

# Study on Medical Manpower Migration

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**Objective:** To determine Medical Migration Figures as of September 2006.

## **Methods:**

### **Descriptive cross-sectional study.**

➤ **Source of Data** – Malta Medical Council register. **Doctors graduating from 1992 to 2001 from the University of Malta, and registering as Medical practitioners from 1994 to 2003** with the Medical council of Malta were included.

➤ Two doctors from each year of graduation currently residing in Malta, were asked to give details on the current whereabouts and position of the doctors who graduated in their year.

➤ Data was verified against the General Medical council UK database and the medline publication database. A google internet search was made of the names of doctors currently indicated as living abroad.

## Main results

There were 328 doctors in the medical register. 3 doctors had graduated abroad and registered for the first time in Malta. Data for 3 doctors was unavailable or could not be confirmed.

**Data was collected on 322 doctors (99.1%)**

**51.6% (166 out of 322)** of doctors graduating in Malta left the island.

**07.5% (24) or 2 out of every 15 doctors** leaving Malta actually came back.

**17.7% (57)** doctors became general practitioners

**6.8% (22)** doctors are currently in full time private practice

**10.9% (35)** doctors are currently working in the Health centres

**62.7% (166 out of 265) or two out of three** hospital doctors are leaving the country

## **Career advancement**

**54.2% (13 out of 24)** of returning doctors are currently in the specialist grades

**17.2% (17 out of 99)** local hospital doctors are currently in the specialist grades

**Comment :** *Doctors studying abroad may have*

- *better local career opportunities when they return.*
- *Second possible explanation – doctors working abroad will only return if they see a good career prospect in Malta.*

