

Aggregate Program Data

2023 APTA Specialist Certification Program Fact Sheet

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2023 APTA Specialist Certification Program Fact Sheet

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.

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Initial Certification Program Data

Application Numbers

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

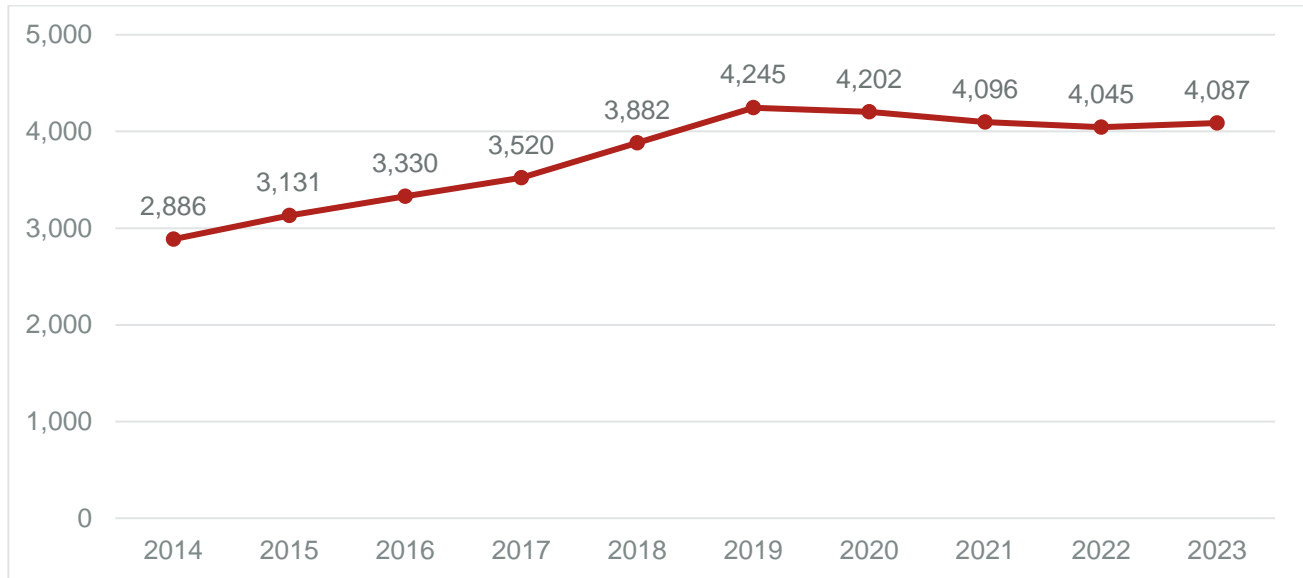
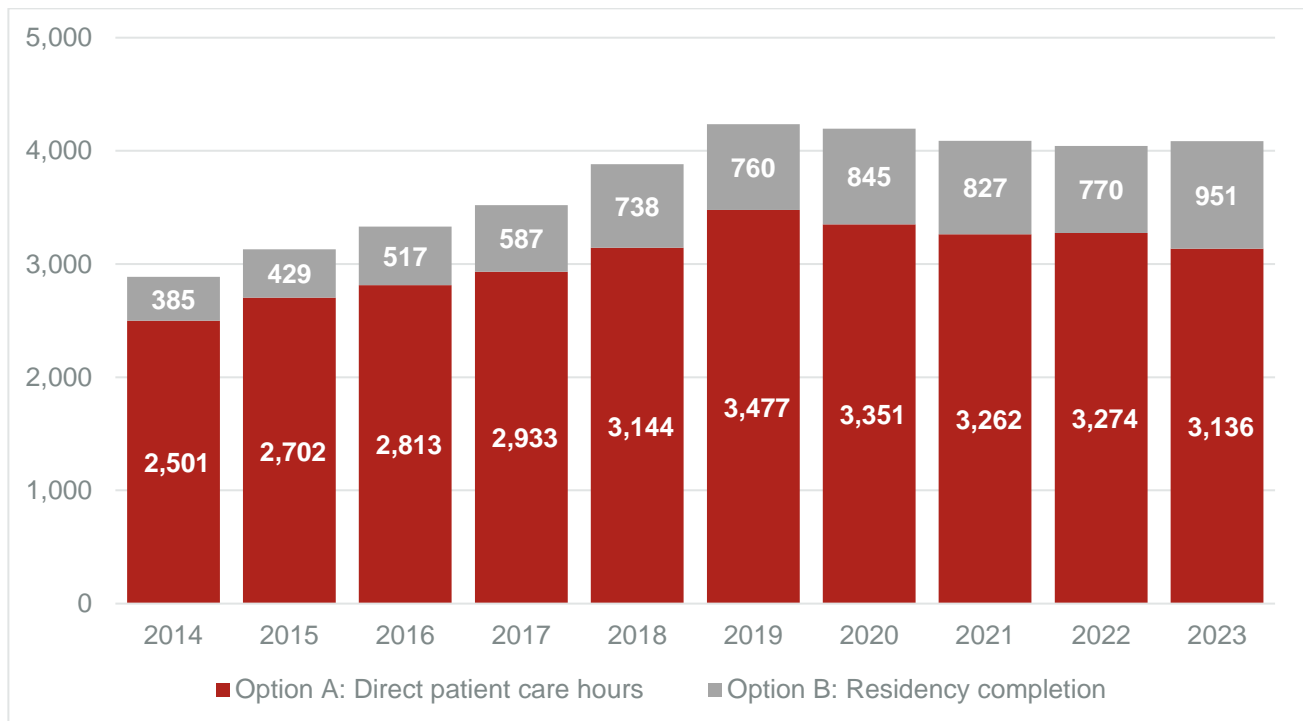


