

APTA Specialist Certification

Governed by **ABPTS**

Aggregate Program Data

2024 APTA Specialist Certification Program Fact Sheet





Aggregate Program Data

Introduction

This fact sheet is designed to provide the education community with current and historical information about the specialist certification program of the American Physical Therapy Association, governed by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. The data included in this fact sheet is taken from application submissions from initial certification and recertification candidates. All data presented reflect program data as of December 31, 2024.

Published July 2026

Last Updated July 30, 2026

This publication is only available online. To download, view, and print the report as a PDF file, go to ABPTS Resource Documents.

[ABPTS Home Page](#)

[ABPTS Resource Documents](#)

CONTACT:

[Ian Hunter](#)

Table of Contents

Initial Certification Program Data	1
2024 Exam Application Demographic Profile	7
2024 Certification Exam Results	10
Recertification/Maintenance of Specialist Certification Program Data.....	11

Glossary

The following terms are provided to support interpretation of data presented in this report. For additional definitions, refer to the [APTA Master Glossary of Terms Related to Certification and Assessment](#).

Aggregate Data

Data compiled from multiple candidates, specialties, or reporting periods and presented in summary form.

Application (Total Applications)

The number of submitted applications for specialist certification within a given exam year; may exceed the number of unique applicants.

Eligibility Assessment Pathways

The routes through which candidates qualify to sit for a specialist certification exam:

- **Option A – Direct Patient Care Hours:** Qualification based on completion of required hours of direct patient care in a specialty area.
- **Option B – Residency Completion:** Qualification based on successful completion of an accredited ABPTRFE residency program.

Exam Year

The designated year in which the certification examination is administered, which may differ from the calendar year of application submission or data reporting.

Maintenance of Specialist Certification (MOSC)

The process by which board-certified specialists maintain their certification through ongoing professional development and periodic assessment.

MOSC Learning Plan

A structured plan submitted by certified specialists outlining professional development activities completed in a three-year cycle, as part of the MOSC process.

Newly Certified Specialist

An individual who has successfully passed a specialist certification examination and earned board certification during the exam year.

Passing Rate

The percentage of examinees who achieve a passing score on a certification or recertification assessment; may be reported for specific subgroups (e.g., first-time examinees, residency-trained candidates).

Residency Examinee / Non-Residency Examinee

Categories used to distinguish candidates based on whether eligibility was achieved through completion of a residency program or through direct patient care experience.

Unknown (Data Category)

A designation used in demographic or employment tables when information is not reported or unavailable for a given respondent.

Year 10 Knowledge Review

A recertification assessment completed by specialists at the end of their certification cycle to demonstrate continued competence in their specialty area.