## **Yearly data – the EU effect**

**60%(96 out of 160)** of all Doctors registering in 1997, 1999, 2001, left Malta

**72% (96 out of 133)** of hospital doctors registering in 1997, 1999, 2001 left Malta

**6.7% (8 out of 119)** doctors registering in 2001 2003 -became general practitioners

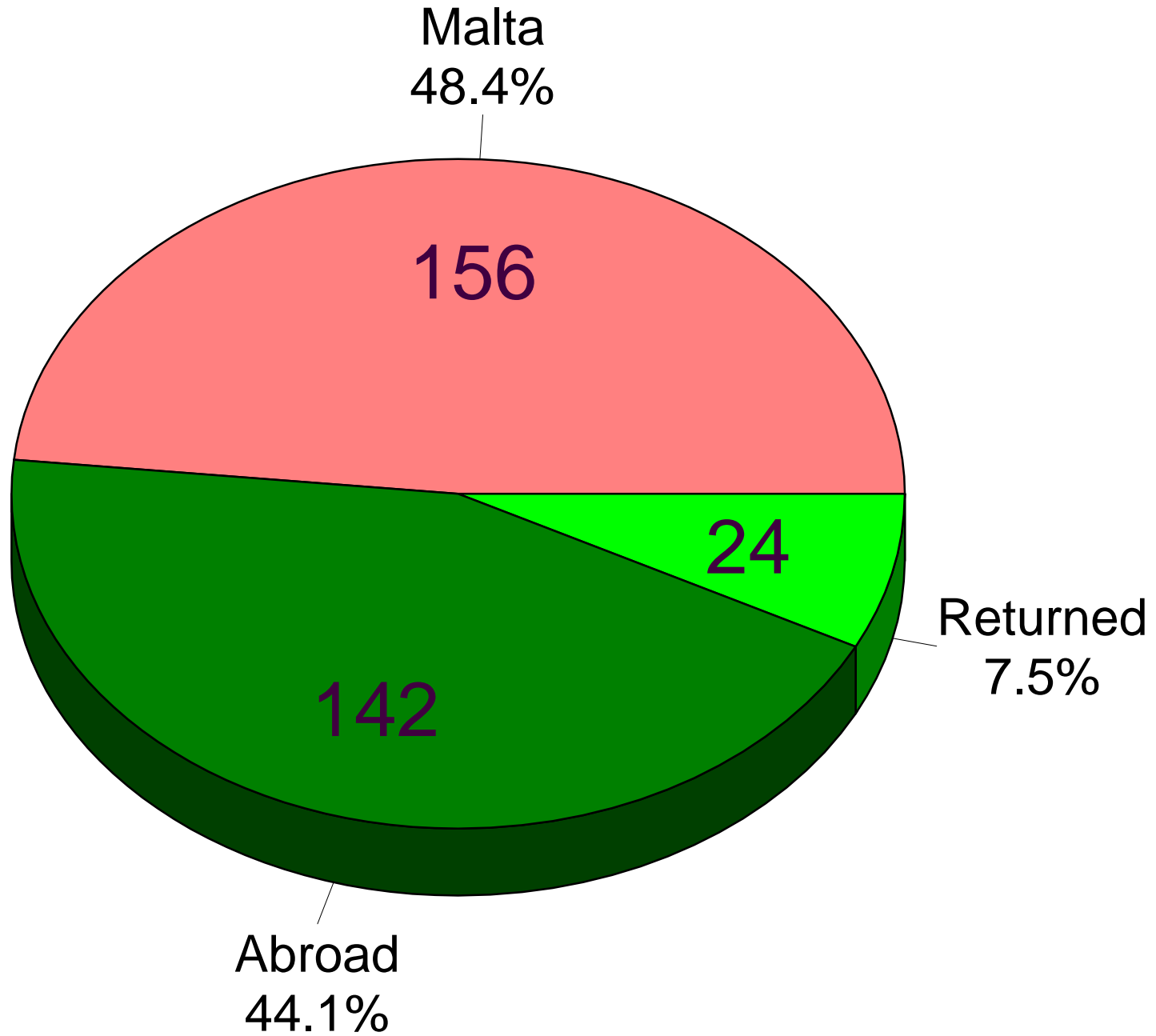
**Comment :**

- *Full extent of brain seen after 5 years of registration*
- *More doctors have left our shores, than previous 4 years, and*
- *fewer and fewer chose life as a general practitioner.*
- *Fewer doctors seem to be coming back as well.*

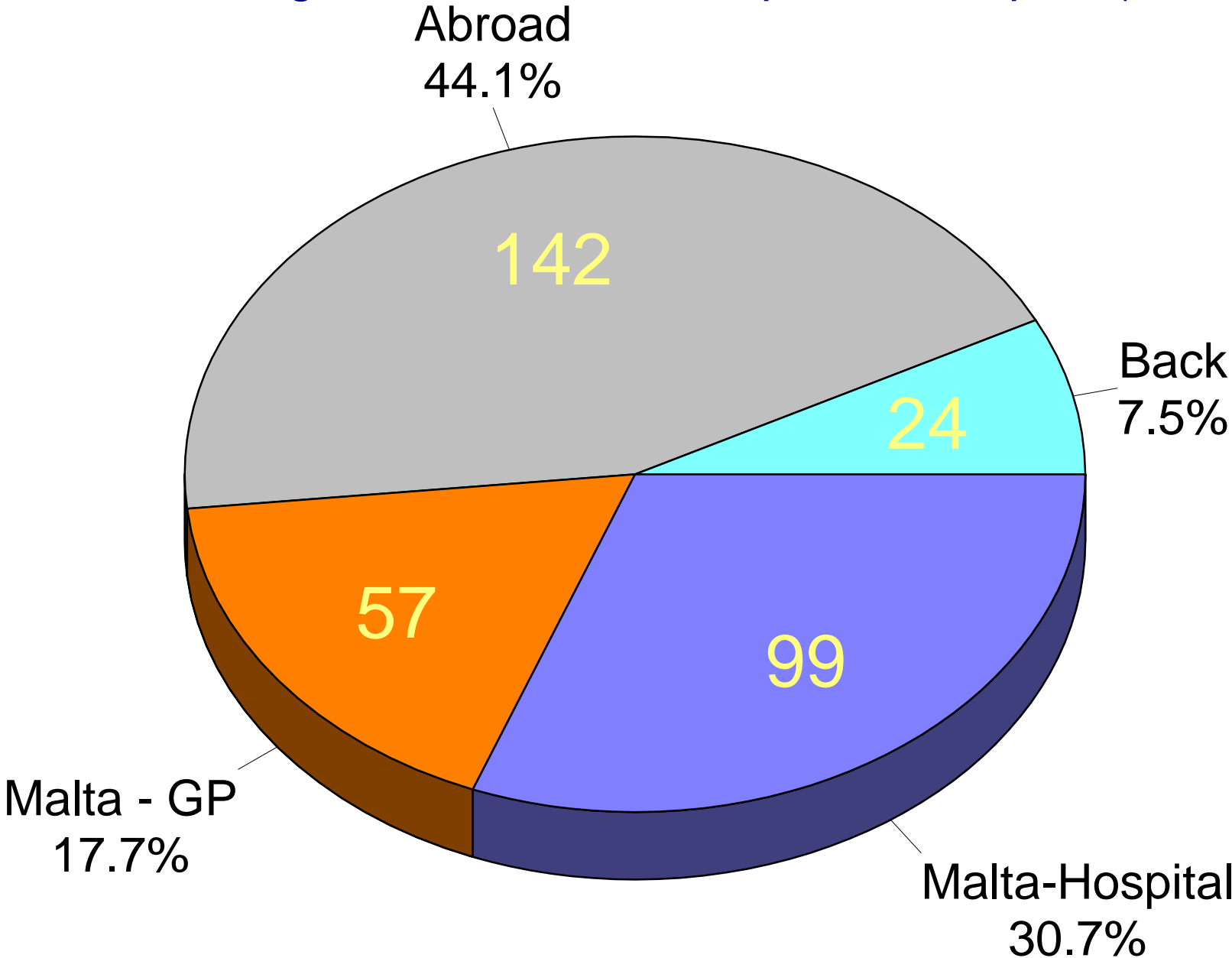
**2003 data – comment**  
**Is the brain drain slowing down ?**

