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How Competitive is the Canadian Radiology Residency Match?

Application and Matching Trends from 1991-2014

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Conflicts of Interest



- None of the authors have any disclosures



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Background



- Historically, radiology has been considered one of the most competitive specialties in the CaRMS match
- In recent years, there has been widespread speculation that applications are decreasing



Purpose

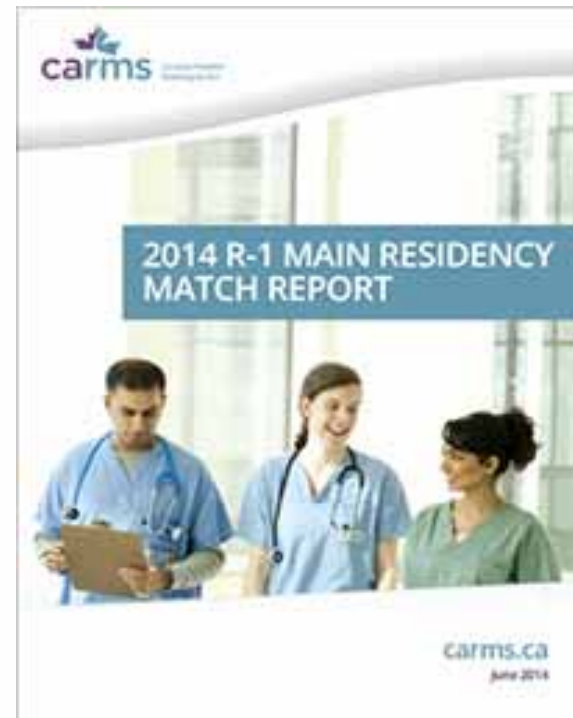
- To evaluate application trends in Canadian diagnostic radiology residency programs
- To assess the relative competitiveness of radiology as a specialty



Methods – Data Collection



- CaRMS R-1 Main Residency Match Reports 1991-2014
 - CMG only
 - R-1 first iteration



Methods – Data Extraction



1) Supply and demand model of competitiveness within radiology

- # of radiology residency positions
 - Total applicants to radiology
 - Total applicants to all specialties
 - 1st choice applicants to radiology
- Ratio
- Ratio

2) Relative competitiveness across all specialties

Methods - Data Analysis



- Time trend analysis plotted each data point over time
- Pearson correlation coefficients and p-values calculated for each time trend analysis

Results



- CaRMS runs radiology match from 1991-present
- Limited data availability from 1991-1995 → excluded from time trend analysis
- Snapshot of recent 2014 match:

85
CMG
positions

16
radiology
programs

3-10
spots per
program

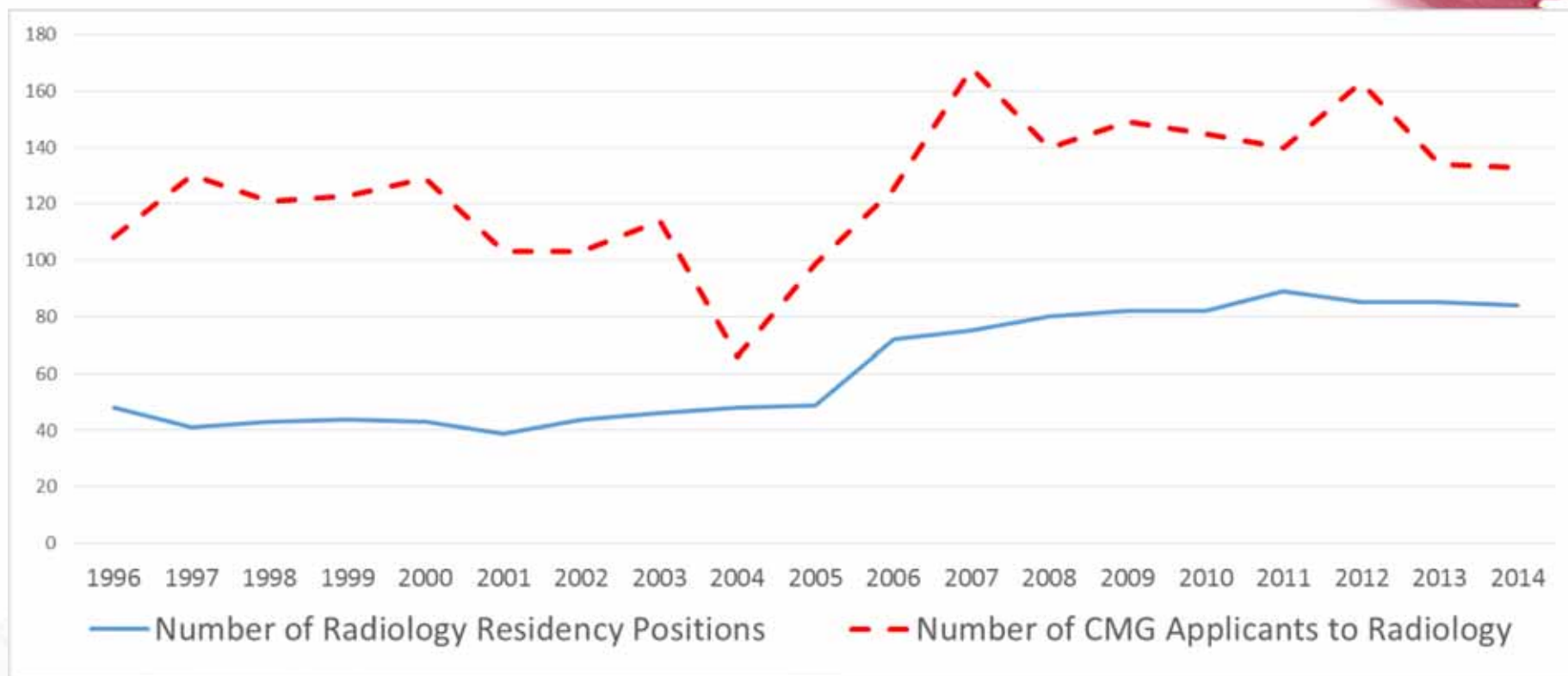


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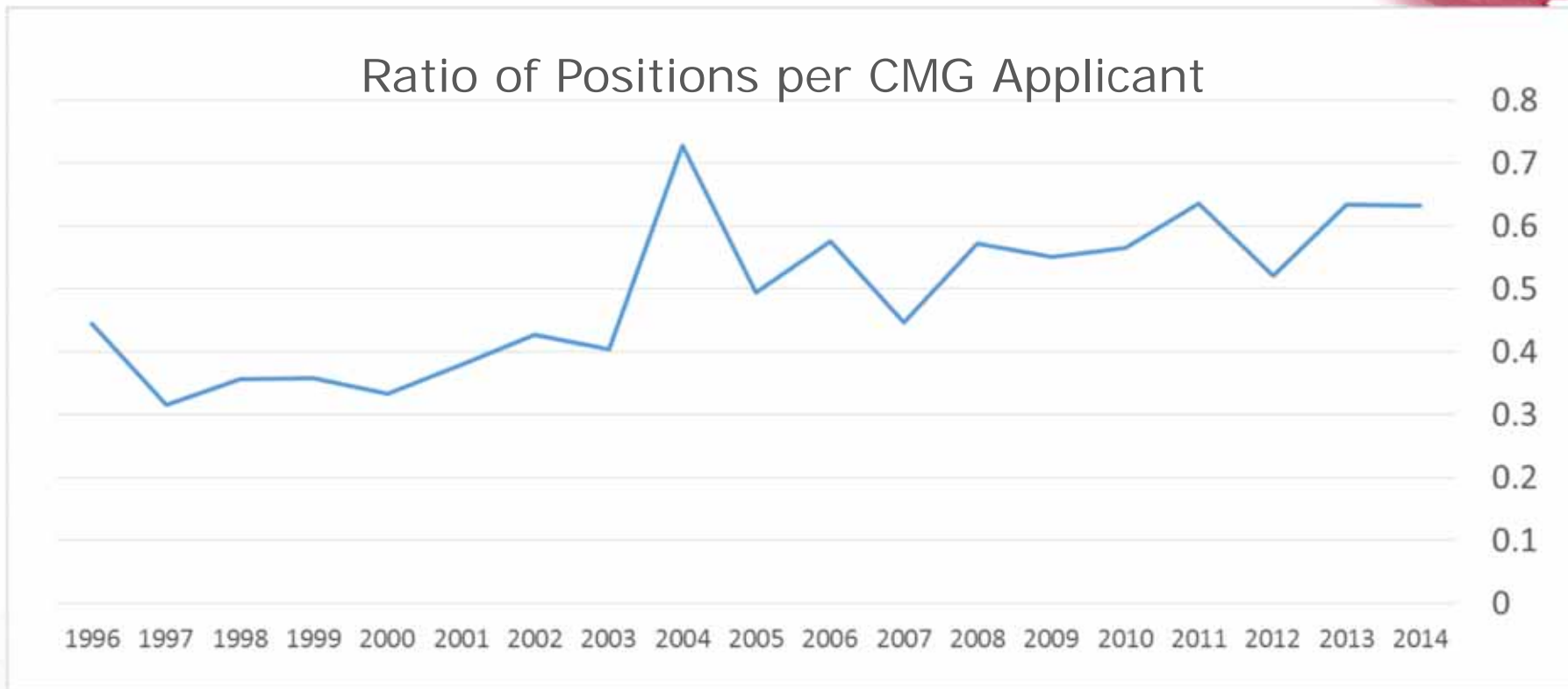
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Results



