

*The Vermont Department of Health*

# 2006 PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT SURVEY

*Guidance • Support • Prevention • Protection*

May, 2008



# SURVEY DESCRIPTION

Mailed to PAs along with the license renewal forms  
in December 2005

Followed up via mail and phone calls

The final response rate was 98%

## SUMMARY

- There were 163 PAs working in Vermont.
- 57% (93) of the PAs were female.
- Ages ranged from 25 to 61, with a median of 44.
- 60% of respondents have worked in VT 9 years or less, and 15% have worked in VT 20 years or more.

## PRIMARY CARE

51% (83) worked mainly in primary care:

- 38% (62) in family practice
- 7% (11) in internal medicine
- 5% ( 8) in obstetrics and gynecology
- 1% ( 2) in pediatric primary care

## SPECIALTY CARE

49% (80) worked mainly in specialty care:

- 18% (30) in emergency medicine
- 16% (26) in various surgery specialties
- 4% ( 7) in dermatology
- 2% ( 4) in internal medicine
- 3% ( 5) in urology
- 5% ( 8) all other specialties

## CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2004:
  - There was an increase of 8 PAs, 4 in primary care and 4 in specialty care.
  - More PAs worked 30 hours or less per week.
  - There were fewer PAs under age 35, and more aged 55 or over.

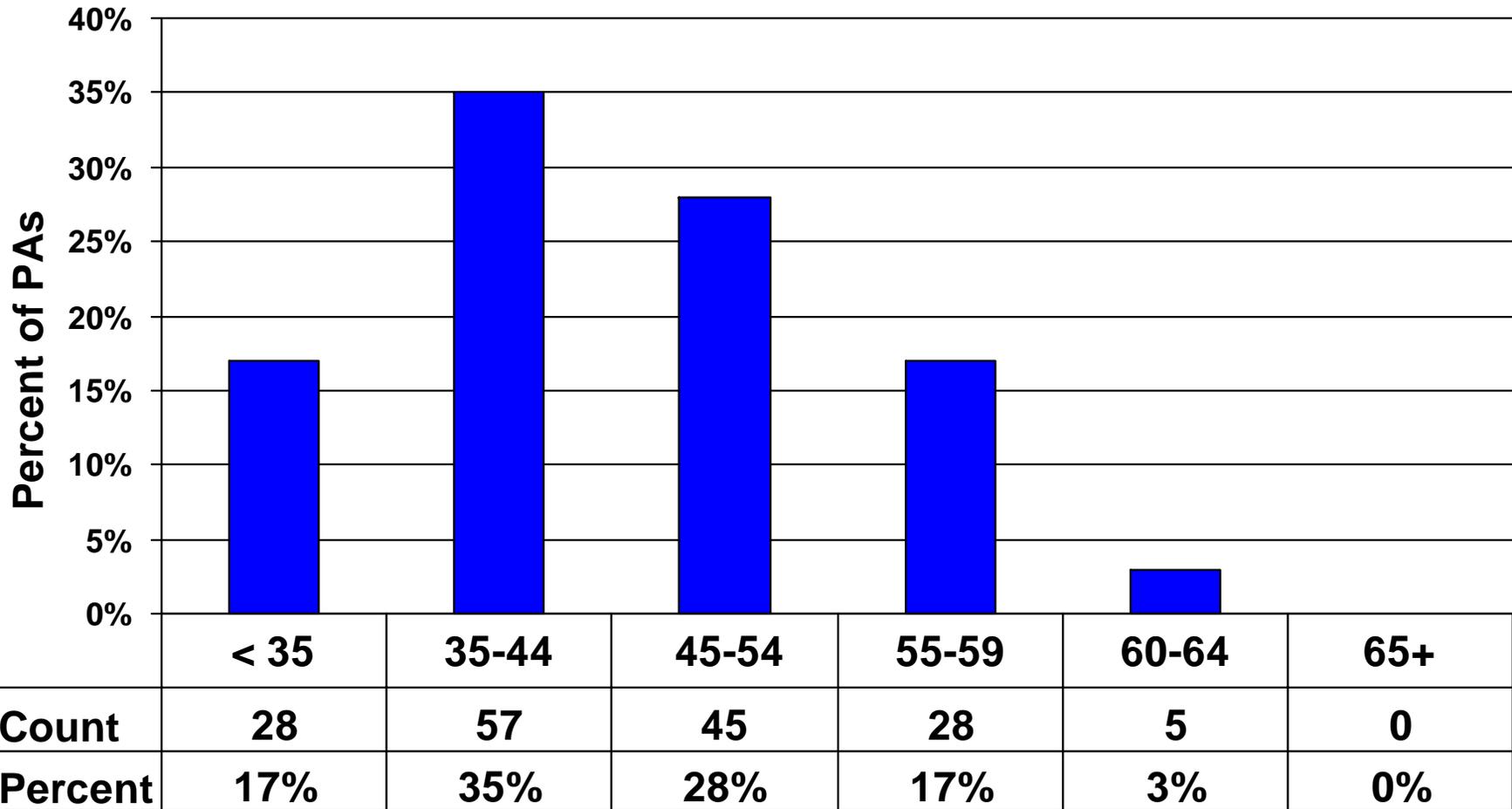
## CHANGES OVER TIME

- As compared with 2004:
  - There was only a 0.3 FTEs net increase in primary care, statewide.
  - Franklin and Washington Counties had the largest increases.
  - Chittenden and Bennington Counties had the largest decreases.

