

The Vermont Department of Health

2012 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS SURVEY

Guidance • Support • Prevention • Protection

November, 2012



SURVEY DESCRIPTION

Survey mailed with the license renewal forms in the Fall of 2011.

Followed up via mail and phone calls.

The final response rate was 100%.

Anesthesiology assistants (AAs) were also included, unlike the 2004-2010 reports, and are not distinguished from PAs in this report.

SUMMARY

- There were 240 PAs working in Vermont.
- This includes 11 AAs.
- 57% (137) of the PAs were female.
- Ages ranged from 25 to 66, with a median of 44.

PRIMARY CARE

41% (98) worked mainly in primary care:

- 32% (77) in family practice
- 5% (12) in internal medicine
- 3% (6) in obstetrics and gynecology
- 1% (3) in pediatric primary care

PRIMARY CARE

- 88% of primary care PAs accept new patients.
- 78% accept new Medicaid patients.
- 82% accept new Medicare patients.

SPECIALTY CARE

59% (142) worked mainly in specialty care:

- 18% (43) in emergency medicine
- 14% (33) in orthopedic surgery
- 5% (13) in other surgery specialties
- 5% (12) in anesthesiology
- 4% (10) in internal medicine
- 13% (31) all other specialties

SUMMARY

- 62% of PAs have worked in Vermont 9 years or less.
- 14% have worked in Vermont 20 years or more.
- 14% of the PAs are age 60 or older.
- 22% of the primary care PAs are 60 or older as compared with 8% of those in specialty care.

CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2010:

There was a net increase of 27 (excluding anesthesiology assistants):

An increase of 15 in primary care

An increase of 12 in specialty care

CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2010:
 - There was a net increase of 9.6 FTEs (full time equivalents) in primary care, statewide.
 - Chittenden and Franklin Counties had the largest increases.
 - Orange and Rutland Counties had the largest decreases.

CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2002:

There was a net increase of 110 (85%):

An increase of 29 in primary care

An increase of 81 in specialty care

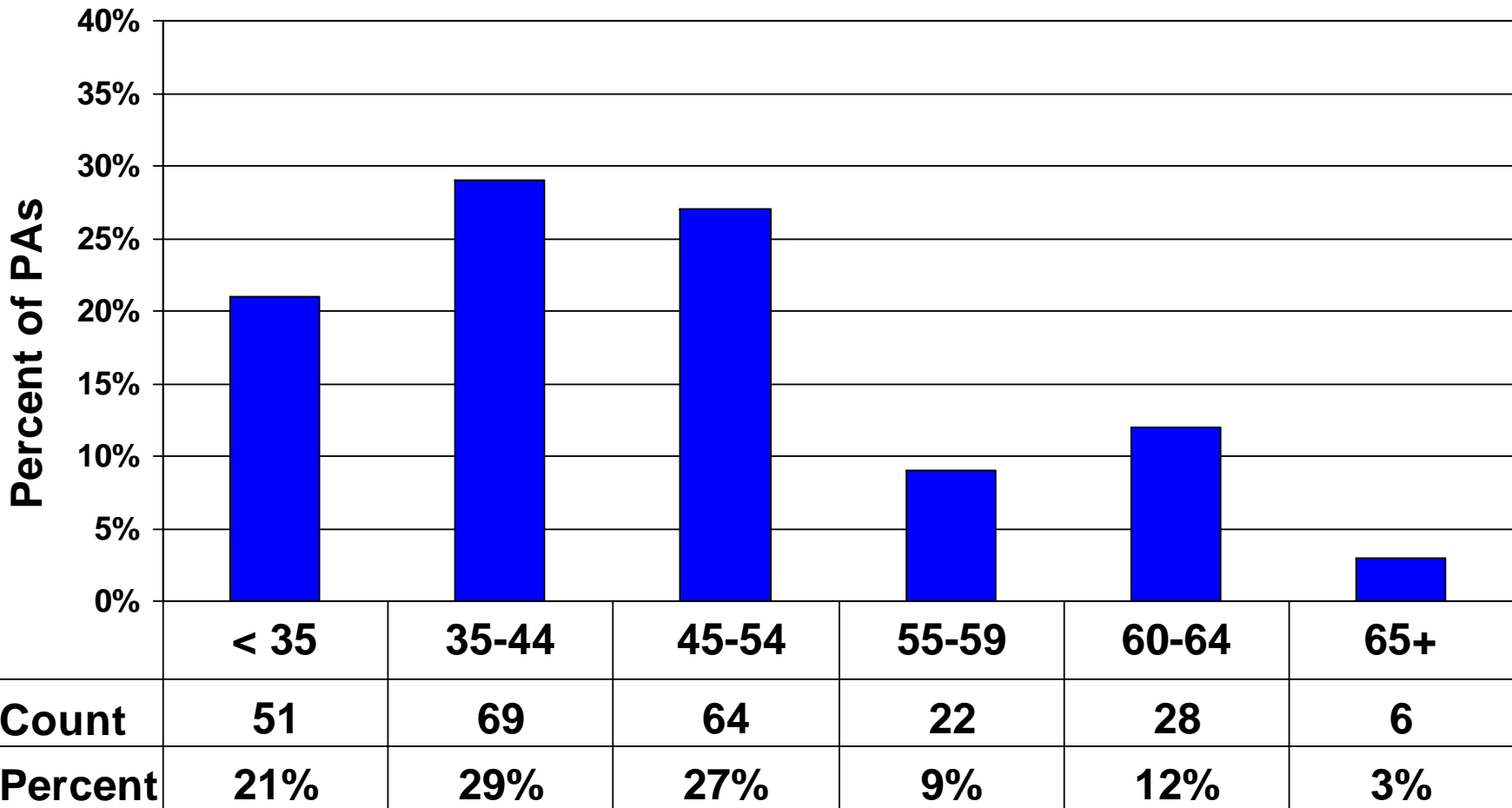
CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2002:
 - There was a net increase of 22.3 FTEs (full time equivalents) in primary care, statewide.
 - Franklin and Chittenden Counties had the largest increases.
 - Other Counties saw only small changes.

