

2004 PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT SURVEY



Vermont Department of Health
Agency of Human Services

SURVEY DESCRIPTION

Mailed to PAs along with the license renewal forms in December 2003

Followed up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was 100%

SUMMARY

- There were 155 PAs working in Vermont.
- 56% (87) of PAs were female.
- Ages ranged from 26 to 62, with a median of 44.
- 62% (94) of respondents have worked in VT 9 years or less, and 16% (25) have worked in VT 20 or more years.

PRIMARY CARE

51% (79) worked mainly in primary care:

- 35% (55) in family practice
- 6% (10) in internal medicine
- 6% (10) in obstetrics and gynecology
- 3% (4) in pediatric primary care

SPECIALTY CARE

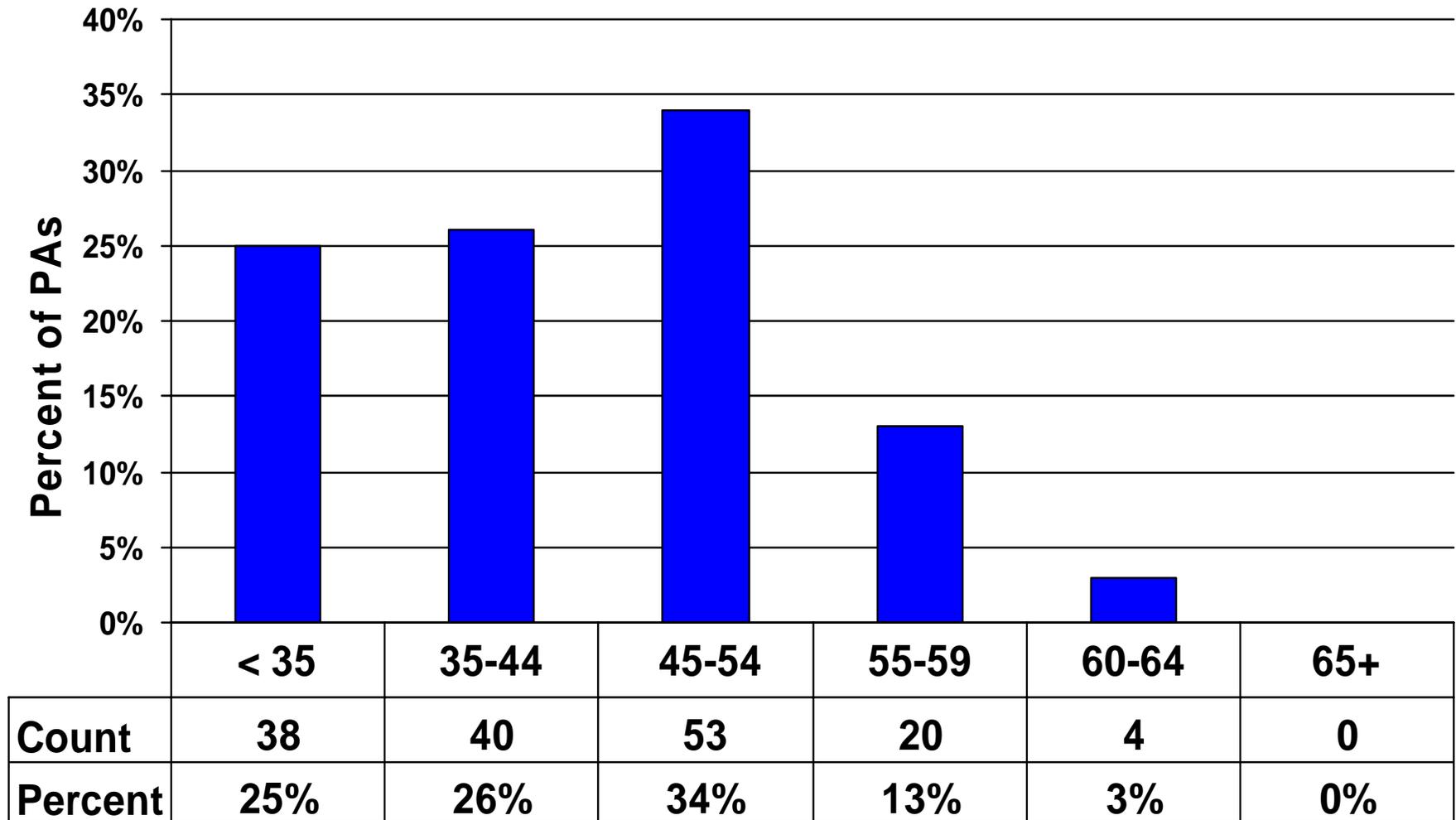
49% (76) worked mainly in specialty care:

- 24% (37) in emergency medicine
- 12% (18) in various surgery specialties
- 4% (6) in dermatology
- 3% (5) in internal medicine
- 3% (4) in urology
- 4% (6) all other specialties

