

Aggregate Program Data

2021 Physical Therapist Residency and Fellowship
Education Programs Fact Sheet

2021 Fact Sheet

Physical Therapist Residency and Fellowship Education Programs

This fact sheet is designed to provide the education community with current and historical information about physical therapist residency and fellowship education programs, participants, and faculty. The data included in this fact sheet is taken from the following sources:

- The 2021 Annual Continuous Improvement Report, completed January 2022 by accredited programs
- Program profile data in the ABPTRFE Accreditation Management System
- Specialty Board pass rate information provided by ABPTS

Unless otherwise indicated, the data reflects accredited physical therapist residency and fellowship education programs for 2021. All uses of this data should reference the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education as the source of the data and acknowledge that ABPTRFE bears no responsibility for interpretations presented or conclusions reached based on analysis of the data.

Content Contact
APTA Residency/Fellowship Education
resfel@apta.org

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The Average Physical Therapist Residency and Fellowship Program 2021

	Residency	Fellowship
Total Accredited Programs	347	46
Type of Sponsoring Organization (% of Total Programs)	Hospital/Healthcare System	
	49.0%	45.7%
Tax Status (% of Total Program)	Non-Profit	
	79.8%	73.9%
Largest Geographic Location (% of Total Programs)	South Atlantic	
	27.4%	34.8%
Top 3 States (States with Highest % of Total Programs)	CA, FL, OH	CA, NY, OH
Financials	Residency	Fellowship
Charge Tuition (% of Total Programs)	112 (32.24%)	23 (50.0%)
Tuition Amount (Mean)	\$7,020.75	\$8,554.78
Charge Fees (% of Total Programs)	38 (11.0%)	3 (0.1%)
Fee Amount (Mean)	\$224.90	\$233.33
Provide Salary (% of Total Programs)	312 (90.0%)	32 (70.0%)
Salary Amount (Mean)	\$54,115.16	\$62,365.58
% Salary Compared to a Comparable PT (Mean)	77%	87%
Program Format	Residency	Fellowship
Part-time Format (% of Total Programs)	11 (3.2%)	14 (30.4%)
Full-time Format (% of Total Programs)	311 (95.4%)	28 (60.9%)
Both Part-time and Full-time Format (% of Total Programs)	5 (1.4%)	4 (8.7%)
Length of Part-time program in months (Mean)	21.4	21.1
Length of Full-time program in months (Mean)	12.7	15.2
Enrollment	Residency	Fellowship
Number of Participant Positions*	1263	271
Total Participants Enrolled	916	95
Percent Identified as Female Enrolled**	48.7%	40.0%
Percent Identified as Racial/Ethnic Minority Enrolled**	16.9%	17.9%
Percent APTA Members	80.8%	84.2%
Outcomes	Residency	Fellowship
Graduation Rate (Mean)	727 (92.2%)	126 (93.3%)
Dropped Out of Program (Mean)	54 (6.8%)	8 (5.9%)
Failed/Terminated Program (Mean)	7 (0.8%)	1 (0.7%)
Percent Graduates Identified as Racial/Ethnic Minority** (Mean)	17.0%	12.7%
Board Certification Pass Rate, First Time Takers	94% (Residency Graduate)	77% (Non-residency graduate)
Curriculum (Mean)	Residency	Fellowship
Program Type		
Single-site	59 (17.0%)	12 (26.1%)
Multi-facility	183 (52.7%)	12 (26.1%)
Multi-site	105 (30.3%)	22 (47.8%)
Format of Educational Hours***		
In-person	84 (24.2%)	14 (30.4%)
Remote	4 (1.2%)	0
Hybrid (both in-person and remote)	259 (74.6%)	32 (69.6%)
Affiliated Practice Site Location		

	Residency	Fellowship
Close Geographic to Program's Main Address	274 (79.0%)	30 (65.2%)
Distant Geographic to Program's Main Address	7 (2.0%)	6 (13.0%)
Both Close and Distant Geographic	66 (19.0%)	10 (21.7%)
Mentor Appointment		
Mentors Identified by Program	338 (97.4%)	39 (88.6%)
Mentors Identified by Participant	9 (2.6%)	5 (11.4%)
Mentor Accessibility		
On-Site	178 (51.3%)	18 (39.1%)
Off-Site	3 (0.9%)	1 (2.2%)
Both On-site and Off-Site	166 (47.8%)	27 (58.7%)

*These numbers do not reflect temporary reductions in enrollment programs have made due to the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e., total participants enrolled are less than the total participant positions as programs have not yet returned to full operational status).