## CHANGES OVER TIME

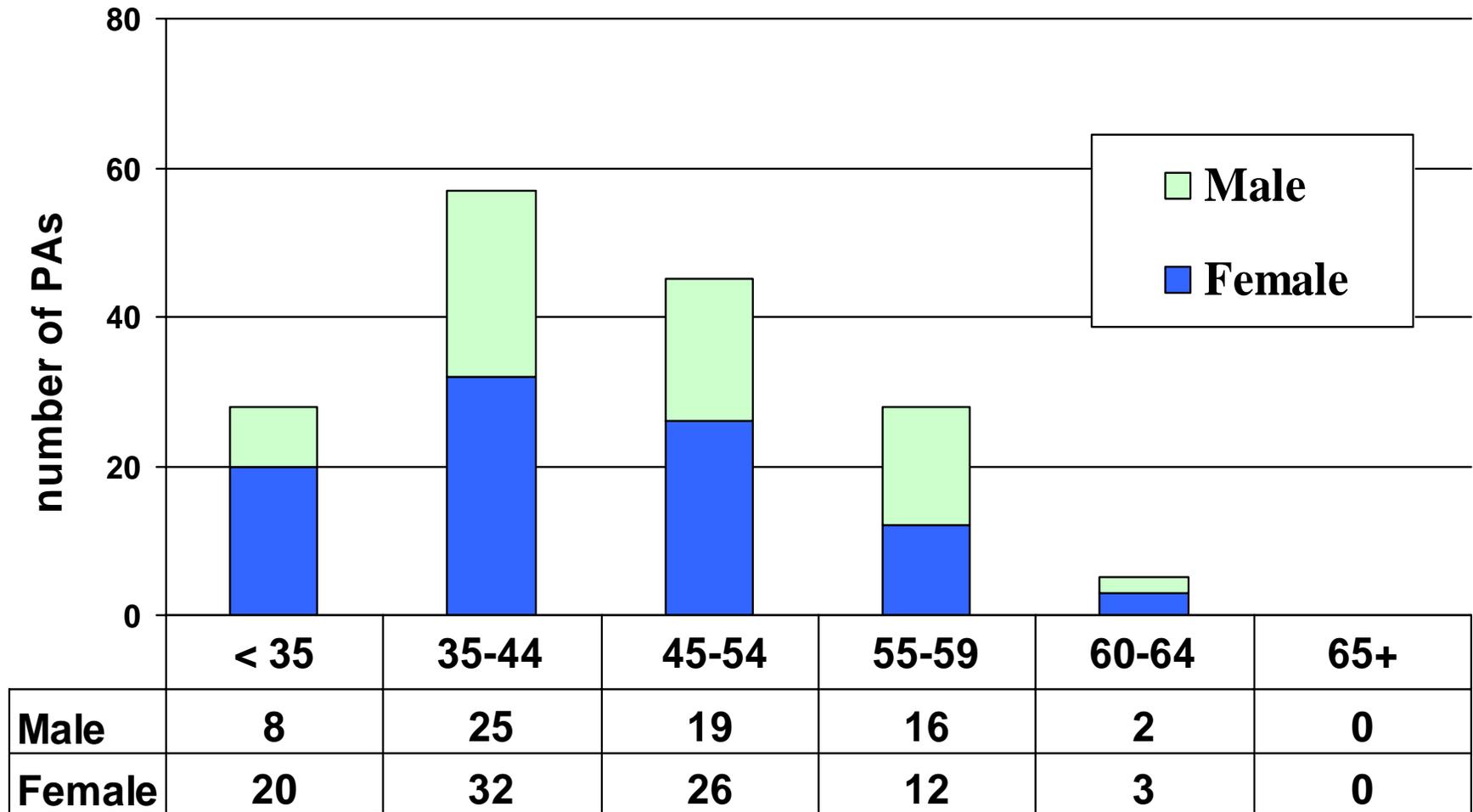
- As compared with 2004:
  - There was a net increase of 1.0 FTEs in specialty care, statewide.
  - Chittenden County had a large increase of 6.8 FTEs.
  - All other counties either lost FTEs or saw minimal increases.