CHANGES OVER TIME

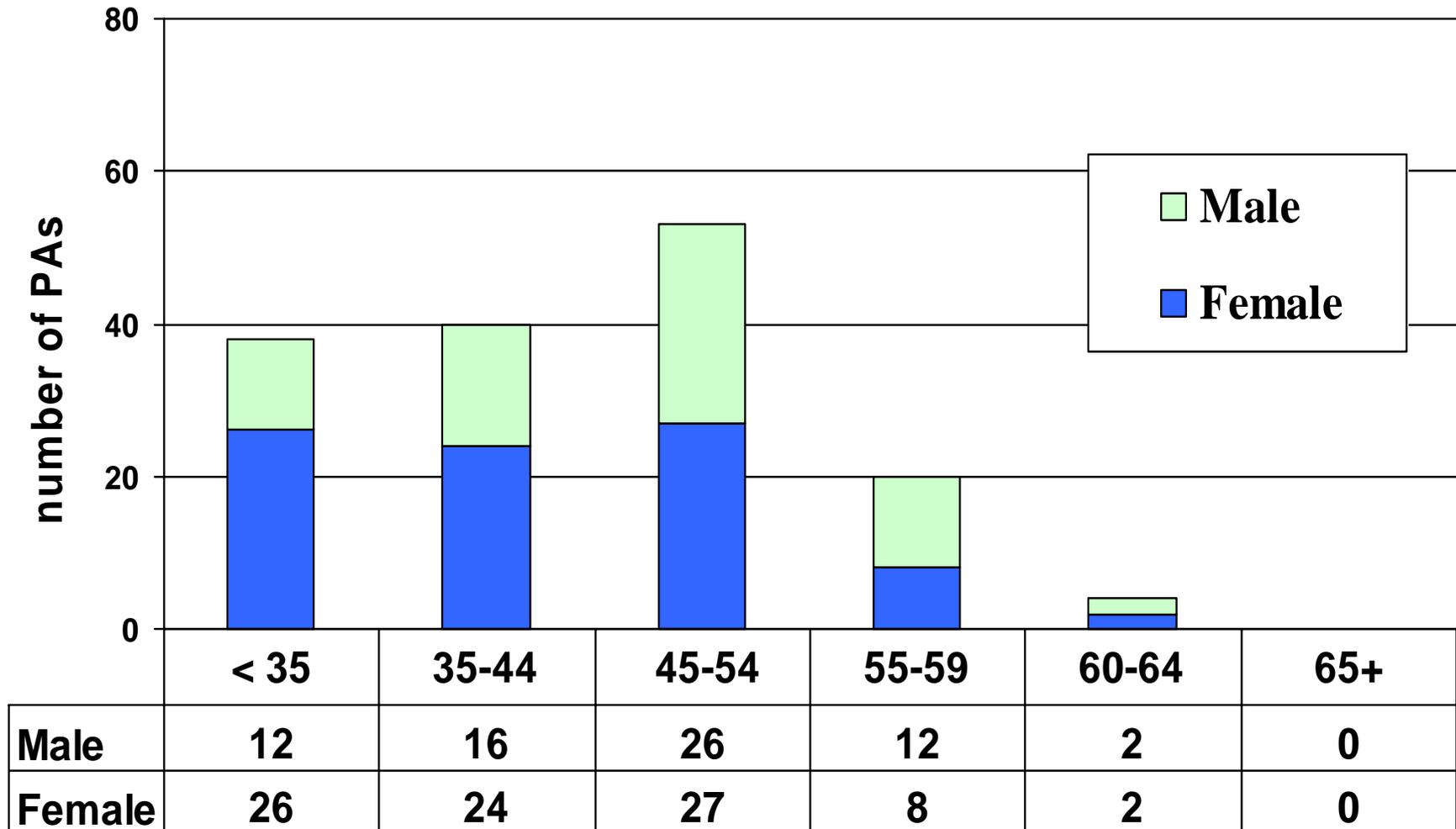
- As compared with 2002:
 - There was an increase of 25 PAs, 10 in primary care and 15 in specialty care.
 - More PAs are working 40 hours or more per week
 - There are 8.0 more primary care FTEs. Half of this increase was in Franklin County, while some areas have seen a drop in primary care.
 - There has also been an increase of 14.4 FTES in specialty care, mainly in Chittenden and Windsor counties.
 - Percent of PAs with hospital admitting privileges has increased from 24% to 55%.

