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INTRODUCTION

- The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on graduate medical education (GME) in the US
- This study explores COVID-19's effect on the job market for new physicians by examining 5 job market indicators between the years 2018-2022

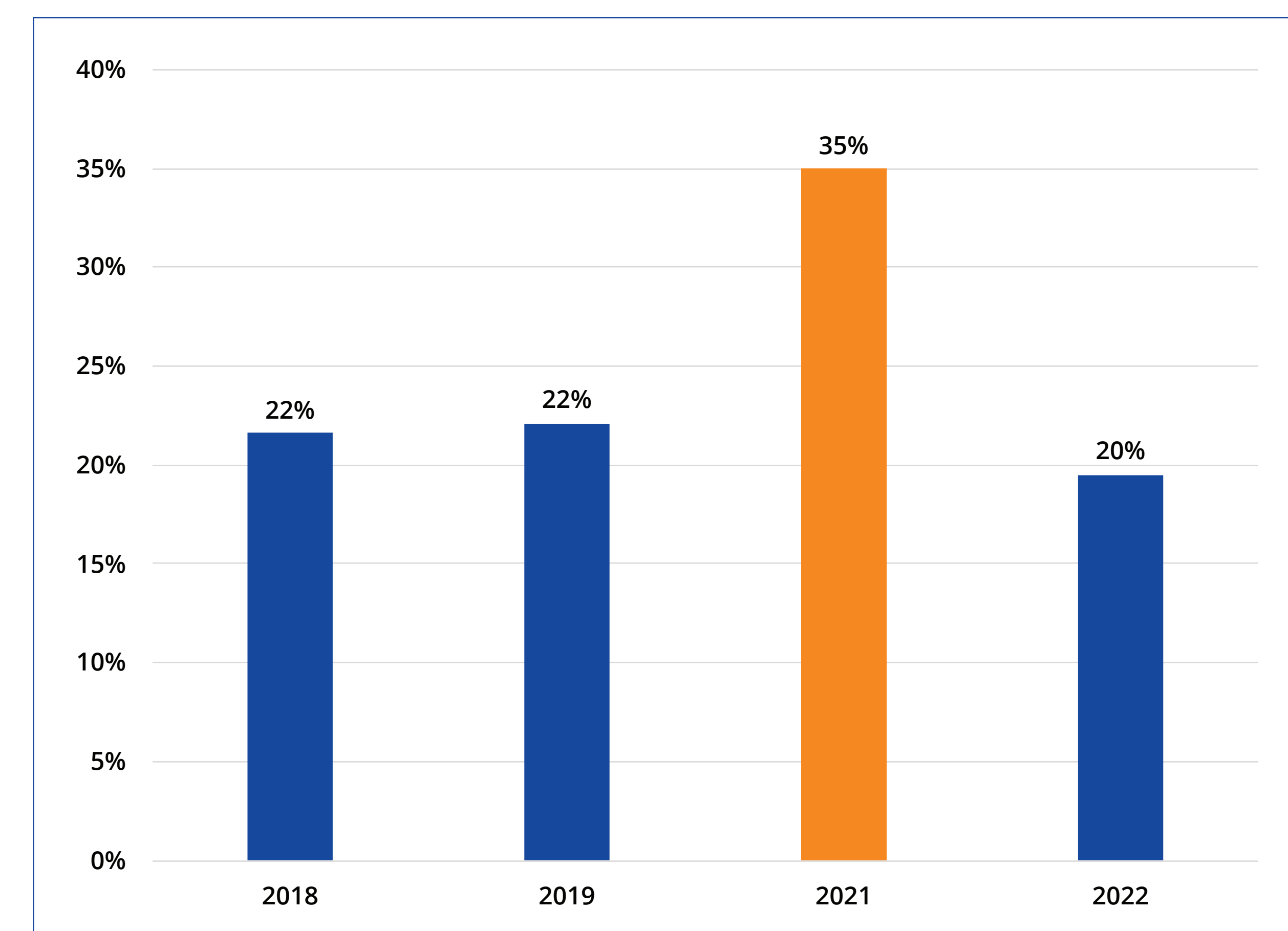
METHODS

- Primary data source: New York Resident Exit Survey
 - Annual survey of physicians completing residency or fellowship training in New York State
 - Conducted in collaboration with teaching hospitals in the state since 1998
 - New York annually trains >18,000 physicians and >5,000 physicians complete a training program each year
 - Annual response rate is approximately 60%
 - Survey collects extensive information on new physicians' demographic and education characteristics, post-training plans, and job market experiences
- Survey data from 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022 were included in the analysis