CHANGES OVER TIME

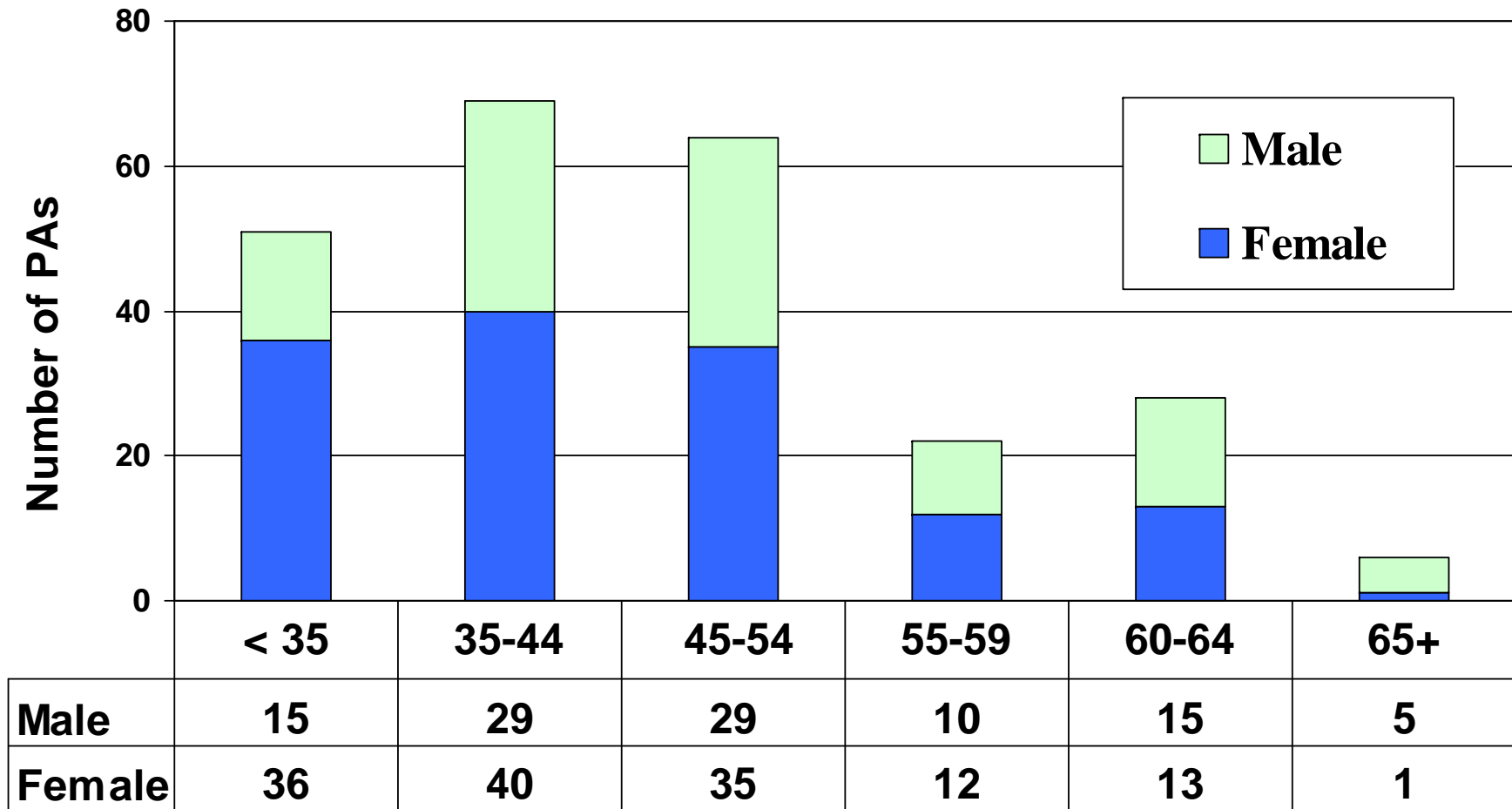
- As compared with 2002:
 - There was a net increase of 68.5 FTEs in specialty care, statewide.
 - Chittenden County had the largest increase, 38.9 additional FTEs.
 - Windsor and Rutland counties also had large increases.
 - Washington County lost 1.8 specialist FTEs.

