

# Aggregate Program Data

---

2023 Physical Therapist Residency and Fellowship  
Education Programs Fact Sheet

# 2023 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 2023 Annual Continuous Improvement Report, completed January 2024 by accredited programs (including data corrections from previous year annual reports)
- 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 2023. 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](mailto:resfel@apta.org)

## Table of Contents

THE AVERAGE PHYSICAL THERAPIST RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.....	3
PROGRAM DATA .....	5
Numbers of Programs .....	5
Distribution of Programs.....	7
Financing of Residency and Fellowship Education.....	8
Program Format and Length.....	8
Outcomes/Graduate Data .....	9
PARTICIPANT DATA.....	12
Residency Admissions .....	12
Fellowship Admissions.....	14

# The Average Physical Therapist Residency and Fellowship Program 2023

	Residency	Fellowship
Total Accredited Programs	412	48
Type of Sponsoring Organization (% of Total Programs)	Hospital/Healthcare System	
	52.2%	43.8%
Tax Status (% of Total Program)	Non-Profit	
	69.2%	68.8%
Largest Geographic Location (% of Total Programs)	South Atlantic	
	27.7%	33.3%
Top 3 States (States with Highest % of Total Programs)	CA, FL, TX	CA, NY, NC/TX
Financials	Residency	Fellowship
Charge Tuition (% of Total Programs)	114 (27.7%)	21 (43.8%)
Tuition Amount (Mean)	\$7,850.42	\$7,725.14
Charge Fees (% of Total Programs)	54 (13.1%)	2 (4.2%)
Fee Amount (Mean)	\$249.35	\$350.00
Provide Salary (% of Total Programs)	382 (92.7%)	36 (75.0%)
Salary Amount (Mean)	\$57,669.98	\$66,625.97
% Salary Compared to a Comparable PT (Mean)	79%	83%
Program Format	Residency	Fellowship
Part-time Format (% of Total Programs)	6 (1.5%)	9 (18.8%)
Full-time Format (% of Total Programs)	399 (96.8%)	32 (66.7%)
Both Part-time and Full-time Format (% of Total Programs)	7 (1.7%)	7 (14.6%)
Length of Part-time program in months (Mean)	26.3	23.3
Length of Full-time program in months (Mean)	12.7	13.9
Enrollment	Residency	Fellowship
Number of Participant Positions*	1531	272
Total Participants Enrolled	1055	108
Percent Identified as Female Enrolled**	49.5%	32.4%
Percent Identified as Racial/Ethnic Minority Enrolled**	20.4%	25.0%
Percent APTA Members	78.7%	85.2%
Outcomes	Residency	Fellowship
Graduation Rate (Mean)	941 (95.0%)	104 (90.4%)
Dropped Out of Program (Mean)	48 (4.8%)	9 (7.8%)
Failed/Terminated Program (Mean)	6 (0.6%)	2 (1.7%)
Percent Graduates Identified as Racial/Ethnic Minority** (Mean)	18.3%	18.3%
Board Certification Pass Rate, First Time Takers	93% (Residency Graduate)	85% (Non-residency graduate)
Curriculum (Mean)	Residency	Fellowship
Program Type		
Single-site	71 (17.2%)	11 (22.9%)
Multi-facility	222 (53.9%)	16 (33.3%)
Multi-site	119 (28.9%)	21 (43.8%)
Format of Educational Hours		
In-person	79 (19.2%)	13 (27.1%)
Remote	6 (1.5%)	0
Hybrid (both in-person and remote)	327 (79.4%)	35 (85.4%)

	Residency	Fellowship
<b>Affiliated Practice Site Location</b>		
Close Geographic to Program's Main Address	342 (83.0%)	31 (65.6%)
Distant Geographic to Program's Main Address	8 (1.9%)	5 (10.4%)
Both Close and Distant Geographic	62 (15.0%)	12 (25.0%)
<b>Mentor Appointment</b>		
Mentors Identified by Program	403 (97.8%)	45 (93.8%)
Mentors Identified by Participant	9 (2.2%)	3 (6.3%)
<b>Mentor Accessibility</b>		
On-Site	219 (53.2%)	17 (35.4%)
Off-Site	0	0
Both On-site and Off-Site	193 (46.8%)	31 (65.6%)

\*These numbers reflect the maximum number of participants programs are accredited to enroll and not do not reflect intentional temporary reductions in enrollment programs have made (e.g., temporary program inactive status, reductions due to program modifications, etc.).

