

2024 Metrics for AAHRPP-Accredited Human Research Protection Programs

Academic Organizations

September 2025



About the Metrics

AAHRPP is pleased to present the 2024 metrics for Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) performance. You will see some changes to the metrics that were based on feedback from a working group with representatives from accredited organizations. 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 submitted by AAHRPP organizations.

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

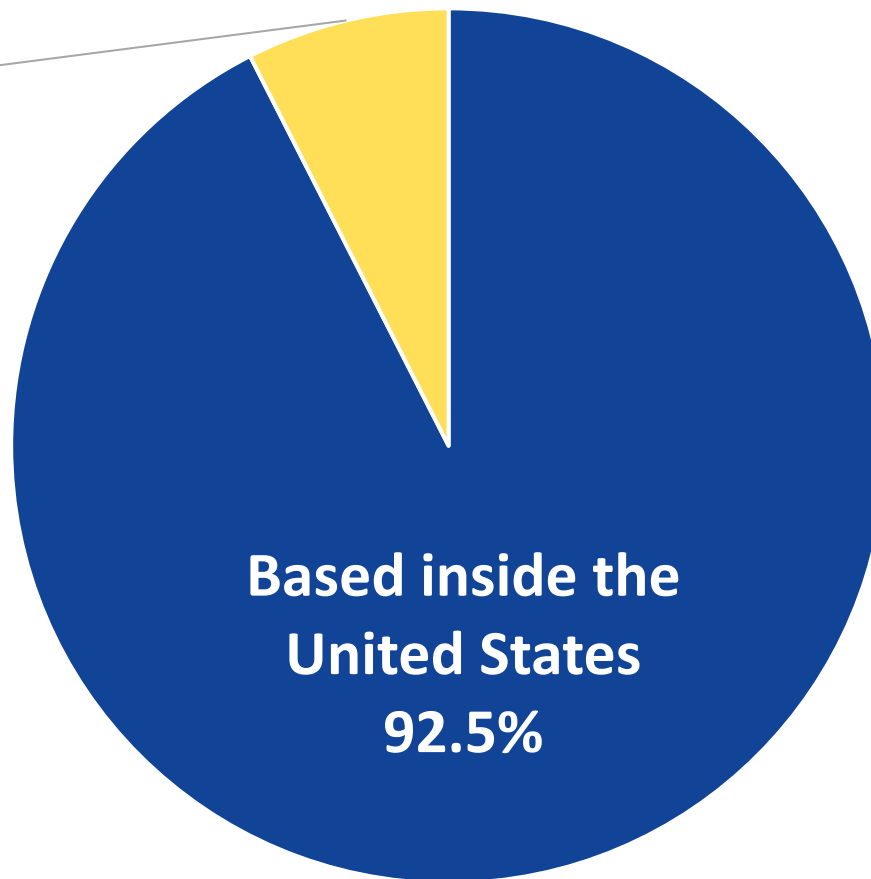
**Definitions of metrics,
including how times are
calculated, are available
[here](#).**

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Where Accredited Academic Organizations are Based

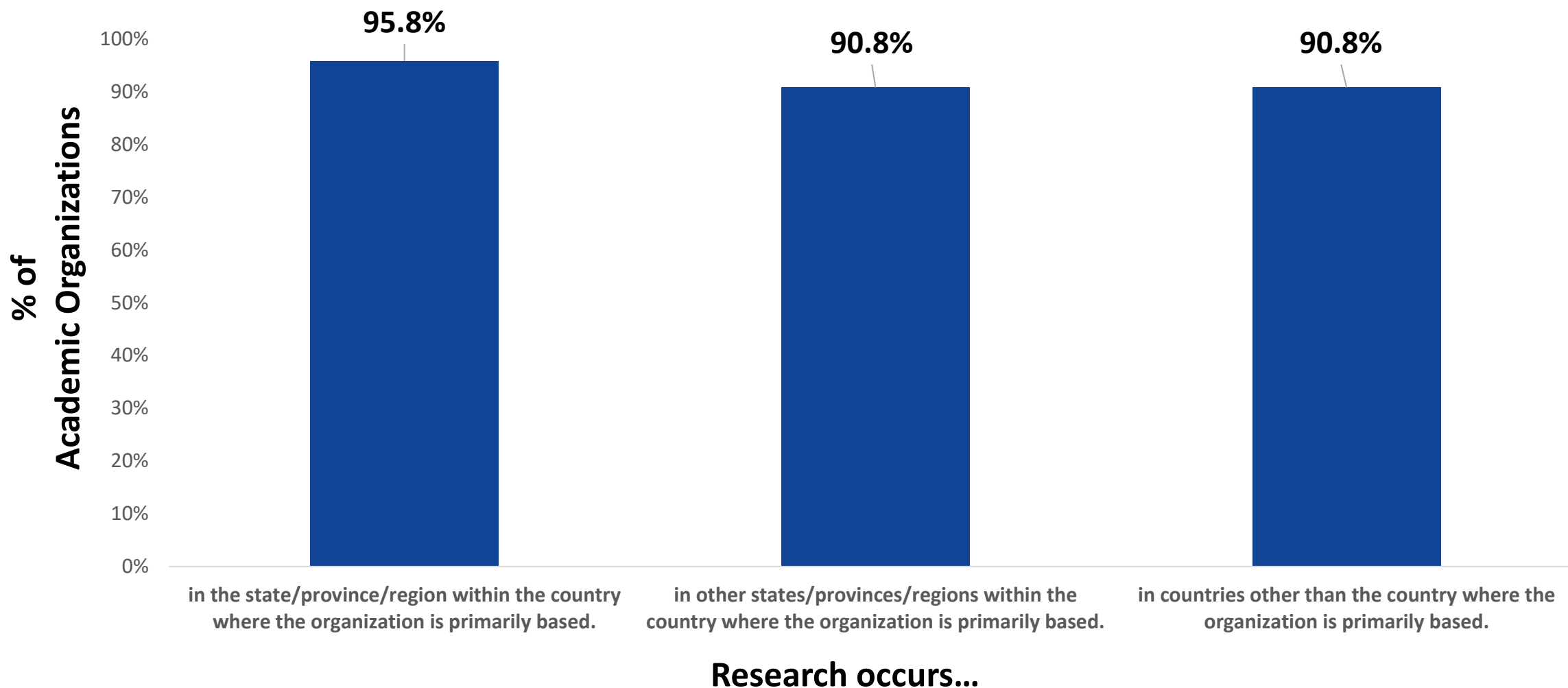
**Based outside the
United States
7.5%**



