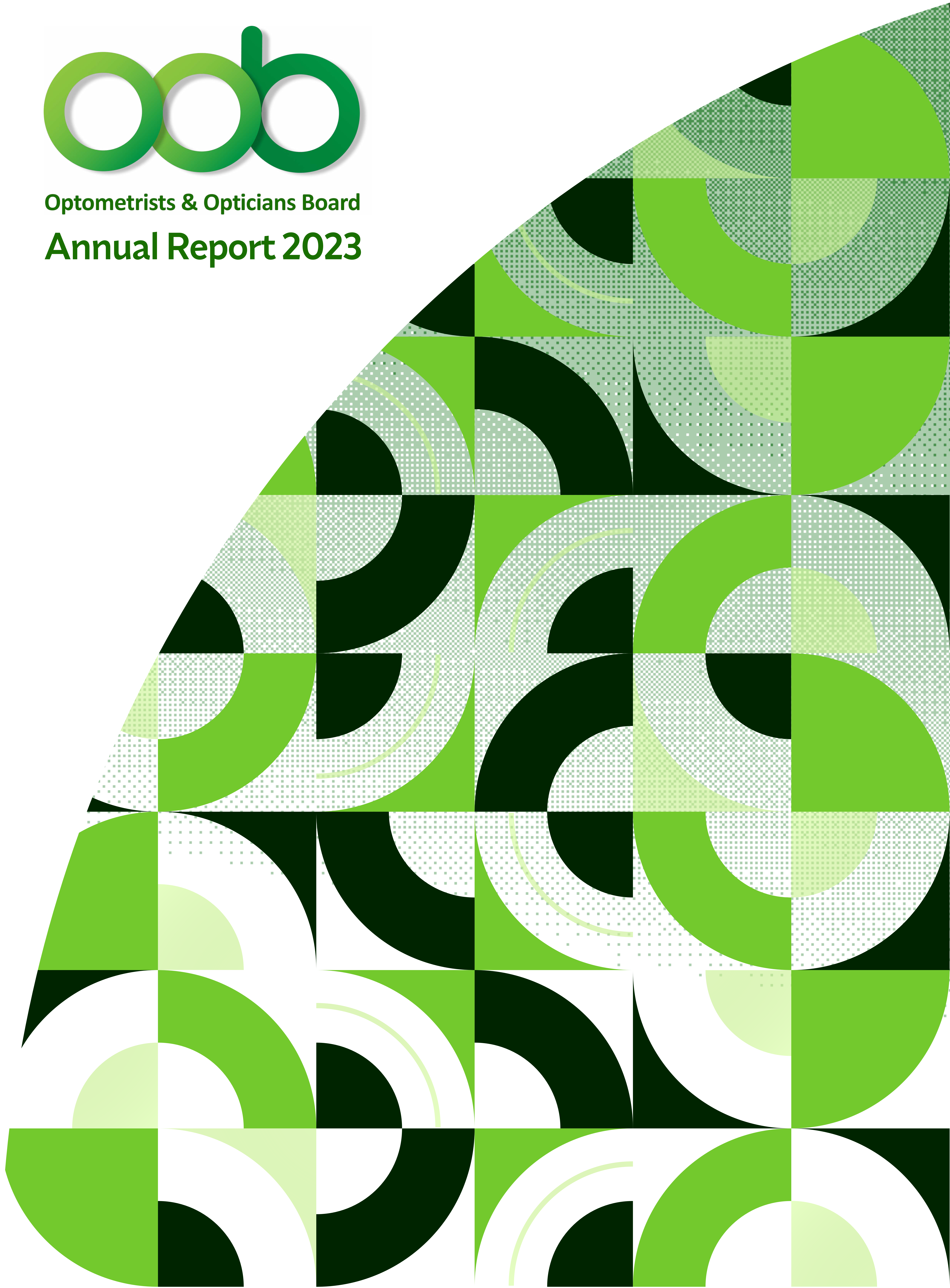




Optometrists & Opticians Board  
**Annual Report 2023**





# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Chairman's Message</b>	<b>Pg. 3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Optometrists and Opticians Board Members</b>	<b>Pg. 6</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Committees of the Board</b>	<b>Pg. 7</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Pg. 9</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Key Highlights</b>	
5.1	Continuing Professional Education (CPE)	Pg. 12
5.2	Supervisory Framework	Pg. 14
5.3	Professional Conduct	Pg. 15
<b>6.</b>	<b>Registration Data</b>	
6.1	New Registrations	Pg. 16
6.2	Practising Certificate Renewal 2023	Pg. 17
6.3	Registration by Categories	Pg. 18
6.4	Registration by Type	Pg. 19
6.5	Practitioners by Age Group	Pg. 20
6.6	Practitioners by Nationality	Pg. 21
6.7	Practitioners by Fields of Employment	Pg. 22
6.8	Practitioners by Basic Qualifications	Pg. 23



# Chairman's Message

**Dear fellow eyecare colleagues,**

In our pursuit to promote the ocular and visual well-being of our community, I would like to underscore the importance of Continuing Professional Education (CPE). CPE is not merely a requirement for renewing our Practising Certificate (PC), but is critical in enhancing our practitioners' professional competencies and quality of eyecare to ensure good ocular health for our clients and patients. Practitioners who participate in CPE are more able to stay abreast of the latest technological advancements, embrace best practices, and add value to their services.

We must therefore remain committed to the value of life-long learning and skills development. This could be achieved through various channels such as peer-to-peer training, certification courses, or participation in relevant workshops and conferences. It is especially heartening to see our eyecare professionals' continuing keen interest and fervent participation in CPE.



In the face of limited manpower resources, which are already affecting the operations and regulation of the industry, maintaining the current status quo of carrying out our work is not an option. It is imperative to constantly harness innovation to streamline processes, enhance productivity, and deliver exceptional results. Moreover, COVID-19 has greatly transformed the way in which we work and consume information.

