



Focus on physicians: the UK 2022 census of consultant physicians

Produced by the RCP Medical Workforce Unit on behalf of the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians

The number of doctors in the UK



23,937



consultant
physicians on the
GMC specialist
register

21,182



make up our
dataset of practising
consultants
(including locums)

19,798



substantive /
honorary NHS
consultants

6,825



higher specialty
trainees*



*data provided by the Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board

Who responded to the census survey?



The 2022 census
survey was sent to
19,187 physicians



5,224
physicians
responded



4,774
responses from
practising NHS
consultants



250
SAS doctor
responses*

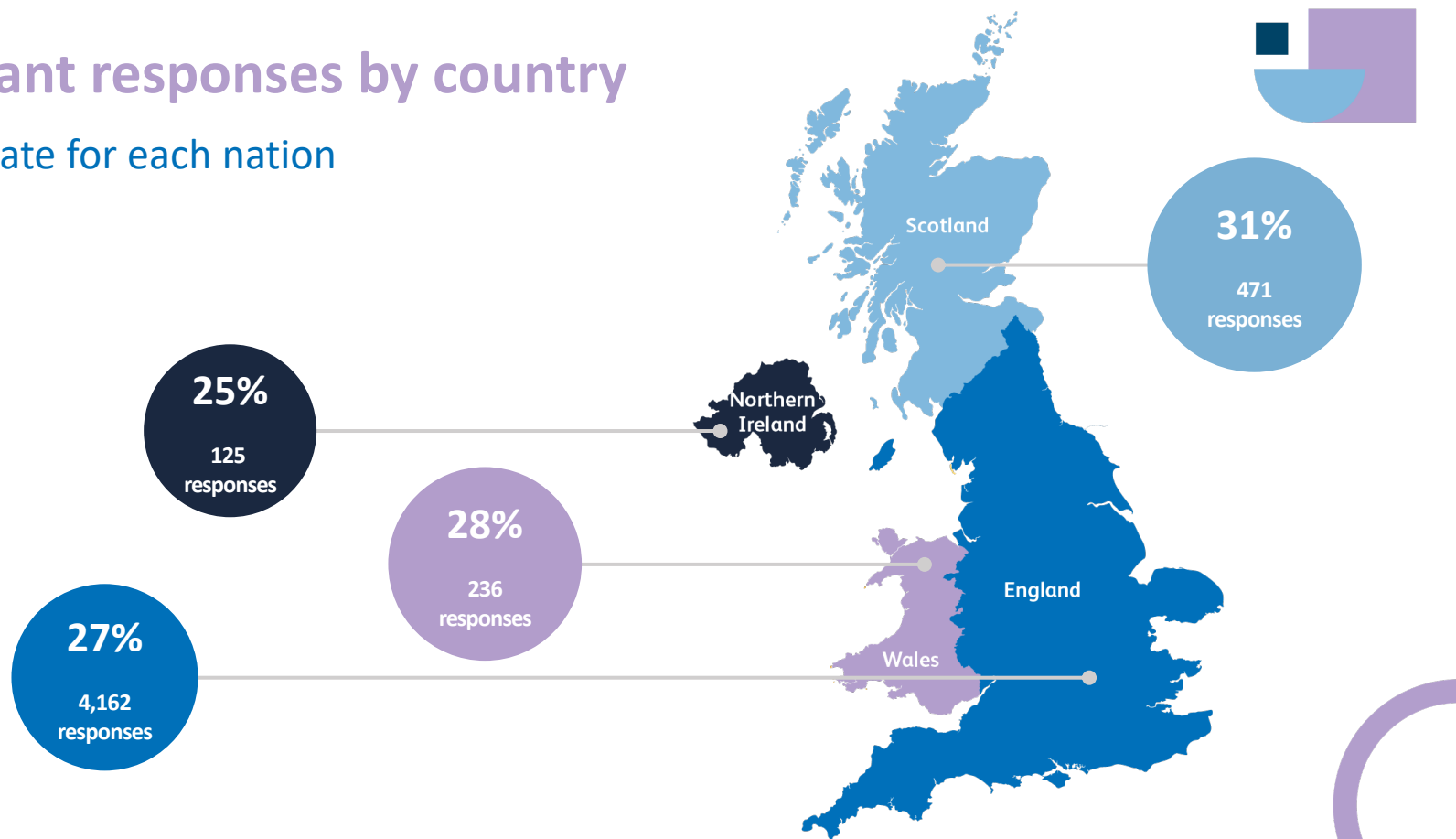


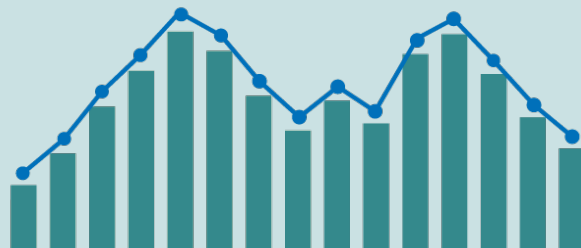
*data on SAS doctor responses will be published later in 2023



Consultant responses by country

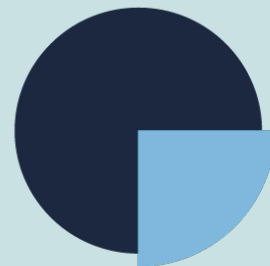
Response rate for each nation





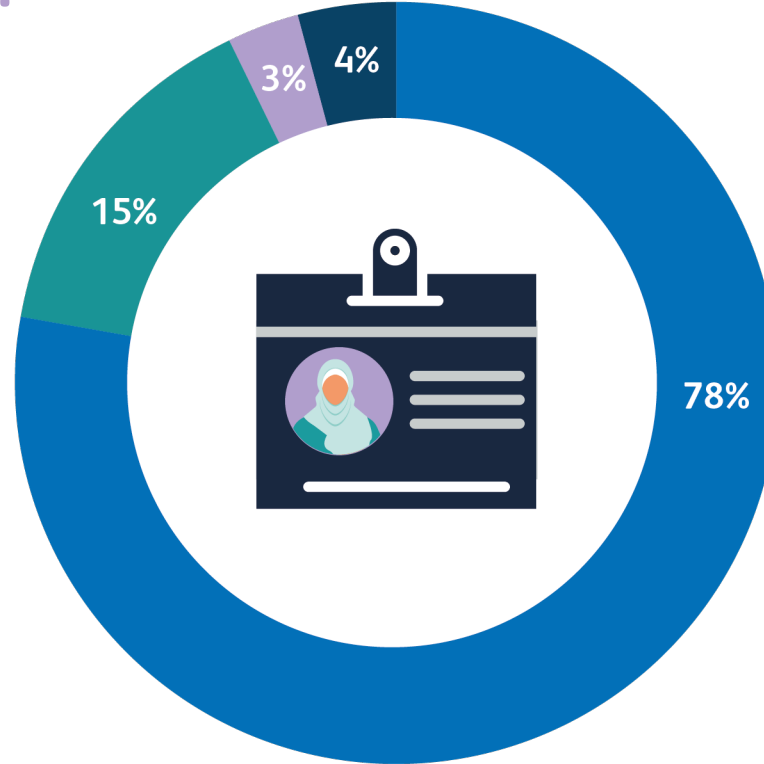
The following slides explore data and trends from the 2022 census data.