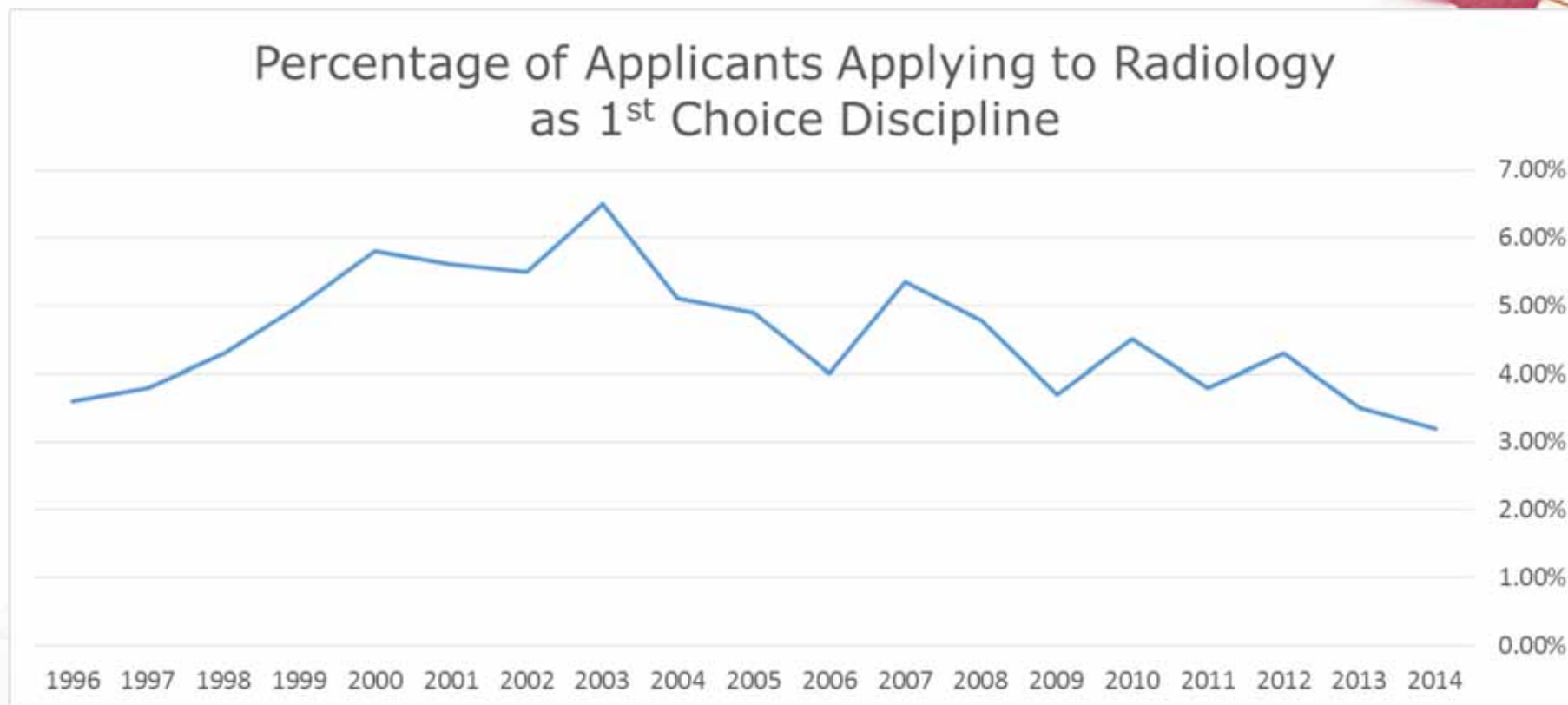
- Strong increase in number of positions offered ($r=0.91$, $p<0.001$)
- Moderate increase in applicants ($r=0.49$, $p=0.03$)