\*\*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.

# PROGRAM DATA

## Numbers of Programs

Figure 1. Number of Accredited Programs

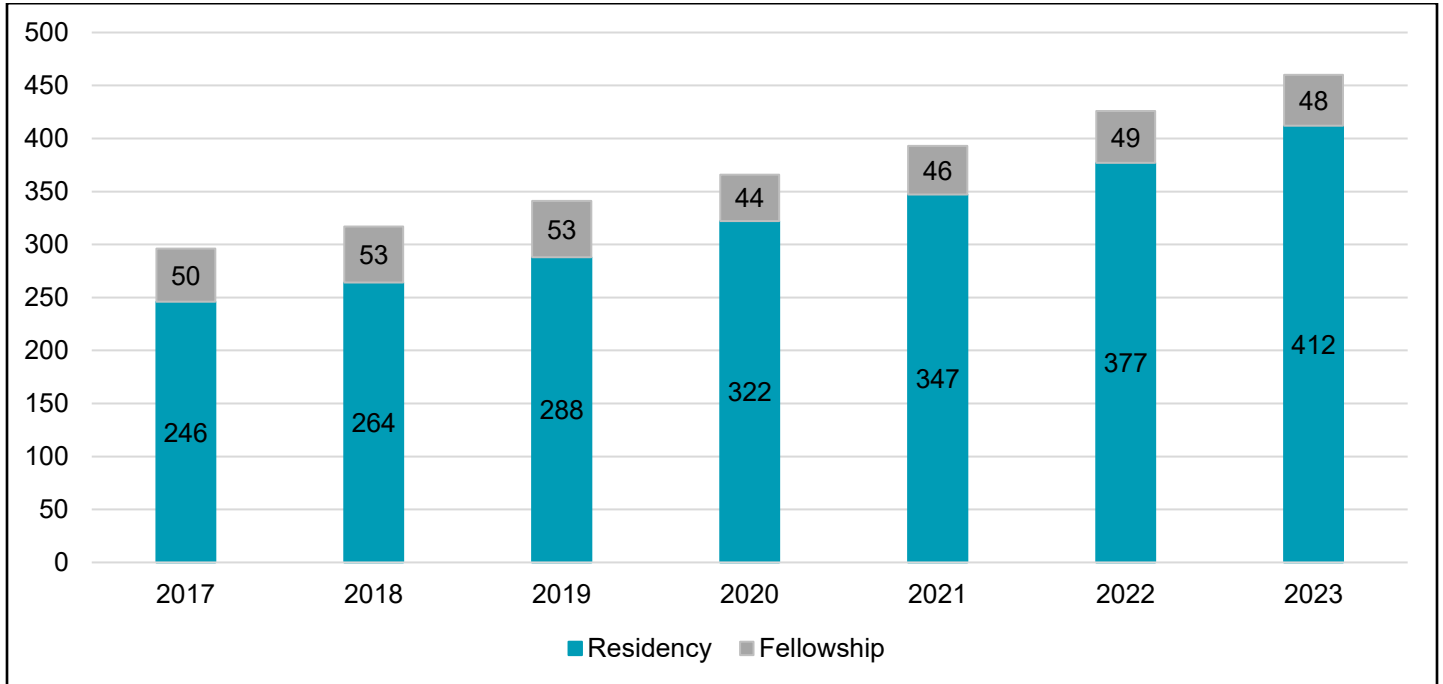


Figure 2. Number of Program