They focus on consultant physicians currently in NHS practice across the UK, and some charts include higher specialty trainees (where indicated). Some additional data on doctors who did not respond to the census were gathered from triangulation with the GMC, three royal college membership databases and JRCPTB.

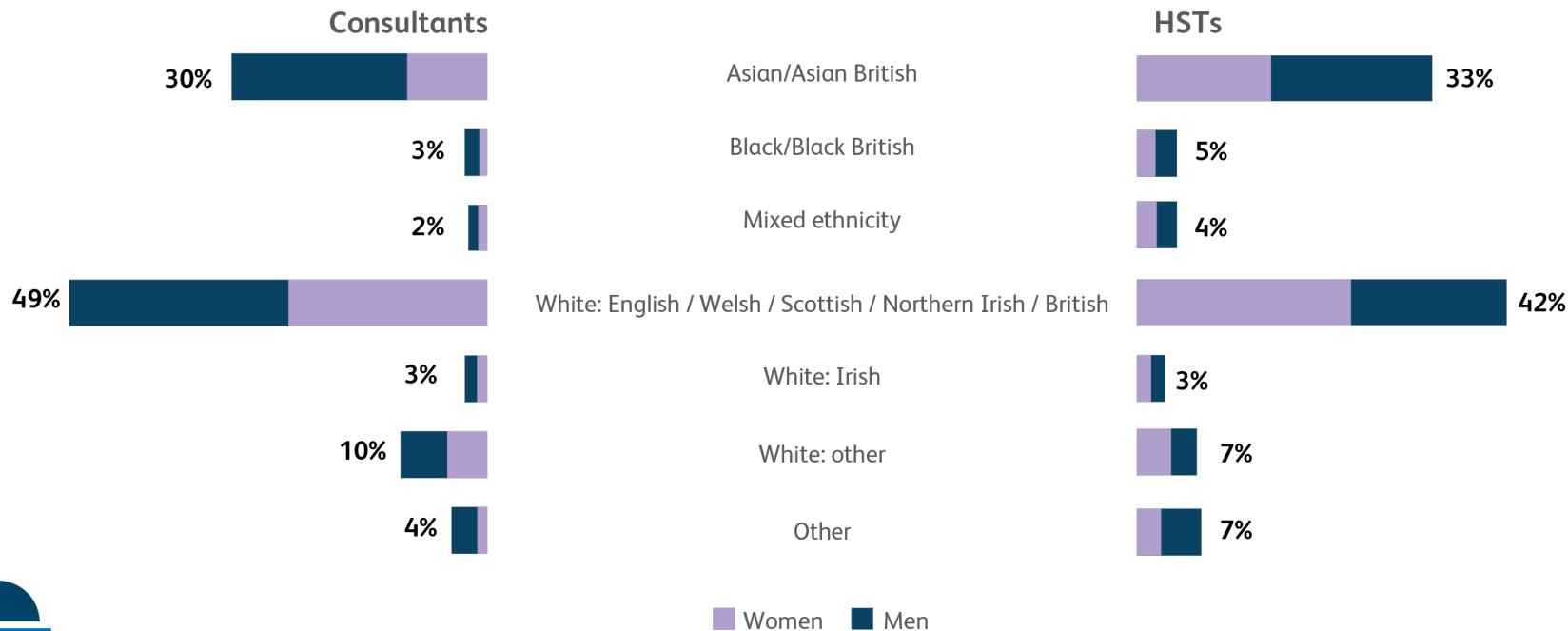


Who employs consultants?

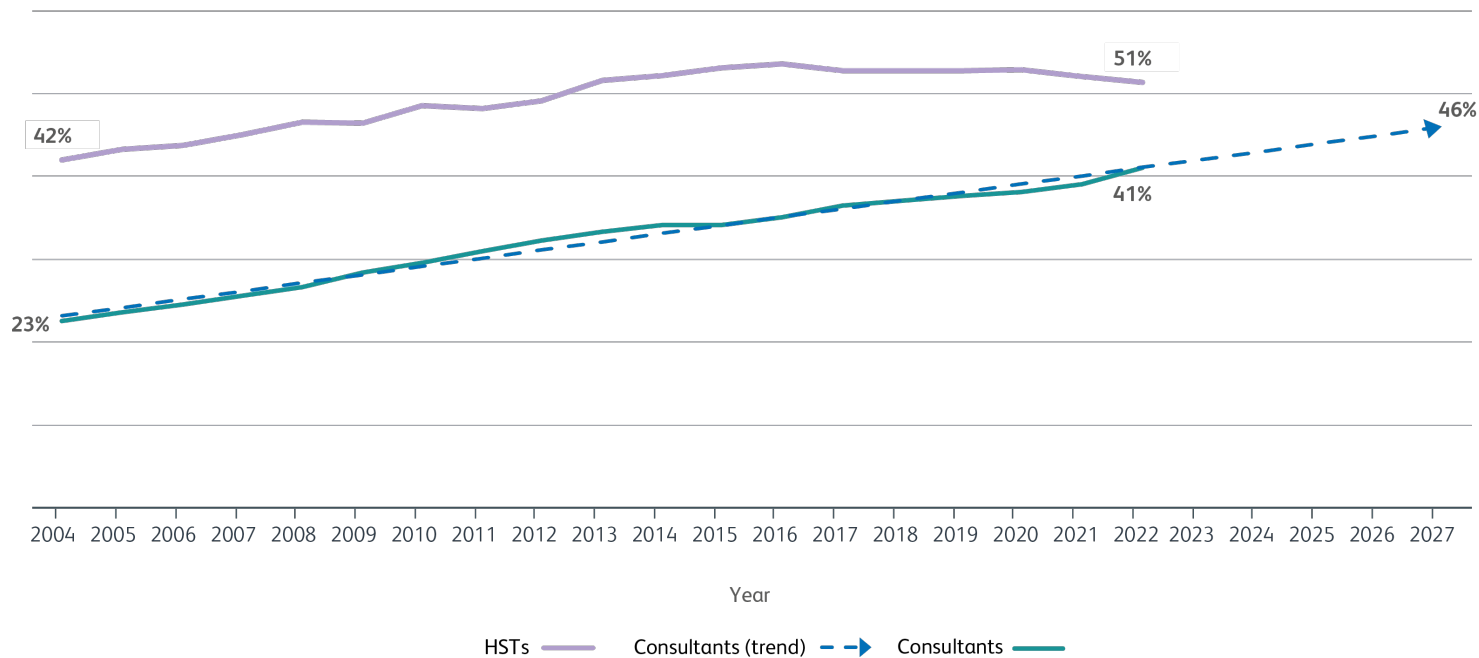
- NHS
- Academic
(+/- NHS contract)
- Joint NHS-other (eg hospice)
- Other (incl hospices,
royal colleges and
specialist societies, etc)