Building on the transition of the annual supervisory framework briefing from a physical to an online format, the Board has taken a further step by facilitating a hybrid of both asynchronous (i.e. pre-recorded) and synchronous (i.e. live-stream) online approaches, thus providing better flexibility and accessibility to the participants.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for the hard work and dedication exemplified by our past members, Dr Koh Liang Hwee, Ms Olivia Chng, Ms Dawn Tan, Ms Vivien Chiang and Ms Ruby Tan, who had stepped down after completing their term at the end of 2022.



On the same note, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to our new members, A/Prof Wong Hon Tym, Dr Kingsley Muk, Ms Jessica Yang, Ms Jacqueline Tay, Mr Ken Tong, Mr Steve Lim and Mr Charlie Tan, who have joined the Board since the start of the new term in 2023. Their fresh perspectives and in-depth knowledge of the industry will be invaluable to the Board's ongoing efforts.

The Board's achievements thus far are a testament to the unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions of both past and present Board members, the tireless assistance rendered by the staff of the Secretariat of Healthcare Professional Boards (SPB), as well as the unstinting support from the industry.

It has been a fulfilling past year with its fair share of challenges as well as opportunities for change. As we look ahead to the coming year, let us continue to keep up the great work and support one another in the provision of essential eye-care services to our community and towards the shared vision of a Healthier SG.

**Prof Lim Tock Han**

Chairman

Optometrists and Opticians Board





# Optometrists and Opticians Board

## Chairman

### Prof LIM Tock Han

Ophthalmologist,  
National Healthcare Group

## Registrar

### Dr Harold TAN

Director, Mental Health Office,  
Director, Case Management  
Operations Task Group, Ministry of Health

## Representative for Director-General of Education

### Ms Jessica YANG Shan Mei

Optometrist, Ngee Ann Polytechnic

## Members

### A/Prof Wong Hon Tym

Ophthalmologist,  
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

### Mr Ken TONG Wei Jian

Optometrist,  
The Eyecare Initiative - Optical Pte Ltd

### Mr KOH Lian Buck

Optometrist,  
Pearl's Visioncare Pte Ltd (City Gate)

### Mr Steve LIM Ngia Teck

Optician (Refraction and Dispensing),  
Eye's Vision & Optics (Bedok)

### Mr CHEONG Lip Keong

Optometrist,  
Ming Optique

### Mr Charlie TAN Soon Hua

Optician (Refraction and Dispensing),  
Yi Specs Pte Ltd

### Ms Jacqueline TAY Li Xin

Optometrist,  
Singapore National Eye Centre

### Dr SETHURAMAN Rama

Medical Devices Branch,  
Health Sciences Authority

### Dr Kingsley MUK Chee Yong

Optometrist,  
Singapore Polytechnic





# Committees of the Board

①

## Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee is responsible for accrediting courses of instruction related to optometry and opticianry for the purpose of registration & recommending acceptable displayable higher qualifications.

---

②

## Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee is responsible for developing competencies for opticians and optometrists and determining the structure and content of qualifying examinations.



3

## **Credentials Committee**

The Credentials Committee is responsible for conducting reviews and providing recommendations on all registration matters, including conditions for different types of registration.

---

4

## **Continuing Education Committee**

The Continuing Education Committee is responsible for setting and reviewing policies and standards for continuing professional education (CPE), accrediting CPE programmes and approving applications for CPE claims.

---

5

## **Practice, Ethics & Conduct Committee**

The Practice, Ethics and Conduct Committee is responsible for determining standards and guidelines for the professional conduct and practice of optometrists and opticians.



# Introduction

The Optometrists & Opticians Act (Chapter 213A) (the “Act”) was passed in Parliament in July 2007. The Act empowers the Optometrists and Opticians Board (the “Board”) to register and regulate all optometrists and opticians and their practices in Singapore.

The Board sets the standards required for registration, approves the registration, issues Practising Certificates (PCs) as well as regulates the conduct and practice of optometrists and opticians. These functions ensure that registered practitioners are qualified and properly trained so that members of the public receive safe and quality eye-care services.

As of 31 December 2023, the Board has in its Registers, a total of 2,712 registered optometrists and opticians.

**Table 1 — No. of registrants in each category from 2019 to 2023**

Register Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Optometrists</b>	1,249	1,263	1,325	1,370	1,367
<b>Opticians (Refraction &amp; Dispensing/ RD)</b>	1,288	1,271	1,280	1,286	1,272
<b>Opticians (Dispensing/D)</b>	82	102	68	67	59
<b>Opticians (Contact Lens Practitioner/CLP)</b>	17	17	16	16	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>2,739</b>	<b>2,712</b>



# Who Are Optometrists?

Optometrists are primary eye-care providers who specialise in performing vision assessment and eye examinations. Through these examinations, optometrists can detect important eye conditions such as cataract and contact lens complications.

In general, optometrists are qualified to:

- 1.** Perform refraction on adults, children or adolescents
- 2.** Prescribe optical appliances such as glasses and contact lenses to correct vision problems such as short-sightedness, long-sightedness and astigmatism
- 3.** Perform eye examinations and refer patients to other healthcare practitioners such as ophthalmologists for further management if any eye conditions are detected
- 4.** Provide other forms of eye-care which are part of opticianry (e.g. dispensing and fitting of glasses and contact lenses)



# Who Are Opticians?

Opticians are eye care providers equipped with the skills to dispense and fit glasses based on prescriptions from optometrists or ophthalmologists.

Opticians are registered in the following categories:

## 1. Opticians (Dispensing only)

These opticians are only qualified to dispense and fit glasses.

## 2. Opticians (Refraction and Dispensing)

These opticians are qualified to:

- Perform refraction on patients who are 8 years of age or older; and
- Dispense and fit glasses to correct vision problems such as short-sightedness, long-sightedness, and astigmatism.