**Based inside the
United States
92.5%**

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

Where Research Occurs



Research Type

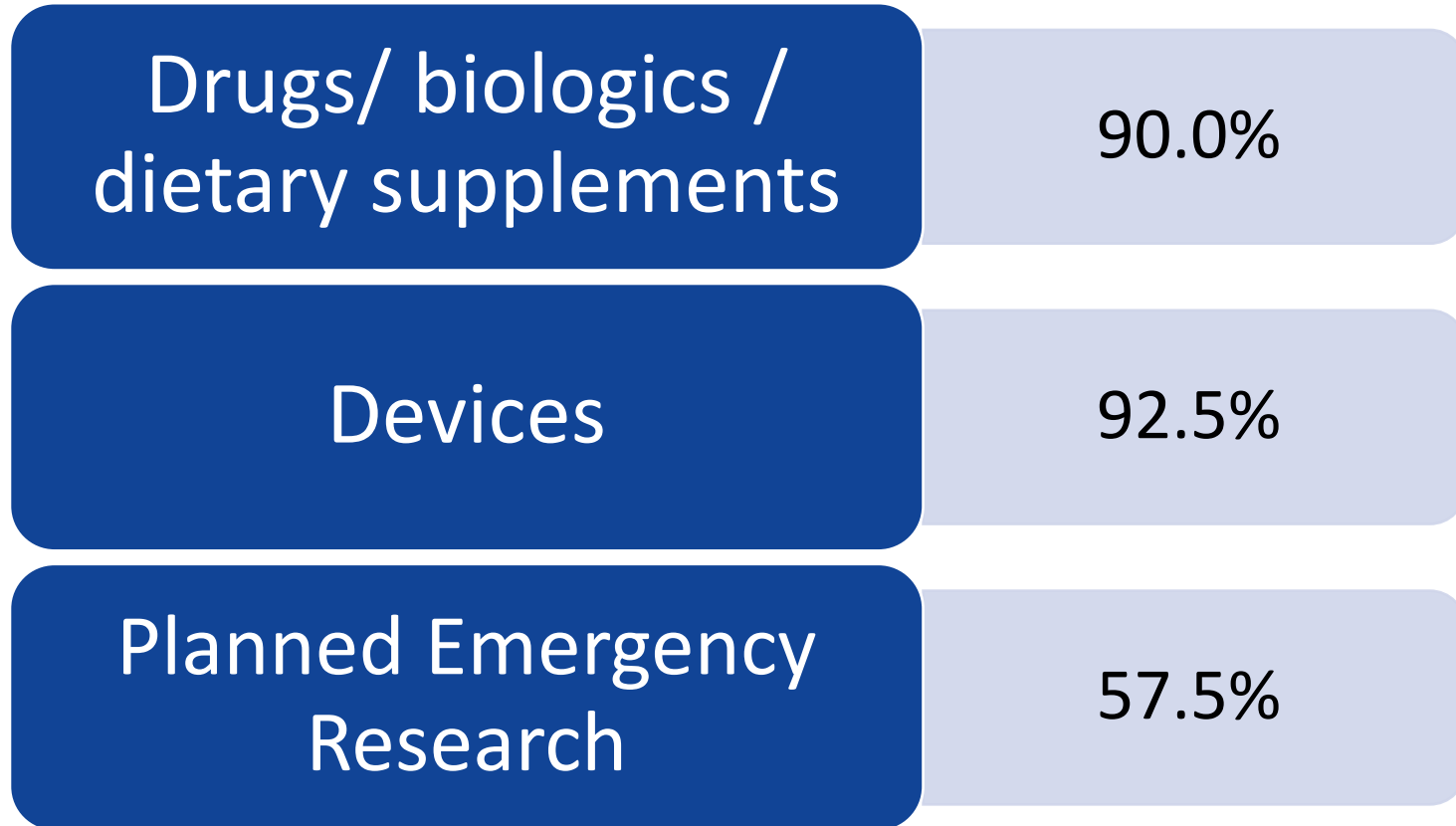
**Most academic organizations
conduct or review
biomedical/clinical research**

