AAHRPP

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

2025 Metrics

for

AAHRPP-Accredited Human Research Protection Programs

September 2026



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

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

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Resources & Budget

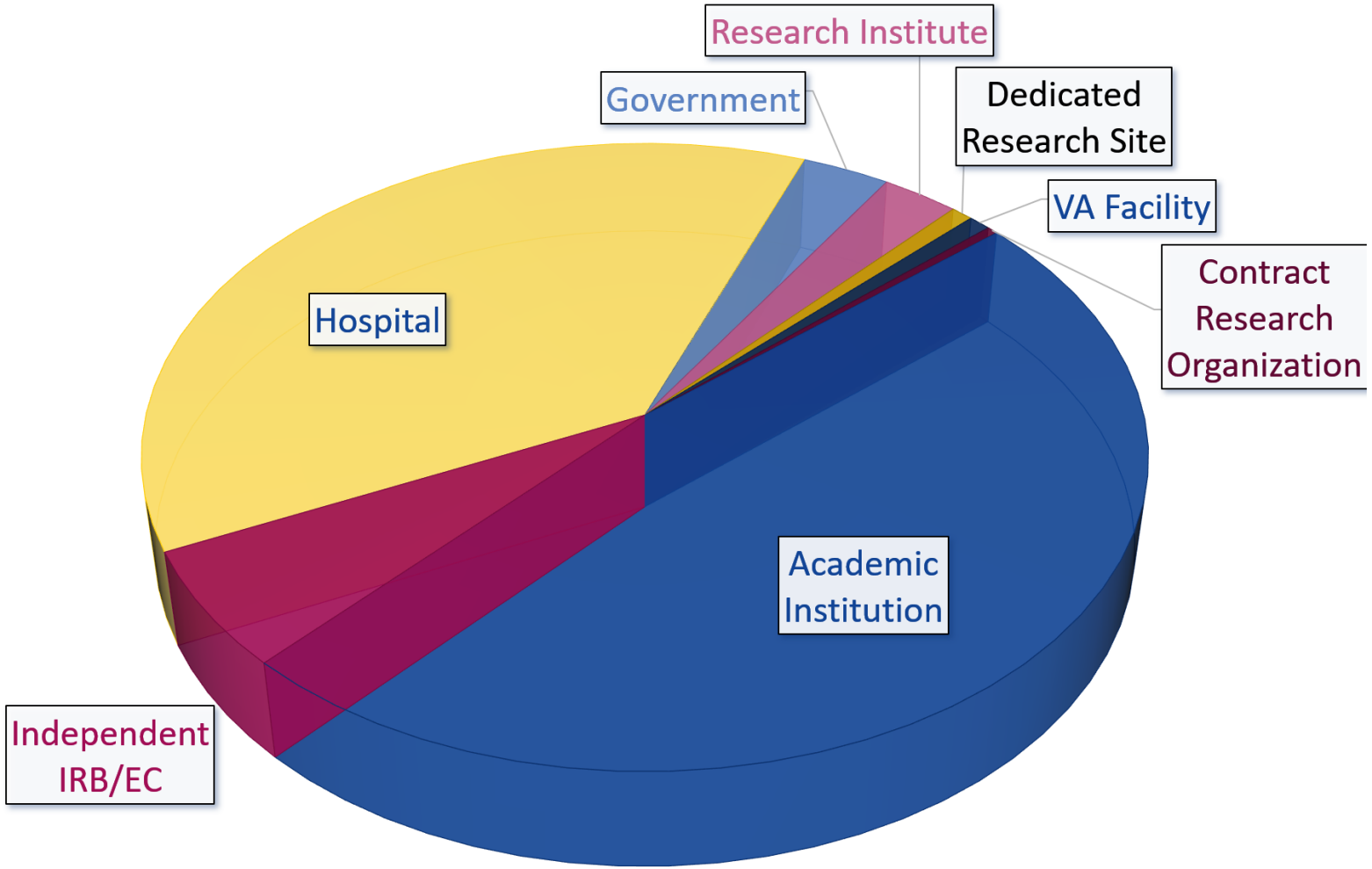
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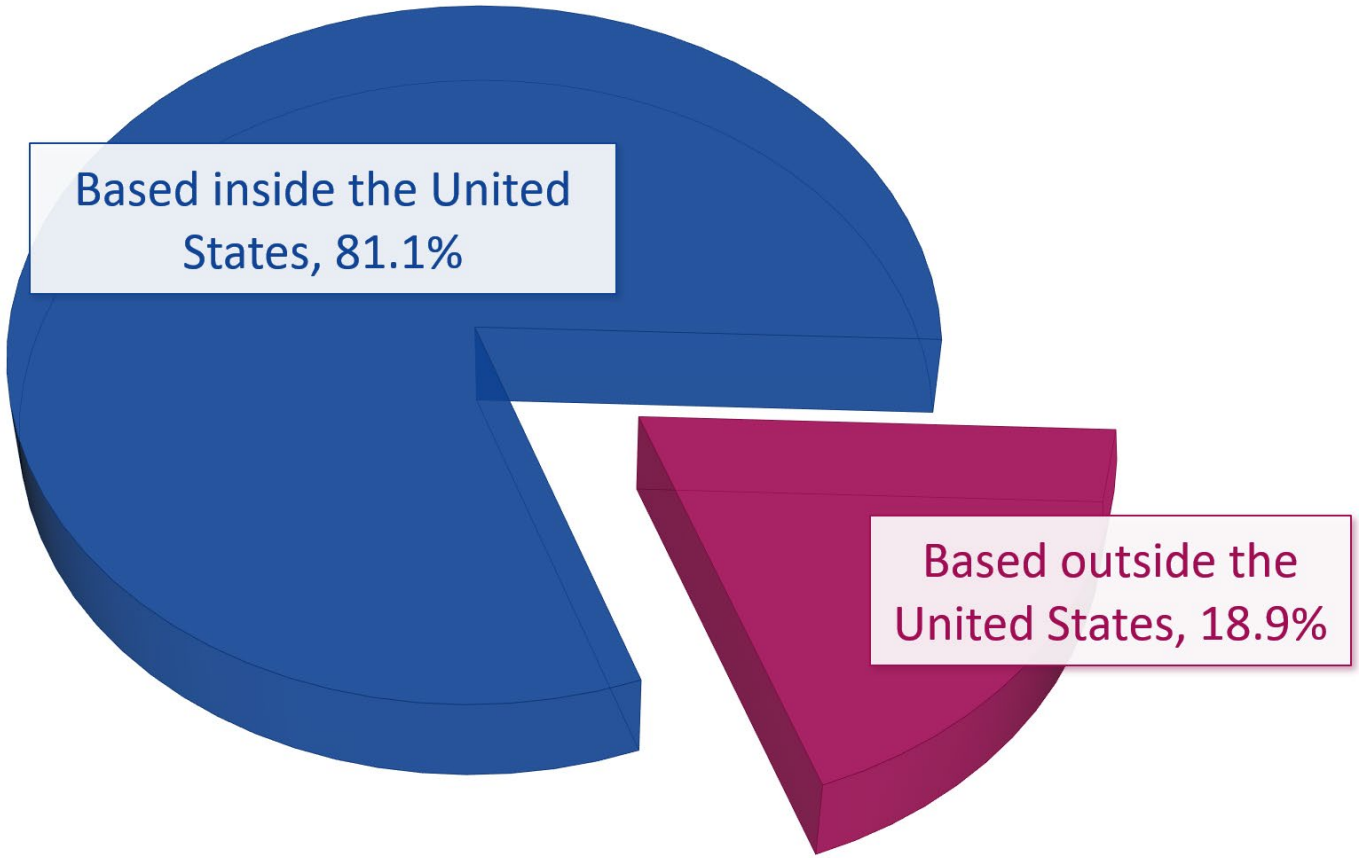
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Accredited Organizations By Type