---

## 3. Opticians (Contact Lens Practice)

These opticians are qualified to:

- Perform refraction on patients who are 8 years of age or older;
- Dispense and fit glasses and contact lenses to correct vision problems such as short-sightedness, long-sightedness and astigmatism; and
- Provide aftercare to patients, including monitoring to detect, prevent and manage problems or complications arising from the use of contact lenses.



# Key Highlights

## 5.1 Continuing Professional Education (CPE)

Under the Board’s Code of Professional Conduct and Professional Practice Guidelines (articles 5.4 and 6.4), all registered optometrists and opticians are expected to participate in CPE activities to ensure that their optometry and opticianry knowledge and skills remain current & relevant, and that a reasonable level of competence is maintained.

Each qualifying period (QP) begins from 1 October to 30 September in the following year; a fully registered practitioner will go through a two-year cycle. The targeted number of points within the QP of two years is 40 points for opticians and 50 points for optometrists.

For QP ending September 2023, 93% of the practitioners achieved the minimum CPE points required.

	QP ending 2019	QP ending 2020	QP ending 2021	QP ending 2022	QP ending 2023
Percentage of practitioners who met min. CPE points	96%	92%	40%	90%	93%



## CPE Events

As physical events and seminars were not possible during the pandemic period, the Board started recognising virtual events organised by local providers as part of CPE activities. In 2022, there was a total of 169 events accredited under Category 1A (Local events) while 77% were conducted virtually.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Category 1A	126	74	14	144	<b>169</b>



## 5.2 Supervisory Framework

Under the OOB's Supervisory Framework, all provisionally and conditionally registered optometrists and opticians ("Supervisees") are required to practise under the guidance of qualified fully registered optometrists and opticians ("Supervisors") and fulfil the Supervisory Framework and/or prescribed conditions during the entire period of their provisional or conditional registration.

To ensure that supervisors carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively, the OOB has been conducting Supervisory Framework briefings for supervisors annually since 2014. The OOB requires each supervisor to attend at least one briefing session before or during the period of undertaking. Selected practitioners on provisional registration are also invited to attend.

Each session is normally conducted over two half-days and in online format, with the first session for supervisors of provisionally-registered optometrists, and the second for supervisors of provisionally-registered opticians.

The supervisors were briefed on the requirements of the Supervisory Framework and the prescribed conditions for case submissions. To enable supervisors to better understand and apply the case review criteria, attendees were separated into workgroups for discussions using real case records from past logbook submissions by supervisees. The feedback received from the supervisors had thus far been positive and encouraging.



In 2023, OOB divided the online briefing session into two parts to be delivered asynchronously with pre-recordings in YouTube and synchronously with live streaming via Zoom, focusing on case study discussion, while not compromising the learning objectives and experience.

The duration of the session was reduced from three to less than two hours. One round of briefing was conducted in October, and a total of 41 supervisors attended the briefings.

Since 2020, OOB has also delivered talks to optometry graduates at Singapore Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic during their annual career sharing day to better prepare them for registration and fulfilment of supervisory framework requirements when they are ready to join the industry.

### 5.3 Professional Conduct

The Board received a total of 10 complaints from 2017 to 2023, with three cases pending investigation as of 31 December 2023.

Complaints Received	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Opticians (D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opticians (RD)	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	4
Optometrists	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>



# Registration Data

The data in this section is based on practitioners who are on register with valid Practising Certificates.

## 6.1 New Registrations

Since the Board started regulating the professions in 2008, there has been a steady increase in the number of optometrists and opticians over the years. The figures provided in the table below represent new registrants each year for all registration types (full, provisional, conditional and temporary registration).

Register Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Opticians (D)	27	22	19	0	2
Opticians (RD)	64	41	63	30	107
Optometrists	162	126	165	143	143
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>252</b>



## 6.2 Practising Certificate Renewal 2023

A total of 674 registered optometrists and opticians were required to renew their PCs which were valid till 31 December 2023. Among these, 652 (96.7%) practitioners submitted their applications and successfully renewed their PCs for two years from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.

