2020 Metrics for AAHRPP-Accredited Human Research Protection Programs

Academic Organizations

August 2020

Metrics About Academic Organizations

AAHRPP is pleased to present the 2020 metrics for Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) performance. AAHRPP provides these data to help research organizations, researchers, sponsors, government agencies, and participants identify and support high-performing practices for HRPPs.

These metrics are collected from Annual Reports, as well as Step 1 and Step 2 applications, submitted by accredited academic organizations.

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

Data were selected based on what most accurately reflected academic organizations in 2020.

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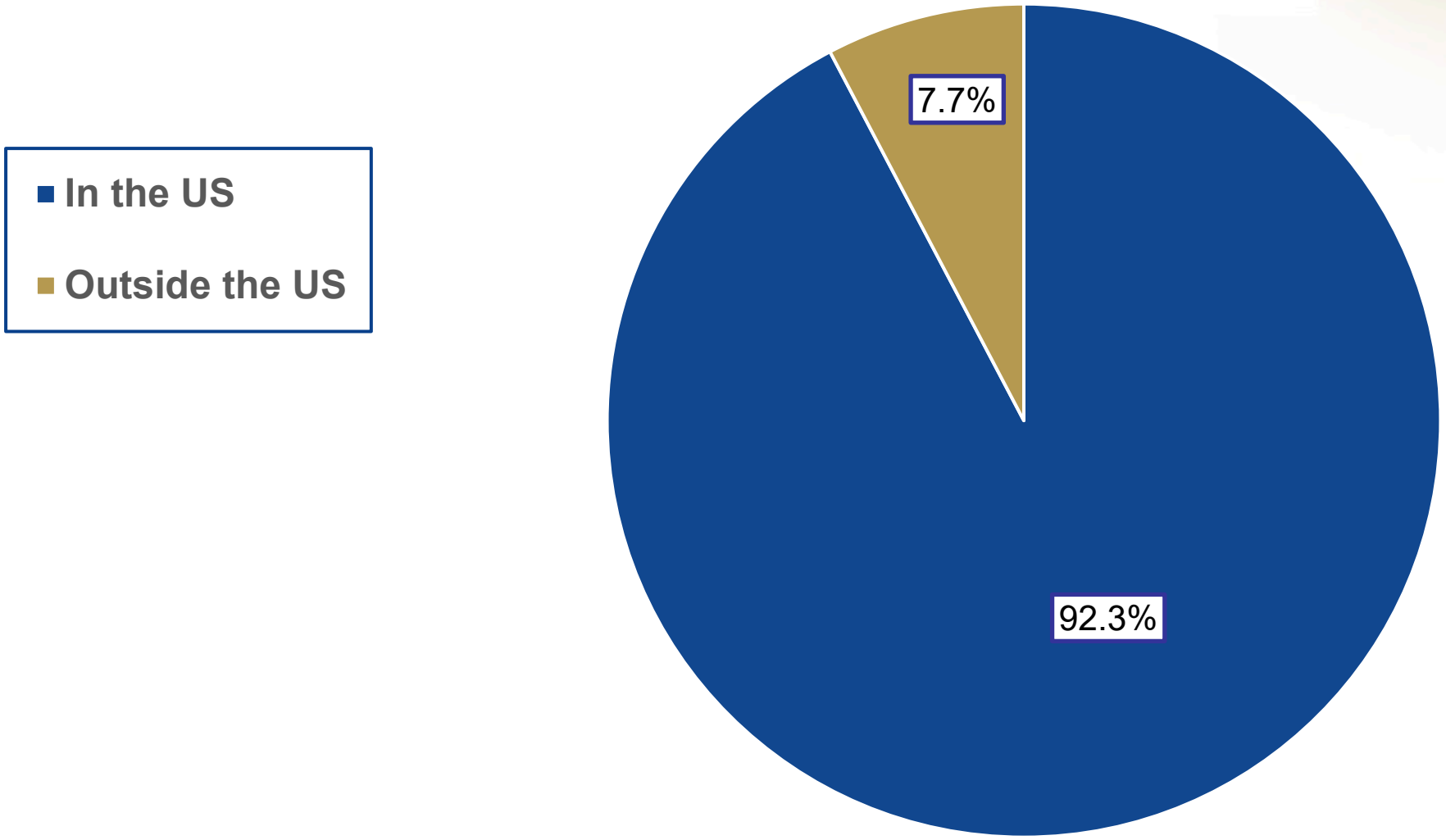
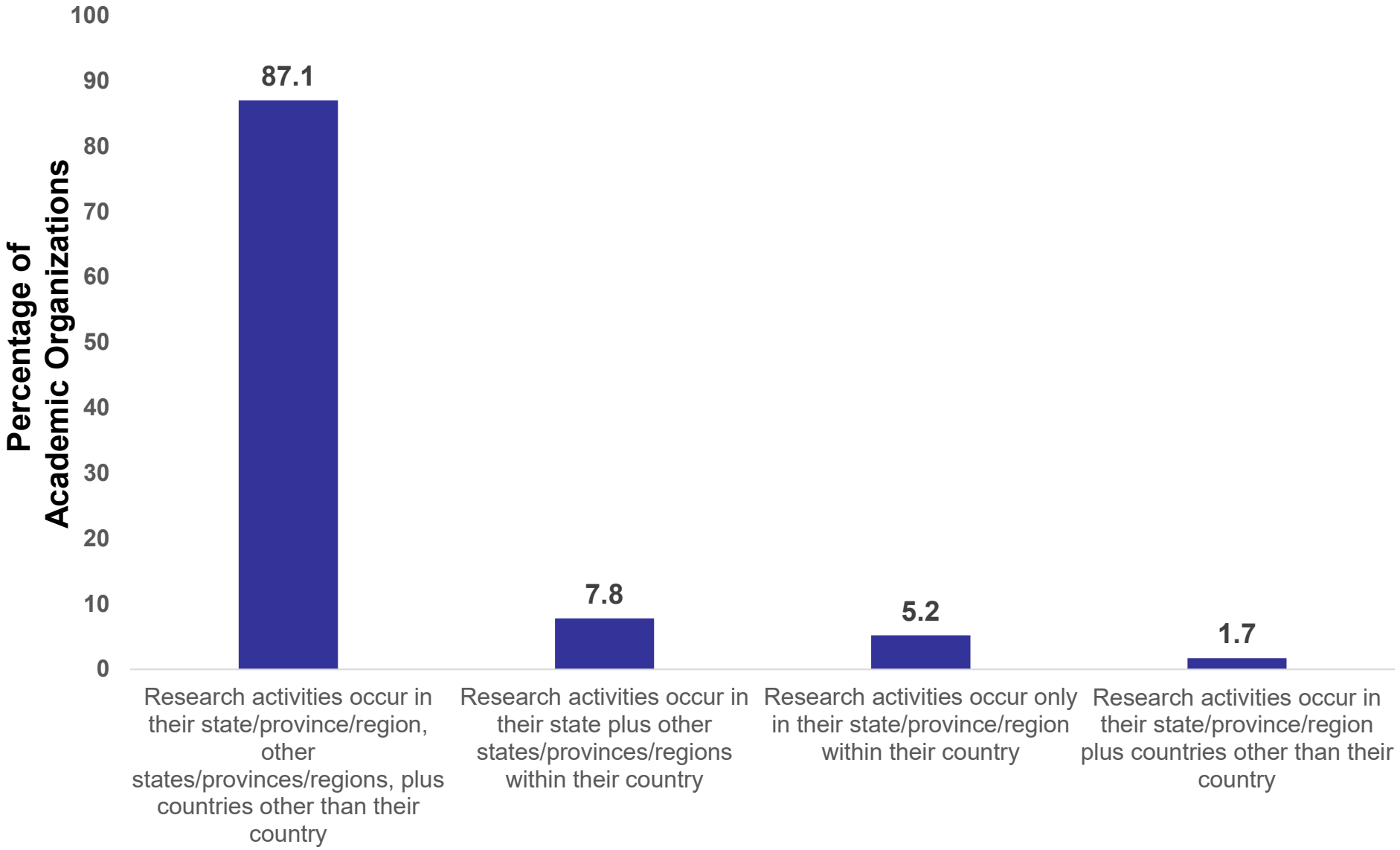
Where Accredited Academic Organizations are Based