Figure 2. Eligibility Assessment Path of Applicants by Exam Year Across All Nine Specialties



Number of Applications by Exam Year for Each Specialty

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

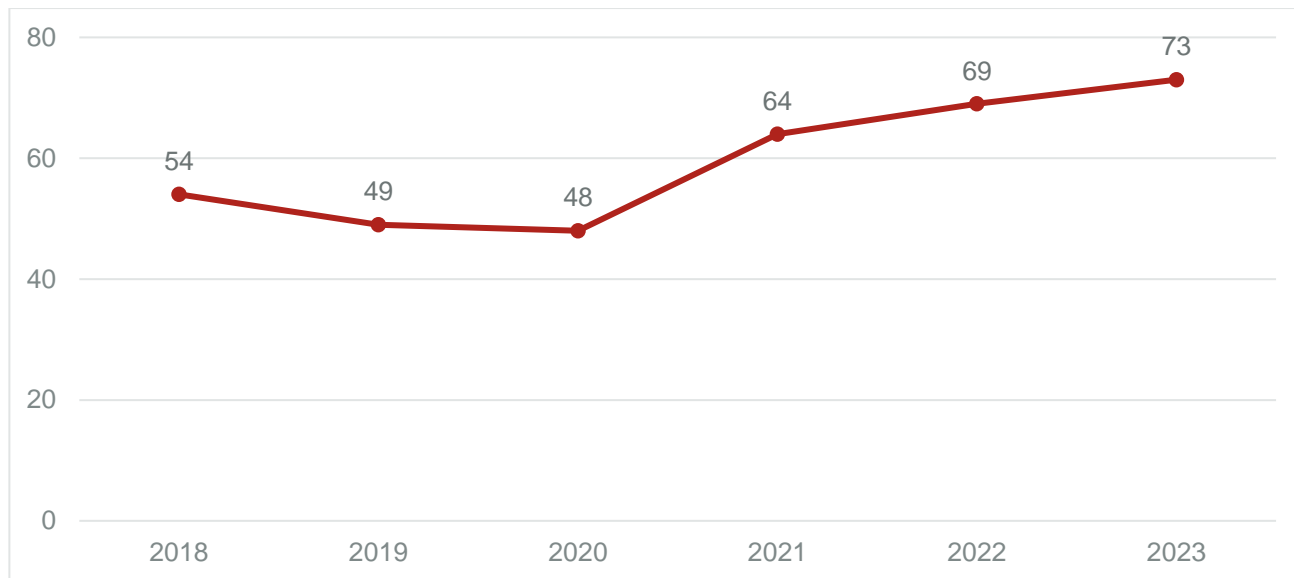


Figure 4. Number of Clinical Electrophysiology Specialty Applications by Exam Year