Applications Filed

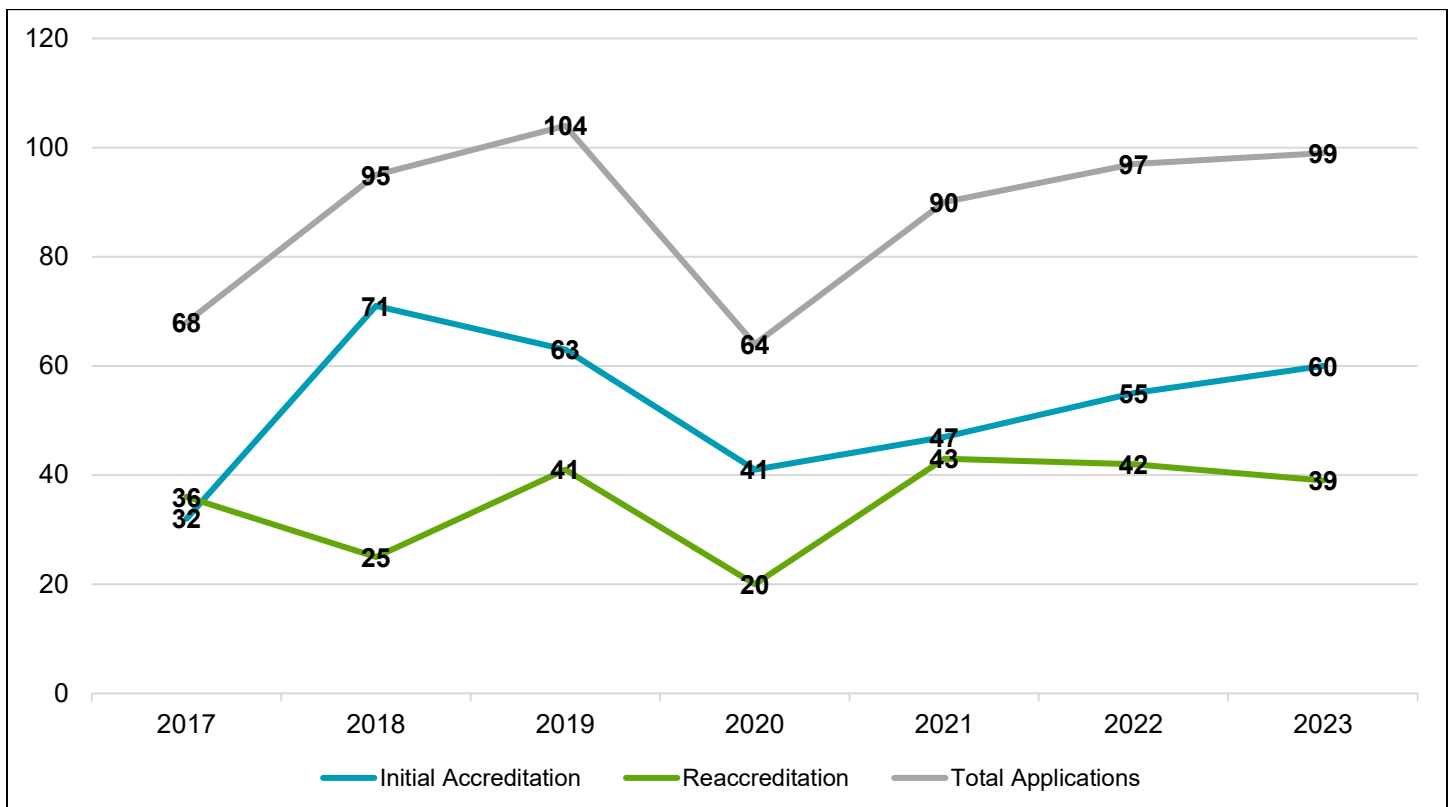
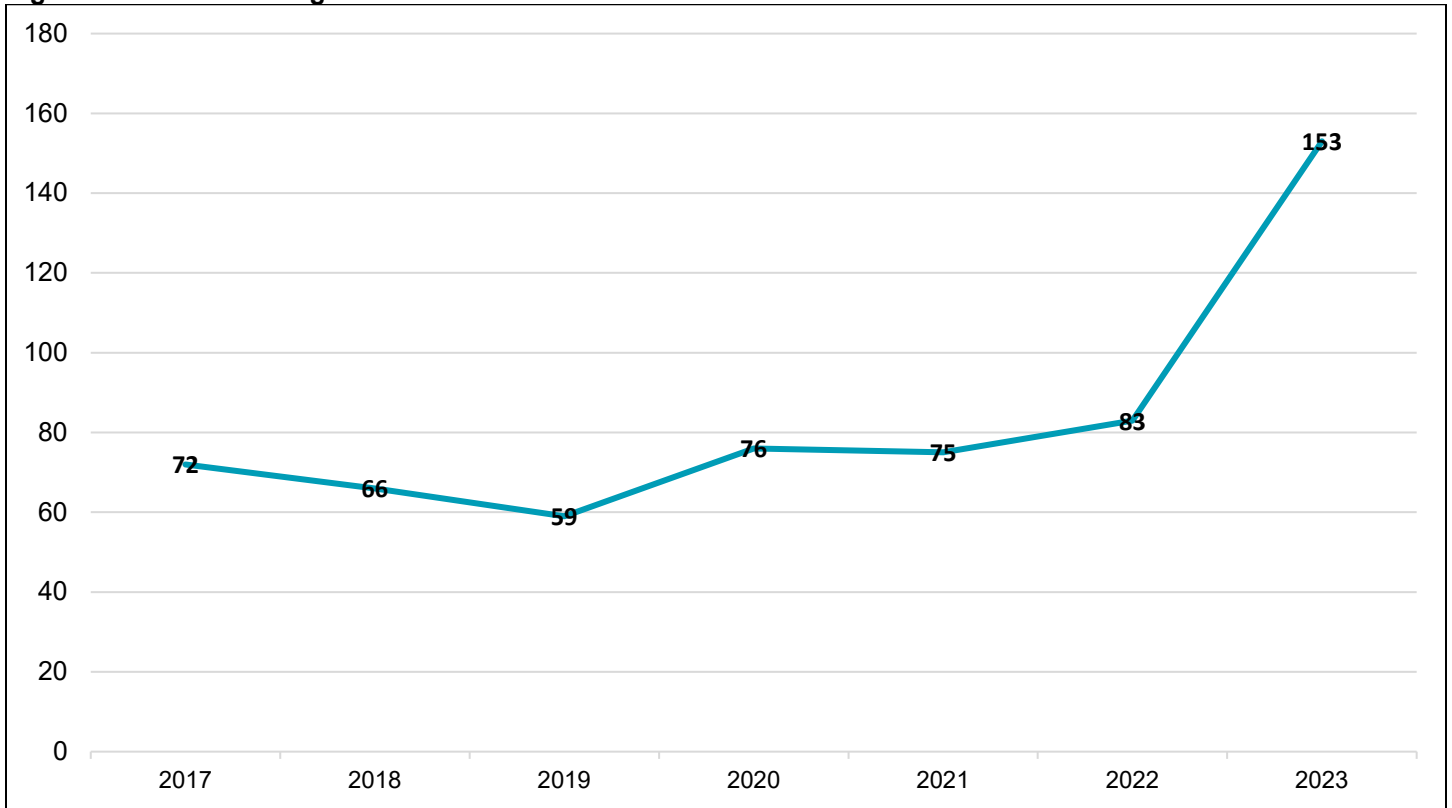


Figure 3. Number of Program Accreditation Site Visits



**Distribution of Programs**

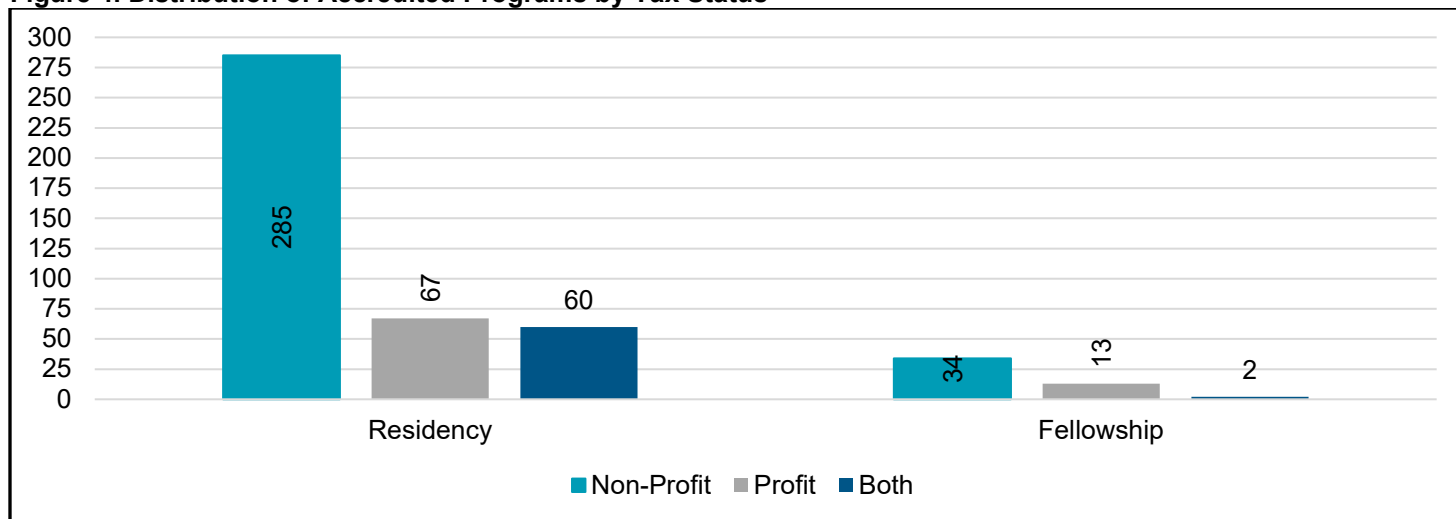
**Table 1. Distribution of Accredited Programs by Geographical Region (as of Dec. 31, 2023)**

	States	Residency	Fellowship
South Atlantic	DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, PR, SC, VA, WV	114	16
Middle Atlantic	NJ, NY, PA	41	7
East North Central	IL, IN, MI, OH, WI	68	5
West North Central	IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD	31	0
West South Central	AR, LA, OK, TX	40	4
New England	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	17	1
Pacific	AK, CA, HI, OR, WA	51	10
East South Central	AL, KY, MS, TN	19	1
Mountain	AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY	31	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>412</b>	<b>48</b>

**Table 2. Distribution of Accredited Programs by Sponsoring Organization**

2022 Classification	Residency	Fellowship
Academic Institution (postsecondary)	82	11
Health and Wellness Facility	0	0
Hospital/Healthcare System	215	21
Industry	0	0
Private Outpatient Office or Group Practice	43	7
Professional Continuing Education Provider	10	7
Research Center	0	0
School System (preschool/primary/secondary)	0	0
Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)/Long Term Care	2	0
Co-Sponsorship	60	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>48</b>

**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	\$0-1,000	\$0-650
	Median	\$150	\$350
	Mean	\$249.35	\$350
	STDEV	\$252.52	\$424.26
Program Tuition	Range	\$0-88,641	\$0-16,500
	Median	\$6,000	\$7,000
	Mean	\$7,850.42	\$7,725.14
	STDEV	\$9,699.21	\$4,808.45
Program Salary	Range	\$0-97,760	\$0-115,000
	Median	\$55,000	\$62,200
	Mean	\$57,669.98	\$66,625.97
	STDEV	\$11,195.14	\$18,634.90
Percentage Salary to Comparable PT	Range	0-100%	0-100%
	Median	75%	80%
	Mean	79.0%	82.9%
	STDEV	13.0%	16.8%

**Program Format and Length**

**Table 4. Format of Program**

	Residency	Fellowship
Full-time	399 (96.8%)	32 (66.7%)
Part-time	6 (1.5%)	9 (18.8%)
Both	7 (1.7%)	7 (14.6%)

**Table 5. Length of Program**

		Residency	Fellowship
Number of months in full-time program	Range	11 – 24	10 – 36
	Mean	12.7	13.9
Number of months in part-time program	Range	12 – 60	12 – 36
	Mean	26.3	23.3

Outcomes

Figure 5. Annual Number of Graduates, 1999–2023

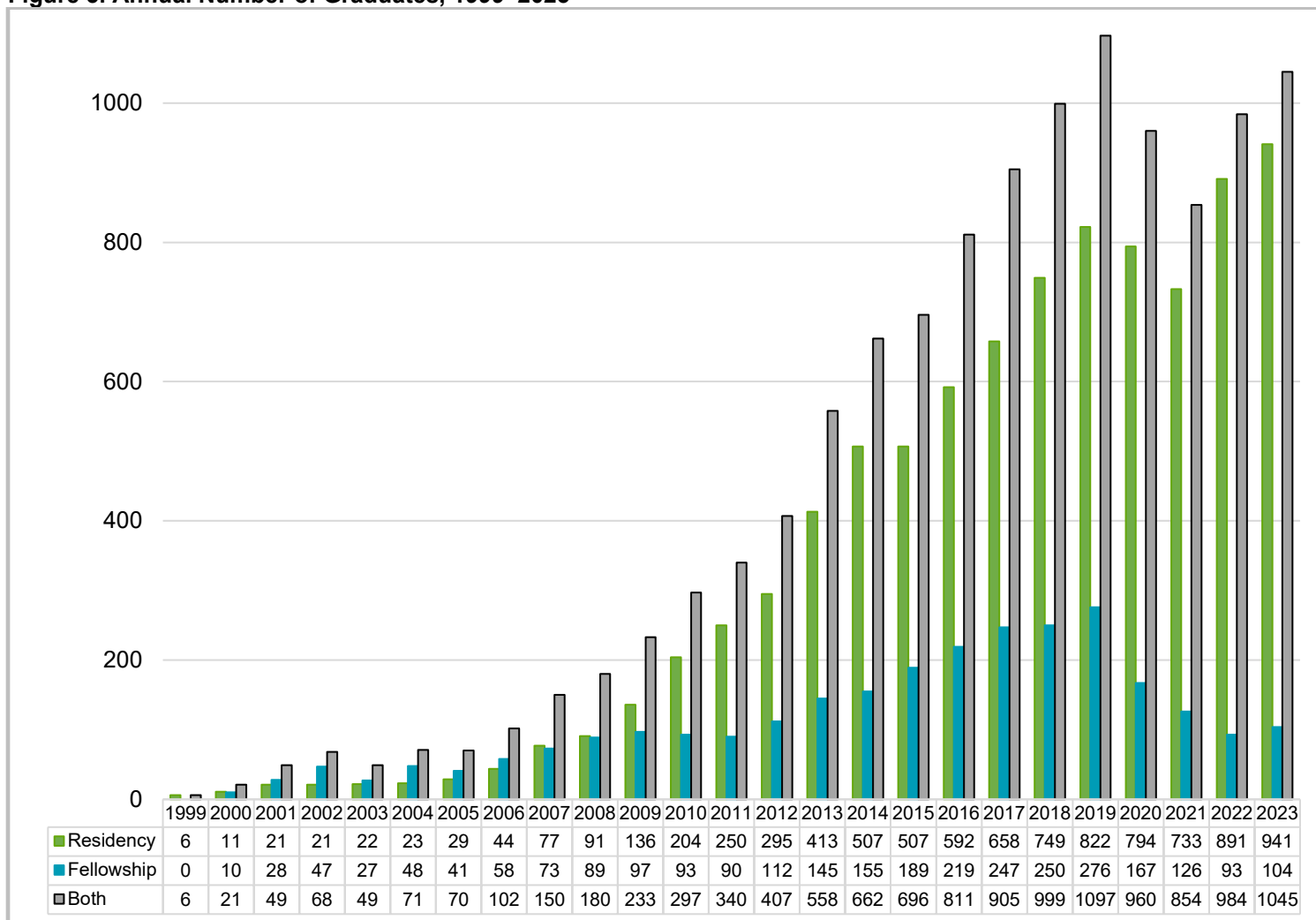


Table 6. Number of Residency Graduates by Practice Area

Practice Area	2023 Graduates	Total
Acute Care	17	62
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary	11	78
Clinical Electrophysiology	16	48
Faculty	6	19
Geriatrics	21	257
Neurology	110	990
Oncology	6	32
Orthopaedics	540	5,716
Pediatrics	36	336
Sports	142	1,101
Women's Health	35	194
Wound Management	1	10
<b>Total Residents</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>8,843</b>

**Table 7. Number of Fellowship Graduates by Practice Area**

Practice Area	2023 Graduates	Total
Critical Care	0	20
Hand	0	15
Higher Education Leadership	30	215
Movement System (no longer recognized)	N/A	108
Neonatology	3	29
Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy	46	2,240
Performing Arts	0	6
Spine	8	55
Sports Division 1	12	65
Upper Extremity Athlete	5	32
<b>Total Fellows</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2,785</b>

**Table 8. Race/Ethnicity of 2023 Graduates\*\***

	Residency	Fellowship
	N=941	N=104
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	75 (8.0%)	5 (4.8%)
Black or African American	40 (4.3%)	8 (7.7%)
Hispanic/Latino	51 (5.4%)	6 (5.8%)
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	6 (0.6%)	0
White (Not Hispanic)	585 (62.2%)	69 (66.3%)
Other	18 (1.9%)	0
Unknown	166 (17.5%)	15 (14.4%)

**Table 9. Sex of 2023 Graduates\*\***

	Residency	Fellowship
	N=941	N=104
Female	475 (50.1%)	35 (33.7%)
Male	378 (40.2%)	60 (57.7%)
Unknown	88 (9.4%)	9 (8.7%)

**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%
2022	75%	87%
2023	85%	93%

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

**Table 11. 2023 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 (8)	81%	100%
Clinical Electrophysiology (8)	89%	78%
Geriatrics (15)	88%	100%
Neurology (80)	92%	99%
Oncology (5)	76%	80%
Orthopaedics (405)	86%	93%
Pediatrics (28)	87%	88%
Sports (102)	65%	86%
Women's Health (19)	81%	100%
Wound Management (0)	92%	N/A

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

# PARTICIPANT DATA

## Residency Enrollment

**Table 12. 2023 Enrollment by Area of Residency Practice**

		Acute Care	Cardiovascular & Pulmonary	Clinical Electrophysiology	Faculty <sup>a</sup>	Geriatrics	Neurology	Oncology	Orthopaedics	Pediatrics	Sports	Women's Health	Wound Management
Accredited Programs	Total	16	12	2	3	22	73	6	156	30	73	18	1
Participant Positions	Total	22	16	47	9	42	150	8	958	47	196	34	2
	Range	1-2	1-2	3-44	2-5	1-4	1-6	1-2	1-130	1-7	1-40	1-4	N/A
	Mean	1	1	24	3	2	2	1	6	2	3	2	N/A
Participants Enrolled	Total	16	1	4	5	18	127	9	611	40	177	35	2
Female Participants Enrolled**	Total	10	7	1	3	10	88	7	271	32	63	28	2
	Mean	62.5%	63.6%	25.0%	60.0%	55.6%	69.3%	77.8%	44.4%	80.0%	35.6%	80.0%	100%
Minority Participants Enrolled**	Total	2	2	0	0	1	17	2	137	6	38	10	0
	Mean	12.5%	18.2%	N/A	N/A	5.6%	13.4%	22.2%	22.4%	15.0%	21.5%	28.6%	N/A

<sup>a</sup>Non-clinical area of practice.

