



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

2025 Metrics

— *for* —

**AAHRPP-Accredited
Human Research
Protection Programs**

Academic Institutions

September 2026



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.

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](#).

Annual Metrics Report for Academic Institutions

Table of Contents



Description of Academic Institutions

- 5. Where Accredited Academic Institutions are Based



Description of Research

- 6. Where Research Occurs
- 7. Types of Research Academic Institutions Sponsor Conduct, Manage, or Review
- 8. Percentage of Academic Institutions that Sponsor, Conduct, Manage or Review Each Type of Research
- 9. Research Involving Vulnerable Populations



Research Funding & Regulations

- 10. Type of Funding
- 11. US Regulations & Guidelines
- 12. Adherence to ICH-GCP Guidelines



IRB/ECs & Reliance

- 13. Internal IRBs/ECs
- 14. Reliance on External IRBs/ECs
- 15. IRB/EC Member Compensation
- 16. IRB/EC Membership Compensation by Type



Research Review: Number of Studies

- 17. Open Studies
- 18. Median Number of Open Studies by Quartile
- 29. Open Studies per IRB/EC by Academic Institutions
- 20. Review Times



Resources & Budget

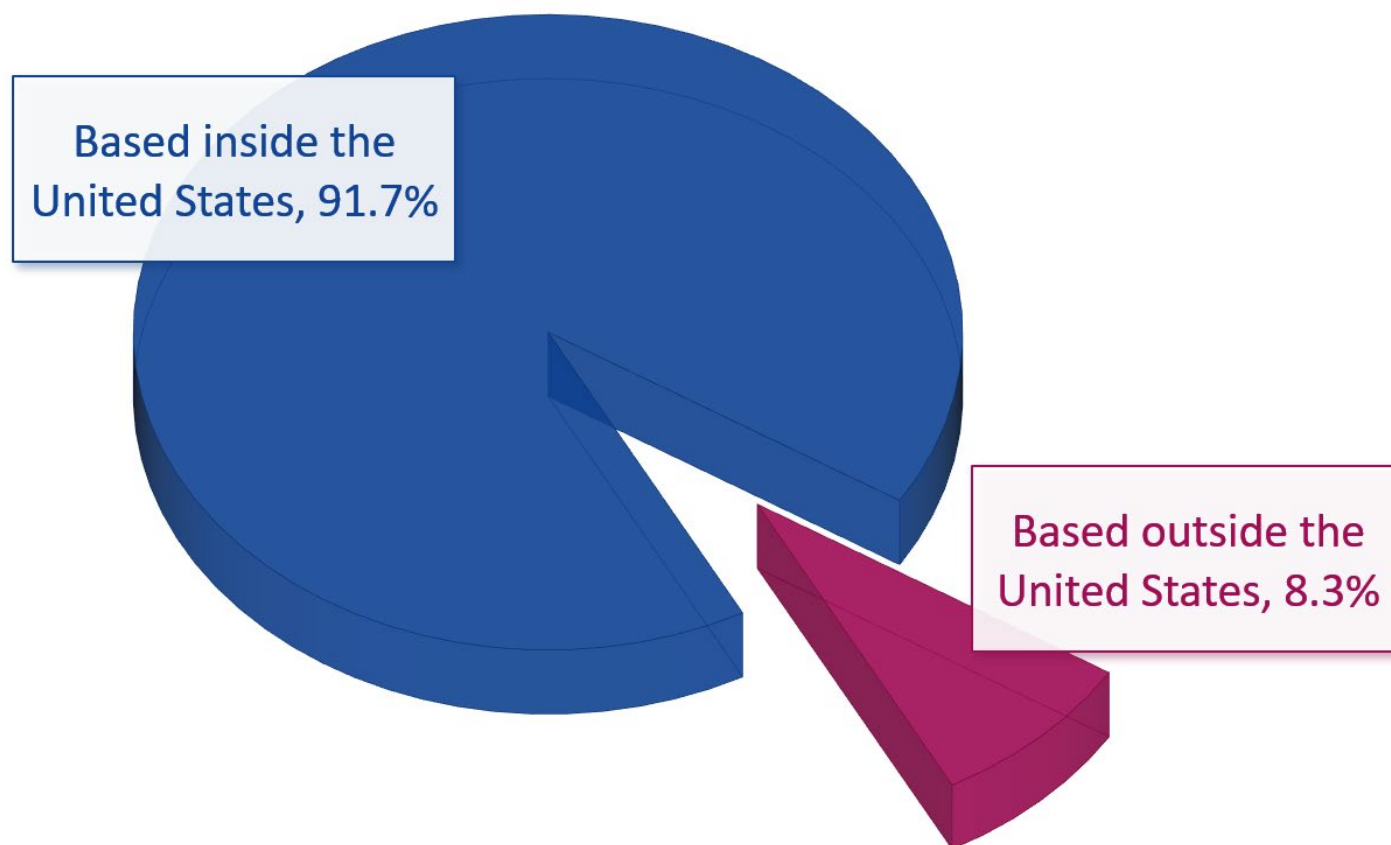
- 21. IRB/EC Technology
- 22. IRB/EC Staffing