AGE DISTRIBUTION



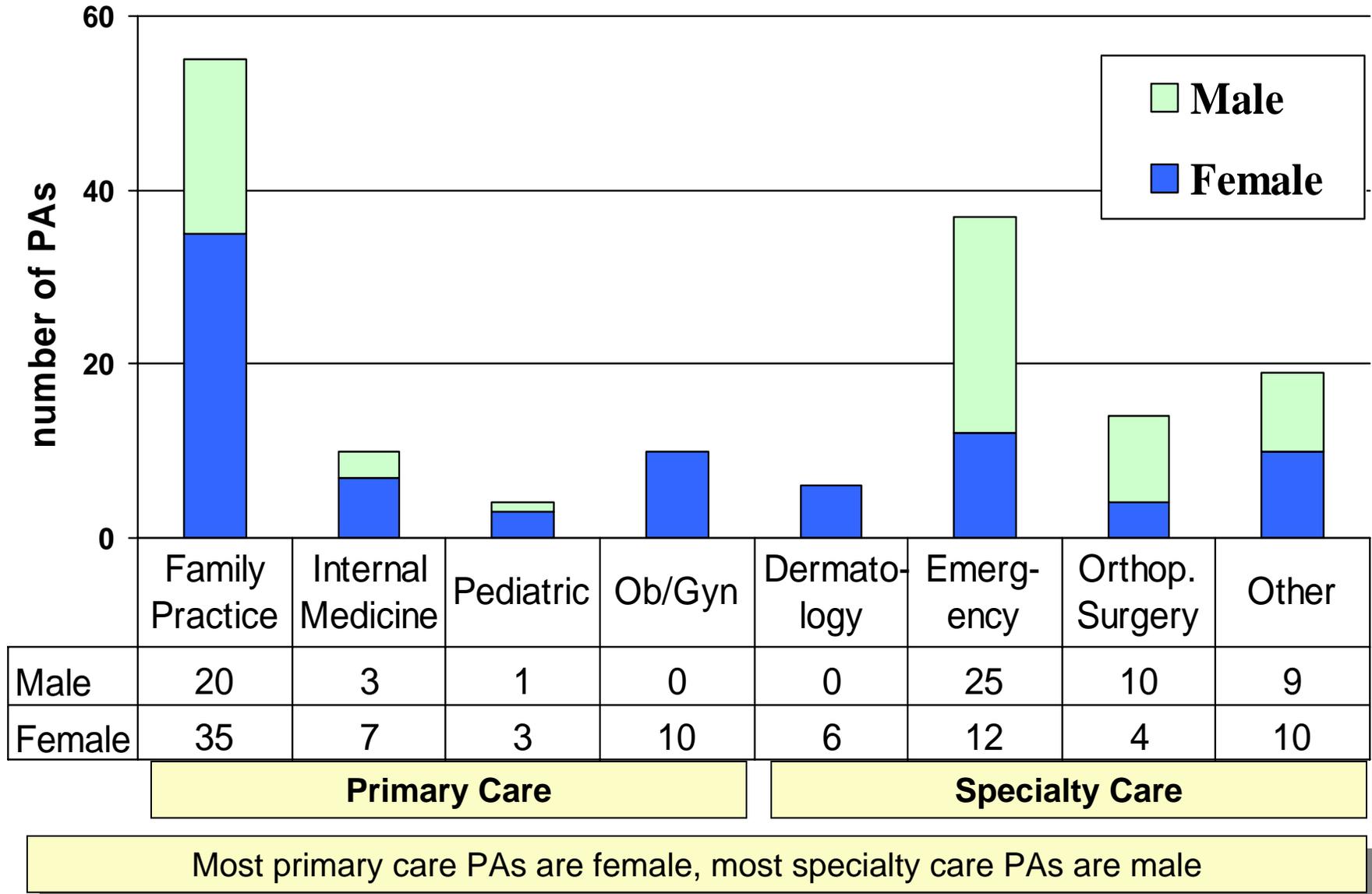
25% of all PAs are under the age of 35

AGE DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER

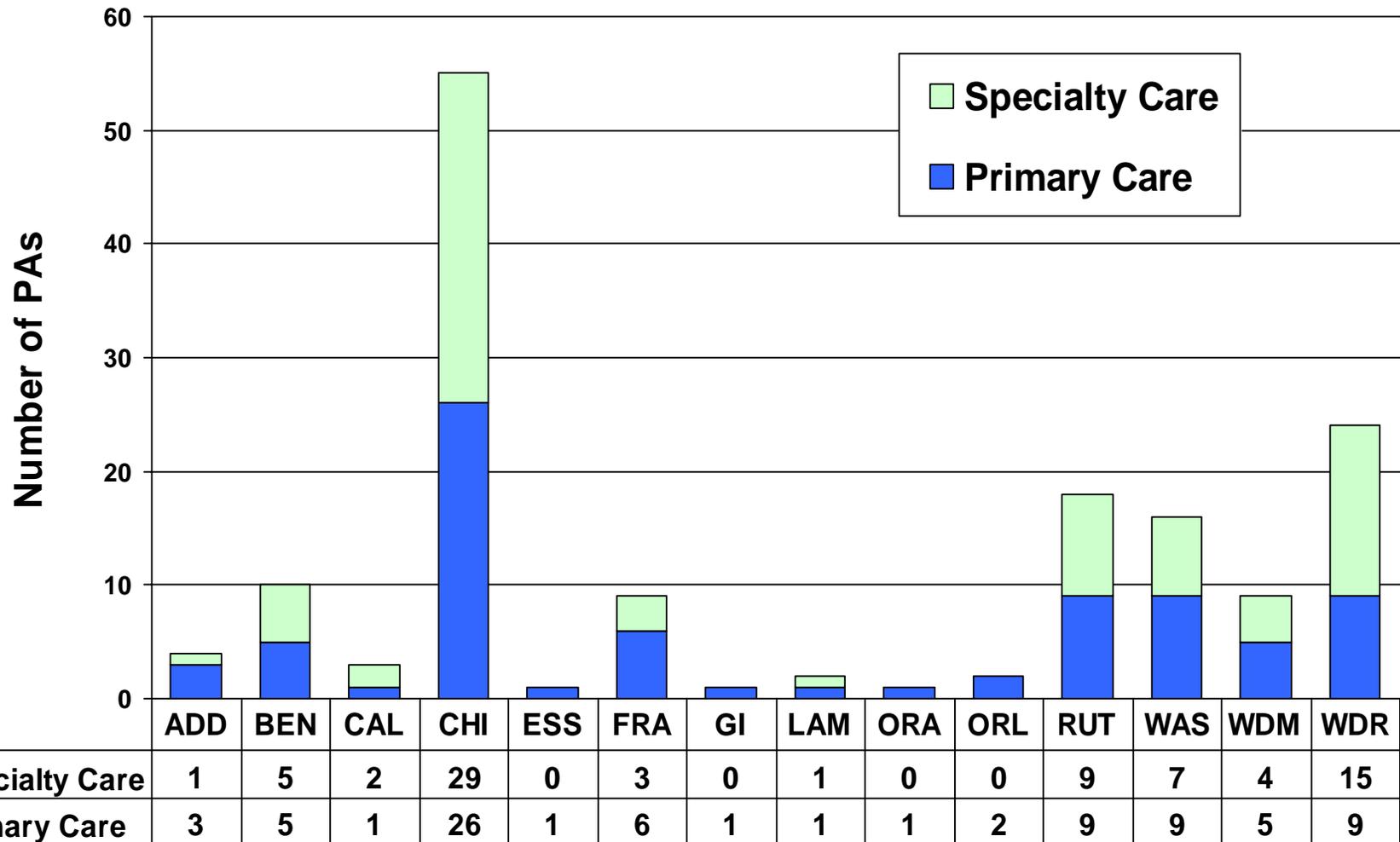


56% of all PAs are female; 64% of PAs under age 45 are female