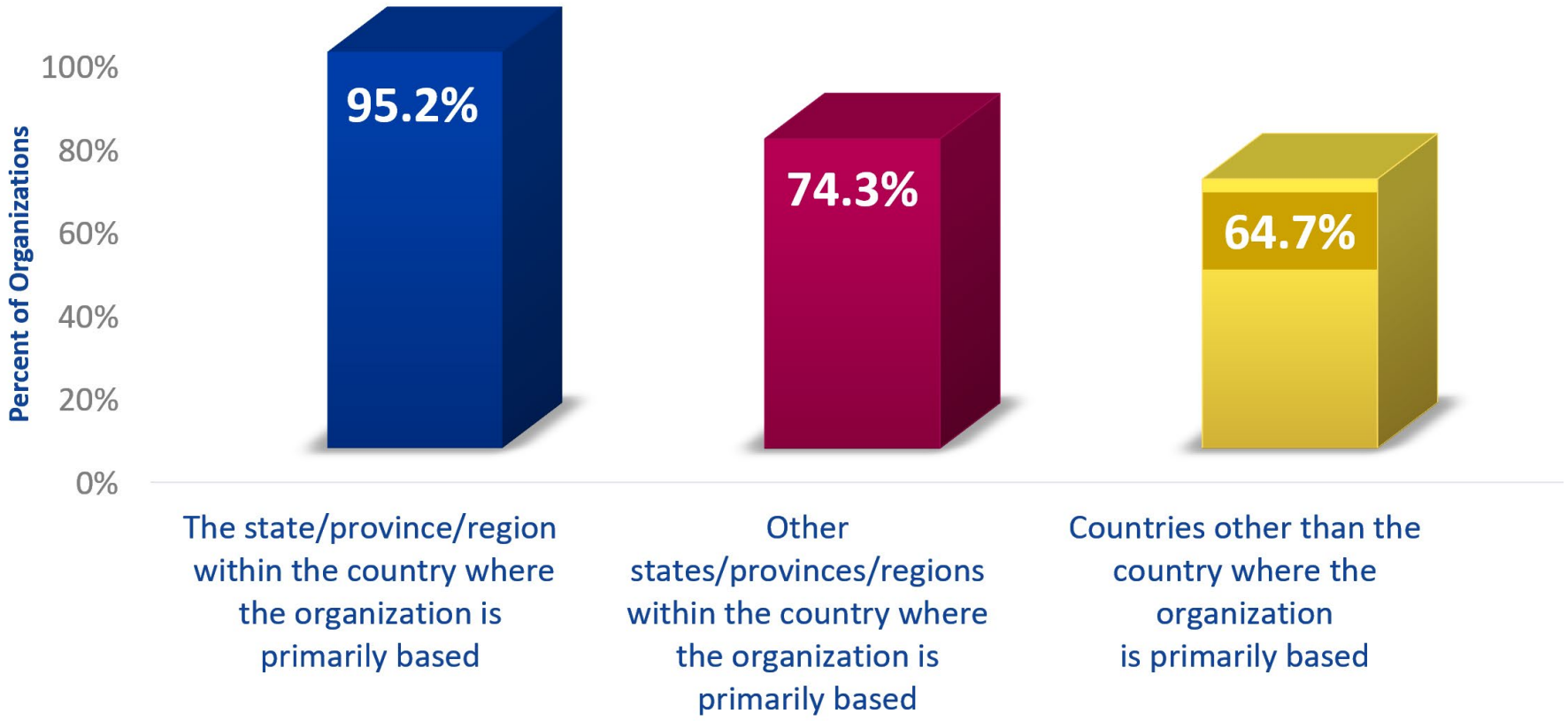
Organization Type	Percent
Academic Institution	48.2%
Hospital	37.8%
Independent IRB/EC	6.0%
Government	3.2%
Research Institute	2.8%
Dedicated Research Site	0.8%
VA Facility	0.8%
Contract Research Organization	0.4%

