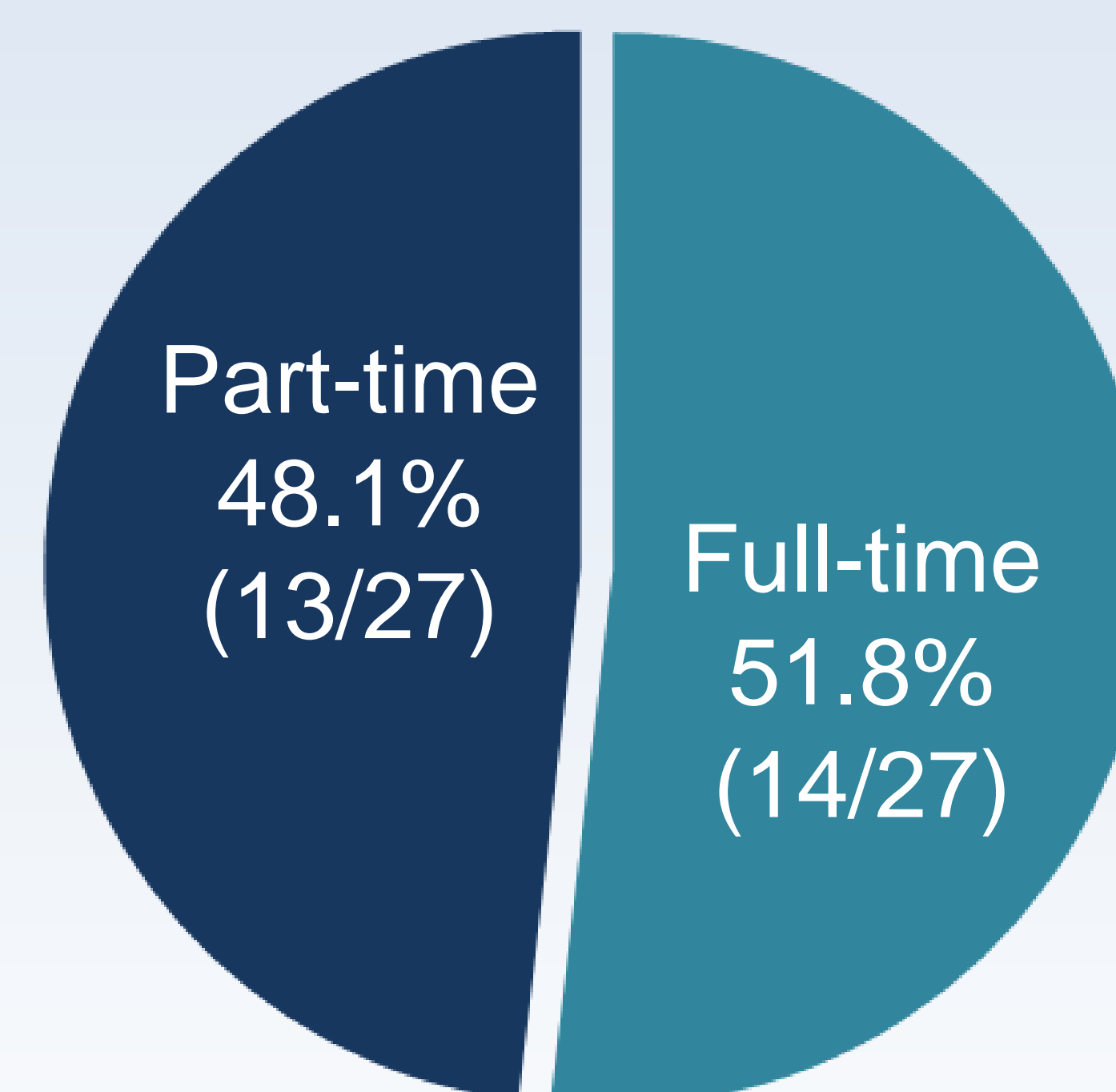
**Instrument.** The 38-item online survey consisted of Likert-type, multiple-choice, and open-ended questions on demographics, current practice, care-of-the-elderly practice, professional activities, practice location, lifestyle satisfaction, and program structure.