AGE DISTRIBUTION



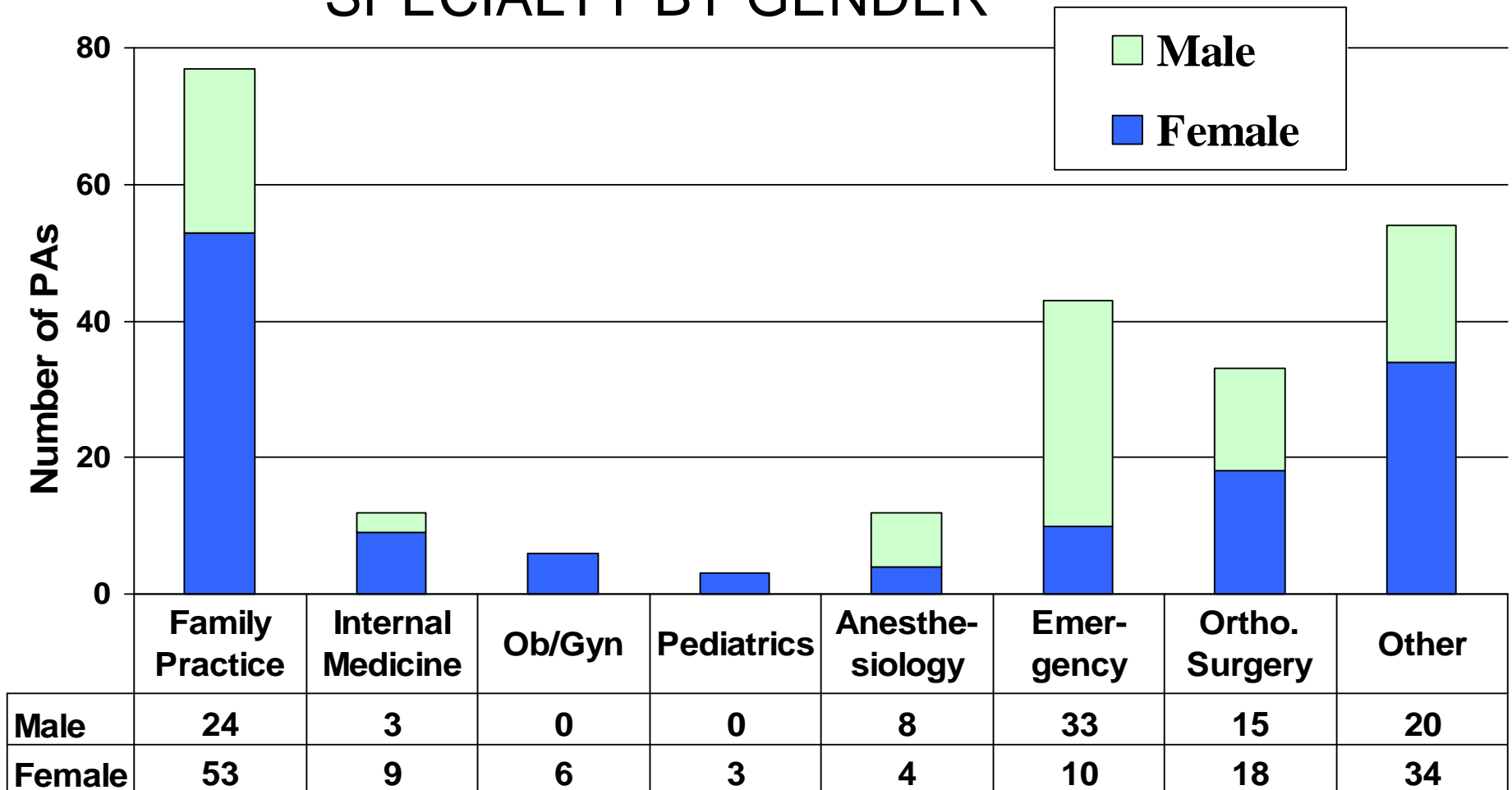
23% of all PAs are age 55 or more

AGE DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



57% of all PAs are female; 71% of PAs under age 35 are female

SPECIALTY BY GENDER