Where Accredited Organizations are Based

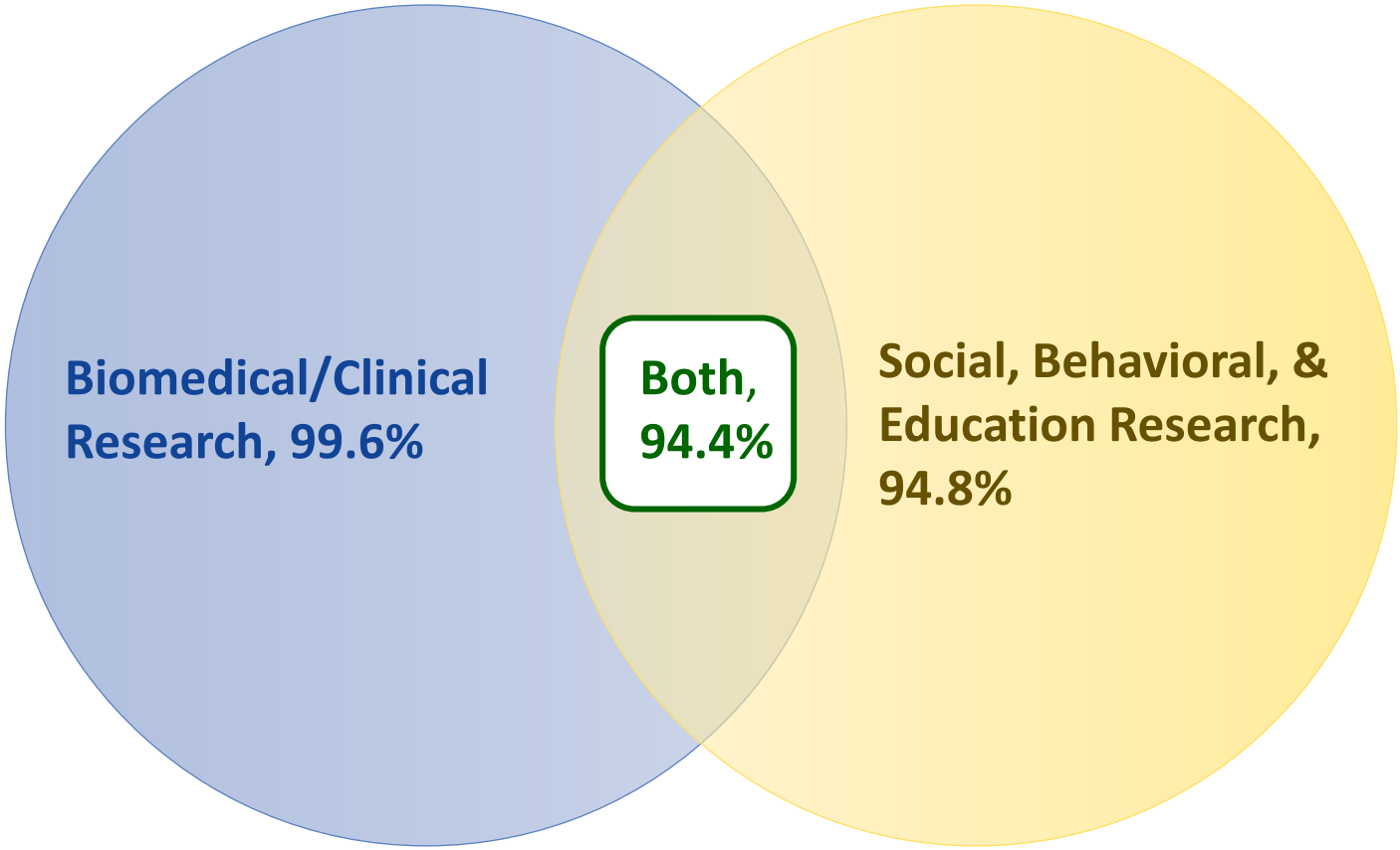


Where Research Occurs

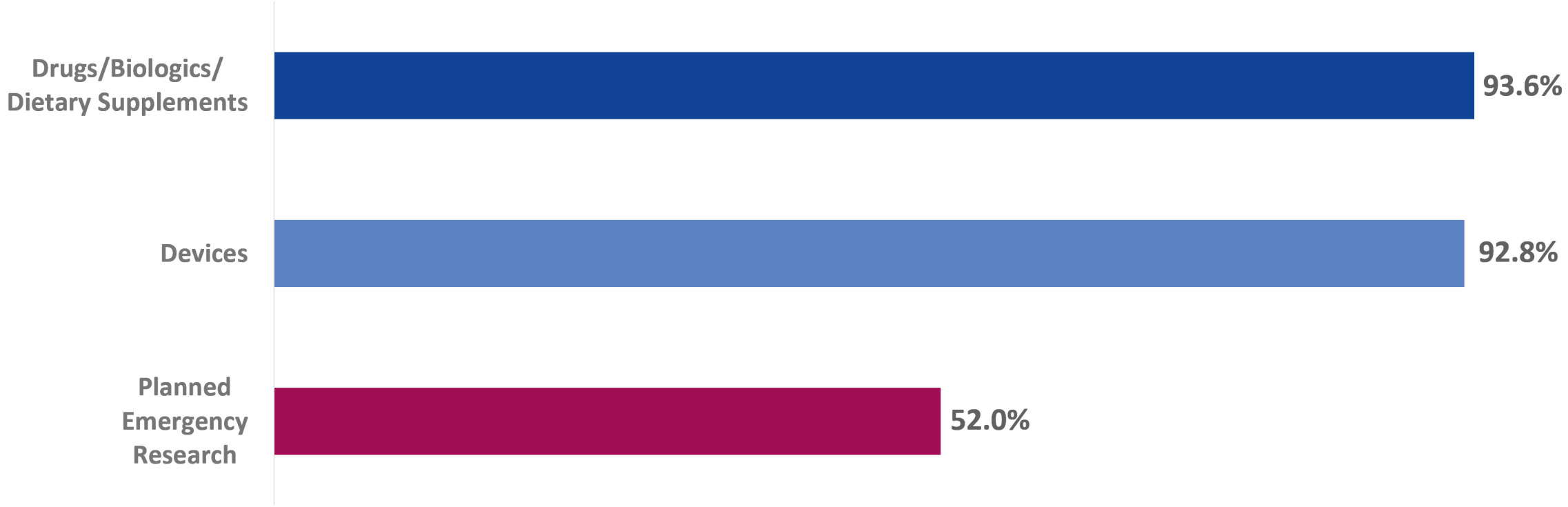
This chart shows where organizations sponsor, conduct, review, or manage research



