

A Decade of Research on Nurse Practitioners in Ontario: Information, Insights and Impact

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INFORMATION

INSIGHTS

from research

IMPACT

of research on policy, education, and practice

CRaNR STUDIES

Nurse Practitioner Tracking Study (2006-2010)

Nurse Practitioner Workforce Survey and NPAO Electronic Registry Project (2004-2005)

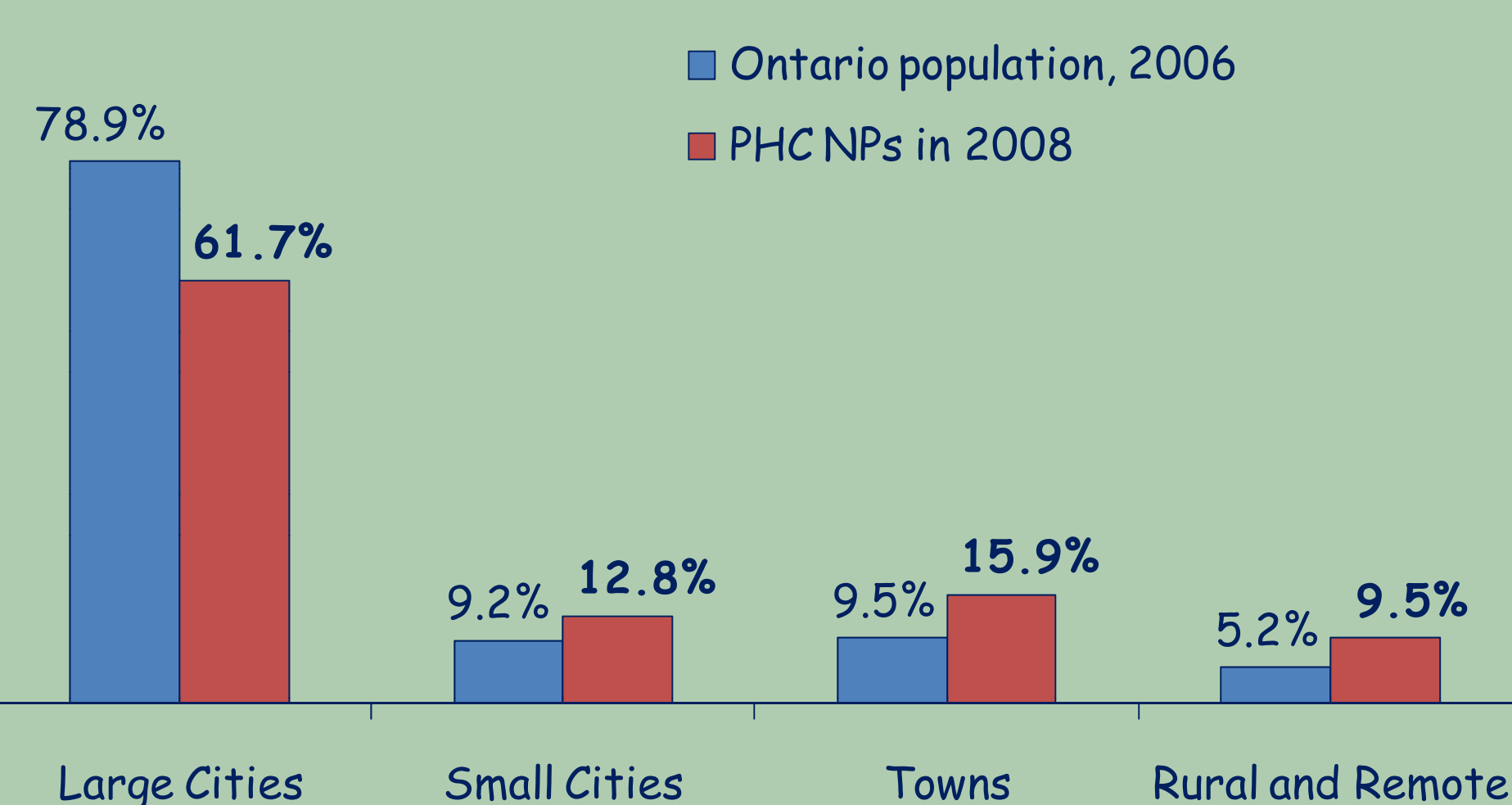
An Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Continuing Education Implementation (2004)