Audits, Reportable Events, & Conflicts of Interest

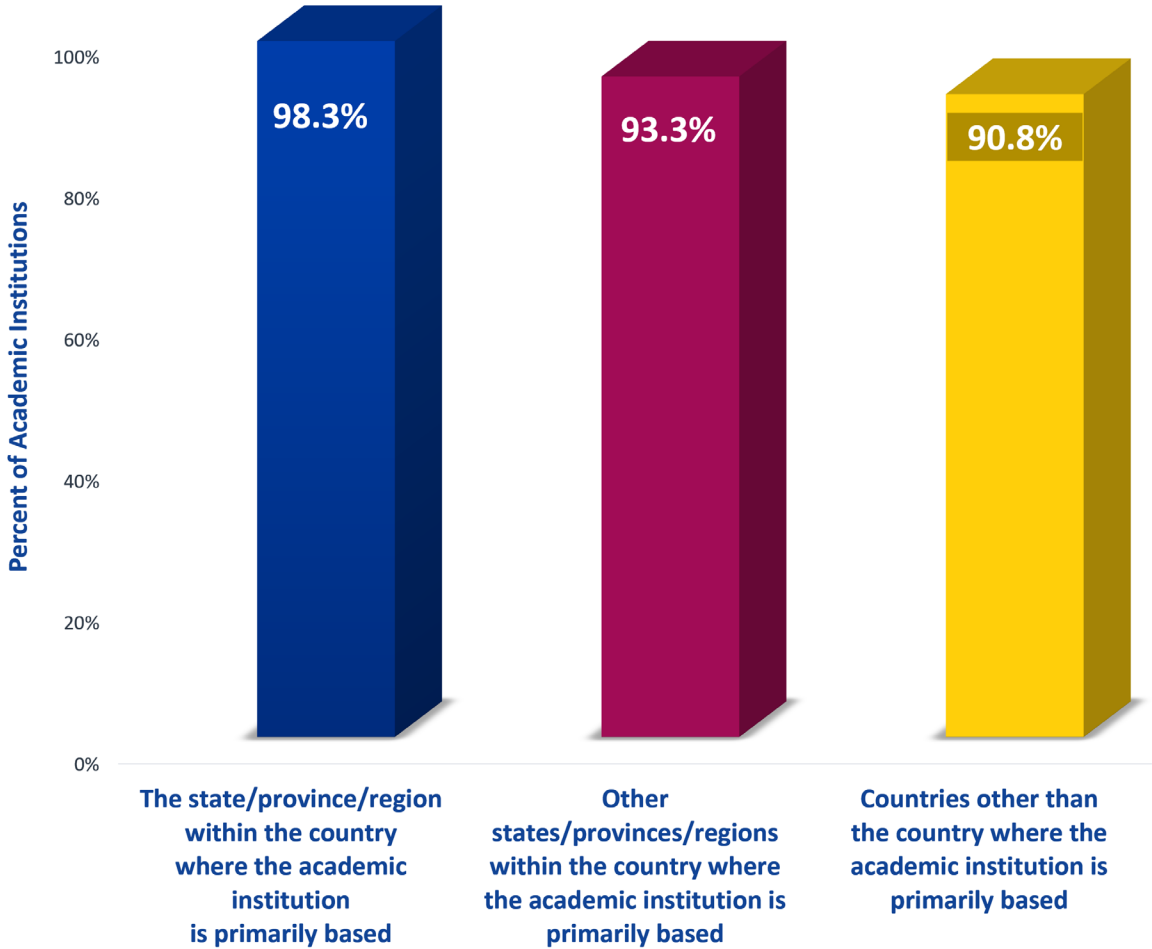
- 23. Audits of Researchers
- 24. Audits of IRBs/ECs
- 25. Noncompliance and Unanticipated Problems
- 26. Conflicts of Interest: Studies with Management Plans