 - Survey was not conducted in 2020 due to pandemic disruptions
 - Only physicians who had actively searched for a job were included in the analysis
 - International medical graduates (IMGs) on temporary visas were also excluded due to practice restrictions
- Study compares the responses to 5 questions about the job market across the last 4 years of data:
 - Difficulty finding a practice position
 - Main reason for difficulty
 - Having to change plans due to limited practice opportunities
 - Number of job offers received
 - Assessment of the regional job market
 - Assessment of the national job market
- A series of multivariate regression models were run on the 5 job market indicators
 - Explanatory variables for the regression analysis included physician specialty, demographic characteristics, education debt, and location of training

RESULTS

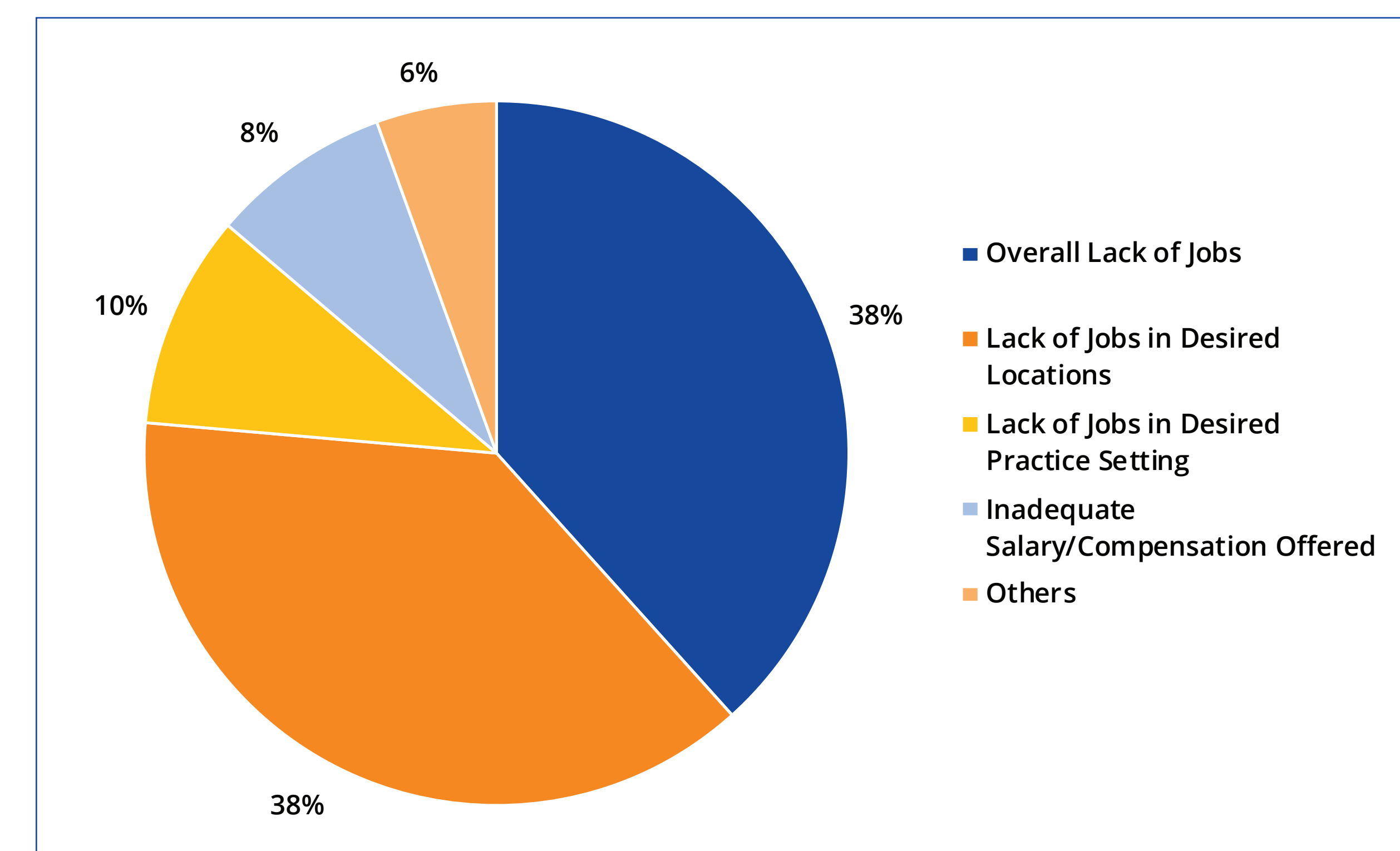
Thirty-five percent of physicians reported they had difficulty finding a satisfactory practice position in 2021