### Number of PCs renewed

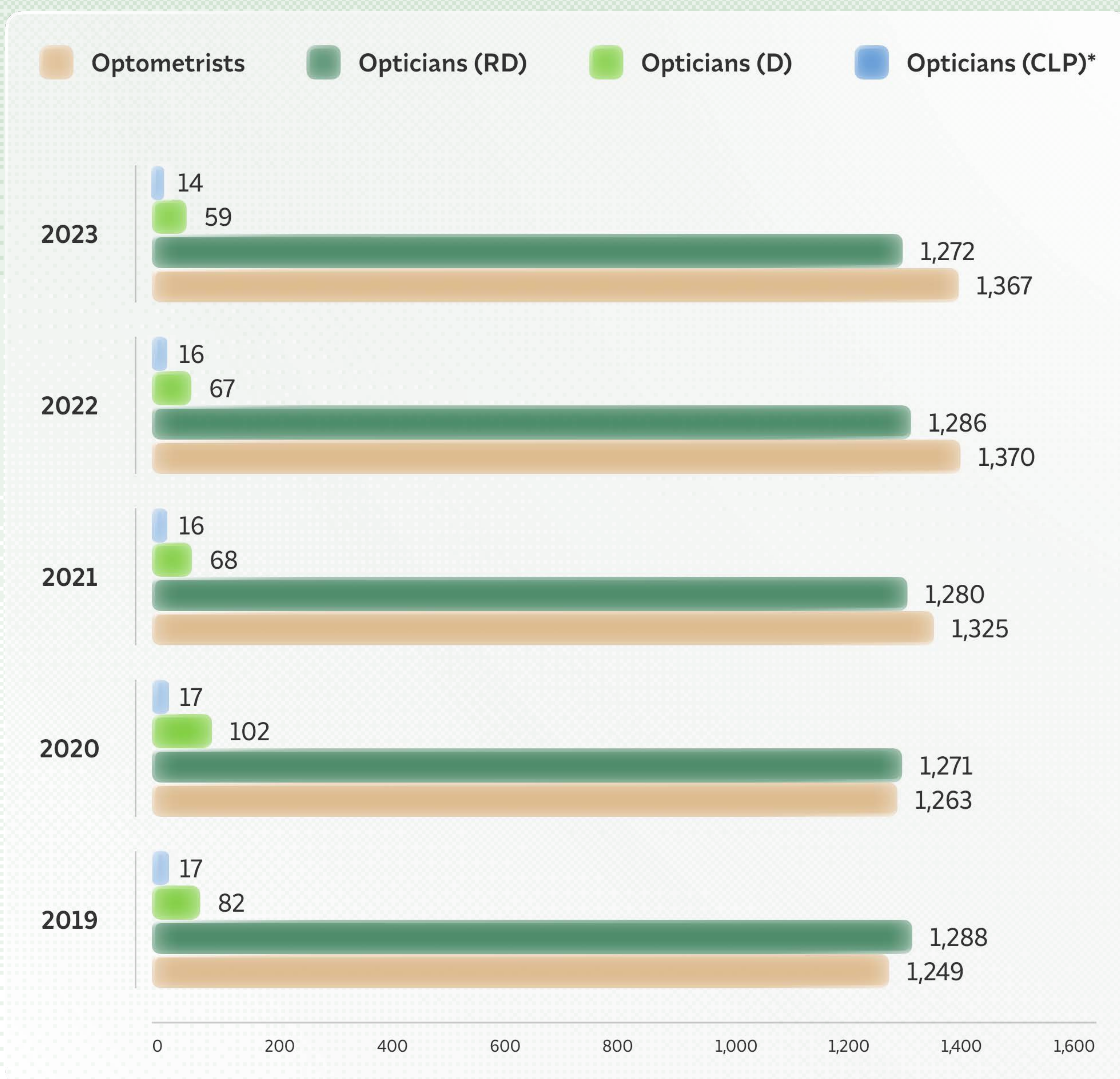
\* Optician (CLP) is a closed registration category

Register Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Opticians (D)	5	61	5	50	5
Opticians (RD)	113	997	154	971	166
Opticians (CLP)*	2	14	2	12	1
Optometrists	386	594	441	637	480
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>652</b>



## 6.3 Registration by Categories

N = 2,712



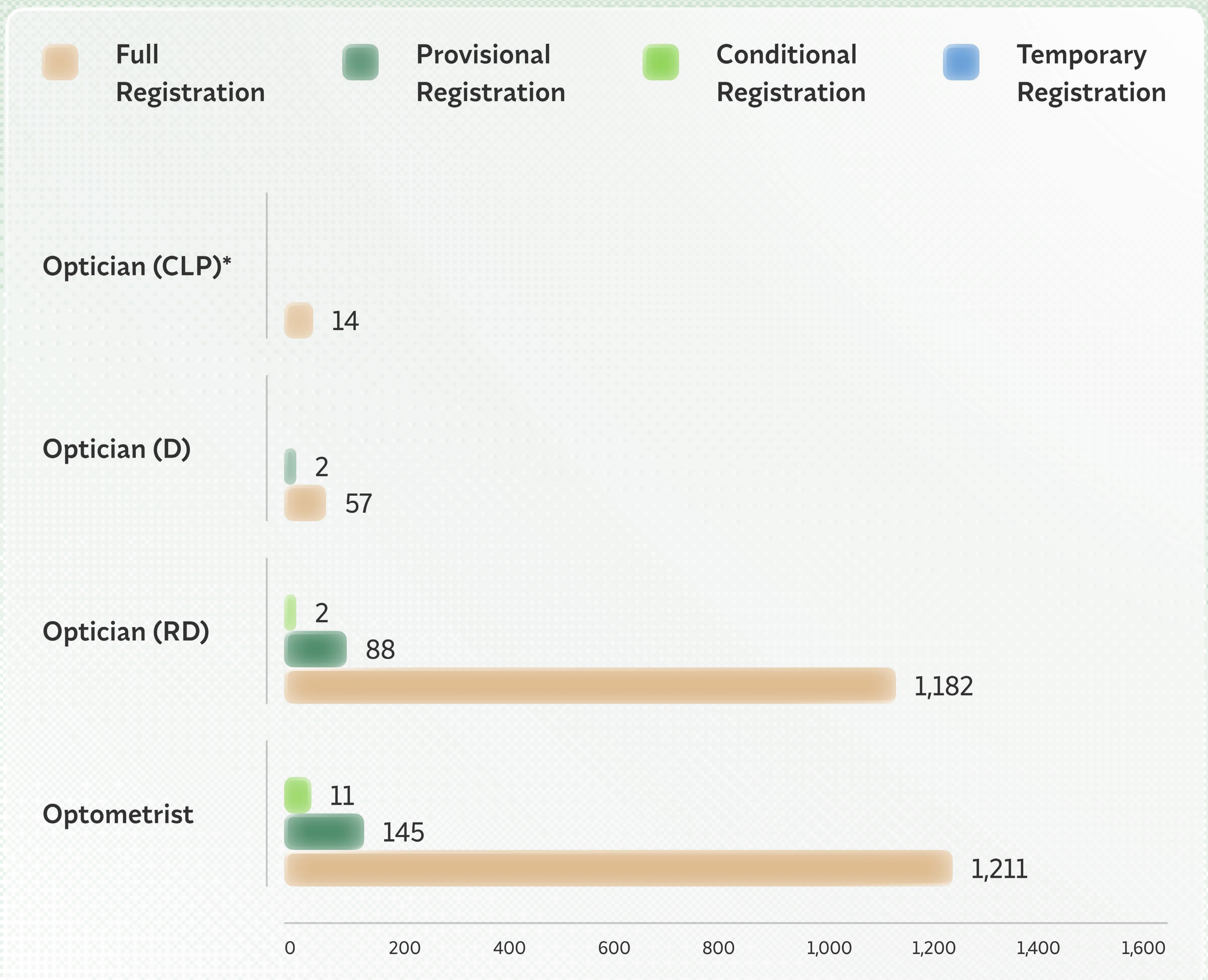
Register Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Optometrists	1,249	1,263	1,325	1,370	1,367
Opticians (RD)	1,288	1,271	1,280	1,286	1,272
Opticians (D)	82	102	68	67	59
Opticians (CLP)*	17	17	16	16	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>2,739</b>	<b>2,712</b>