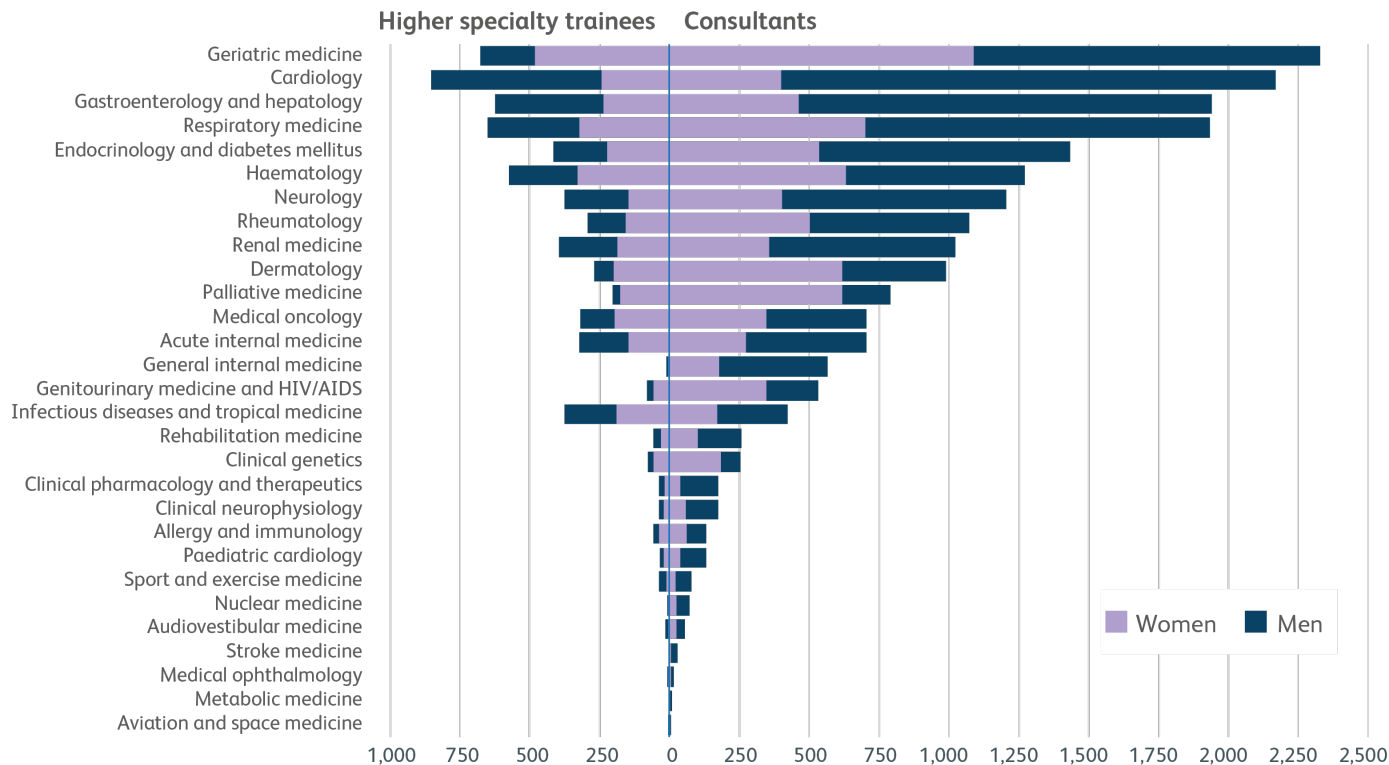
Ethnicity and sex of doctors in the UK



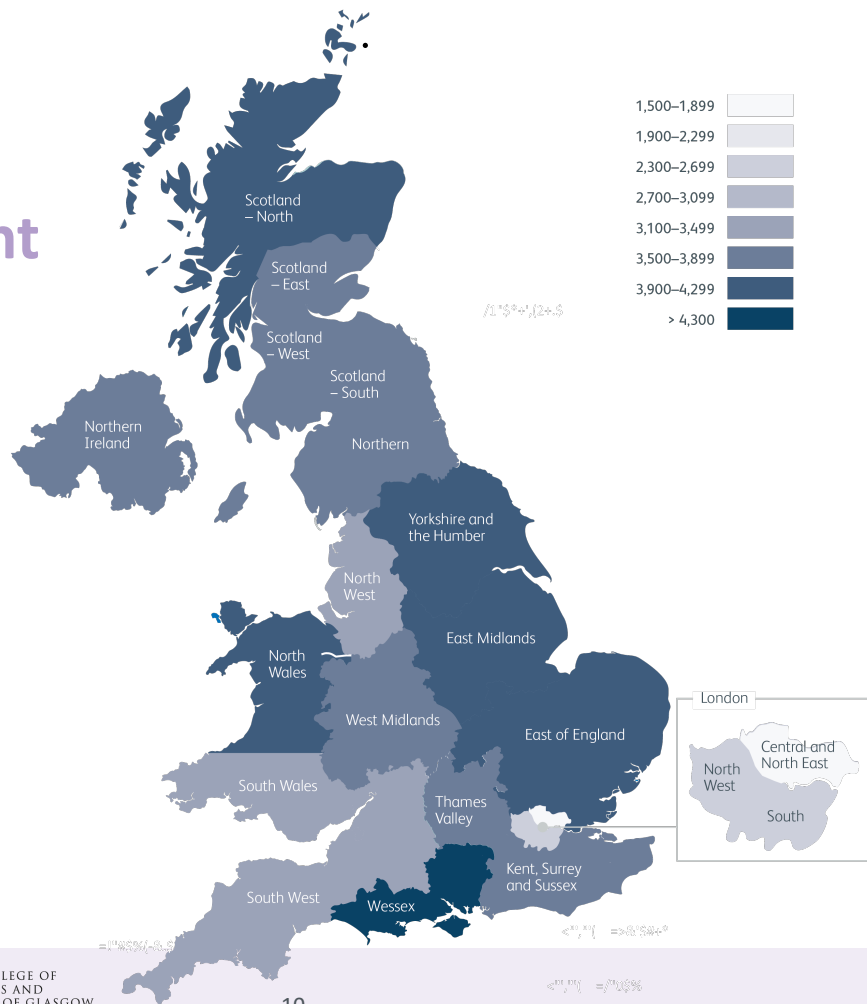
Women in the workforce over time



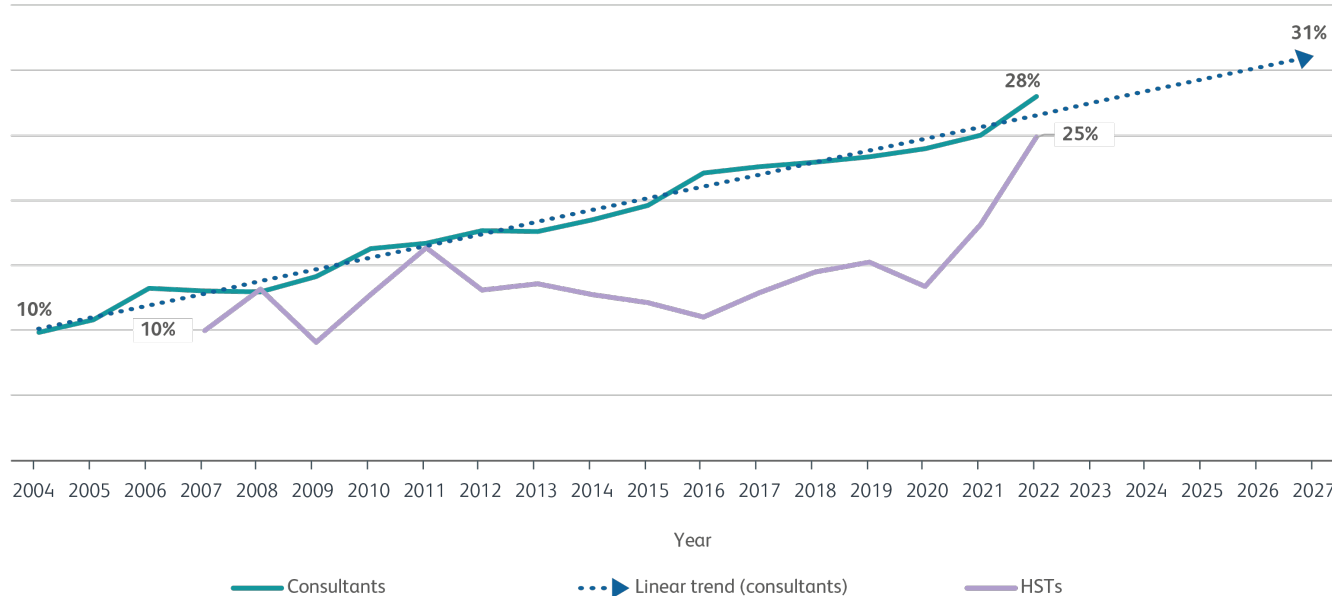
The number of doctors by specialty



Regional population per one full-time equivalent consultant



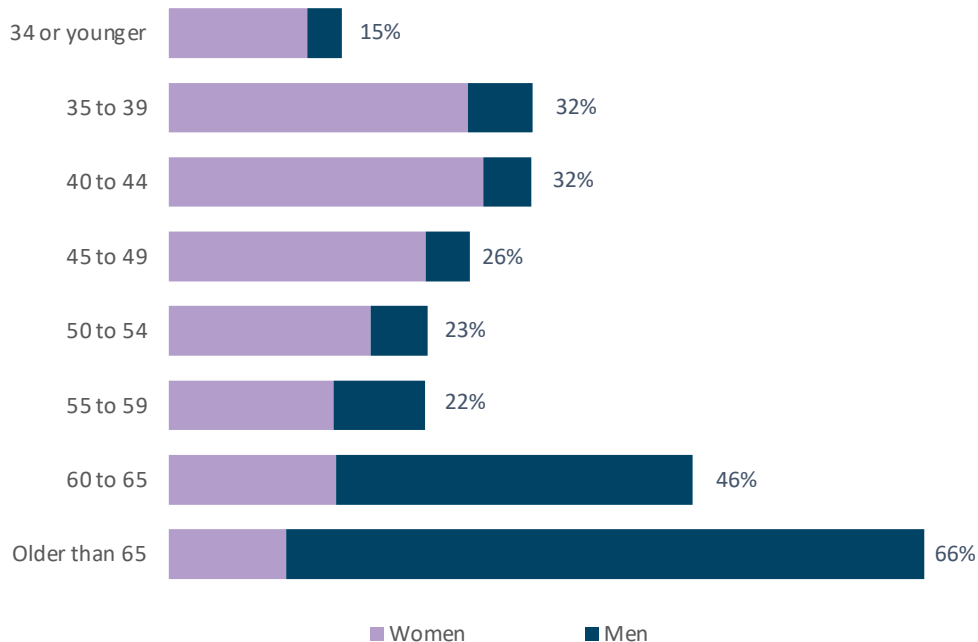