Where Research Occurs



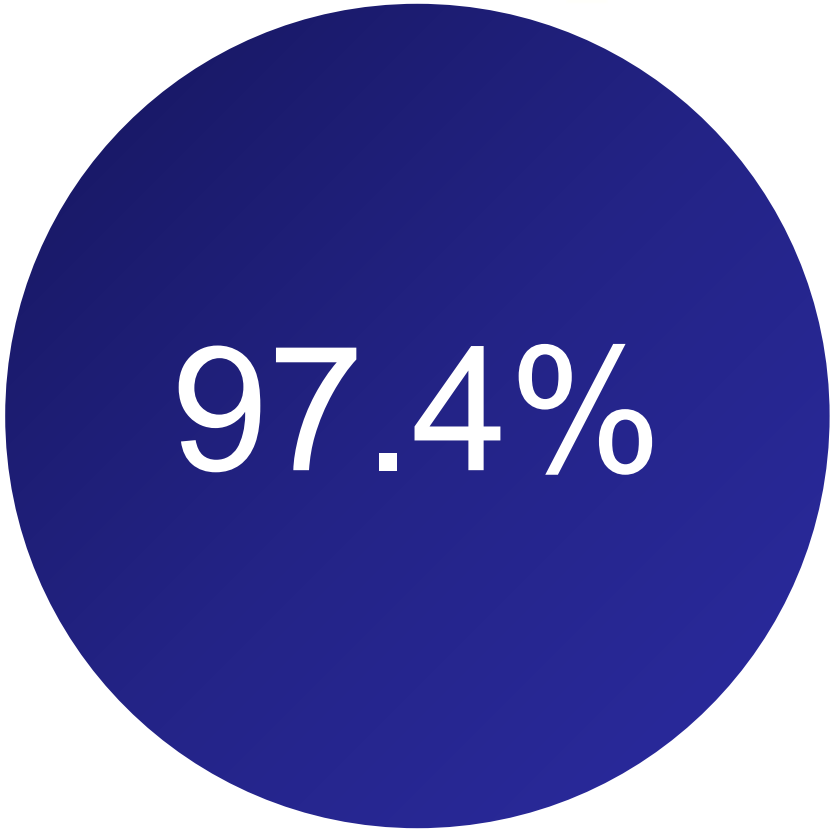
This graph shows where academic organizations conduct or review research.

The majority conduct or review transnational research.

Research Type

Most academic organizations conduct or review biomedical/clinical research

Most academic organizations conduct or review social/behavioral/education research



Biomedical/Clinical Research by Type

Drugs	91.3%
Devices	91.3%
Other Biomedical	75.6%
Planned Emergency Research	32.2%

This table shows the type of biomedical/clinical research academic organizations conduct or review.

Vulnerable Populations

Children	100%
Students	98.3%
Adults Unable to Consent	96.5%
Employees	96.5%
Pregnant Women	95.7%
Prisoners	87.0%
Other	18.9%

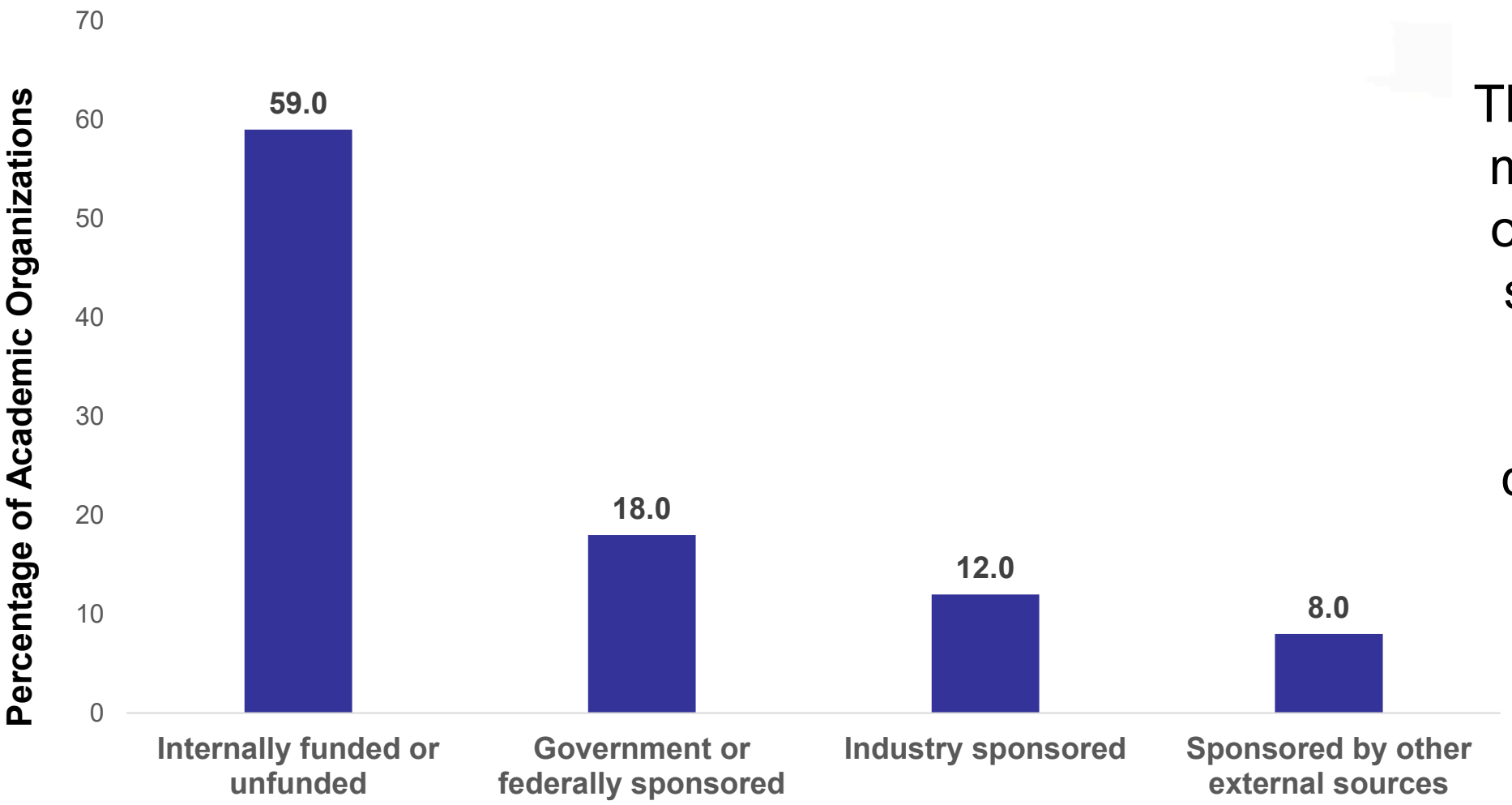
This table shows the categories of vulnerable populations that participate in research conducted or reviewed by academic organizations.

