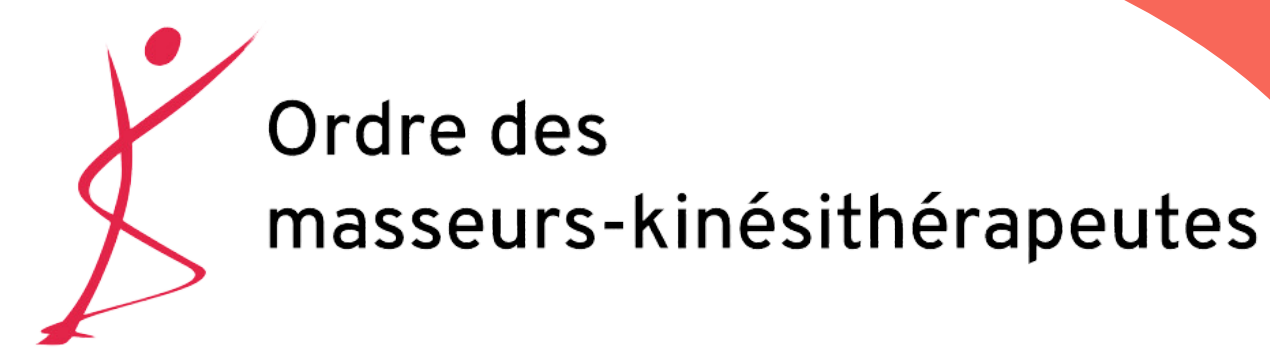


DEMOGRAPHY OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS PRACTICING IN FRANCE



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Introduction

Globally, approximately 2.4 billion people are currently living with a health condition for which rehabilitation is beneficial. Due to the changing health and population characteristics of the world, these rehabilitation needs will only increase in the coming years. This observation is also true in France. In order to meet these needs, it is essential to know the available rehabilitation care offer, in particular physical therapy.

Purpose

The objective of this study is to provide updated data on the demography of physiotherapists in France.

Methods

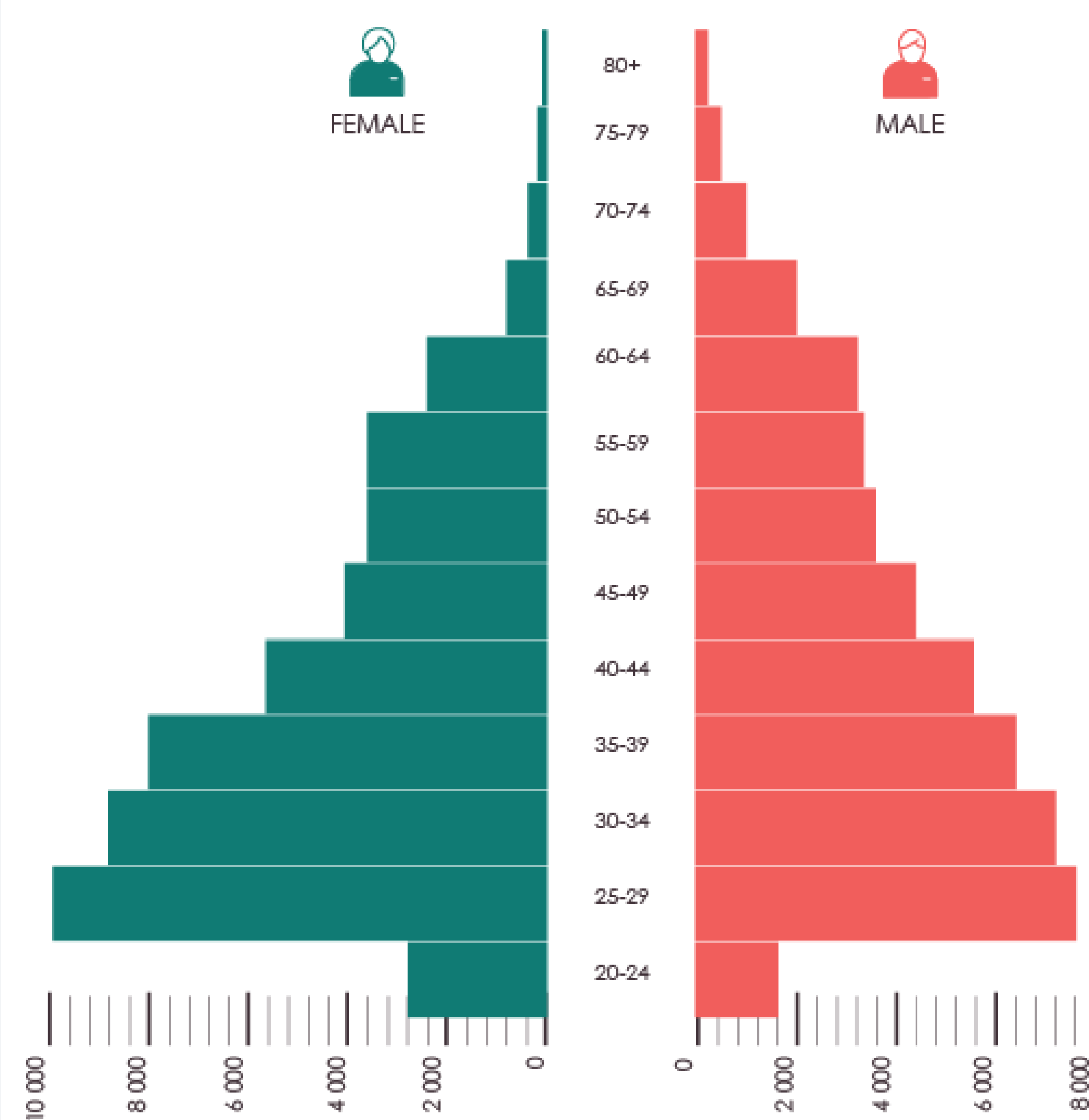
The law requires that physiotherapists be registered with the French Nation Order to be authorized to practice in France. We extracted the personal data of all physiotherapists currently working in France in order to meet our objective.