Less-than-full-time working over time with expected trend for consultants to 2027



Less-than-full-time only: excludes full-time doctors working flexibly



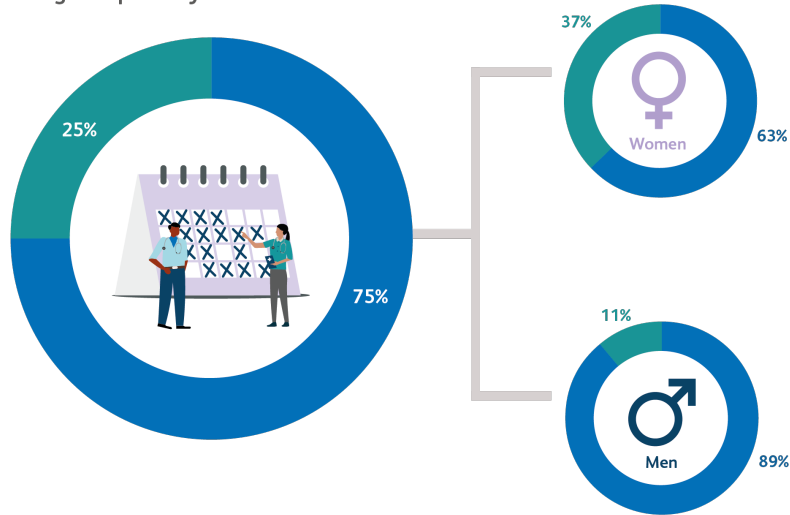
Proportion of consultants who work less than full time



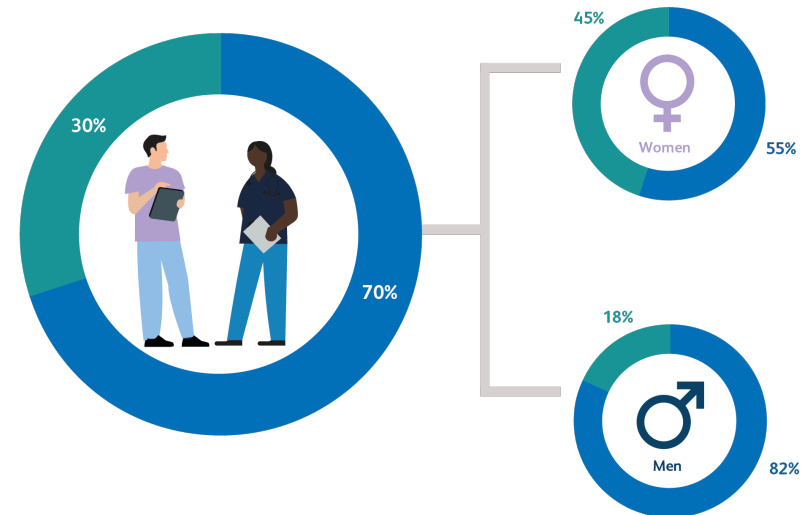
Full-time vs less than full time *and* flexible working