Funding Type

Internally funded or unfunded	100%
Government or federally sponsored	99.1%
Sponsored by other external sources	98.3%
Industry sponsored	96.6%

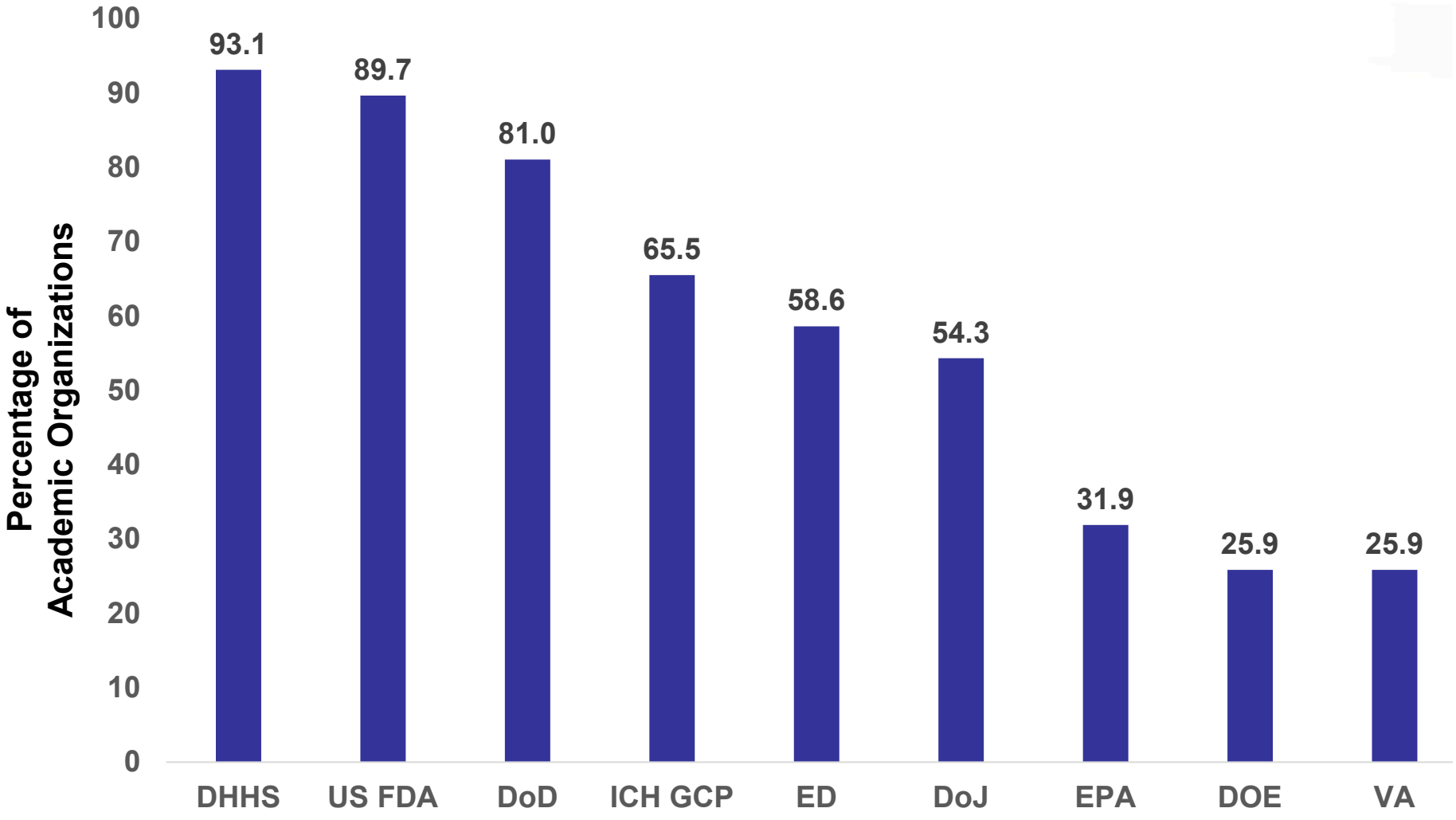
This table shows the percentage of academic organizations that conduct or review research by funding type that supports the research.

Funding Distribution



This chart shows the median percentage of funding type that supports research academic organizations conduct or review.

Regulations & Guidelines



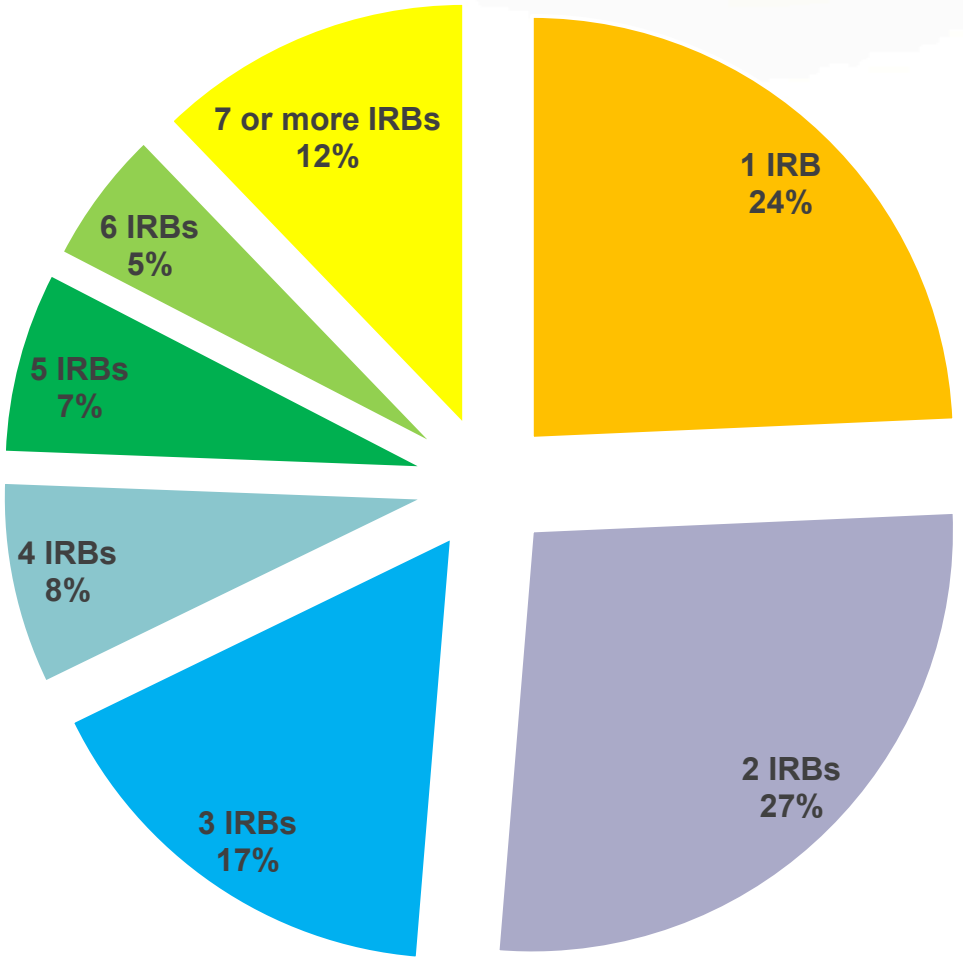
This chart shows the percentage of academic organizations that apply specific regulations and guidelines to the research they conduct or review.

- 93.1% - US Dept of Health & Human Services
- 89.7% - US FDA
- 81.0% - US Dept of Defense
- 65.5% - ICH GCP
- 58.6% - US Dept of Education
- 54.3% - US Dept of Justice
- 31.9% - US Environmental Protection Agency
- 25.6% - US Dept of Energy
- 25.9% – Veterans Affairs

Internal IRBs/ECs

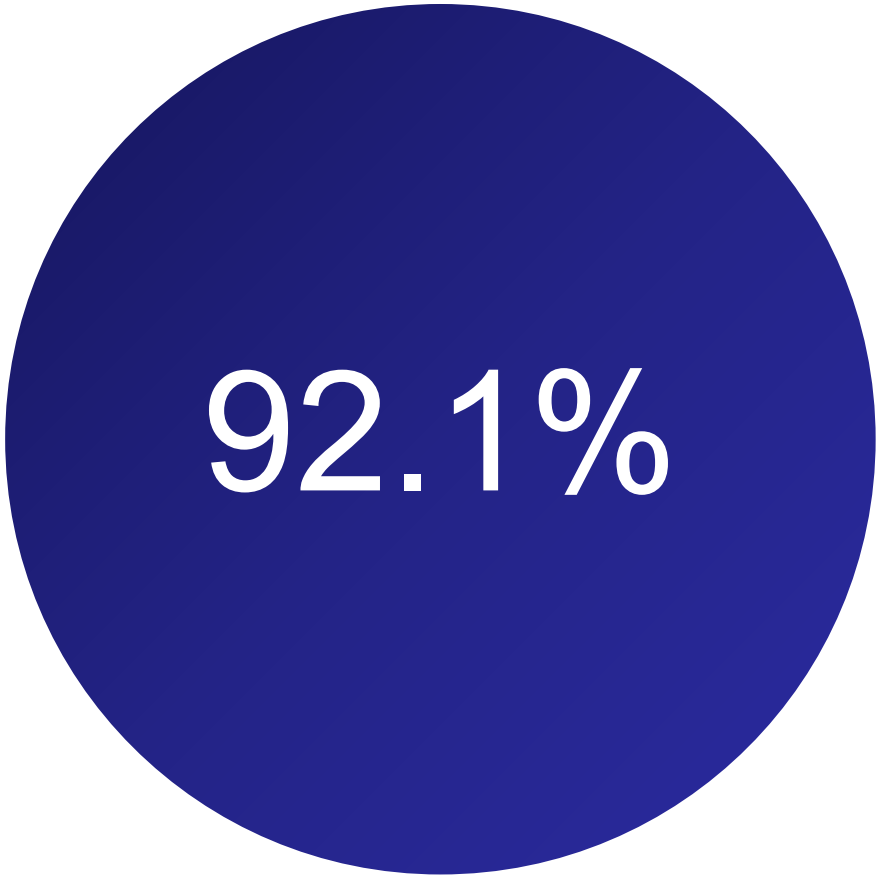
% of academic organizations that have internal IRBs	100%
Median # of IRBs/ECs per academic organization	2