FIGURE 1. Percent of Physicians Having Difficulty Finding a Satisfactory Practice Position



Overall lack of jobs and lack of jobs in desired locations were main reasons for difficulty finding a satisfactory practice position in 2021

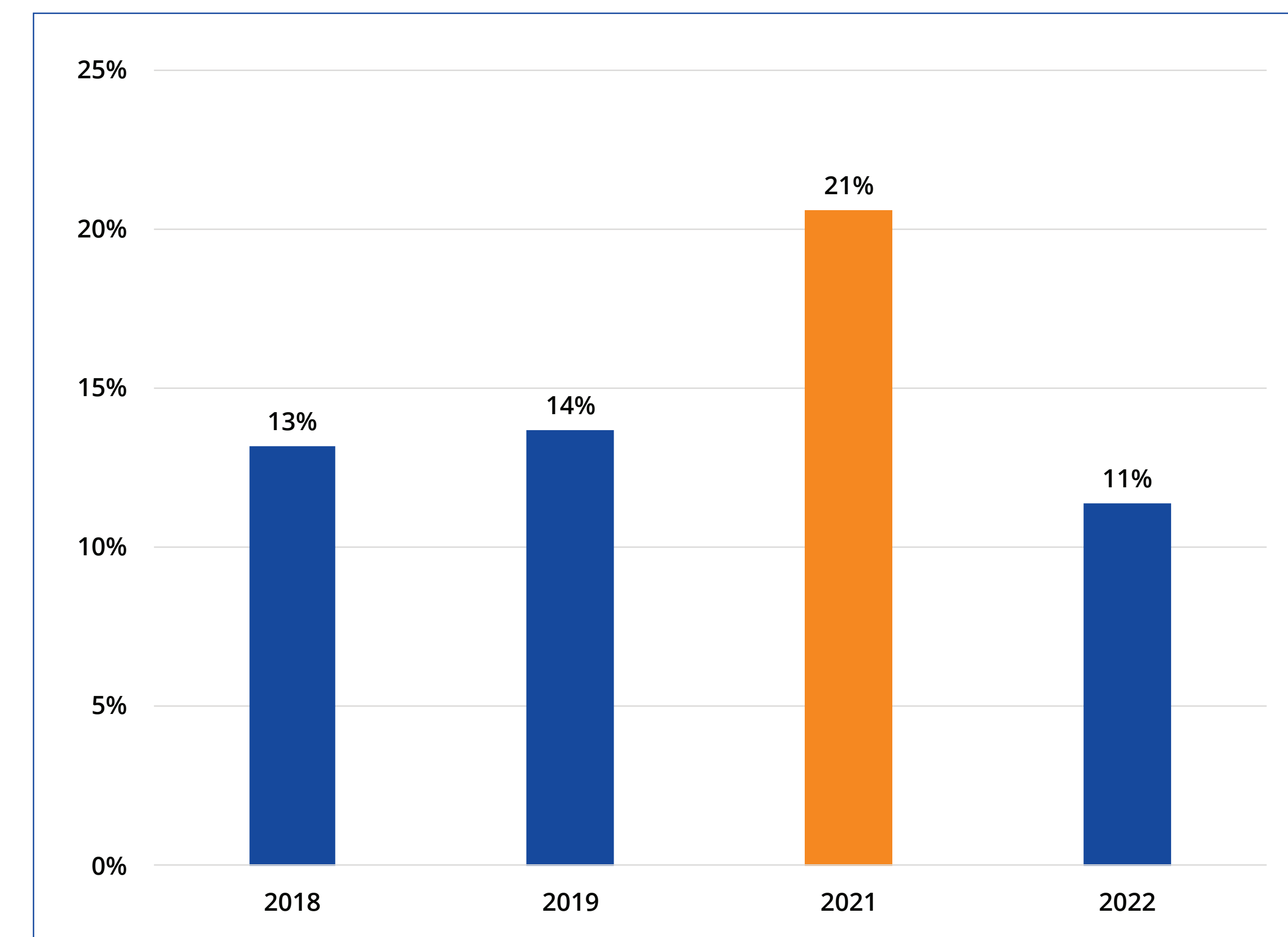
FIGURE 2. Main Reason for Difficulty Finding a Satisfactory Practice Position, 2021