Higher specialty trainees



Consultants



■ FT

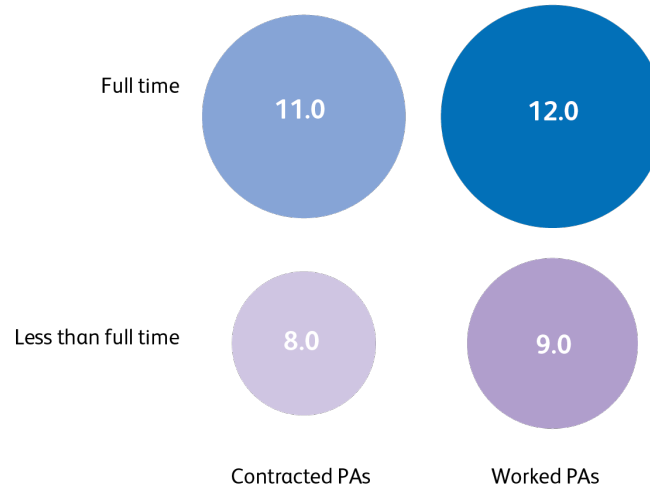
■ LTFT or flexible working



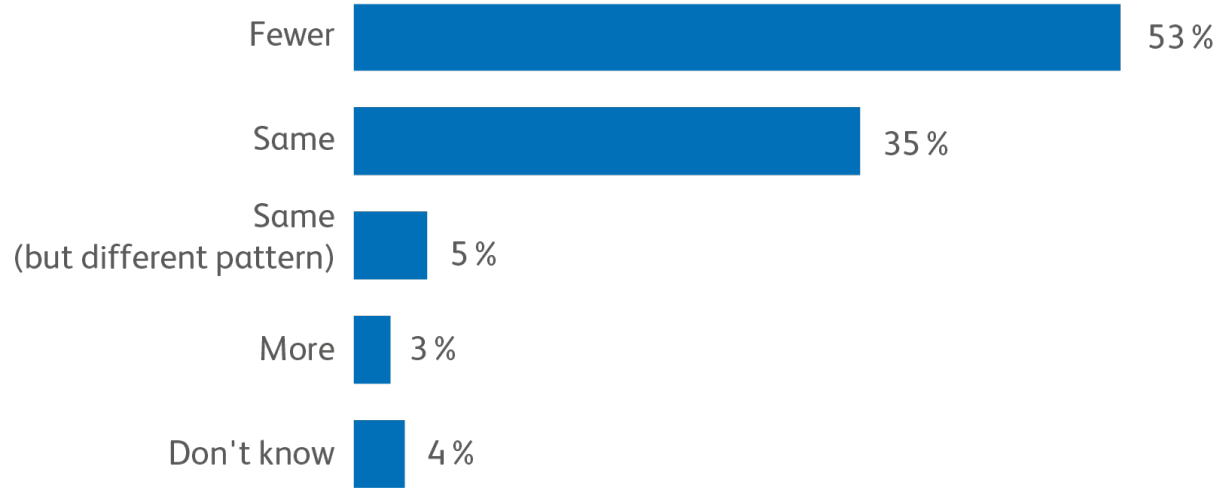
Median contracted and programmed activities (PAs) of consultants



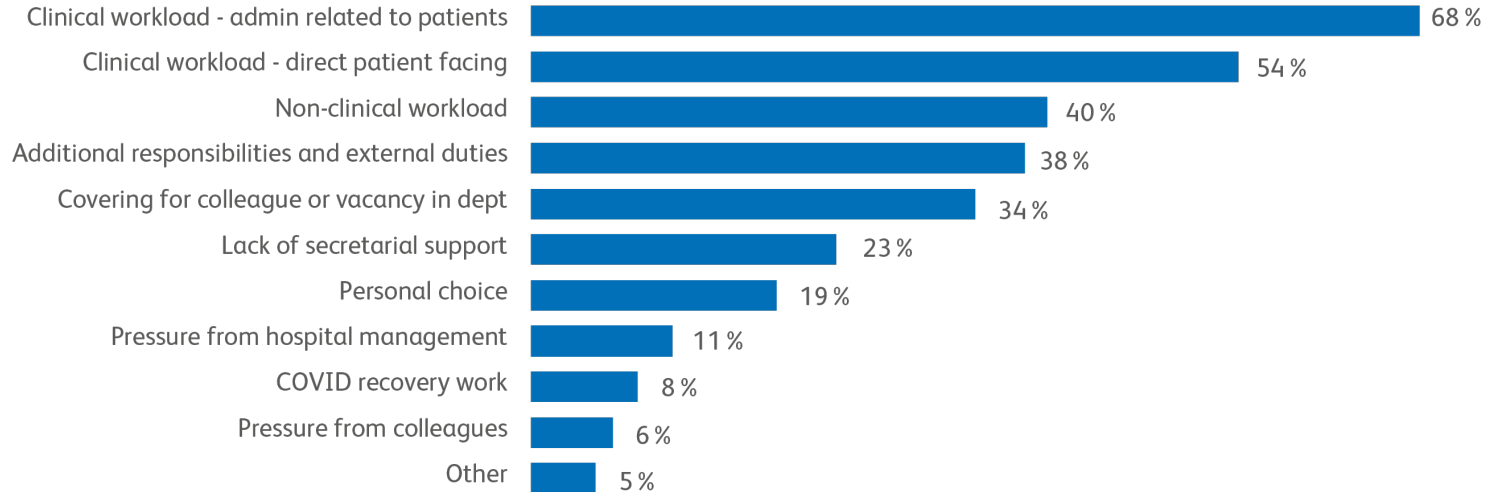
Median contracted and worked PAs



Do consultants want to work fewer, more or the same number of PAs in future?



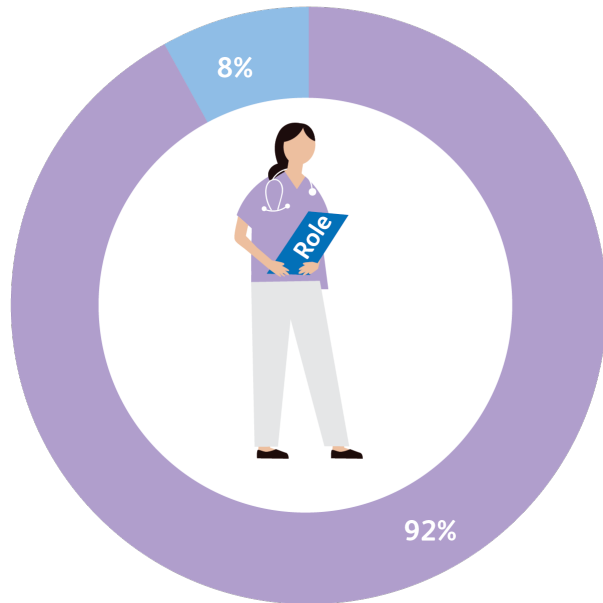
Reasons why consultants work more than their contracted hours



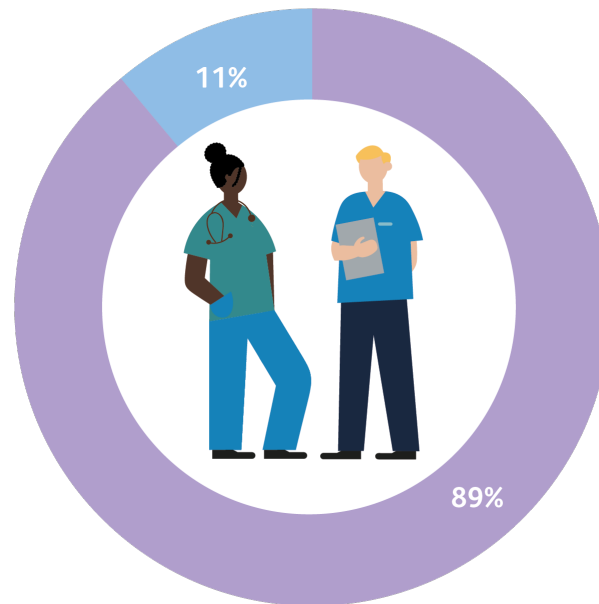
Job plans



Do consultants have current job plans?