Number of internal IRBs/ECs
% of academic organizations support

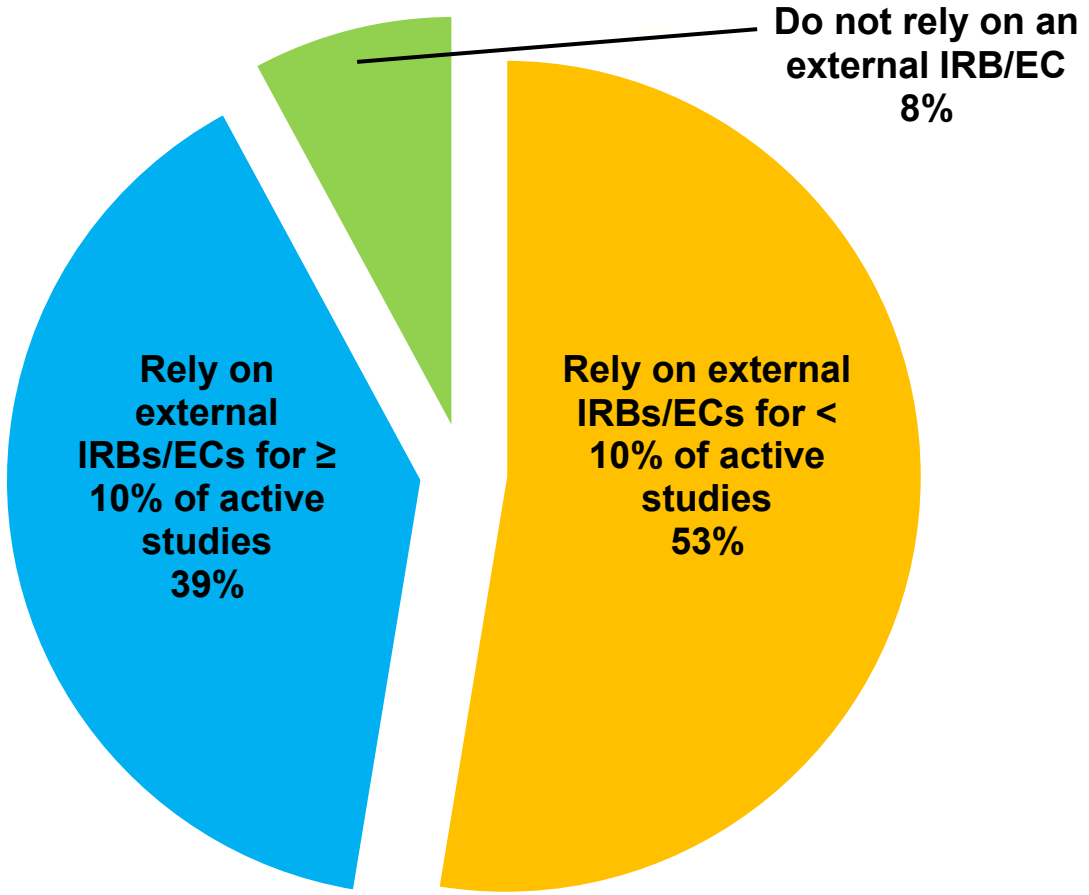


Relying on External IRBs/ECs

% of academic organizations with internal IRBs/ECs that also use external IRBs/ECs