Types of Research Organizations Sponsor, Conduct, Manage, or Review

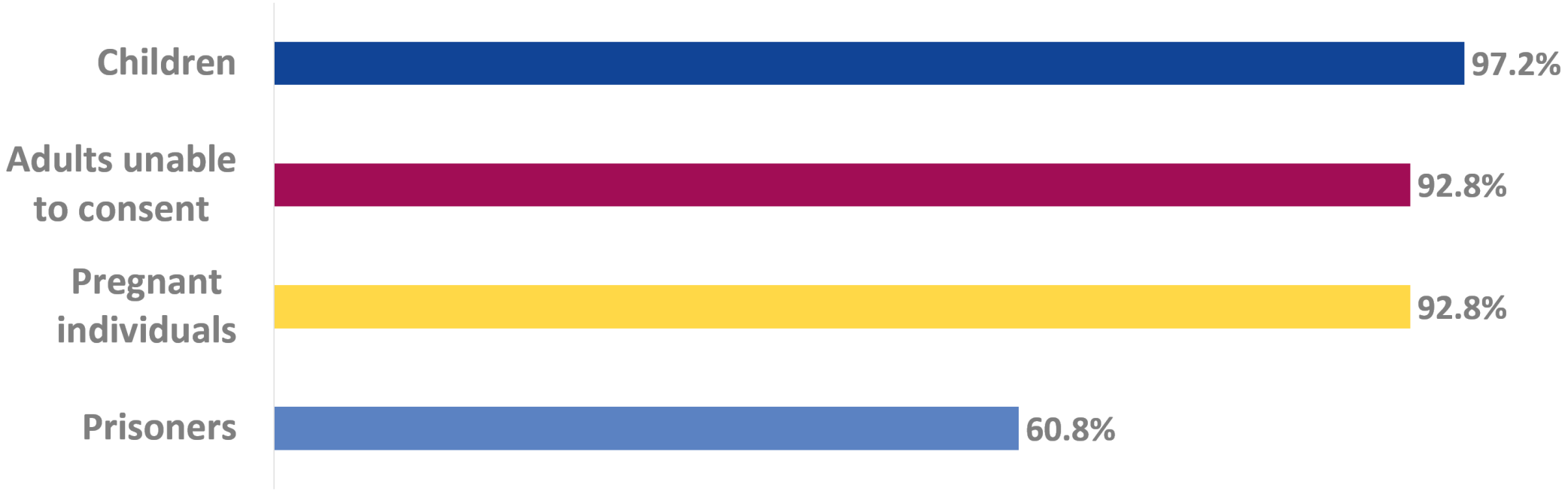


Percentage of Organizations That Sponsor, Conduct, Manage or Review Each Type of Research



Research Involving Vulnerable Populations

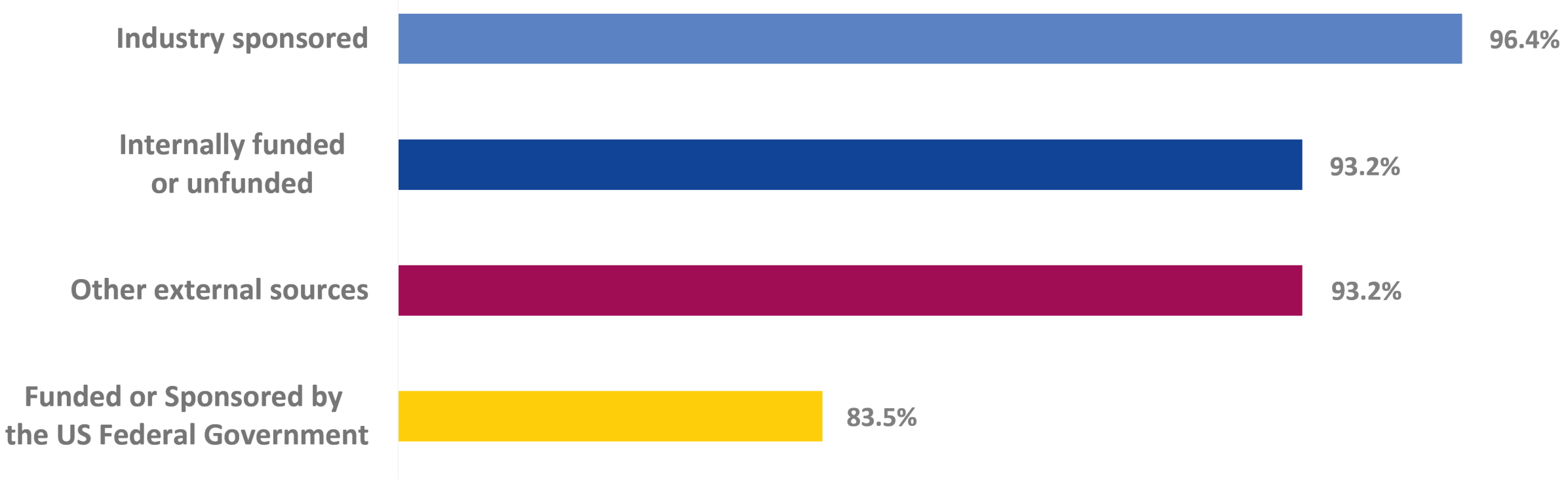
Percentages of organizations sponsoring, conducting, managing, or reviewing research by vulnerable population



Note
98.7% of organizations reported they conducted, reviewed, or managed research involving a vulnerable population

