

The Impact of COVID-19 on Physicians Completing Training in New York

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Center for Health Workforce Studies

- Established in 1996
- Based at the University at Albany School of Public Health
- Committed to collecting and analyzing data to understand workforce dynamics and trends
- Goal: Assisting health workforce planners to understand issues related to the supply, demand, distribution, and the use of health workers

Background

- COVID-19 had a profound impact on graduate medical education (GME)
- This was especially the case in New York City where most of the state's GME programs are located
- This study explores how the pandemic affected physicians' training, practice decisions, and their ability to search for and find a job

New York Resident Exit Survey

- New York State annually trains more than 18,000 physicians and each year more than 5,000 physicians complete a training program
- The New York Resident Exit Survey has been conducted annually since 1998 (except for 2004, 2006, and 2020)
 - A survey of all residents and fellows completing training in New York
 - Average annual response rate of 60%
- Survey collects information on demographics, upcoming practice characteristics, expected starting income, and job market experiences, among other topics

5 Pandemic Related Questions Were Added to Exit Survey in 2021 and 2022

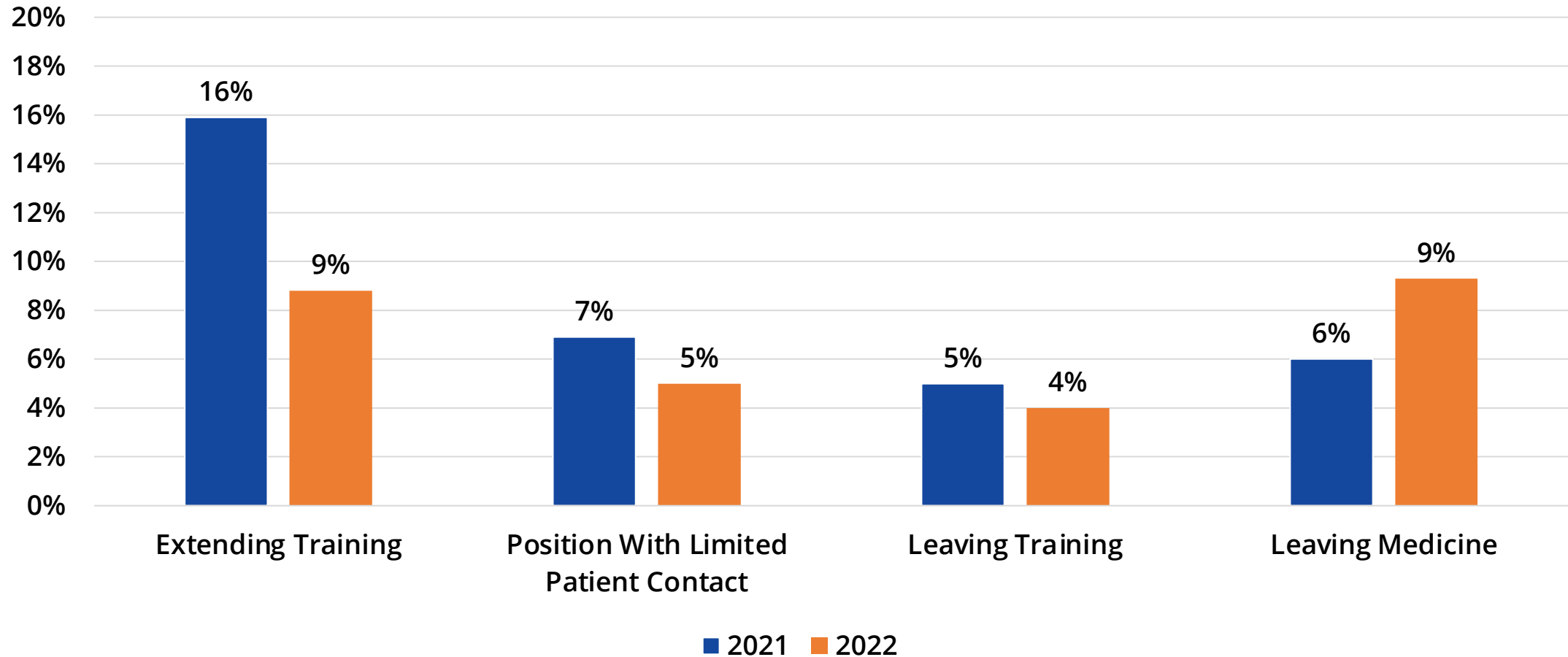
- 5 new questions were added to the Exit Survey in 2021 and 2022 about the pandemic's impact on training and the job market
 - As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, did you consider extended training, a position with limited patient contact, leaving training, or leaving medicine?
 - Was your search for a job affected by COVID-19?
 - How was your Job search affected?
 - Did COVID-19 impact your ability to find a job?
 - How was your ability to find a job affected?
- Compared the responses to these questions in 2021 and 2022