SPECIALTY BY GENDER

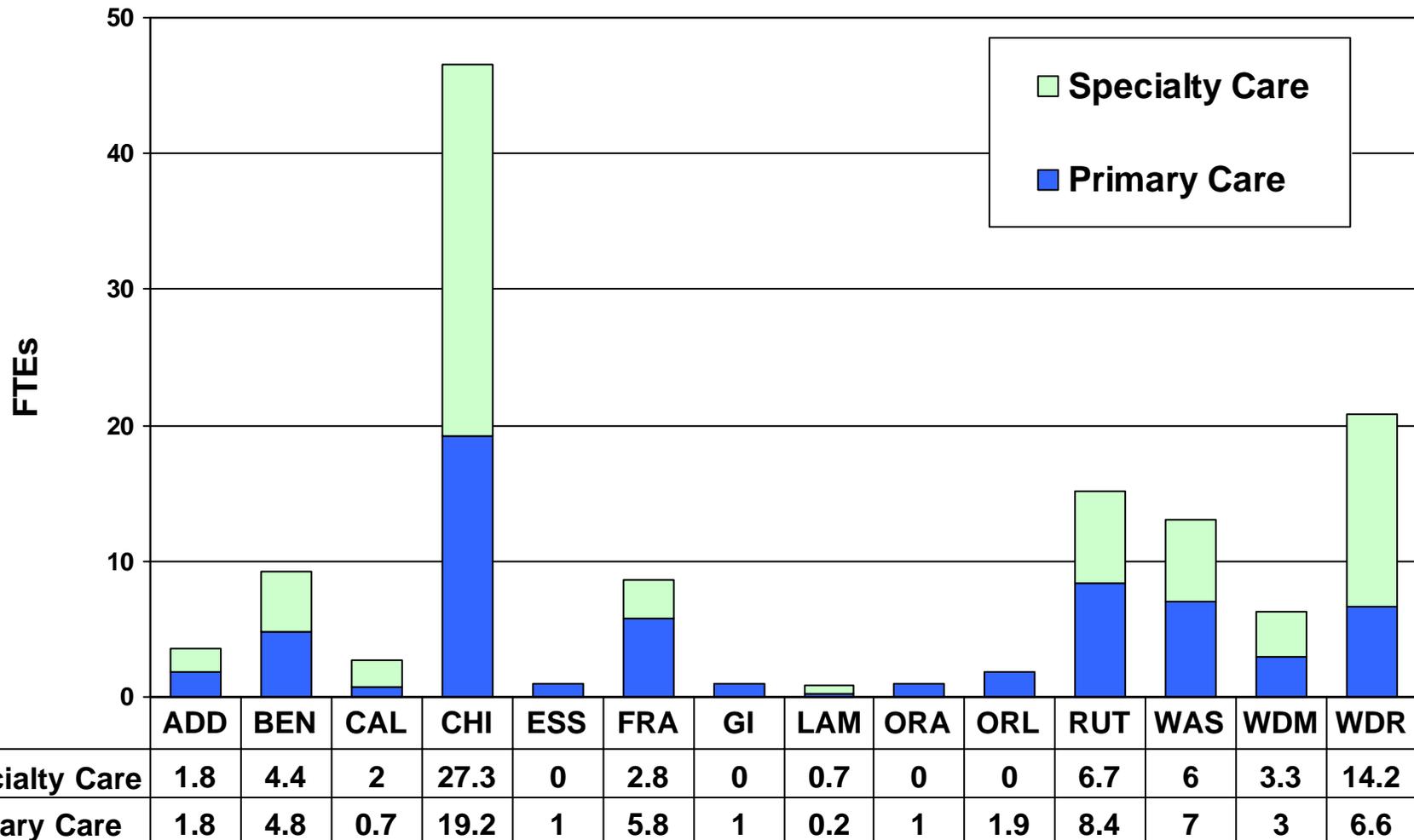


NUMBER OF PAs BY COUNTY



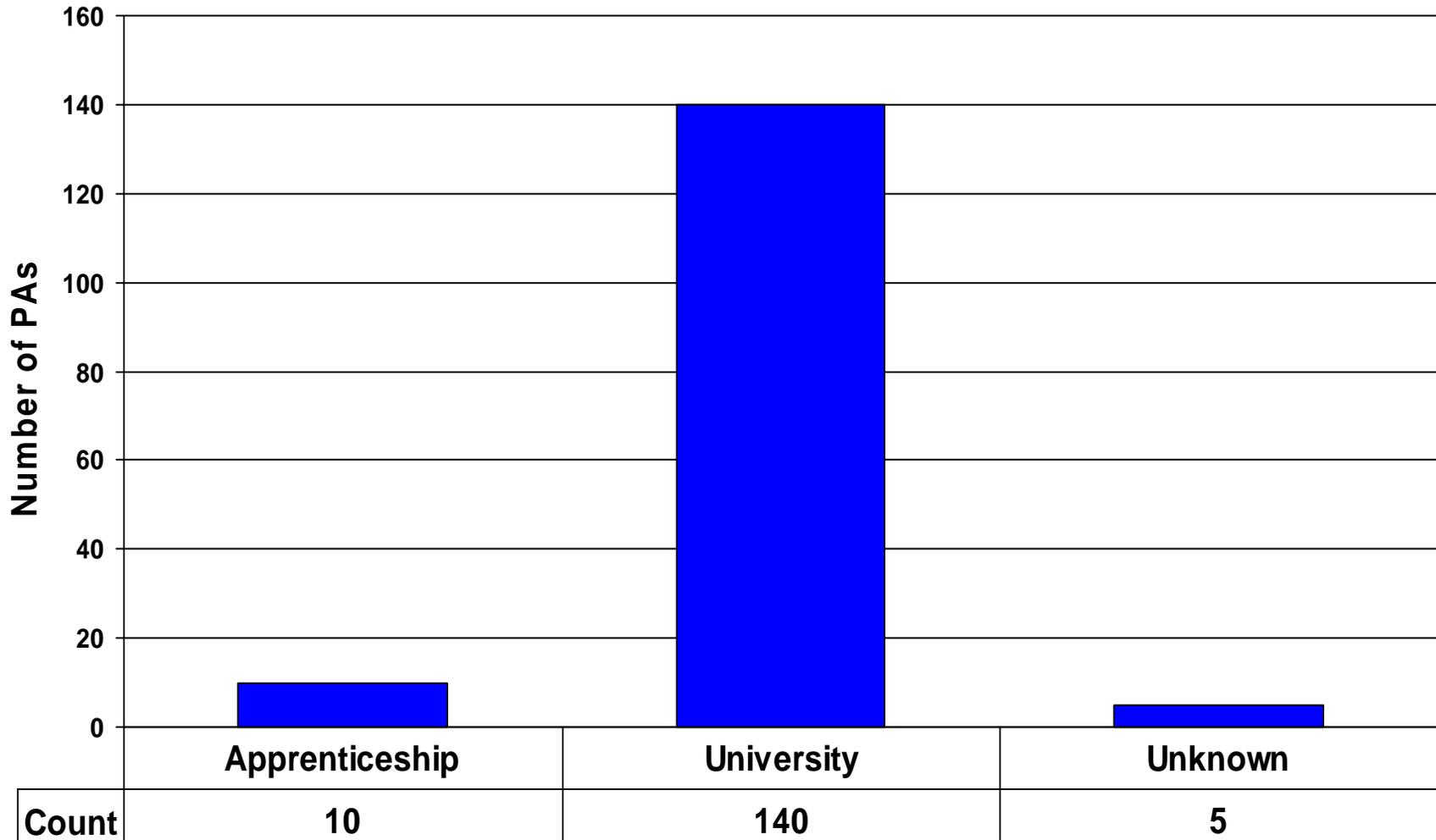
Although 23% of PAs work in more than one location, in this graph each PA is counted only once, in their main specialty and main county of practice.