- *Probably not enough time has passed since registration to see the full Extent of the brain drain.*
- *The UK seems to have shut its door to non-UK applicants in general surgery. (certainly not in other specialities)*
- *A number of doctors could be attracted to stay in Malta – as gradually more structured post graduate training programs are introduced in the new hospital.*
- *As the USA is facing manpower shortages the **brain drain may shift from the UK to the US.***

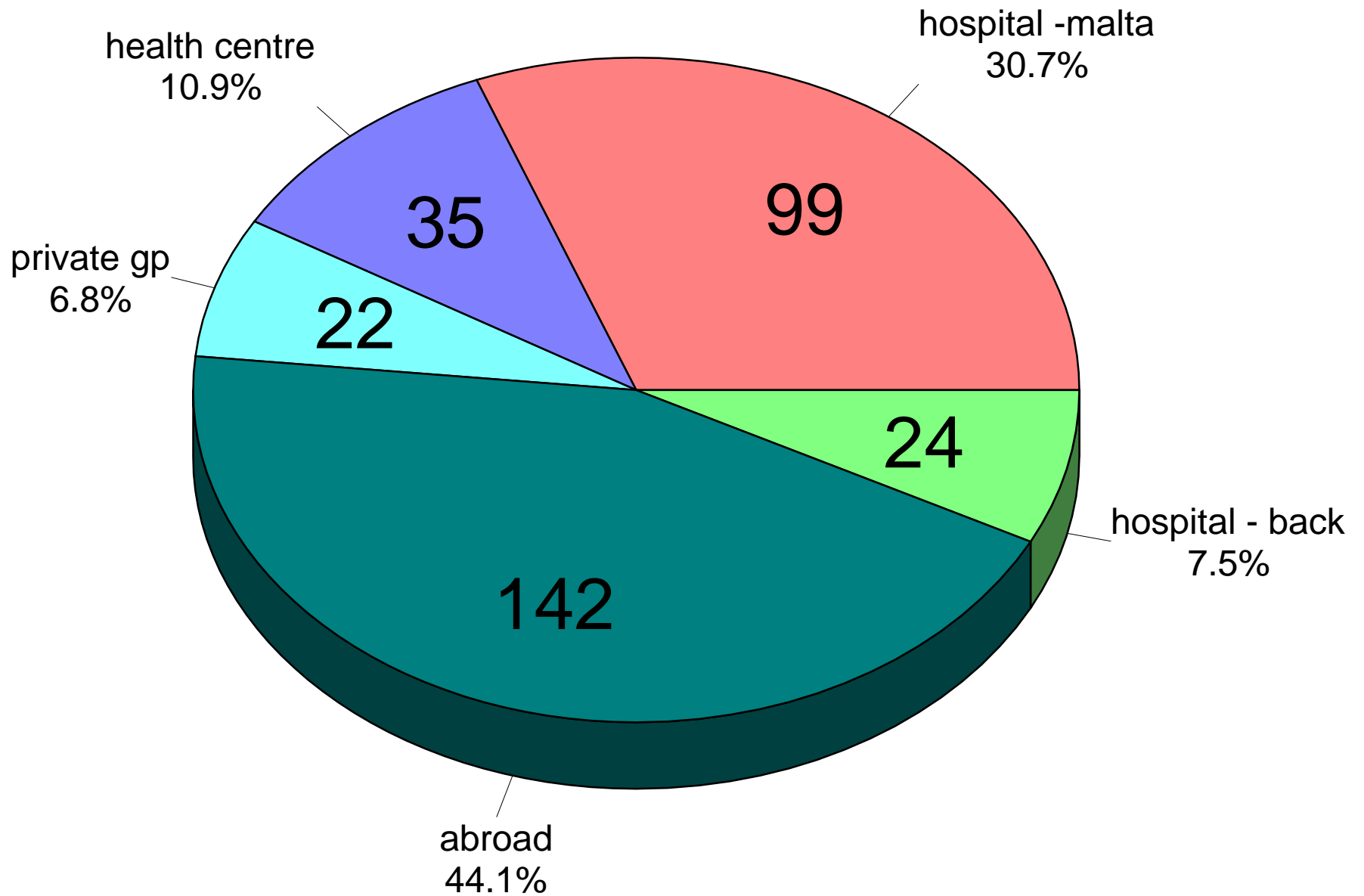
# Doctors Registered between 1994 and 2003 (n=322)