\* Optician (CLP) is a closed registration category



## 6.4 Registration by Type

N = 2,712



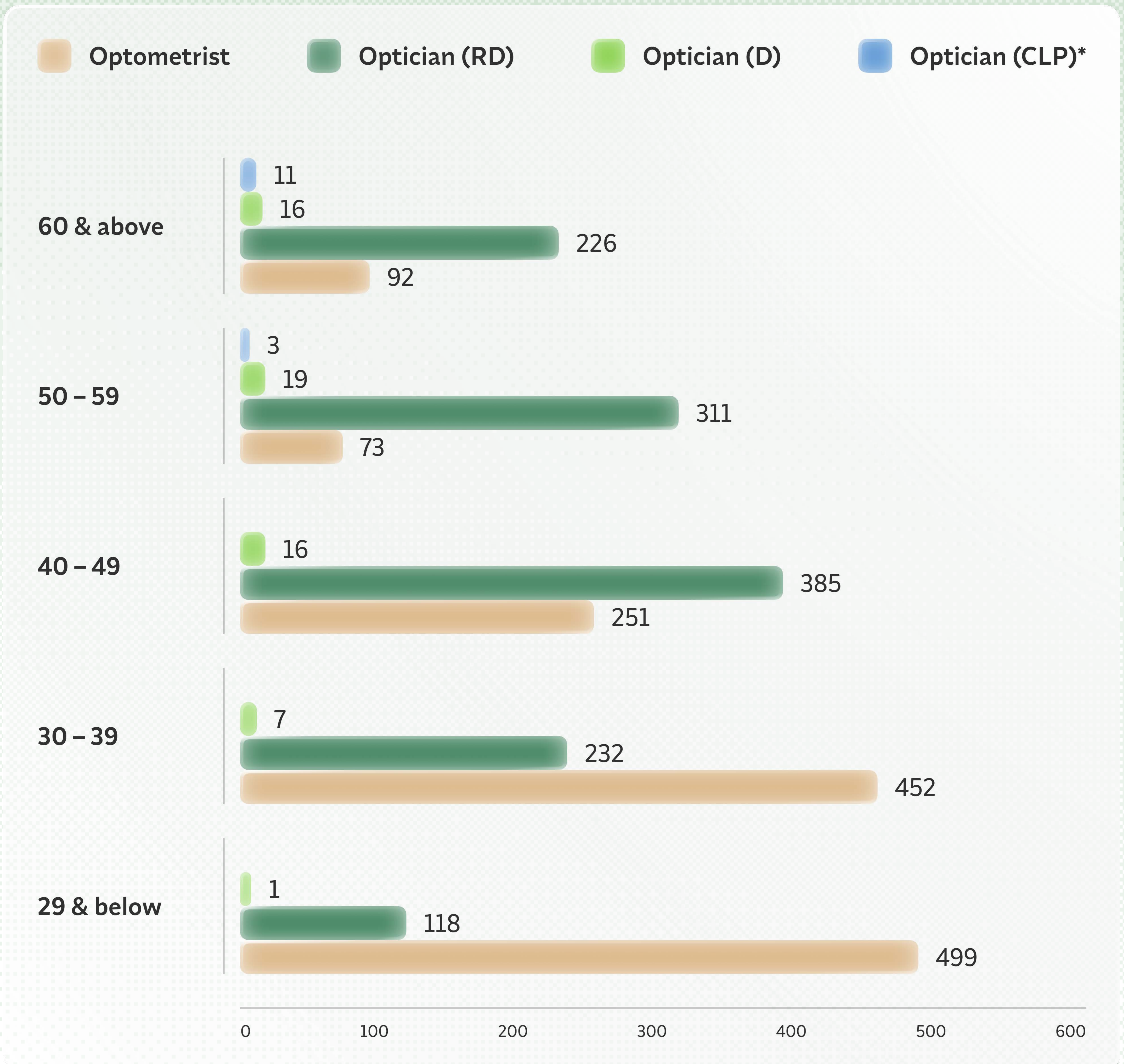
Register Type	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)*
Full Registration	1,211	1,182	57	14
Provisional Registration	145	88	2	0
Conditional Registration	11	2	0	0
Temporary Registration	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>14</b>