Two Logistic Regression Models on COVID-19's Impact on Physicians' Job Search and Ability to Find a Job in 2021

- Conducted 2 multivariate logistic regressions to determine which specialties were most impacted by COVID-19 in 2021
- Dependent Variables
 - Job Search
 - Ability to Find a Job
- Independent Variables
 - 25 Physician Specialties (reference category: family medicine), Location of Training, Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Age, Citizenship Status, Marital Status, Having Dependent Children, Education Debt, Having a Physician Partner, Education Type (MD/DO), HPSA Work Obligation

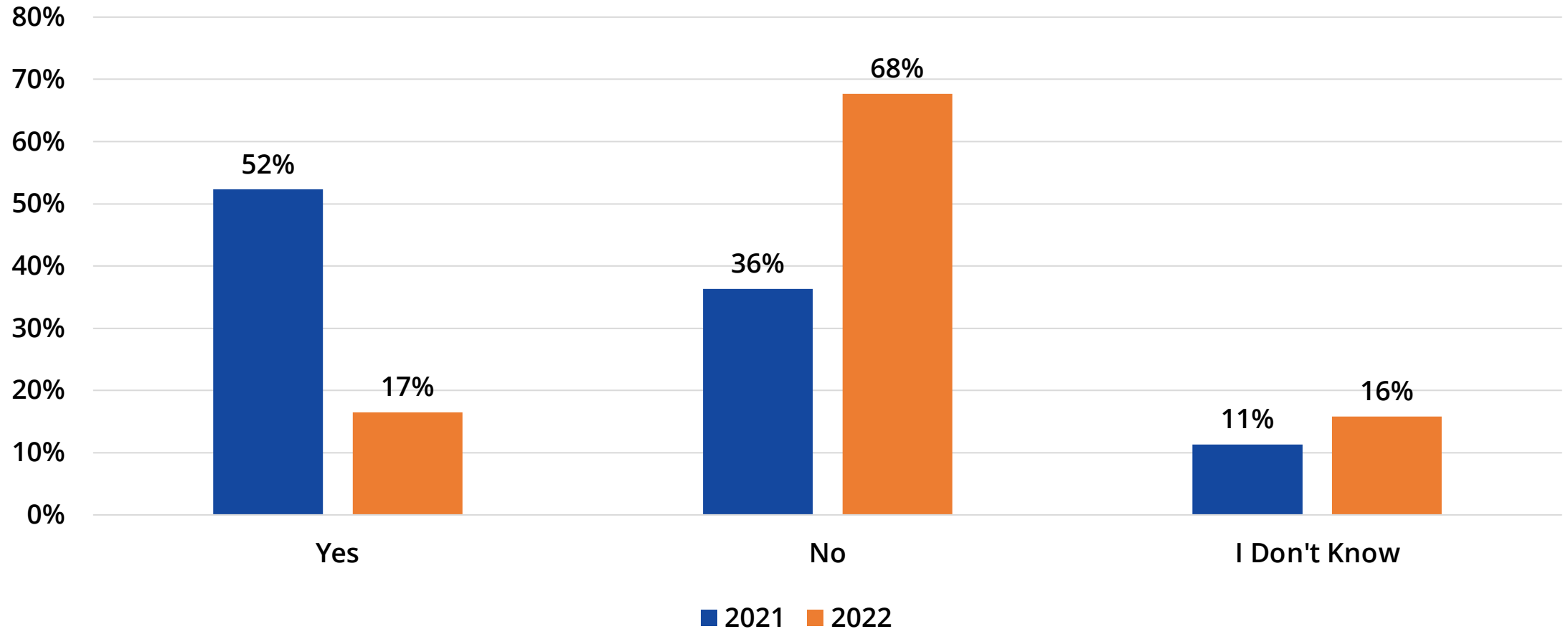
16% of Physicians Considered Extending Their Training Because of COVID-19 in 2021

As a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, I Considered:



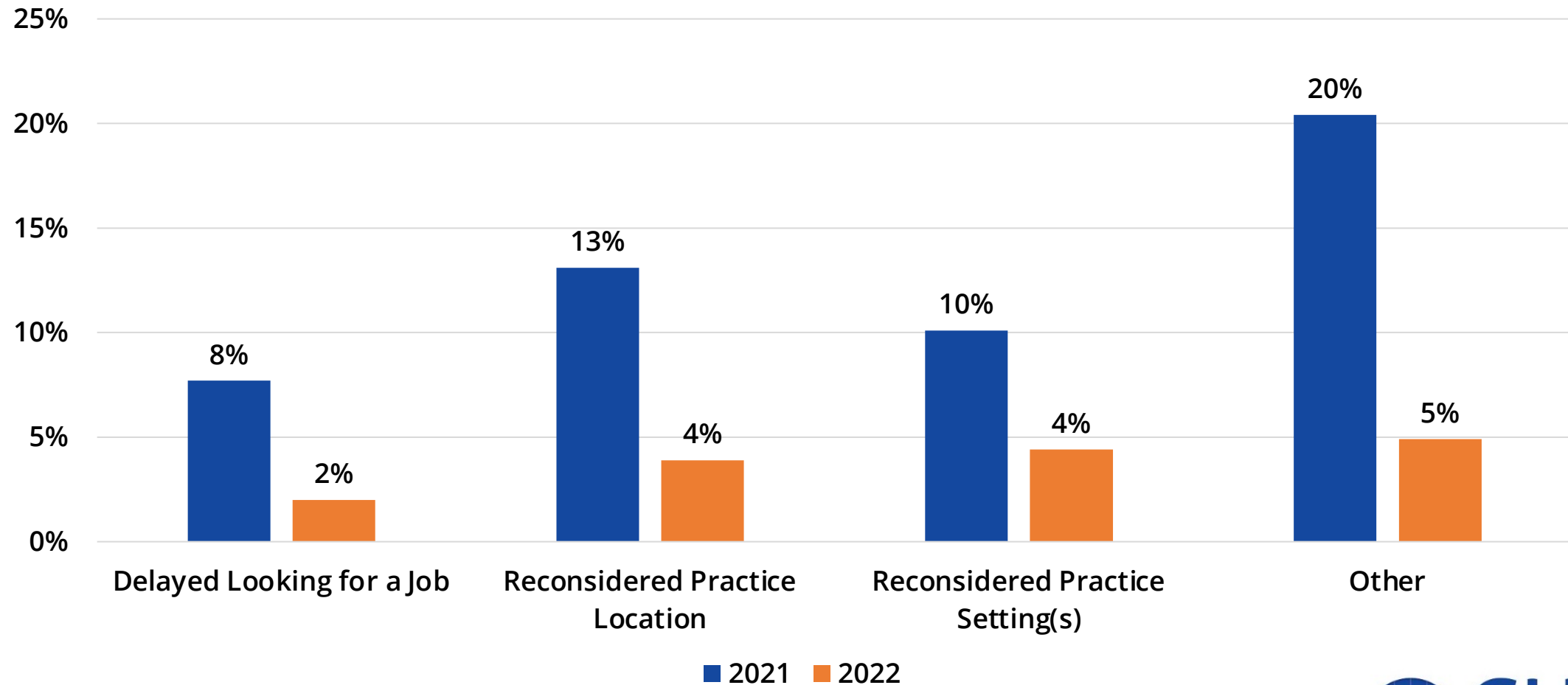
52% of Physicians Reported That Their Job Search Was Affected by COVID-19 in 2021

Was Your Search for a Job Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic?



13% of Physicians Reconsidered Their Practice Location Because of the Pandemic in 2021

How Was Your Job Search Affected?