NUMBER OF PA FTEs BY COUNTY

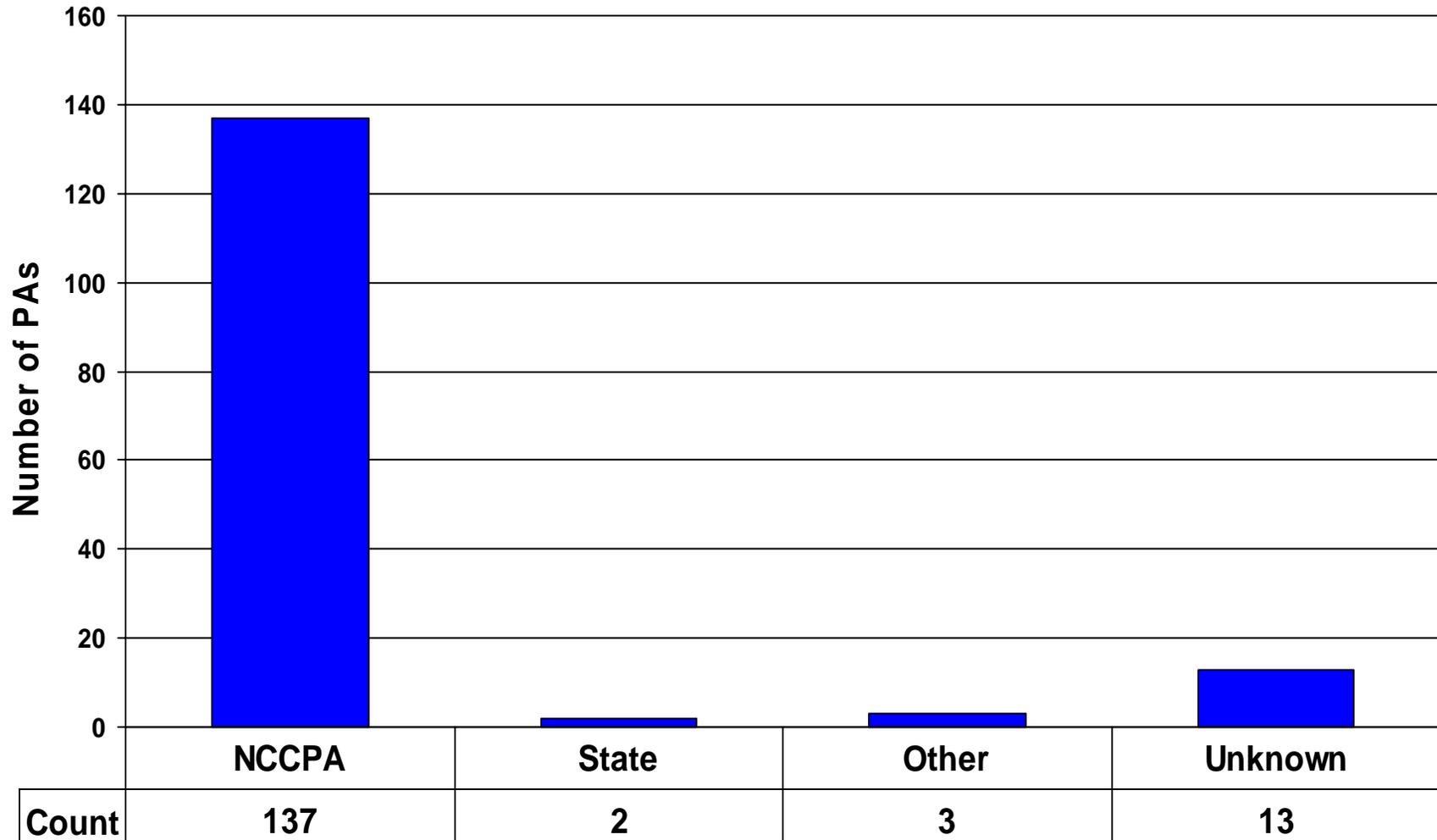


All sites and specialties of each PA are counted.
One FTE is defined as 40 or more hours per week.

