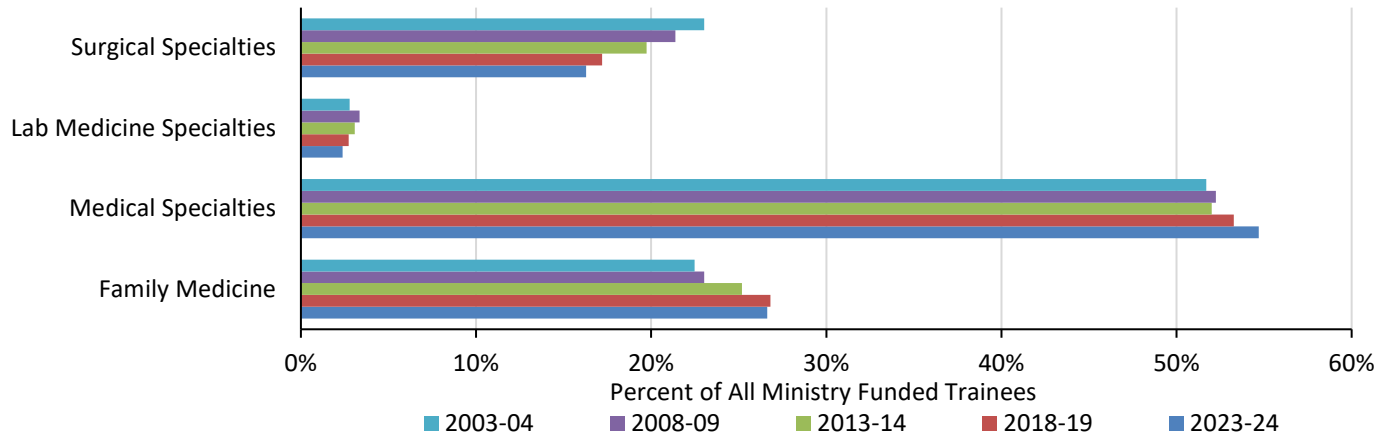


Trends in Canadian Postgraduate Medical Education: Ministry vs. Non-Ministry Funded Trainees by broad specialty of training

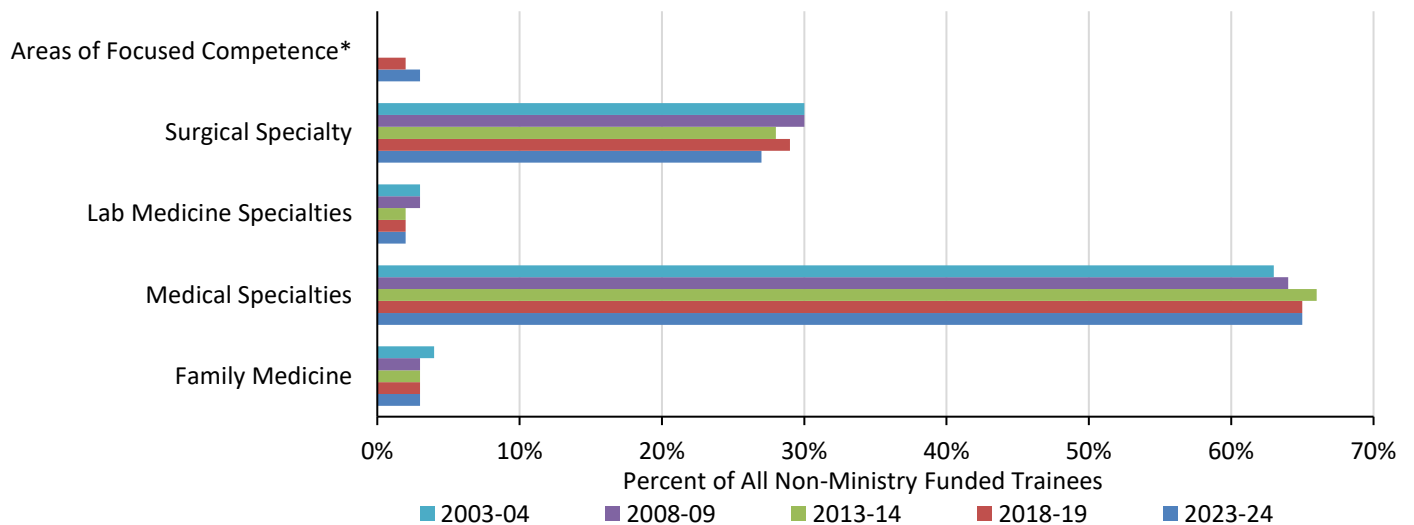
The 2023-24 CAPER Census is now available on our website ([link](#)). The landscape of medical education in Canada is continuously evolving, driven by the dynamic needs of our healthcare system and the aspirations of our future medical professionals. This fact sheet provides an overview of the trends in ministry-funded postgraduate training programs, focusing on the distribution of trainees by broad specialty of training by funding sources. It highlights key changes and growth patterns over the last two decades.

Ministry funded postgraduate trainees by broad specialty of training



Over the years, training in Family Medicine has increased from 22% in 2003-04 to 27% in 2023-24, and Medical Specialties have risen from 52% to 55%. Lab Medicine Specialties have remained stable, slightly decreasing from 3% to 2%. The most significant change is in Surgical Specialties, which have declined from 23% to 16%. Overall, the trend indicates a growing focus on Family Medicine and Medical Specialties, while training in Surgical Specialties has decreased over the years.

Non-Ministry funded postgraduate trainees by broad specialty of training



*Data collection on Areas of Focused Competence started in 2016/17.

From 2003-04 to 2023-24, the distribution of non-ministry funded postgraduate trainees has shown notable patterns. Family Medicine has remained stable at around 3%, while Medical Specialties have consistently had the highest percentage, ranging between 63% and 66%. Lab Medicine Specialties have slightly decreased from 3% to 2%. Significant changes are seen in Surgical Specialties, which declined from 30% to 27%, and Areas of Focused Competence, which were not present in earlier years, have emerged and stabilized at around 3% in recent years. Overall, Medical Specialties remain the most enrolled broad field of training among non-ministry funded postgraduate trainees, with other specialties experiencing minor fluctuations over the years.