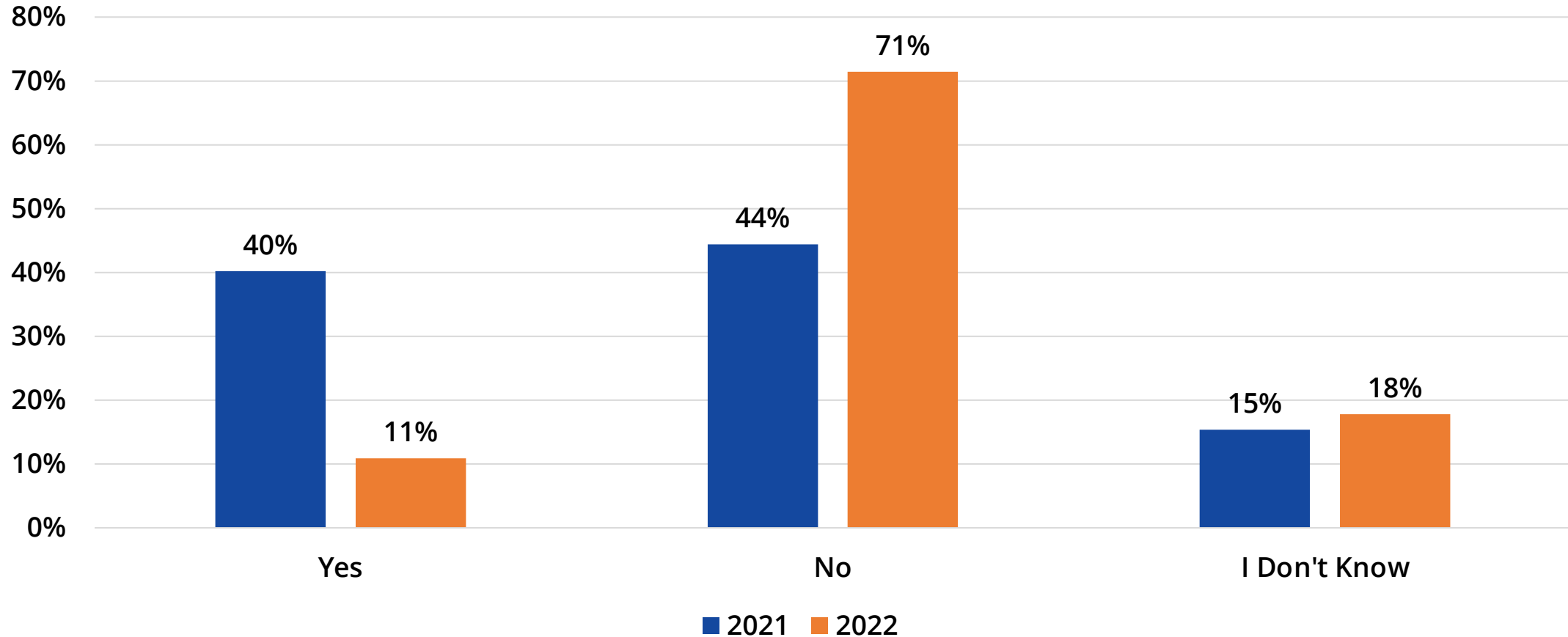


The Job Search of Emergency Medicine, Hematology/Oncology, and Gastroenterology Physicians Were Most Affected by COVID-19 in 2021

Specialties Most Impacted in 2021	<u>>65%</u>	<u>β>2.750</u>	<i>Dependent Variable: Job Search</i>
○ Emergency Medicine	91%	6.098*	<i>*P<0.05</i>
○ Hematology/Oncology	85%	4.230*	
○ Gastroenterology	83%	4.551*	
○ Pulmonary Disease	78%	3.489*	
○ Pediatric Subspecialties	77%	4.178*	
○ Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	77%	4.577*	
Specialties Least Impacted in 2021	<u><30%</u>	<u>β</u>	
○ Adult Psychiatry	29%	1.114	
○ Urology	29%	1.047	
○ Family Medicine	26%	<i>Reference Category</i>	
○ Geriatrics	22%	1.101	
○ General Surgery	17%	0.877	
• Other Significant Variables: None			