**Categories for race/ethnicity and sex are pulled from APTA's membership database. If data is not entered for these categories the information is identified by APTA as unknown.

***These numbers do not reflect temporary changes as authorized per ABPTRFE Guidance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROGRAM DATA

Numbers of Programs

Figure 1. Number of Accredited Programs

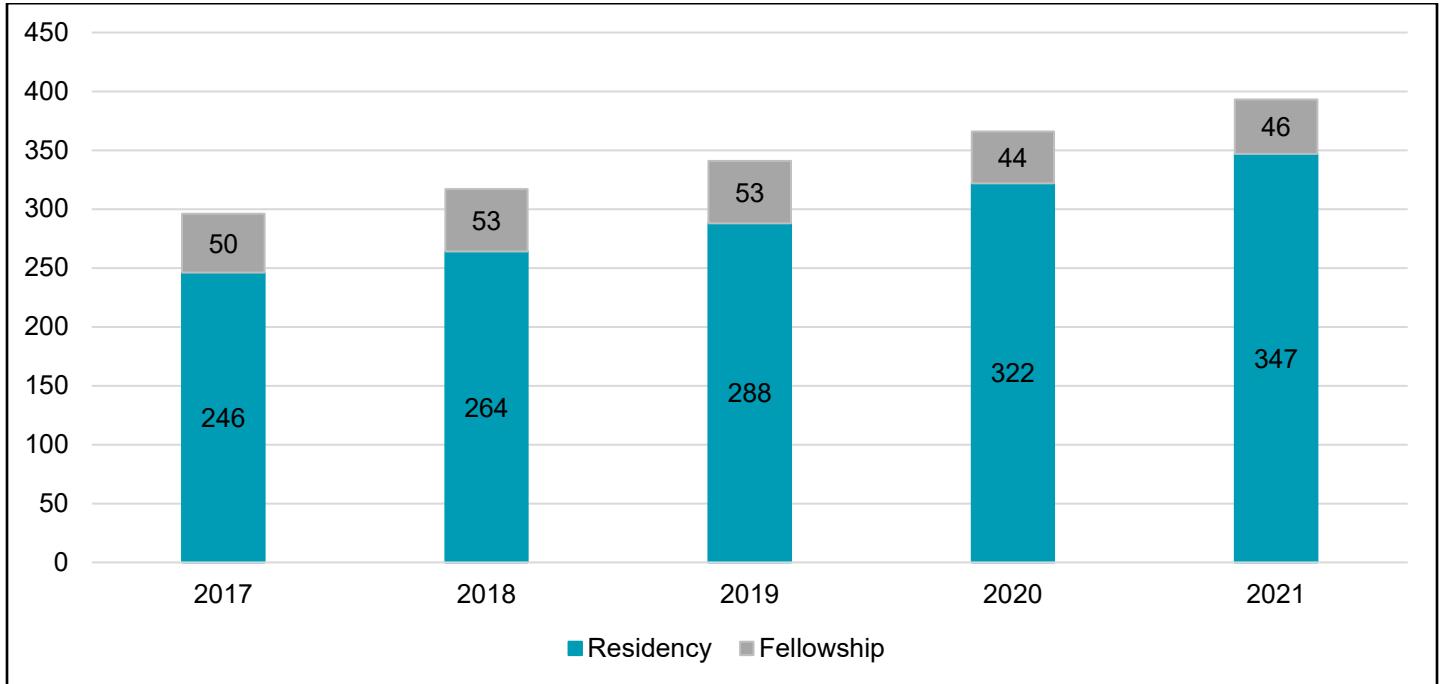


Figure 2. Number of Program Applications Filed

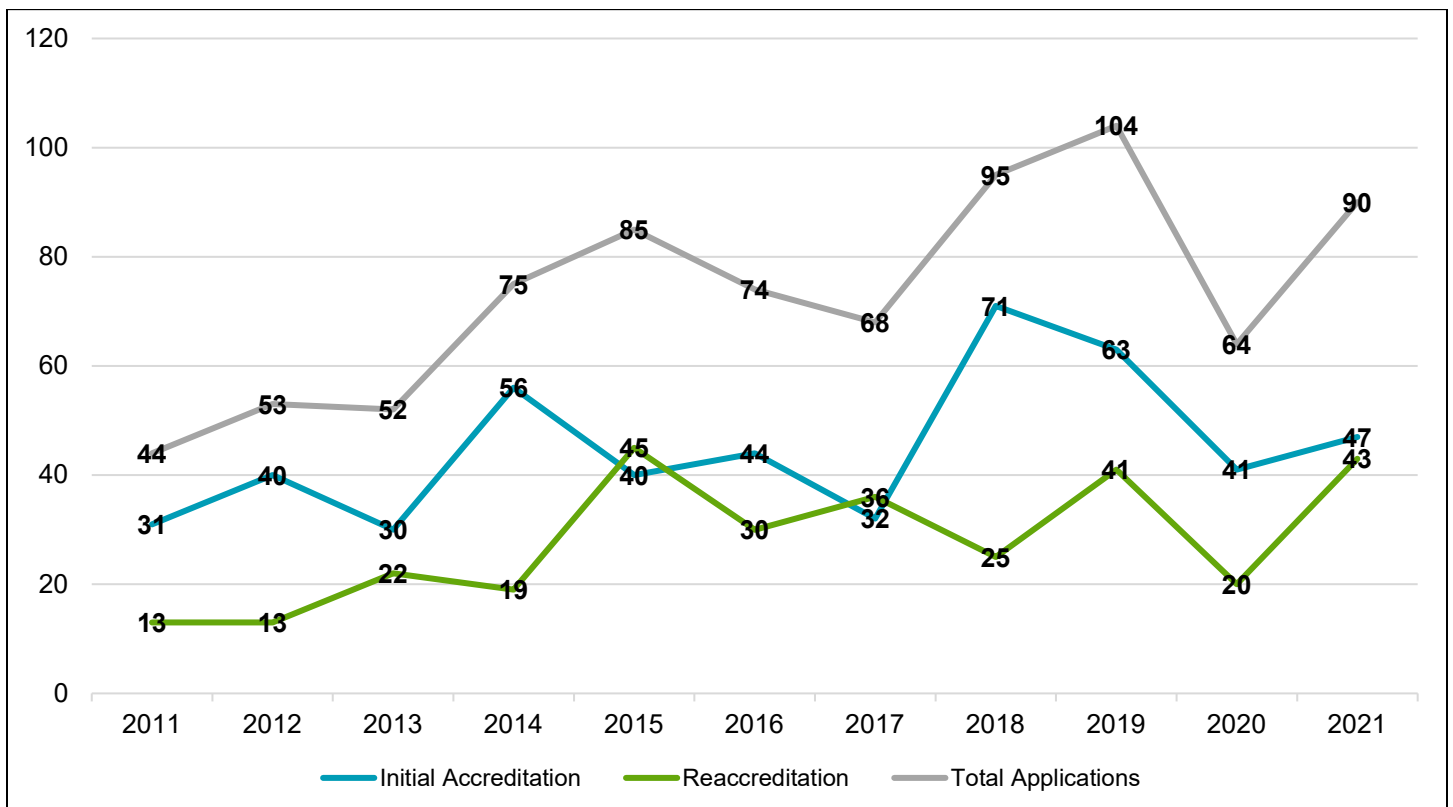
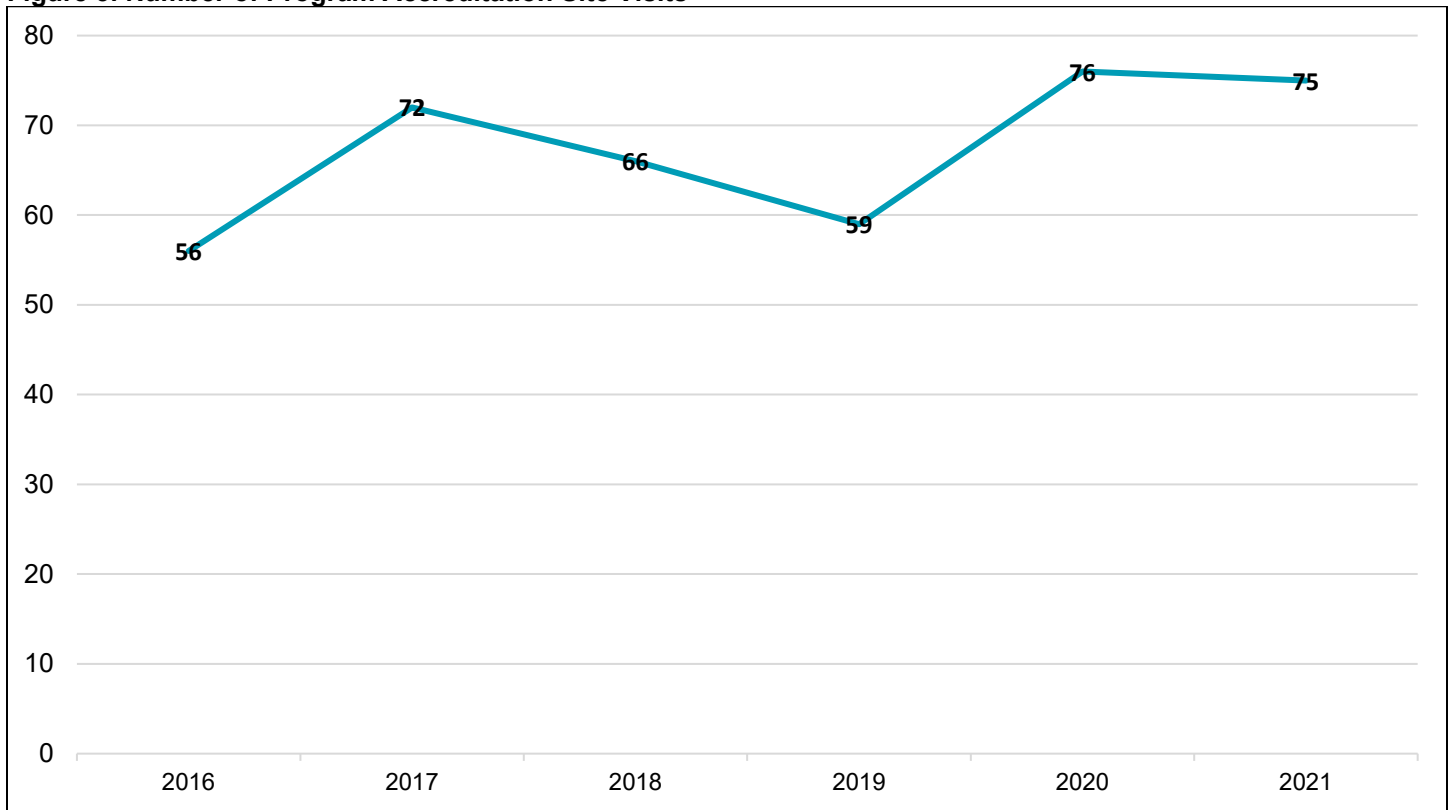