# AGE DISTRIBUTION



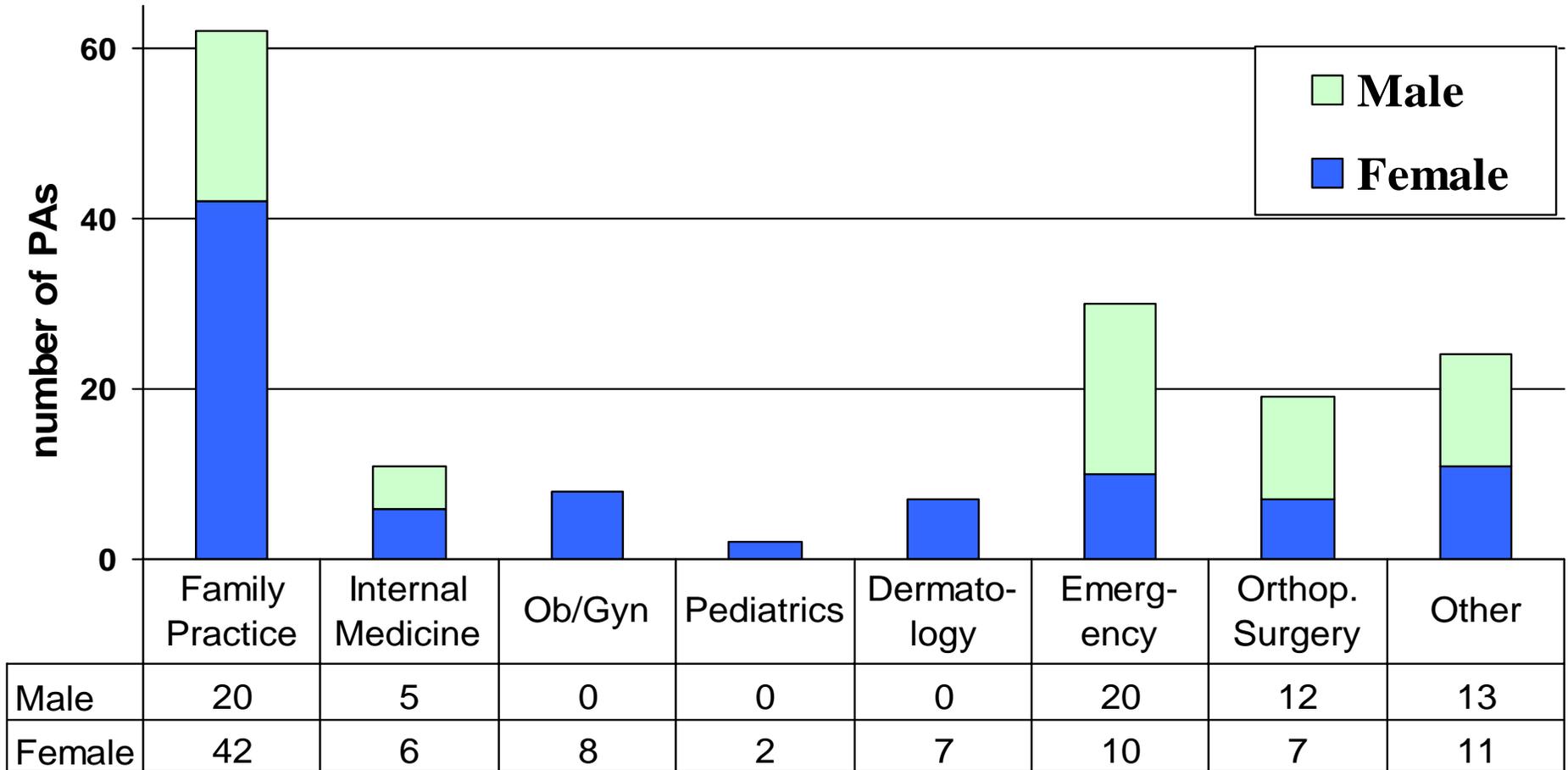
17% of all PAs are under the age of 35

# AGE DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



57% of all PAs are female; 61% of PAs under age 45 are female

# SPECIALTY BY GENDER

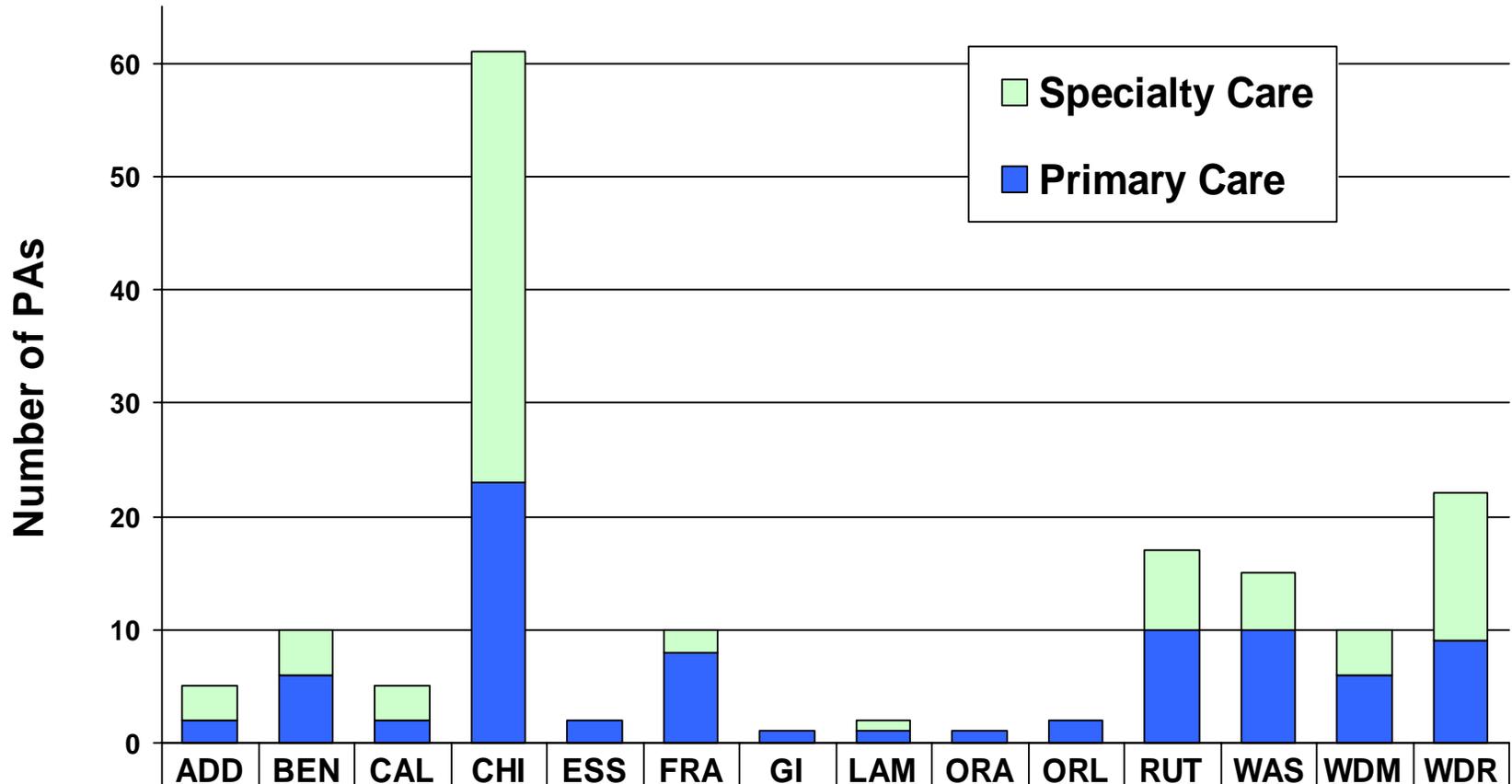