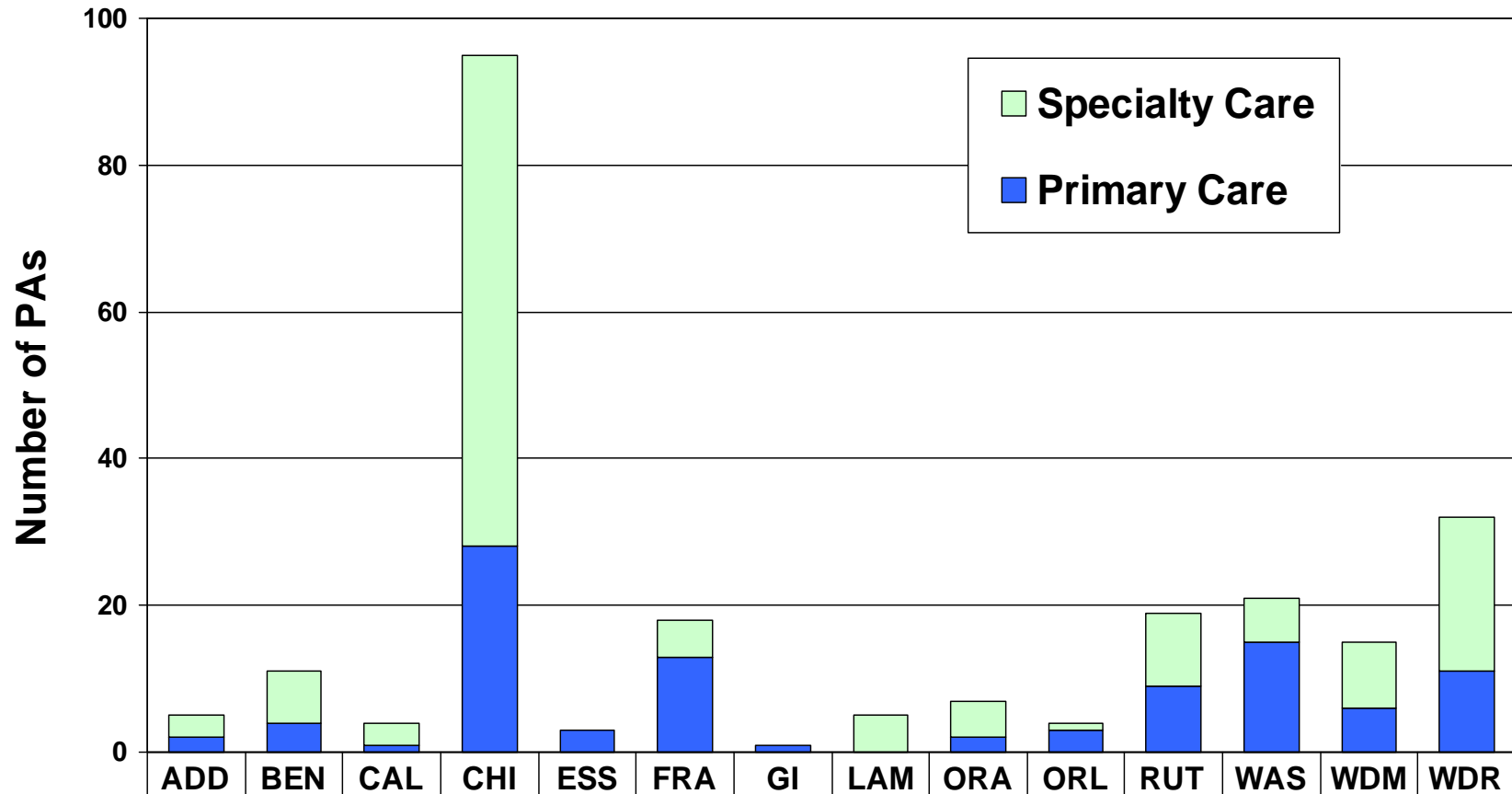


Primary Care

Specialty Care

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

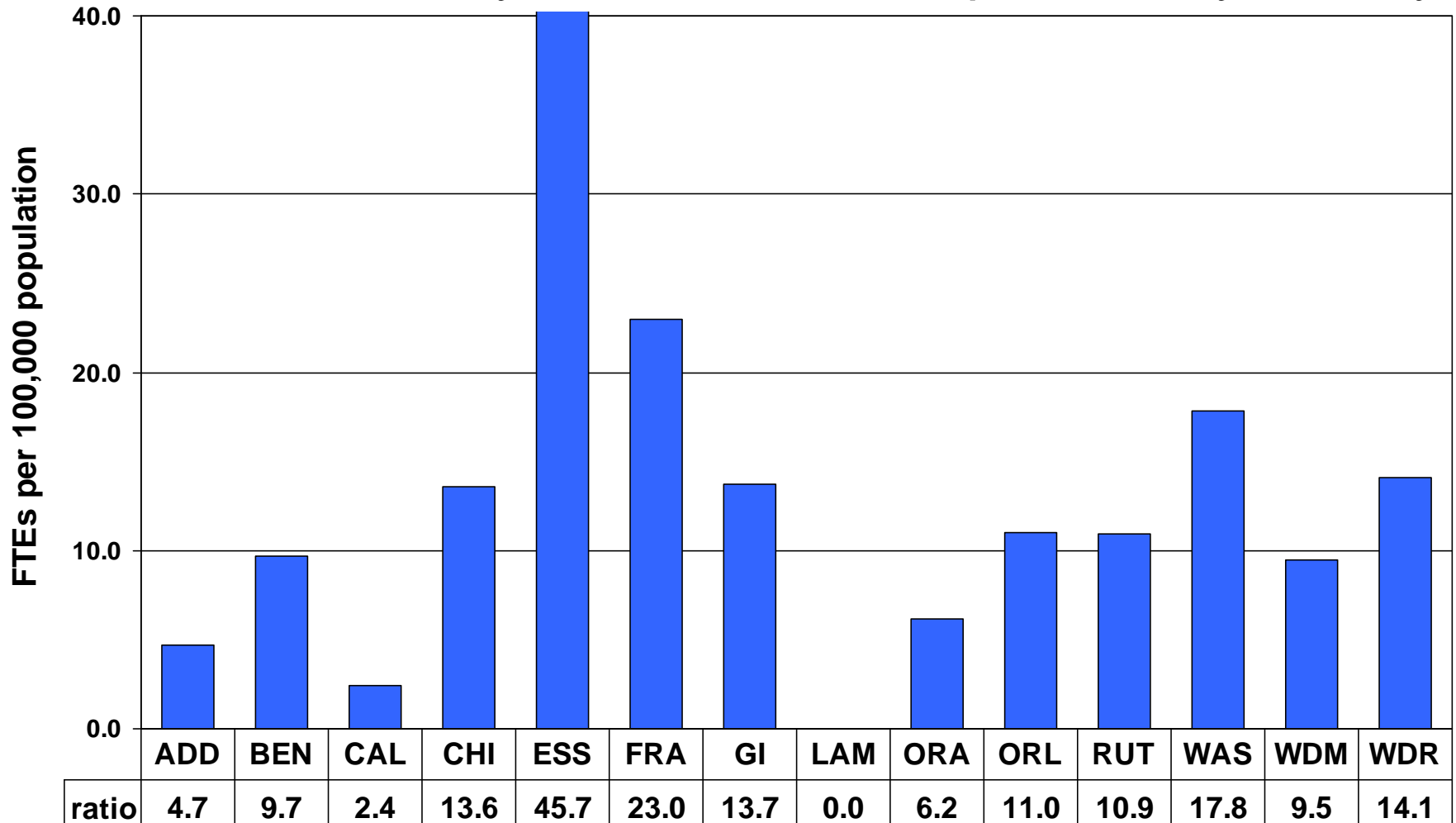
NUMBER OF PAs BY COUNTY



Specialty Care	3	7	3	67	0	5	0	5	5	1	10	6	9	21
Primary Care	2	4	1	28	3	13	1	0	2	3	9	15	6	11

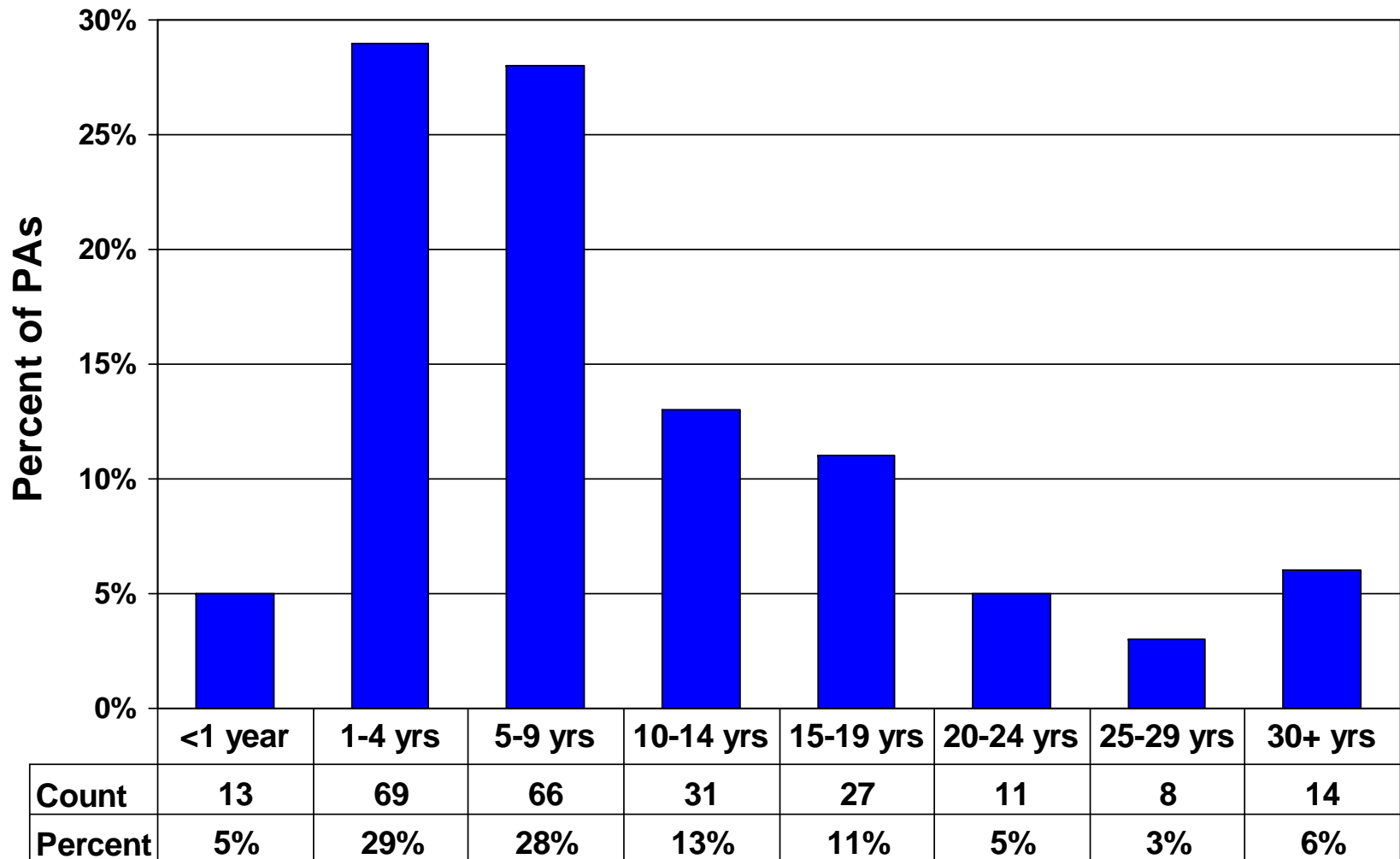
Although 23% of PAs work in more than one location, in this chart each PA is counted only once, in their main specialty and main county of practice, independently.