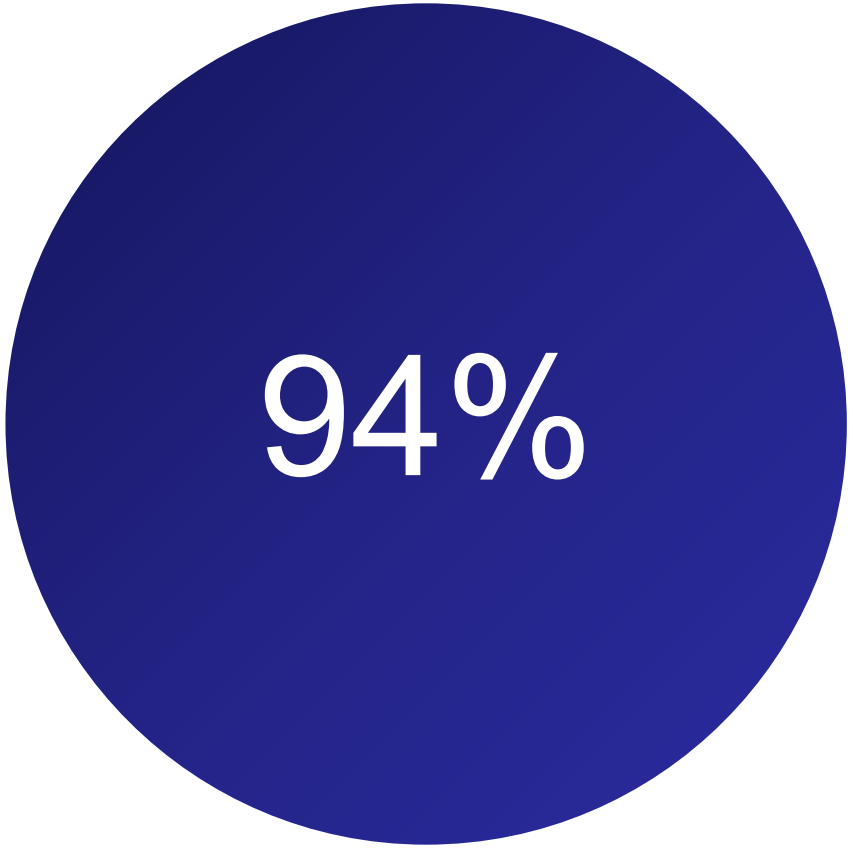


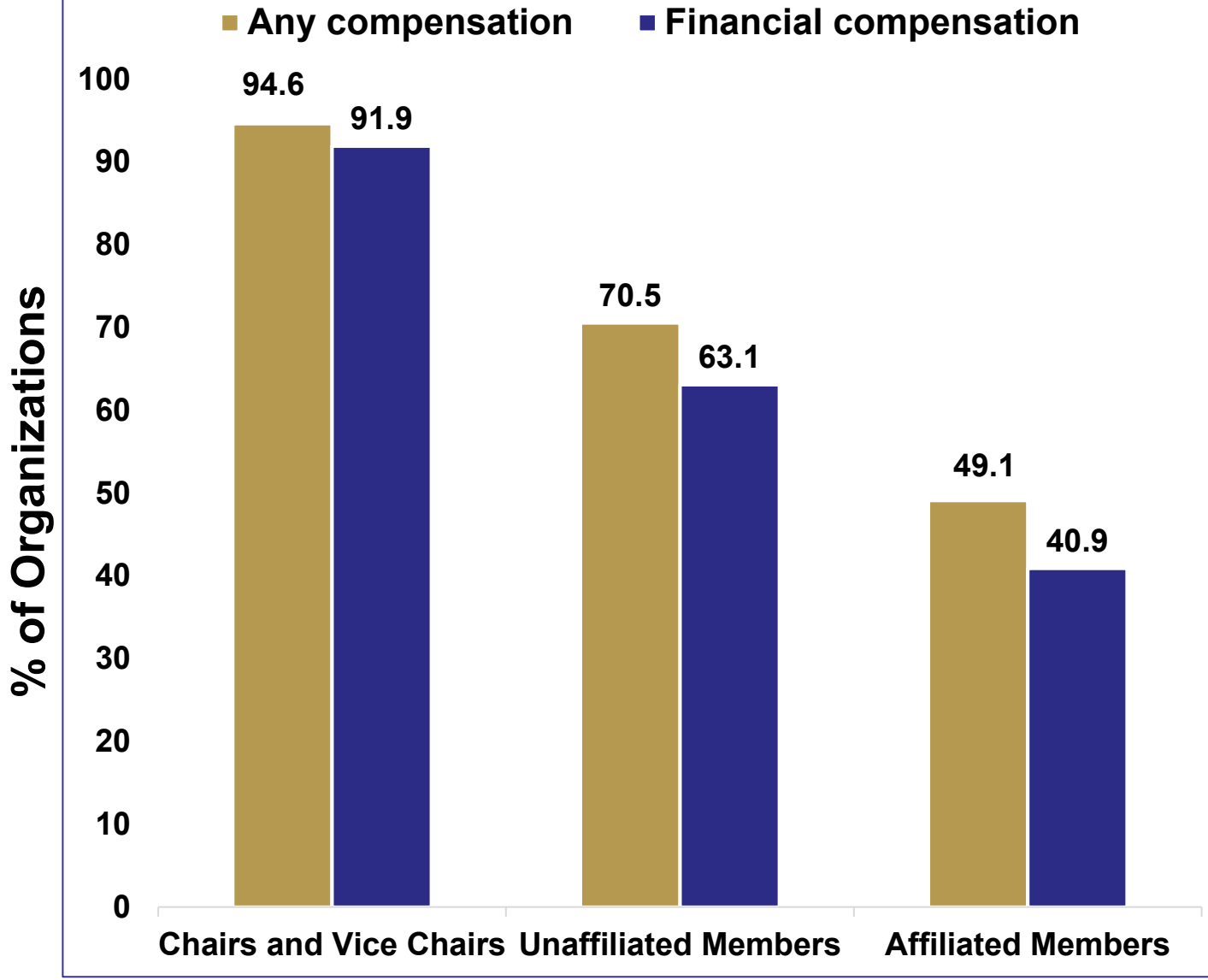
Use of external IRBs/ECs by academic organizations with internal IRBs/ECs



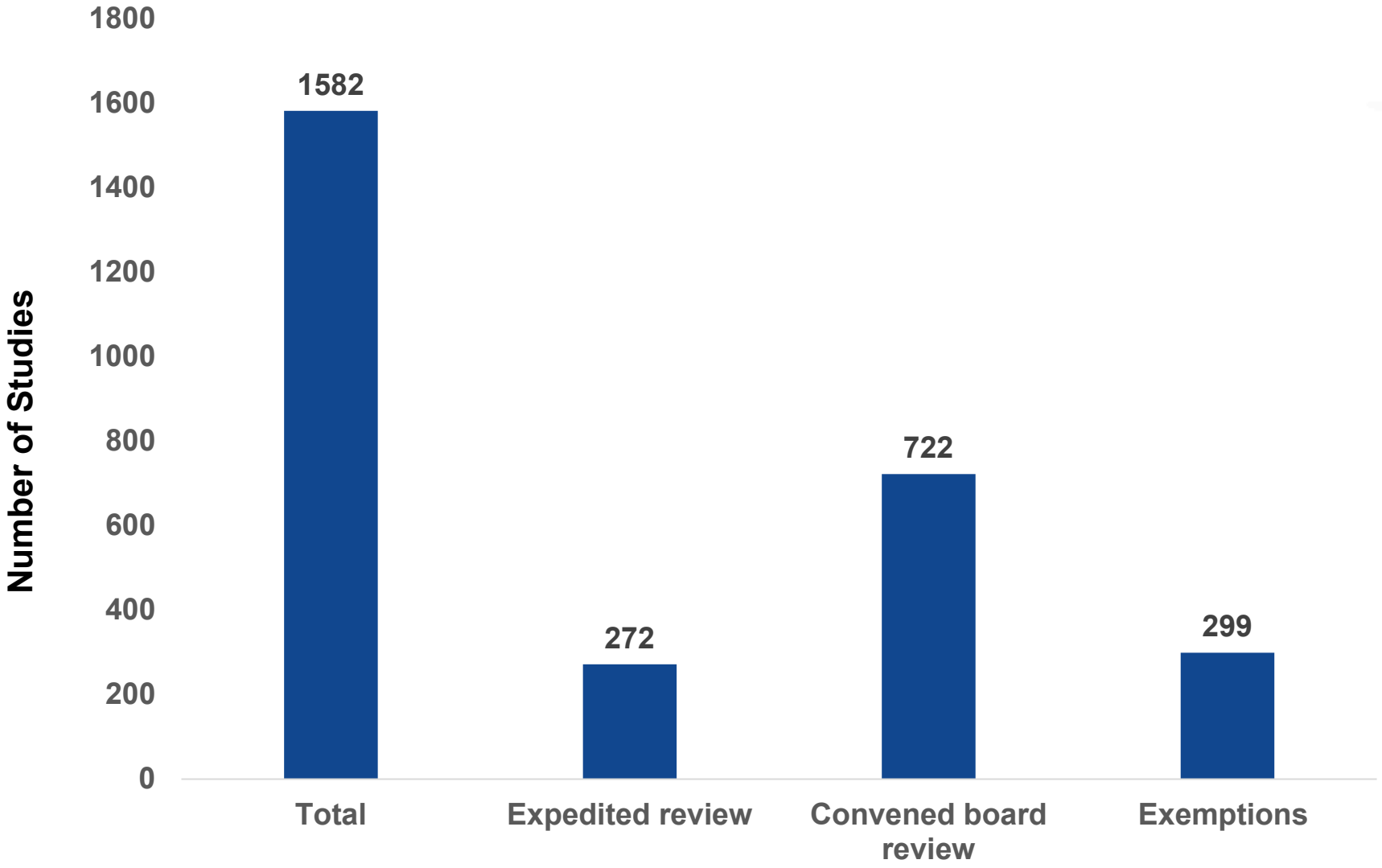
Compensating IRB/EC Members

% of academic organizations with internal IRBs/ECs that compensate IRB/EC members