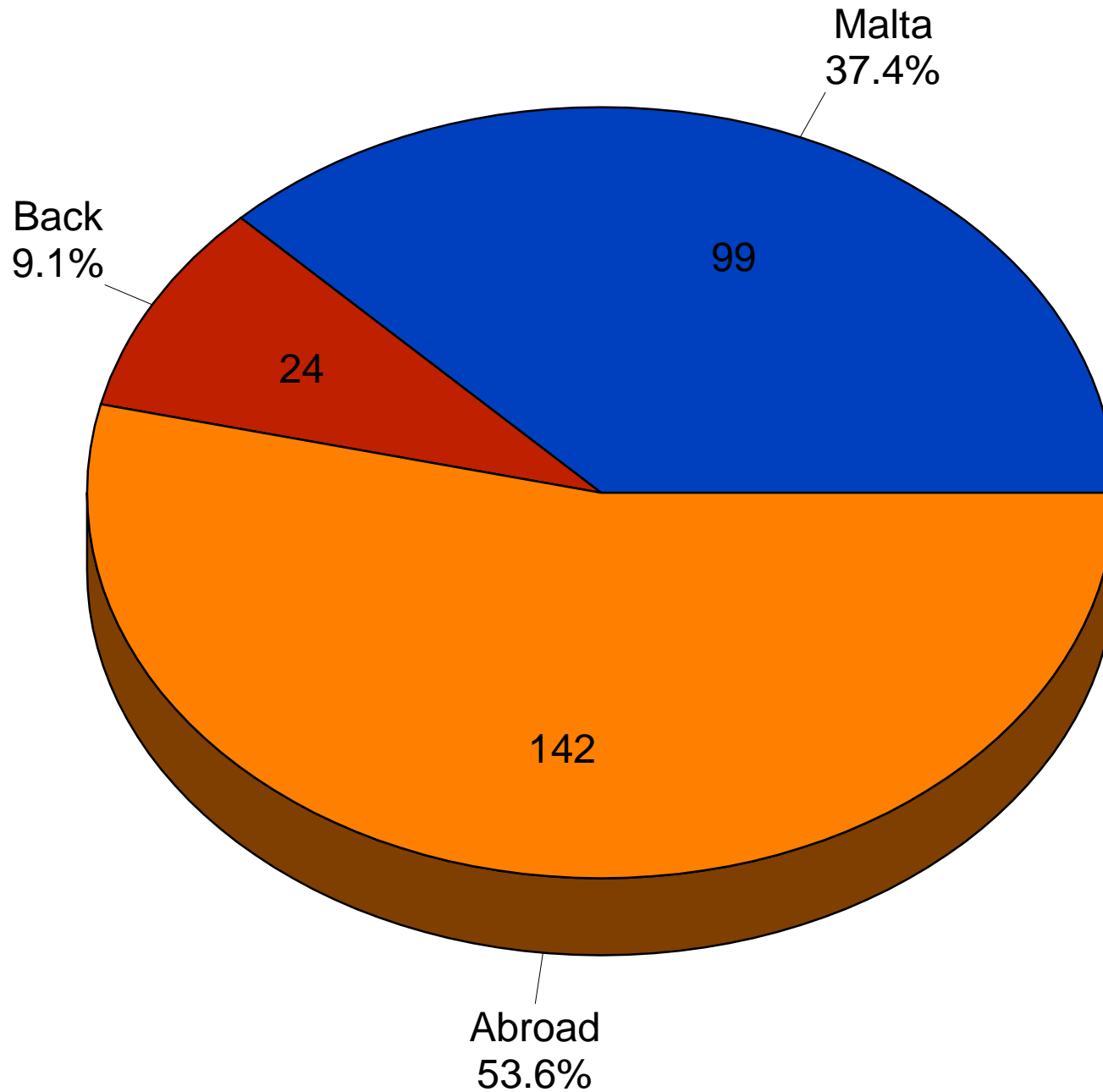
Doctors registered 1994-2003 Gps and Hospital (n=322)