Ratio of Primary Care FTEs to Population by County



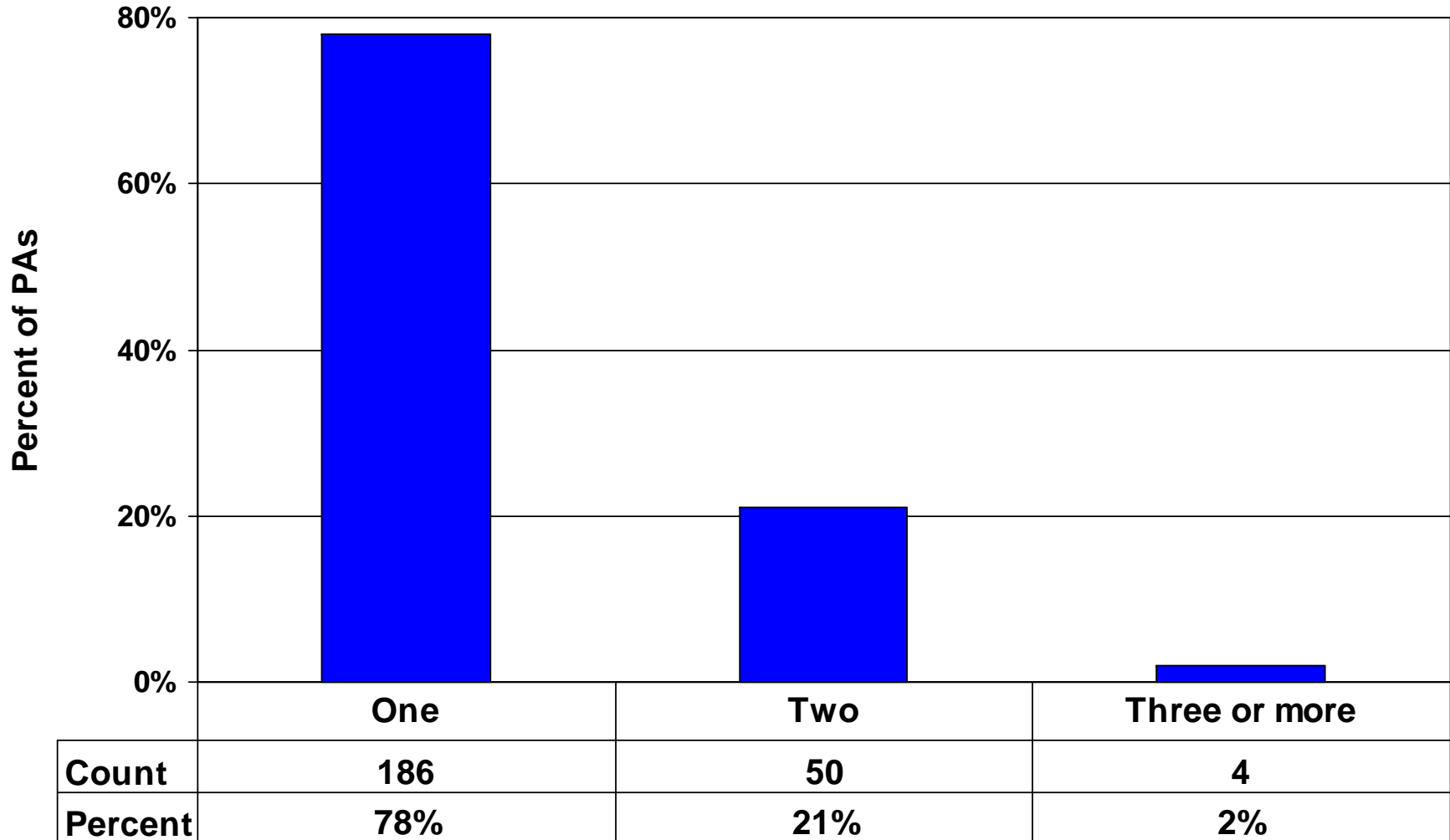
One FTE is defined as 40 or more hours per week. Ratios based on July 2011 population.