Were job plans reviewed/agreed in the past year?



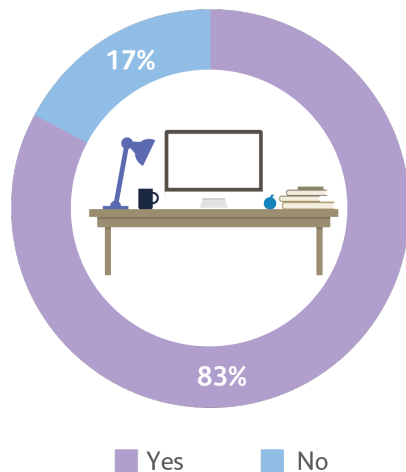
■ Yes ■ No



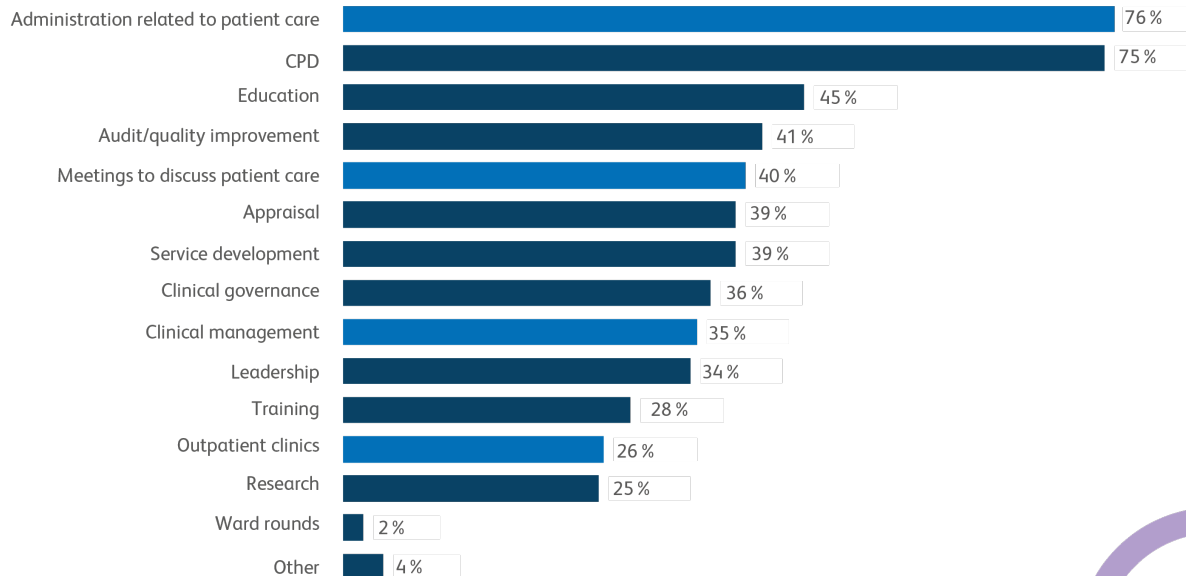
Remote working



Consultants undertaking some work remotely



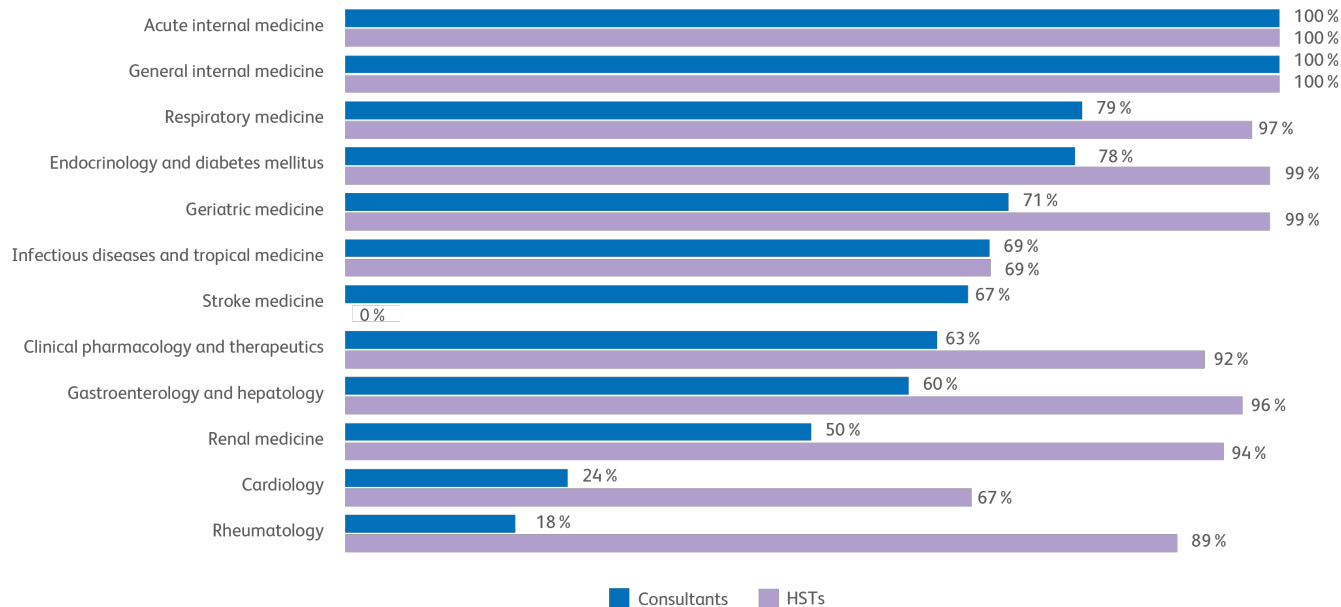
Type of work undertaken remotely



■ Activities related to clinical care



Highest-contributing specialties to acute/GIM work (based on % of doctors undertaking work, not specialty size)



No values for HSTs in stroke medicine



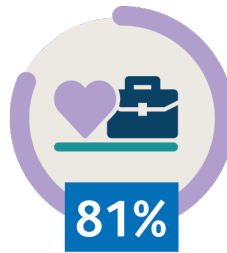
Filling the gaps



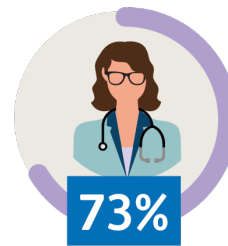
reported daily or weekly
trainee rota gaps



of consultants reported
they have at least one
consultant vacancy not
covered by a locum



reported that a consultant
vacancy went out to advert
but was not filled



felt that rota gaps have
an impact on patient care
mostly affecting access to
outpatient care