Assessing Continuing Education Needs of Nurse Practitioners in Northern and Rural Ontario (2002)

Multi-year Tracking Study of Students and Graduates of the Nurse Practitioner Education Program in Ontario (1995-2002)

SOME MAJOR FINDINGS ABOUT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NURSE PRACTITIONERS (PHC NPs)

Distribution of PHC NPs and Population by Urban-Rural Category, Ontario, 2008

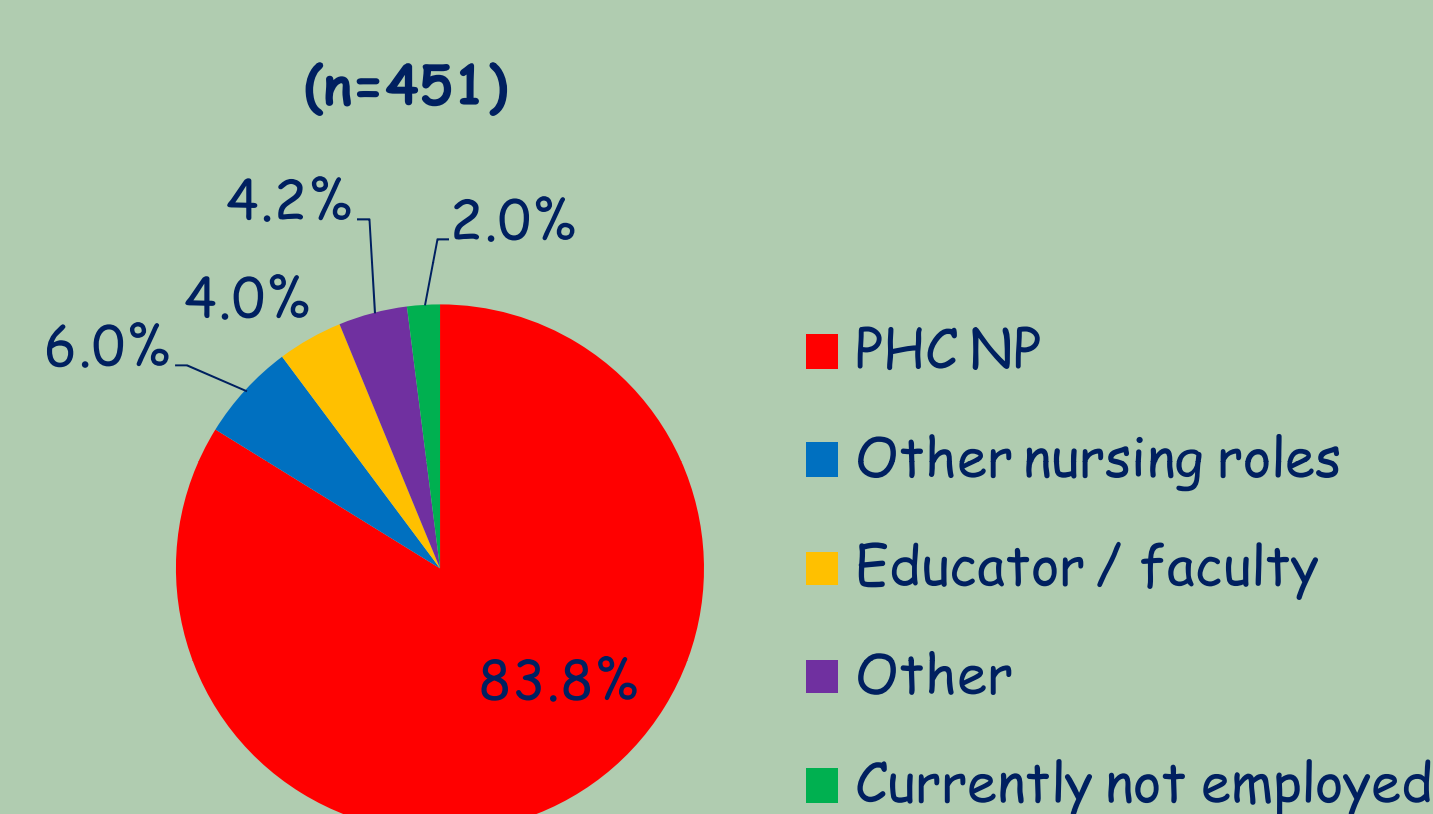


PHC NPs' Main Practice Settings, 2008

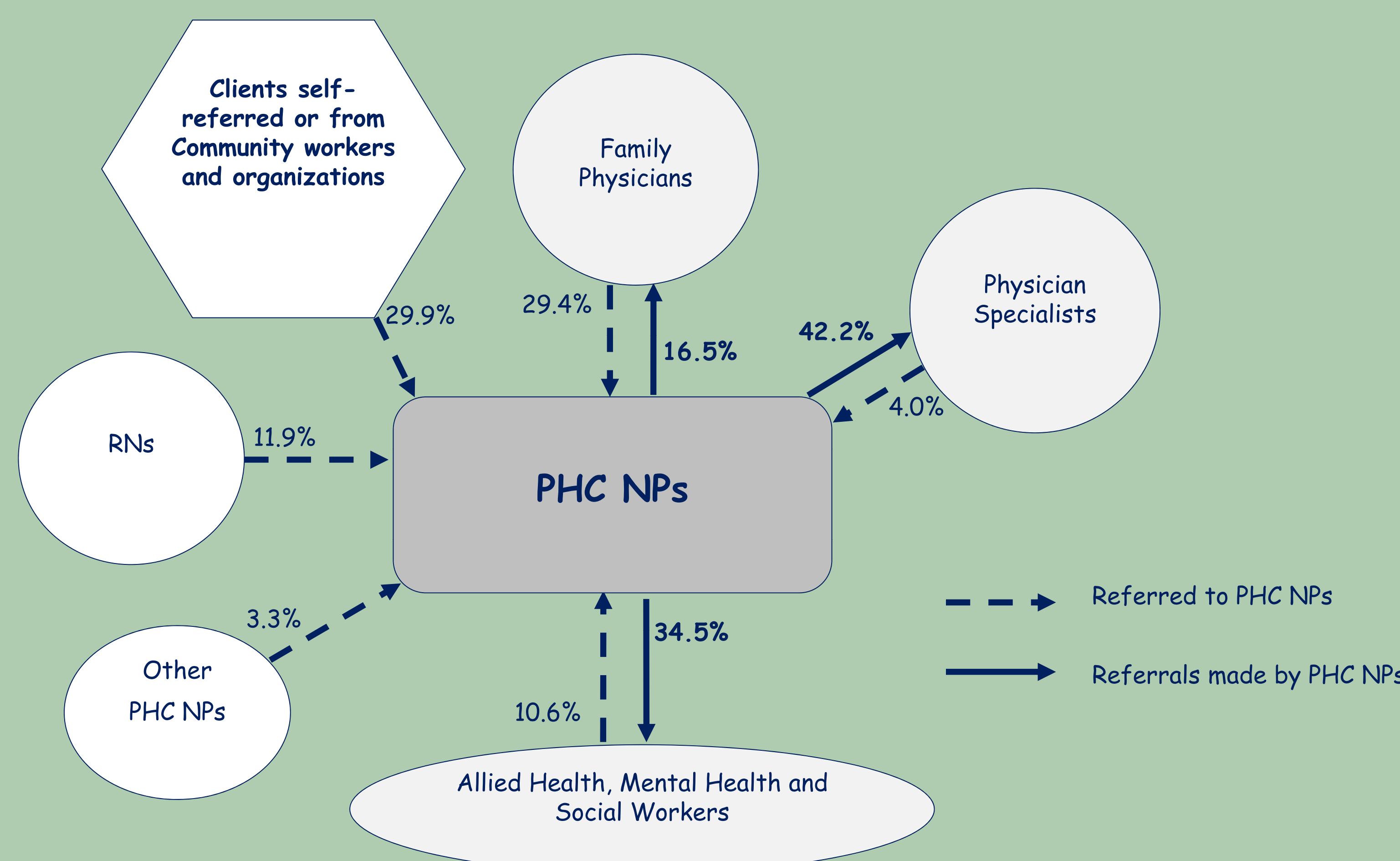


- Concern expressed by surveyed NPs in 2008: PHC NPs were unable to prescribe many lab and diagnostic tests that were deemed necessary for their patients because those drugs and tests were not on current schedules.
- In 2008, 77% of surveyed NPs rated their collaboration with family physicians as highly satisfactory.