YEARS WORKED IN VERMONT

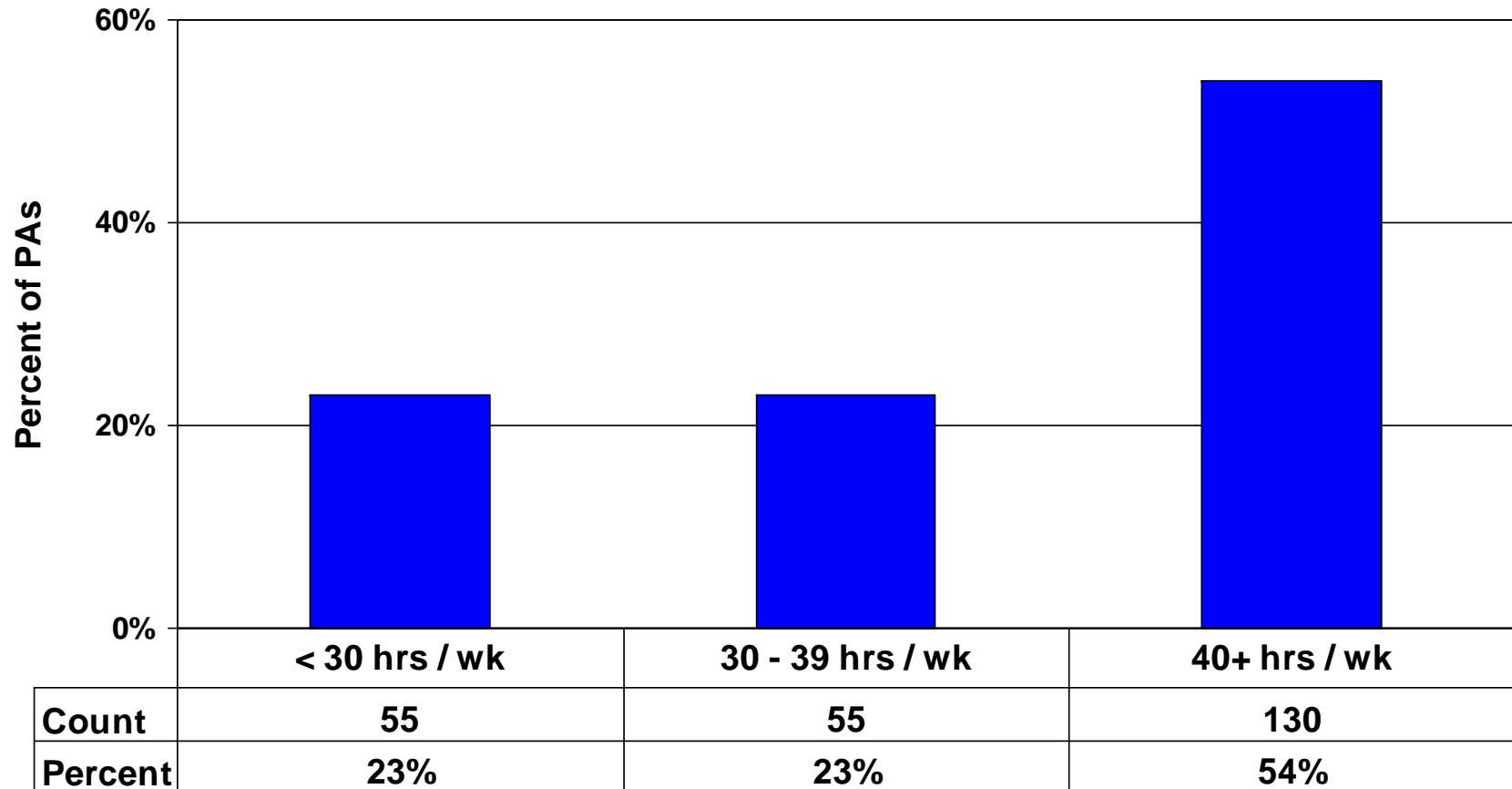


38% of PAs have worked in Vermont 10 or more years

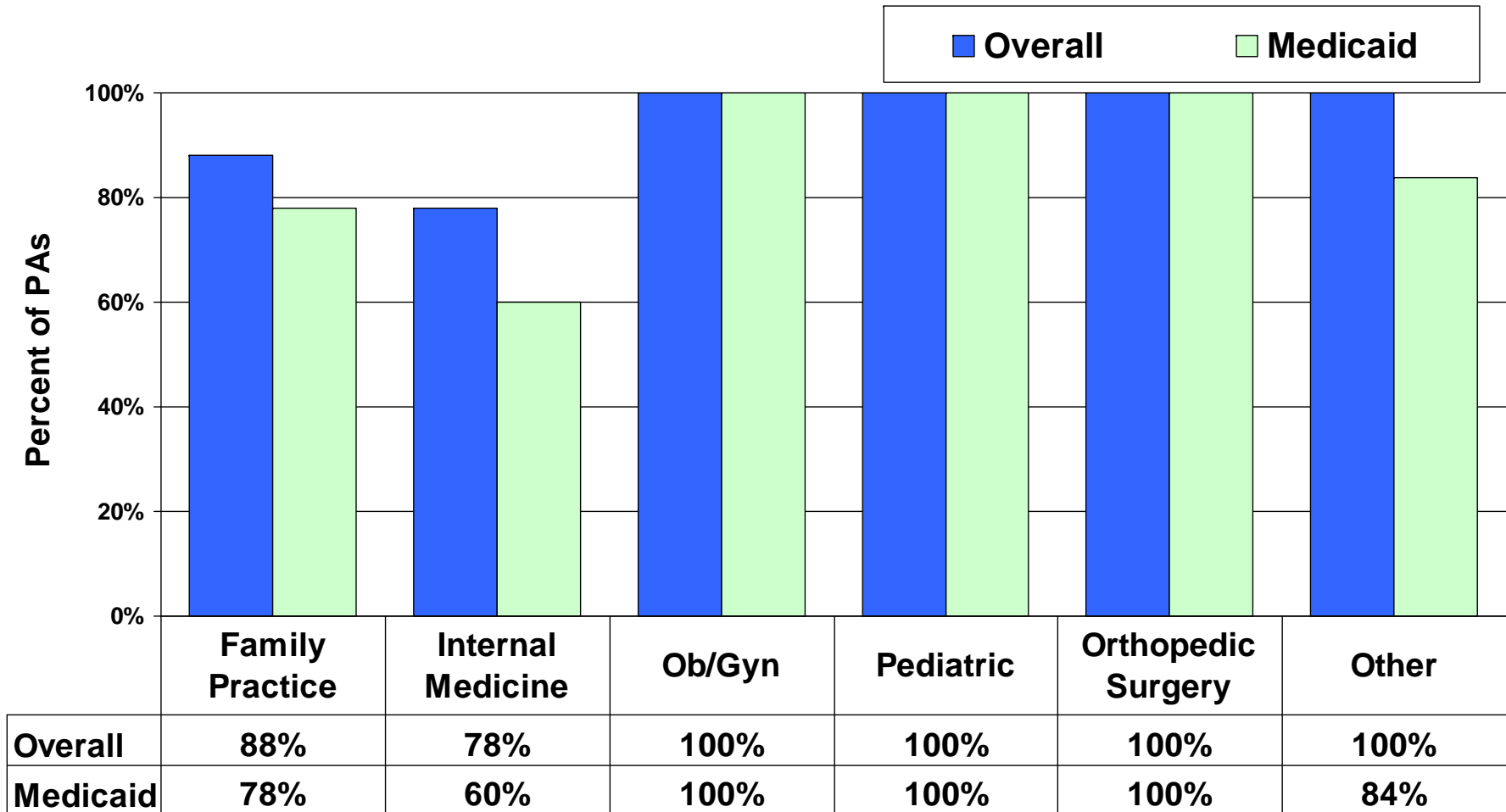
NUMBER OF SITES OF PRACTICE



HOURS WORKED PER WEEK



PA's ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



Overall, 93% accept new patients, 83% accept new Medicaid patients, 89% accept new Medicare patients. Each PA is counted only once. Office settings only. Emergency medicine excluded.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Primary Care Physician Assistants: 2002-2012

	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Primary Care PAs	69	79	83	85	83	98
Family Practice	53	55	62	58	60	77
Internal Medicine	7	10	11	15	11	12
Ob/Gyn	8	10	8	9	6	6
Pediatric Primary Care	1	4	2	3	6	3
Primary Care PA FTEs	54.3	62.3	62.6	64.8	67.0	76.6
Family Practice	43.6	45.4	48.2	46.0	49.3	62.5
Internal Medicine	5.3	7.5	7.9	11.8	9.4	8.6
Ob/Gyn	4.5	5.6	4.4	4.8	4.4	3.6
Pediatric Primary Care	1.0	3.9	2.1	2.1	3.9	1.9

Specialty Care Physician Assistants: 2002-2012

	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Specialty Care PAs	61	76	80	106	119	142
Emergency Medicine	33	37	30	35	40	43
Internal Medicine	1	5	4	9	11	10
Orthopedic Surgery	8	14	19	23	25	33
Specialty Care PA FTEs	54.8	69.2	70.2	93.9	105.7	123.3
Emergency Medicine	29.4	33.8	24.8	31.2	32.4	34.2
Internal Medicine	1.0	4.8	3.1	8.1	9.6	7.9
Orthopedic Surgery	7.5	12.9	17.8	20.7	23.5	31.6

Selected Indicators, 2002-2012

	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Total PAs active in Vermont **	130	155	163	191	202	240
Percent female	59%	56%	57%	58%	60%	57%
Percent age 55 or older	9%	15%	20%	25%	23%	23%
Average patient care hrs/wk	36	37	35	36	36	35
Primary care PAs						
% accept new patients *	91%	97%	91%	85%	82%	88%
accept new Medicaid patients*	86%	92%	81%	66%	73%	78%
accept new Medicare patients*	86%	94%	83%	77%	73%	82%
FTEs/100,000 population	8.8	10.0	10.0	10.4	10.8	12.2

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

** AAs included in 2012 but not in 2004-2010

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