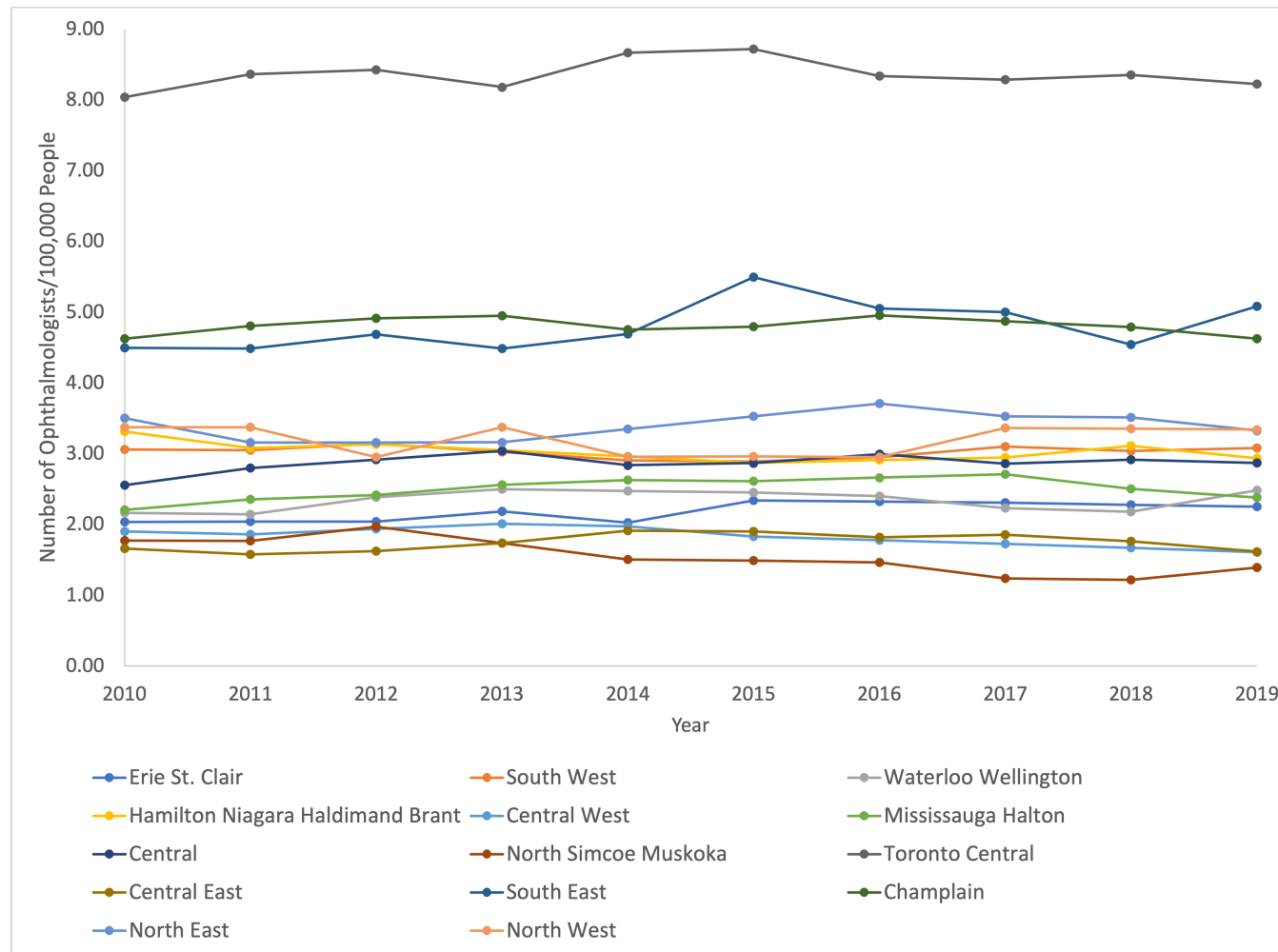


**INTRODUCTION:**

- It is important that there is adequate provision of generalist and subspecialty ophthalmic services to meet population demands in Ontario
- It is important that decisions regarding the future size of academic residency and fellowship programs are data-driven and consider regional population needs
- To better prepare for the future delivery of ophthalmic services in the province, this study aimed to explore the geographical distribution of Ontario's ophthalmologists from 2010-2019

**METHODS:**

- Using validated healthcare databases, all actively practicing ophthalmologists in Ontario from 2010-2019 were identified
- Ophthalmologists were categorized into their respective area of care and then sorted into one of the province's fourteen Local Health Integrative Networks (LHINs) using billing data
- The proportion of ophthalmologists in each LHIN, overall supply of ophthalmologists in each LHIN (**Figure 1**), supply of generalist and subspecialty ophthalmologists in each LHIN, and changes over time were examined using descriptive statistics



**RESULTS:** **Figure 1: Number of ophthalmologists/100,000 people in each LHIN**

- Yearly median of 295 generalist and 158 subspecialty ophthalmologists in Ontario
- LHINs with academic programs were generally well serviced
- Erie St. Clair had lowest supply of generalists; North Simcoe Muskoka & Central East had lowest subspecialist supply
- Low vision rehabilitation specialists, neuro-ophthalmologists and pediatric ophthalmologists were available in only 5, 6 and 7 of the 14 LHINs, respectively

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- Significant geographic disparities in ophthalmologist supply remain across Ontario
- Evidence-based recommendations are needed to ensure the recruitment of generalist and subspecialty ophthalmologists in key areas to meet population needs



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