Figure 3. Number of Program Accreditation Site Visits



Distribution of Programs

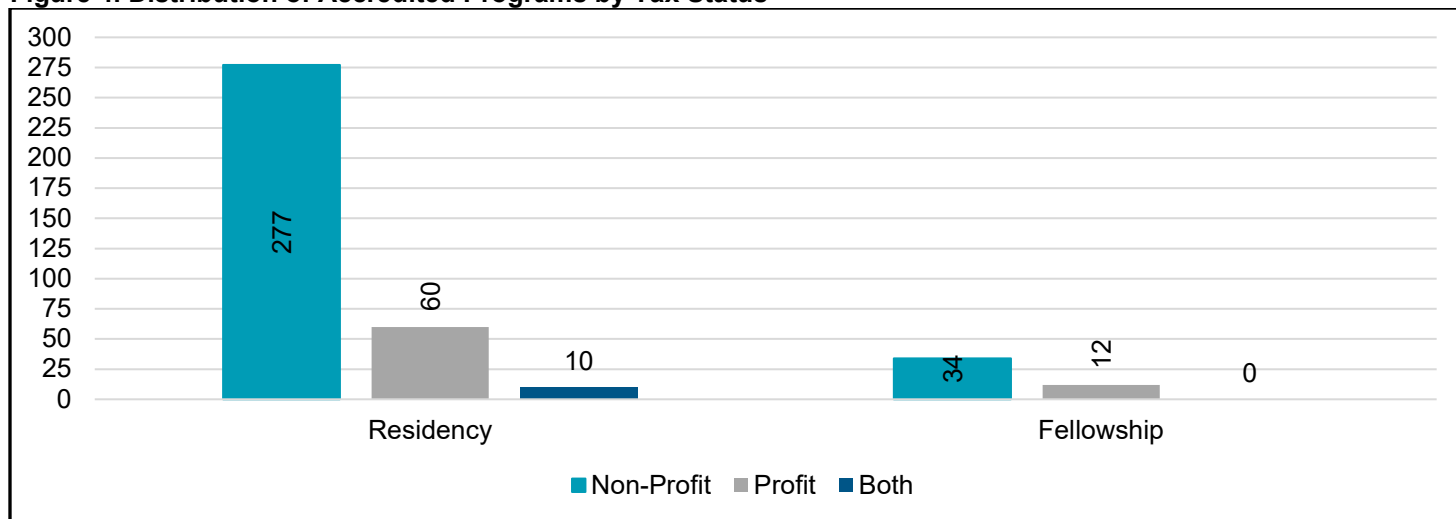
Table 1. Distribution of Accredited Programs by Geographical Region (as of Dec. 31, 2021)

	States	Residency	Fellowship
South Atlantic	DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, PR, SC, VA, WV	95	16
Middle Atlantic	NJ, NY, PA	43	5
East North Central	IL, IN, MI, OH, WI	56	7
West North Central	IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD	25	1
West South Central	AR, LA, OK, TX	30	4
New England	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	12	1
Pacific	AK, CA, HI, OR, WA	46	8
East South Central	AL, KY, MS, TN	17	1
Mountain	AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY	23	3
Total		347	46

Table 2. Distribution of Accredited Programs by Sponsoring Organization

2021 Classification	Residency	Fellowship
Academic Institution (postsecondary)	76	11
Health and Wellness Facility	0	0
Hospital/Healthcare System	170	21
Industry	0	0
Private Outpatient Office or Group Practice	37	6
Professional Continuing Education Provider	10	7
Research Center	0	0
School System (preschool/primary/secondary)	0	0
Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)/Long Term Care	3	0
Co-Sponsorship	51	1
Total	347	46

Figure 4. Distribution of Accredited Programs by Tax Status



Financing of Residency and Fellowship Education

Table 3. Salary, Tuition, and Fees of Accredited Programs

		Residency	Fellowship
Program Fees	Range	\$0-956	\$0-650
	Median	\$70	\$25
	Mean	\$224.90	\$233.33
	STDEV	\$255.23	\$360.84
Program Tuition	Range	\$0-34,884	\$0-17,200
	Median	\$7,000	\$8,940
	Mean	\$7,020.75	\$8,554.78
	STDEV	\$5,320.10	\$5,125.16
Program Salary	Range	\$0-96,493	\$0-100,000
	Median	\$51,490	\$57,950
	Mean	\$54,115.16	\$62,365.58
	STDEV	\$11,189.83	\$14,230.56
Percentage Salary to Comparable PT	Range	0-100%	0-100%
	Median	75%	83%
	Mean	77%	87%
	STDEV	14%	11%

Program Format and Length

Table 4. Format of Program

	Residency	Fellowship
Full-time	311 (95.4%)	28 (60.94%)
Part-time	11 (3.2%)	14 (30.4%)
Both	5 (1.4%)	4 (8.7%)

Table 5. Length of Program

		Residency	Fellowship
Number of months in full-time program	Range	11 – 24	11 – 36
	Mean	12.7	15.2
Number of months in part-time program	Range	12 – 36	12 – 36
	Mean	21.4	21.1