Active Studies Overseen: All Academic Organizations

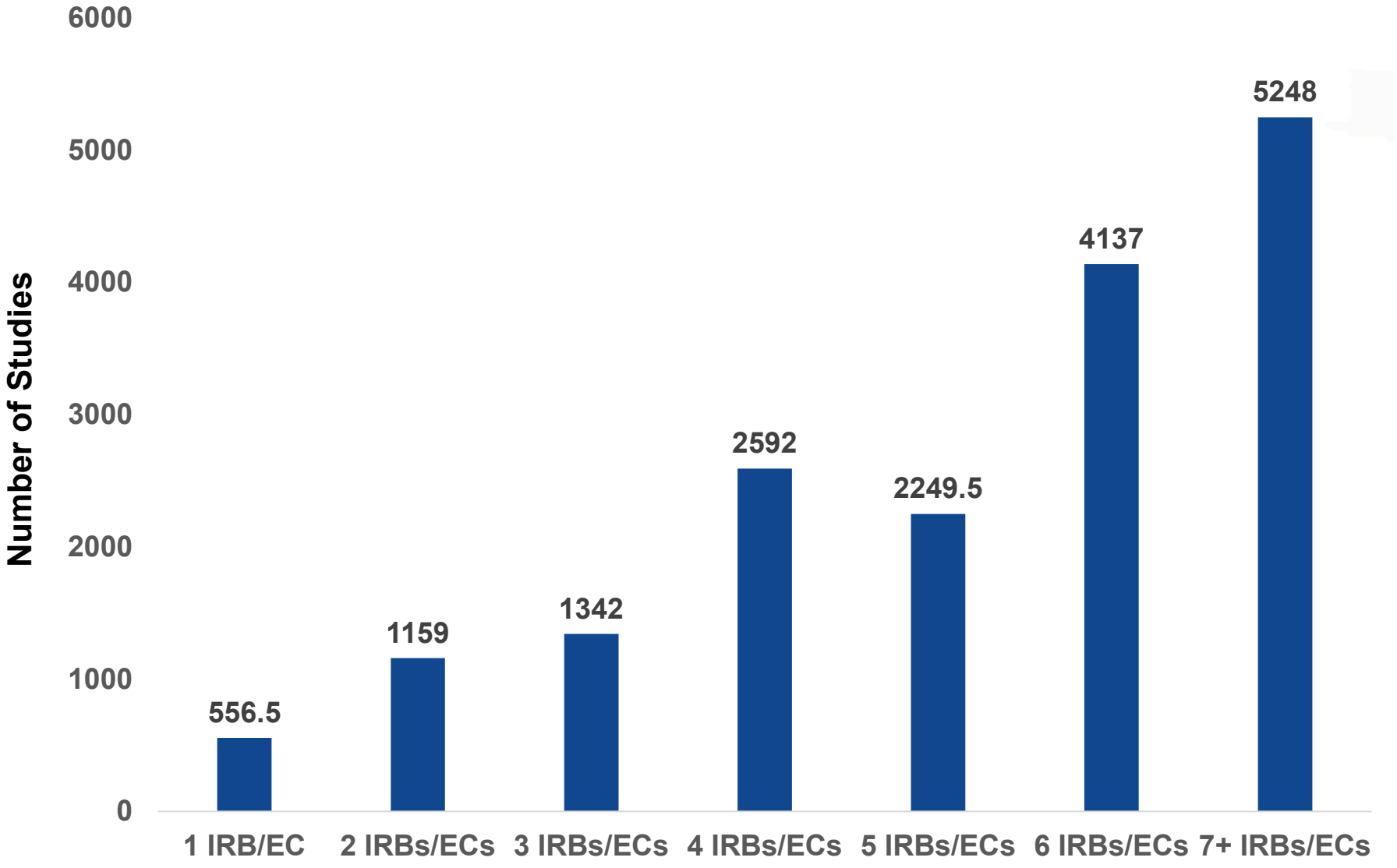


This chart shows the median number of active studies that academic organizations conduct or review by type of review.

Note:

- Exemptions are based on the number of determinations made by an organization within 12 months of their most recent report to AAHRPP
- Total number of studies includes those reviewed by both internal and external IRBs/ECs in the case of organizations with IRBs/ECs

Active Studies Per IRB/EC

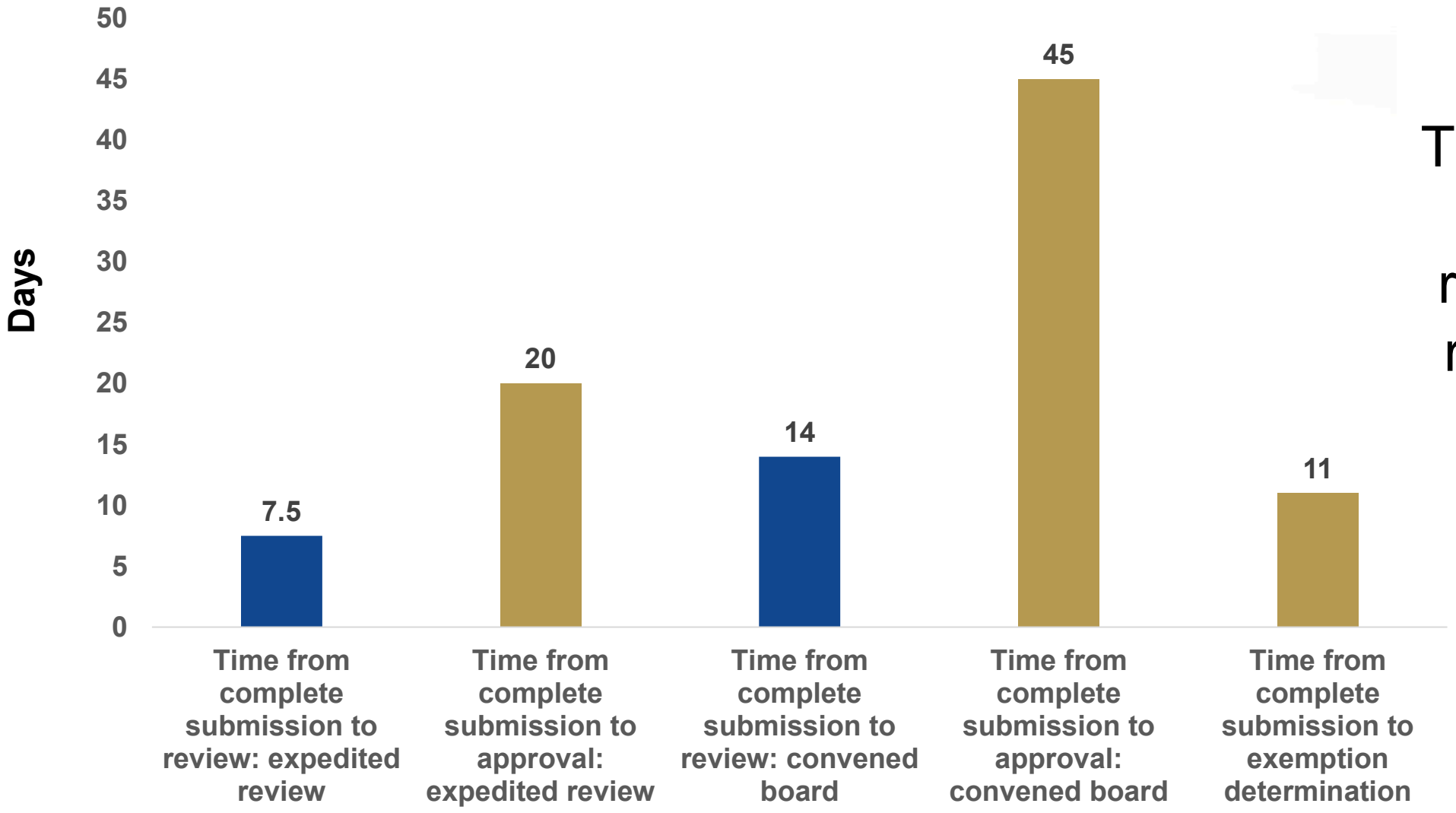


This chart shows the median number of active studies academic organizations oversee based on the number of IRBs/ECs they have.