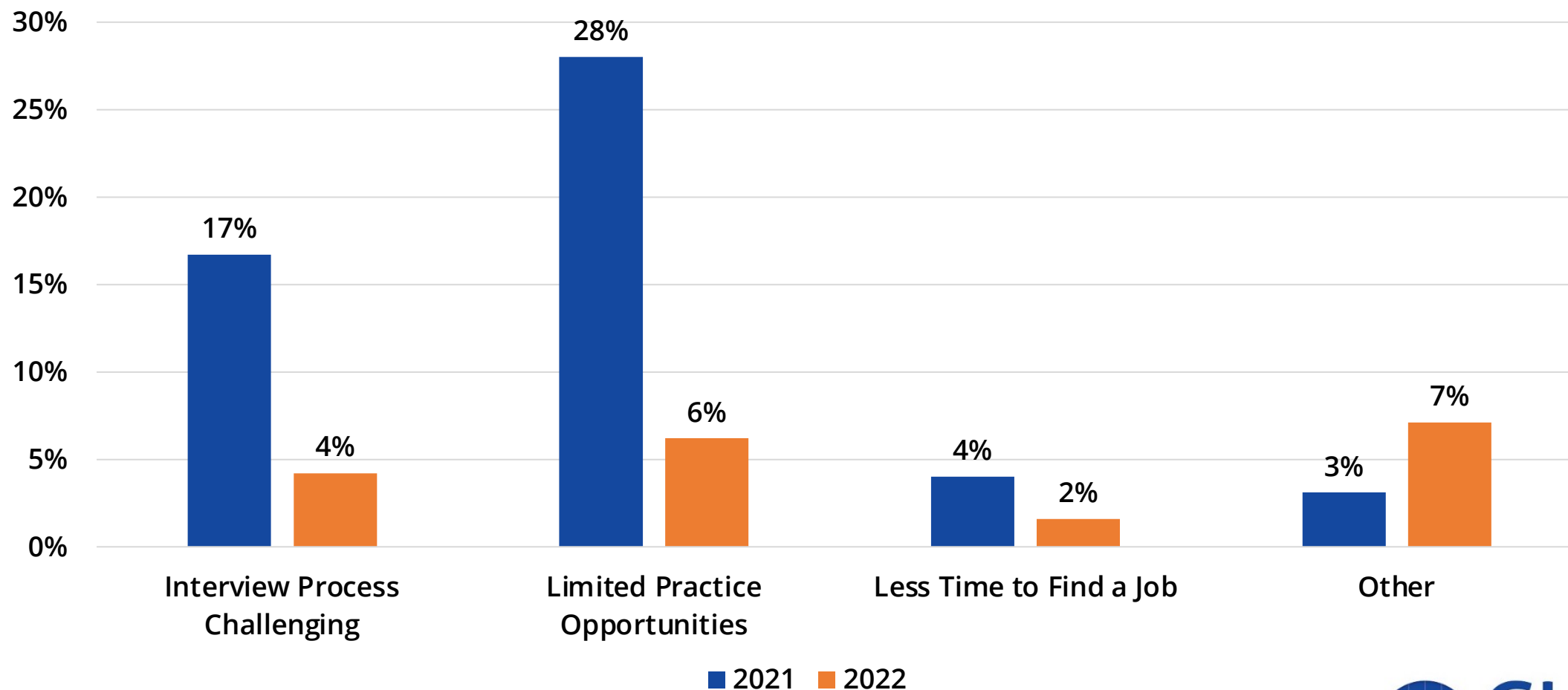
40% of Physicians Reported That Their Ability to Find a Job Was Impacted by COVID-19 in 2021

Did the COVID-19 Pandemic Impact Your Ability to Find a Job?



28% of Physicians Reported That Their Ability to Find a Job Was Impacted by a Limited Number of Practice Opportunities

How Did the COVID-19 Pandemic Impact Your Ability to Find a Job?



The Ability of Emergency Medicine Physicians to Find a Job Was Affected Most by COVID-19 in 2021

- | | <u>>55%</u> | <u>$\beta > 2.800$</u> | <i>Dependent Variable: Find a Job</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Specialty Impacted Most in 2021 | | | <i>*P<0.05</i> |
| ○ Emergency Medicine | 87% | 4.775* | |
| ○ Hematology/Oncology | 69% | 3.198* | |
| ○ Pediatric Subspecialties | 68% | 3.549* | |
| ○ Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation | 65% | 3.833* | |
| ○ Pulmonary Disease | 57% | 2.991* | |
| • Specialty Impacted Least in 2021 | <u><20%</u> | <u>β</u> | |
| ○ Family Medicine | 18% | <i>Reference Category</i> | |
| ○ Child and Adolescent Psychiatry | 18% | 0.460 | |
| ○ Obstetrics/Gynecology | 16% | 0.676 | |
| ○ Geriatrics | 11% | 1.411 | |
| ○ Anesthesiology | 10% | -0.925 | |
| ○ Adult Psychiatry | 9% | -0.249 | |
| • Other Significant Factors: Having Dependent Children (-0.499); Asian (0.551); HPSA Work Obligation (-1.662) | | | |

Summary

- Physicians were more likely to consider extending their training in 2021 than in 2022
- Physicians had more difficulty searching for and finding a job in 2021 than in 2022 because of the pandemic
- Emergency Medicine and Hematology/Oncology physicians had more difficulty searching for and finding a job than other physicians in 2021

Contact Information

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