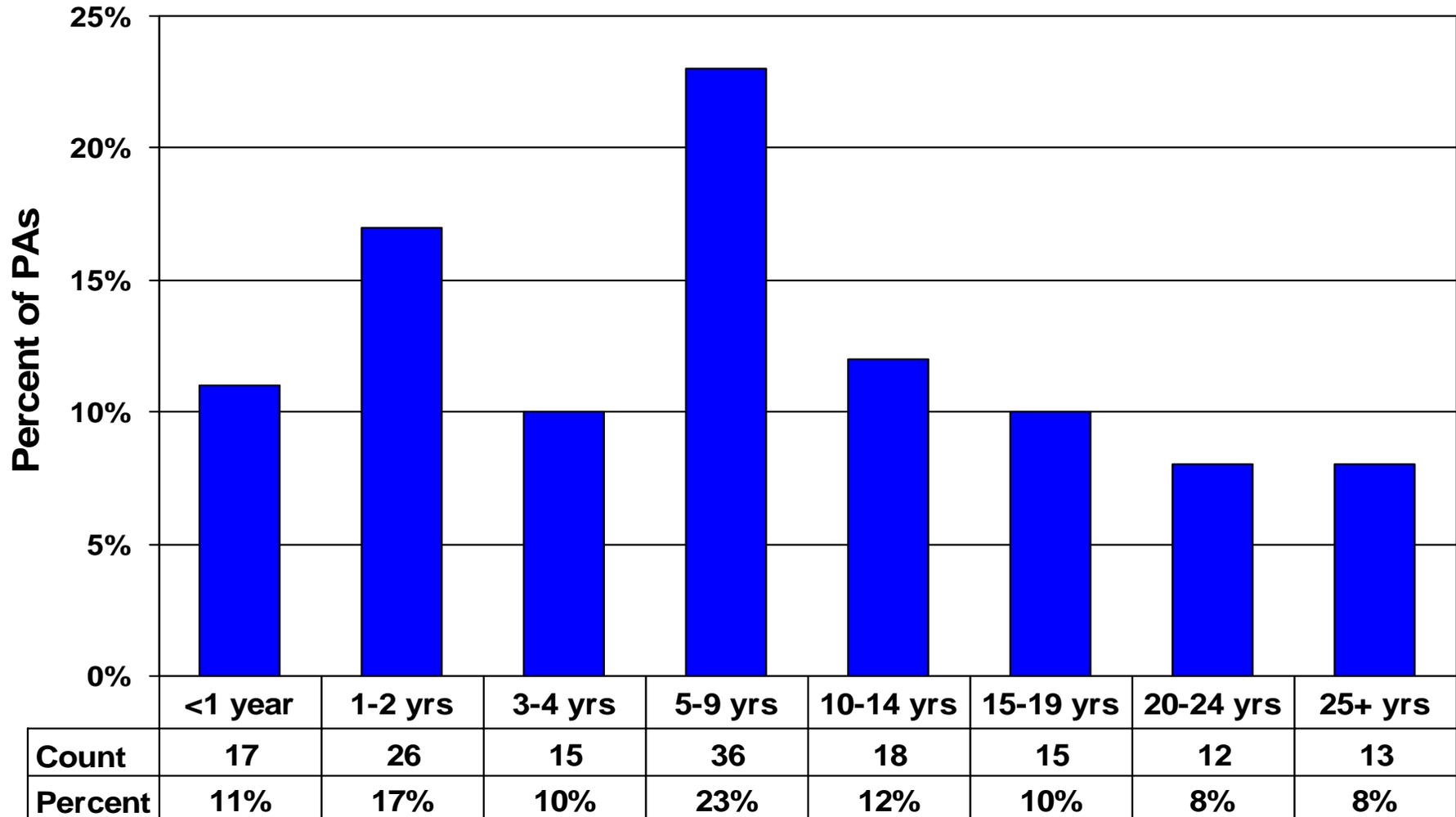
PAs' Basis for Vermont Certification



PAs' Certification Exams Taken

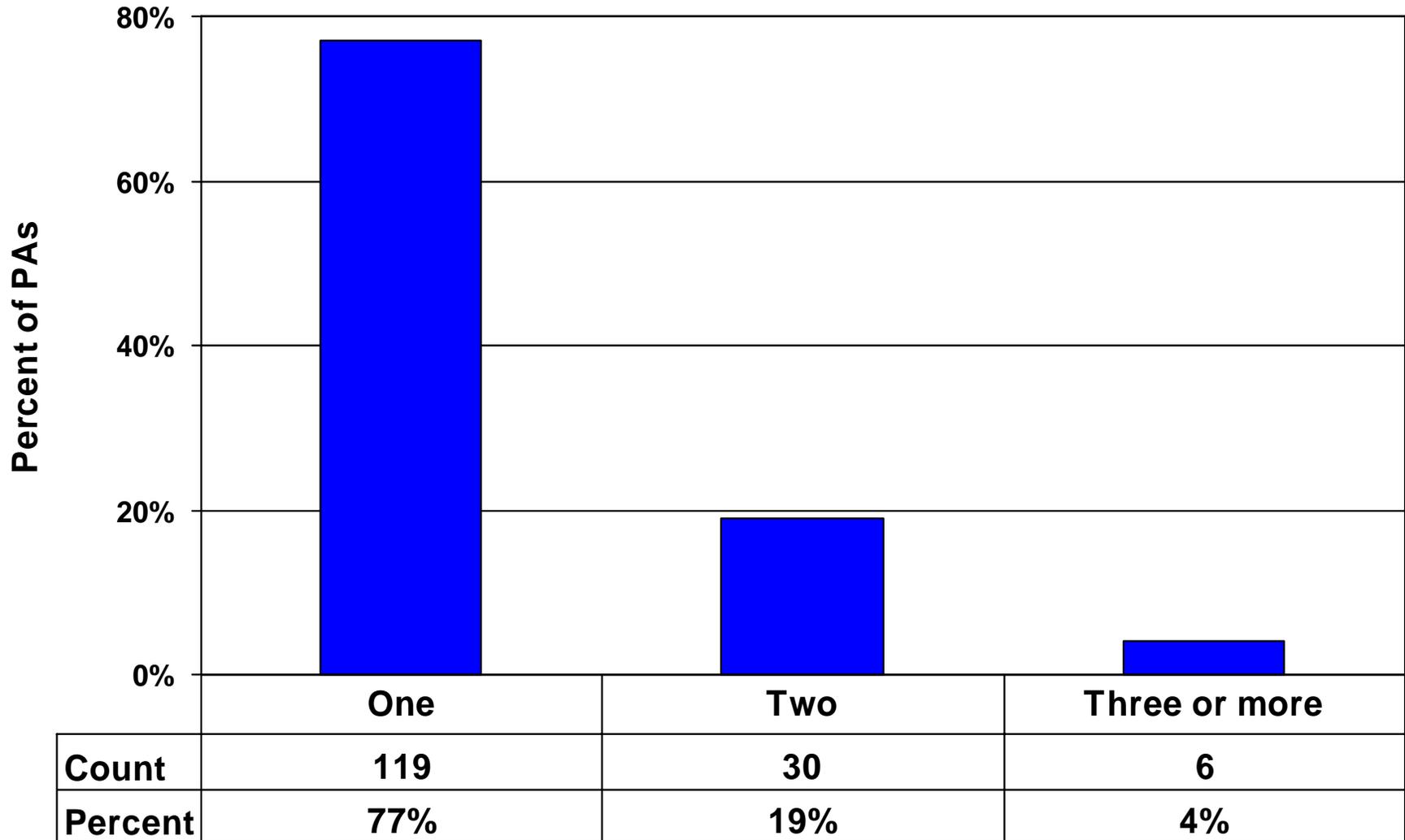


YEARS WORKED IN VERMONT

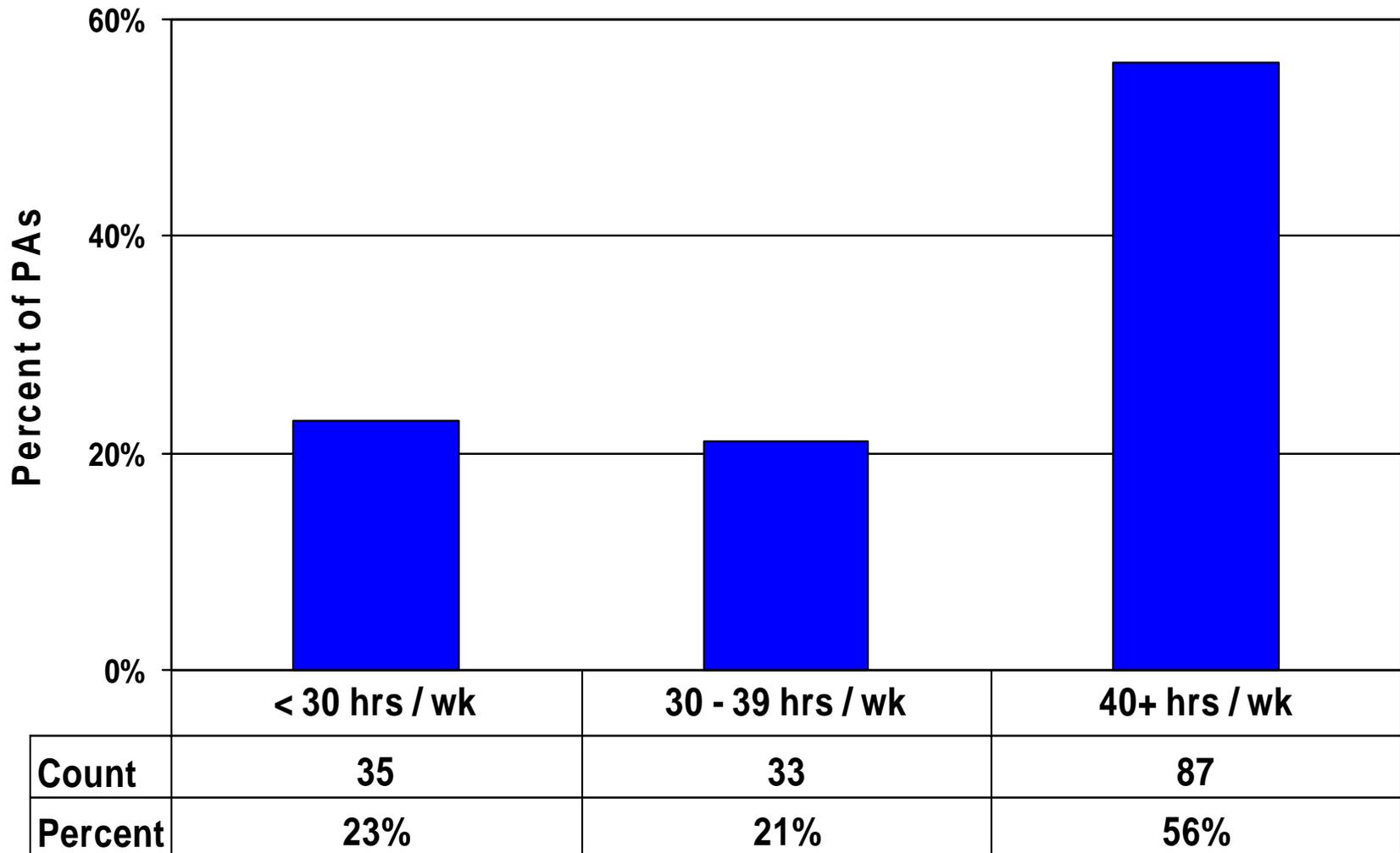


38% of PAs have worked in Vermont 10 or more years

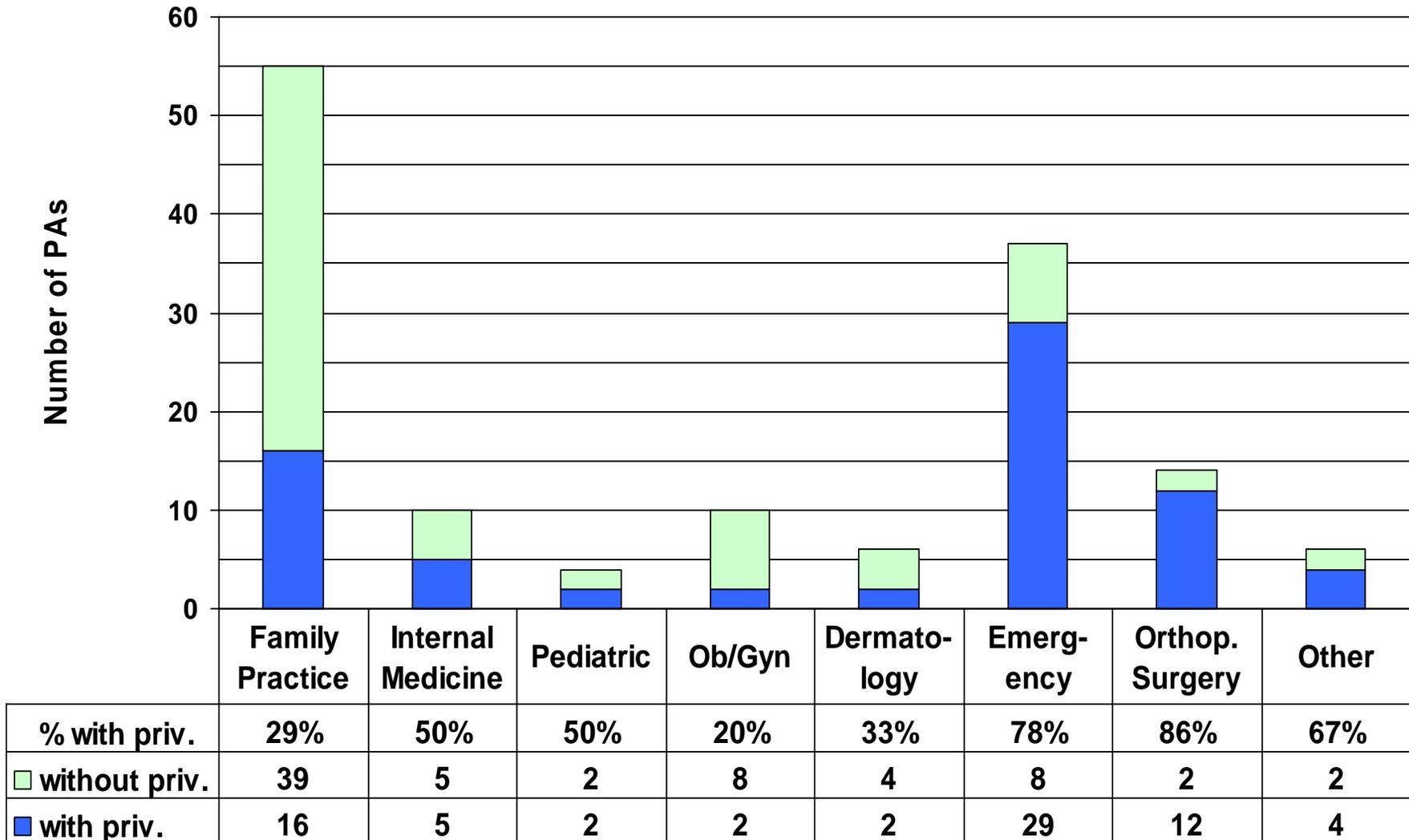
NUMBER OF SITES OF PRACTICE



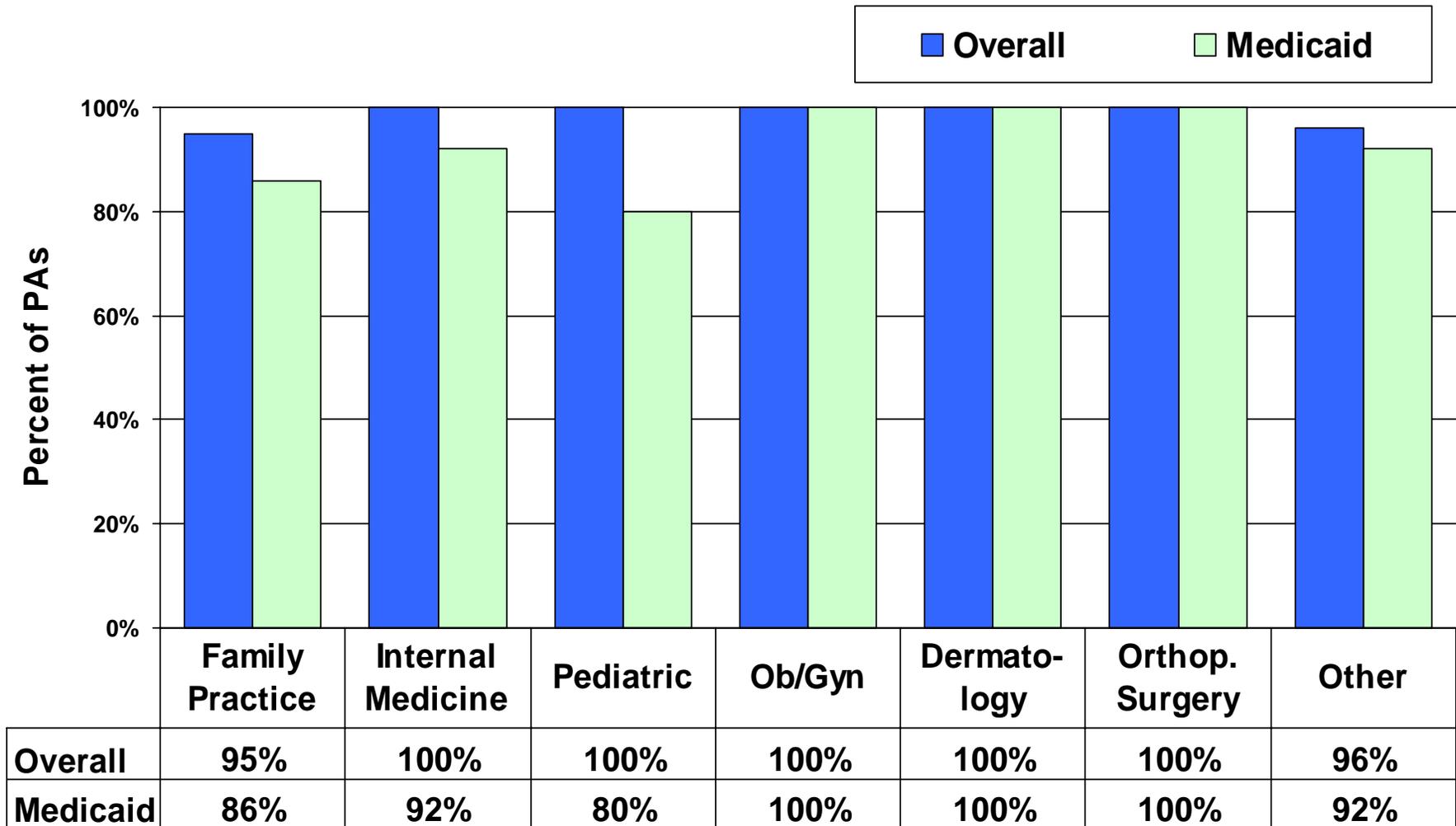
HOURS WORKED PER WEEK



Hospital Admitting Privileges by Specialty



PA's ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



Overall, 97% accept new patients, 90% accept new Medicaid patients, 91% accept new Medicare patients. Each site a provider practices in is counted separately. Emergency medicine excluded.