**Outcome Measures.** Descriptive statistics (frequencies, proportions, and means) of participant characteristics.

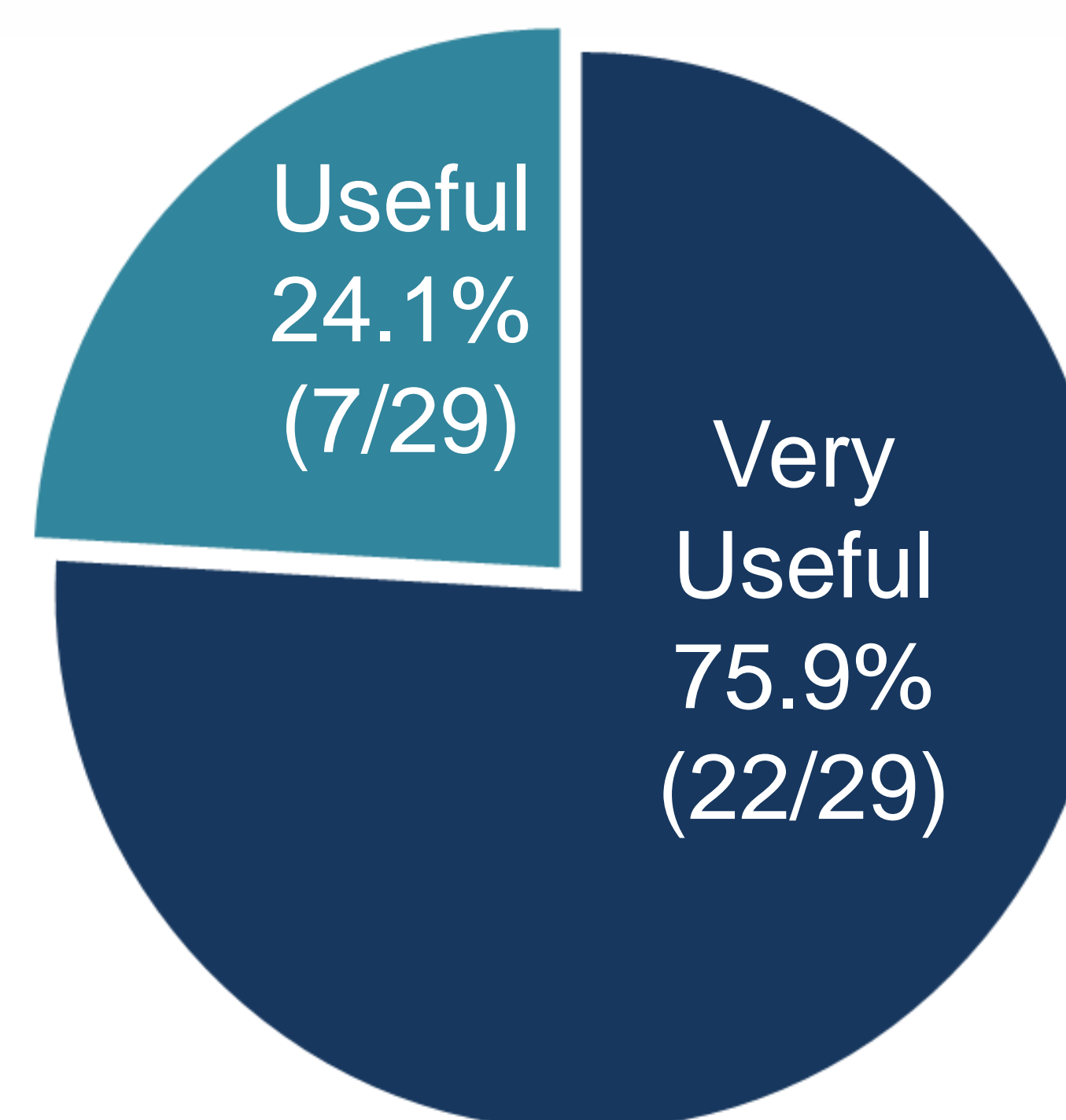
## RESULTS

- There were 33 respondents with a response rate of 56% (33/59).
- The median age was 44 years (range: 30-66), with 72% females (24/33).
- The vast majority (92.6% [25/27]) were satisfied with their professional life.

### COE Practice



### Residency Program's Usefulness for Practice



### Practice Settings

Practice Setting	n	%
Office-based Continuing Care	16	48.5%
Acute Care Consults	16	48.5%
Supportive Living	14	42.4%
Acute Care Inpatients	11	33.3%
Home Living	9	27.3%

### Remuneration

Remuneration Type	n	%
Fee for Service	20	60.6%
Clinical Alternative Relationship Plan	13	39.4%
Academic Alternative Relationship Plan	4	12.1%
Sessional	4	12.1%
Legacy	4	12.1%

### Hours Worked per Week

Hours Worked	n	%
≤ 30 hours	4	14.3%
31-40 hours	13	46.4%
41-50 hours	7	25.0%
51-60 hours	3	10.7%
>60 hours	1	3.6%
Total	28	100.0%

### Other Duties

Other Duty	n	%
Teaching	15	45.5%
Administration	12	36.4%
Research	10	30.3%

## CONCLUSION

The COE graduates provide clinical, academic, and administrative service in a variety of settings. As the older population increases, the need for COE physicians increases as well.