\* Optician (CLP) is a closed registration category



## 6.5 Practitioners by Age Group

N = 2,712



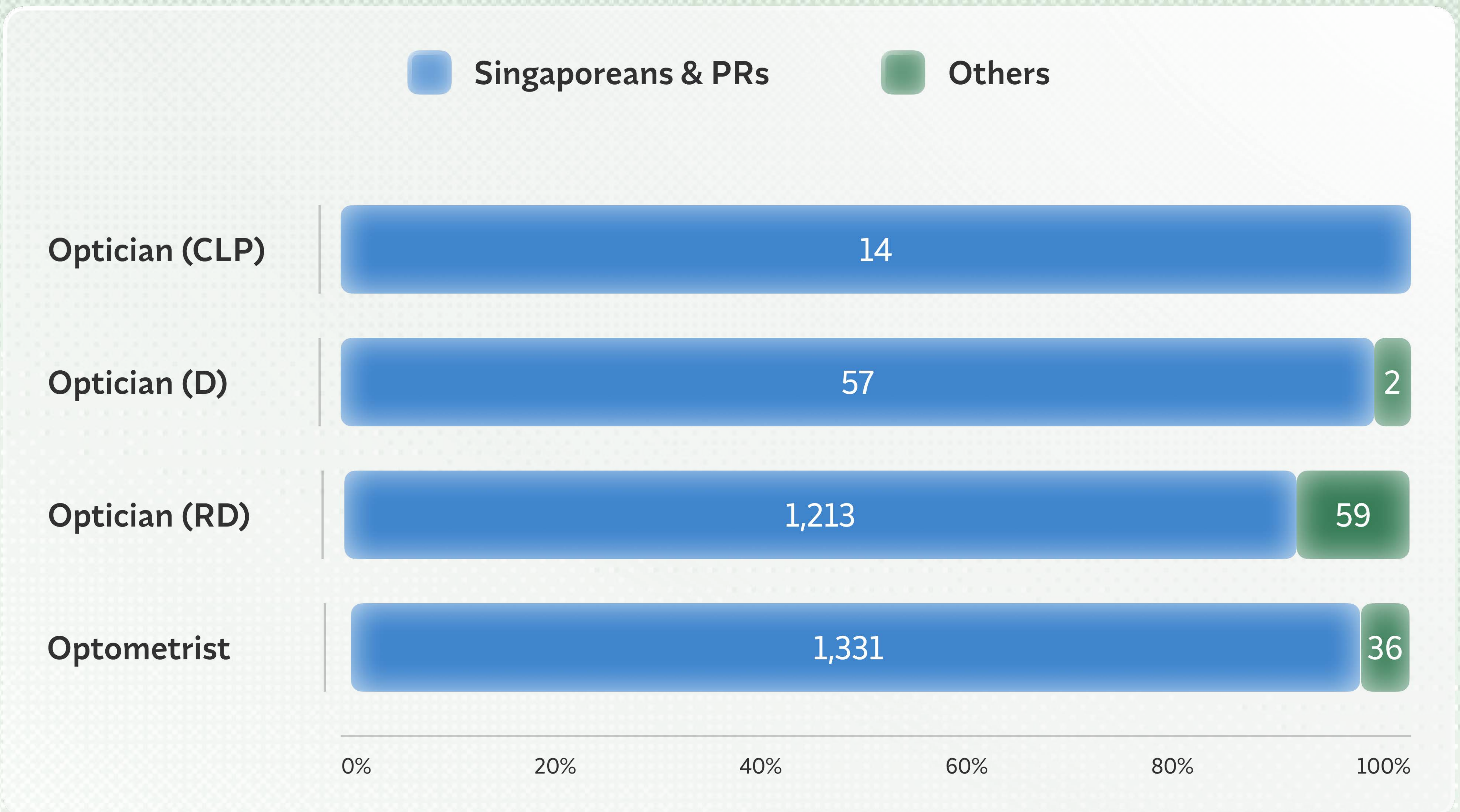
Age Group	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)*
29 & below	499	118	1	0
30 - 39	452	232	7	0
40 - 49	251	385	16	0
50 - 59	73	311	19	3
60 & above	92	226	16	11
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>14</b>

\* Optician (CLP) is a closed registration category



## 6.6 Practitioners by Nationality

N = 2,712



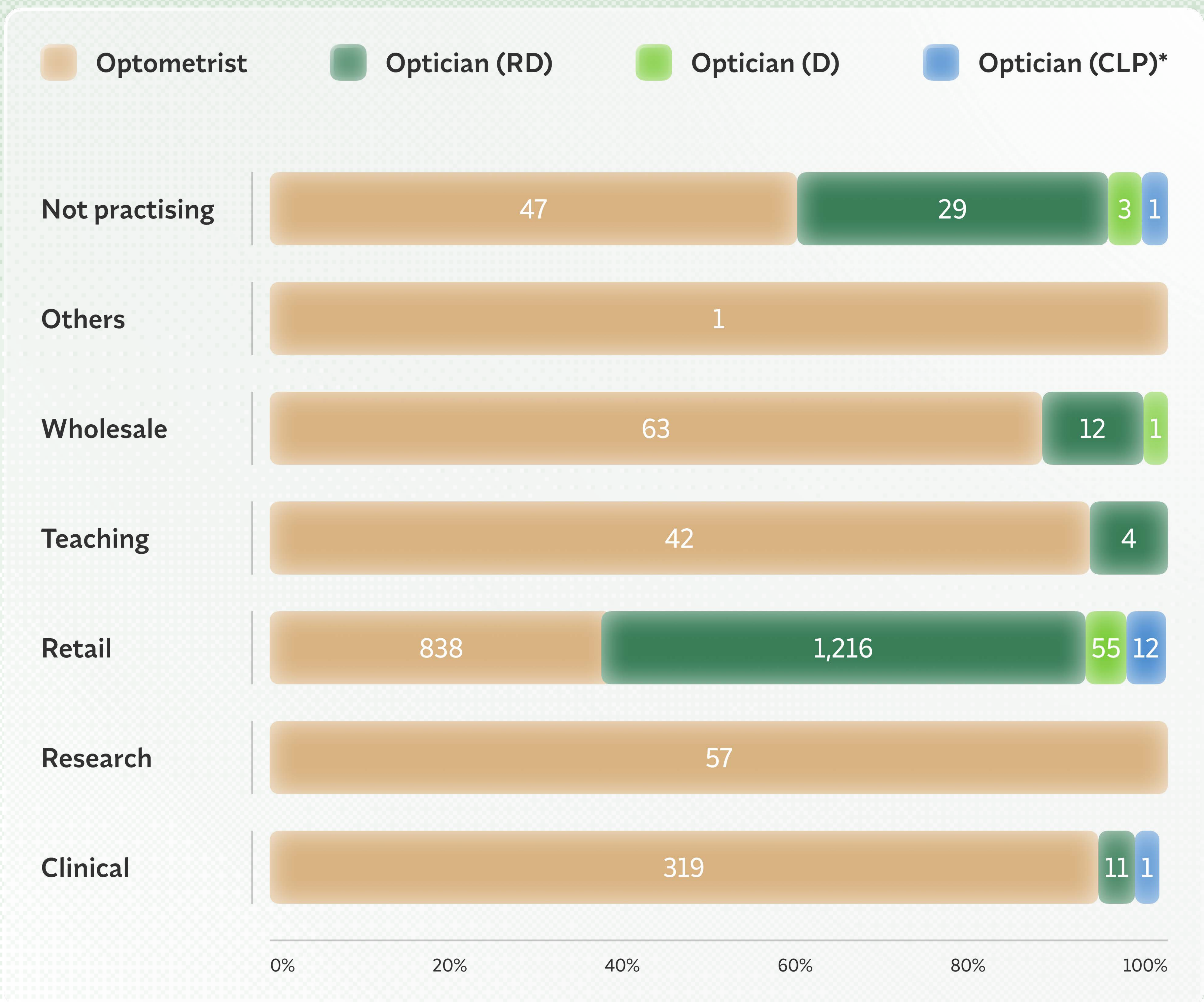
Nationality	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)*
Singaporeans & PRs	1,331	1,213	57	14
Others	36	59	2	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>14</b>