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

	Acute Care N = 16	Cardiovascular & Pulmonary N = 11	Clinical Electrophysiology N = 4	Faculty <sup>a</sup> N = 5	Geriatrics N = 18	Neurology N = 127	Oncology N=9	Orthopaedics N = 611	Pediatrics N = 40	Sports N = 177	Women's Health N = 35	Wound Management N = 2
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	0.2	0	0	2.9	0
Asian	12.5	0	0	0	0	5.5	22.2	11.0	7.5	7.9	5.7	50.0
Black or African American	0	9.1	0	0	0	3.1	0	3.8	2.5	6.2	8.6	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	9.1	0	0	0	4.7	0	7.4	5.0	6.8	11.4	0
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0.6	0	0
White	56.3	63.6	50.0	100.0	66.7	66.9	66.7	57.8	70.0	57.6	42.9	50.0
Other	0	18.2	25.0	0	5.6	3.1	0	3.3	0	2.8	2.9	0
Unknown	31.3	0	25.0	0	22.2	16.5	11.1	16.5	15.0	18.1	25.7	0

<sup>a</sup>Non-clinical area of practice.

**Table 14. 2023 Enrollment by Sex\*\***

	Female N=522	Male N=430	Unknown N=103
Acute Care	10	1	5
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary	7	4	0
Clinical Electrophysiology	1	3	0
Faculty	3	2	0
Geriatrics	10	4	4
Neurology	88	28	11
Oncology	7	2	0
Orthopaedics	271	292	48
Pediatrics	32	4	4
Sports	63	90	24
Women's Health	28	0	7
Wound Management	2	0	0

**Fellowship Enrollment**

**Table 15. 2023 Enrollment by Area of Fellowship Practice**

		Critical Care	Hand	Higher Education Leadership <sup>a</sup>	Neonatology	Neurologic Movement Disorders	Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy	Performing Arts	Spine	Sports Division 1	Upper Extremity Athlete
Accredited Programs	Total	1	0	1	4	0	25	3	4	5	5
Participant Positions	Total	0	N/A	32	5	0	198	3	16	11	7
	Range	N/A	N/A	N/A	1-2	N/A	1-40	1	1-6	1-6	1-2
	Mean	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	8	1	4	2	1
Participants Enrolled	Total	0	N/A	21	2	2 <sup>b</sup>	60	1	9	8	5
Female Participants Enrolled**	Total	0	N/A	10	2	1	10	1	1	2	0
	Mean	N/A	N/A	47.6%	100%	50.0%	30.0%	100%	11.1%	25.0%	N/A
Minority Participants Enrolled**	Total	0	N/A	4	0	0	16	0	6	1	0
	Mean	N/A	N/A	19.0%	N/A	N/A	26.7%	N/A	66.7%	12.5%	N/A

<sup>a</sup>Non-clinical area of practice.

<sup>b</sup>Program granted accreditation in 2024.

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

	Critical Care N=0	Hand N=0	Higher Education Leadership <sup>a</sup> N=21	Neonatology N=2	Neurologic Movement Disorders N=2	Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy N=60	Performing Arts N=1	Spine N=9	Sports Division 1 N=8	Upper Extremity Athlete N=5
American Indian / Alaskan Native	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	N/A	N/A	19.0	0	0	13.3	0	44.4	0	0
Black or African American	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	3.3	0	0	12.5	0
Hispanic/Latino	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	10.0	0	11.1	0	0
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	11.1	0	0
White	N/A	N/A	76.2	100.0	100.0	65.0	100.0	22.2	75.0	80.0
Other	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	N/A	N/A	4.8	0	0	8.3	0	11.1	12.5	20.0

<sup>a</sup>Non-clinical area of practice.

**Table 17. 2023 Enrollment by Sex\*\***

	Female N=35	Male N=70	Unknown N=3
Critical Care	0	0	0
Hand	0	0	0
Higher Education Leadership	10	10	1
Movement System	0	0	0
Neonatology	2	0	0
Neurologic Movement Disorders	1	1	0
Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy	18	41	1
Performing Arts	1	0	0
Spine	1	8	0
Sports Division 1	2	6	0
Upper Extremity Athlete	0	4	1