Initial Certification Program Data

Application Numbers

Figure 1. Number of Applications by Exam Year Across All Ten Specialties

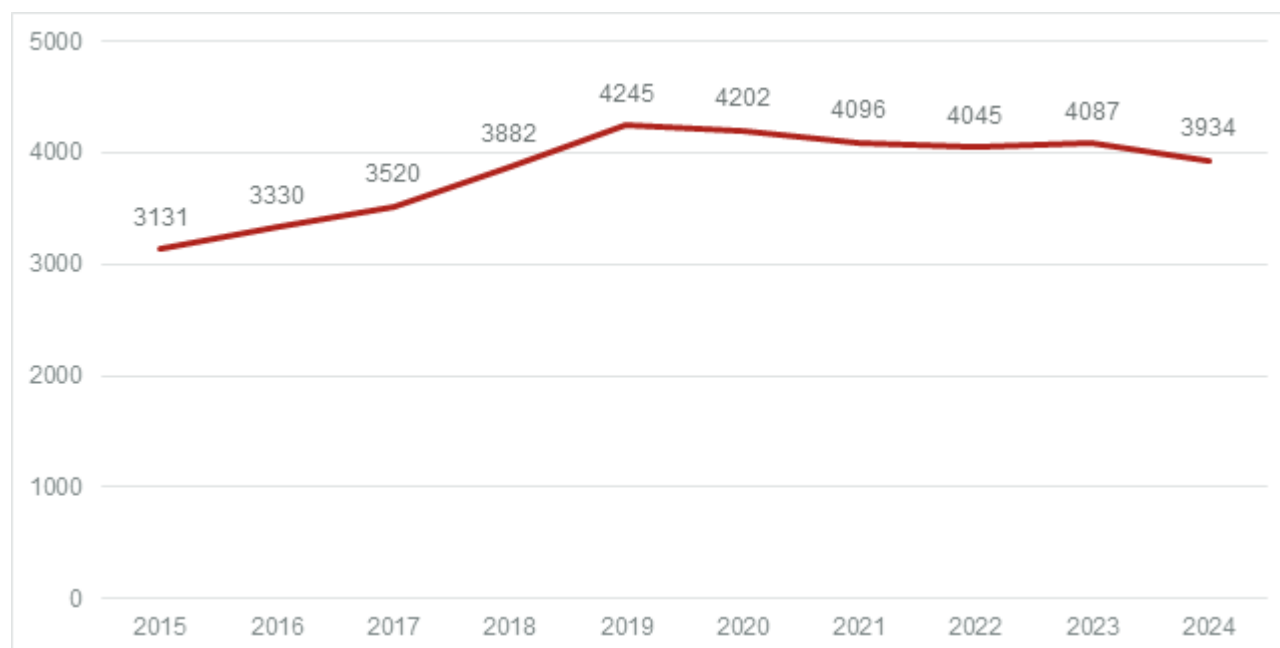


Figure 2. Eligibility Assessment Path by Exam Year Across All Ten Specialties

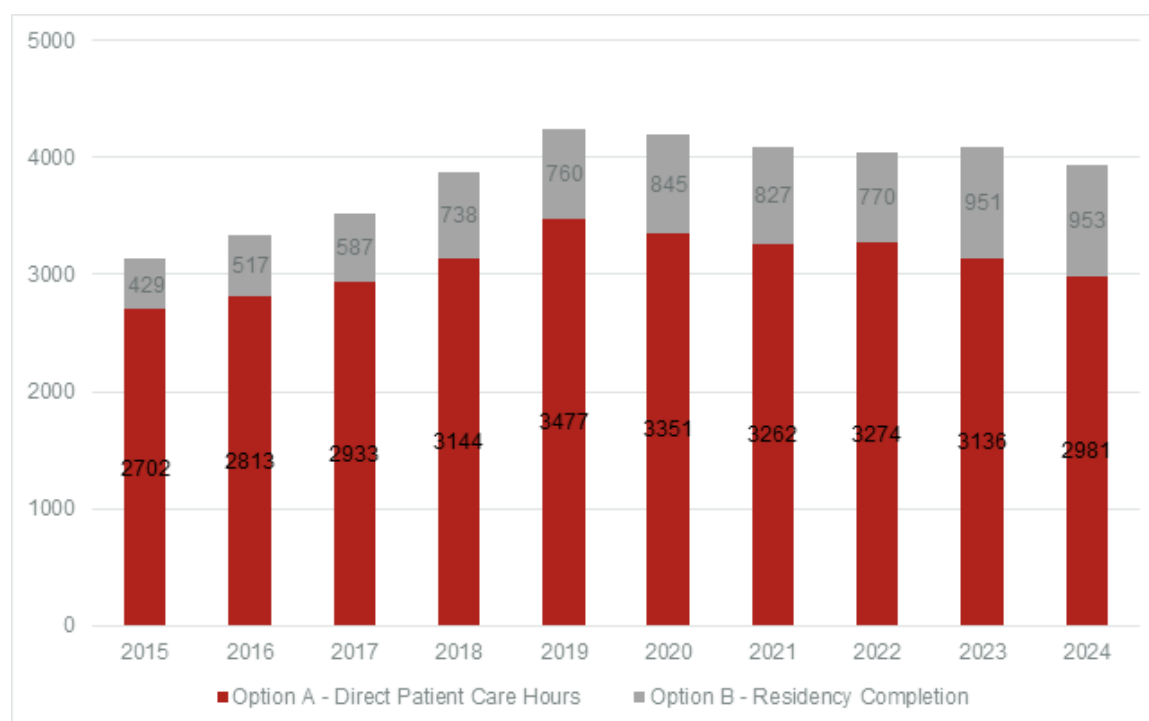


Figure 3. Number of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Specialty Applications by Exam Year

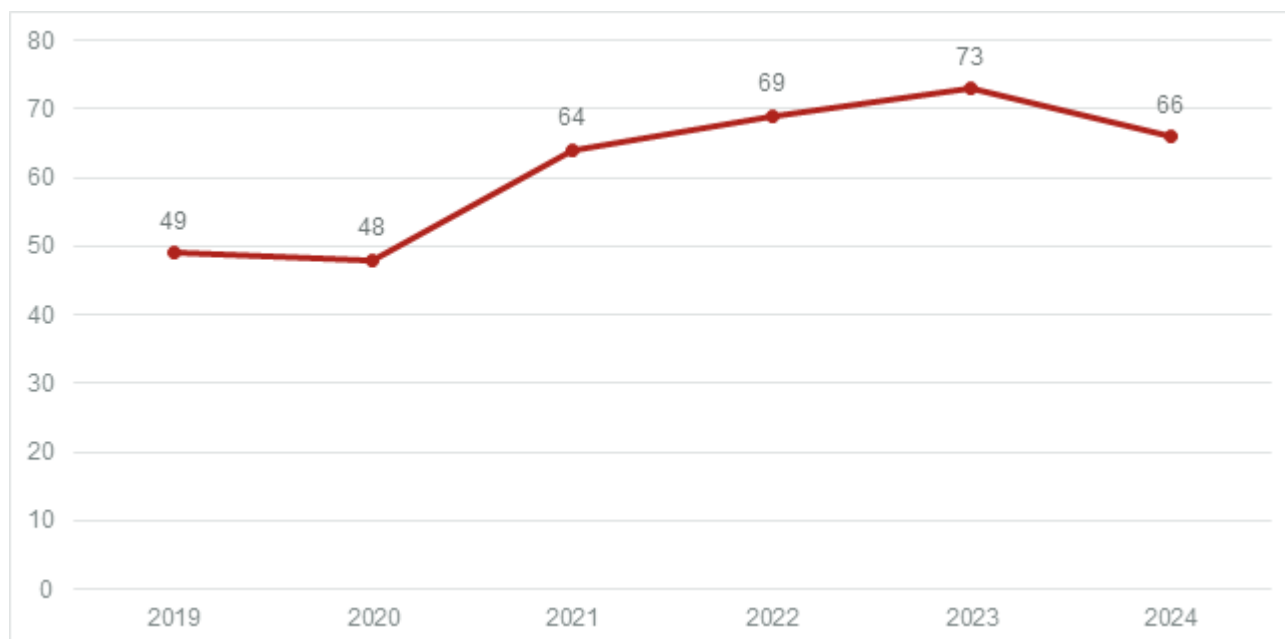


Figure 4. Number of Clinical Electrophysiology Specialty Applications by Exam Year

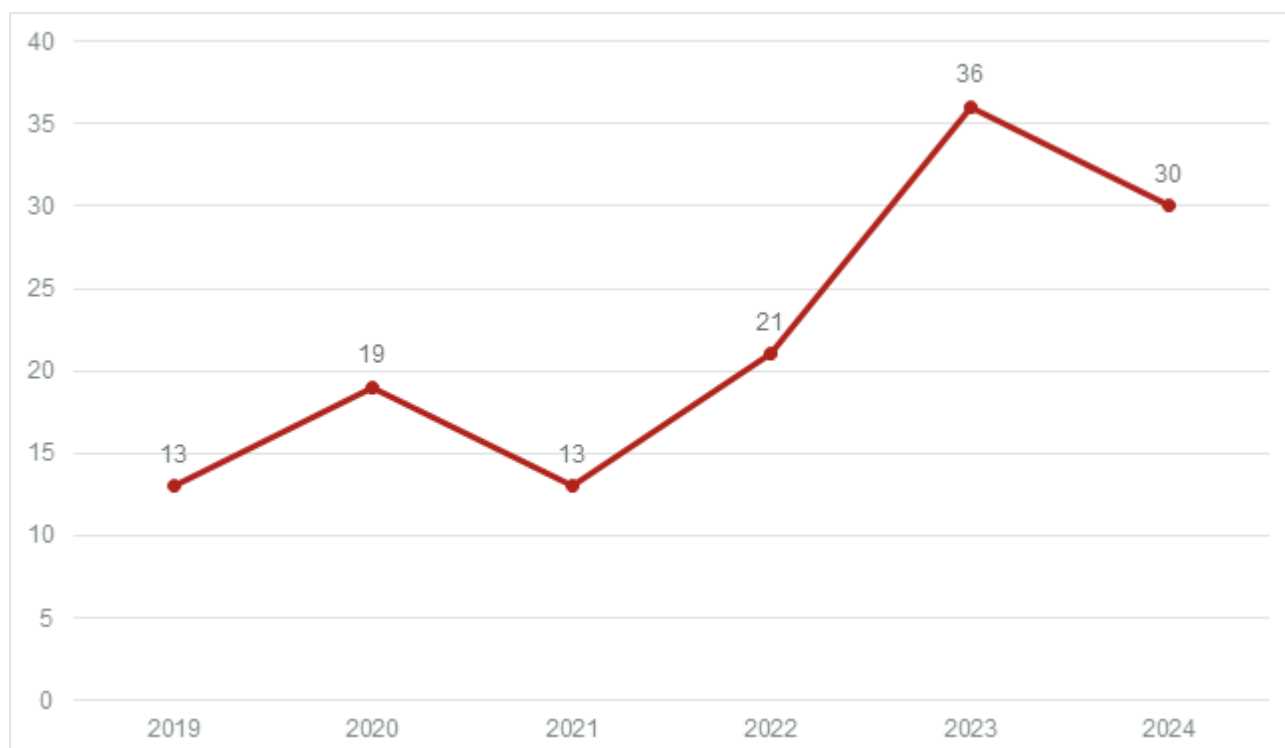


Figure 5. Number of Geriatrics Specialty Applications by Exam Year

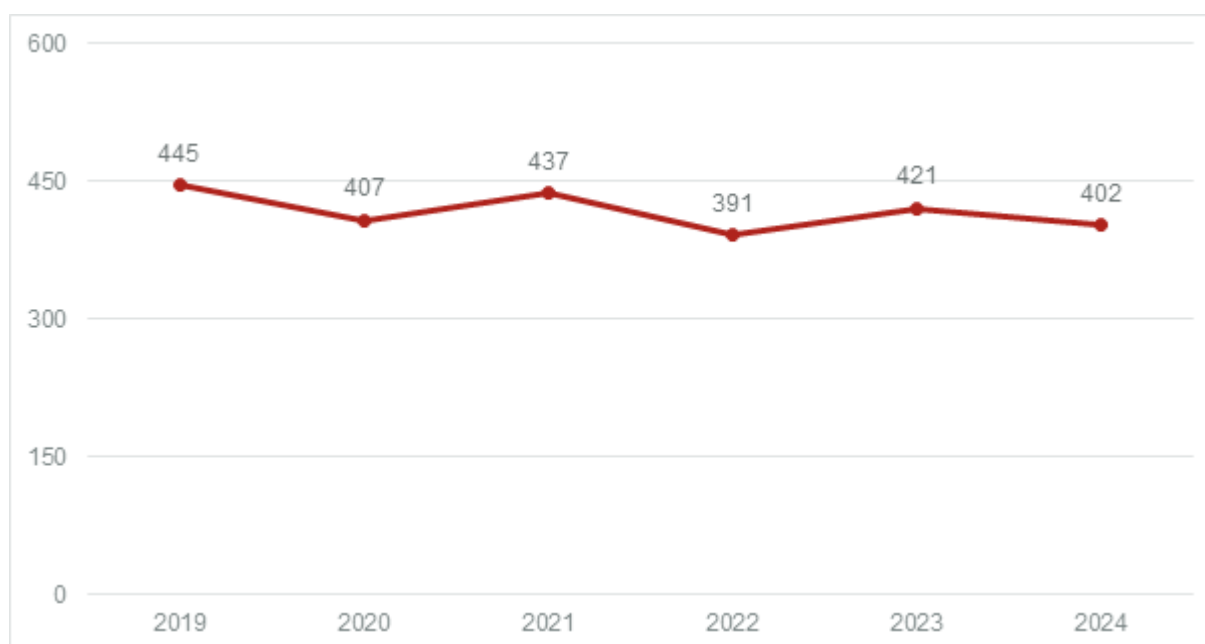


Figure 6. Number of Neurology Specialty Applications by Exam Year

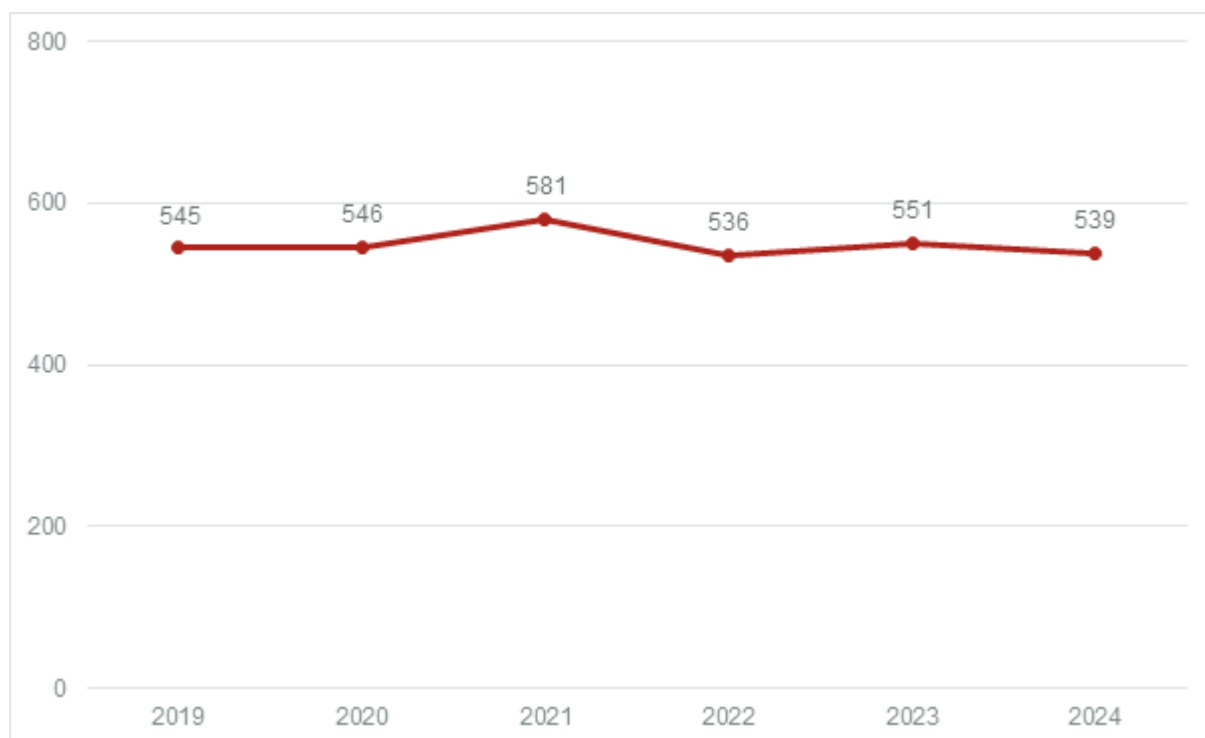
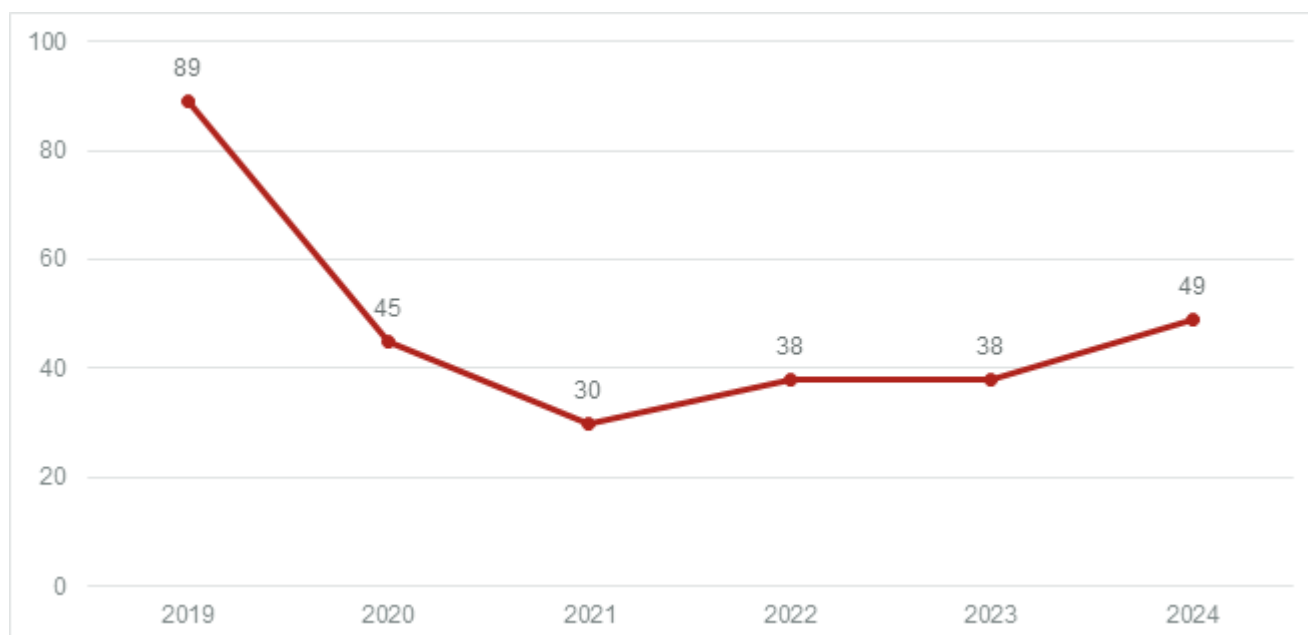


Figure 7. Number of Oncology Specialty Applications by Exam Year



Note: Certification began in 2019.

Figure 8. Number of Orthopaedics Specialty Applications by Exam Year

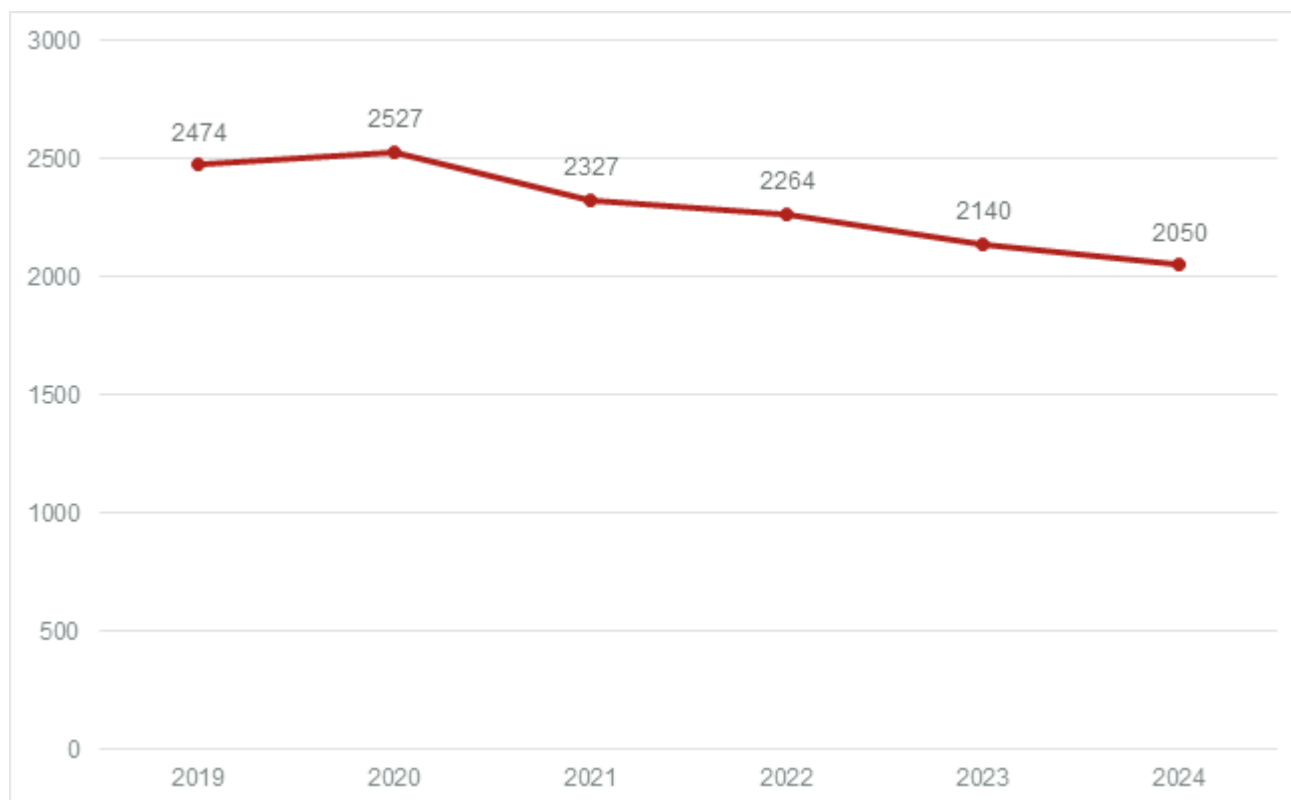


Figure 9. Number of Pediatrics Specialty Applications by Exam Year

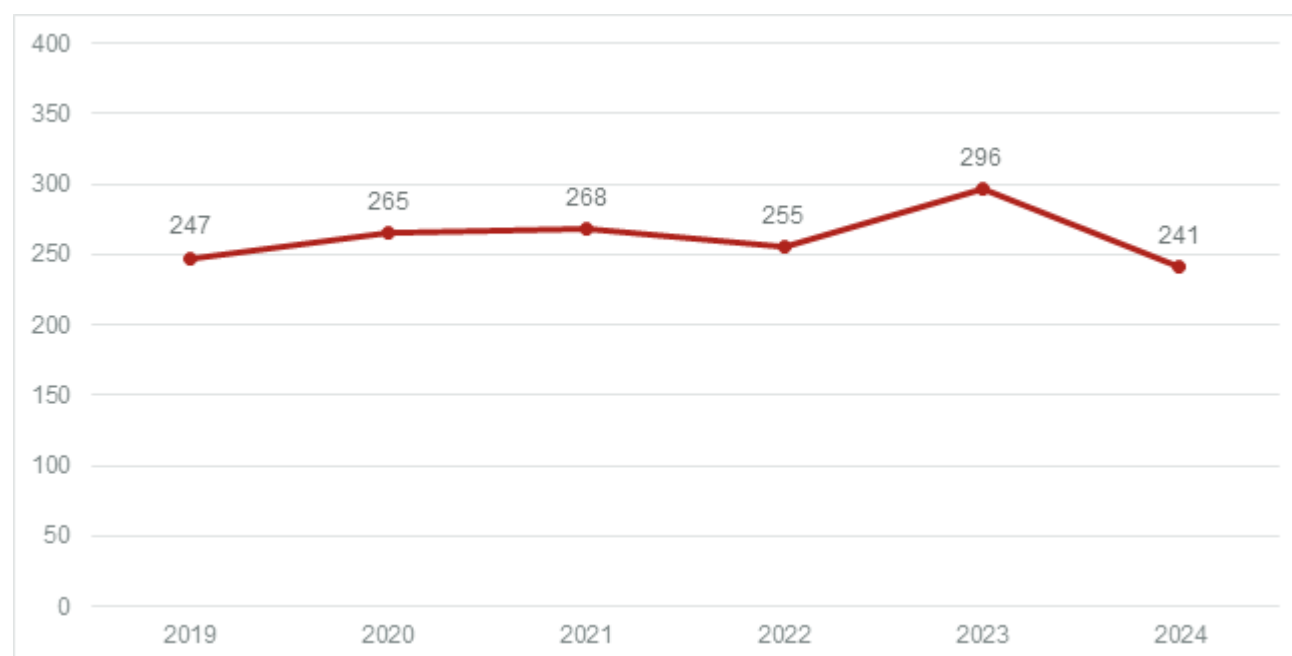


Figure 10. Number of Pelvic and Women's Health Specialty Applications by Exam Year