99.2%

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

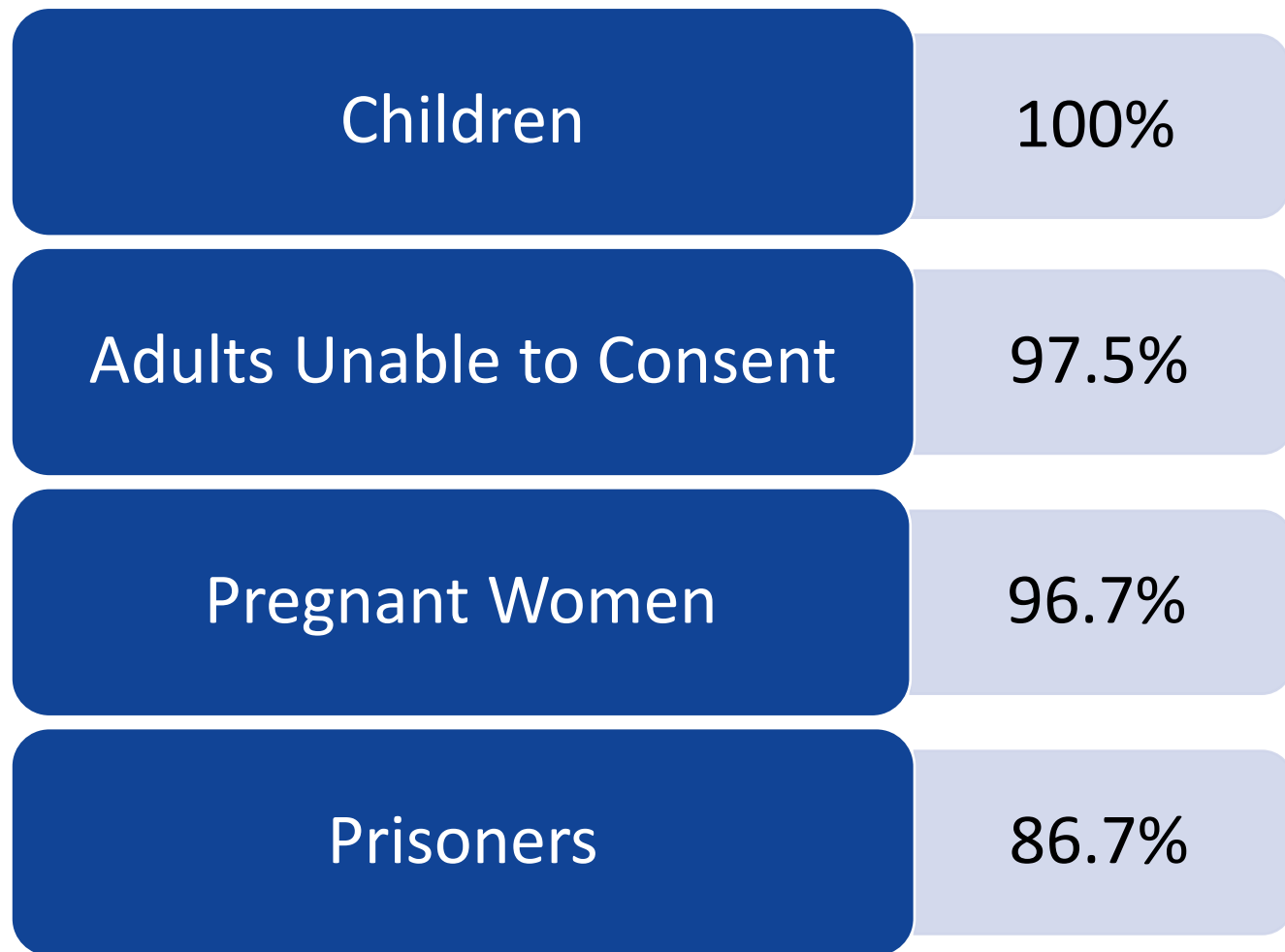
98.3%

Biomedical/Clinical Research by Type



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

Vulnerable Populations



This table shows the categories of vulnerable populations that participate in research academic organizations sponsor, conduct, review, or manage.

Populations organizations also identified as vulnerable (i.e., “Other”) include Native Americans, neonates of uncertain viability, those who are educationally or economically disadvantaged, military personnel and Veterans, non-English speakers, hospitalized persons, individuals who are physically disabled or impaired, participants who are institutionalized, individuals who are engaged in or intending to engage in illegal or stigmatizing behavior, and undocumented or refugee populations.

Funding Type

Internally funded or unfunded

99.2%

Industry sponsored

98.3%

Sponsored by other external
sources

99.2%

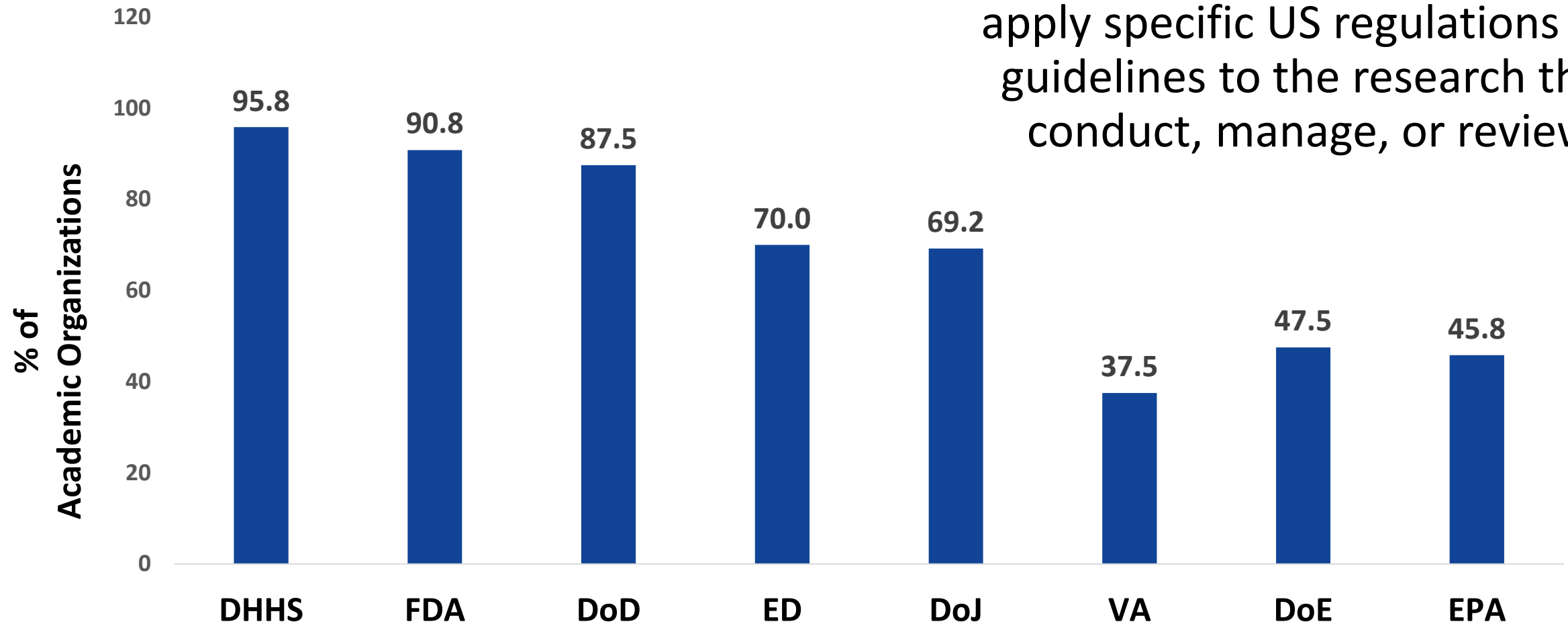
Funded or sponsored by US
Federal government