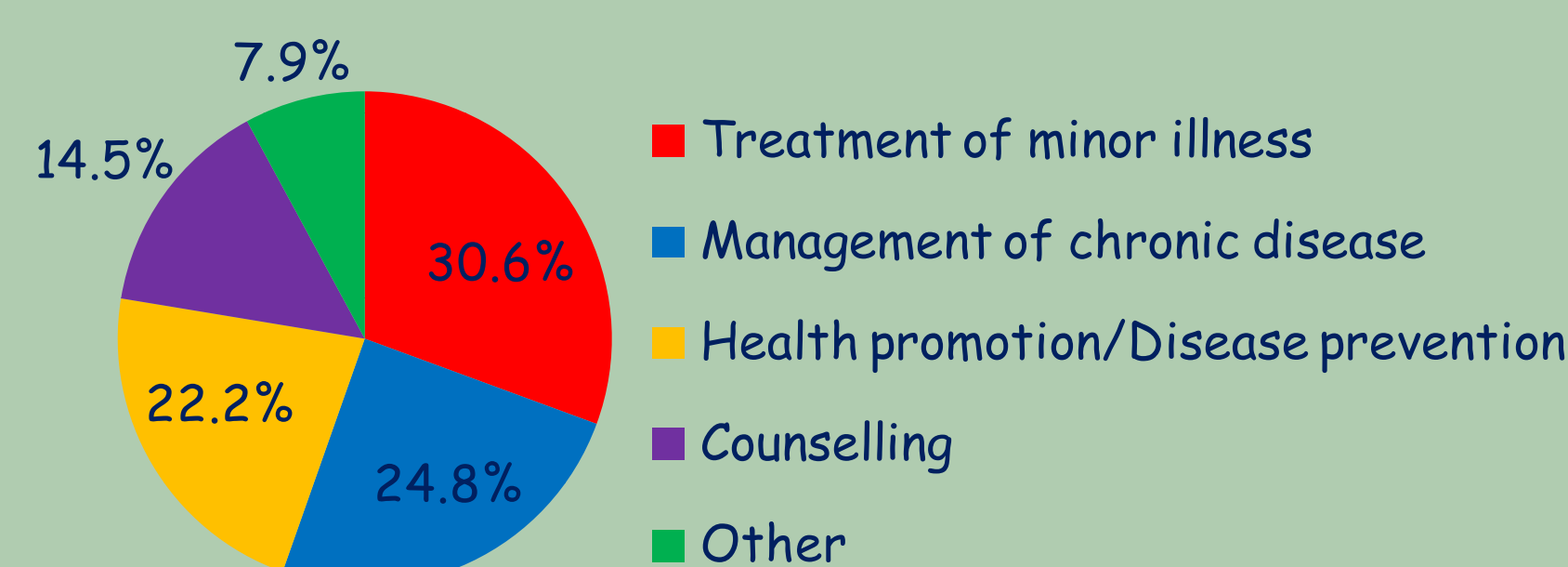
Roles of PHC NPs, 2008



PHC NPs' Referrals To/From Other Health Professionals, 2008 (Average % of Clients)



Time Spent on Care Activities in Average Week, 2008



- In 2005, NPs had concerns about salary and benefits. Many thought that NPs moved from primary care to acute care because of higher salaries in acute care settings.
- Between 1995 and 2002, many NP students and graduates expressed enthusiasm for interprofessional collaboration and rural practice; 60% said they were willing to work in underserved areas.

NP SCOPE OF PRACTICE AND INTERPROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

May 2009
Regulated Health Professions' Statute Law Amendments Act introduced changes in relation to NPs' scope of practice (controlled acts, diagnostic and prescriptive authority)

2007-2008
Submissions by College of Nurses of Ontario and Nurse Practitioner Association of Ontario to Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council on NP scope of practice (August 2007), interprofessional collaboration (May 2008), non-prescription and administration of drugs (November 2008)

July-August 2007
"Nurse Practitioner" became a protected title in Ontario
Expansion of drug and laboratory test lists for NPs

NP EMPLOYMENT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

2006
Salary adjustments for NPs

2005
Nurse Practitioner Association of Ontario introduced an electronic public registry of NPs practicing in Ontario

1998-2005
402 NP positions funded by MOHLTC
348 NP positions planned for next three years
Ontario Government invested \$1.7 million annually in NP education program

2004
Improved access to continuing education for nurse practitioners, particularly for those in northern and rural areas

NP EDUCATION

2002
Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing responded to identified NPs' education needs by developing a web-based distance continuing education program with five courses focusing on clinical contents

1999
Ministry of Health approved NP education funding for five years

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Funders:

