

*The Vermont Department of Health*

# 2008 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS SURVEY

*Guidance • Support • Prevention • Protection*

May, 2009



# SURVEY DESCRIPTION

Mailed to PAs with the license renewal forms  
in December 2007

Followed up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was over 99%

## SUMMARY

- There were 191 PAs working in Vermont.
- 58% (110) of the PAs were female.
- Ages ranged from 25 to 63, with a median of 44.

## SUMMARY

- 58% of PAs have worked in Vermont 9 years or less
- 18% have worked in Vermont 20 years or more
- 25% of the PAs are 55 or older
- A quarter of those over 55 are planning to retire or leave Vermont within 5 years

## PRIMARY CARE

45% (85) worked mainly in primary care:

- 30% (58) in family practice
- 8% (15) in internal medicine
- 5% ( 9) in obstetrics and gynecology
- 2% ( 3) in pediatric primary care

## PRIMARY CARE

- 85% of primary care PAs accept new patients
- 66% accept new Medicaid patients
- 77% accept new Medicare patients.

## SPECIALTY CARE

55% (106) worked mainly in specialty care:

- 18% (35) in emergency medicine
- 18% (34) in various surgery specialties
- 4% ( 8) in dermatology
- 5% ( 9) in internal medicine
- 2% ( 4) in urology
- 8% (16) all other specialties

## CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2006:
  - There was an increase of 28 PAs, 2 in primary care and 26 in specialty care.
  - More PAs worked 40 hours or more per week.
  - There were more PAs in all age groups, but the biggest increase was in those of age 55 and older.



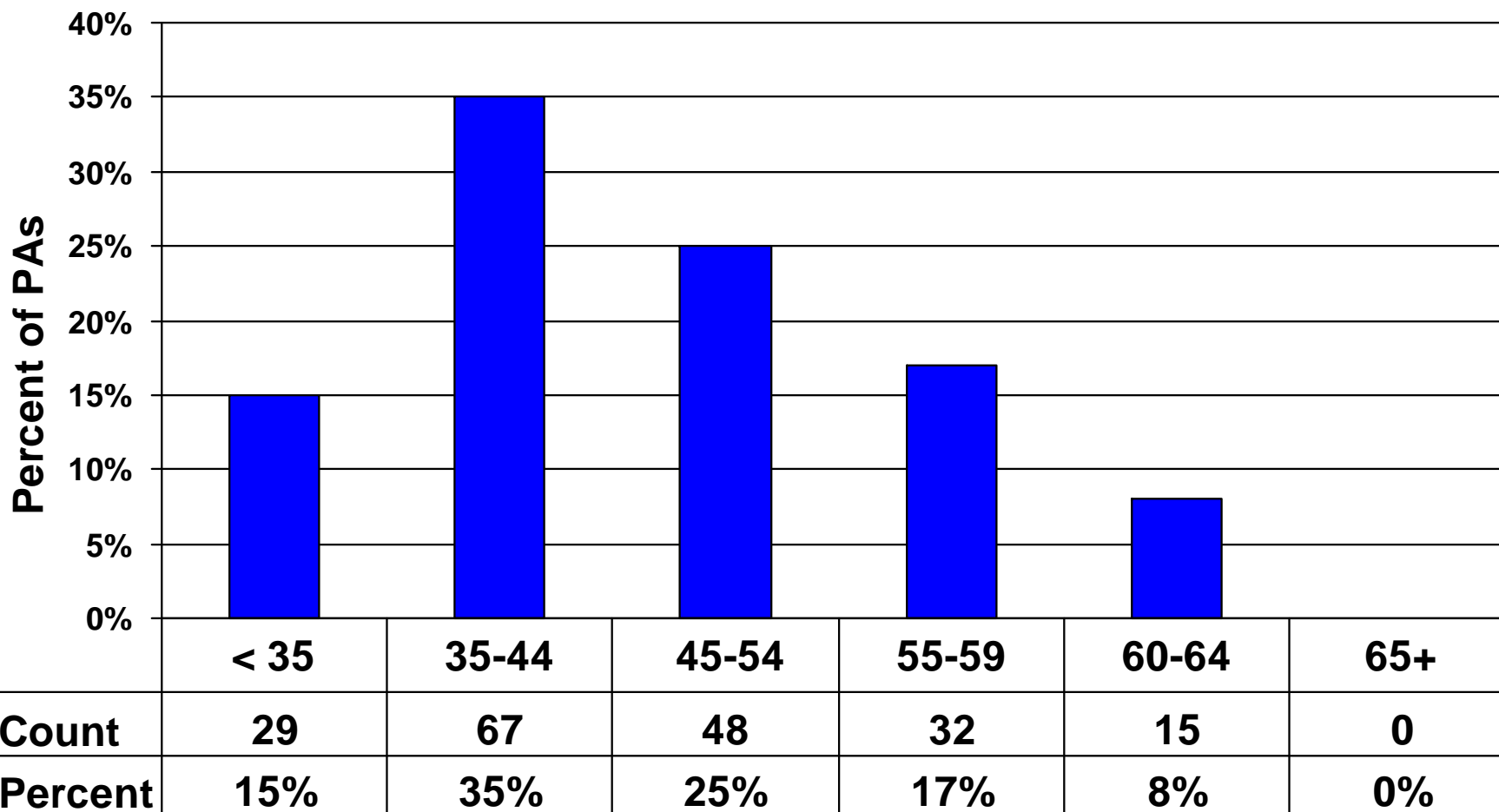
## CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2006:
  - There was a 2.2 FTEs net increase in primary care, statewide.
  - Orleans, Orange and Franklin Counties had the largest increases.
  - Essex, Chittenden and Addison Counties had the largest decreases.

## CHANGES OVER TIME

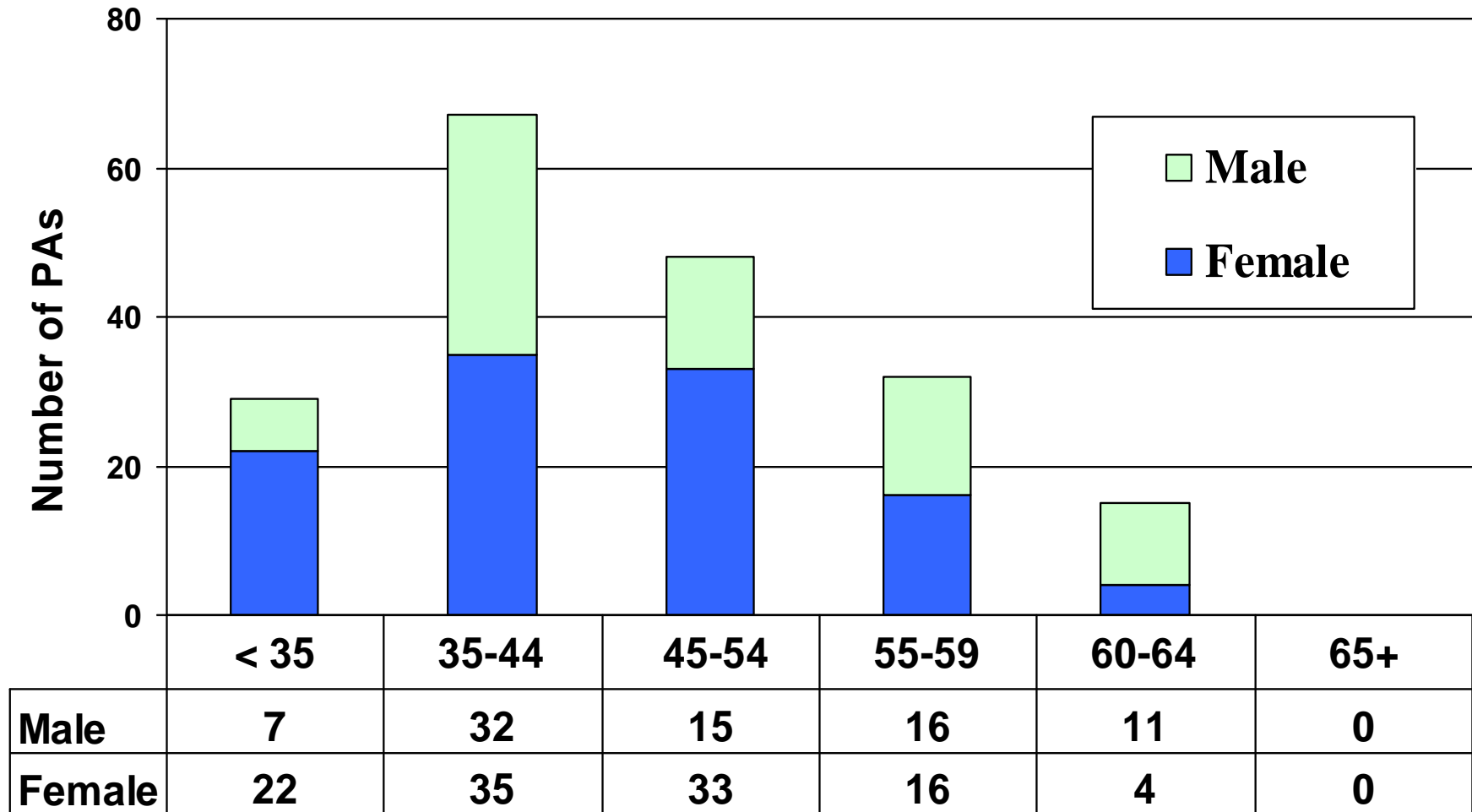
- As compared with 2006:
  - There was a net increase of 23.7 FTEs in specialty care, statewide.
  - Chittenden County had the largest increase, 9.3 additional FTEs.
  - Windsor and Orange counties also had large increases.

# AGE DISTRIBUTION



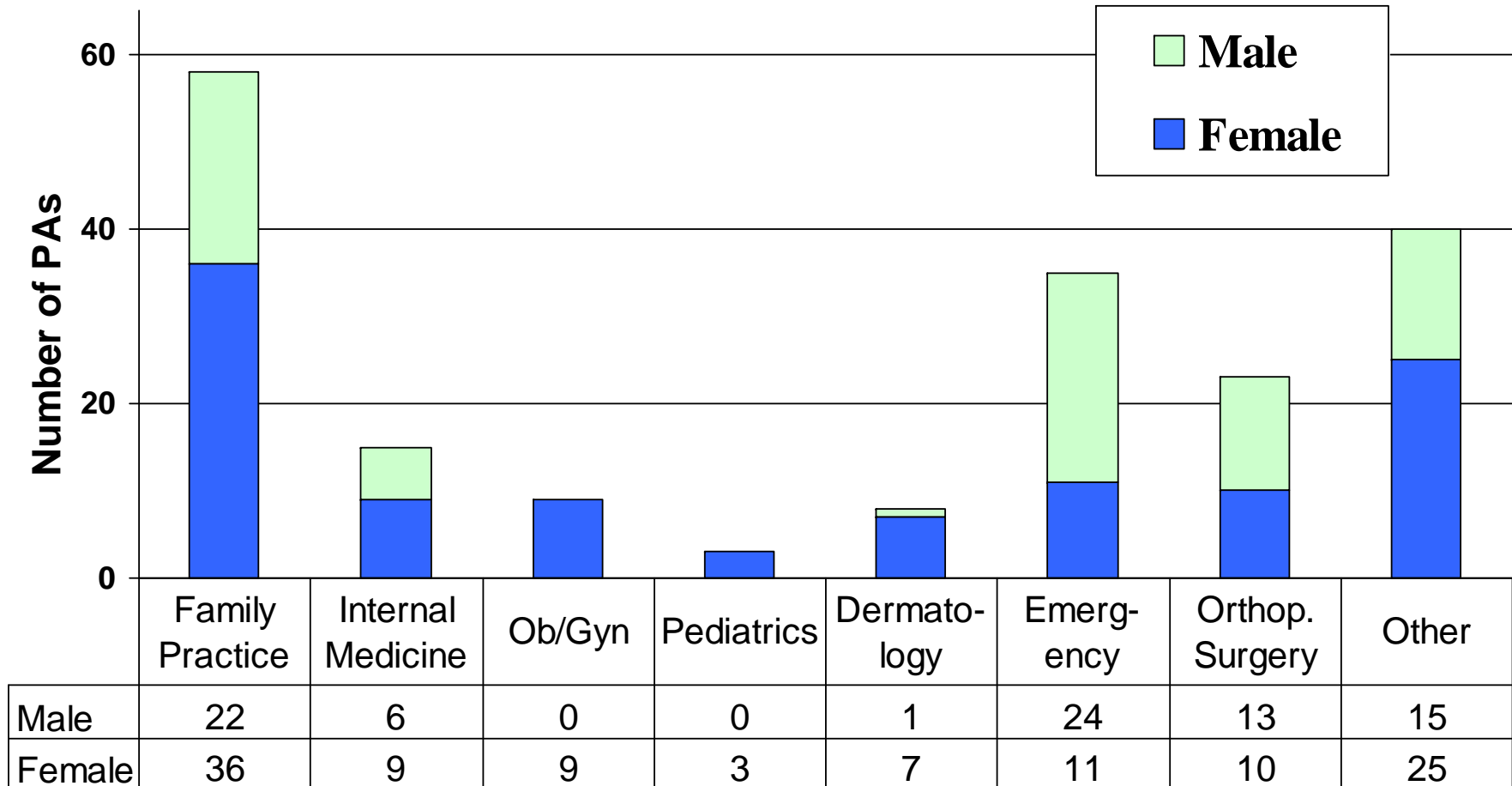
15% of all PAs are under the age of 35

# AGE DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



58% of all PAs are female; 76% of PAs under age 35 are female

# SPECIALTY BY GENDER

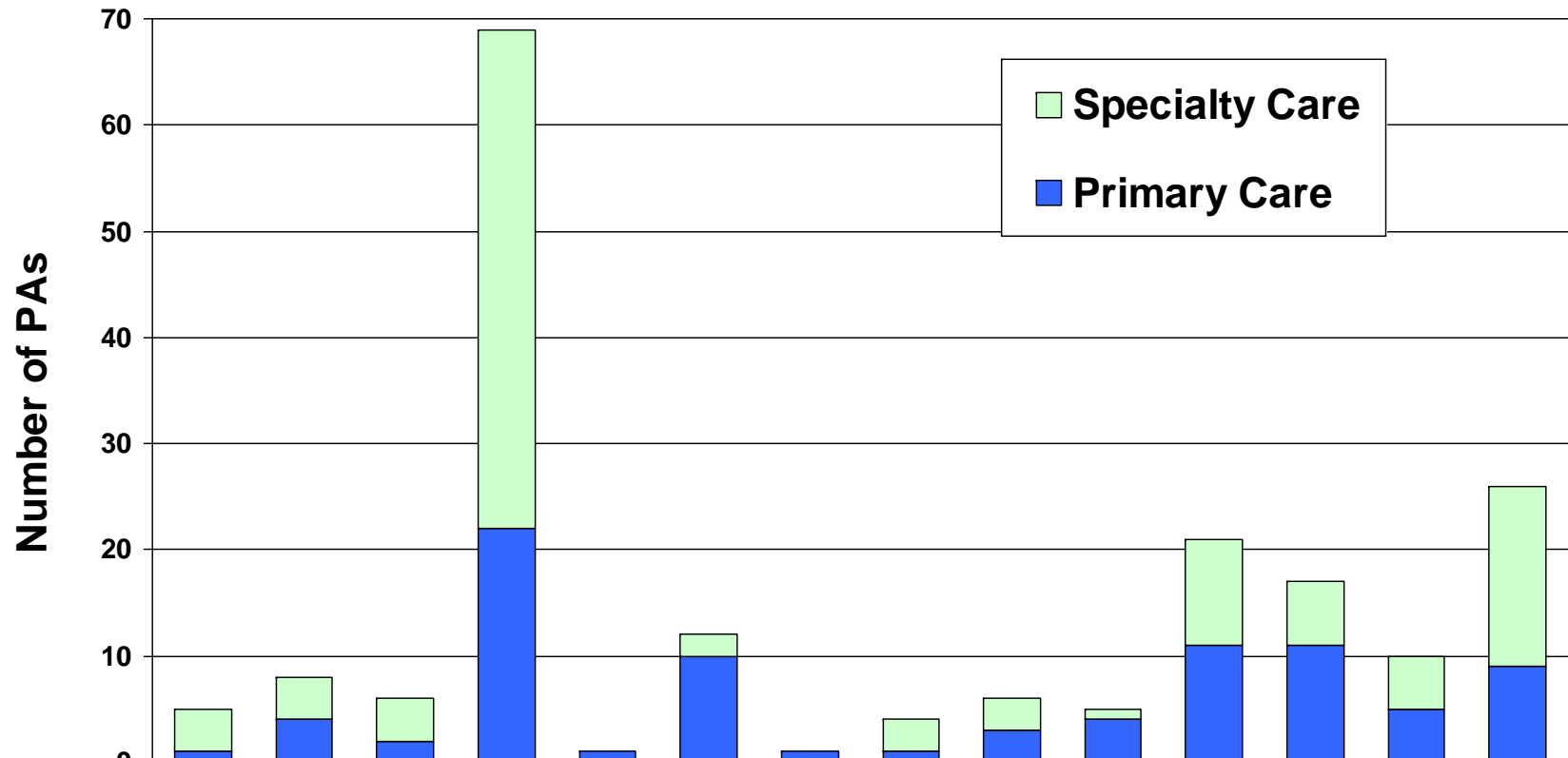


**Primary Care**

**Specialty Care**

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

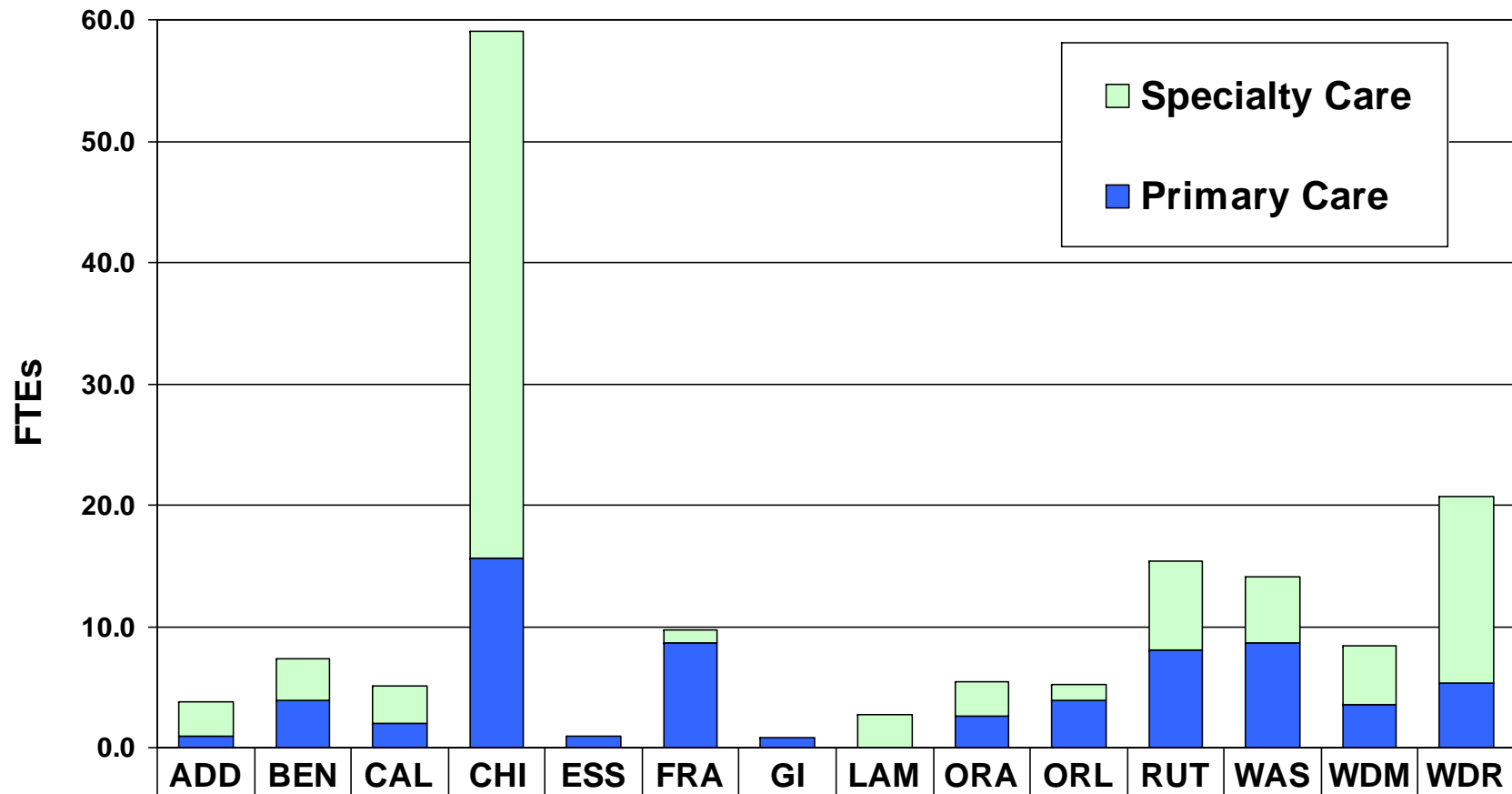
# NUMBER OF PAs BY COUNTY



	ADD	BEN	CAL	CHI	ESS	FRA	GI	LAM	ORA	ORL	RUT	WAS	WDM	WDR
Specialty Care	4	4	4	47	0	2	0	3	3	1	10	6	5	17
Primary Care	1	4	2	22	1	10	1	1	3	4	11	11	5	9

Although 27% 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.

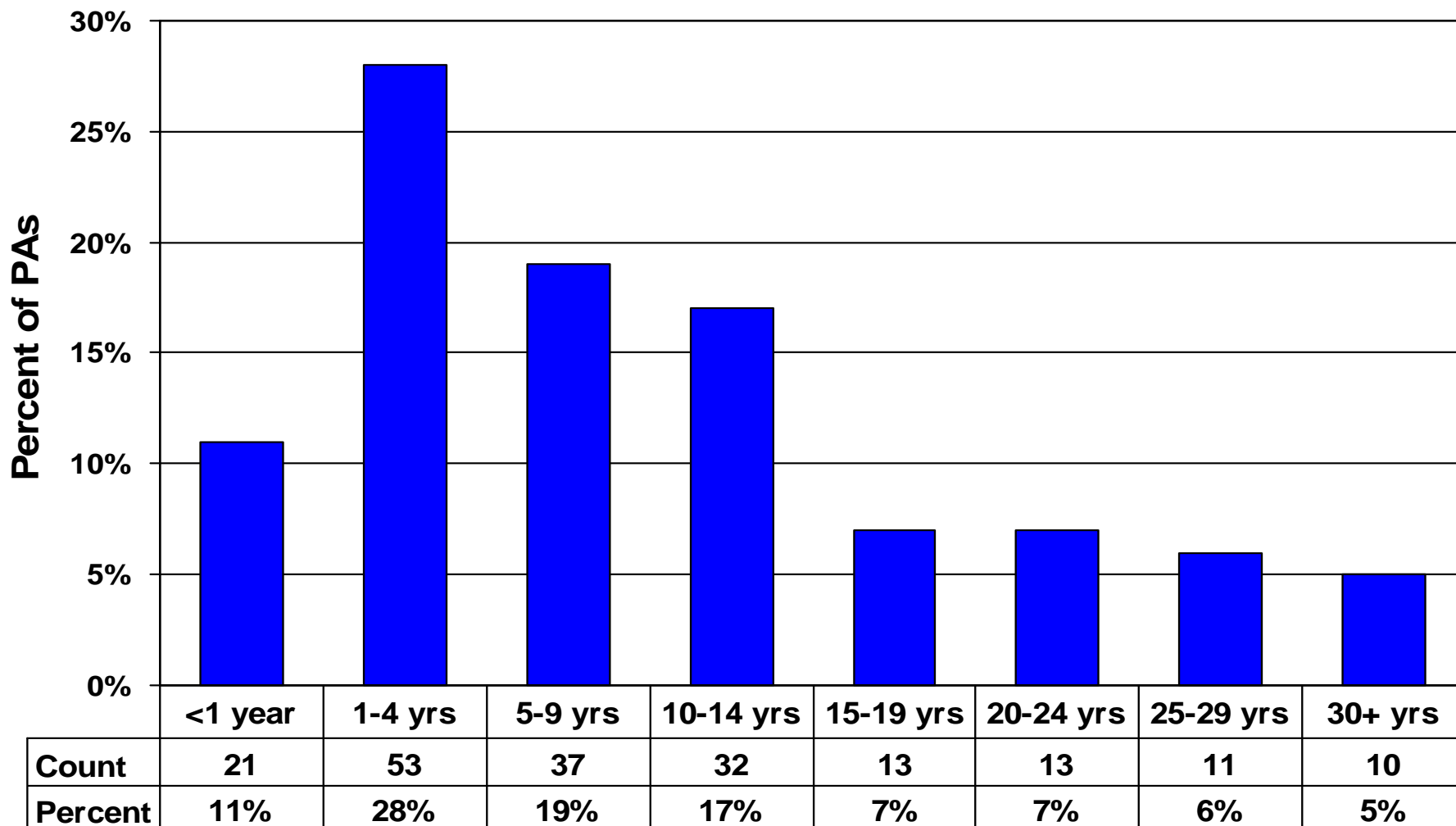
# NUMBER OF PA FTEs BY COUNTY



	ADD	BEN	CAL	CHI	ESS	FRA	GI	LAM	ORA	ORL	RUT	WAS	WDM	WDR
<b>Specialty Care</b>	2.9	3.4	3.1	43.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	2.7	2.9	1.3	7.4	5.5	4.8	15.4
<b>Primary Care</b>	0.9	3.9	2.0	15.6	1.0	8.6	0.8	0.0	2.6	3.9	8.0	8.6	3.6	5.3

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

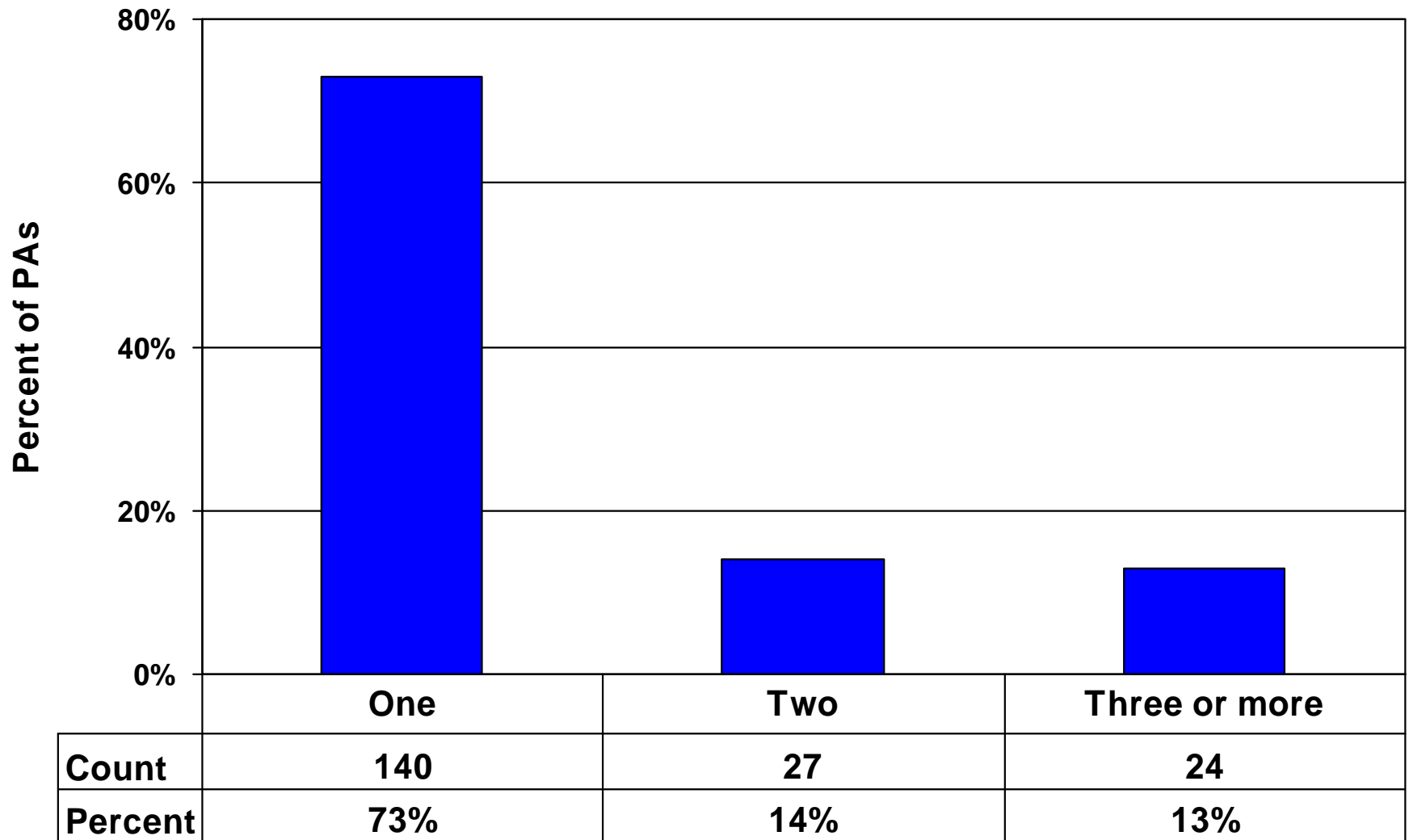
# YEARS WORKED IN VERMONT



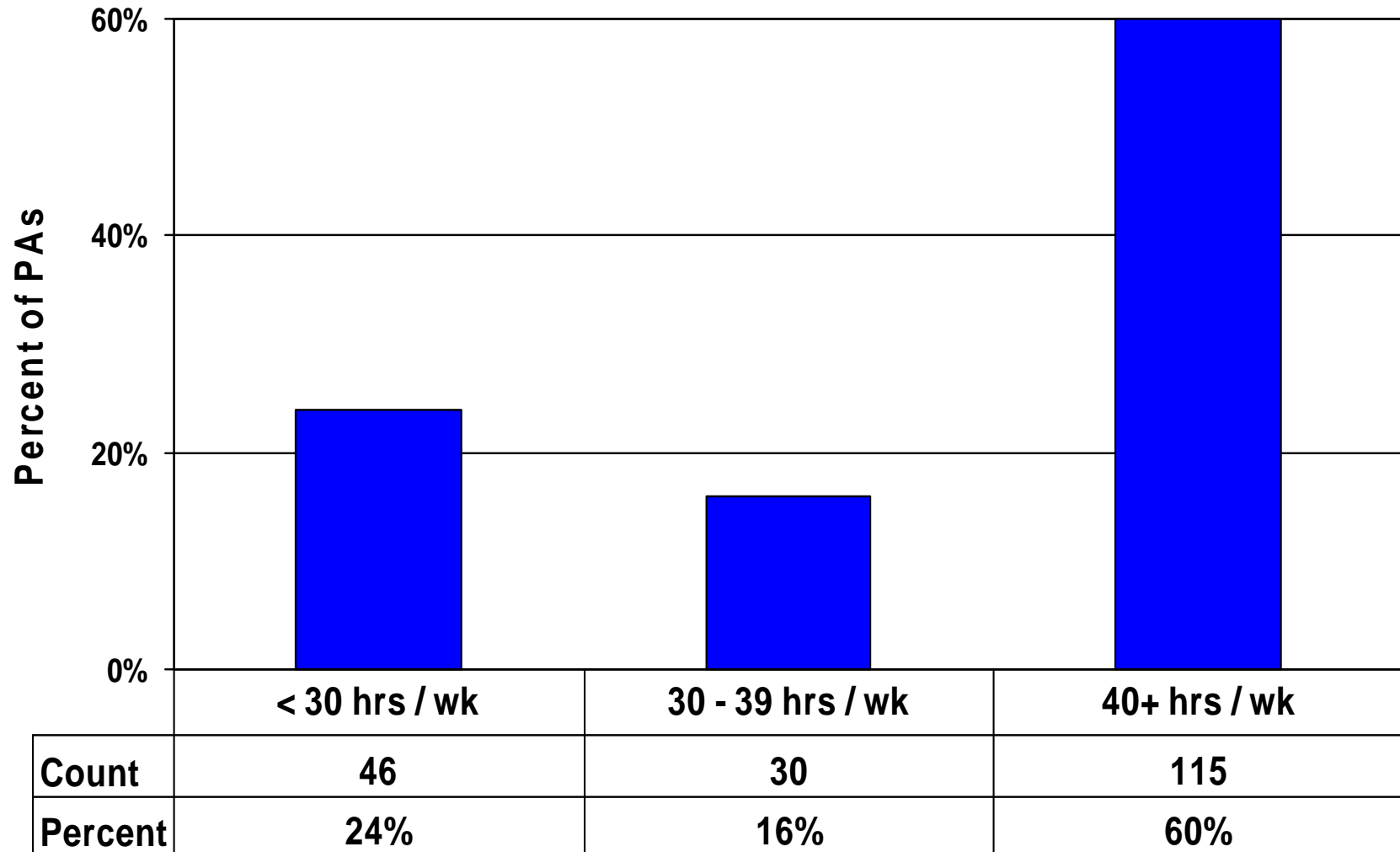
42% of PAs have worked in Vermont 10 or more years