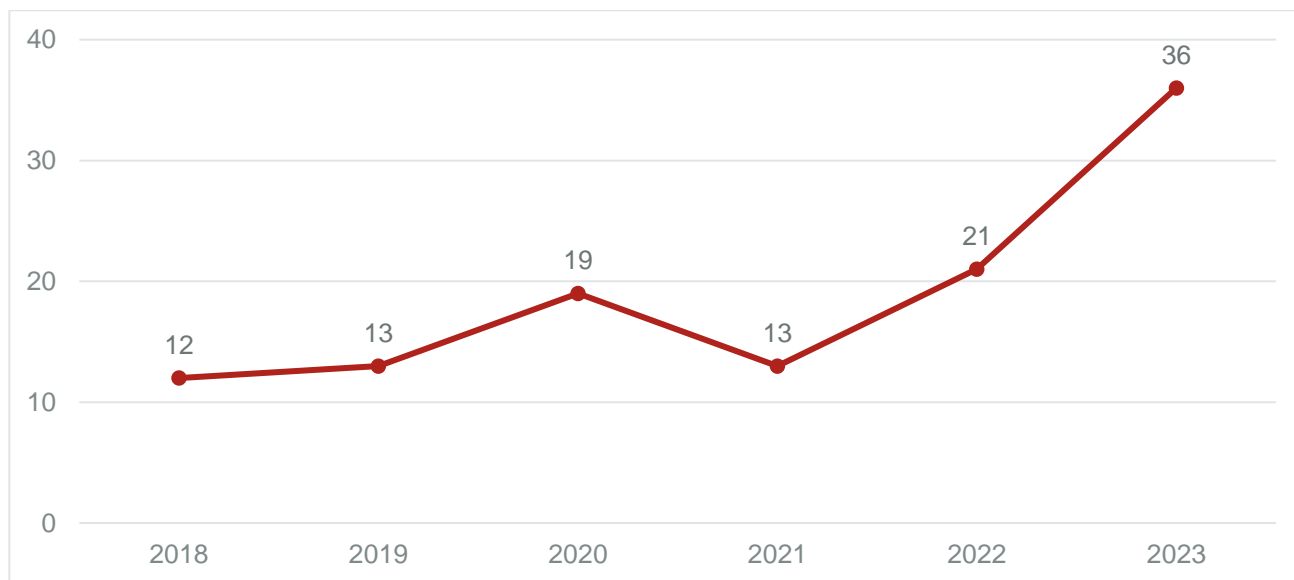


Figure 5. Number of Geriatrics Specialty Applications by Exam Year

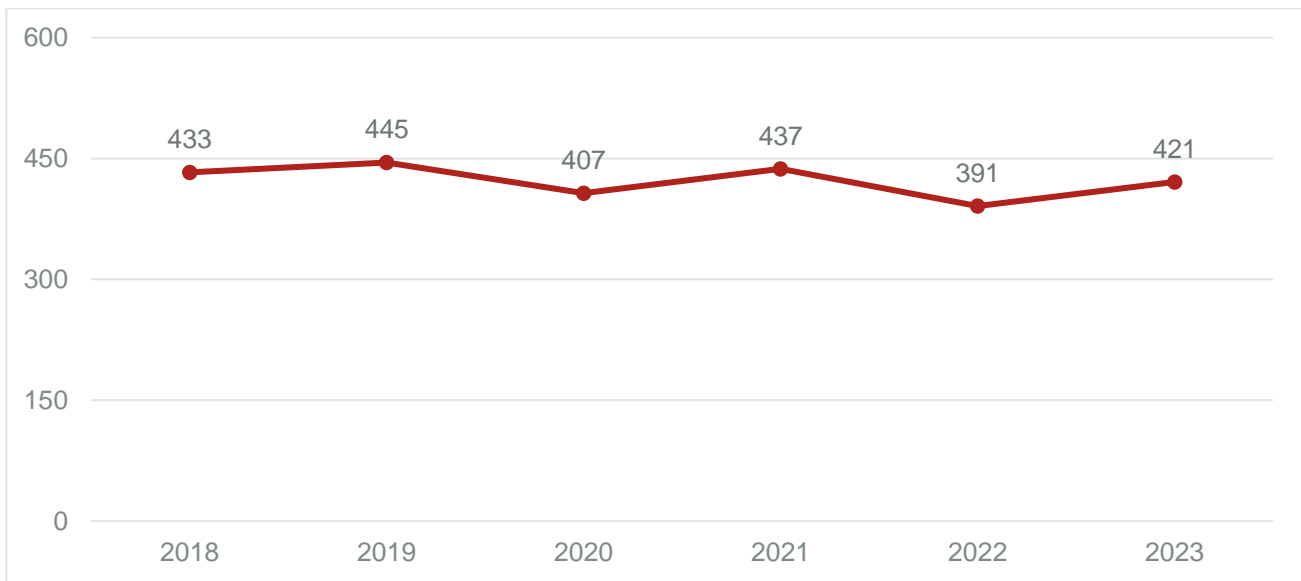


Figure 6. Number of Neurology Specialty Applications by Exam Year

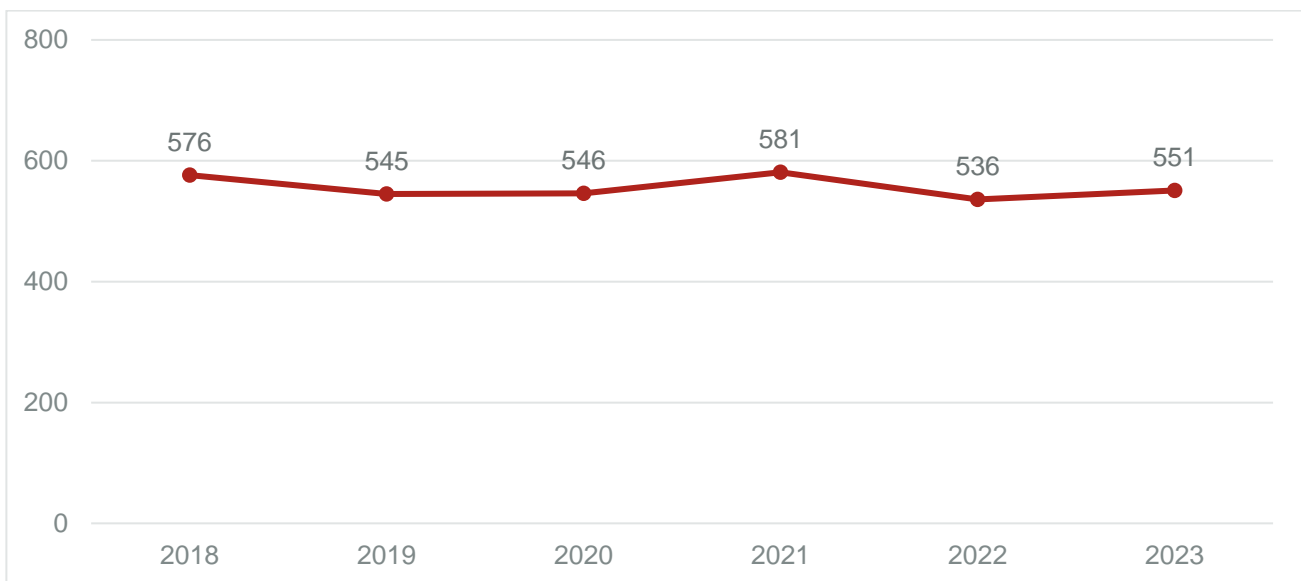


Figure 7. Number of Oncology Specialty Applications by Exam Year (certification began in 2019)

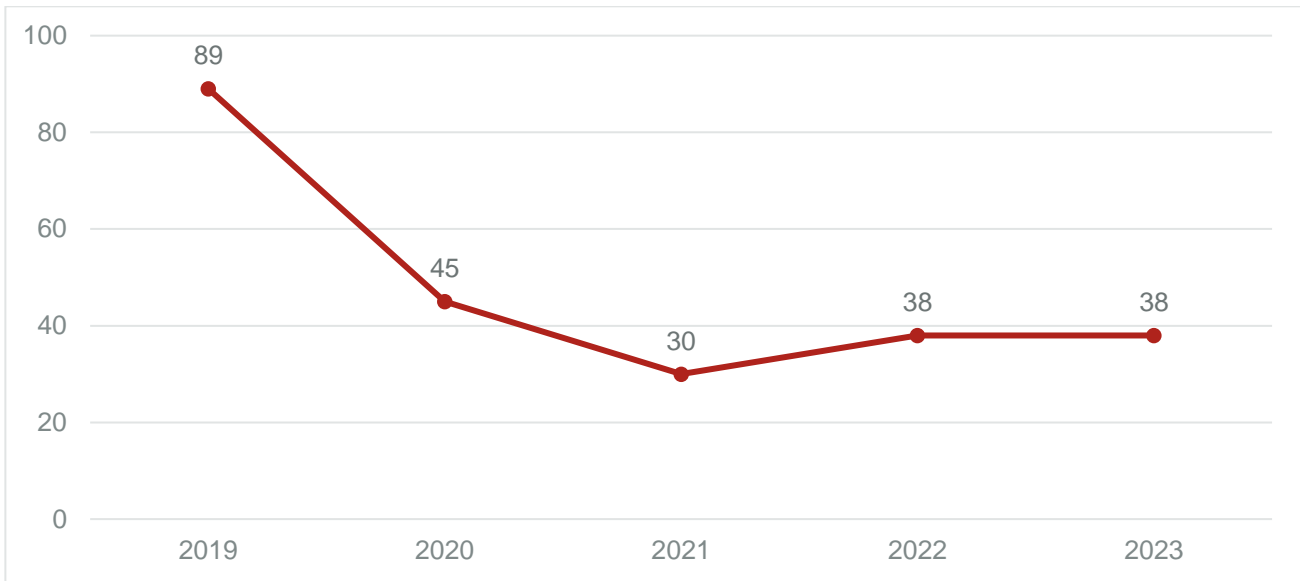


Figure 8. Number of Orthopaedics Specialty Applications by Exam Year

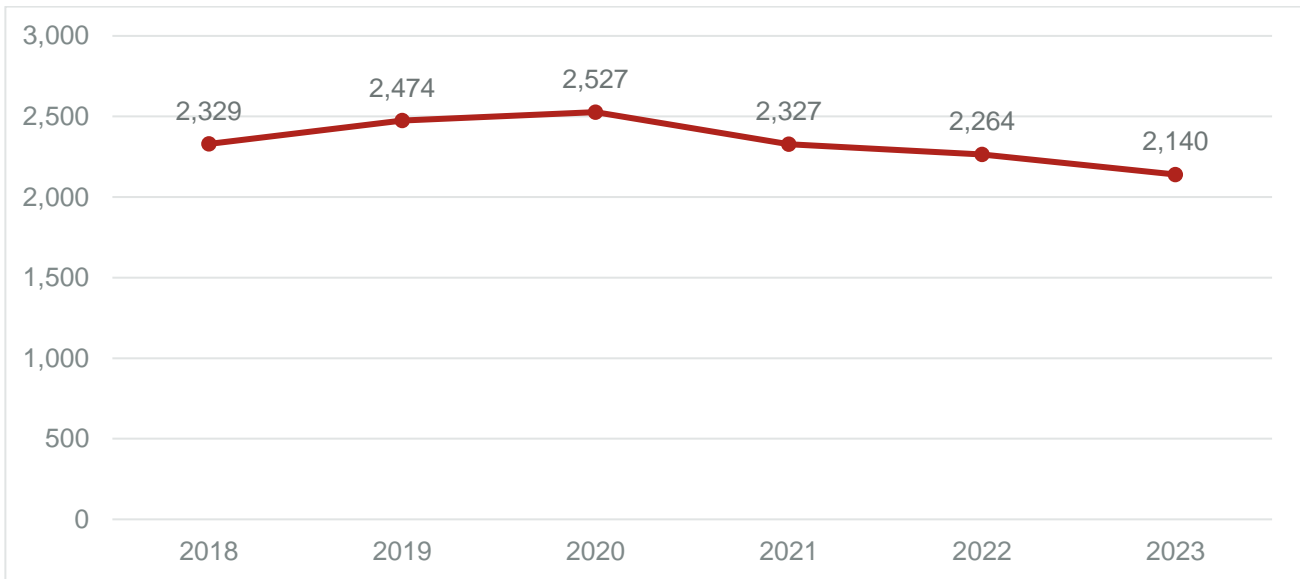


Figure 9. Number of Pediatrics Specialty Applications by Exam Year

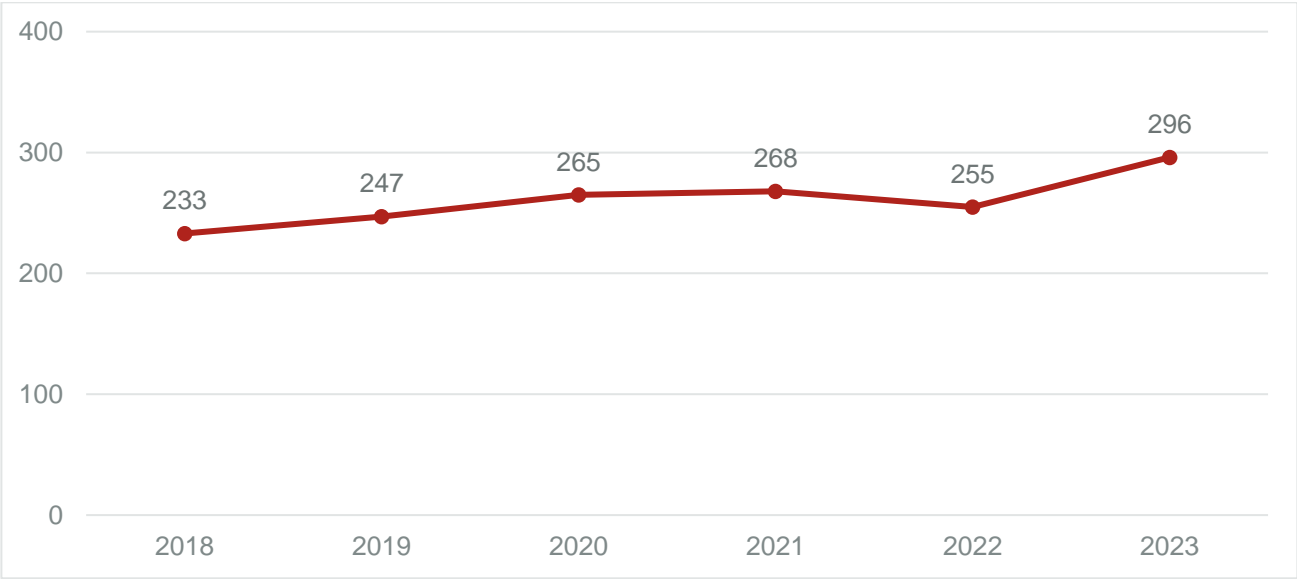


Figure 10. Number of Sports Specialty Applications by Exam Year

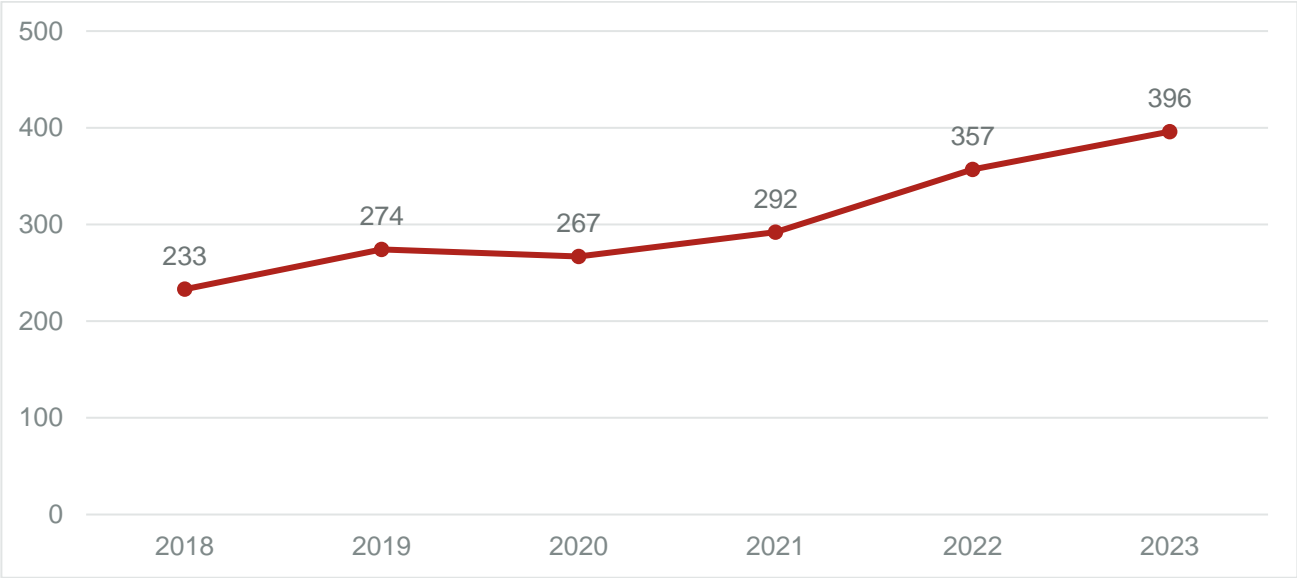


Figure 11. Number of Women's Health Specialty Applications by Exam Year

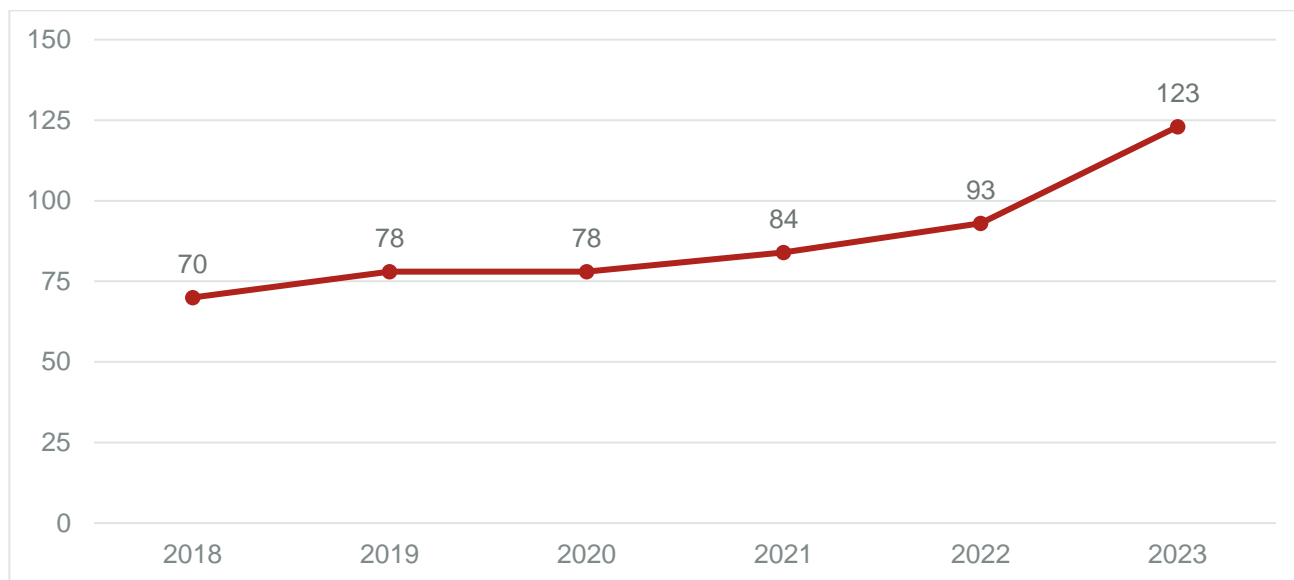