# 1994-2003 doctors by career (n=322)

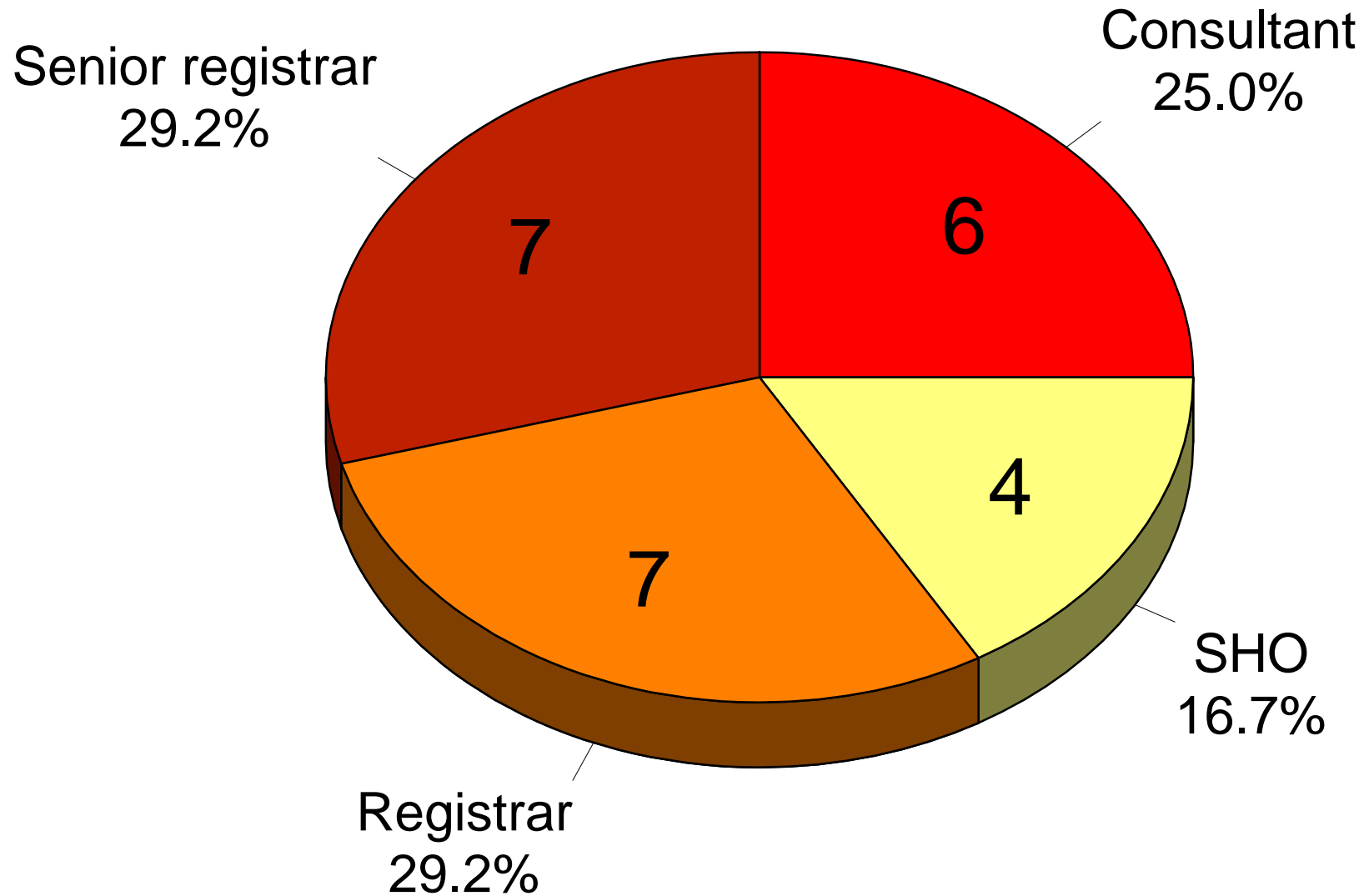


# Brain drain among hospital doctors (registered 