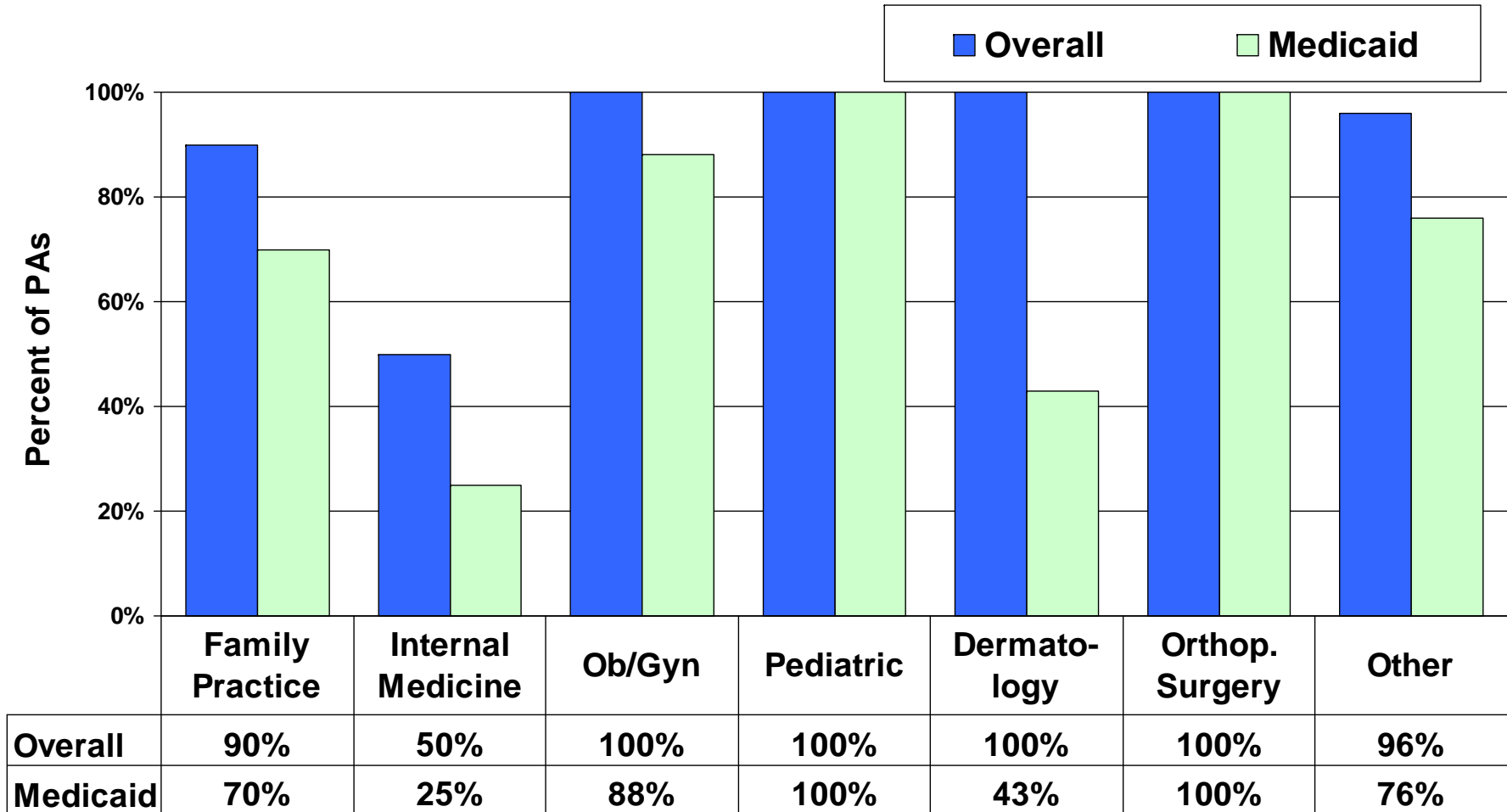
# NUMBER OF SITES OF PRACTICE



# HOURS WORKED PER WEEK



# PA's ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



Overall, 90% accept new patients, 72% accept new Medicaid patients, 82% accept new Medicare patients. Each PA is counted only once. Office settings only. Emergency medicine excluded.

# COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

## Primary Care Physician Assistants: 1998-2008

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
Primary care PAs	68	70	69	79	83	85
Family Practice	44	51	53	55	62	58
Internal Medicine	12	7	7	10	11	15
Ob/Gyn	10	9	8	10	8	9
Pediatric Primary Care	2	3	1	4	2	3
Primary care PA FTEs	48.8	50.9	54.3	62.3	62.6	64.8
Family Practice	34.3	39.3	43.6	45.4	48.2	46.0
Internal Medicine	8.4	4.7	5.3	7.5	7.9	11.8
Ob/Gyn	4.7	5.5	4.5	5.6	4.4	4.8
Pediatric Primary Care	1.4	1.4	1.0	3.9	2.1	2.1

## Specialty Care Physician Assistants: 1998-2008

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Specialist PAs</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>106</b>
Dermatology	1	1	2	6	7	8
Emergency Medicine	20	25	33	37	30	35
Internal Medicine	1	1	1	5	4	9
Orthopedic Surgery	5	5	8	14	19	23
Urology	2	4	4	4	5	4
<b>Specialist PA FTEs</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>93.9</b>
Dermatology	0.8	0.8	2.0	5.7	6.6	7.6
Emergency Medicine	19.1	21.8	29.4	33.8	24.8	31.2
Internal Medicine	0.8	1.1	1.0	4.8	3.1	8.1
Orthopedic Surgery	4.6	4.6	7.5	12.9	17.8	20.7
Urology	2.4	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.9	3.1

## Selected Indicators, 1998-2008

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
Total PAs active in Vermont	107	117	130	155	163	191
Percent female	52%	56%	59%	56%	57%	58%
Percent age 55 or older	4%	7%	9%	15%	20%	25%
Average patient care hrs/wk	36	34	36	37	35	36
<b>Primary care PAs</b>						
% accept new patients *	97%	95%	91%	97%	91%	85%
accept new Medicaid patients*	90%	89%	86%	92%	81%	66%
accept new Medicare patients*	95%	93%	86%	94%	83%	77%
FTEs/100,000 population **	8.1	8.4	8.8	10.0	10.0	10.4

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

\*\* Population estimates for 1998 revised after 2000 census.

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