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Primary Care PA numbers and FTEs, 1998-2004

	1998	2000	2002	2004
Primary care PAs	68	70	69	79
Family Practice	44	51	53	55
Internal Medicine	12	7	7	10
Ob/Gyn	10	9	8	10
Pediatric Primary Care	2	3	1	4
Primary care PA FTEs	48.8	50.9	54.3	62.3
Family Practice	34.3	39.3	43.6	45.4
Internal Medicine	8.4	4.7	5.3	7.5
Ob/Gyn	4.7	5.5	4.5	5.6
Pediatric Primary Care	1.4	1.4	1.0	3.9

Specialty Care PA numbers and FTEs, 1998-2004

	1998	2000	2002	2004
Specialist PAs	39	47	61	76
Emergency Medicine	20	25	33	37
Internal Medicine	1	1	1	5
Orthopedic Surgery	5	5	8	14
Specialist PA FTEs	37.7	42.1	54.8	69.2
Emergency Medicine	19.1	21.8	29.4	33.8
Internal Medicine	0.8	1.1	1.0	4.8
Orthopedic Surgery	4.6	4.6	7.5	12.9

Selected Indicators, 1998-2004

	1998	2000	2002	2004
Total PAs active in Vermont	107	117	130	155
Percent female	52%	56%	59%	56%
Percent age 55 or older	4%	7%	9%	15%
Average patient care hours per week	36	34	36	37
Primary care PAs	68	70	69	79
% accepting new patients *	98%	94%	92%	97%
accepting new Medicaid patients *	91%	87%	86%	89%
accepting new Medicare patients *	96%	93%	86%	91%
Primary care PA FTEs	48.8	50.9	54.3	62.3
FTEs/100,000 population **	8.1	8.4	8.8	10.0
Specialist PAs	39	47	61	76

* % of sites not providers

** Population estimates for 1998 revised after 2000 census.