94.2%

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

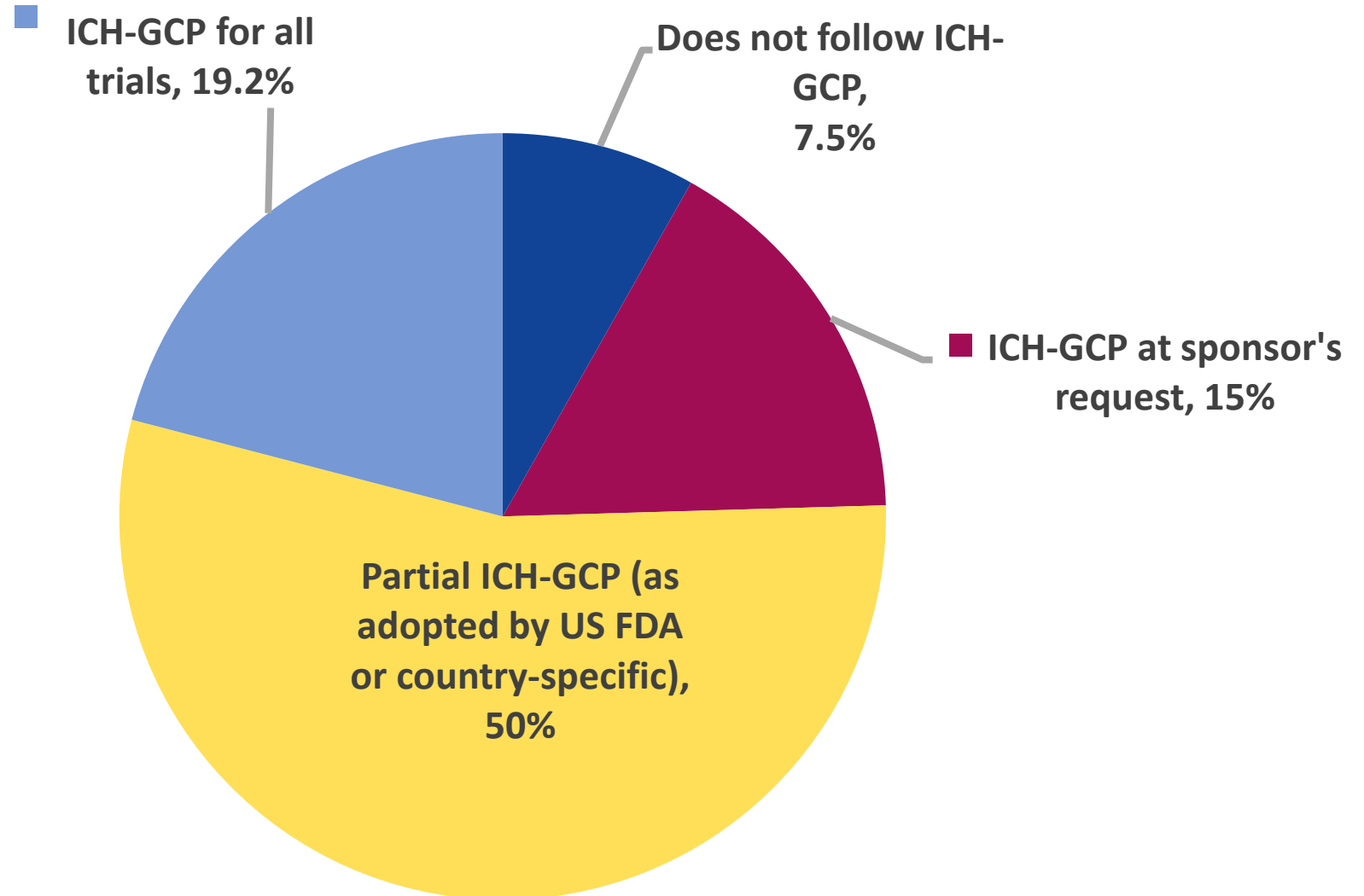
Regulations & Guidelines

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



International Regulations & Guidelines

This chart shows the percentage of academic organizations that adhere to ICH-GCP guidelines.