Where Accredited Academic Institutions are Based

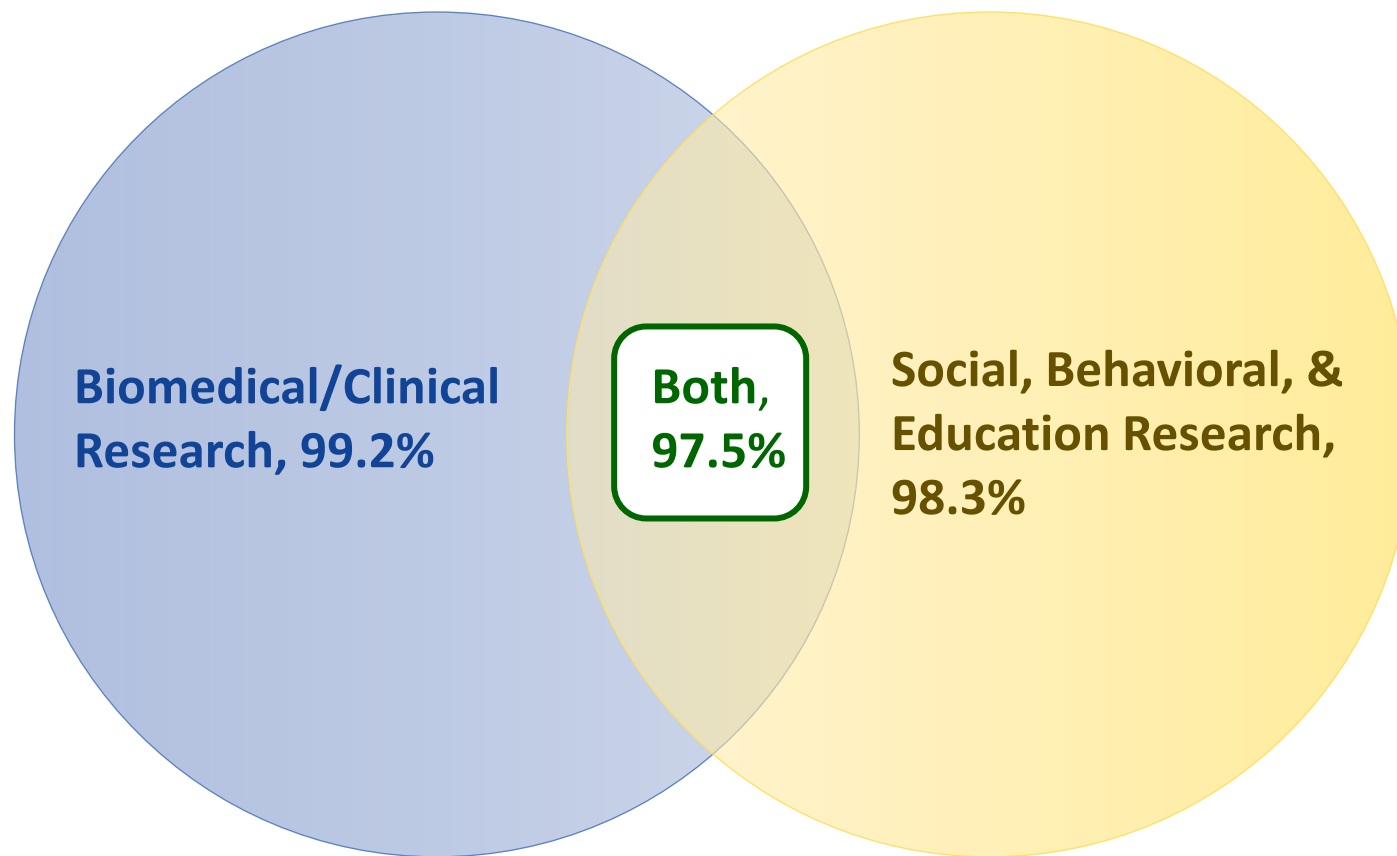


Where Research Occurs

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