RESULTS

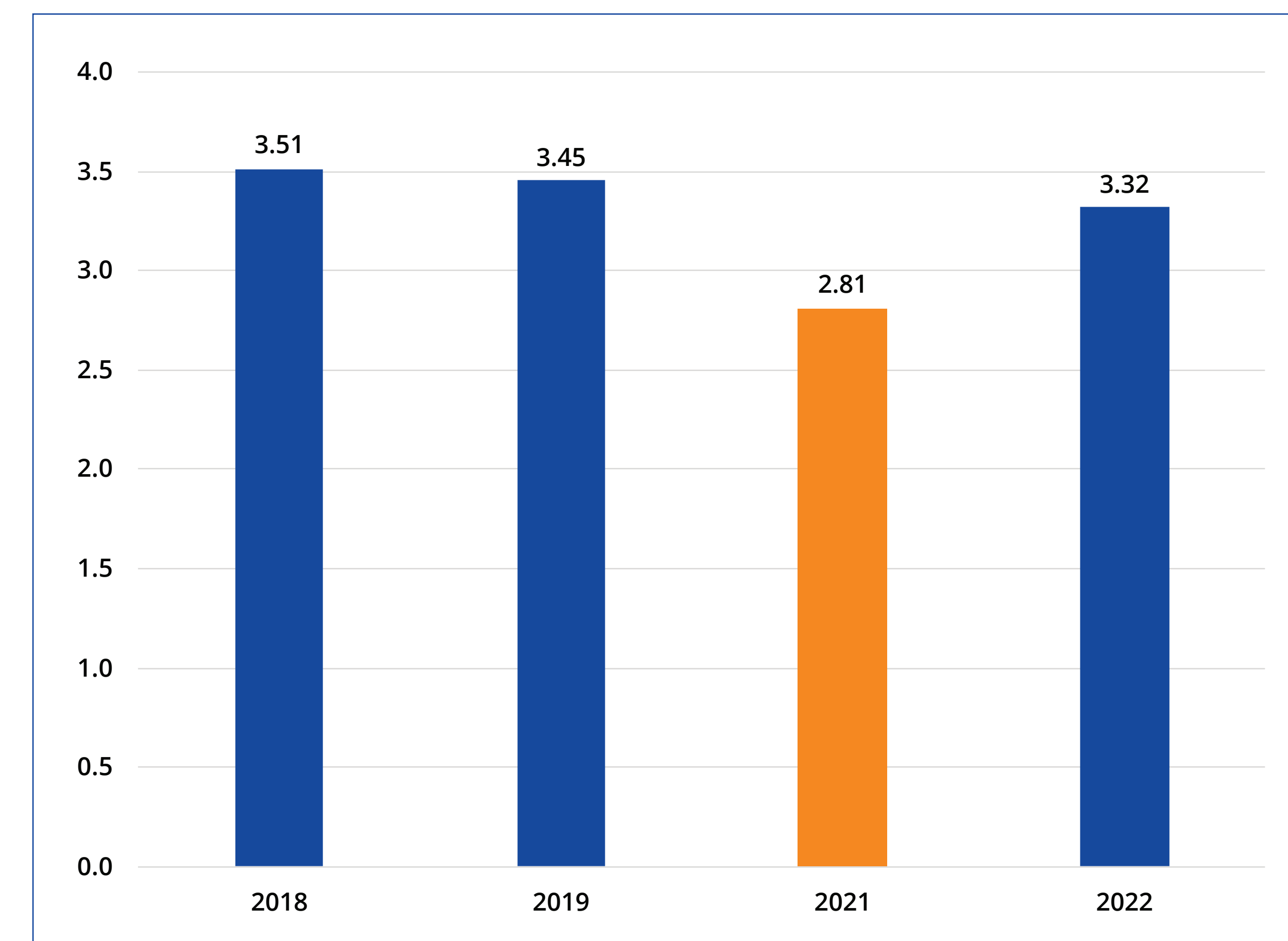
Twenty-one percent of physicians reported that they had to change plans due to limited practice opportunities in 2021