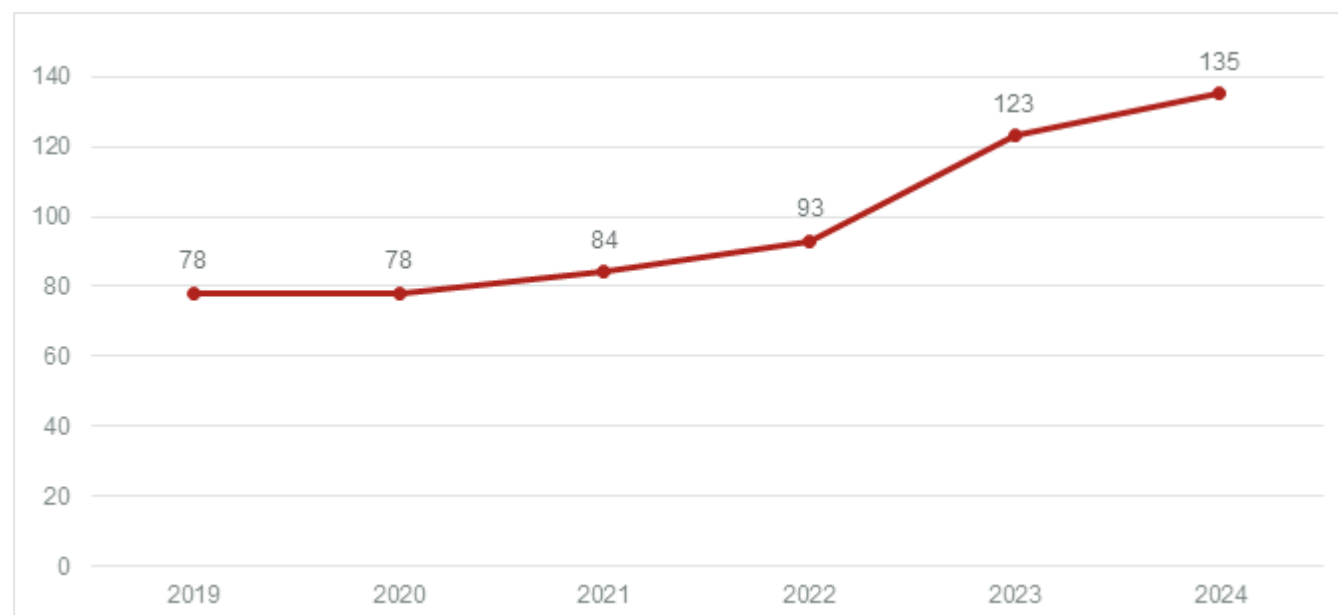


Figure 11. Number of Sports Specialty Applications by Exam Year

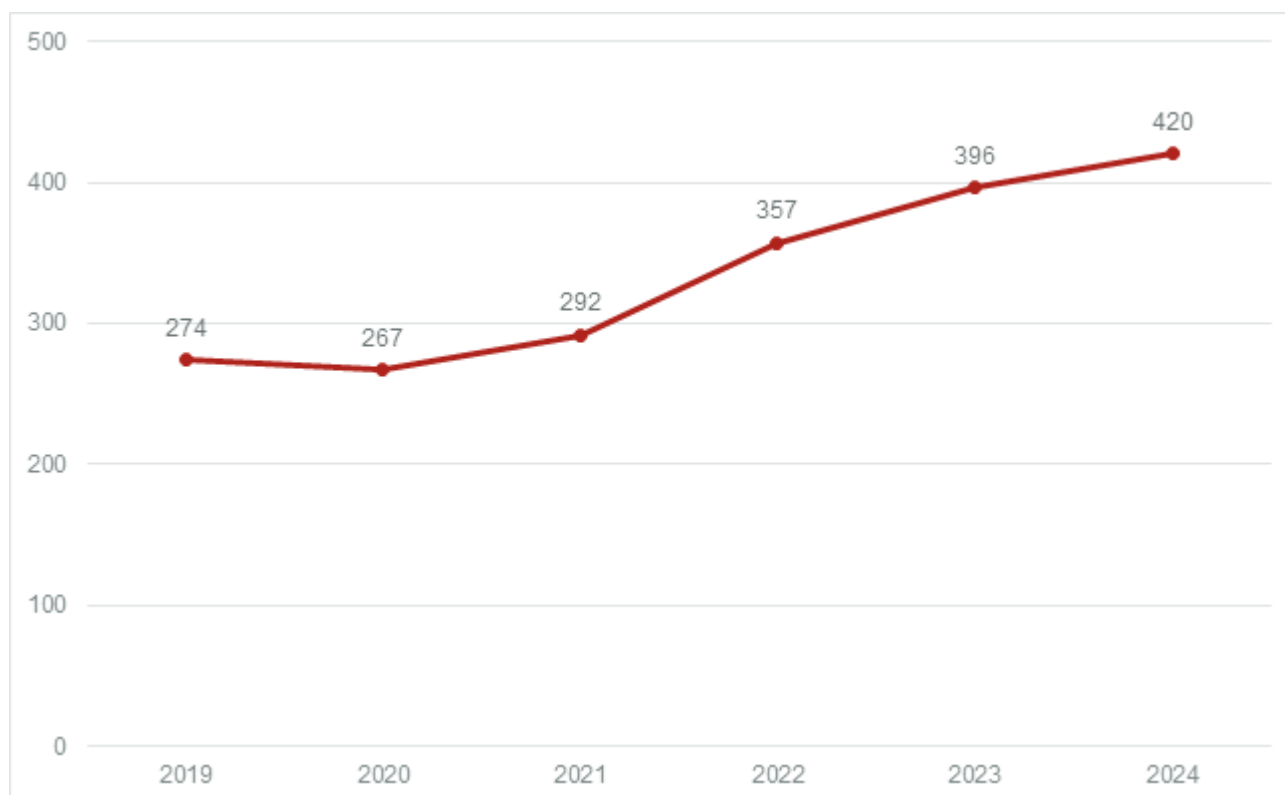
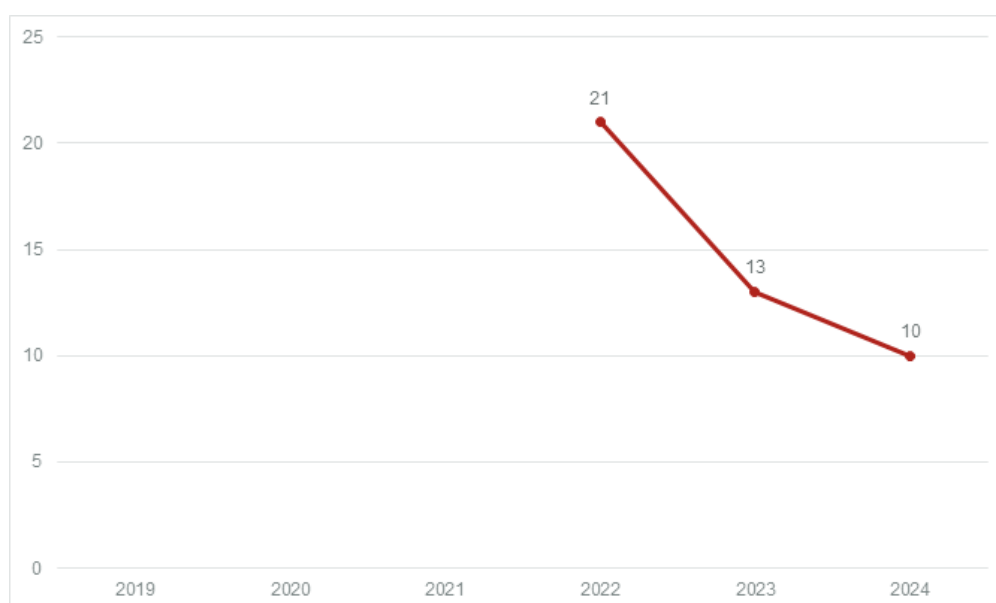


Figure 12. Number of Wound Management Specialty Applications by Exam Year



Note: Certification began in 2022.

2024 Exam Applicant Demographic Profile

Figure 13. Gender (N=3,938)