Note

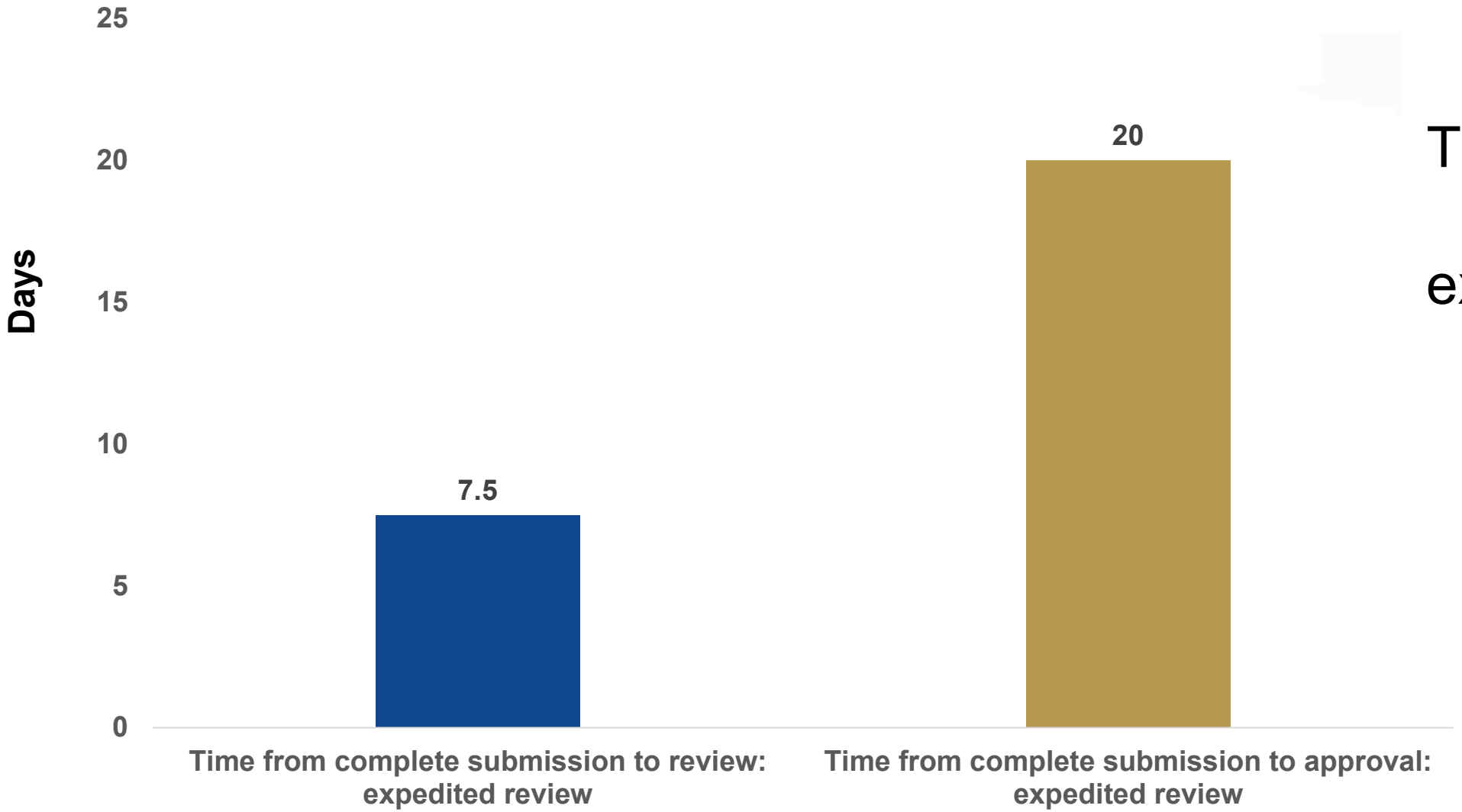
- Total number of studies for organizations includes those reviewed by both internal and external IRBs/ECs

Review Times: All Review Times



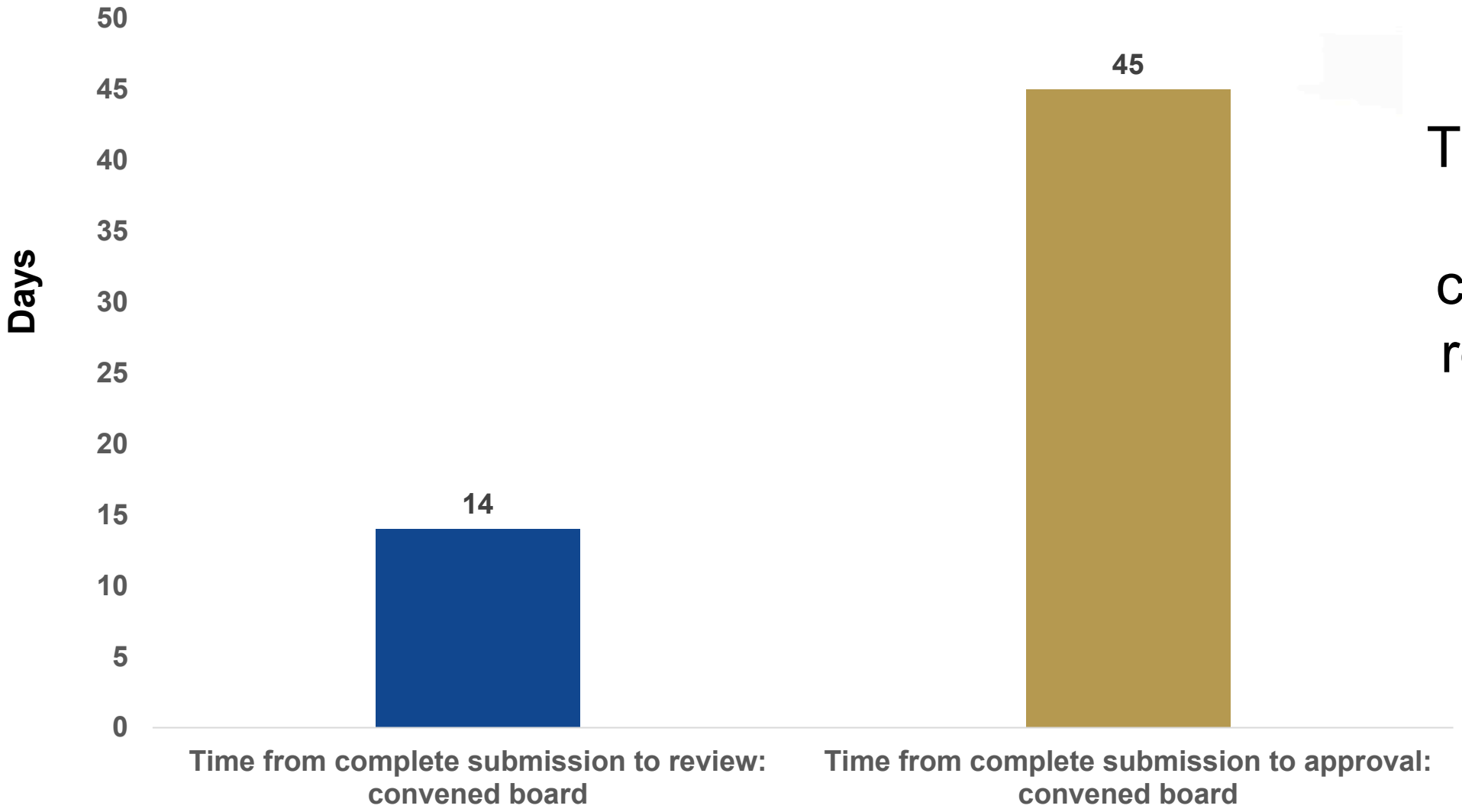
This chart shows the median review times by review process for academic organizations.

IRB/EC Review Times: Expedited Review



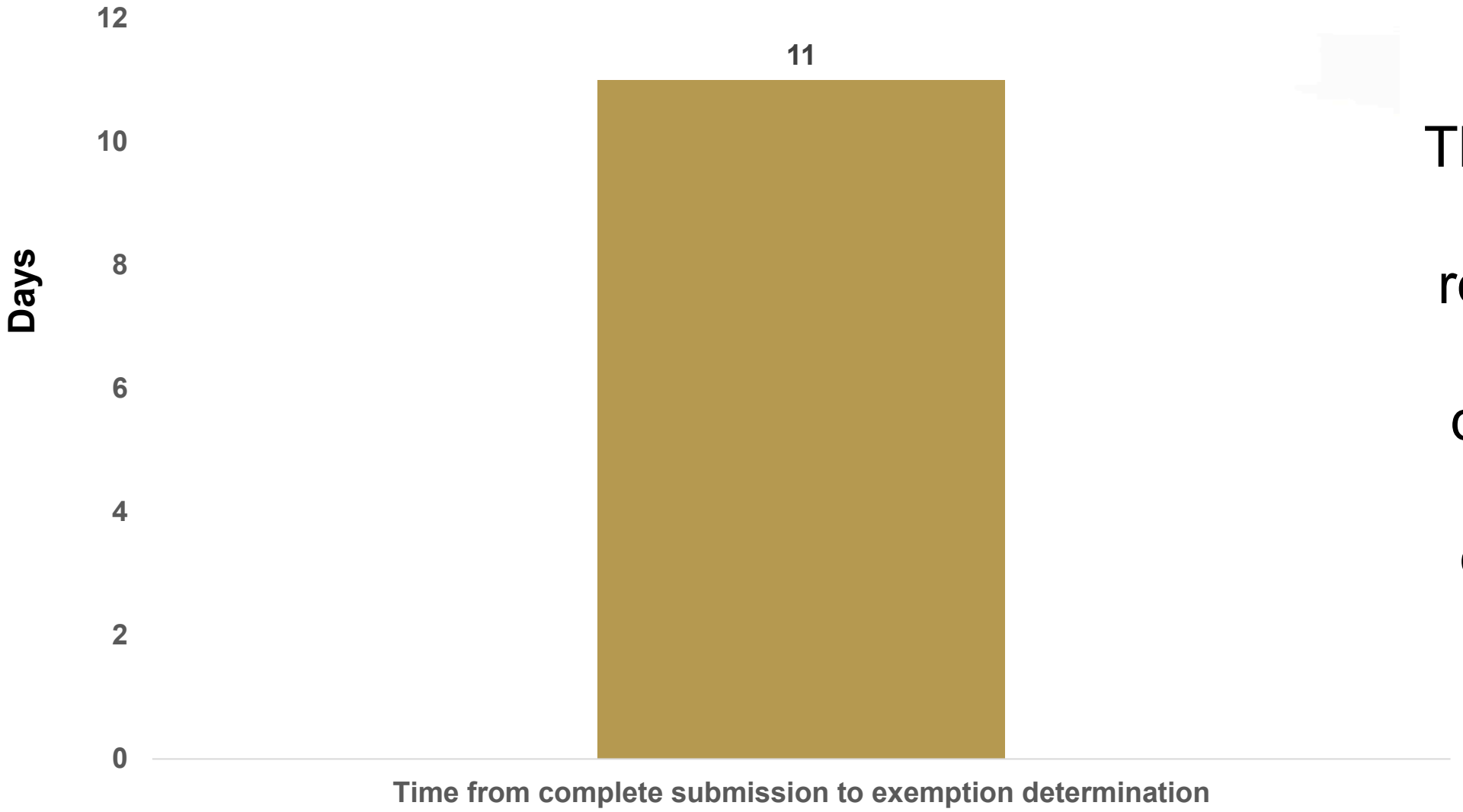
This chart shows the median expedited review times for academic organizations.