**Primary Care**

**Specialty Care**

Most primary care PAs are female, most specialty care PAs are male

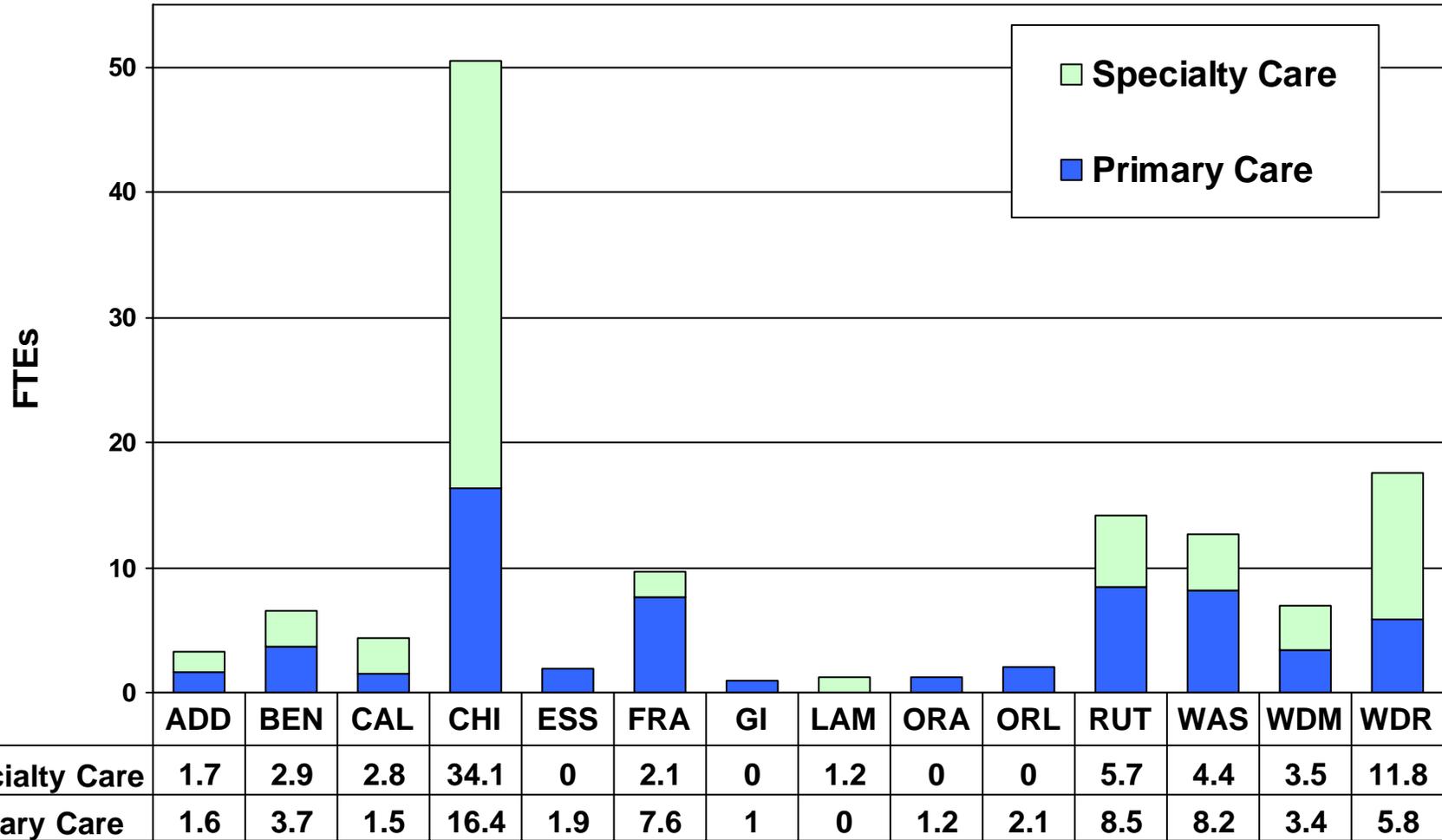
# NUMBER OF PAs BY COUNTY



	ADD	BEN	CAL	CHI	ESS	FRA	GI	LAM	ORA	ORL	RUT	WAS	WDM	WDR
<b>Specialty Care</b>	3	4	3	38	0	2	0	1	0	0	7	5	4	13
<b>Primary Care</b>	2	6	2	23	2	8	1	1	1	2	10	10	6	9