Results



- Significant trend of decreasing competitiveness (increasing supply-demand ratio) ($r=0.76$, $p<0.001$)

Results

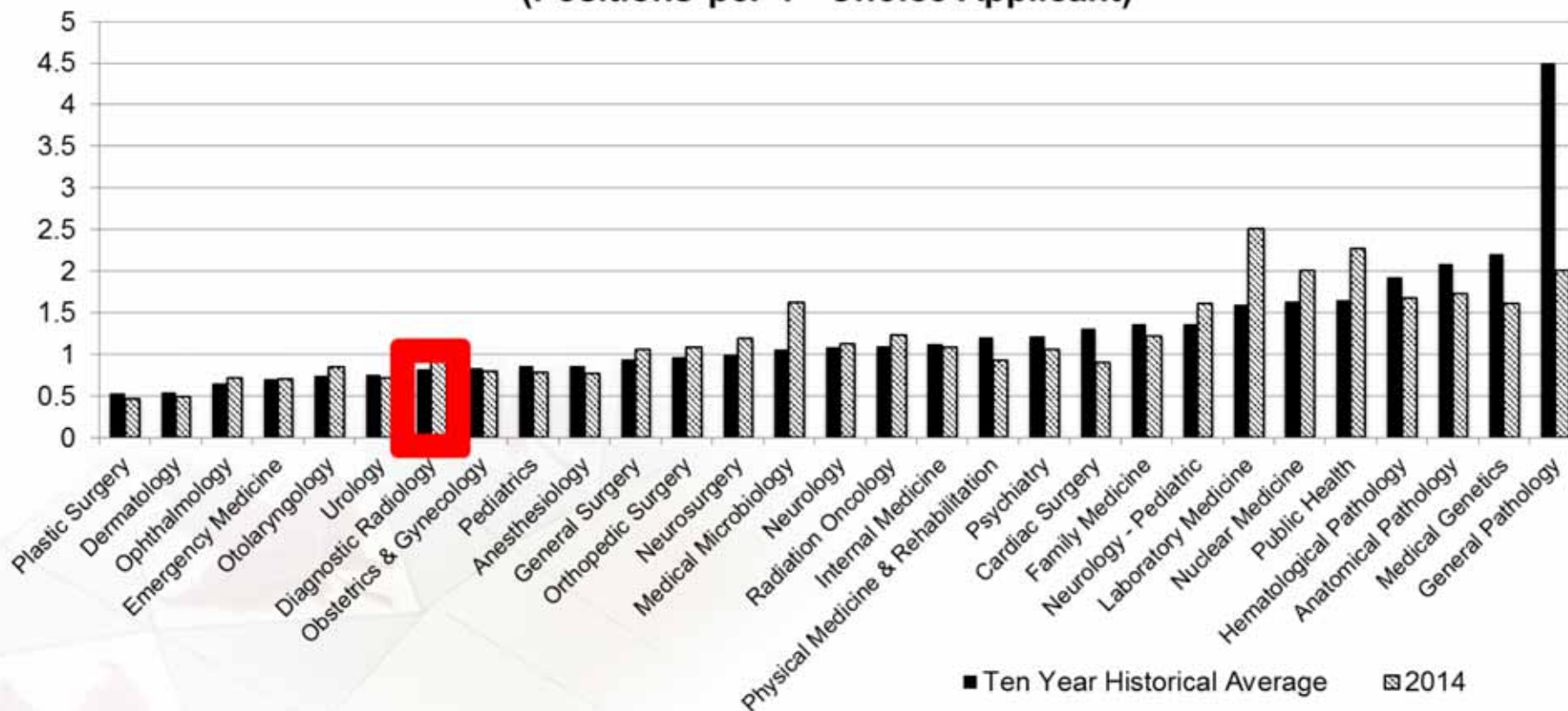


- Moderate decrease over time ($r=-0.36$, $p=0.13$)

Results



Competitiveness Across All Specialties (Positions per 1st Choice Applicant)



Summary



- Number of radiology positions has increased while number of applicants has not grown commensurately
- Significant trend of decreasing competitiveness from 1996-2014
- 2014 saw a record low percentage of medical school graduates applying to radiology as 1st choice



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Discussion



- Unknown cause(s) for decreasing competitiveness
- ? Job market, reimbursement or work environment concerns





THANK YOU!
Questions?



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