Outcomes

Figure 5. Annual Number of Graduates, 1999–2021

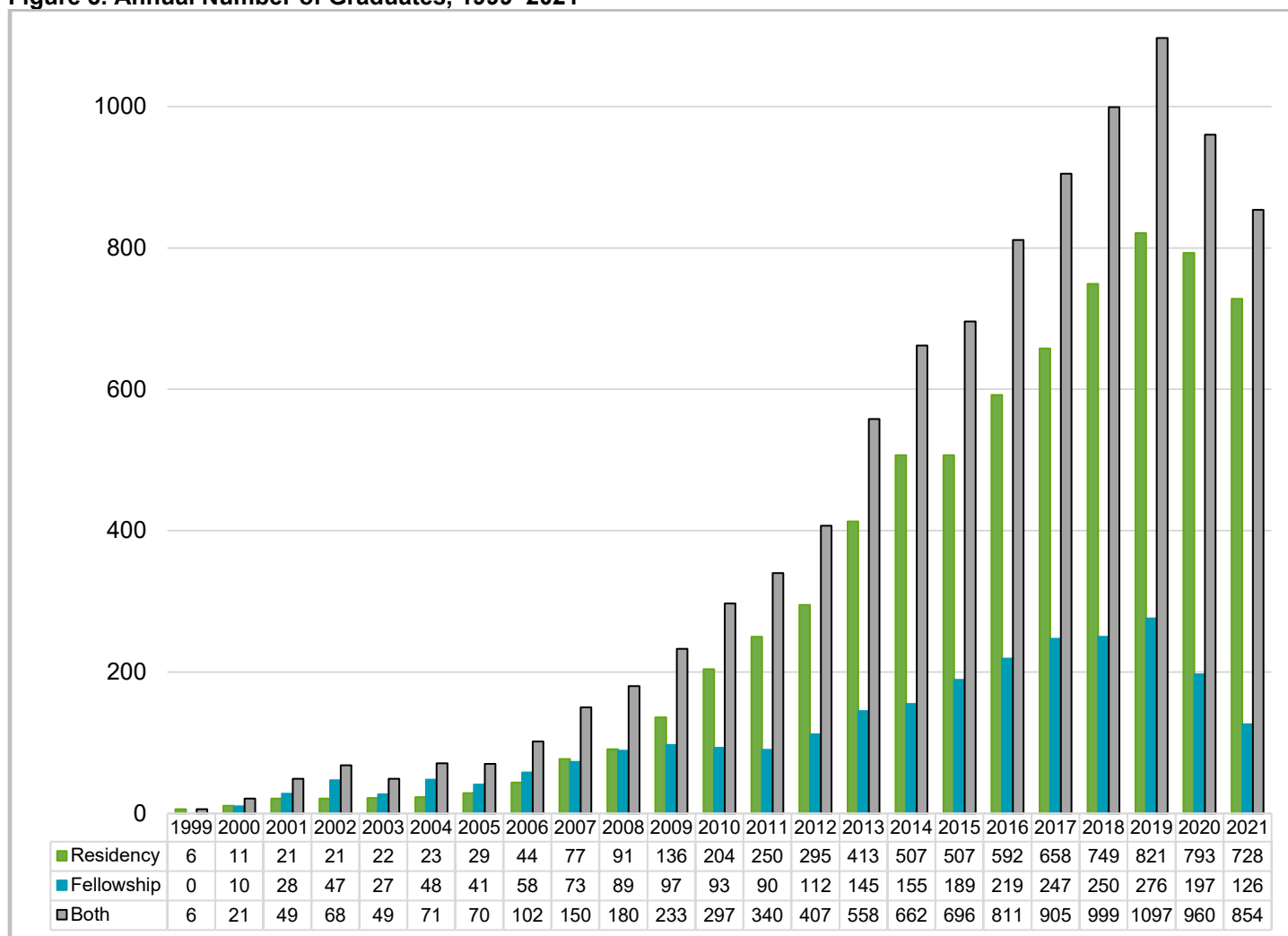


Table 6. Number of Residency Graduates by Practice Area

Practice Area	2021 Graduates	Total
Acute Care	11	33
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary	7	61
Clinical Electrophysiology	1	18
Faculty	4	11
Geriatrics	16	212
Neurology	82	774
Oncology	6	20
Orthopaedics	460	4,645
Pediatrics	29	259
Sports	89	826
Women's Health	22	131
Wound Management	1	8
Total Residents	728	6,998

