AAHRPP

Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc.®

2025 Metrics

for

AAHRPP-Accredited Human Research Protection Programs

Academic Institutions

September 2026



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About the 2025 Metrics

AAHRPP is pleased to present the 2025 metrics for Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) performance.

These data are intended to help research organizations, researchers, sponsors, government agencies, and participants identify and support high-performing HRPP practices.



Where the data come from

Data is submitted by accredited organizations and include:

- Annual Reports
- Step 1 Applications
- Step 2 Applications



How the data was derived

All the quantitative data were derived from the most recent reports submitted by AAHRPP organizations.

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Abbreviations Used and Definitions

DHHS	US Department of Health & Human Services
DoD	US Department of Defense
ED	US Department of Education
DoE	US Department of Energy
DoJ	US Department of Justice
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
FDA	US Food and Drug Administration
ICH-GCP	International Council for Harmonisation Good Clinical Practice
VA	US Department of Veterans Affairs

Definitions of metrics, including how times are calculated, are available here.

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Annual Metrics Report for Academic Institutions

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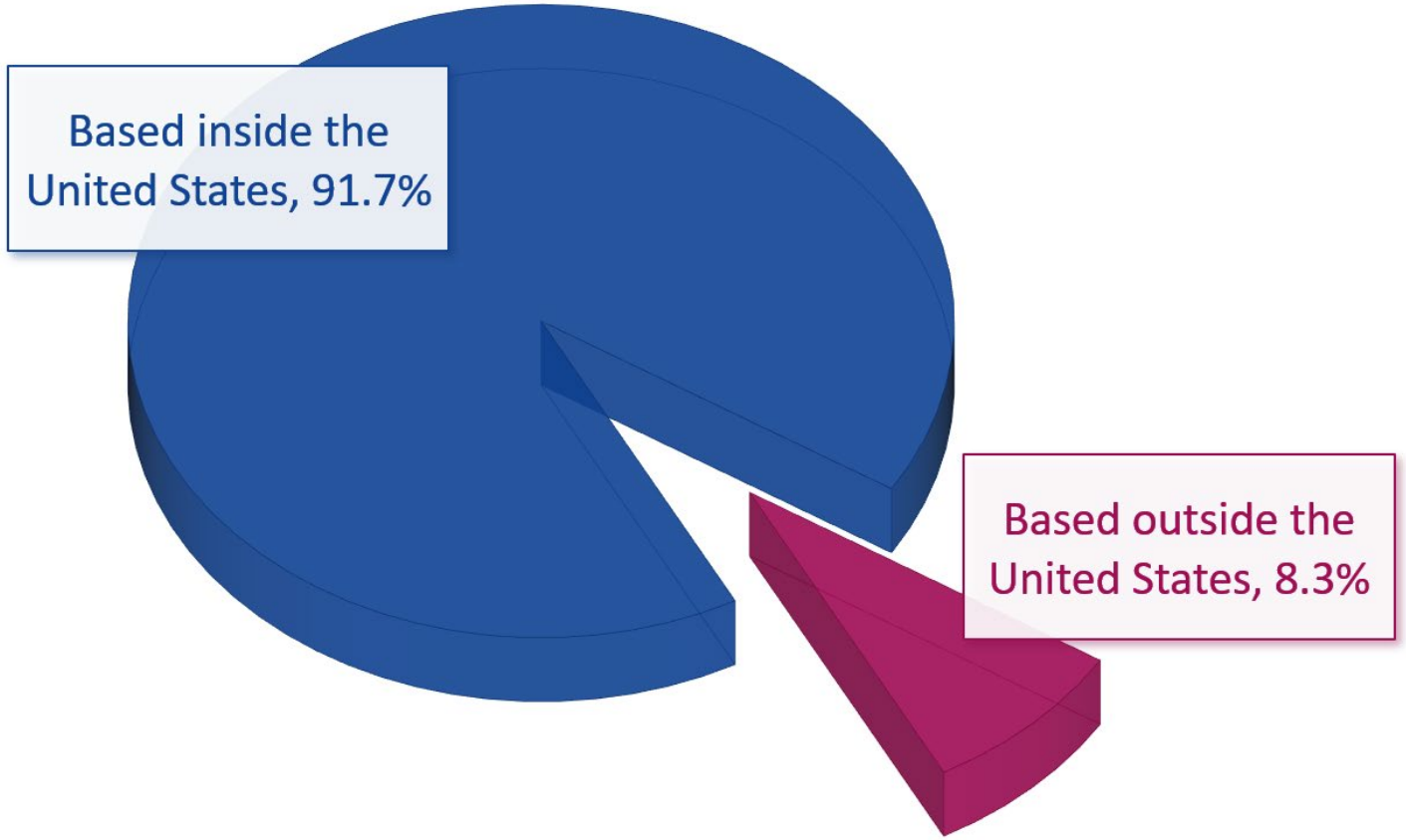
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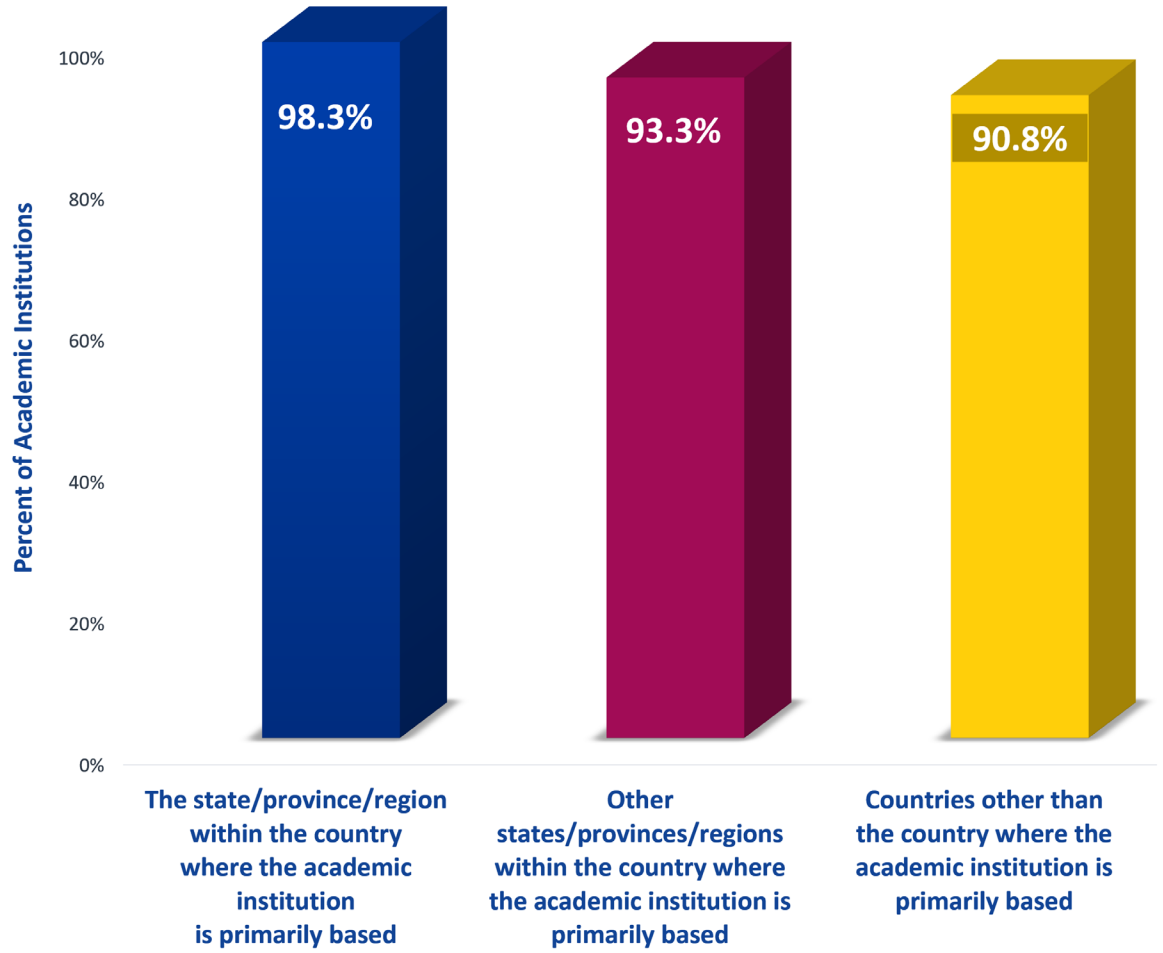
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Where Accredited Academic Institutions are Based

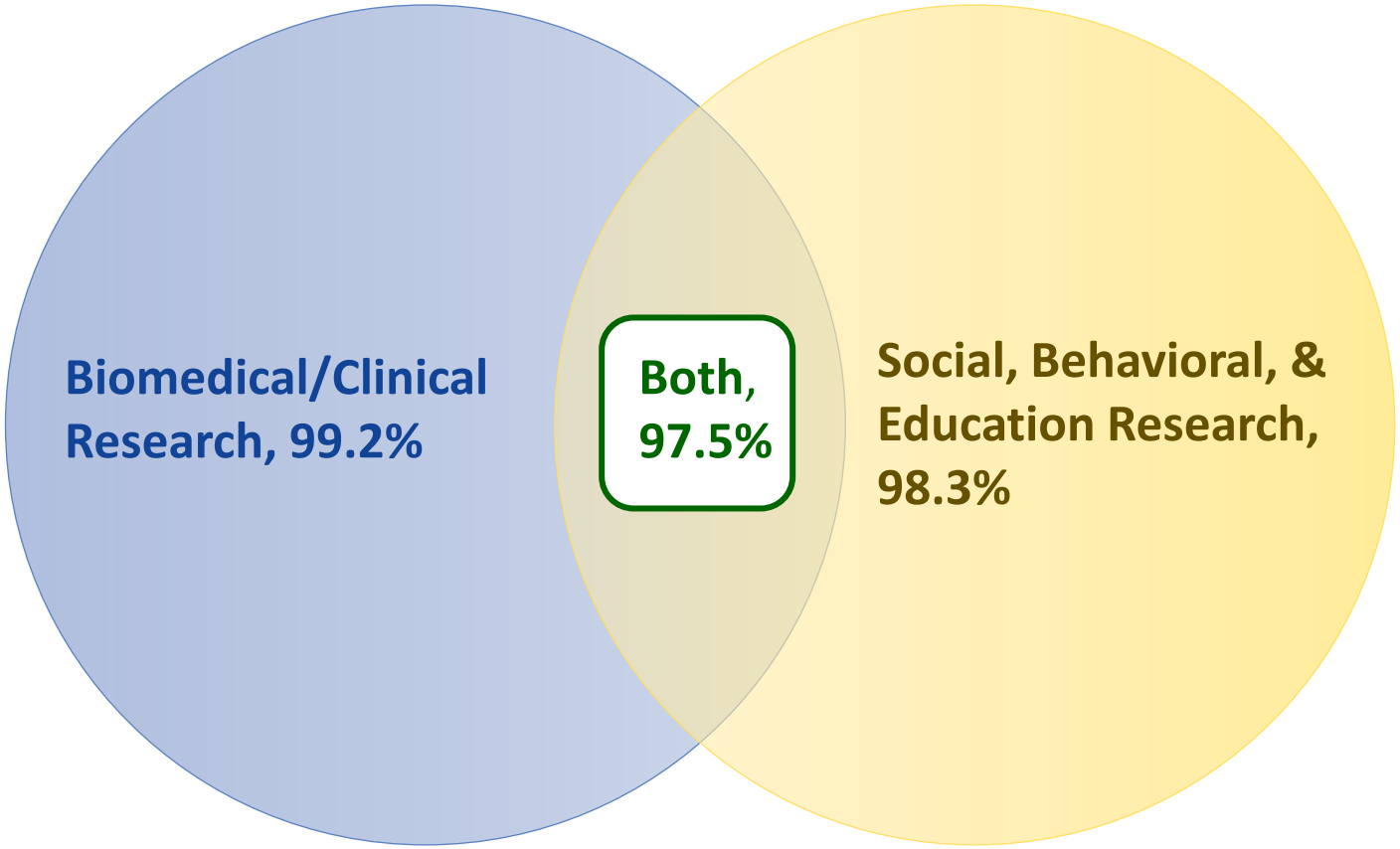


Where Research Occurs

This chart shows where academic institutions sponsor, conduct, review, or manage research



Types of Research Academic Institutions Sponsor, Conduct, Manage, or Review



Percentage of Academic Institutions Sponsoring, Conducting, Managing, or Reviewing Each Type of Research



Research Involving Vulnerable Populations

Percentages of academic institutions sponsoring, conducting, managing, or reviewing research by vulnerable population



Note

100% of academic institutions reported they sponsored, conducted, reviewed, or managed research involving a vulnerable population

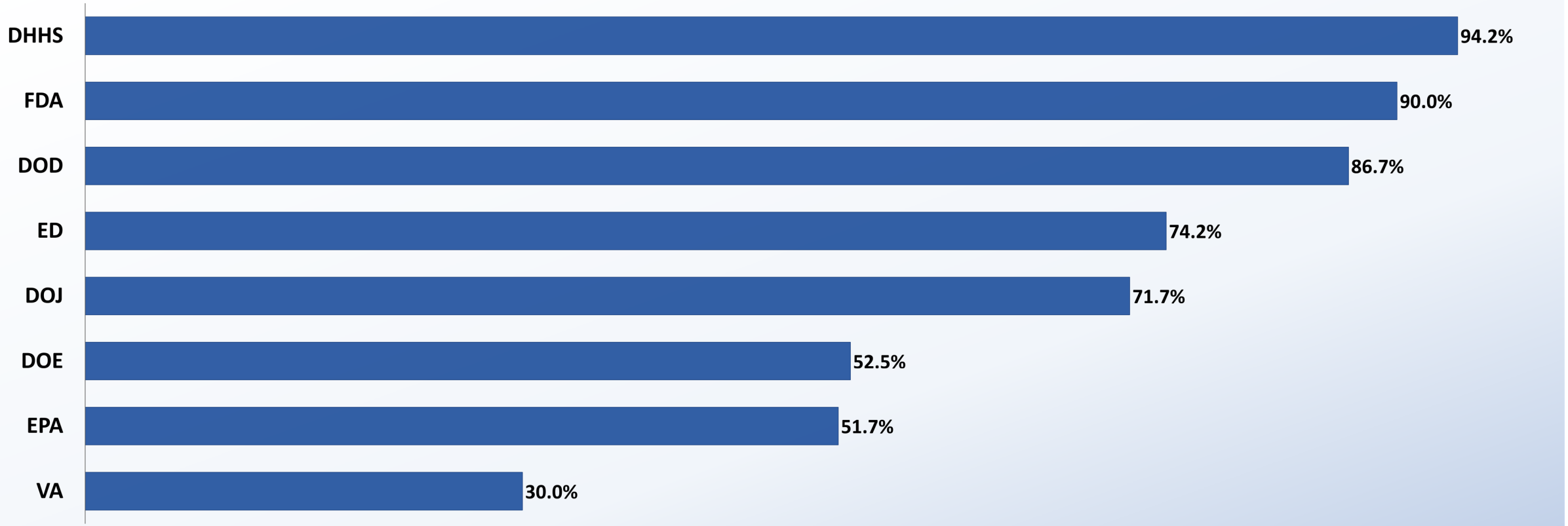
Type of Funding

Percentage of academic institutions that sponsor, manage, conduct, or review research by funding type that supports the research



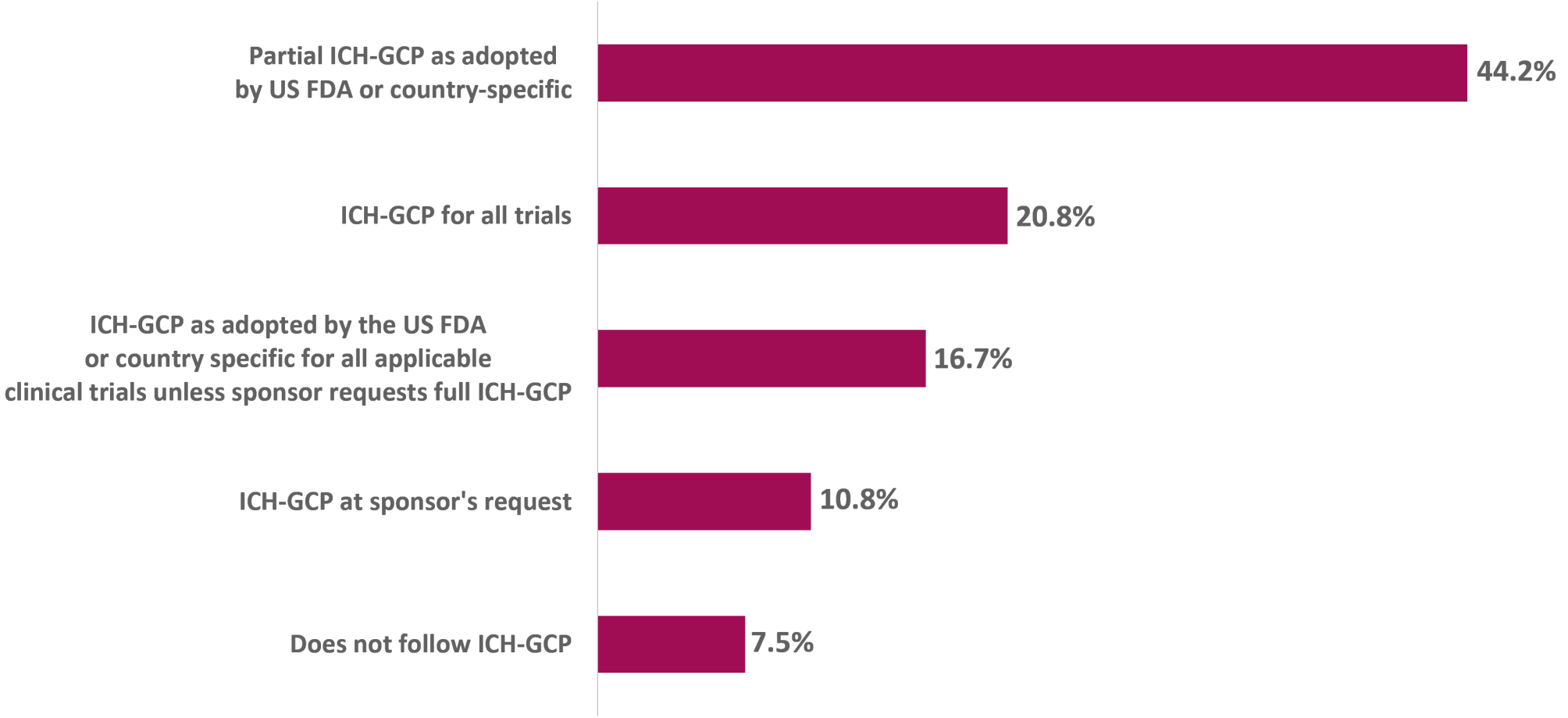
US Regulations & Guidelines

Percentage of academic institutions that apply specific US regulations and guidelines to the research they sponsor, review, manage or conduct



Adherence to ICH-GCP Guidelines

Percentage of academic institutions that adhere to ICH-GCP guidelines



Internal IRBs/ECs

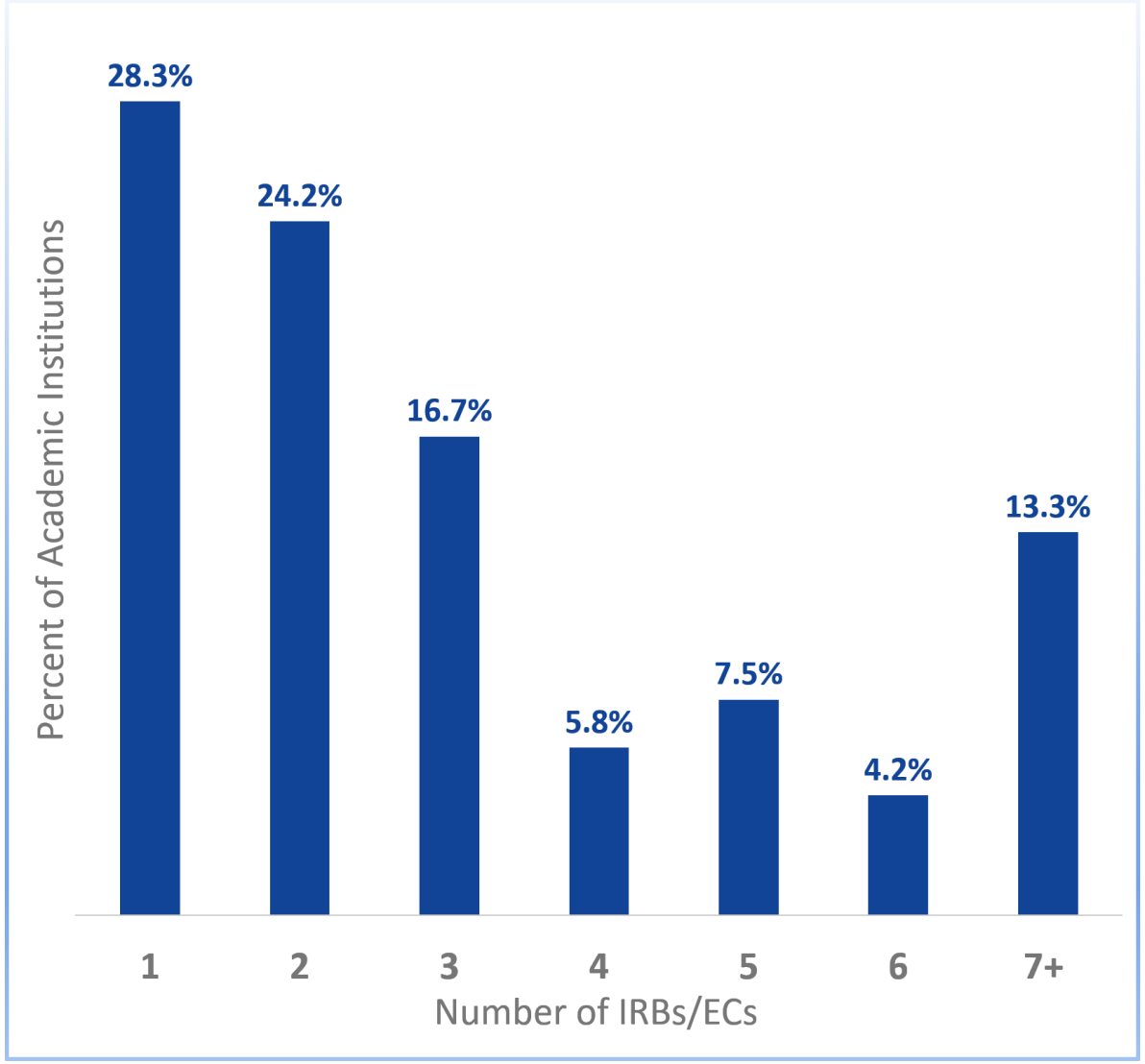
Number of internal IRBs/ECs academic institutions support

% of academic institutions with internal IRBs/ECs

100%

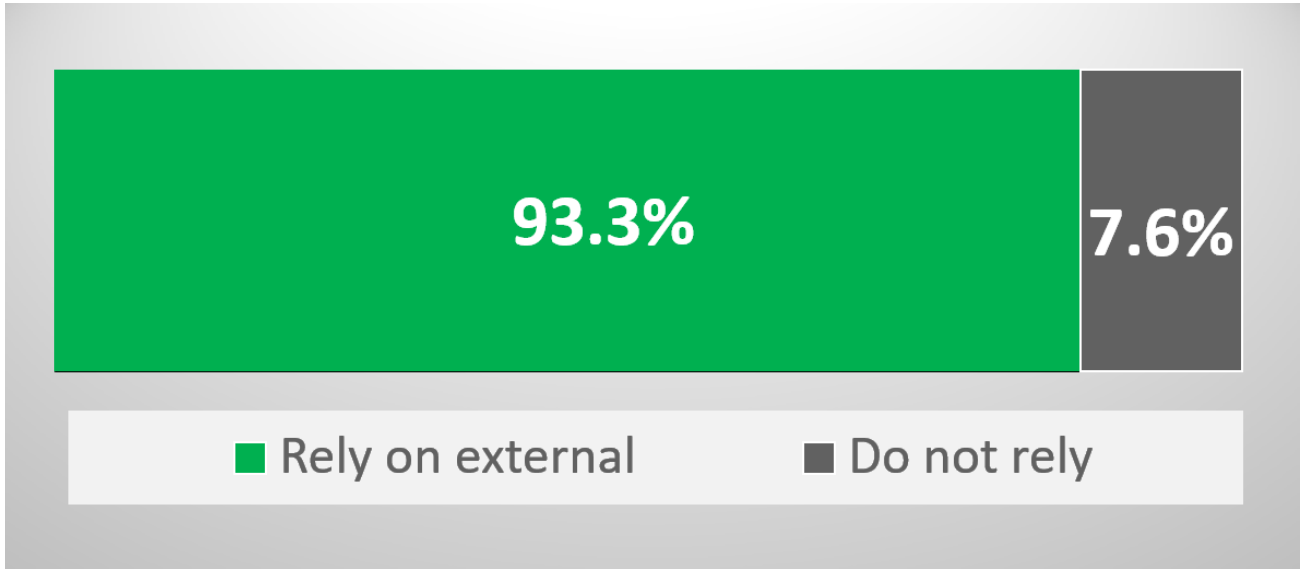
Median number of IRBs/ECs per academic institution

2



Reliance on External IRBs/ECs

Academic institutions with internal IRBs/ECs that also rely on external IRBs/ECs



Median number of studies externally reviewed

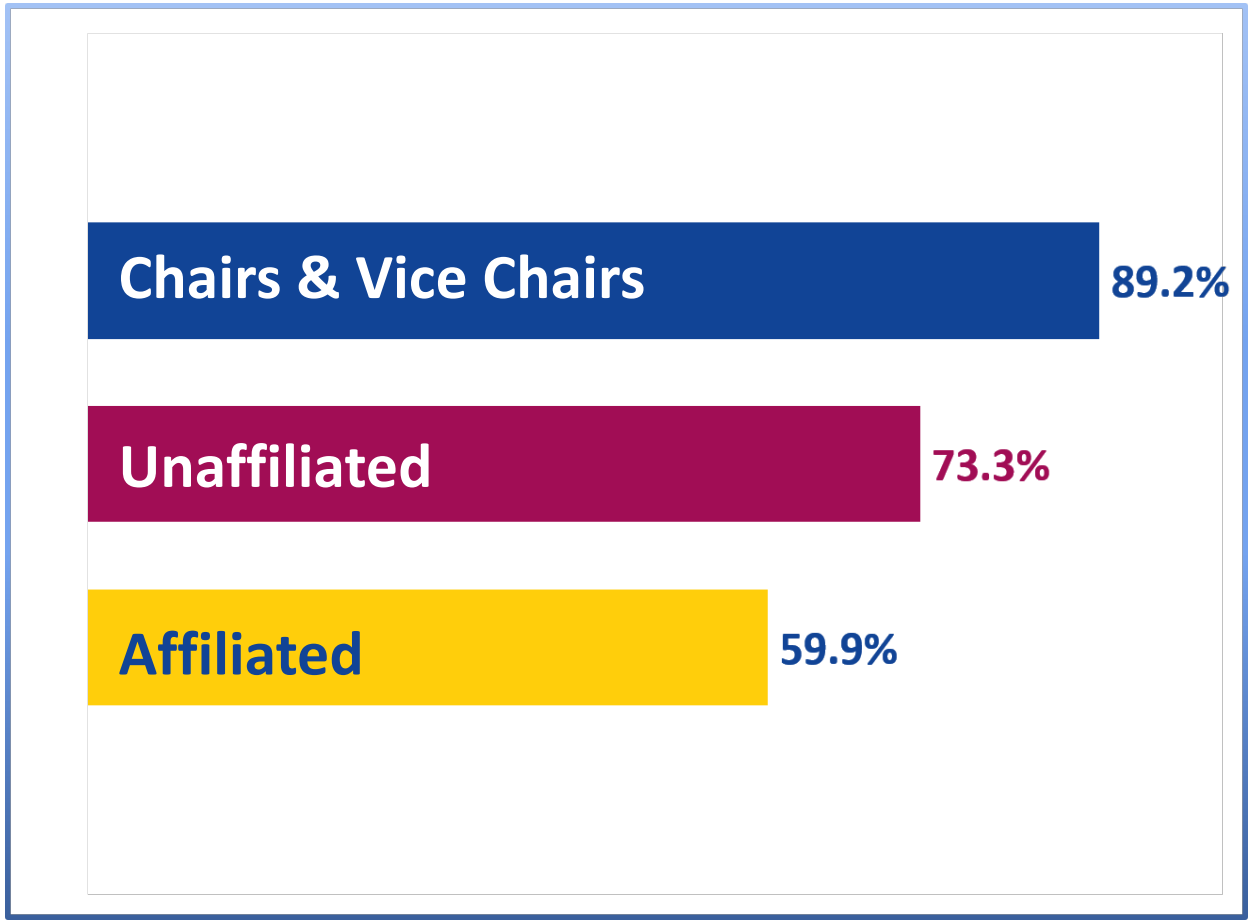
354

IRB/EC Member Compensation

Prevalence of financial compensation overall and by member type at academic institutions

96.7%

of academic institutions provide some form of financial compensation



IRB/EC Member Compensation by Type

Types of financial support by member type in academic institutions

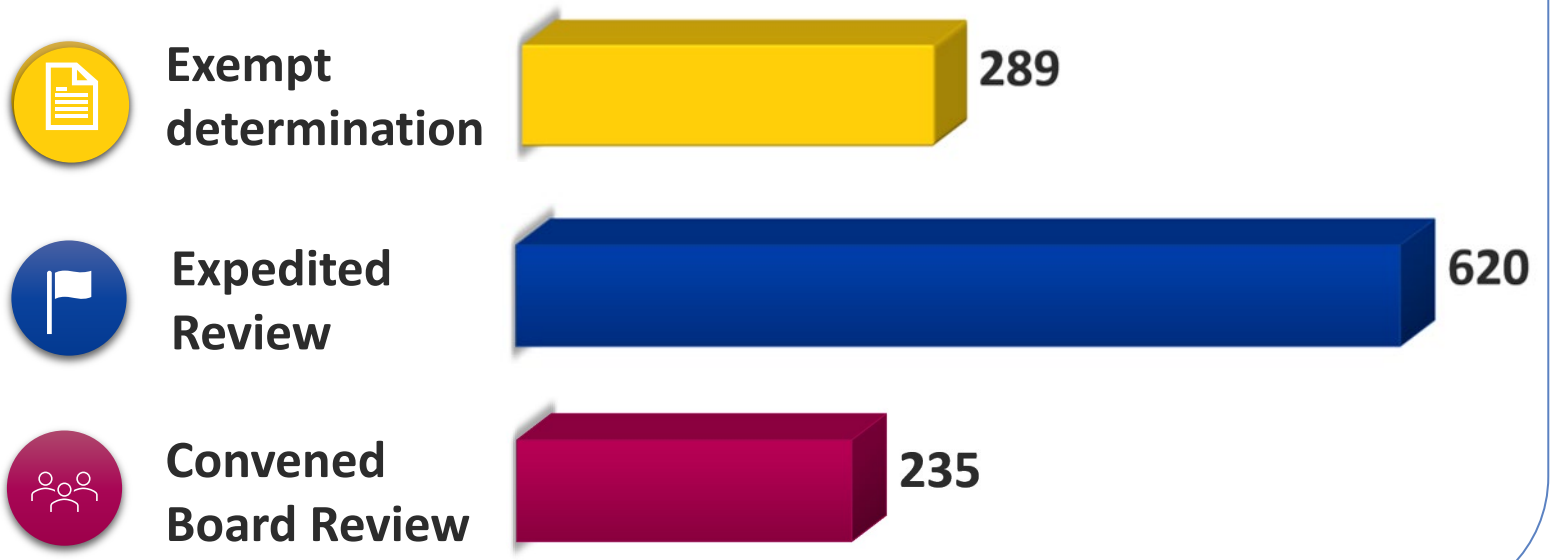
Member role	Salary support	Specific activity pay	Stipend / Honorarium	Conference/ Education support	Department/ Clinic reimbursement
Chairs/Vice Chairs	50.0%	15.0%	35.0%	55.8%	10.8%
Unaffiliated	0.8%	26.7%	35.0%	26.7%	Not Applicable
Affiliated	10.0%	12.5%	11.7%	26.7%	2.5%

Open Studies

1592

Median number of open studies overall

Median number of open studies by review type



Notes

- Open studies include studies reviewed by internal and external IRBs/ECs
- Expedited and Convened Board Review figures include studies reviewed by an internal IRB/EC
- Exempt determinations reflect those made during a 12-month period (i.e., the calendar year prior to the AAHRPP report)

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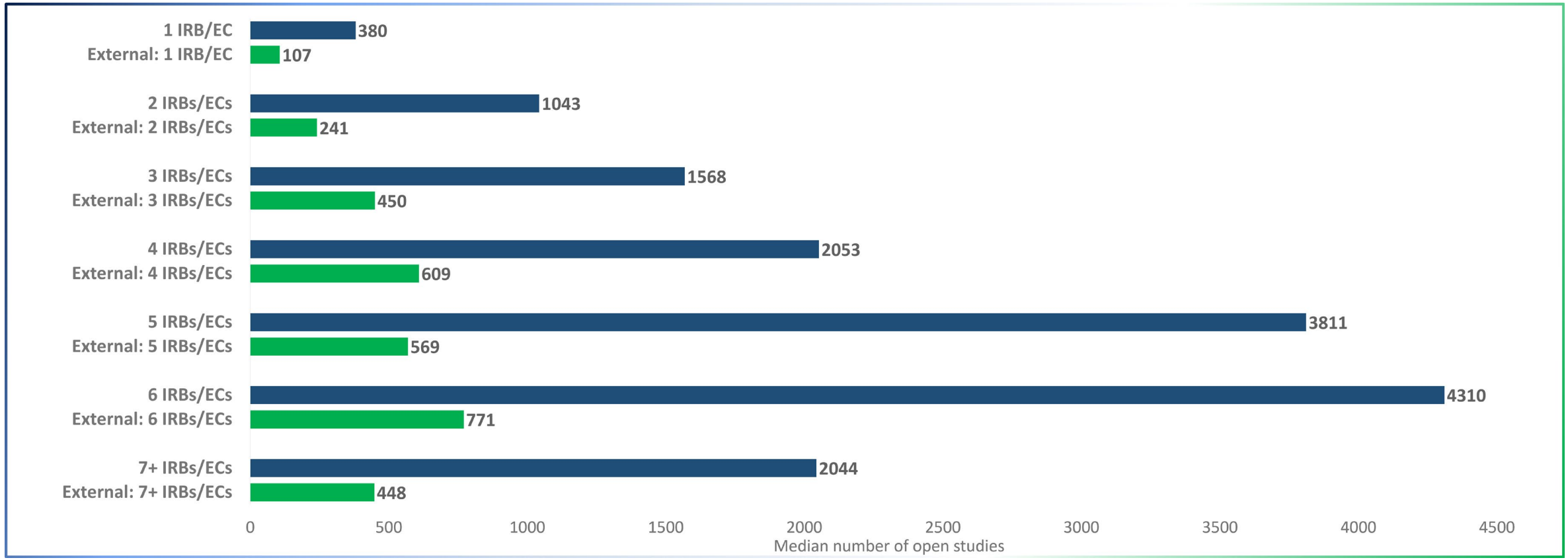
Median Number of Open Studies by Quartile

Median number of studies by review category and academic institution volume

Quartile Organization volume	Exemption Determination	Expedited Review	Convened Board Review	Reviewed by External IRB/EC	Total Reviews
Q1 1–710 studies	83	121	19	39	377
Q2 711–1,592 studies	184	437	82	189	1,073
Q3 1,593–3,803 studies	422	1,089	293	546	2,547
Q4 3,804–14,245 studies	801	3,225	993	970	6,302

Open Studies per IRB/EC by Academic Institutions

Median number of open studies reviewed internally vs. externally by number of number of Internal IRBs/ECs



Note: Median study count reflect exemption determinations that were made by internal or external IRB/ECs

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Review Times for Academic Institutions

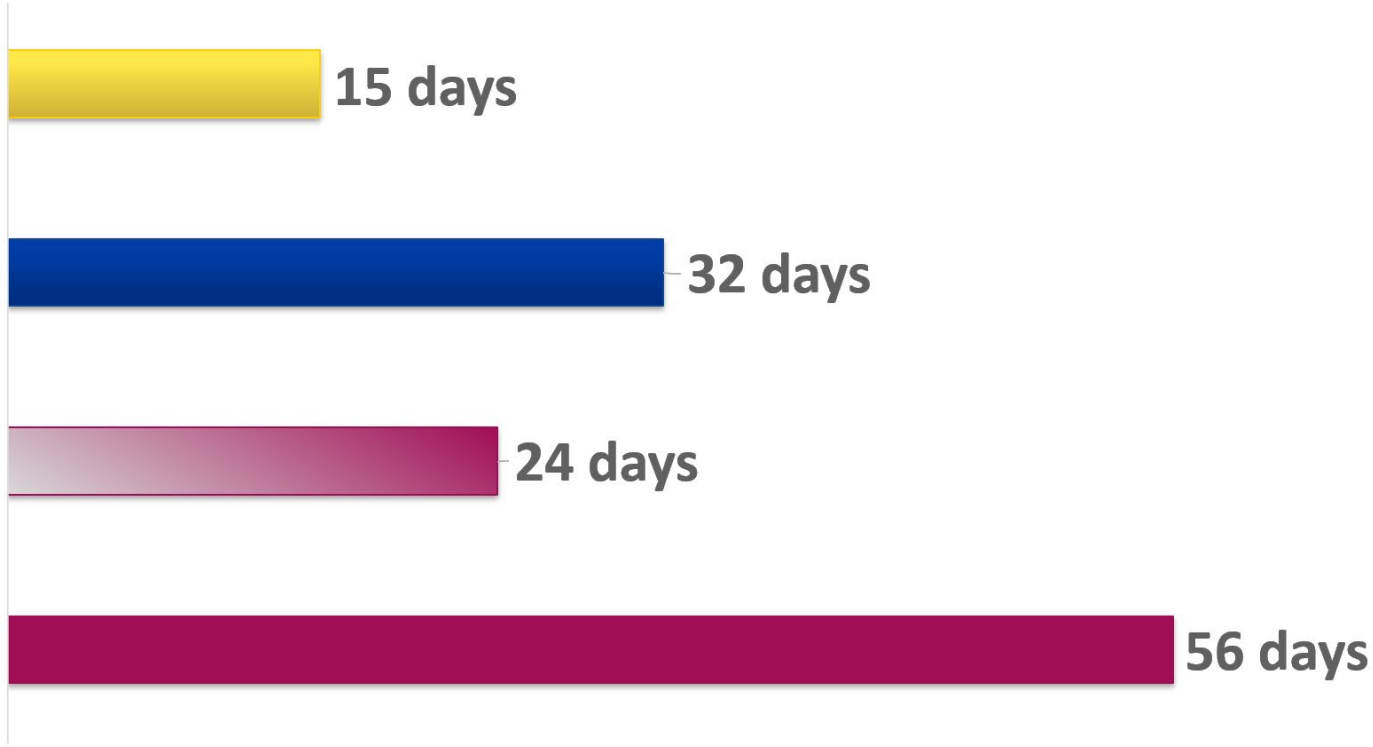
Median days from submission to review or determination/approval

Exemption
Submission to Determination

Expedited Review
Submission to Approval

Convened Board
Submission to Review

Convened Board
Submission to Approval



Notes

- Review time metrics reflect academic institutions with internal IRB/ECs
- Exemption review times are for academic institutions regardless of whether they have an internal IRB/EC

IRB/EC Technology

How academic institutions use electronic systems to support IRB/EC review



97.5%

of academic institutions use electronic systems for IRB/EC review



3 organizations reported no electronic system



Prepare and/or submit applications — **97.5%**



Review applications and materials — **96.7%**



Communicate about applications — **95.0%**



Document decisions and Study-specific Determination — **95.8%**

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IRB/EC Staffing

Staffing and study volume among academic institutions with internal IRBs/ECs

Number of Active Studies	Median Number of Studies	Median Full-Time Equivalent Staff	Median Number of Studies Per Staff
All	**1,280**	**13.5**	**121.1**
0–100	72	1.7	21.2
101–500	281	3.0	75.3
501–1000	806	6.5	100.8
1001–2000	1,423	13.0	104.6
2001–4000	3,053	21.0	128.8
4001+	5,638	27.2	201.2

Notes

Open studies include exempt, expedited, and convened reviews by internal IRBs/ECs

Audits of Researchers

Researcher audit activity at academic institutions

91.6%

of academic institutions reported conducting researcher audits

Audit Type	Median per Academic Institution	Total Reported
 Internal: For Cause	2	551
 Internal: Random/ Not for Cause	24	9112
 Regulatory Agency Inspections	0	59

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Data updated 11/5/2026

Audits of IRBs/ECs

IRB/EC audit activity at academic institutions

64.7%

of academic institutions reported IRB/EC audits

Audit Type	Median per organization	Total Reported
Internal: For Cause	0	197
Internal: Random/ Not for Cause	2	4907
Regulatory Agency Inspections	0	86

Noncompliance and Unanticipated Problems

Active Studies	Serious Noncompliance		Continuing Noncompliance		Unanticipated Problems	
	Median	Total	Median	Total	Median	Total
All	**2**	1319	**0**	1530	**2**	1507
0 – 100	**0**	209	**0**	41	**0**	18
101 – 500	**0**	18	**0**	23	**0**	238
501 – 1,000	**1**	111	**0**	31	**0**	81
1,001 – 2000	**1**	321	**1**	433	**1**	177
2,001 – 4,000	**3**	182	**0**	72	**3**	154
4,001+	**8**	478	**2**	930	**6**	839

Notes

- Data represent reports in the most recent calendar year prior to the organization's AAHRPP report
- Total represents all reported events for academic institutions within each open studies category

Conflicts of Interest: Studies with Management Plans



10

Median number of studies reviewed by academic institutions during a 12-month period (i.e., the calendar year prior to the AAHRPP report) by an internal or external IRB/EC that included a management plan, either at initial review or through a study change adding a new plan