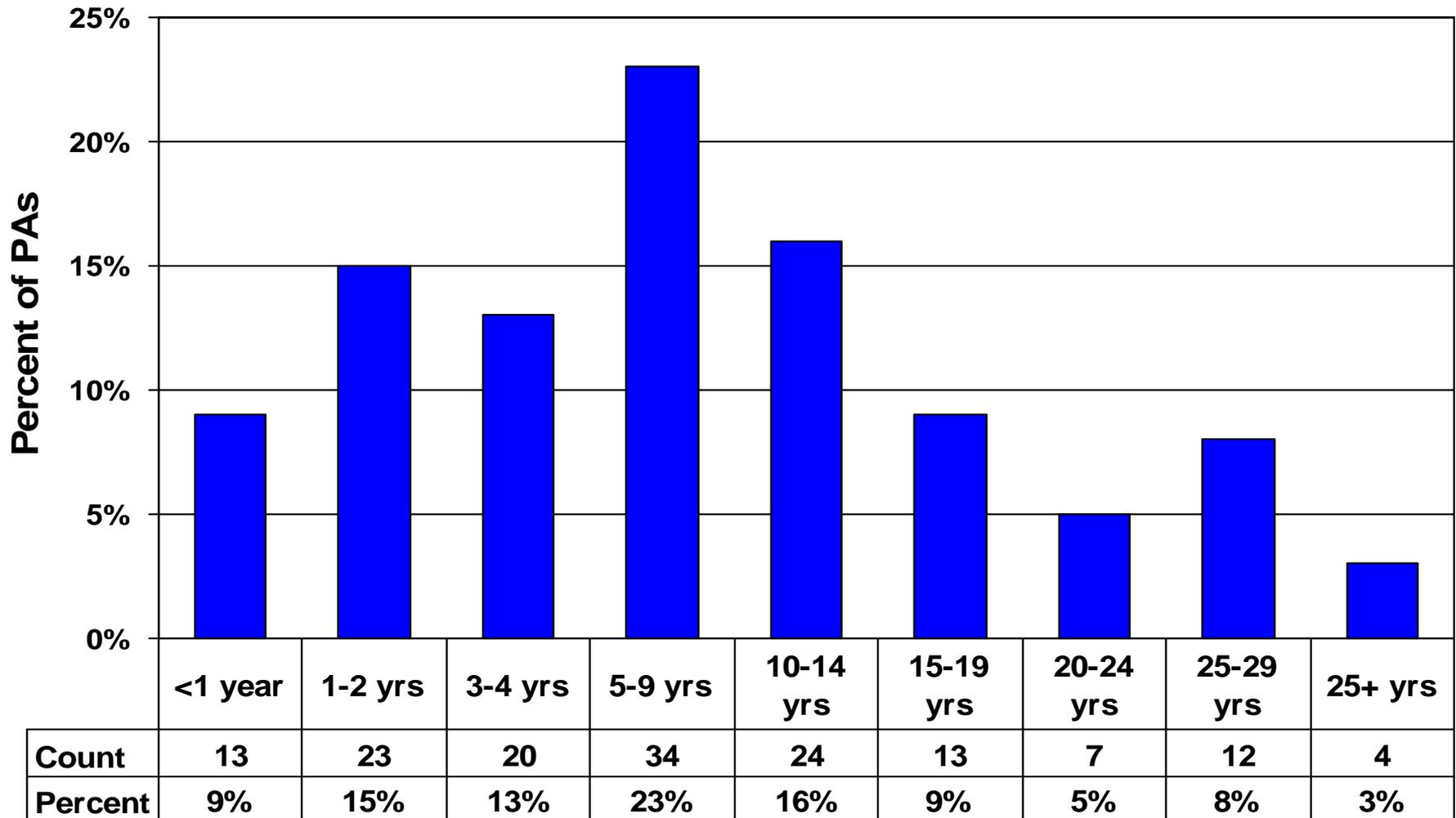
Although 25% of PAs work in more than one location, in this chart each PA is counted only once, in their main specialty and main county of practice.