Table 7. Number of Fellowship Graduates by Practice Area

Practice Area	2021 Graduates	Total
Critical Care	0	20
Hand	0	15
Higher Education Leadership	19	163
Movement System	1	108
Neonatology	4	22
Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy	86	2,144
Performing Arts	1	5
Spine	6	39
Sports Division 1	8	49
Upper Extremity Athlete	1	22
Total Fellows	126	2,587

Table 8. Race/Ethnicity of 2021 Graduates**

	Residency	Fellowship
	N=728	N=126
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	1 (0.8%)
Asian	57 (7.3%)	8 (6.3%)
Black or African American	22 (3.0%)	3 (2.4%)
Hispanic/Latino	45 (6.2%)	3 (2.4%)
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	4 (0.5%)	1 (0.8%)
White (Not Hispanic)	473 (65.0%)	84 (66.7%)
Other	7 (1.0%)	7 (5.6%)
Unknown	120 (16.5%)	19 (15.1%)

Table 9. Sex of 2021 Graduates**

	Residency	Fellowship
	N=728	N=126
Female	362 (49.7%)	51 (40.5%)
Male	304 (42.0%)	68 (54.0%)
Unknown	62 (8.5%)	7 (5.5%)

Table 10. Board Certification Examination Passing Rates for First-Time Test Takers

Examination Year	Non-residency Graduates* (direct patient care hours, "Option A")	Residency Graduates ("Option B")
2006	71%	75%
2007	71%	84%
2008	66%	82%
2009	66%	85%
2010	62%	78%
2011	67%	88%
2012	73%	91%
2013	72%	84%
2014	74%	91%
2015	74%	94%
2016	74%	86%
2017	77%	90%
2018	80%	91%
2019	81%	89%
2020	76%	92%
2021	77%	94%

*Some residency graduates may have applied under the direct patient care hour route.

Table 11. 2021 Board Certification Examination Passing Rates for First-Time Test Takers by Specialty Area

Specialty Area	Non-residency Graduates* (direct patient care hours, "Option A")	Residency Graduates ("Option B")
Cardiovascular & Pulmonary (7)	80%	86%
Clinical Electrophysiology (3)	60%	100%
Geriatrics (20)	90%	100%
Neurology (103)	84%	98%
Oncology (5)	78%	100%
Orthopaedics (438)	78%	91%
Pediatrics (27)	82%	89%
Sports (111)	60%	81%
Women's Health (14)	85%	100%

*Some residency graduates may have applied under the direct patient care hour route.

PARTICIPANT DATA

Residency Enrollment

Table 12. 2021 Enrollment by Area of Residency Practice

		Acute Care	Cardiovascular & Pulmonary	Clinical Electrophysiology	Faculty ^a	Geriatrics	Neurology	Oncology	Orthopaedics	Pediatrics	Sports	Women's Health	Wound Management
Accredited Programs	Total	10	9	2	2	22	63	5	132	26	60	15	1
Participant Positions	Total	15	14	46	4	38	128	7	793	41	151	24	2
	Range	1-2	1-2	2-44	N/A	1-6	1-6	1-3	1-100	1-7	1-25	1-4	N/A
	Mean	2	2	23	2	2	2	1	6	2	3	2	N/A
Participants Enrolled	Total	12	7	24	4	29	105	6	546	41	118	23	1
Female Participants Enrolled**	Total	9	3	5	4	17	72	5	239	34	36	22	0
	Mean	75.0%	42.9%	20.8%	100%	58.6%	68.6%	83.3%	43.8%	82.9%	30.5%	95.7%	N/A
Minority Participants Enrolled**	Total	4	2	7	1	1	15	1	87	8	24	6	0
	Mean	33.3%	28.6%	29.2%	25.0%	21.4%	14.3%	16.7%	15.9%	19.5%	20.3%	26.1%	N/A

^aNonclinical area of practice.