FIGURE 3. Percentage of Physicians Having to Change Plans Due to Limited Practice Opportunities



Physicians had less than 3 job offers on average in 2021

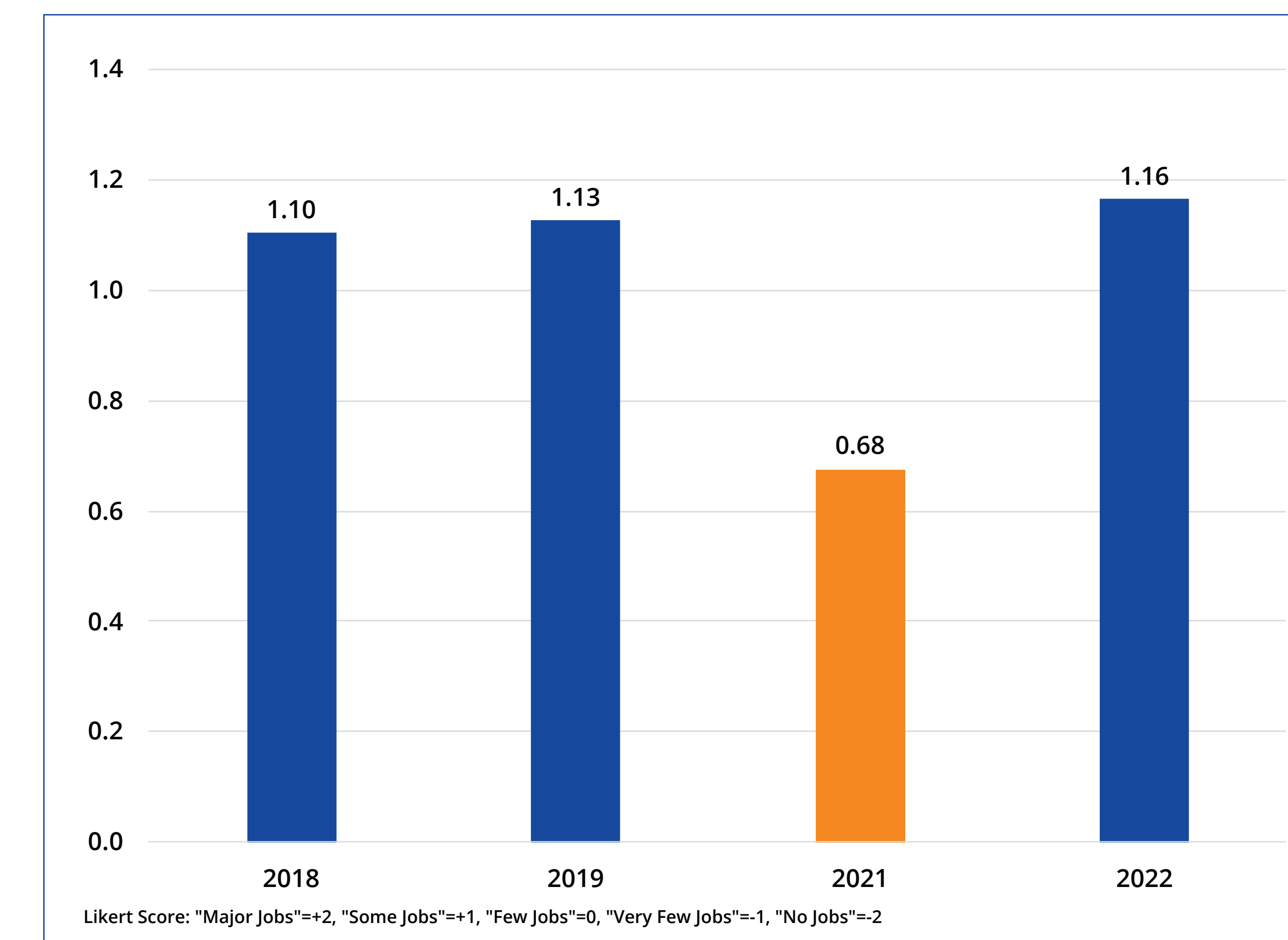
FIGURE 4. Mean Number of Offers for Employment/Practice Opportunities



RESULTS

Physicians indicated that the regional job market had few/some jobs in 2021

FIGURE 5. Mean Likert Scores for Assessment of the Regional Job Market



Half (50%) of physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians had to change plans due to limited practice opportunities in 2021

TABLE 1. Results From Logistic Regression on Having to Change Plans Due to Limited Practice Opportunities, 2021

Specialties (Most Impacted)	% Having to Change Plans Due to Limited Opportunities	β (*p<0.05)
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	50%	3.411*
Geriatrics	44%	4.406*
Emergency Medicine	44%	3.032*
Pulmonary Disease	39%	3.383*
Cardiology Subspecialties	35%	3.315*
Specialties (Least Impacted)		
Neurology	14%	0.364
Family Medicine	13%	Reference Category
Dermatology	12%	1.675
Obstetrics/Gynecology	10%	1.814
Adult Psychiatry	6%	0.000
Anesthesiology	3%	0.91

CONCLUSIONS

- In 2021, physicians had more difficulty finding a satisfactory practice position compared to other years, mainly due to an overall lack of jobs and a lack of jobs in desired locations
- Physicians were more likely to change plans due to limited practice opportunities and had a fewer number of job offers in 2021 compared to other years
- The regional and national job markets for new physicians were less favorable in 2021
- Job market indicators in 2022 for new physicians were comparable to the job market indicators in 2018 and 2019 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic

REFERENCE

Pang J, Armstrong D. 2022 *New York Residency Training Outcomes: A Summary of Responses to the 2022 New York Resident Exit Survey*. Rensselaer, NY: Center for Health Workforce Studies, School of Public Health, SUNY Albany; March 2023.