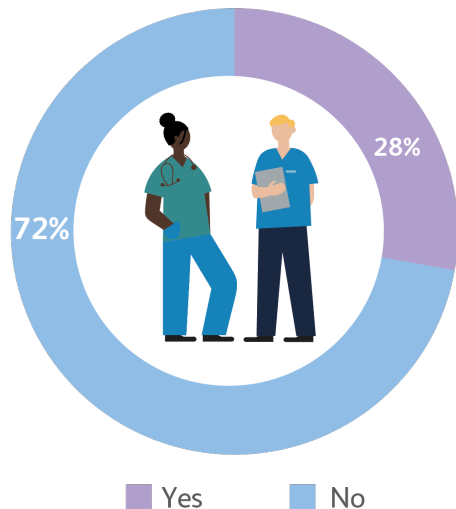
reported another health
professional being appointed
in place of a consultant



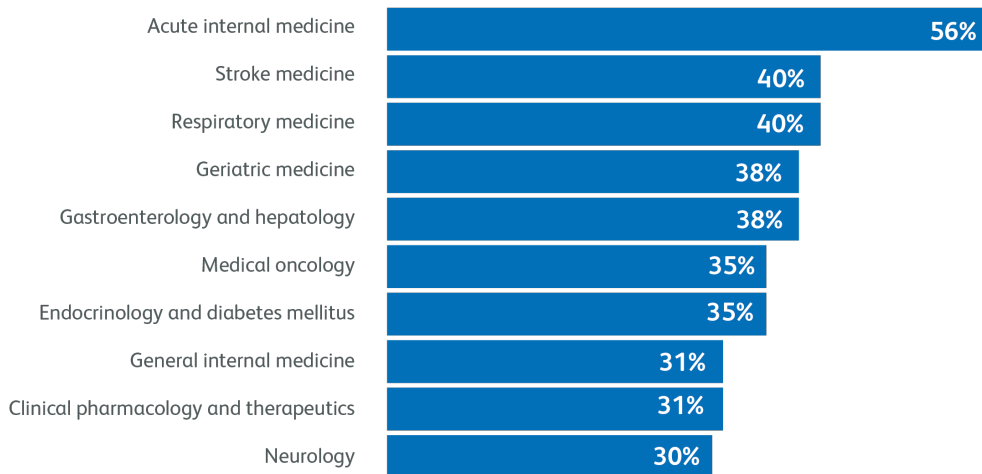
Working with physician associates



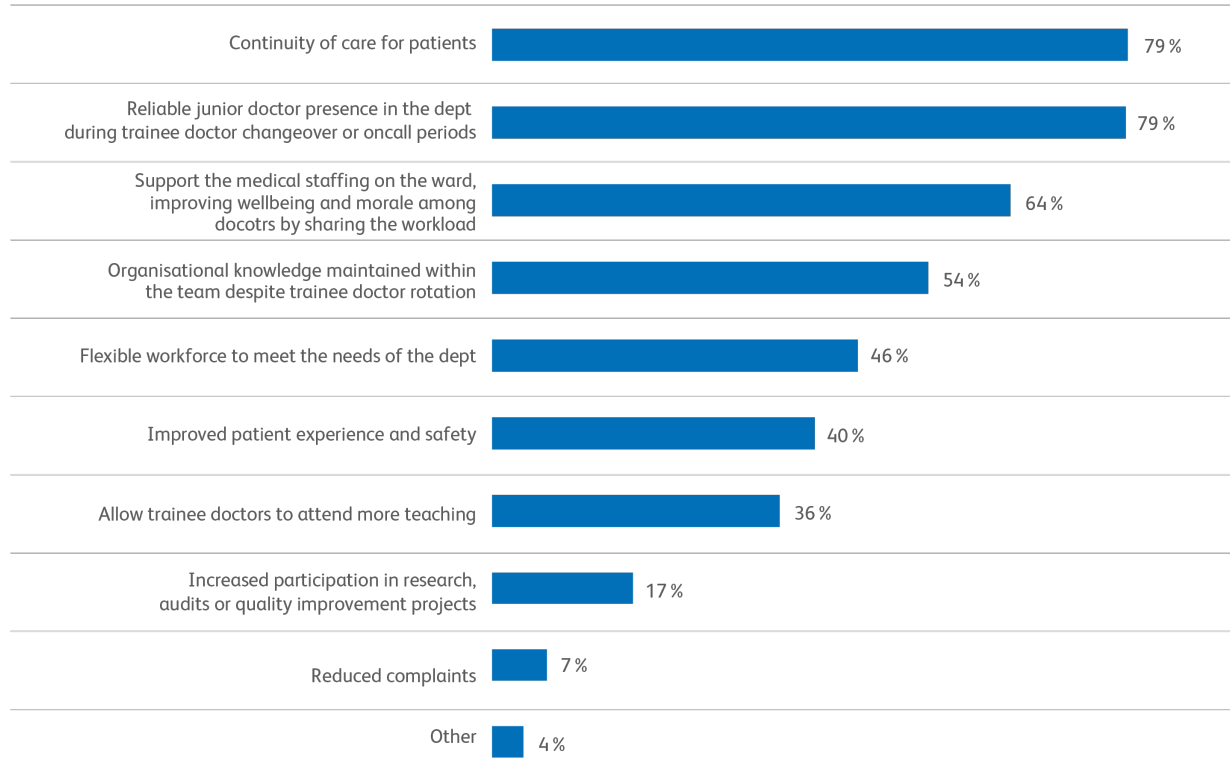
28% of consultants said they work with physician associates



Specialties that work most often with physician associates



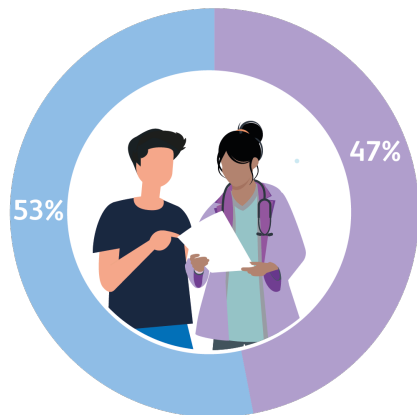
Benefits of working with physician associates