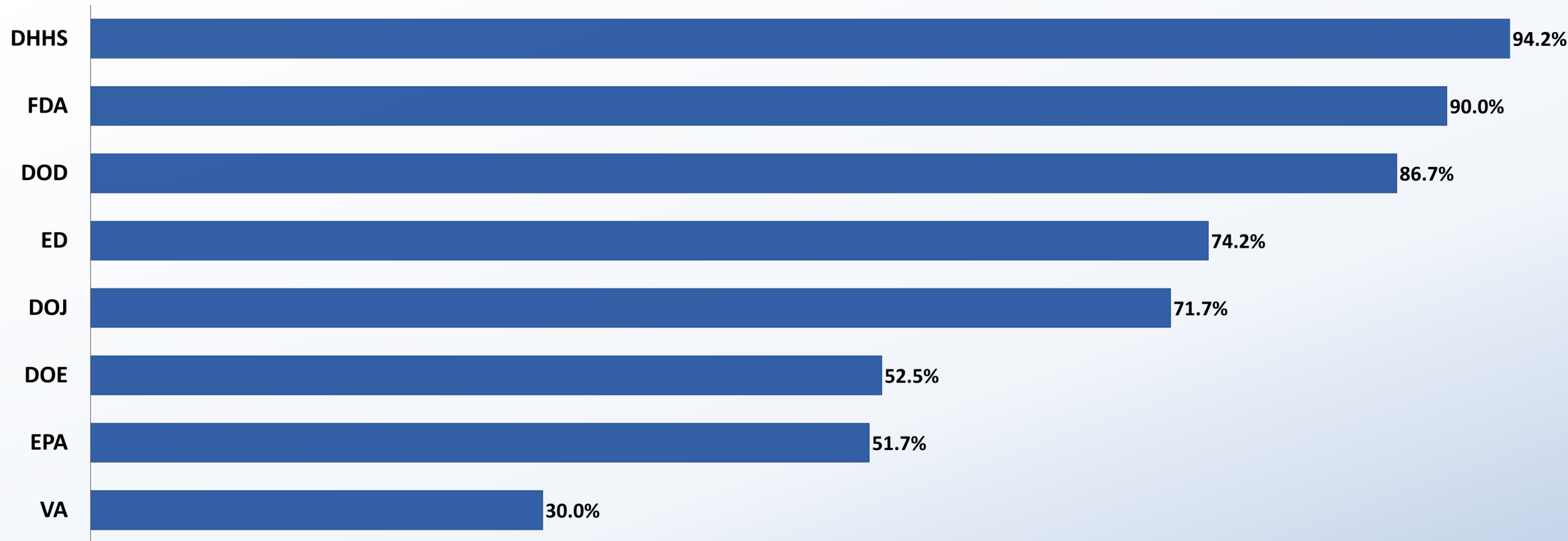
Type of Funding

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



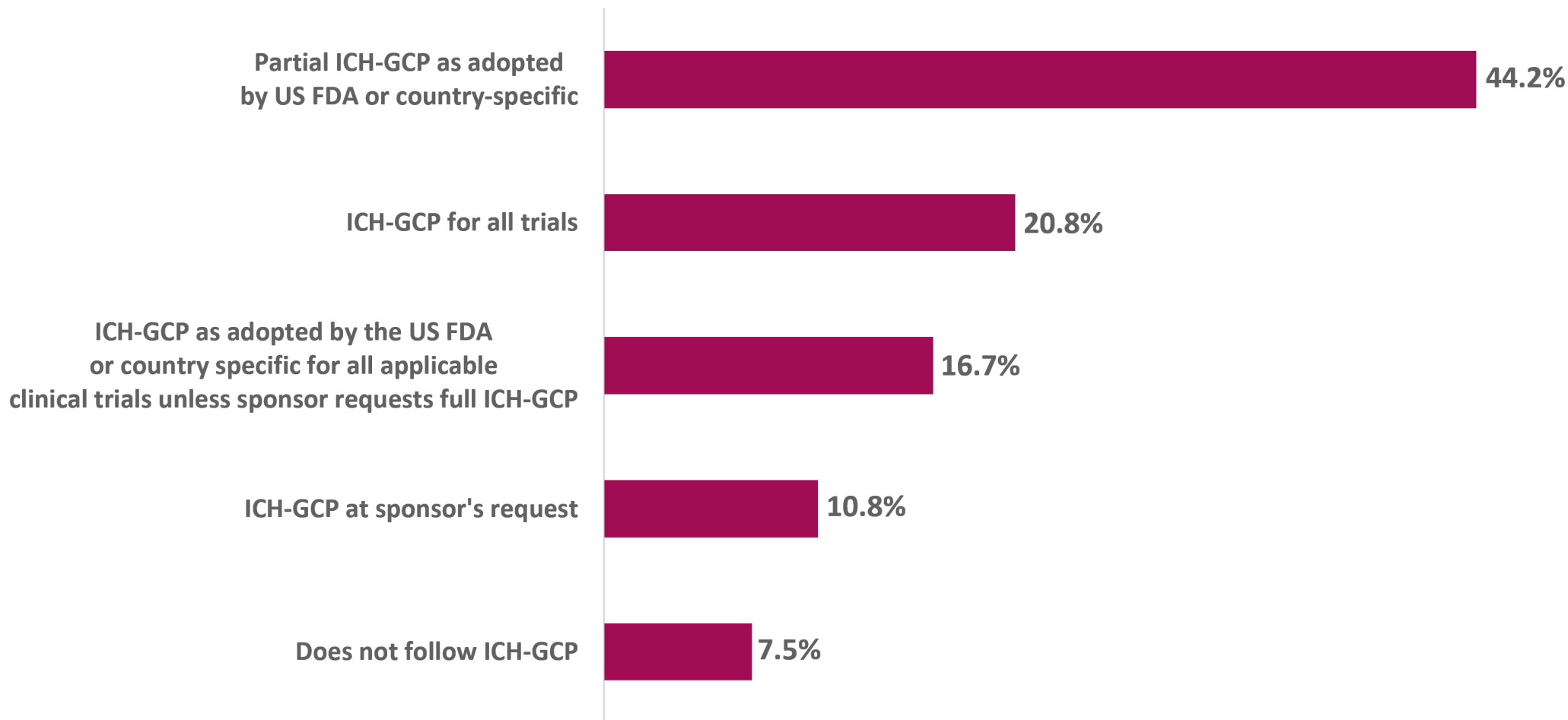
US Regulations & Guidelines