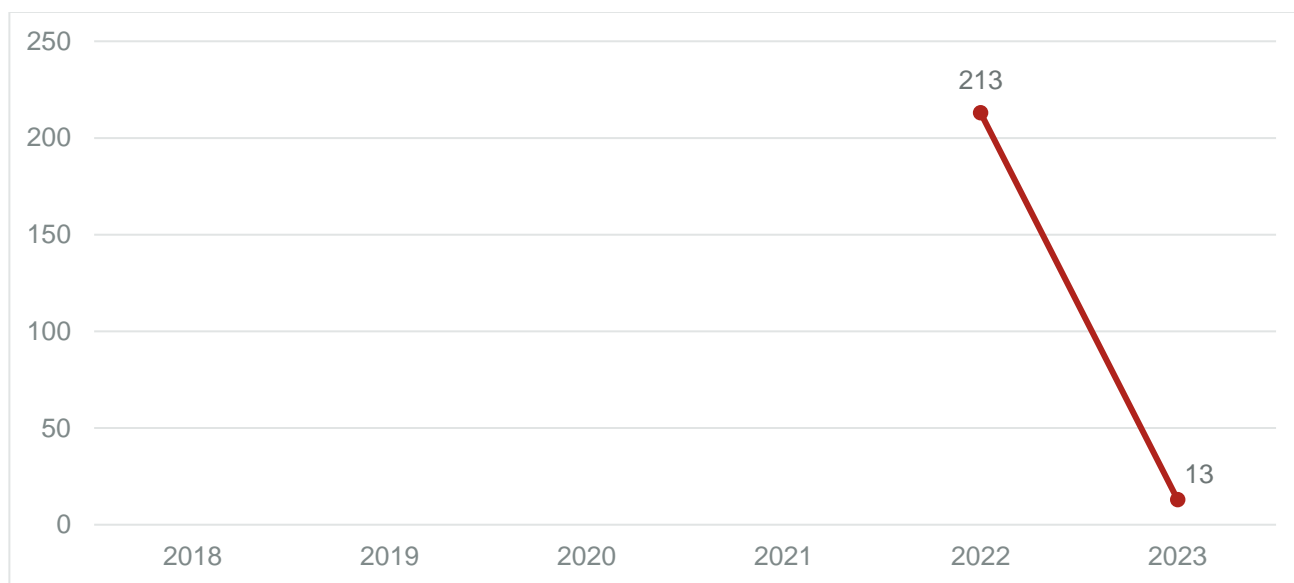


Figure 12. Number of Wound Management Specialty Applications by Exam Year (certification began in 2022)



2023 Exam Applicant Demographic Profile

Figure 13. Gender (N=4,084)