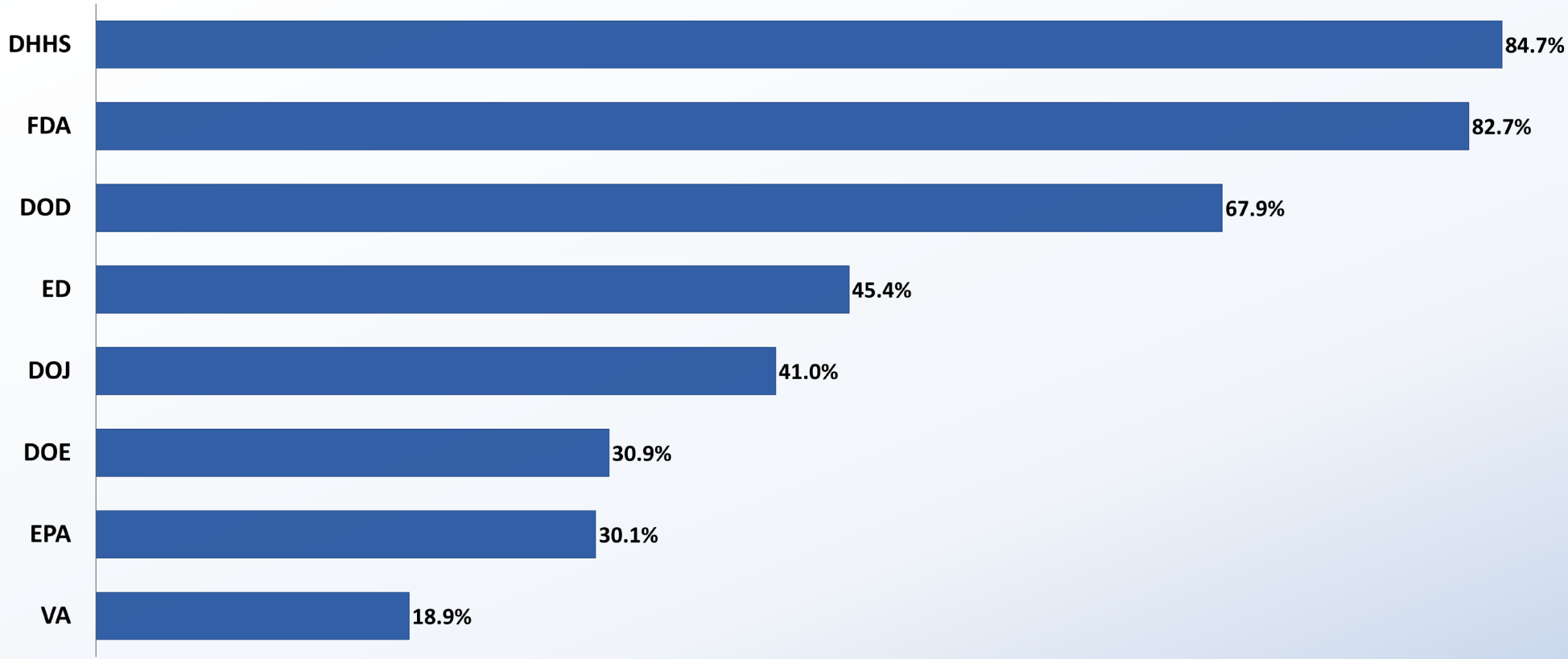
Type of Funding

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



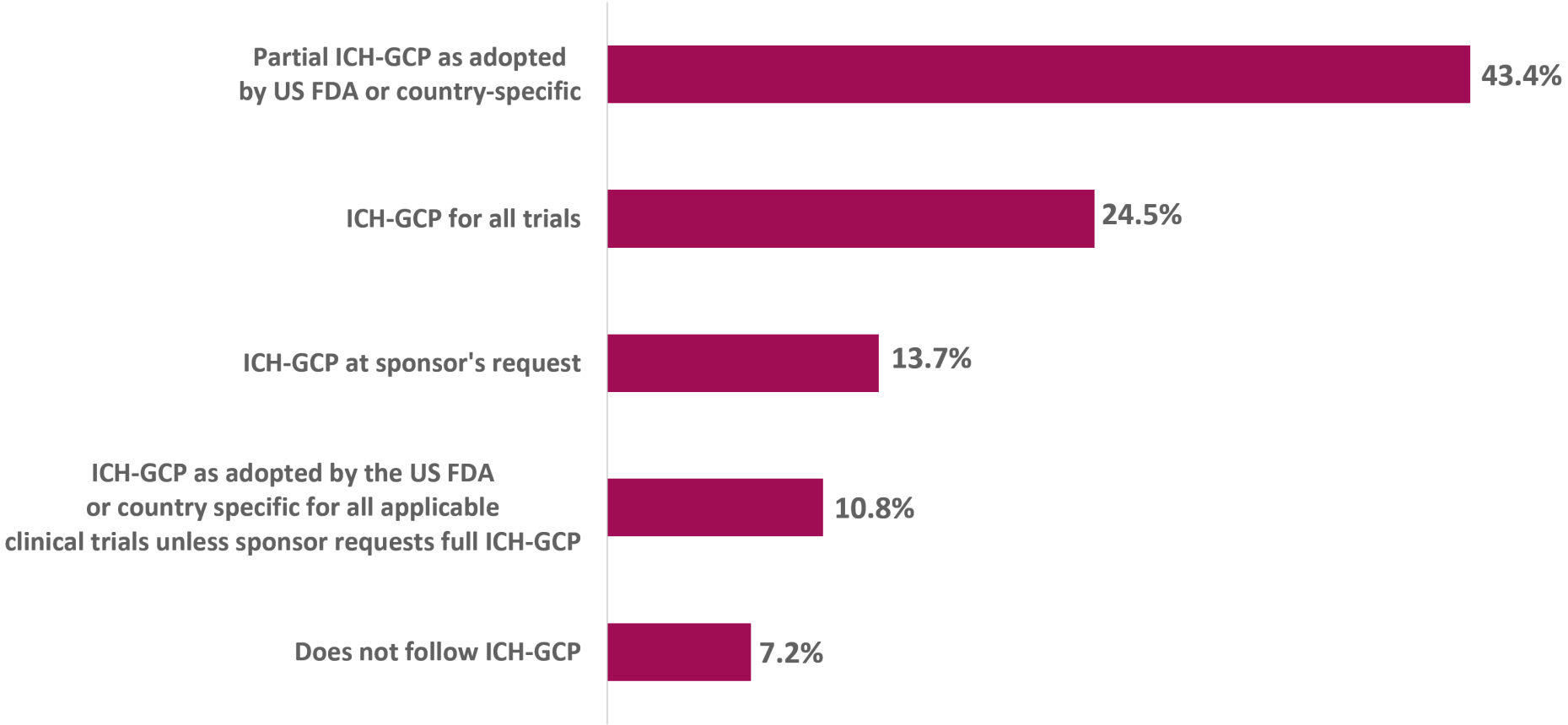
US Regulations & Guidelines

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



Adherence to ICH-GCP Guidelines

Percentage of organizations that adhere to ICH-GCP guidelines



Internal IRBs/ECs

Number of internal IRBs/ECs organizations support

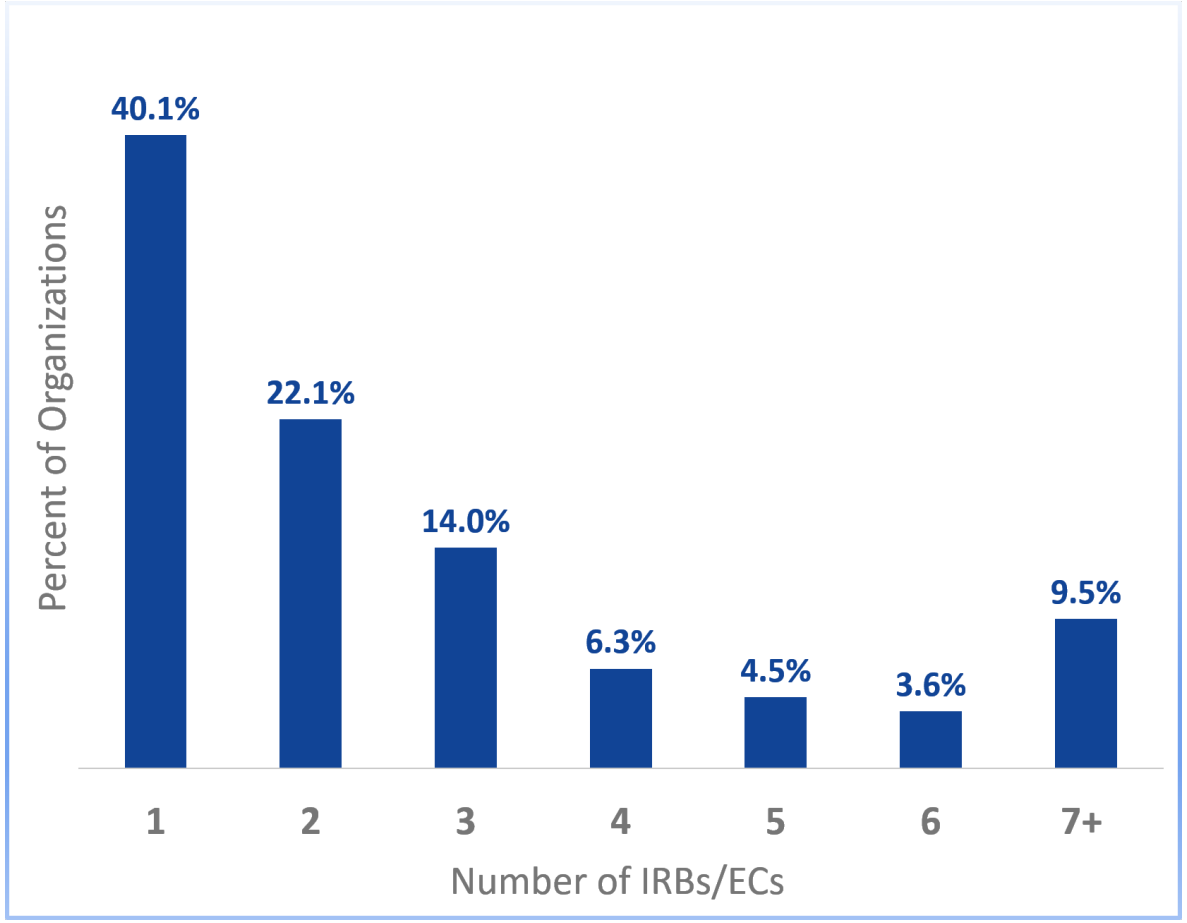
% of organizations with internal IRBs/ECs

94.5%

Median number of IRBs/ECs per organization

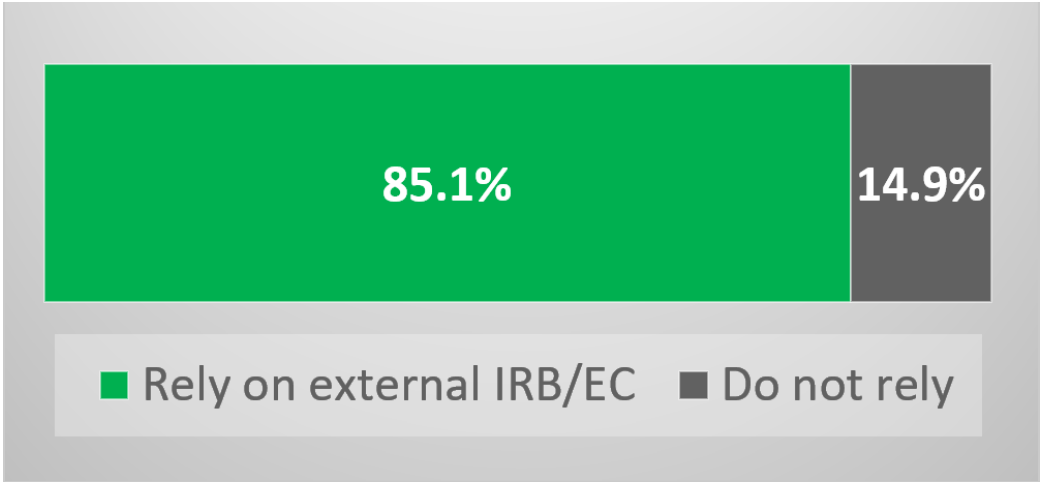
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Note
Data excludes Independent IRB/ECs