# NUMBER OF PA FTEs BY COUNTY



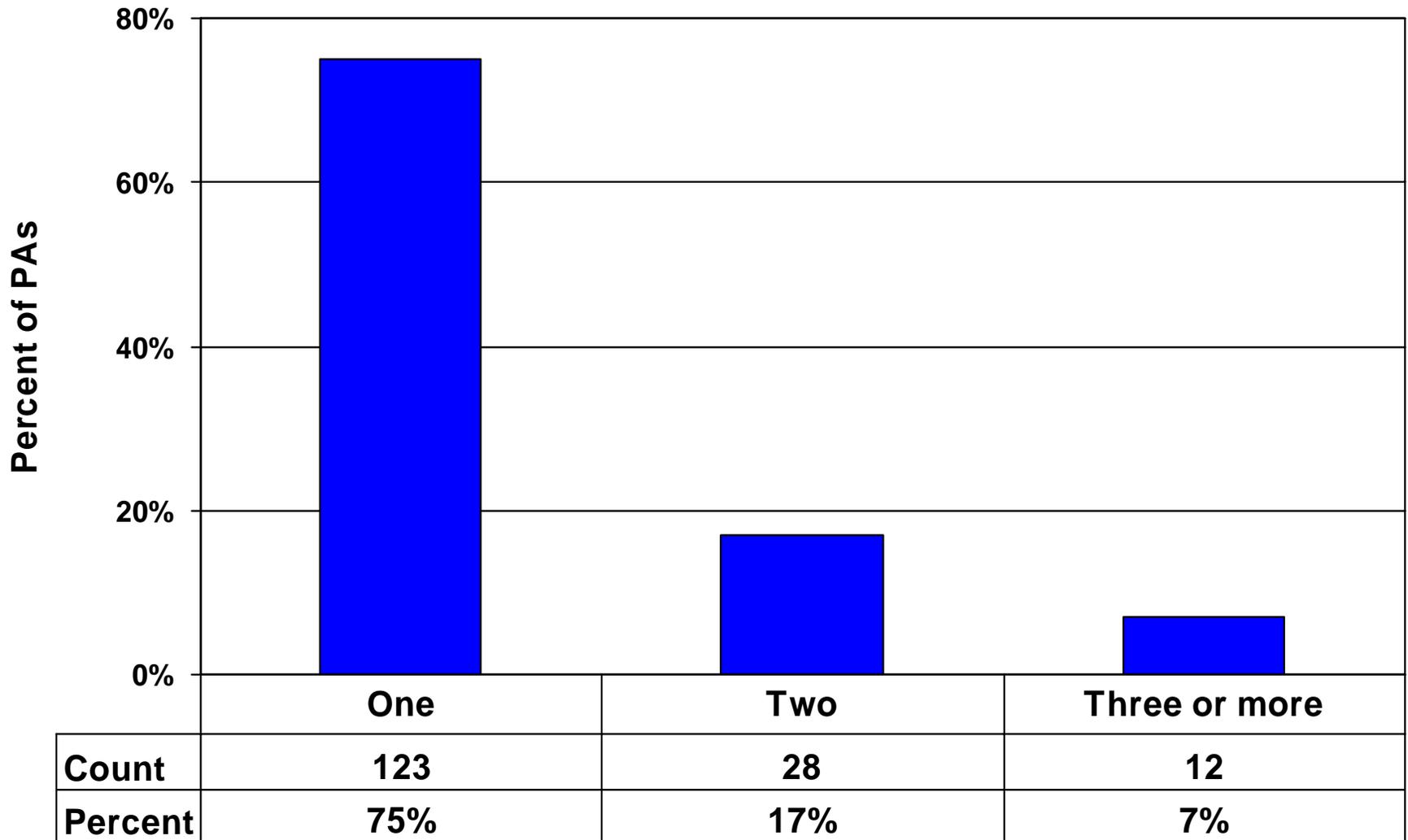
All sites and specialties of each PA are counted.  
 One FTE is defined as 40 or more hours per week.