IRB/EC Review Times: Convened Board Review



This chart shows the median convened board review times for academic organizations.

Review Times: Exemptions



This chart shows the median review times for exemption determinations for academic organizations.

IRB/EC Technology

Database for submission tracking	94.8
Online application submission	93.9%
Online protocol/materials distribution to IRB/EC members	94.8%
Online review functions	92.2%
Does not use an electronic system	1.7%

This table shows the technology academic organizations use to support IRB/EC tracking, submission, distribution and the specific functions used.

IRB/EC Staffing and Budget

Number of Active Studies	Median Number of Studies	Median Number of Staff	Median Number of Studies per Staff	Median IRB/EC Budget
All	1582	8.8	179.8	$646,129
0-500	245	2.8	87.5	$232,781
501-1000	729	4	182.3	$383,890
1001-2000	1348	8.5	158.6	$695,469
2001-4000	2550	12	212.5	$1,166,461
4001+	6167	23.3	264.7	$2,422,615

This table breaks down IRB/EC staffing and budgets by the size of the research portfolio (exempt, expedited, and convened reviews) overseen by academic organizations.

Audits of Researchers

Median # of researchers per organization with active studies:	Median # of research staff per organization:	% of organizations that reported that no audits of investigators occurred
921	1307	94.0%

Internal: "for cause"	• Median: 2 • Total: 459
Internal: random	• Median: 17 • Total: 5684
Regulatory agency inspections	• Median: 0 • Total: 103

Audits of IRBs/ECs

% of organizations that reported that audits of IRB/EC records occurred:

81.2%

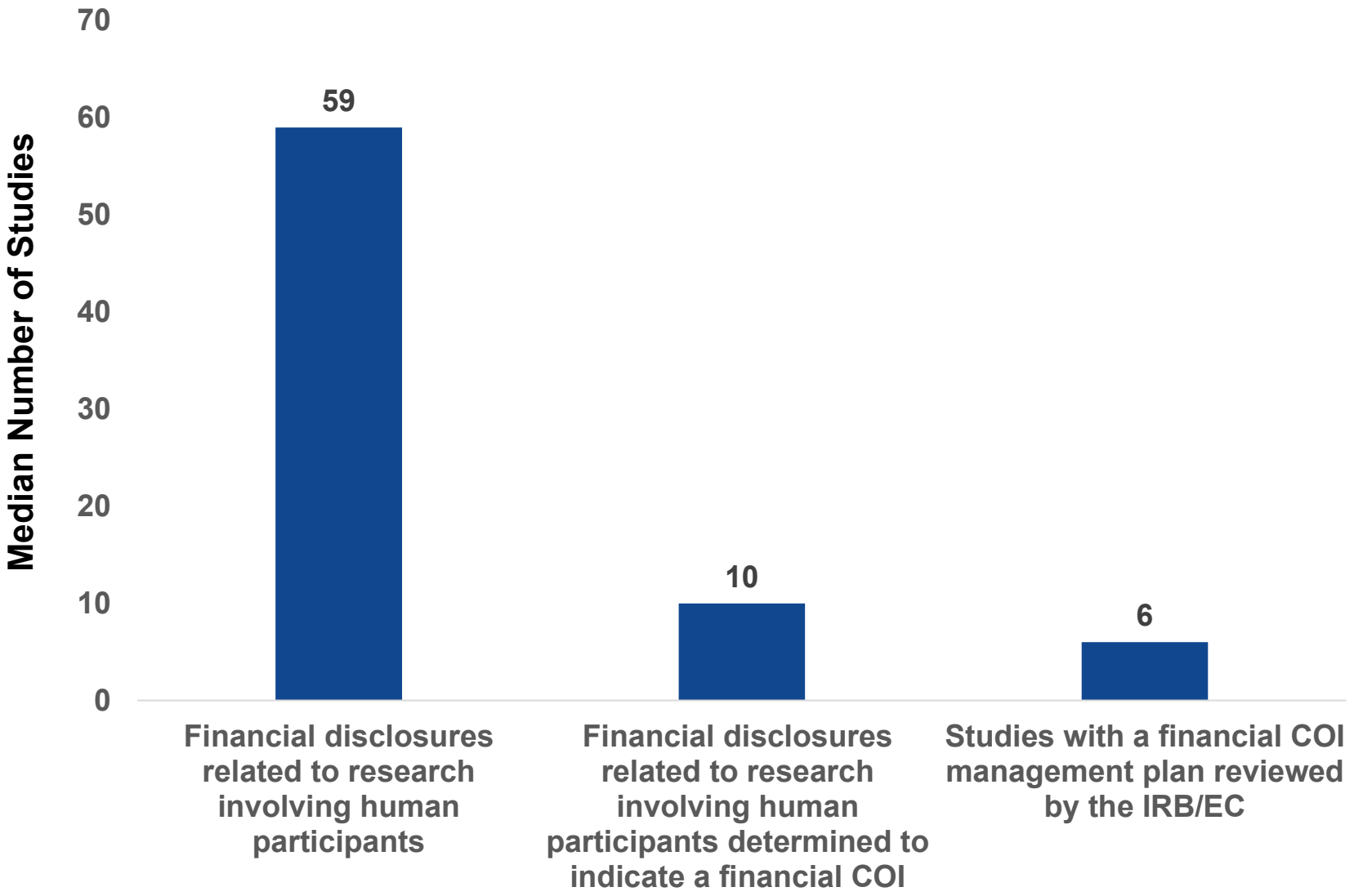
Internal: "for cause"	• Median: 0 • Total: 294
Internal: random	• Median: 5 • Total: 2493
Regulatory agency inspections	• Median: 0 • Total: 25

Unresolved Complaints, Noncompliance, & Unanticipated Problems

Number of active studies	Unresolved complaints	Investigations of alleged noncompliance	Serious noncompliance determinations	Continuing noncompliance determinations	Unanticipated problems determinations
All	0	5.5	1	0	1
0-500	0	2	0	0	0
501-1000	0	2	0	0	0
1001-2000	0	13.5	1.5	1	1.5
2001-4000	0	3	2	0	3
4001+	0	45.5	5	2.5	5

This table is based on the 12 months prior to an academic organization's most recent report to AAHRPP and shows the median number of events per category.

Conflicts of Interest



This chart shows the median number of COI-related disclosures, determinations, and reviews for academic organizations within the last 12 months of their most recent AAHRPP report.