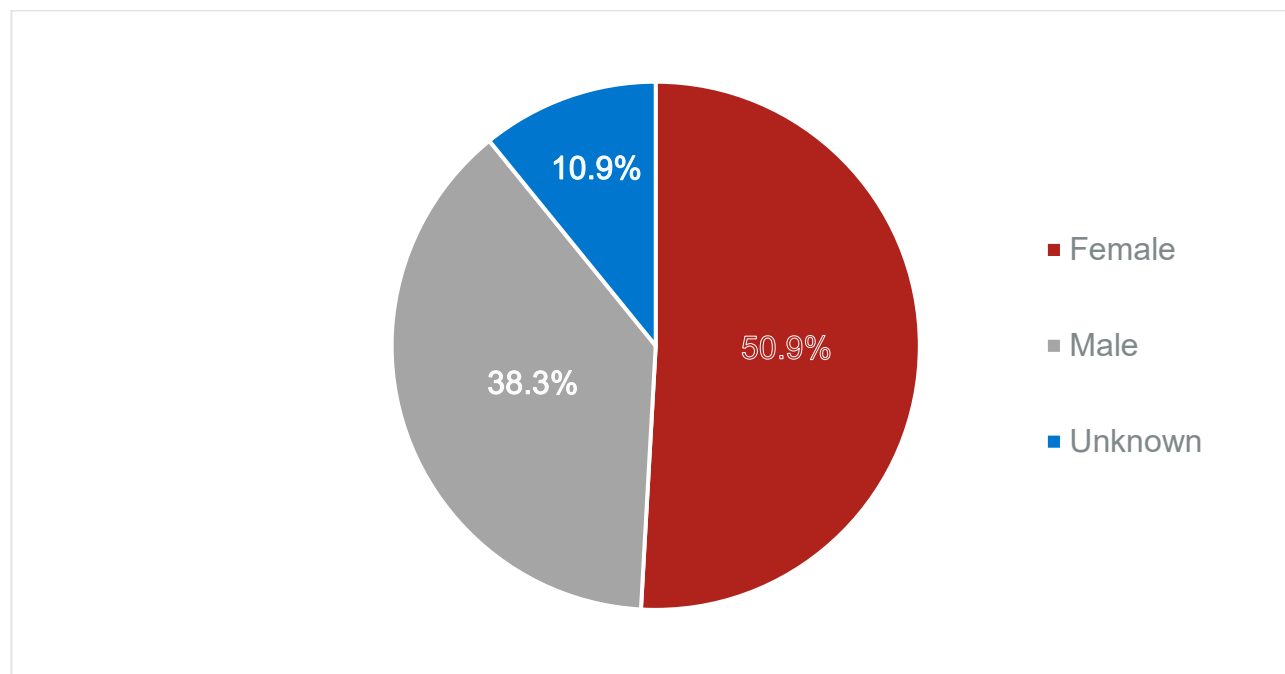


Table 1. Race/Ethnicity (N=3,938)

Race/Ethnicity	Number (Percentage)
American Indian/Alaska Native	14 (0.4%)
Asian	511 (13.0%)
Black or African American	147 (3.7%)
Hispanic/Latino	224 (5.7%)
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	16 (0.4%)
White	2,388 (60.6%)
Other	84 (2.1%)
Unknown	554 (14.1%)

Table 2. Generation (N=3,938)

Generation	Number (Percentage)
Baby boomers (1946-1964)	49 (1.2%)
Gen Xers (1965-1981)	594 (15.1%)
Millennials (1982-2000)	3,291 (83.6%)
Unknown	4 (0.1%)

Table 3. APTA Member Status (N=3,938)

Member Status	Number (Percentage)
Members	2,626 (66.7%)
Nonmembers	1,312 (33.3%)

Table 4. Employment Status (N=3,938)

Employment Status	Number (Percentage)
Full-time hourly	680 (17.3%)
Part-time hourly	48 (1.2%)
Full-time salaried	2,390 (60.7%)
Part-time salaried	60 (1.5%)
Full-time self-employed	88 (2.2%)
Part-time self-employed	26 (0.7%)
Unemployed/not seeking work	6 (0.2%)
Unemployed/seeking full-time employment	4 (0.1%)
Unemployed/seeking part-time employment	5 (0.1%)
Unknown	631 (16.0%)

Table 5. Employment Setting (N=3,938)

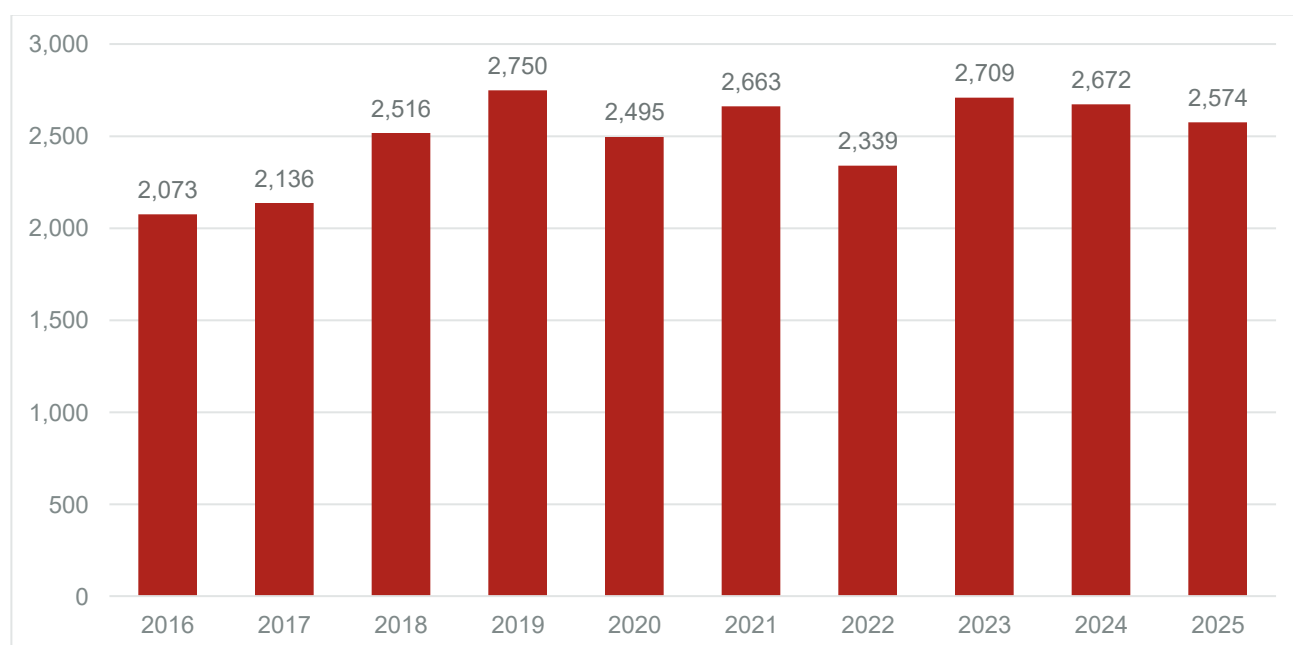
Employment Setting	Number (Percentage)
Acute care hospital	287 (7.3%)
Industry	7 (0.2%)
Inpatient rehab facility	168 (4.3%)
Hospital-based outpatient facility or clinic	1059 (26.9%)
Private outpatient office or group practice	1,390 (35.3%)
Skilled nursing facility/long-term care	67 (1.7%)
Patient's home/home care	113 (2.9%)
School system (preschool/primary/secondary)	37 (0.9%)
Academic institution (postsecondary)	94 (2.4%)
Research center	3 (0.1%)
Health and wellness facility	18 (0.5%)
Other	197 (5.0%)
Unknown	498 (12.7%)