1994-2003)

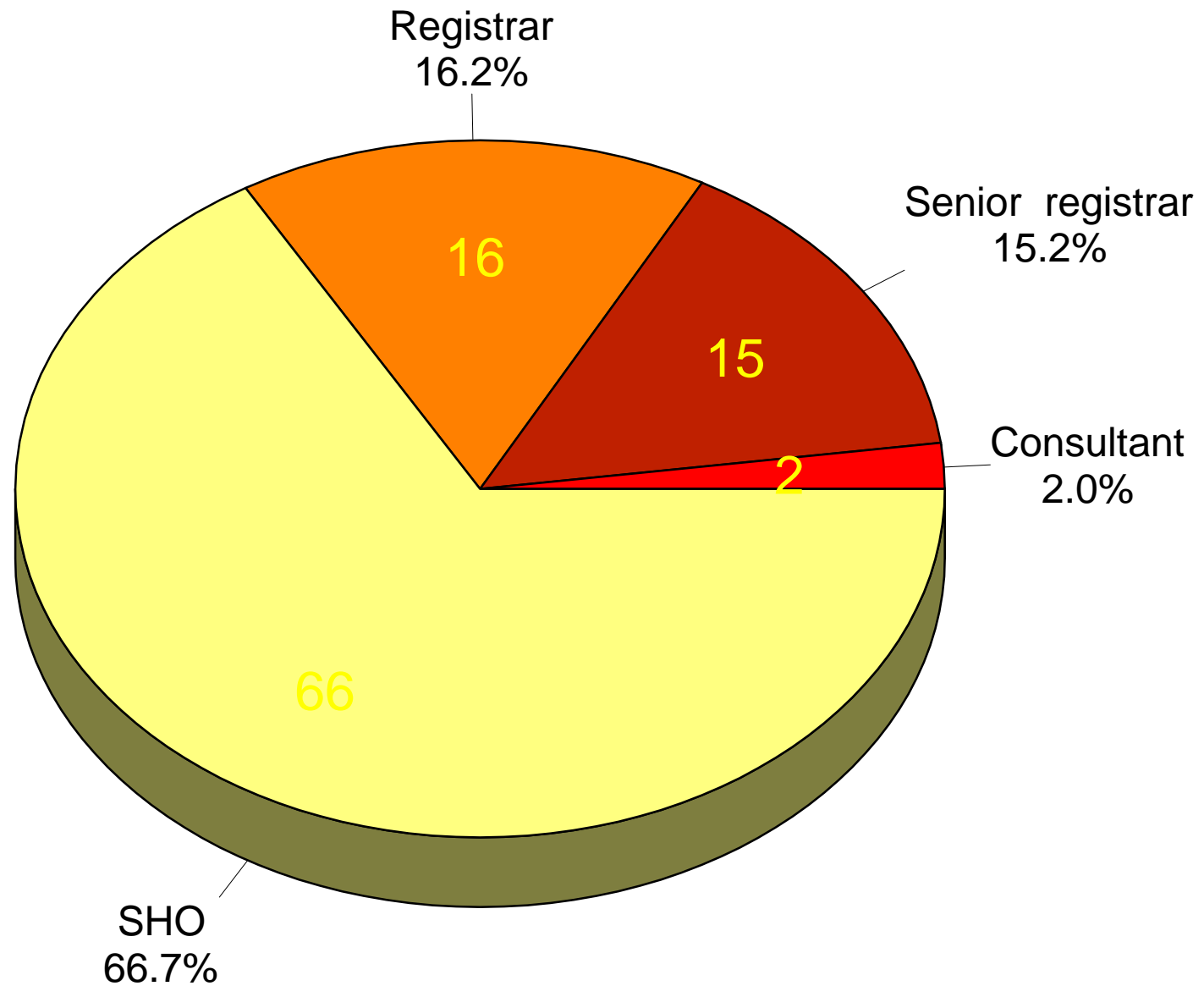




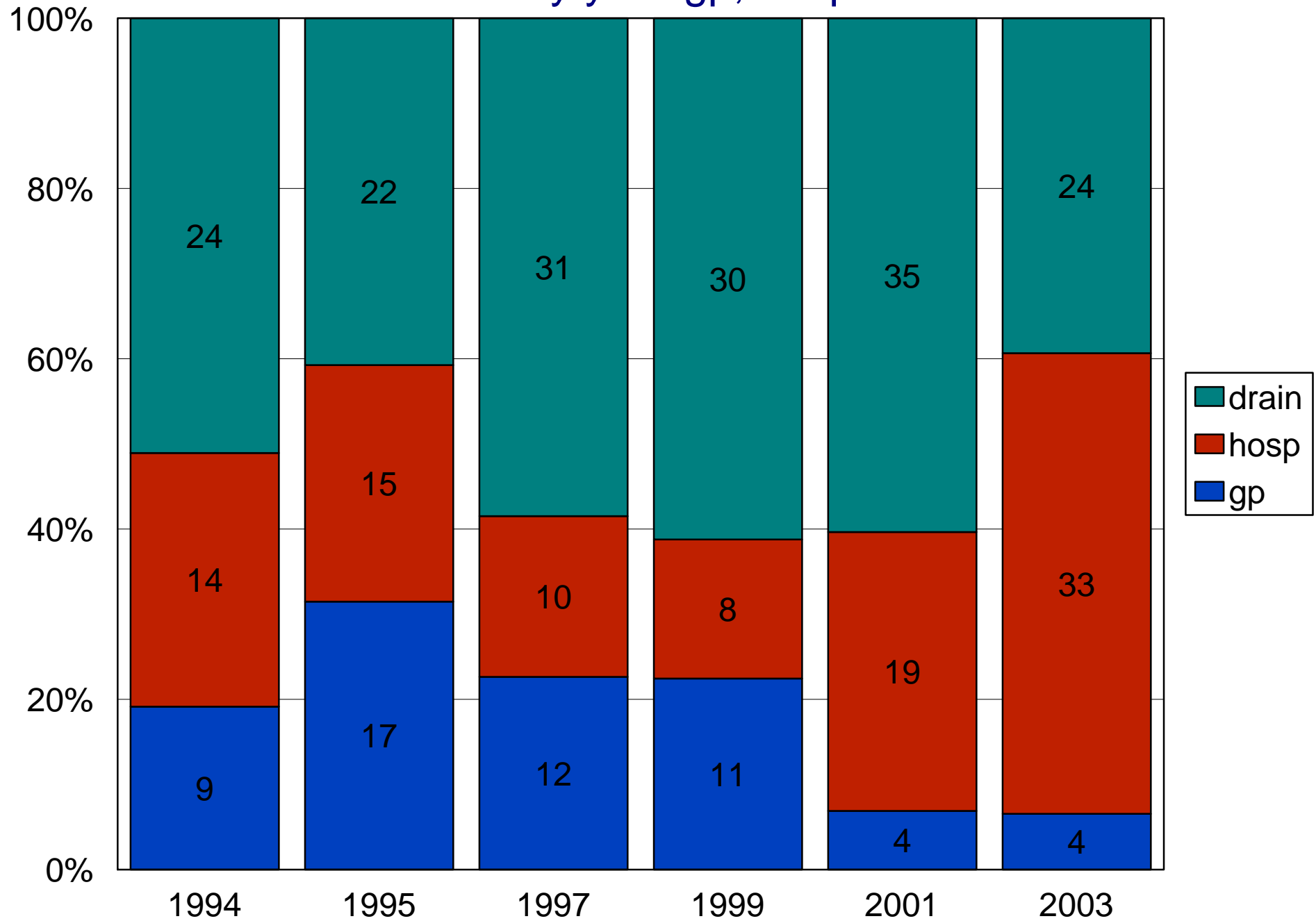
# Returned doctors by position (n= 24)