Internal IRBs/ECs

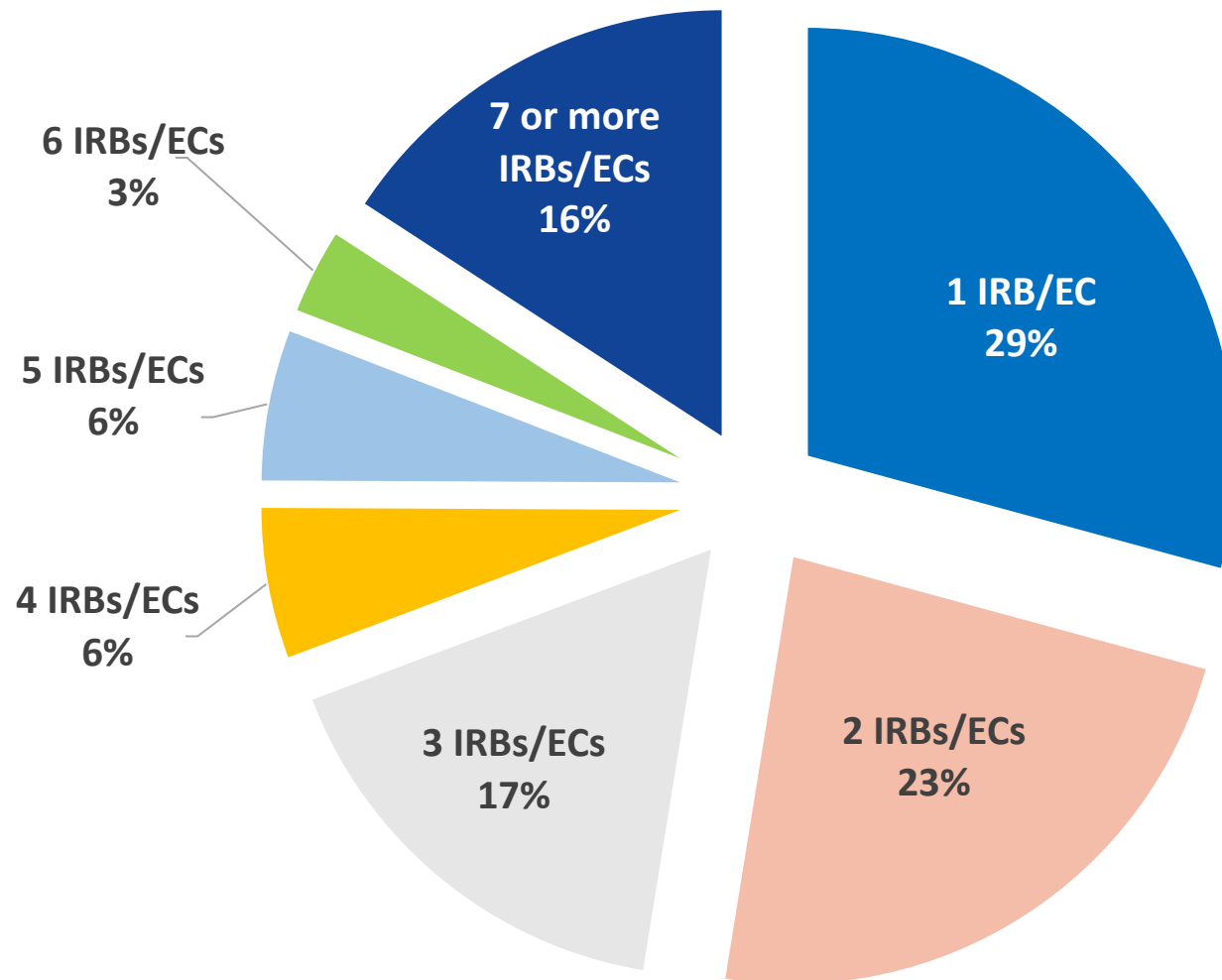
% of academic
organizations that have
internal IRBs/ECs

100%

Median # of IRBs/ECs
per academic
organization

2

Number of internal IRBs/ECs academic organizations support



Relying on External IRBs/ECs*

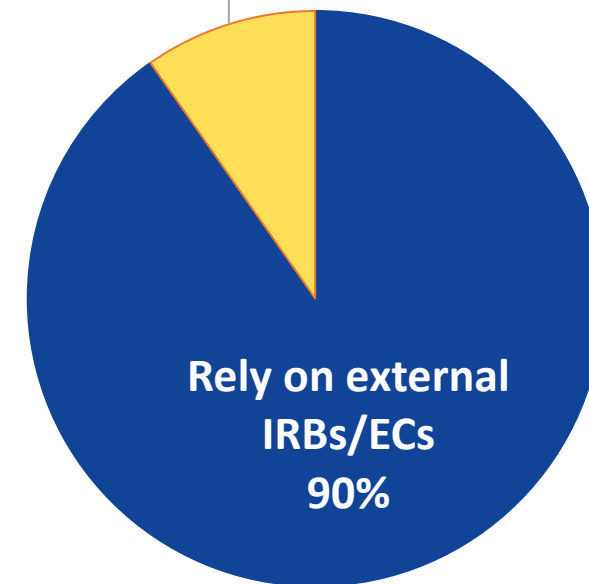
Number of open studies
reviewed by an external
IRB/EC (median)