2024 Certification Exam Results

Table 6. Examinee Passing Rates

Specialty Area	All Examinees	Non-residency Examinees	Residency Examinees
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary	81%	77%	100%
Clinical Electrophysiology	72%	100%	64%
Geriatrics	69%	67%	88%
Neurology	94%	92%	99%
Oncology	73%	73%	80%
Orthopaedics	89%	86%	95%
Pediatrics	88%	87%	94%
Sports	93%	92%	93%
Women's Health	79%	78%	83%
Wound Management	100%	100%	N/A
Total	87%	84%	94%

Figure 14. Newly Certified Specialists by Exam Year Across All Specialties



Recertification/Maintenance of Specialist Certification Program Data

Maintenance of Specialist Certification Learning Plan Numbers

Table 7. Maintenance of Specialist Certification Learning Plans Submitted in 2025

Specialty Area	Submission Total
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary	198
Clinical Electrophysiology	38
Geriatrics	407
Neurology	867
Oncology	16
Orthopaedics	2,669
Pediatrics	385
Sports	462
Women's Health	135
Wound Management	1
Total	5,078

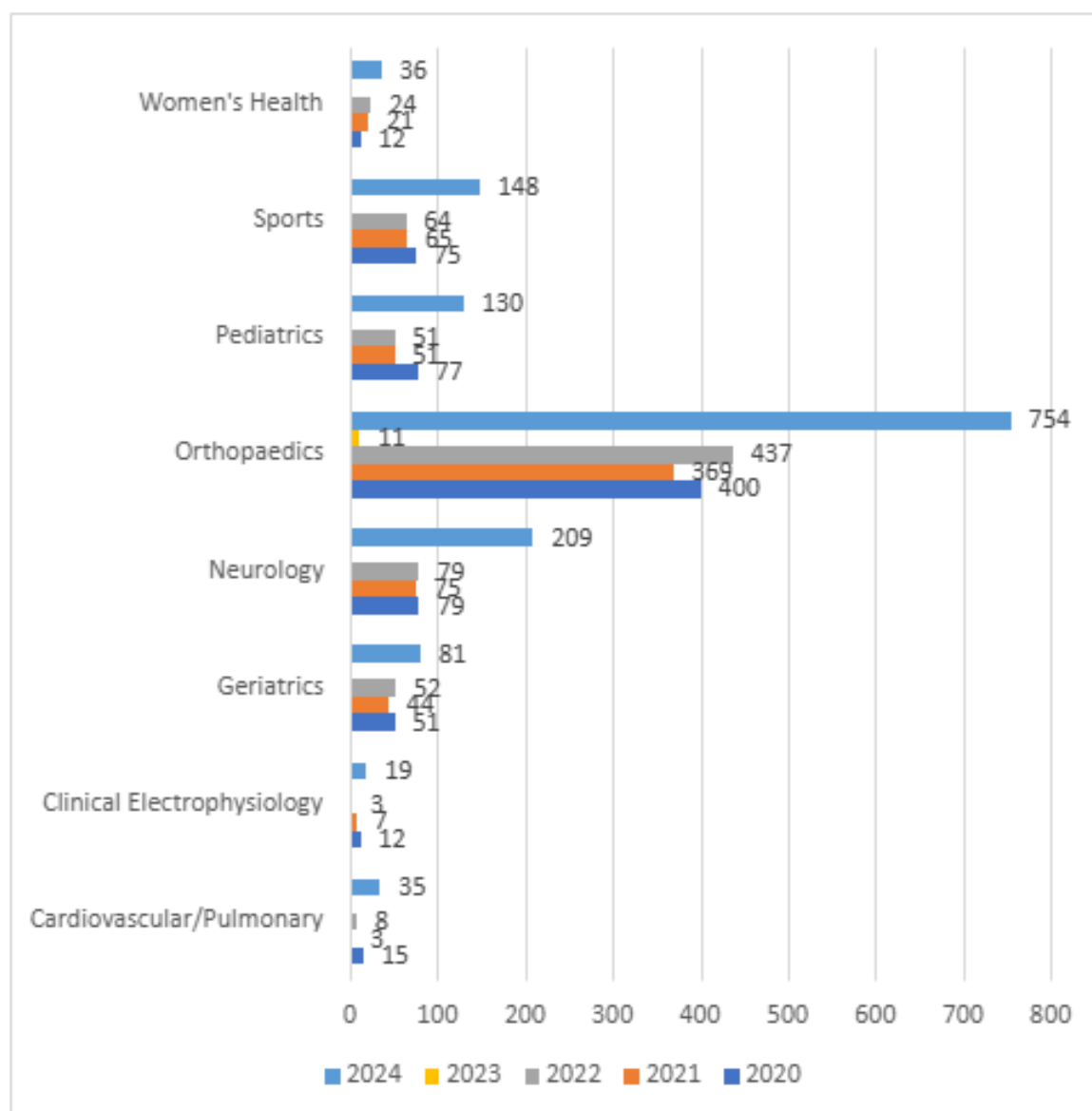
2024 MOSC Knowledge Review Results

Table 8. Year 10 Maintenance of Specialist Certification Knowledge Review Pass Rates

Specialty Area	Test Takers	Passed	Pass Rate
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary	35	35	100%
Clinical Electrophysiology	19	19	100%
Geriatrics	96	81	84%
Neurology	258	209	81%
Orthopaedics	830	754	91%
Pediatrics	146	130	89%
Sports	38	36	95%
Women's Health	162	148	91%
Overall	1,584	1,413	89.2%

Note: Includes both first-time and repeat Knowledge Review assessment takers.

Figure 15. Number of Recertified Specialists by Specialty Area



Note: Excludes oncology and wound management specialists, as none have yet been eligible to recertify after a 10-year period.

Table 9. Total Number of Current Specialists by Specialty Area

Specialty Area	Number
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary	452
Clinical Electrophysiology	177
Geriatrics	3,180
Neurology	4,307
Oncology	216
Orthopaedics	17,686
Pediatrics	2,176
Sports	2,774
Women's Health	783
Wound Management	31
Total	31,782

Note: Figures include those who have been granted Emeritus status.

Last Updated: 7/30/2026
Contact: spec-cert@apta.org