The date of extraction was January the 1st 2022.

Result

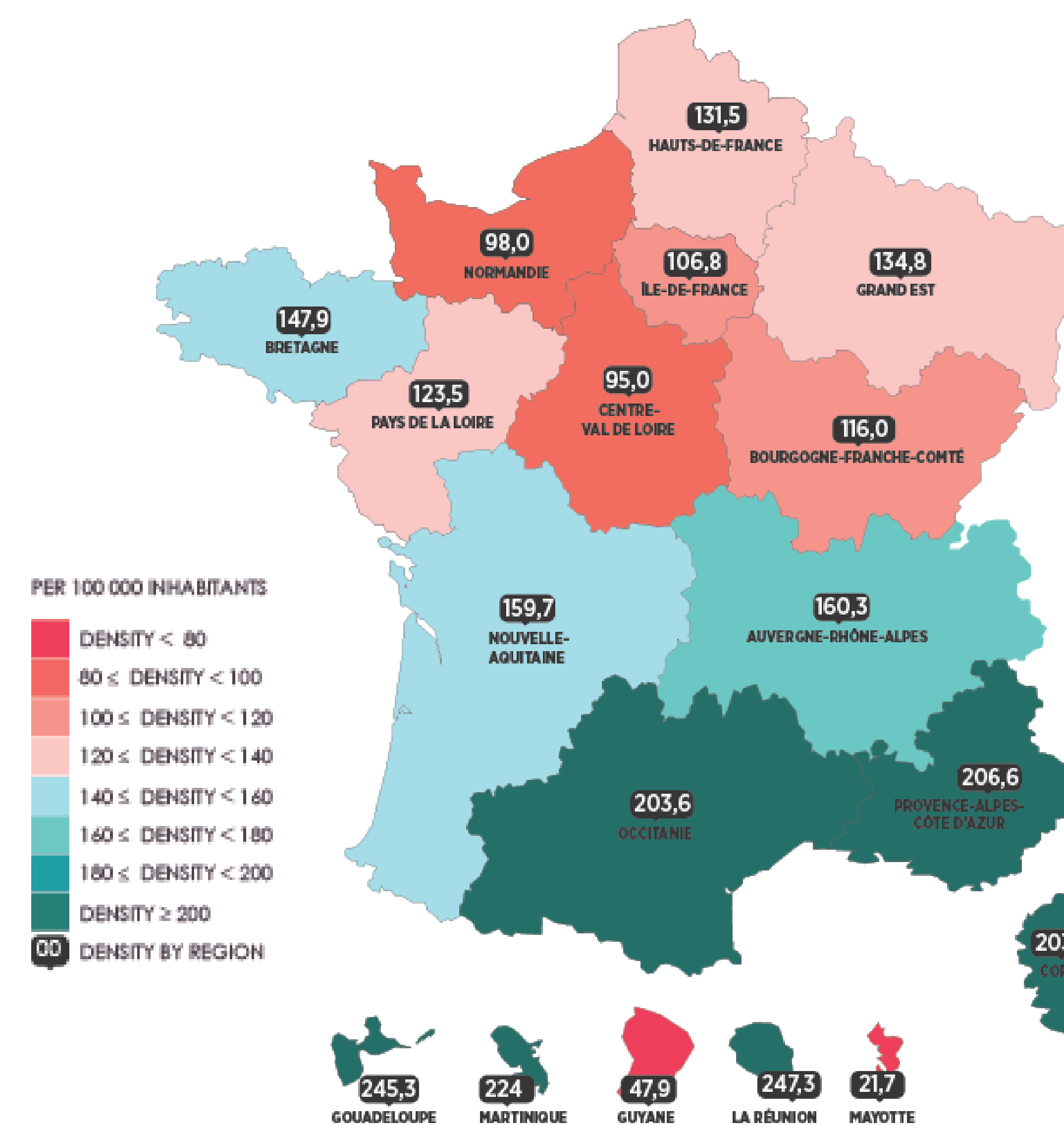
Over 100 000 physiotherapists are registered with the French Order, the majority of which (50,6%) are women. Exclusive salaried practice concerns less than 15% of the professionals, while the others practice in the liberal or mixed sector.