326

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

Do not rely on an external IRB/EC

10%



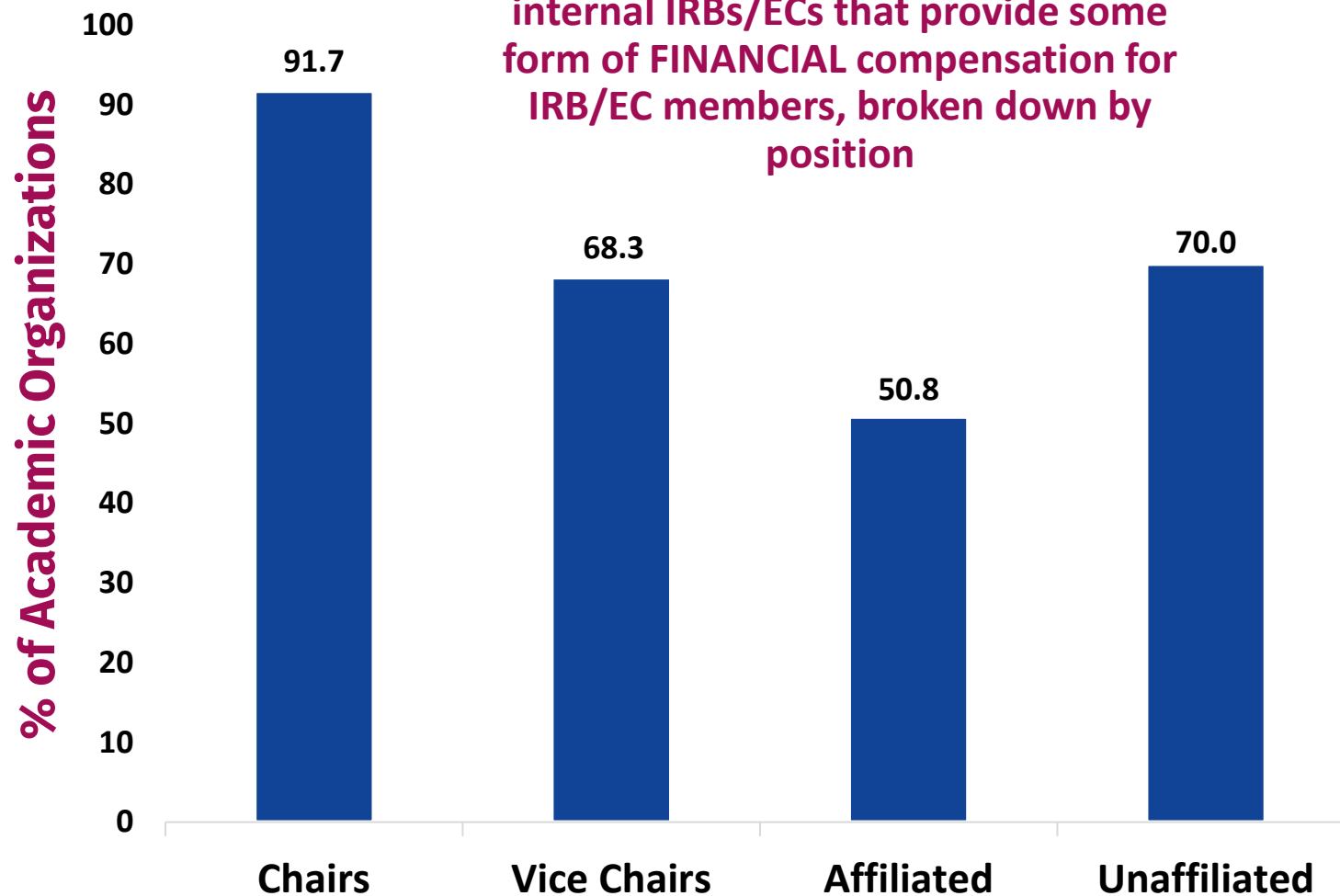
Rely on external
IRBs/ECs
90%

*Data exclude independent IRBs/ECs

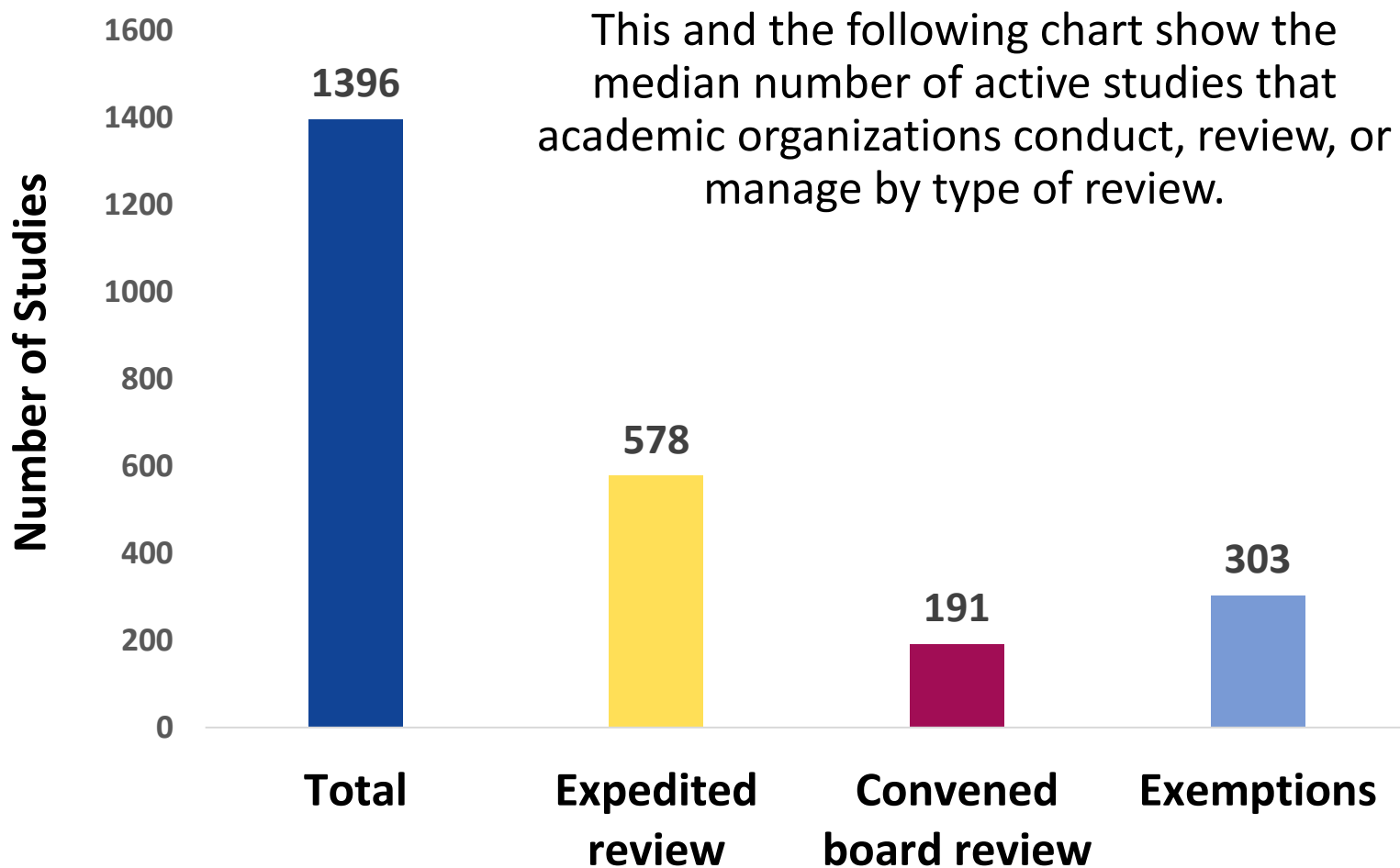
Compensating IRB/EC Members

% of academic organizations with
internal IRBs/ECs that provide some
form of financial compensation to
IRB/EC members

91.7%



Active Studies Overseen: All Academic Organizations



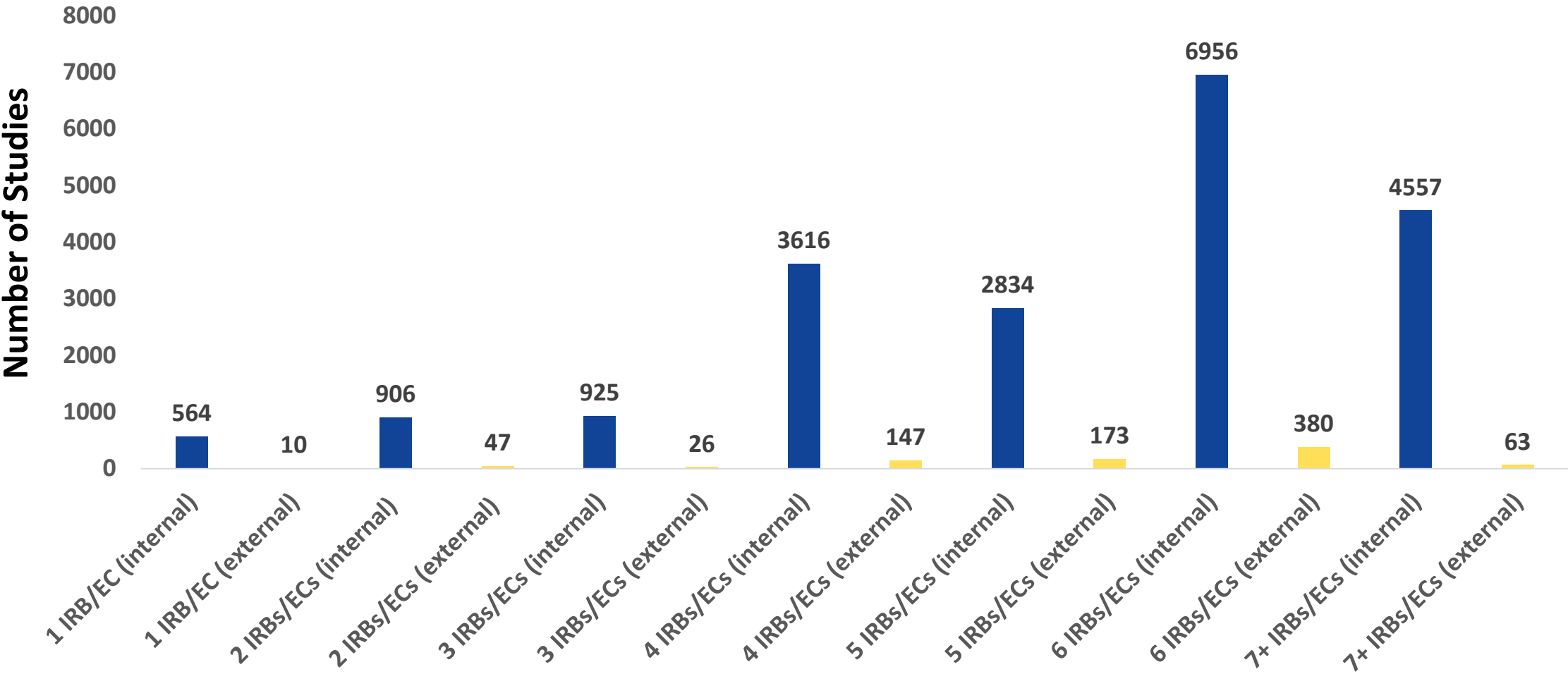
Exemptions are based on the number of determinations made by an academic organization for a 12-month period (e.g., the year prior to the AAHRPP report).

Expedited review and convened board review only include studies reviewed by an internal IRB/EC for academic organizations that have an internal IRB/EC and are not independent IRBs/ECs.

Total number of studies includes those reviewed by both internal and external IRBs/ECs in the case of academic organizations with IRBs/ECs.

Active Studies Per IRB/EC: All Academic Organizations

This chart compares the median number of active studies academic organizations oversee reviewed by an internal vs. external IRB/EC based on the number of internal IRBs/ECs they have.



Note: Median number of studies reflect exemption determinations that could be made by internal or external IRBs/ECs.