\* Optician (CLP) is a closed registration category



## 6.7 Practitioners by Fields of Employment

N = 2,712



Age Group	Optometrist	Optician (RD)	Optician (D)	Optician (CLP)*
Clinical	319	11	0	1
Research	57	0	0	0
Retail	838	1,216	55	12
Teaching	42	4	0	0
Wholesale	63	12	1	0
Others	1	0	0	0
Not Practicing	47	29	3	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>14</b>

\* Optician (CLP) is a closed registration category



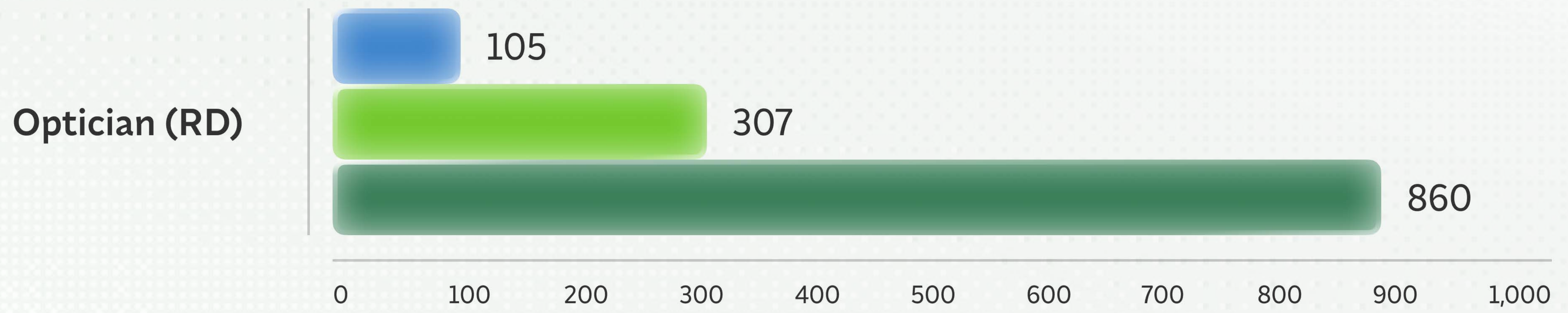
## 6.8 Practitioners by Basic Qualifications

### Qualification Type for Opticians (RD)

N = 1,272

2023

■ Group 1 (Grandfathering Qualifications and Examinations)
 ■ Group 2 (Advanced Certificate)
 ■ Group 3 (NITEC)

