



INTRODUCTION:

- Ontario has a rapidly aging population
- The utilization of ophthalmic services is highest amongst older individuals
- To better prepare for projected human resource demands, this study investigated the supply, practice characteristics and demographic characteristics of Ontario's ophthalmologists

METHODS:

- Using validated healthcare databases, the supply of ophthalmologists in Ontario from 2010-2019 within different areas of care was evaluated and reported using descriptive statistics
- Ophthalmologists were categorized into different areas of care using exact billing code criteria
- Billing code definitions underwent a thorough verification process with specialists in the field
- Cohort demographics including sex and career stage were also detailed
- Trends over time were examined

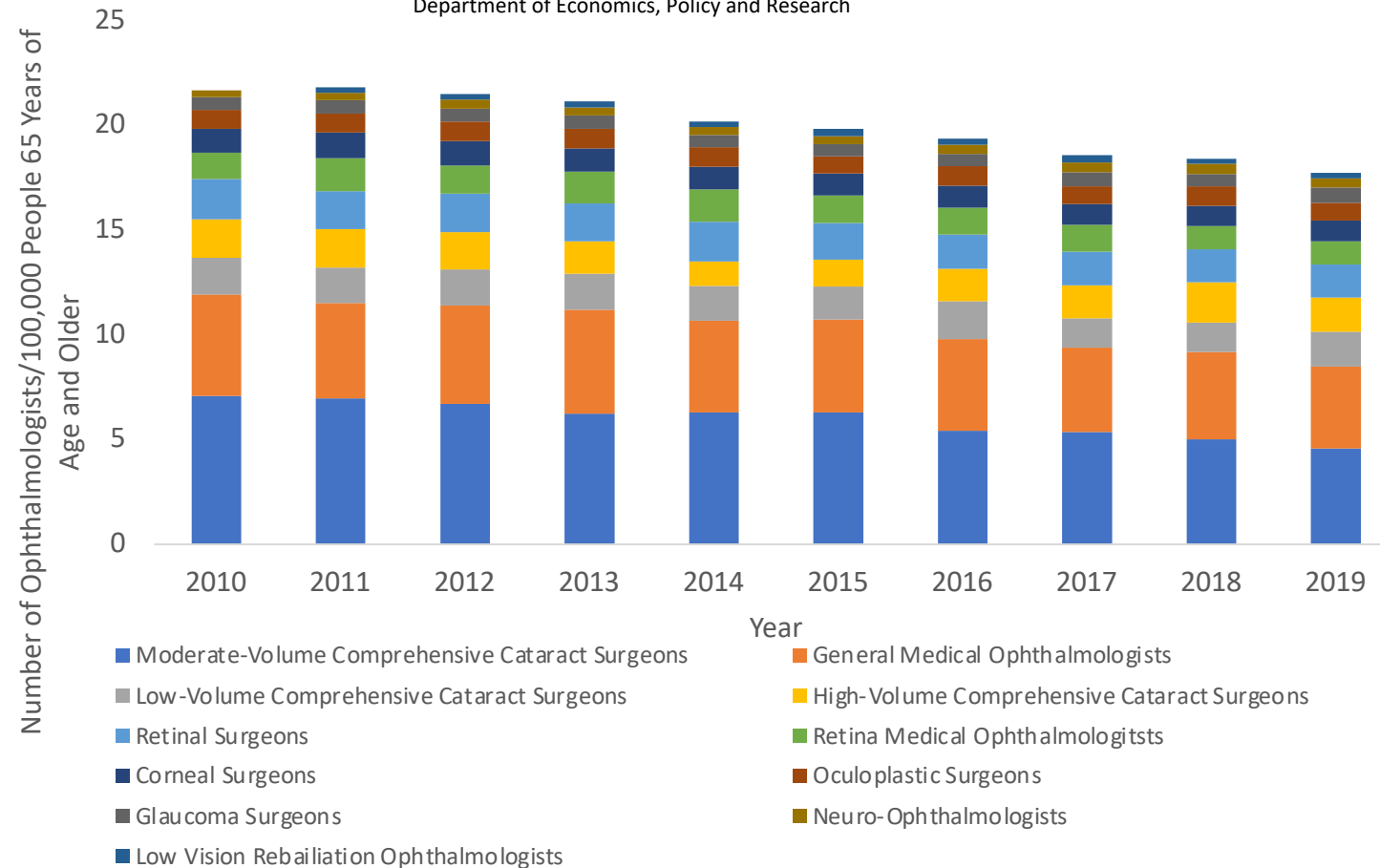


Figure 1: Number of ophthalmologists/100,000 people >=65 years old

RESULTS:

- Yearly median of 464 ophthalmologists in Ontario
- Comprehensive ophthalmologists who performed cataract surgery was the most common area of care (yearly median=199)
- The number of ophthalmologists/100,000 people remained stable over the study period (3.27 in 2019, +0.7%)
- The number of ophthalmologists/100,000 people 65 years of age and older decreased by 18.4% over the period (**Figure 1**)
- Moderate-volume comprehensive cataract surgeons experienced the greatest supply reduction
- The proportion of female ophthalmologists increased from 18.7% to 24.1% over the study period
- Late-career ophthalmologists (55+) increased by 6.4% over the period and made up 45.3% of the workforce (2019)

CONCLUSIONS:

- Between 2010 and 2019, the overall number of ophthalmologists in Ontario remained stable
- Declines for most areas of care were evidenced relative to the population 65 years of age and older
- Almost half the ophthalmology workforce is over 55 years of age and there have been substantial declines in the number of ophthalmologists per 100,000 individuals 65 years of age and older



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