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

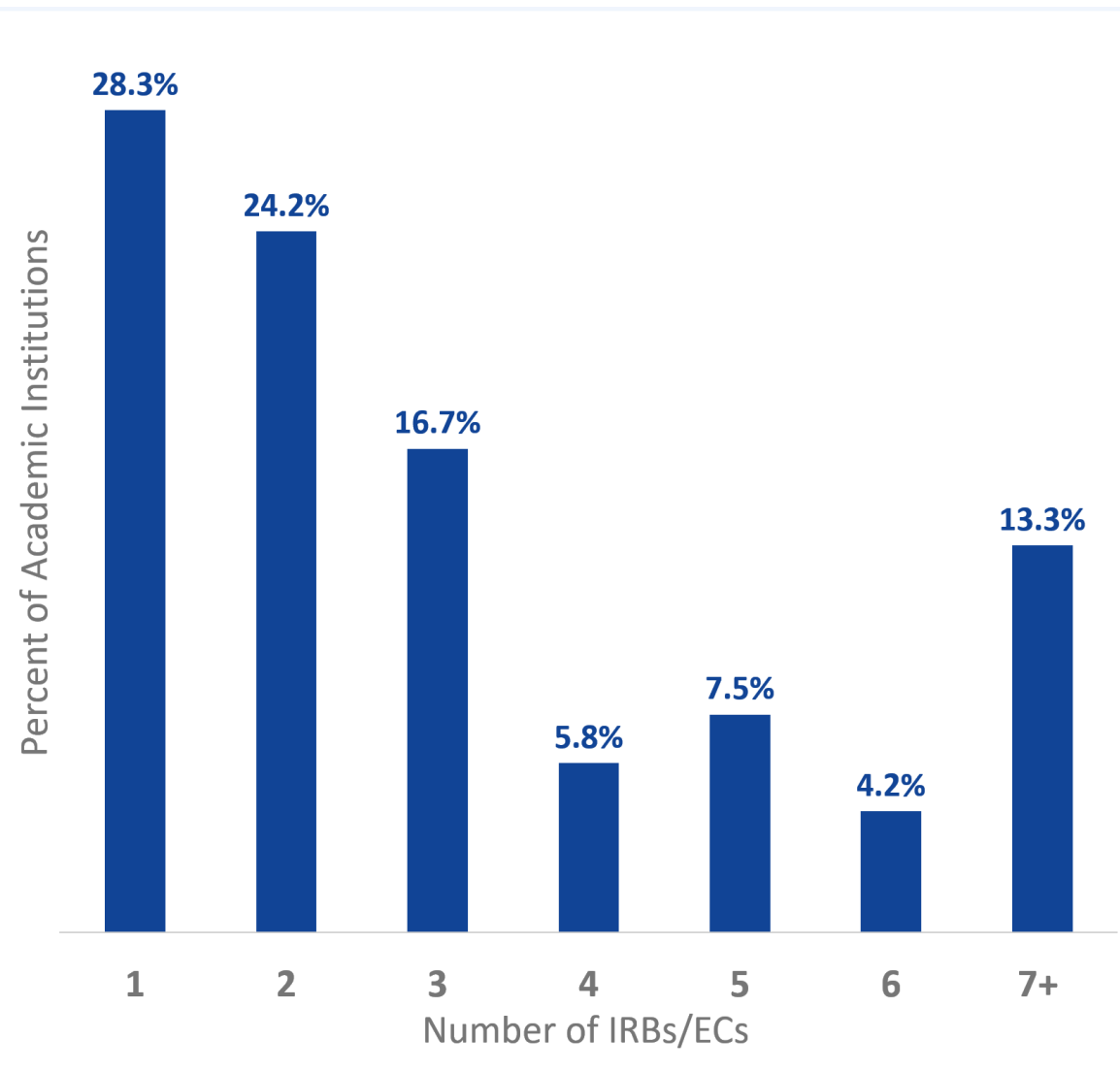
Number of internal IRBs/ECs
academic institutions support

% of academic
institutions with
internal IRBs/ECs

100%

Median number of
IRBs/ECs per
academic institution

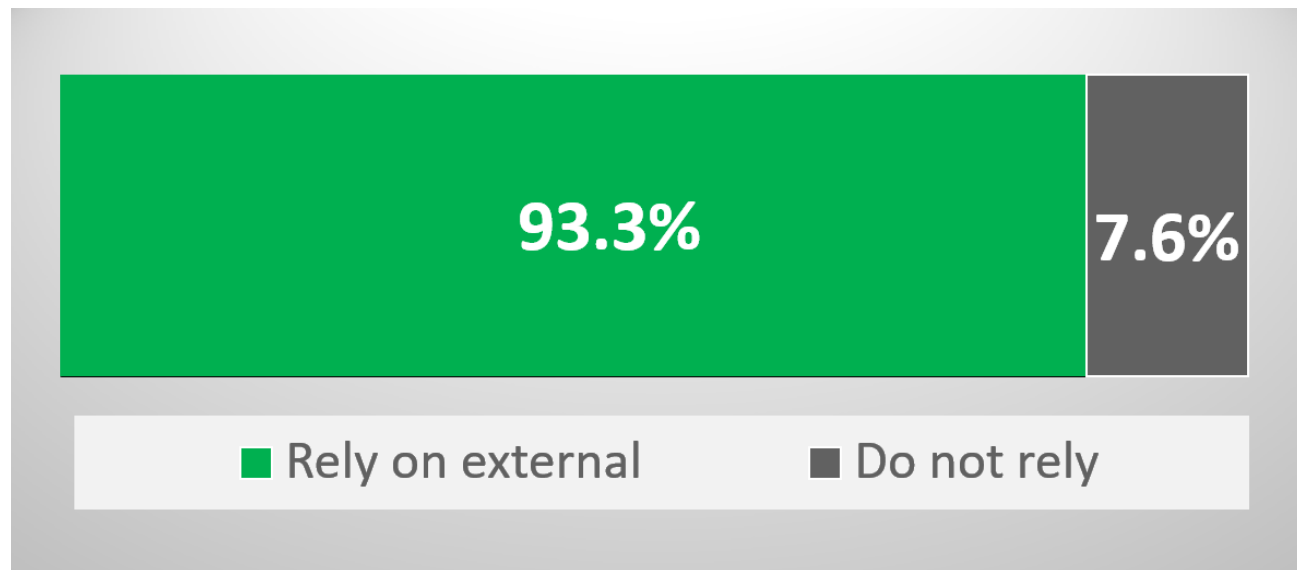
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Reliance on External IRBs/ECs