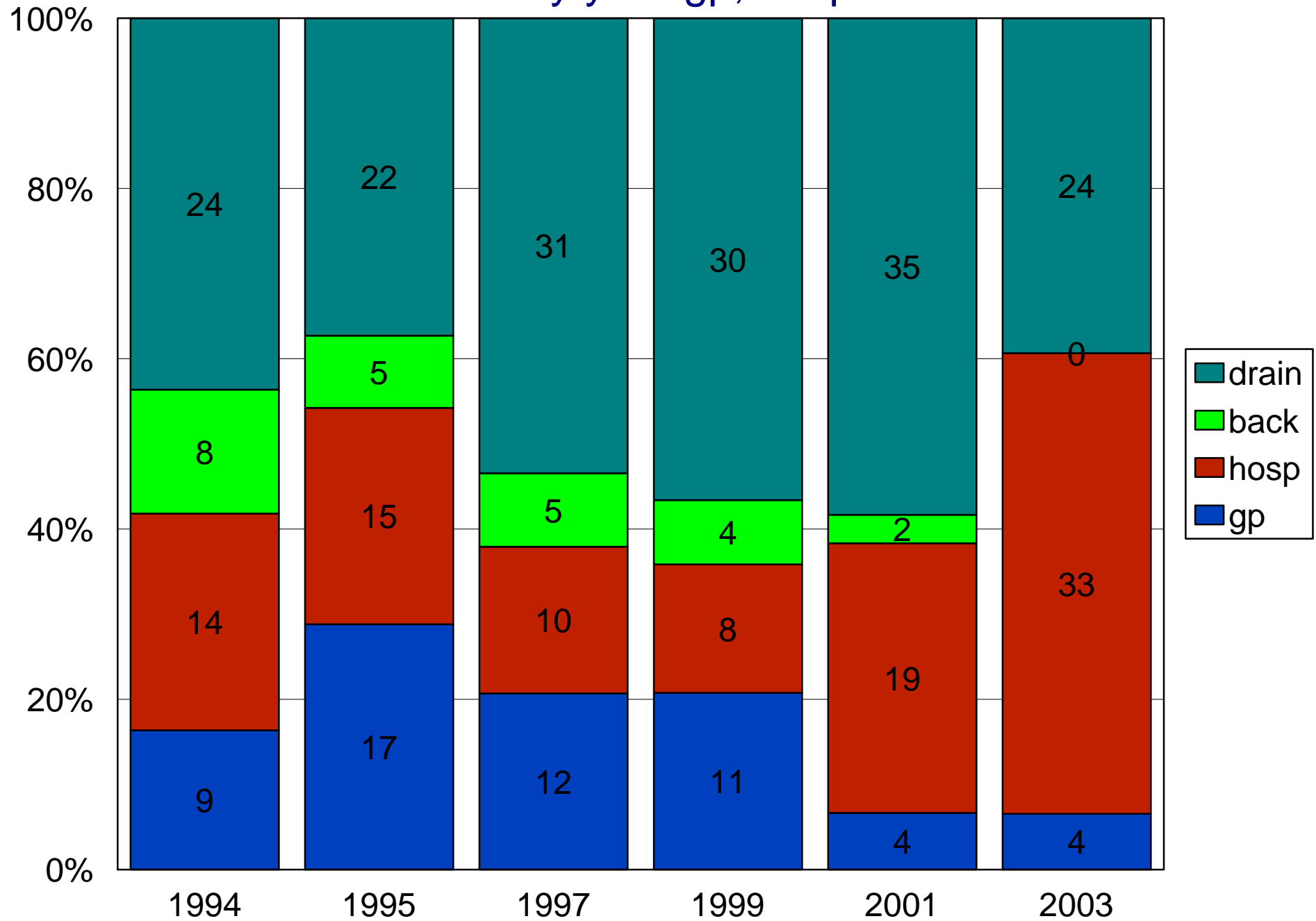
# Hospital grades - Malta (n=99)