Leadership roles

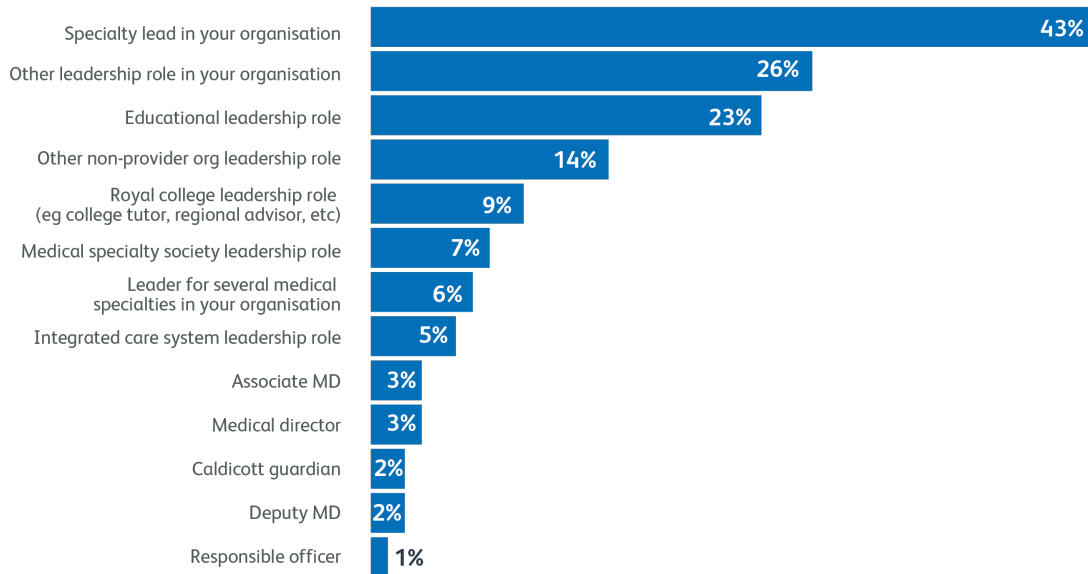


Consultants in leadership role



■ Yes
 ■ No

Type of leadership role



Taking annual leave

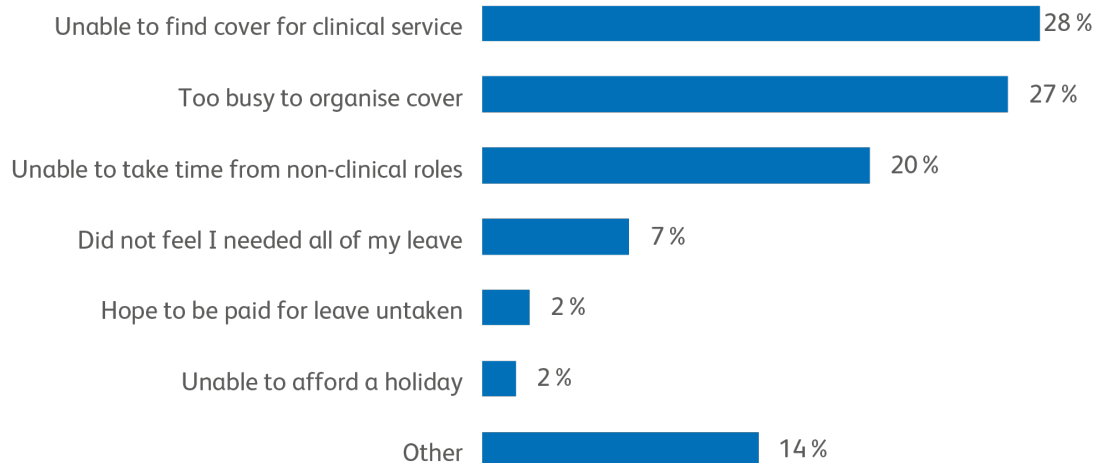


Consultants



of consultants didn't take their full annual leave allocation for the past year.

Reasons for not taking full annual leave



1 in 5 consultants are at risk of burnout

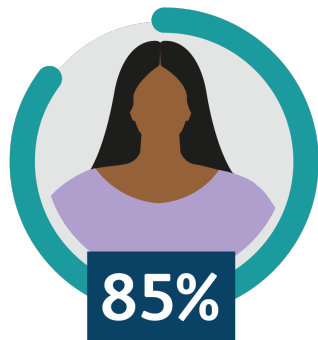


*Defined as those with three or more high scores for the negative questions in the Maslach Inventory

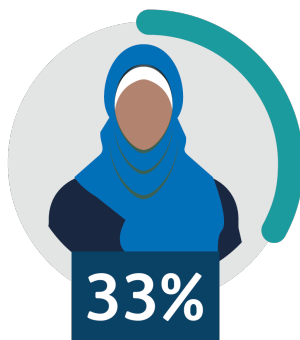


Consultants and job satisfaction

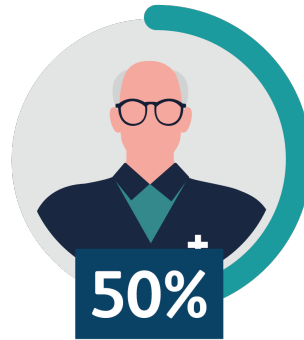
% who said they 'always' or 'often' felt satisfied with different areas of their work



Specialty



GIM



Leadership role



Educational
/training role



Royal College
of Physicians



ROYAL COLLEGE
of PHYSICIANS
of EDINBURGH

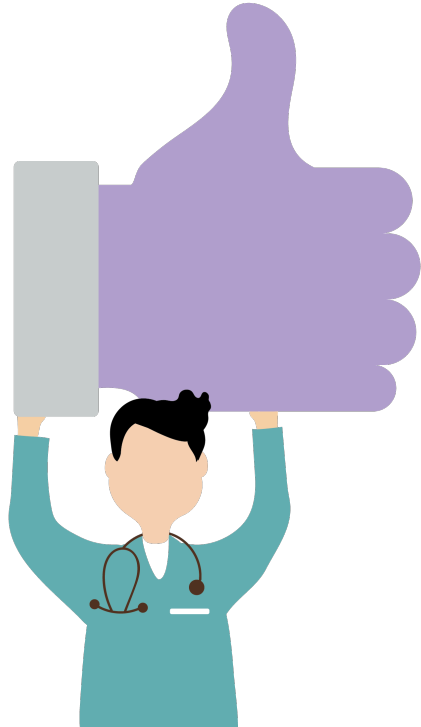


ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

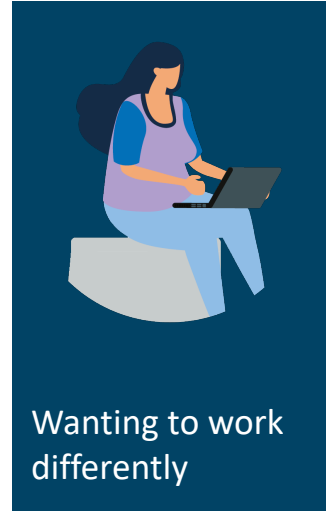
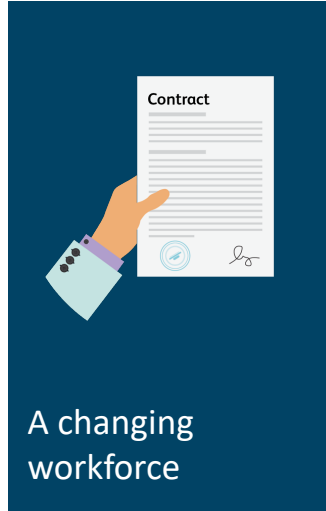


Consultants and feeling valued

% who said they felt valued 'almost always' or 'most of the time'



Key trends from the 2022 census





Do get in touch
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