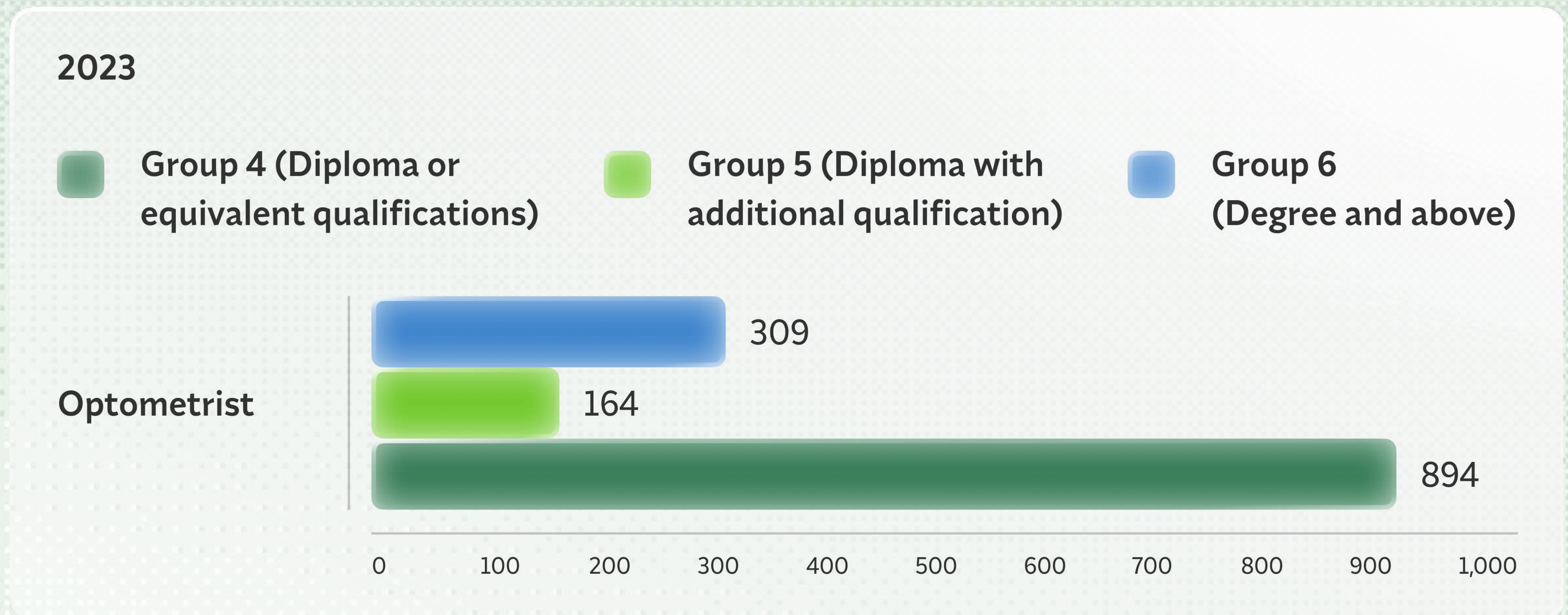


Qualification Type for Opticians (RD)	2021	2022	2023
Group 1 (Grandfathering Qualifications and Examinations)	904	903	860
Group 2 (Advanced Certificate)	291	217	307
Group 3 (NITEC)	85	95	105
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>1,272</b>



# Qualification Type for Optometrists

N = 1,367



Qualification Type for Optometrists	2021	2022	2023
Group 4 (Diploma or equivalent qualifications)	890	912	894
Group 5 (Diploma with additional qualification) *	132	151	164
Group 6 (Degree and above)	303	307	309
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>1,367</b>

\* Additional qualification refers to any other qualifications that are recognised for display in practice but not for the purpose of registration by the Optometrists and Opticians (Registration and Practising Certificates) Regulations, and may be diplomas, degrees or higher qualifications

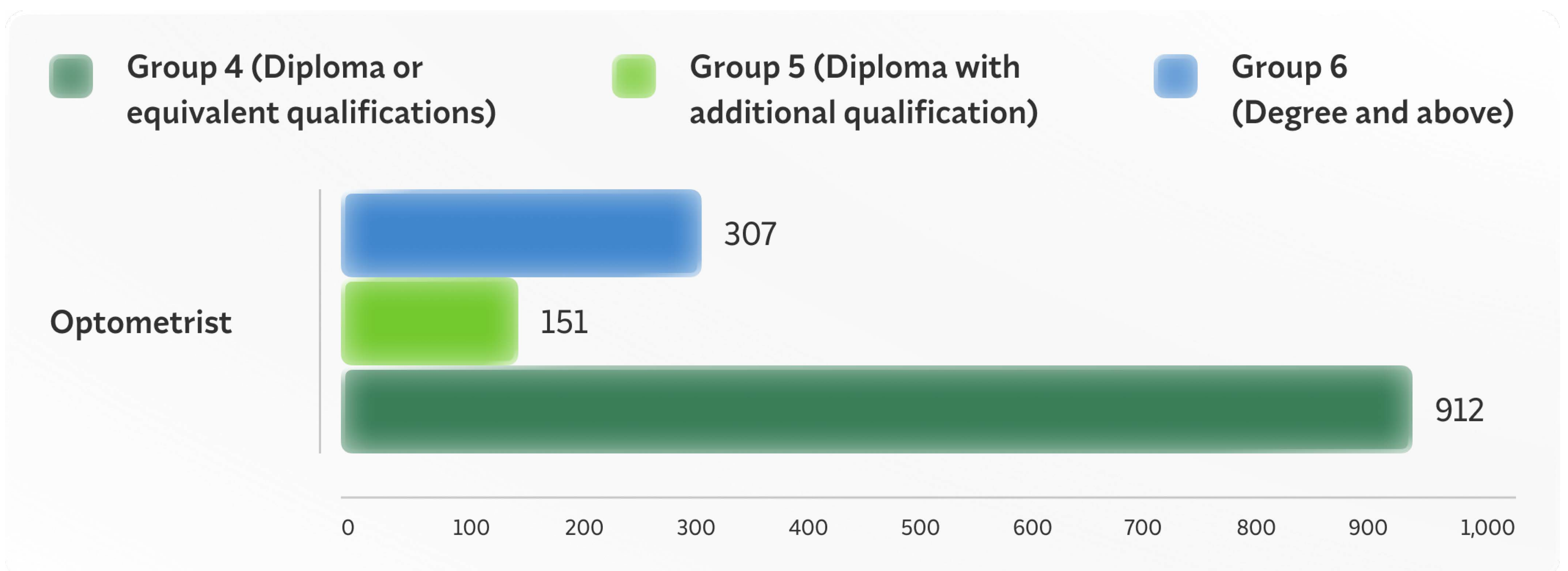


# Corrigendum to Annual Report 2022

The graph and figures for 'Qualification Type for Optometrists' in the Annual Report 2022 contained an error. Please find the revised graph and figures below.

## Qualification Type for Optometrists in 2022

N = 1,370



Qualification Type for Optometrists	Optometrist
Group 4 (Diploma or equivalent qualifications)	912
Group 5 (Diploma with additional qualification) *	151
Group 6 (Degree and above)	307
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,370</b>

\* Additional qualification refers to any other qualifications that are recognised for display in practice but not for the purpose of registration by the Optometrists and Opticians (Registration and Practising Certificates) Regulations, and may be diplomas, degrees or higher qualifications





Email Address:  
**[OOB@spb.gov.sg](mailto:OOB@spb.gov.sg)**

Visit us at:  
**[healthprofessionals.gov.sg/oob](http://healthprofessionals.gov.sg/oob)**



**Optometrists & Opticians Board**