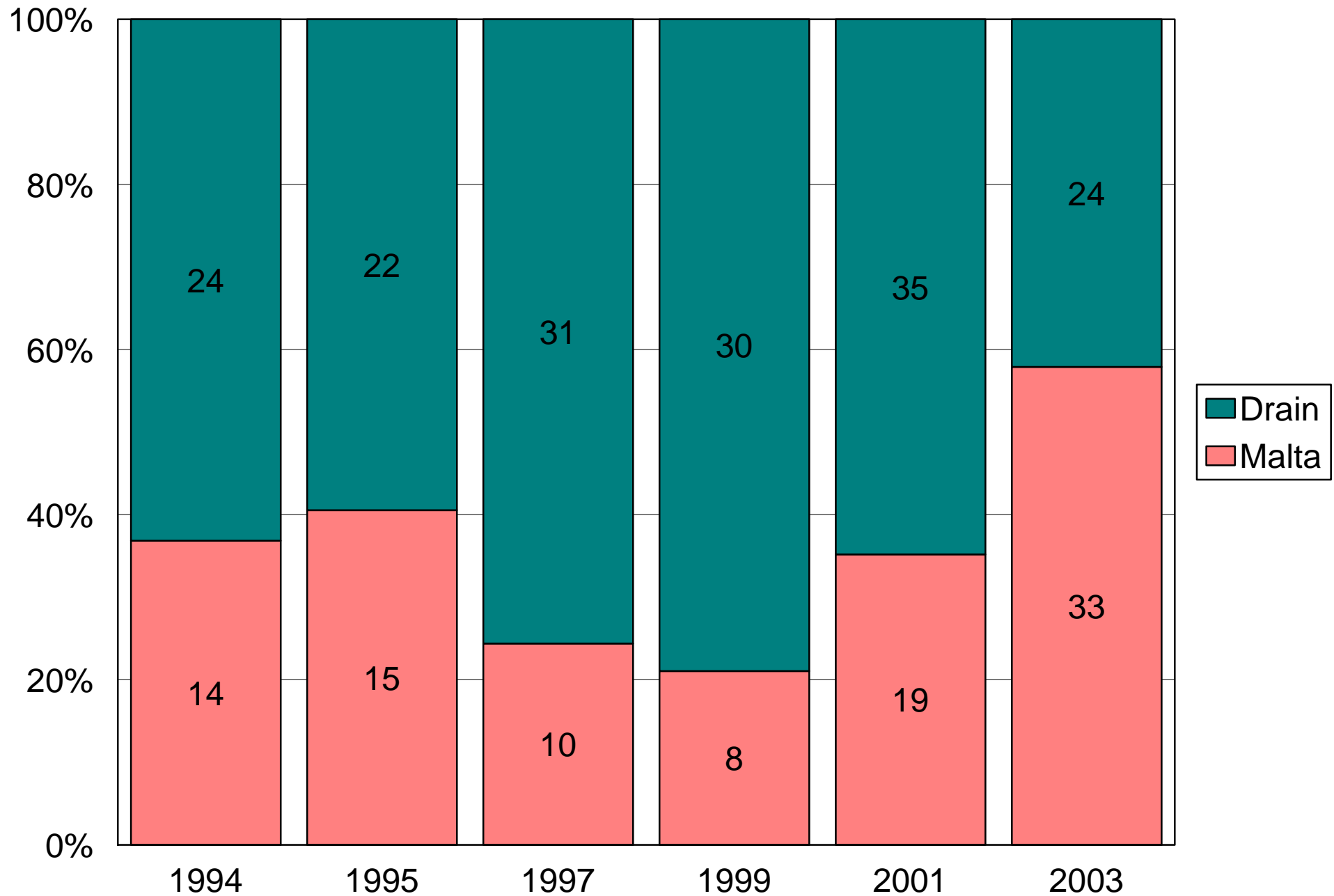
# Brain drain by year gp, hospital data



Brain drain by year gp, hospital data



## Brain drain by year hospital doctors



# Brain drain by year hospital doctors

