A large workforce of doctors treats patients across the country using radiation therapies. The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) workforce study took a closer look at these physicians, as well as trends in clinical practice and technology use. The 2017 study, which was published in the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics*, drew responses from 1,174 radiation oncologists representing 726 practices.

### Who Are America’s Radiation Oncologists?

**Average Age:**
- Under 40: 30%
- 40s and 50s: 33%
- 60s+: 22%

**Gender by Age:**
- Male: 41%
- Female: 59%

**Practice Site Distribution:**
- Academic/University: 41%
- Nonacademic Hospital: 17%
- Private Practice: 31%

**Geographic Distribution:**
- West: 22%
- Midwest: 25%
- South: 34%
- Northeast: 20%

**Ethnicity:**
- White: 68%
- Asian: 21%
- Hispanic: 2%
- Black: 2%
- Multiple: 4%
- Other: 3%

### How Is the Radiation Oncology Workforce Changing?

Radiation oncologists are **shifting from private practice** to academic centers and hospitals.

Nearly 9 in 10 radiation oncologists work in urban or suburban communities. Urban practices have grown over time, while rural access may be under threat.

**Twice as many** radiation oncologists in rural communities plan to retire or reduce hours in the next five years, compared to urban/suburban physicians.