

The Vermont Department of Health

2010 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS SURVEY

Guidance • Support • Prevention • Protection

December, 2010



SURVEY DESCRIPTION

Mailed to PAs with the license renewal forms
in the fall of 2009

Followed up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was 100%

SUMMARY

- There were 202 PAs working in Vermont.
- 60% (122) of the PAs were female.
- Ages ranged from 25 to 65, with a median of 44.

SUMMARY

- 61% of PAs have worked in Vermont 9 years or less
- 14% have worked in Vermont 20 years or more
- 23% of the PAs are 55 or older
- A fifth of those over 55 are planning to retire or leave Vermont within 5 years

PRIMARY CARE

41% (83) worked mainly in primary care:

- 30% (60) in family practice
- 5% (11) in internal medicine
- 3% (6) in obstetrics and gynecology
- 3% (6) in pediatric primary care

PRIMARY CARE

- 82% of primary care PAs accept new patients
- 73% accept new Medicaid patients
- 73% accept new Medicare patients.

SPECIALTY CARE

59% (119) worked mainly in specialty care:

- 20% (40) in emergency medicine
- 12% (25) in orthopedic surgery
- 7% (15) in other surgery specialties
- 4% (8) in dermatology
- 5% (11) in internal medicine
- 2% (5) in urology
- 7% (15) all other specialties

CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2008:
 - There was a net increase of 11 PAs:
 - A decrease of 2 in primary care
 - An increase of 13 in specialty care
 - The biggest increase was in the under 35 age group.

CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2008:
 - Despite a decrease in the number of primary care PAs, there was a net increase of 2.2 FTEs (full time equivalents) in primary care, statewide.
 - Washington, Essex and Windsor Counties had the largest increases.
 - Chittenden and Bennington Counties had the largest decreases.

CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2008:
 - There was a net increase of 11.8 FTEs in specialty care, statewide.
 - Chittenden County had the largest increase, 5.1 additional FTEs.
 - Franklin, Rutland, Orleans and Orange counties also had large increases.

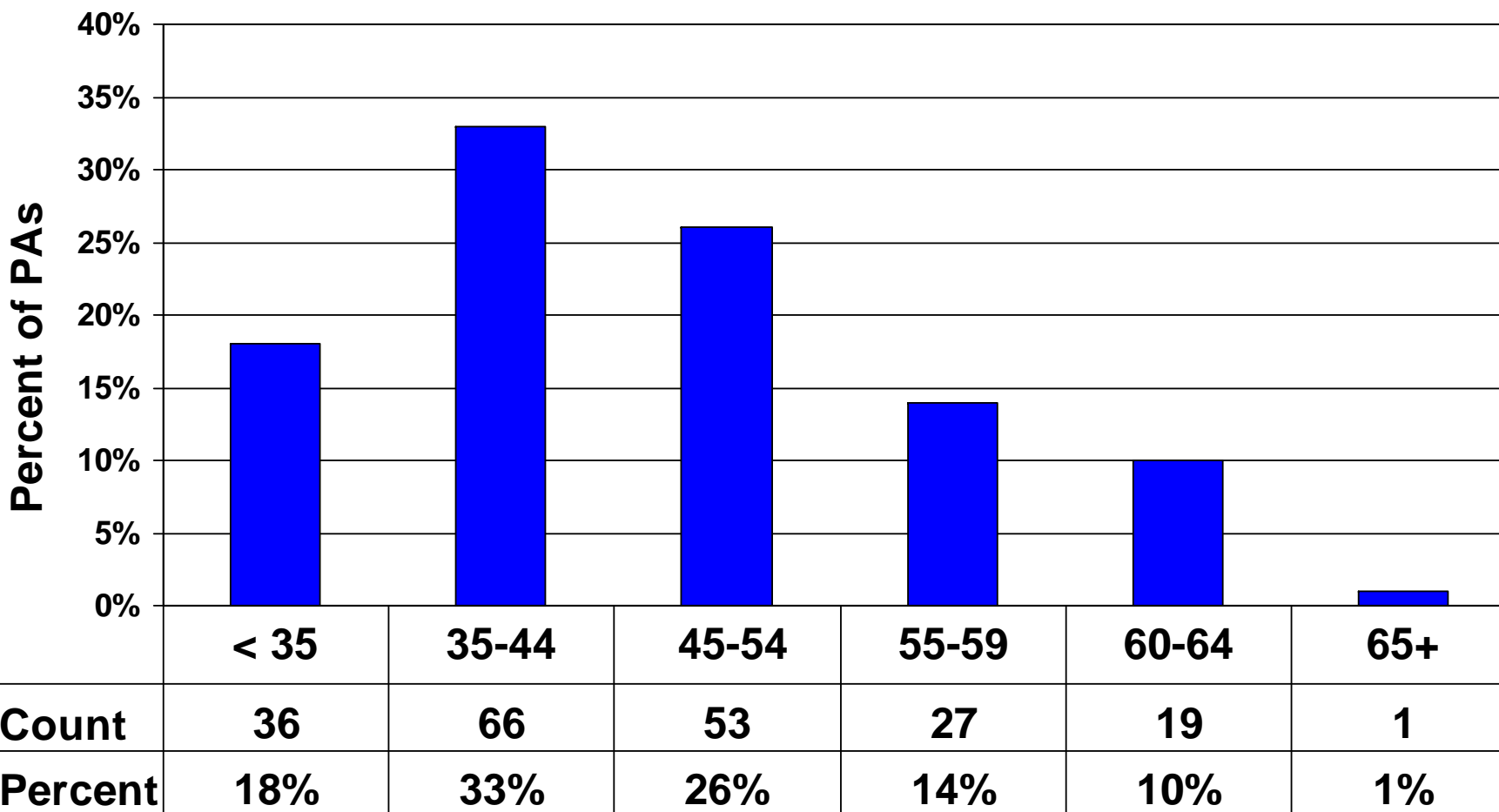
CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2000:
 - In 2000 60% of PAs were practicing mainly in primary care, while in 2010 that decreased to 41%.
 - Since 2000, the number of primary care PAs increased from 70 to 83. The number of FTEs increased from 50.9 to 67.0.

CHANGES OVER TIME

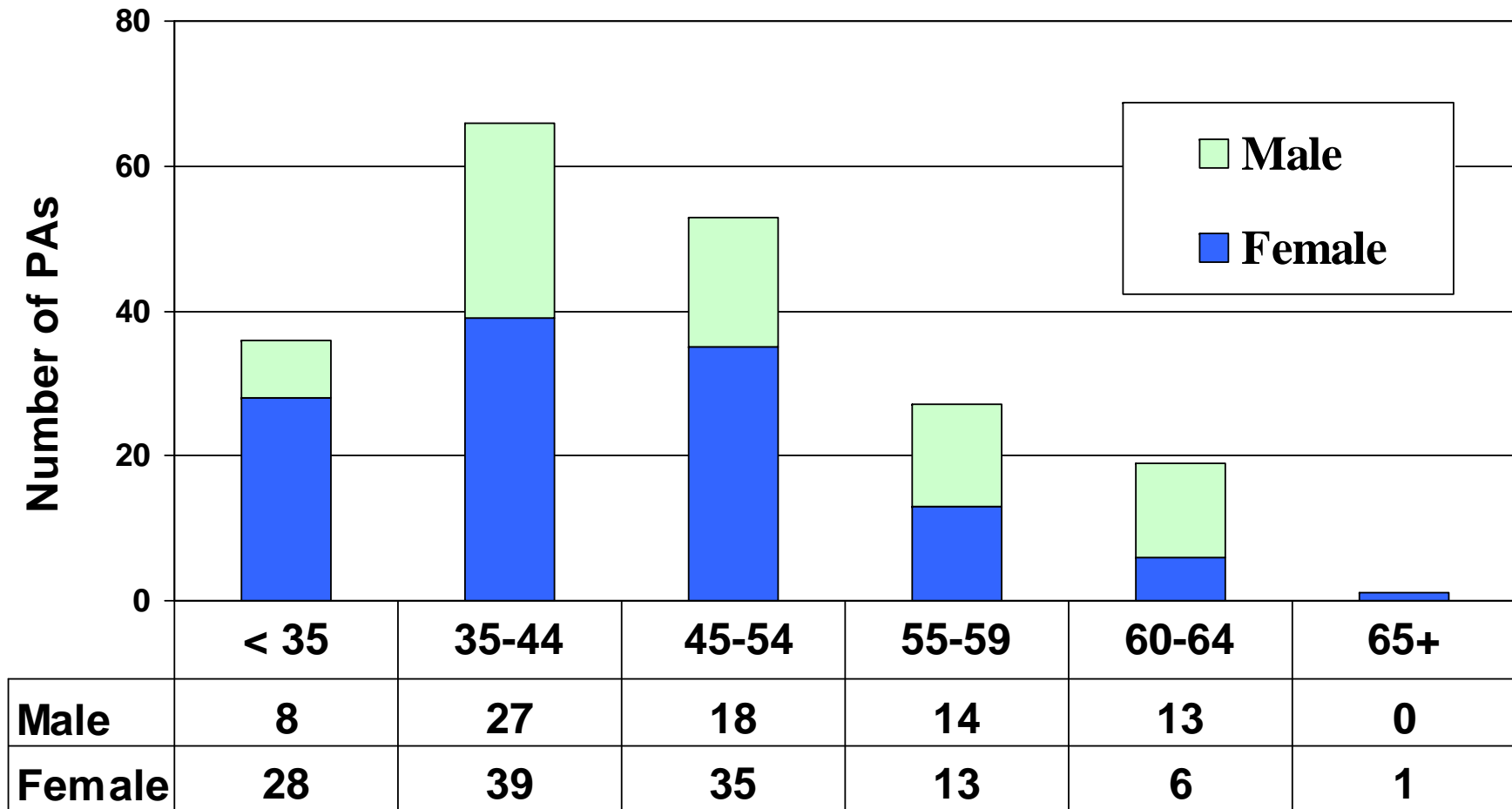
- As compared with 2000:
 - Among specialty care PAs the increase was from 47 to 119. FTEs increased from 42.1 to 105.7.
 - Most PAs practicing in specialty care are working in emergency medicine and orthopedic surgery.

AGE DISTRIBUTION



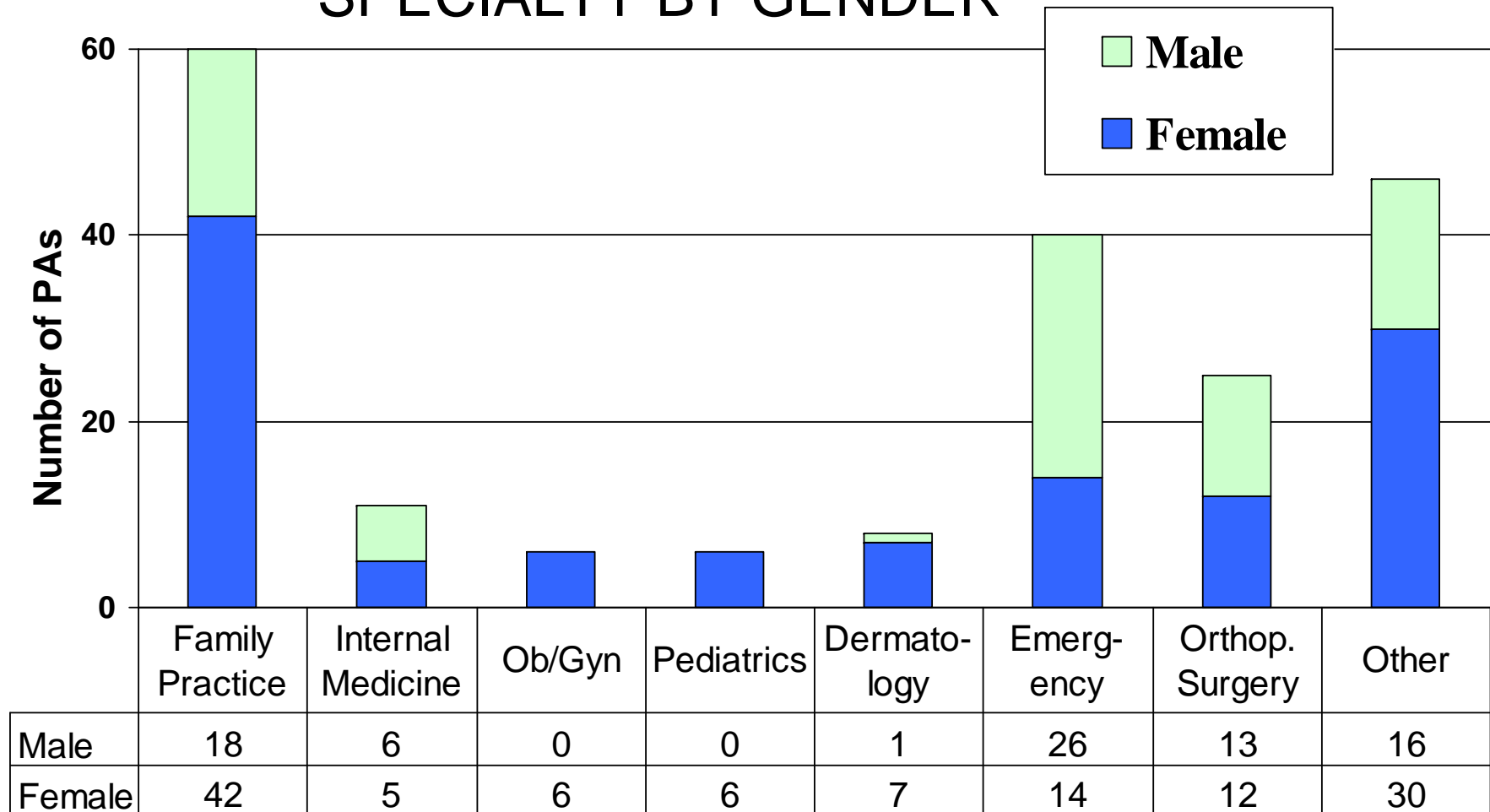
18% of all PAs are under the age of 35

AGE DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



60% of all PAs are female; 77% of PAs under age 35 are female

SPECIALTY BY GENDER

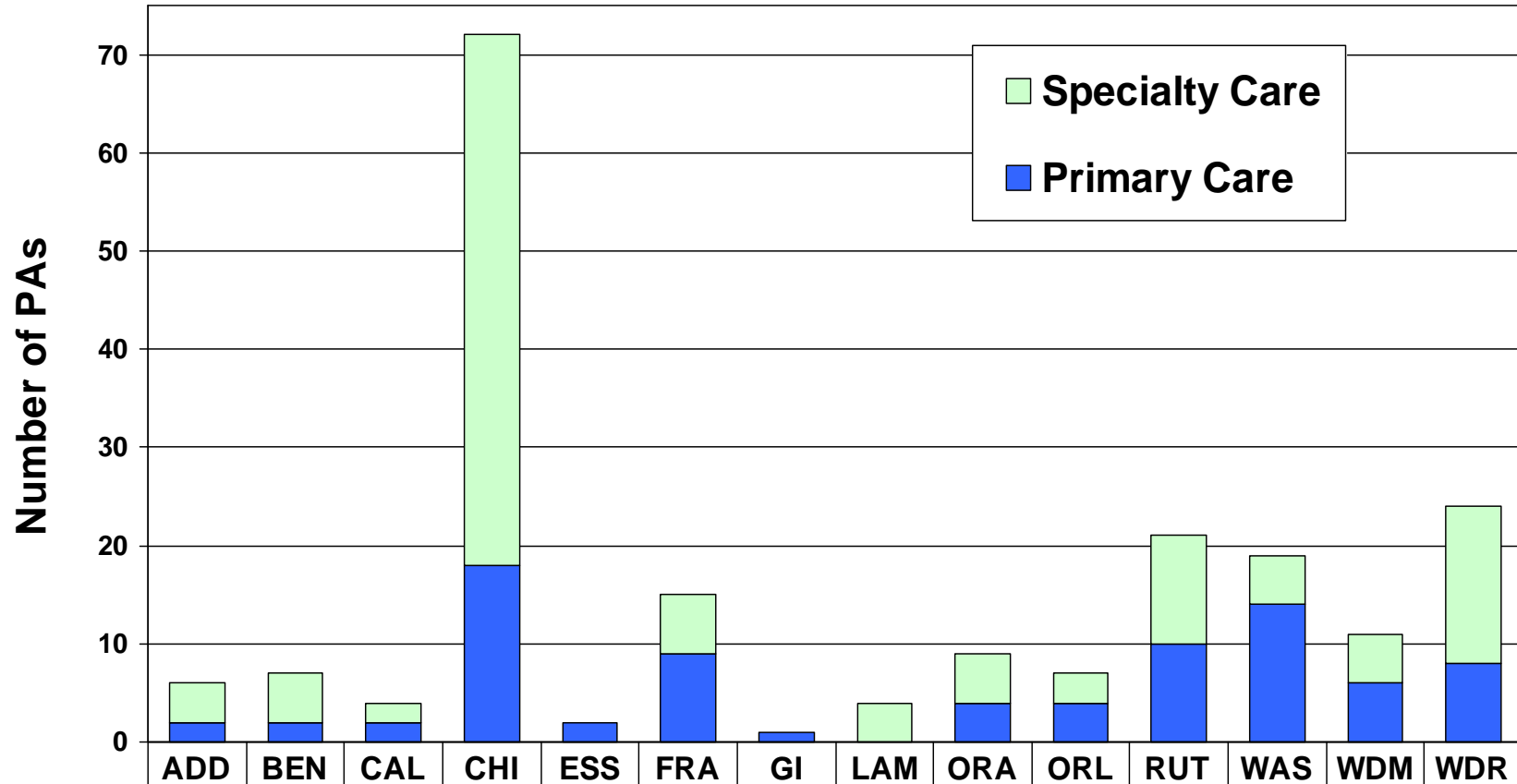


Primary Care

Specialty Care

Most primary care PAs are female, most emergency medicine PAs are male

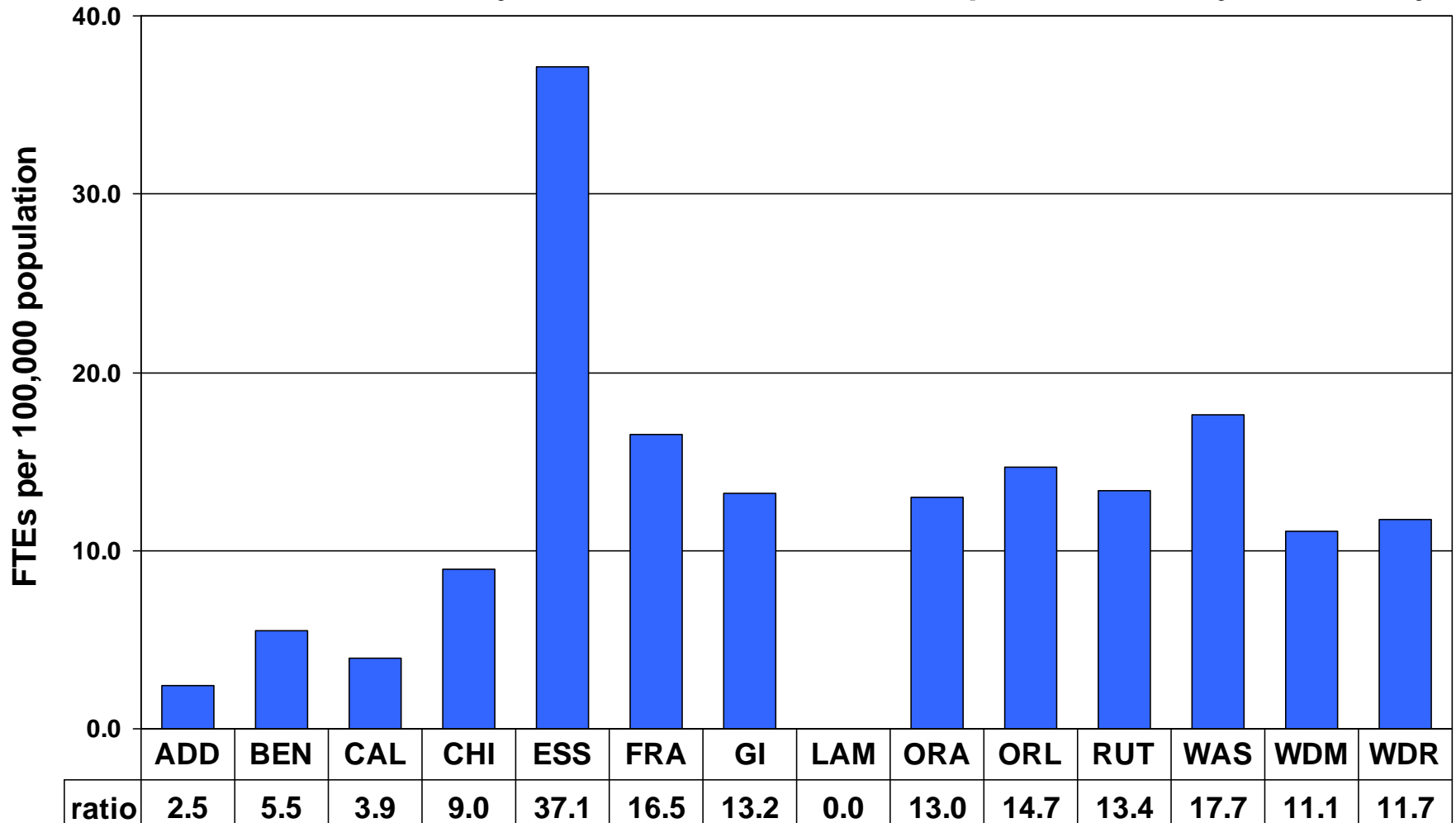
NUMBER OF PAs BY COUNTY



	ADD	BEN	CAL	CHI	ESS	FRA	GI	LAM	ORA	ORL	RUT	WAS	WDM	WDR
Specialty Care	4	5	2	54	0	6	0	4	5	3	11	5	5	16
Primary Care	2	2	2	18	2	9	1	0	4	4	10	14	6	8

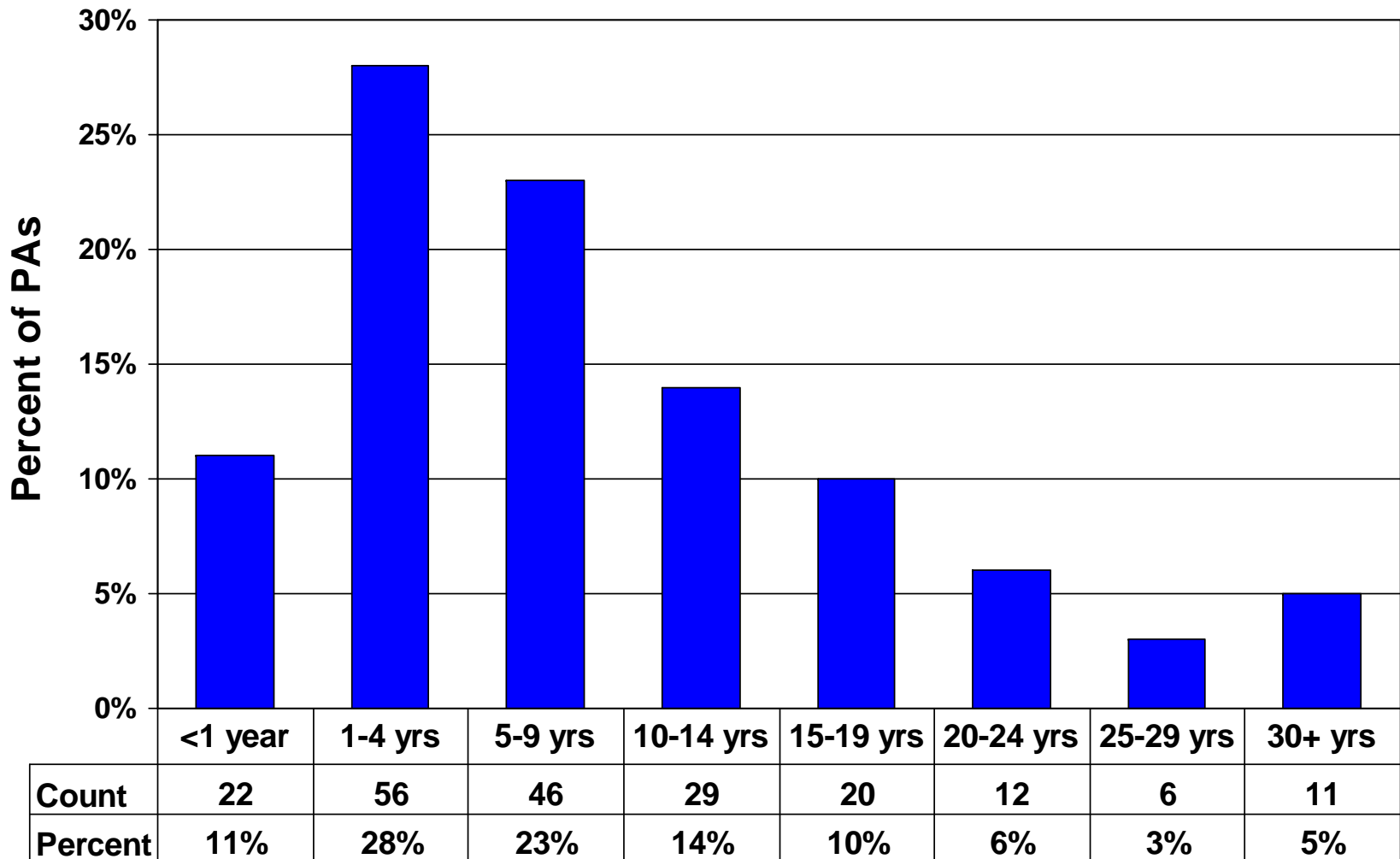
Although 23% of PAs work in more than one location, in this chart each PA is counted only once, in their main specialty and main county of practice.

Ratio of Primary Care FTEs to Population by County



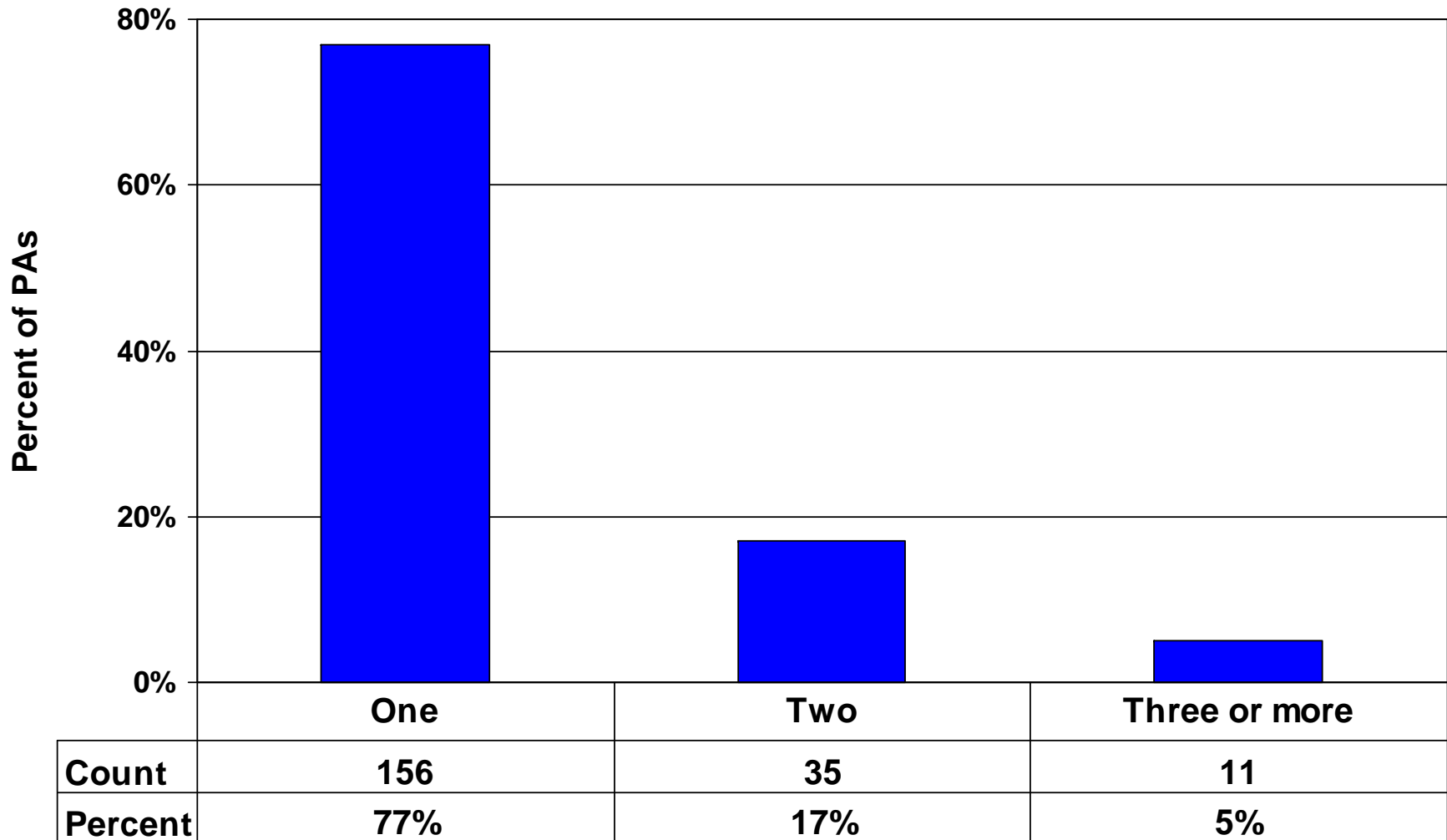
One FTE is defined as 40 or more hours per week.

YEARS WORKED IN VERMONT

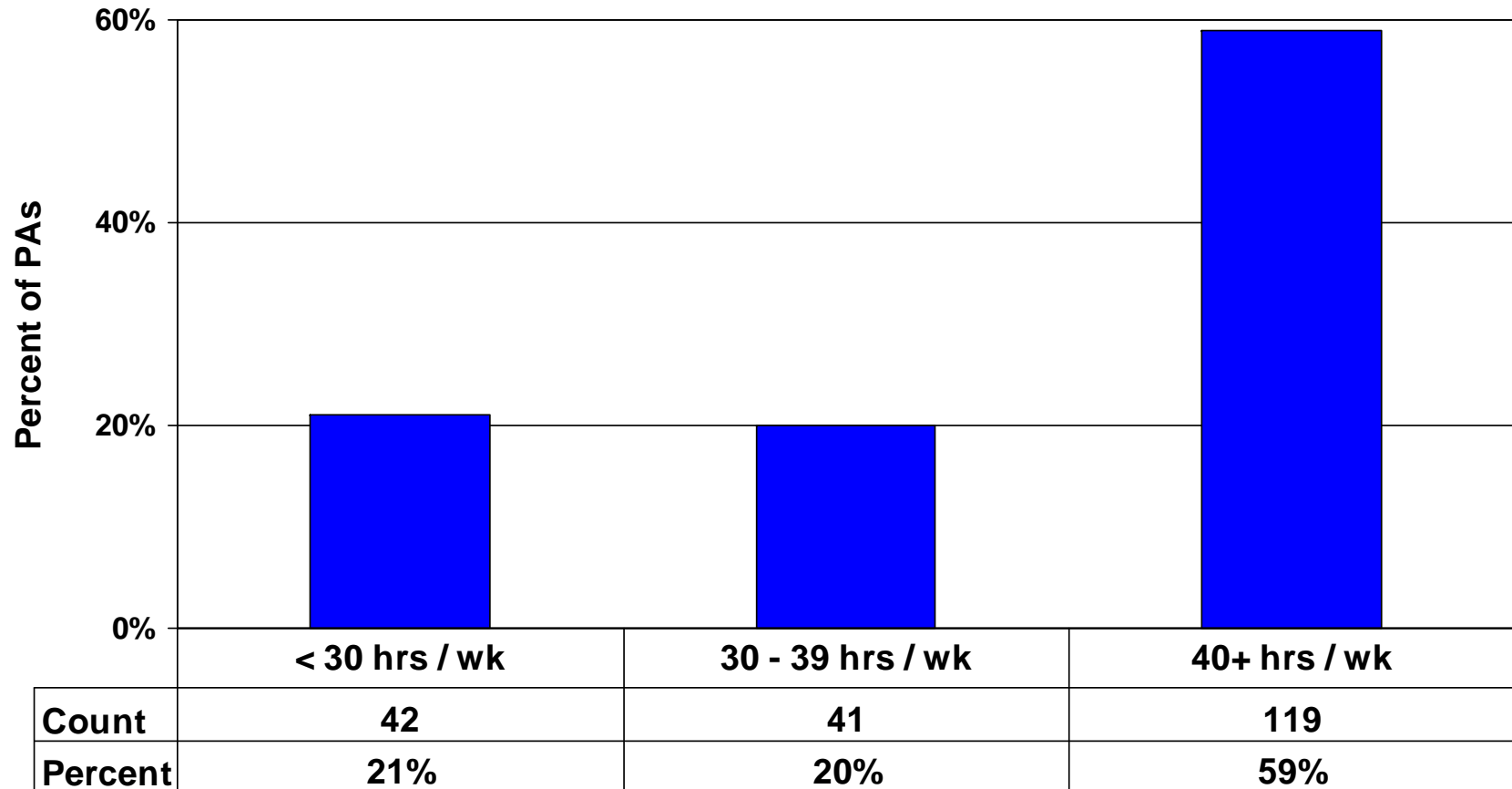


39% of PAs have worked in Vermont 10 or more years

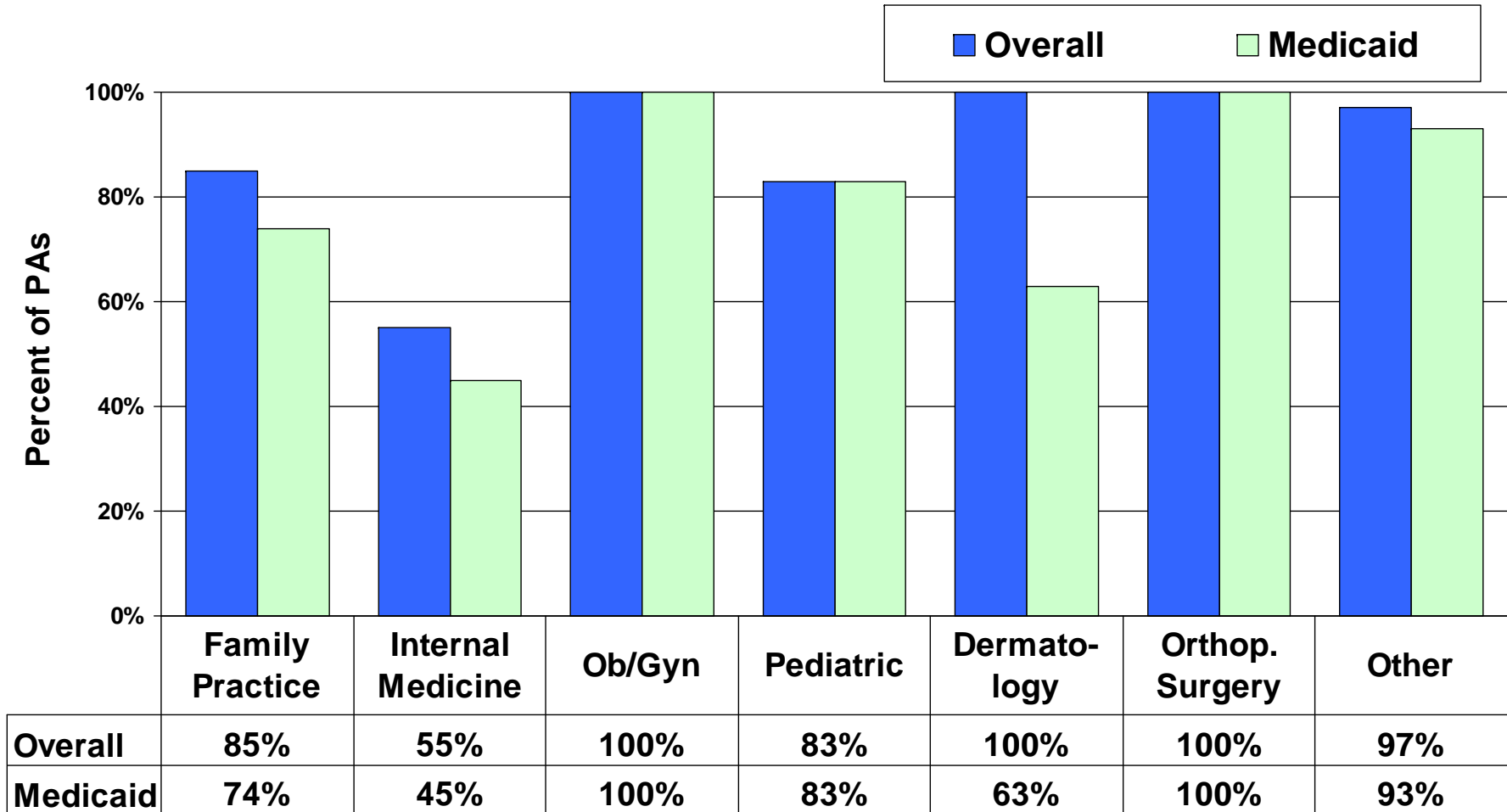
NUMBER OF SITES OF PRACTICE



HOURS WORKED PER WEEK



PA's ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



Overall, 89% accept new patients, 80% accept new Medicaid patients, 83% accept new Medicare patients. Each PA is counted only once. Office settings only. Emergency medicine excluded.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Primary Care Physician Assistants: 2000-2010

	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Primary Care PAs	70	69	79	83	85	83
Family Practice	51	53	55	62	58	60
Internal Medicine	7	7	10	11	15	11
Ob/Gyn	9	8	10	8	9	6
Pediatric Primary Care	3	1	4	2	3	6
Primary Care PA FTEs	50.9	54.3	62.3	62.6	64.8	67.0
Family Practice	39.3	43.6	45.4	48.2	46.0	49.3
Internal Medicine	4.7	5.3	7.5	7.9	11.8	9.4
Ob/Gyn	5.5	4.5	5.6	4.4	4.8	4.4
Pediatric Primary Care	1.4	1.0	3.9	2.1	2.1	3.9

Specialty Care Physician Assistants: 2000-2010

	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Specialty Care PAs	47	61	76	80	106	119
Dermatology	1	2	6	7	8	8
Emergency Medicine	25	33	37	30	35	40
Internal Medicine	1	1	5	4	9	11
Orthopedic Surgery	5	8	14	19	23	25
Urology	4	4	4	5	4	5
Specialty Care PA FTEs	42.1	54.8	69.2	70.2	93.9	105.7
Dermatology	0.8	2.0	5.7	6.6	7.6	7.9
Emergency Medicine	21.8	29.4	33.8	24.8	31.2	32.4
Internal Medicine	1.1	1.0	4.8	3.1	8.1	9.6
Orthopedic Surgery	4.6	7.5	12.9	17.8	20.7	23.5
Urology	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.9	3.1	4.9

Selected Indicators, 2000-2010

	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Total PAs active in Vermont	117	130	155	163	191	202
Percent female	56%	59%	56%	57%	58%	60%
Percent age 55 or older	7%	9%	15%	20%	25%	23%
Average patient care hrs/wk	34	36	37	35	36	36
Primary care PAs						
% accept new patients *	95%	91%	97%	91%	85%	82%
accept new Medicaid patients*	89%	86%	92%	81%	66%	73%
accept new Medicare patients*	93%	86%	94%	83%	77%	73%
FTEs/100,000 population	8.4	8.8	10.0	10.0	10.4	10.8

* Each PA is counted only once here (in each year)

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