Age and gender

With an average age of 52.5 years, urologists are among the oldest surgical specialists, second only to thoracic surgeons (53.6 years). In 2009, the average age for all surgical specialists was 50.9, and 14 percent were 65 and older. More than 18 percent of urologic surgeons were 65 and older. This represents more than a 10 percent increase in urologic surgeons 65 and older since 1981, when these physicians were just 7.69 percent of the urology workforce.

Urology is a male-dominated specialty. Women have been entering the surgical workforce with increasing frequency since 1981, although at different rates in different specialties. Since 1981, the number of female urologic surgeons has grown from 34 to 512, increasing their share of the total urology workforce by nearly 5 percent (see Figure 2, page 48). Still, men continue to make up a strong majority of urologic surgeons representing 94.8 percent of the workforce.

Since 1981, the age gap between male and female urologists has increased by more than four years to an average difference of 10.3 years in 2009 (with males being older). In 2009, female urologists were 42.7 years old on average, and males were 53 years old. For all surgeons, males are slightly younger at 52.5 years old, while females are older at 44.5 years of age on average. As seen in Figure 2, more female urologists have recently entered the urology workforce.

Figure 1. Change in urologic surgeons per 100,000 population: 2004–2009