Population structure

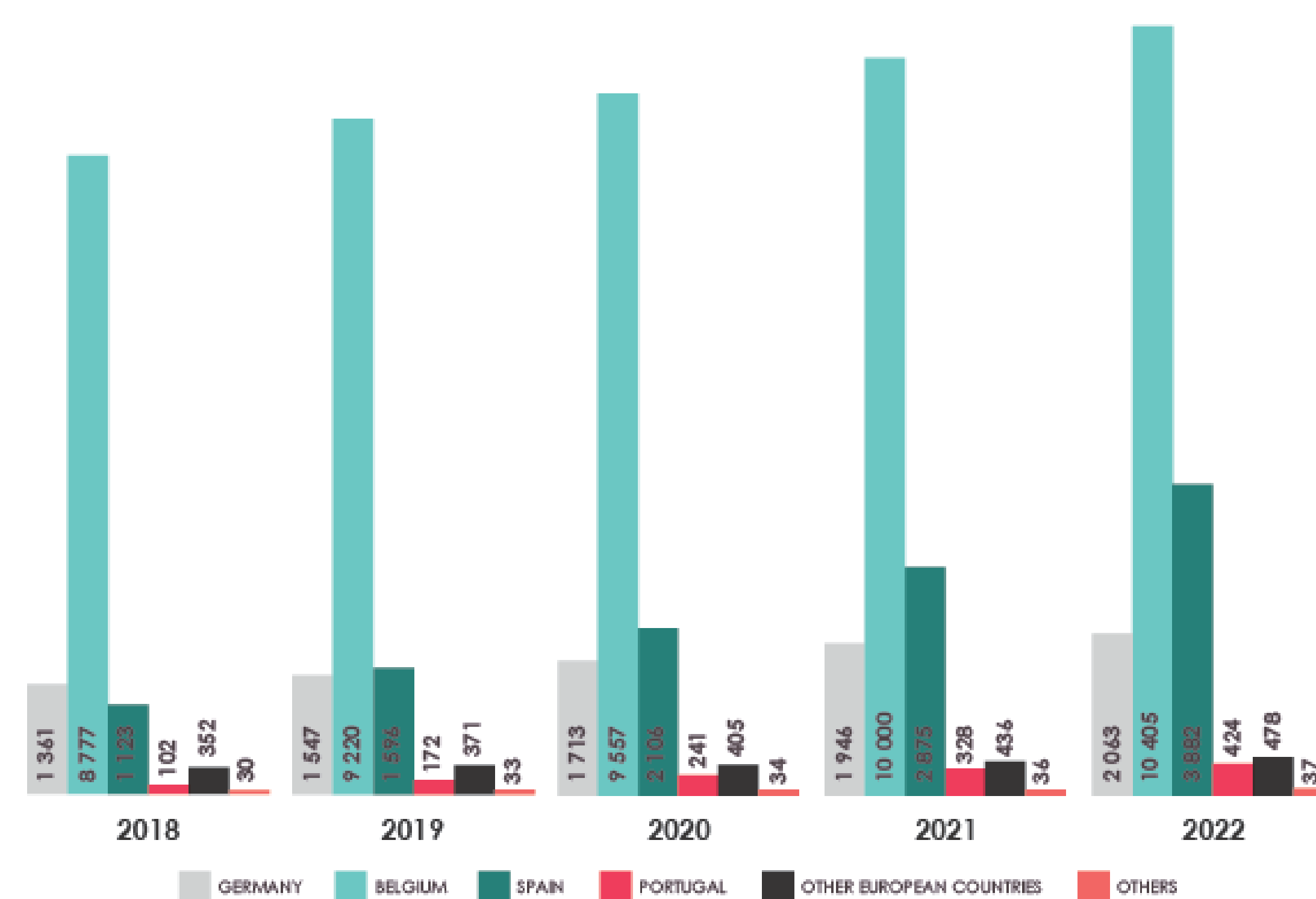


The distribution of French physiotherapists according to age and sexe

Regional density of physiotherapists, all type of practice



Distribution among French nationals of the origins of grades obtained outside France from 2018 to 2022



As of January 1, 2022, 27,655 physiotherapists practicing in France hold a diploma obtained outside France, i.e. 28.3% of all those practicing. Of these graduates from outside France, 17,289 are of French nationality, i.e. 62.5%.

The three main countries where the French will study before coming back to live are Belgium, Spain and Germany, three border countries.

Discussion & Conclusions

The demography of physiotherapists practicing in France is extremely dynamic, making it the first rehabilitation and the 4th health profession in terms of number of professionals. This demography worries the public authorities because of the health expenses it could induce. The control of the number of professionals that they are trying to put in place by a numerus clausus of entry into studies in France is proving to be ineffective because of European mobility rules. However, reasoning only in terms of health expenses is nonsensical since rehabilitation should be seen as an investment. Thus, the aimed target density of professionals in a country depends mainly on the missions entrusted to them.

Recommendations

In a context where the covid19 health crisis has shown the limits of our health systems, the redefinition of the professionals' roles and missions to meet the populations' needs will also have to take into account their demography.

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