# YEARS WORKED IN VERMONT

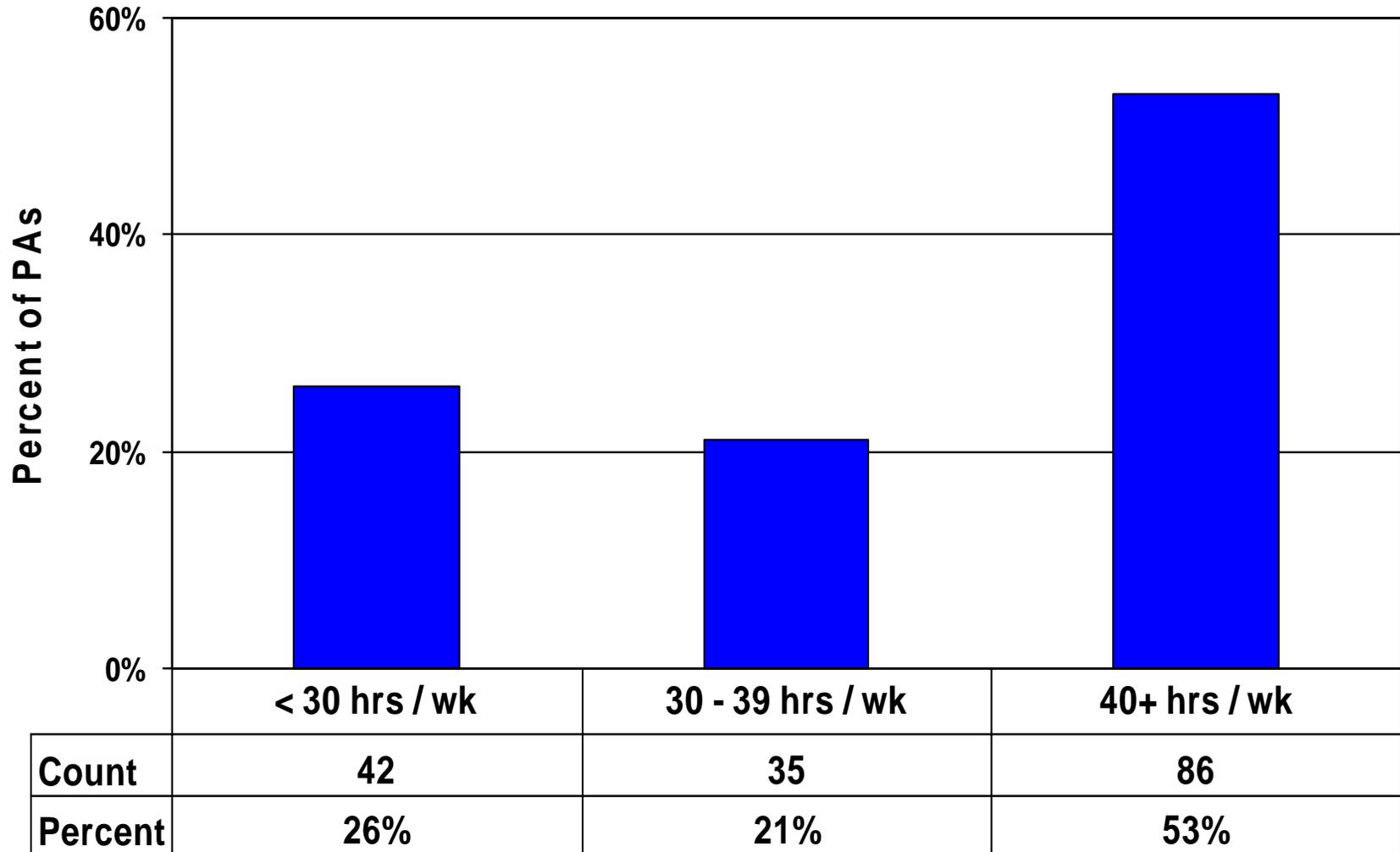


40% of PAs have worked in Vermont 10 or more years

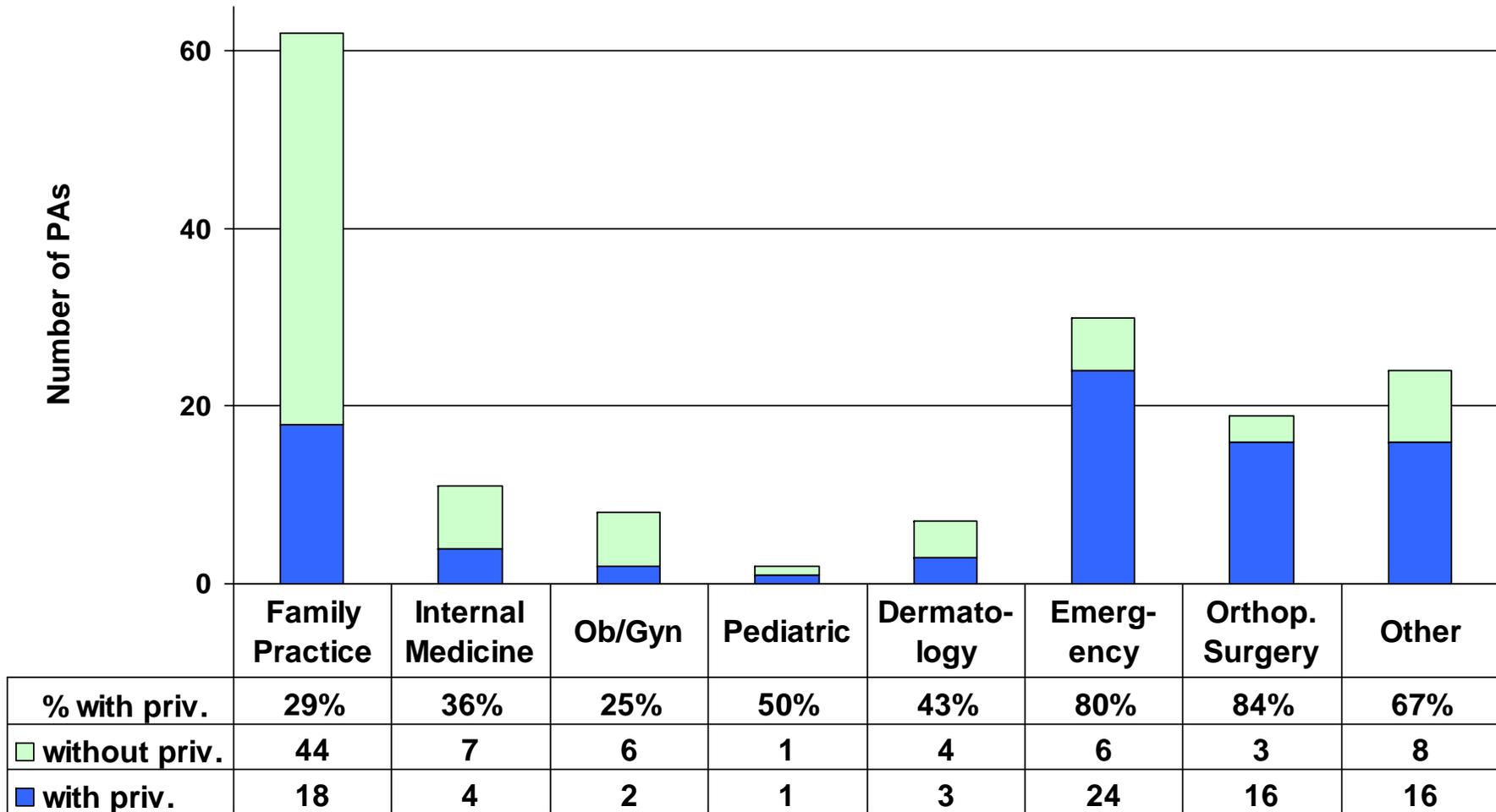
# NUMBER OF SITES OF PRACTICE



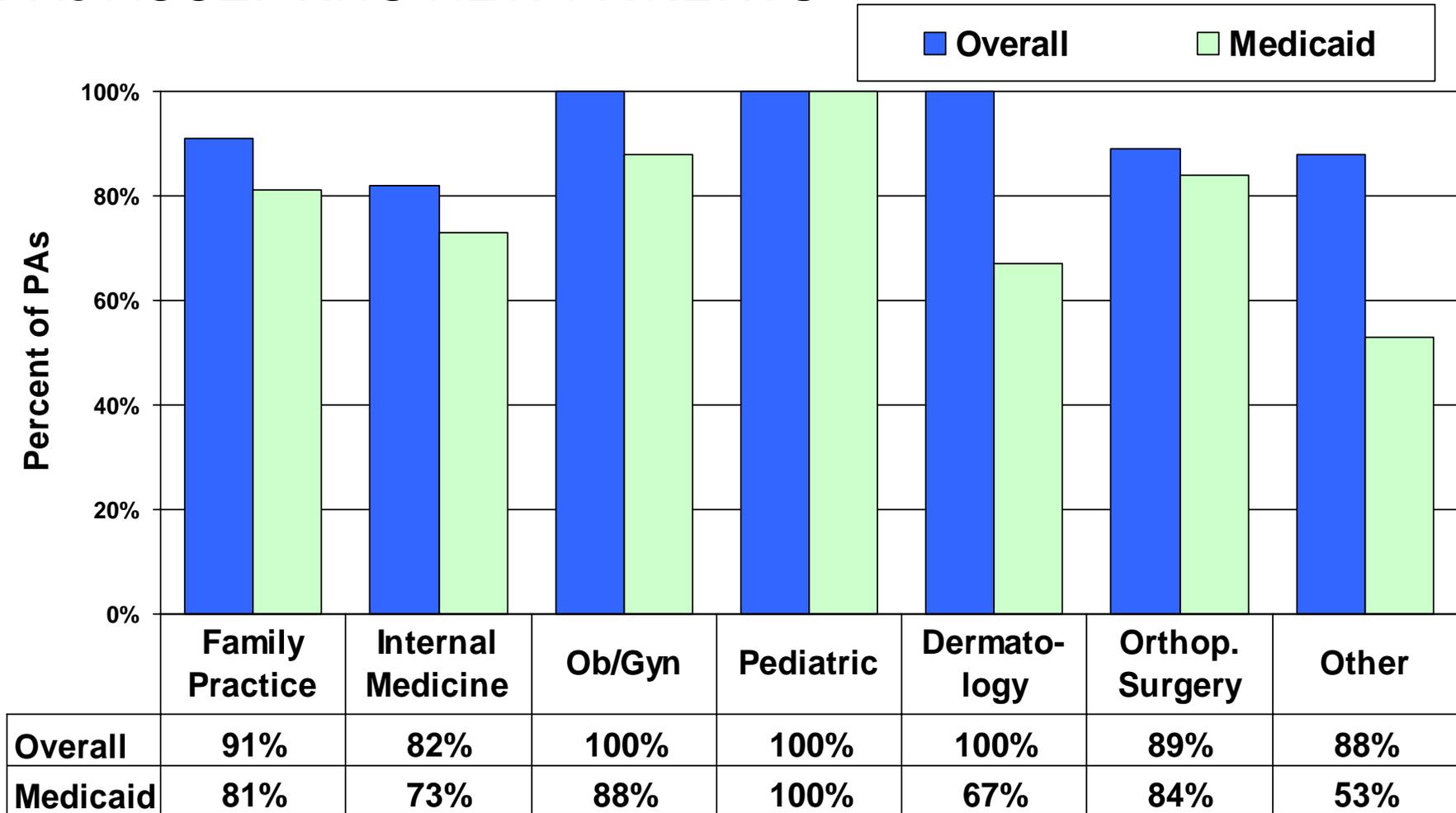
# HOURS WORKED PER WEEK



# Hospital Admitting Privileges by Specialty



# PA's ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



Overall, 91% accept new patients, 77% accept new Medicaid patients, 81% accept new Medicare patients. Each PA is counted only once. Office settings only. Emergency medicine excluded.

# COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

*The Vermont Department of Health*

## Primary Care Physician Assistants: 1998-2006

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

## Specialty Care Physician Assistants: 1998-2006

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

## Selected Indicators, 1998-2006

	<b>1998</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>
Total PAs active in Vermont	107	117	130	155	163
Percent female	52%	56%	59%	56%	57%
Percent age 55 or older	4%	7%	9%	15%	20%
Average patient care hours / week	36	34	36	37	35
<b>Primary care PAs</b>					
% accepting new patients *	98%	94%	92%	97%	93%
accepting new Medicaid patients *	91%	87%	86%	89%	82%
accepting new Medicare patients *	96%	93%	86%	91%	81%
FTEs/100,000 population **	8.1	8.4	8.8	10.0	10.0

\* % of sites not providers

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

## For more information, contact:

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