Reliance on External IRBs/ECs

Organizations with internal IRBs/ECs that also rely on external IRBs/ECs



Median number of studies externally reviewed

276

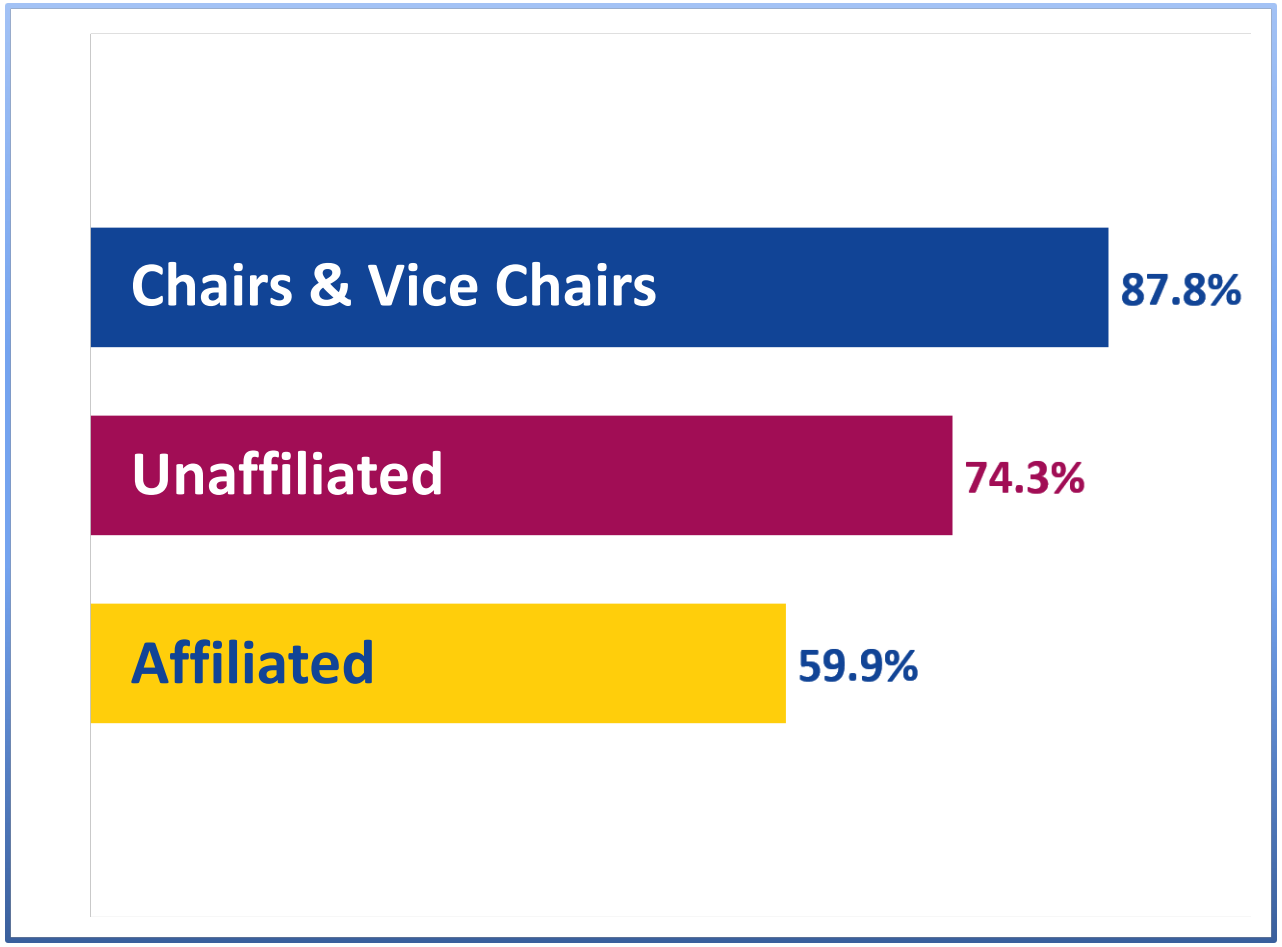
Note
Data exclude Independent IRBs/ECs

IRB/EC Member Compensation

Prevalence of financial compensation overall and by member type

95.8%

of organizations provide some form of financial compensation



IRB/EC Member Compensation by Type

Financial support by member type

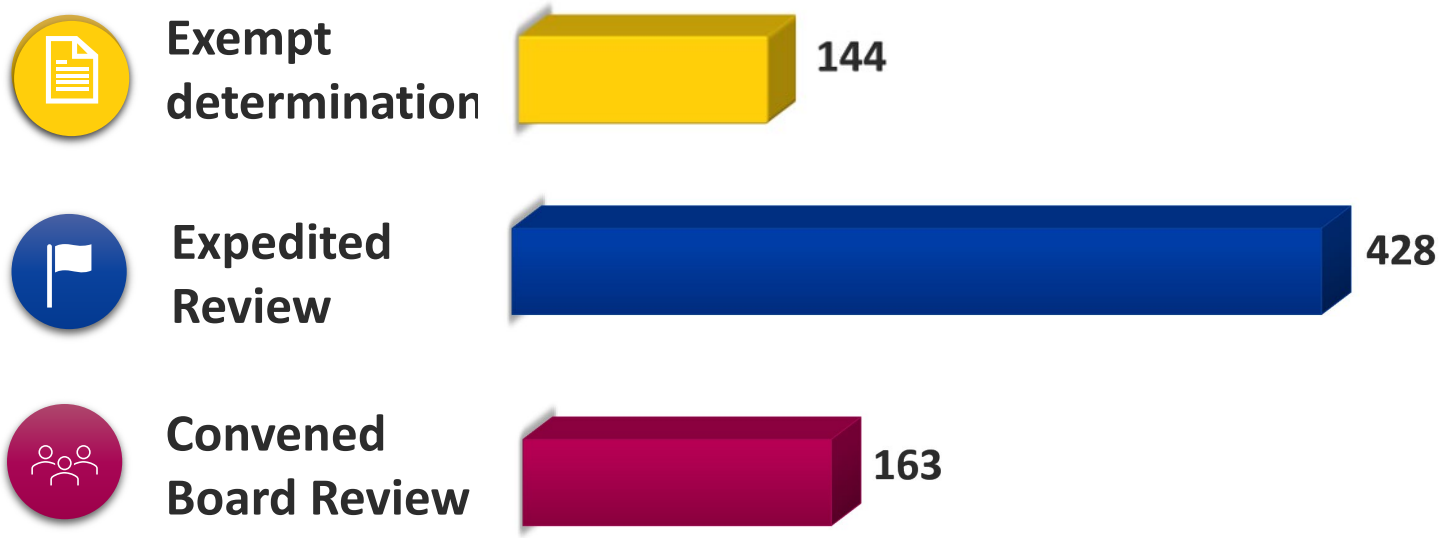
Member role	Salary support	Specific activity pay	Stipend / Honorarium	Conference/ Education support	Department/ Clinic reimbursement
Chairs/Vice Chairs	50.0%	15.0%	35.0%	55.8%	10.8%
Unaffiliated	0.8%	26.7%	35.0%	26.7%	Not Applicable
Affiliated	10.0%	12.5%	11.7%	26.7%	2.5%

Open Studies

875

Median number of open studies overall

Median number of open studies by review type



Notes

- Total open studies include studies reviewed by internal and external IRBs/ECs
- Expedited Review and Convened Board Review figures include internally reviewed studies 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).

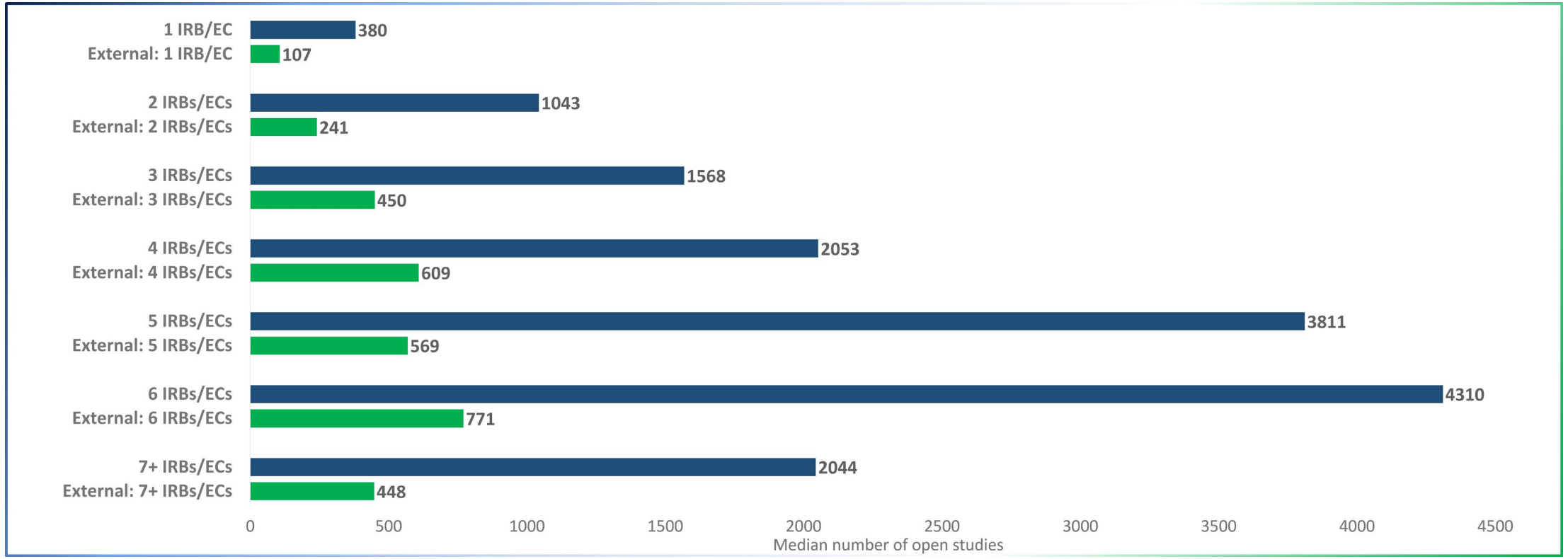
Median Number of Open Studies by Quartile