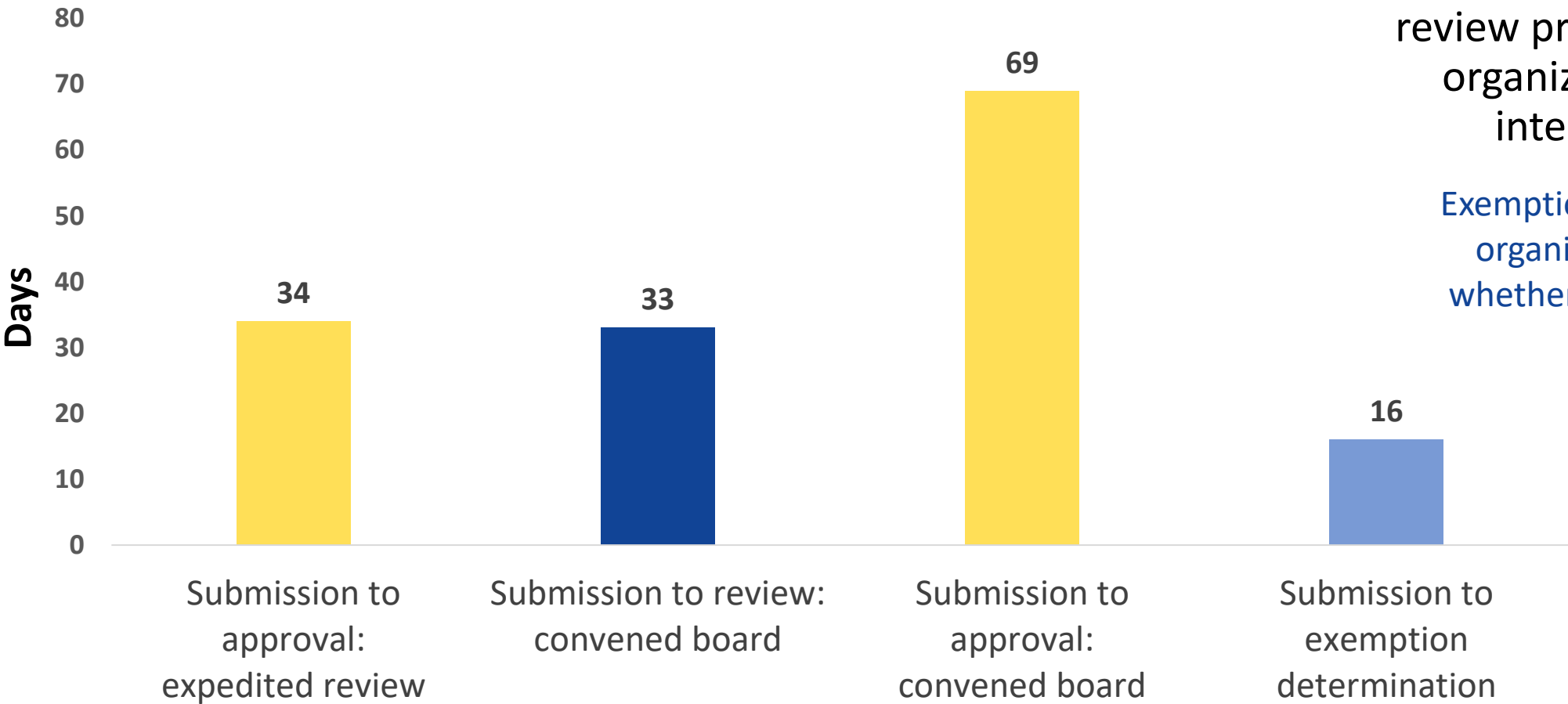
Review Times

**NOTE: THE WAY REVIEW TIMES
WERE CALCULATED IS
DIFFERENT FROM PRIOR YEARS
OF PUBLISHED METRICS**

**Data corrected
December 2025**

This chart shows the median review times by review process for academic organizations that have internal IRBs/ECs.

Exemption review times are for organizations regardless of whether they have an internal IRB/EC



IRB/EC Technology

This table shows the technology used by academic organizations that have IRBs/ECs.

Only 4 respondents reported not using an electronic system.

AAHRPP-Accredited academic organizations use technology...



IRB/EC Staffing

Number of Active Studies	Median Number of Studies	Median Number of Staff	Median Number of Studies per Staff
All	1278.5	11.0	120.3
0-100	72.5	2.8	25.1
101-500	312	5.0	74.0
501-1000	785	5.0	135.9
1001-2000	1414	11.0	114.7
2001-4000	3075	22.5	126.6
4001+	5843	23.0	229.7

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

Data from academic organizations without internal IRBs/ECs are not included

Audits of Researchers

% of academic organizations that
reported audits of researchers had
occurred

86.7%

Internal: "for
cause"

- Median: 1.5
- Total: 544

Internal: random

- Median: 22.5
- Total: 9233

Regulatory agency
inspections

- Median: 0
- Total: 60

Audits of IRBs/ECs

% of academic organizations that reported audits of IRB/EC records had occurred (by internal or external sources):

66.7%

Internal: "for cause"

- Median: 0
- Total: 154

Internal: random

- Median: 3
- Total: 6098

Regulatory agency inspections

- Median: 0
- Total: 552

Noncompliance & Unanticipated Problems

This table is based on the 12 months prior to an academic organization's most recent report to AAHRPP.

The total represents all events across organizations for that category.

Number of active studies	Median # & Total reported	Serious noncompliance determinations	Continuing noncompliance determinations	Unanticipated problems determinations
All	Median	2	0	1
	Total	1110	716	1658
0-100	Median	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0
101-500	Median	0	0	1
	Total	43	32	254
501-1000	Median	1	0	0
	Total	71	25	93
1001-2000	Median	3	0	2
	Total	153	49	181
2001-4000	Median	3	1	3
	Total	148	51	192
4001+	Median	6.5	1	7
	Total	695	559	938

Conflicts of Interest

This graphic shows the median number of studies reviewed by an IRB/EC for academic organizations within the last 12 months of their most recent AAHRPP report.

Only includes data from organizations that have internal IRB/ECs or are independent IRBs/ECs

Studies with a financial conflict of interest management plan reviewed by an IRB/EC (internal or external)



7

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