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



Median number of
studies externally
reviewed

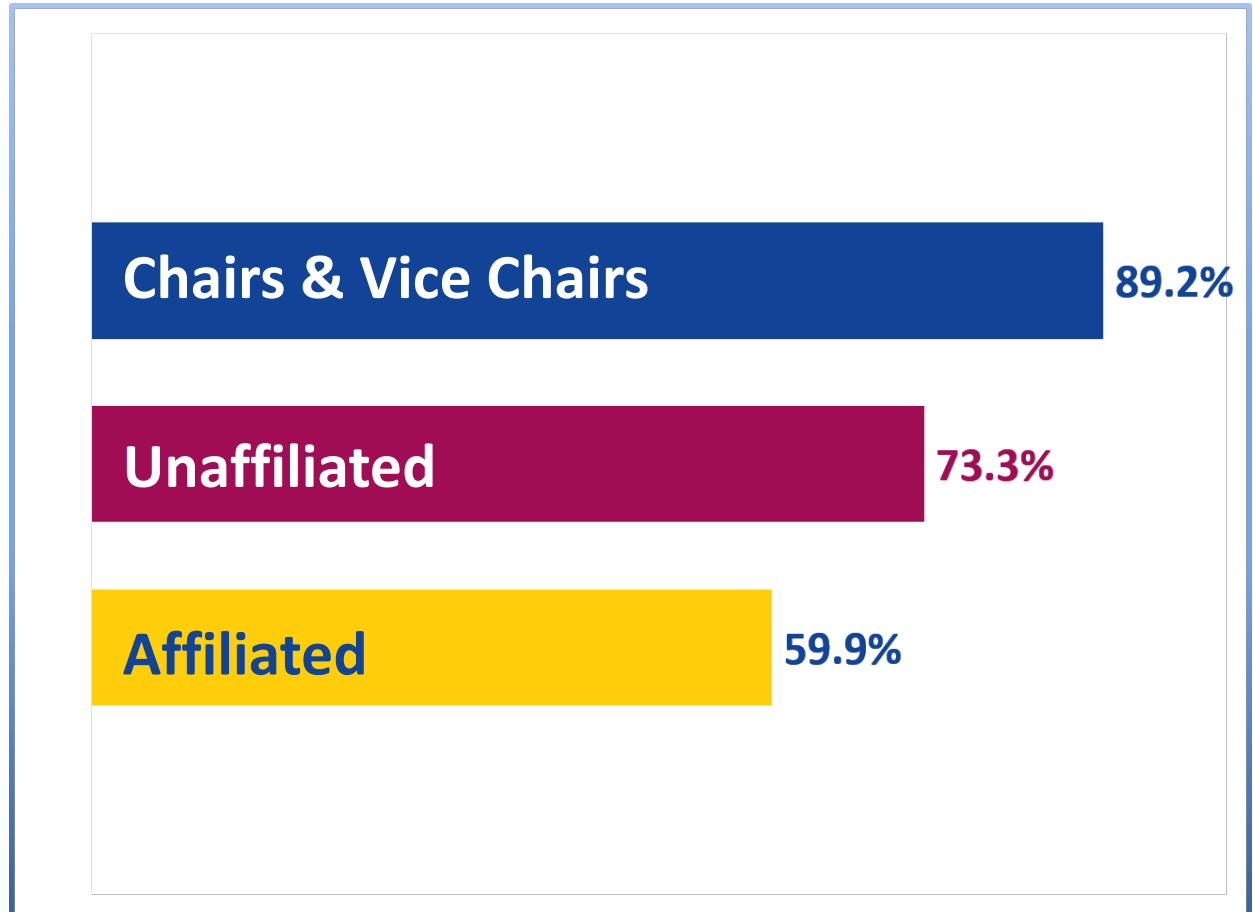
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IRB/EC Member Compensation