Median number of studies by review category and organization volume

Quartile Organization volume	Exemption Determination	Expedited Review	Convened Board Review	Reviewed by External IRB/EC	Total Reviews
Q1 1–312 studies	12	37	23	46	141
Q2 313–875 studies	86	167	51	116	565
Q3 876–2,533 studies	205	613	220	234	1,489
Q4 2,534–17,109 studies	543	2,282	947	692	4,682

Open Studies per IRB/EC

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

Regulation and Policies for Exempt Human Participant Research

Regulation, laws, and policies organizations apply that make exempt human participant research determinations

My organization solely allows exempt human participants research determinations as outlined within US regulations. — 62.2%

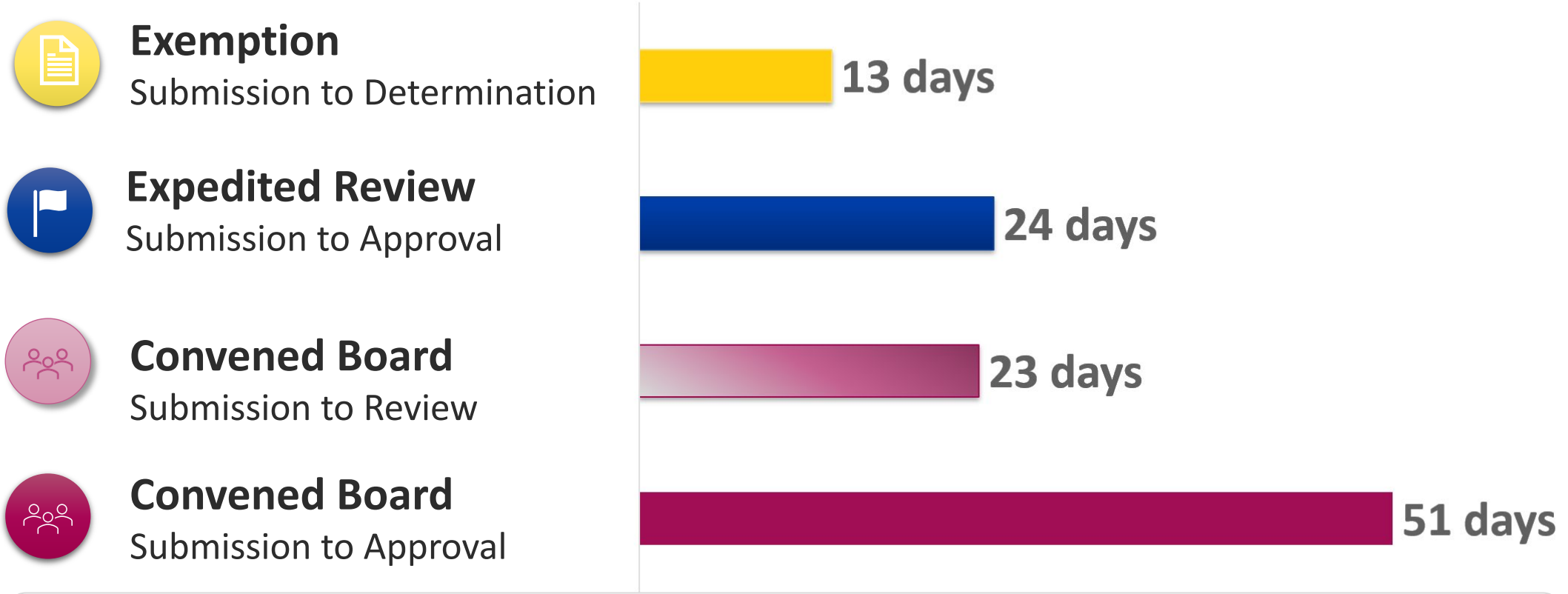
My organization allows exempt human participants research determinations as outlined within US regulations as well as additional categories within institutional policy. — 19.3%

My organization does not follow the US Common Rule but allows exempt human participants research determinations as outlined within my country's regulations or my organization's policy. — 7.6%

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Review Times

Median days from submission to review or determination/approval



Notes

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

IRB/EC Technology

How organizations use electronic systems to support IRB/EC review



97.5%

of organizations use electronic systems for IRB/EC review



6 organizations reported no electronic system



Prepare and/or submit applications — **96.2%**



Review applications and materials — **95.8%**



Communicate about applications — **88.6%**



Document decisions and Study-specific Determination — **93.2%**

IRB/EC Staffing

Staffing and study volume among organizations with internal IRBs/ECs

Number of Open Studies	Median Number of Studies	Median Full-Time Equivalent Staff	Median Number of Studies Per Staff
All	**766**	**10.0**	**96.1**
0–100	30	2.3	14.0
101–500	249	4.0	63.2
501–1000	738	8.0	93.8
1001–2000	1455	12.0	108.5
2001–4000	2781	20.7	130.7
4001+	5580	25.2	211.9



Notes

- Open studies include exempt, expedited, and convened reviews by internal IRBs/ECs
- Data excludes organizations without internal IRBs/ECs

Audits of Researchers

Researcher audit activity

88.0%

of organizations reported conducting researcher audits

Audit Type	Median per organization	Total Reported
Internal: For Cause	1	2057
Internal: Random/ Not for Cause	15	16,095
Regulatory Agency Inspections	0	130

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Data updated 11/5/2026

Audits of IRBs/ECs

IRB/EC audit activity

59.6%

of organizations reported IRB/EC audits

Audit Type	Median per organization	Total Reported
Internal: For Cause	1	221
Internal: Random/ Not for Cause	1	6530
Regulatory Agency Inspections	0	240

Noncompliance and Unanticipated Problems

Open Studies	Serious Noncompliance		Continuing Noncompliance		Unanticipated Problems	
	Median	Total	Median	Total	Median	Total
All	**1**	2300	**0**	1988	**1**	3070
0 – 100	**0**	11	**0**	3	**0**	11
101 – 500	**0**	116	**0**	54	**0**	368
501 – 1,000	**1**	193	**0**	101	**0**	226
1,001 – 2000	**1**	488	**0**	463	**1**	268
2,001 – 4,000	**4**	722	**0**	309	**6**	846
4,001+	**8**	550	**1**	1013	**9**	1257

Notes

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

Conflicts of Interest: Studies with Management Plans



6

Median number of studies reviewed by organizations 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