Table 13. Percentage of Participants Enrolled in Programs, by Race/Ethnicity (%)**

	Acute Care N = 12	Cardiovascular & Pulmonary N = 7	Clinical Electrophysiology N = 24	Faculty ^a N = 4	Geriatrics N = 29	Neurology N = 105	Oncology N=6	Orthopaedics N = 546	Pediatrics N = 41	Sports N = 118	Women's Health N = 18	Wound Management N = 1
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	1.7	14.3	12.5	0	0	3.8	0	7.7	9.8	13.4	0	0
Black or African American	0	0	4.2	25.0	0	3.8	16.7	1.8	0	7.6	17.4	0
Hispanic/Latino	1.7	14.3	12.5	0	3.4	5.7	0	5.9	9.8	9.3	8.7	0
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0
White	41.7	42.9	37.5	25.0	70.0	59.0	50.0	59.0	63.4	56.8	60.9	100.0
Other	0	0	0	25.0	0	2.9	0	3.5	0	1.7	0	0
Unknown	25	28.6	33.3	25.0	27.6	23.8	33.3	21.6	17.1	21.2	13.0	0

^aNonclinical area of practice.

Table 14. 2021 Enrollment by Sex**

	Female N=445	Male N=334	Unknown N=136
Acute Care	9	2	1
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary	3	3	1
Clinical Electrophysiology	5	11	8
Faculty	4	0	0
Geriatrics	17	9	3
Neurology	72	16	17
Oncology	5	0	1
Orthopaedics	239	222	85
Pediatrics	34	3	4
Sports	36	67	15
Women's Health	22	0	1
Wound Management	0	1	0

Fellowship Enrollment

Table 15. 2021 Enrollment by Area of Fellowship Practice

		Critical Care	Hand	Higher Education Leadership ^a	Movement System	Neonatology	Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy	Performing Arts	Spine	Sports Division 1	Upper Extremity Athlete
Accredited Programs	Total	1	0	1	2	4	25	3	3	4	3
Participant Positions	Total	2	N/A	24	10	5	207	3	8	9	3
	Range	N/A	N/A	N/A	4-6	1-2	1-40	N/A	1-5	1-6	N/A
	Mean	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	1	8	1	3	2	1
Participants Enrolled	Total	0	N/A	24	3	4	52	0	6	3	3
Female Participants Enrolled**	Total	0	N/A	12	2	3	19	0	1	1	0
	Mean	N/A	N/A	50.0%	66.7%	75.0%	36.5%	N/A	16.7%	33.3%	N/A
Minority Participants Enrolled**	Total	0	N/A	5	2	0	7	0	2	0	1
	Mean	N/A	N/A	20.8%	66.7	N/A	13.5%	N/A	33.3%	N/A	33.3%

^aNonclinical area of practice.

Table 16. Percentage of Participants Enrolled in Programs, by Race/Ethnicity (%)**

	Critical Care N=0	Hand N=0	Higher Education Leadership ^a N=24	Movement System N=3	Neonatology N=4	Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy N=52	Performing Arts N=0	Spine N=6	Sports Division 1 N=3	Upper Extremity Athlete N=3
American Indian / Alaskan Native	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Asian	N/A	N/A	8.3	33.3	0	5.8	N/A	0	0	0
Black or African American	N/A	N/A	12.5	0	0	3.8	N/A	0	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	N/A	N/A	0	33.3	0	3.8	N/A	16.7	0	33.3
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	N/A	16.7	0	0
White	N/A	N/A	83.3	0	75.0	75.0	N/A	50.0	66.7	66.7
Other	N/A	N/A	0	33.3	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Unknown	N/A	N/A	0	0	25.0	11.5	N/A	16.7	33.3	0

^aNonclinical area of practice.

Table 17. 2021 Enrollment by Sex**

	Female N=38	Male N=53	Unknown N=4
Critical Care	0	0	0
Hand	0	0	0
Higher Education Leadership	12	12	0
Movement System	2	1	0
Neonatology	3	0	1
Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy	19	31	2
Performing Arts	2	0	0
Spine	1	5	0
Sports Division 1	1	1	1
Upper Extremity Athlete	0	3	0