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

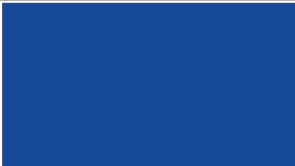
96.7%

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



Exempt
determination



289



Expedited
Review



620



Convened
Board Review



235

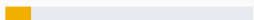
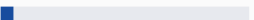
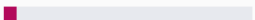
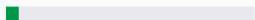
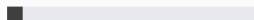
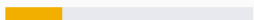
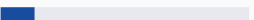
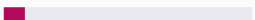
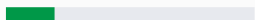
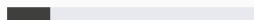
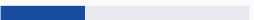
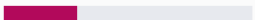
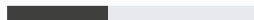
Notes



- 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)

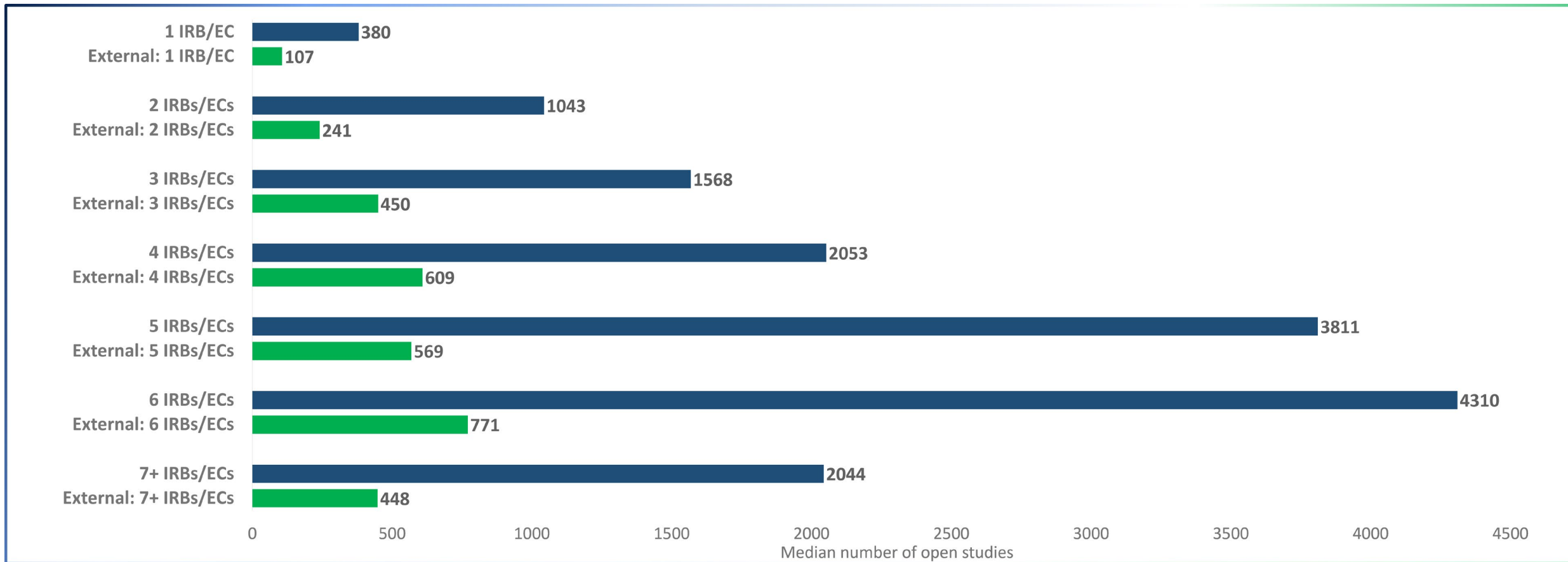
Median Number of Open Studies by Quartile

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

Review Times for Academic Institutions

Median days from submission to review or determination/approval



Exemption

Submission to Determination

15 days



Expedited Review

Submission to Approval

32 days



Convened Board

Submission to Review

24 days



Convened Board

Submission to Approval

56 days



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%

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

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	2	4907
 Internal: Random/ Not for Cause	0	197
 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