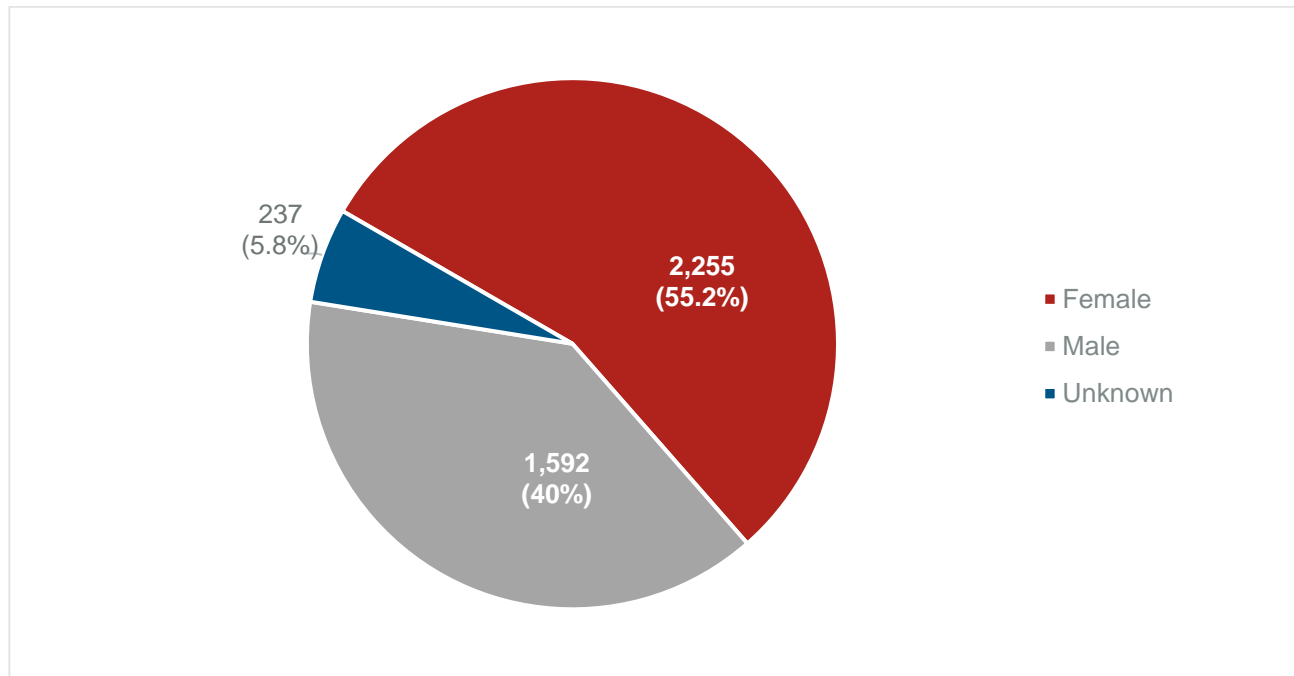


Table 1. Race/Ethnicity (N=4,084)

Race/Ethnicity	Number (Percentage)
American Indian/Alaska Native	15 (.37%)
Asian	519 (12.7%)
Black or African American	166 (4.1%)
Hispanic/Latino	258 (6.3%)
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	21 (0.5%)
White	2,500 (61.2%)
Other	93 (2.3%)
Unknown	512 (12.5%)

Table 2. Generation (N=4,084)

Generation	Number (Percentage)
Baby boomers (1946-1964)	53 (1.3%)
Gen Xers (1965-1981)	686 (16.8%)
Millennials (1982-2000)	3,343 (81.9%)
Unknown	2 (.05%)

Table 3. APTA Member Status (N=4,084)

Member Status	Number (Percentage)
Members	2,382 (58.3%)
Nonmembers	1,702 (41.7%)

Table 4. Employment Status (N=4,084)

Employment Status	Number (Percentage)
Full-time hourly	765 (18.7%)
Part-time hourly	52 (1.3%)
Full-time salaried	2,665 (65.3%)
Part-time salaried	72 (1.8%)
Full-time self-employed	96 (2.4%)
Part-time self-employed	36 (.9%)
Unemployed/not seeking work	5 (.12%)
Unemployed/seeking full-time employment	4 (.1%)
Unemployed/seeking part-time employment	4 (.1%)
Unknown	385 (9.4%)

Table 5. Employment Setting (N=4,084)

Employment Setting	Number (Percentage)
Acute care hospital	326 (7.98%)
Industry	13 (.32%)
Inpatient rehab facility	176 (4.31%)
Hospital-based outpatient facility or clinic	1,188 (29.09%)
Private outpatient office or group practice	1,476 (36.14%)
Skilled nursing facility/long-term care	79 (1.93%)
Patient's home/home care	134 (3.28%)
School system (preschool/primary/secondary)	39 (.95%)
Academic institution (postsecondary)	95 (2.33%)
Health and wellness facility	19 (.47%)
Other	196 (4.8%)
Unknown	343 (8.4%)

2023 Certification Exam Results

Table 6. First-Time Examinee Passing Rates

Specialty Area	All Examinees	Nonresidency Examinees	Residency Examinees
Cardiovascular & Pulmonary	84%	81%	100%
Clinical Electrophysiology	81%	89%	78%
Geriatrics	89%	88%	100%
Neurology	94%	92%	99%
Oncology	77%	76%	80%
Orthopaedics	88%	86%	93%
Pediatrics	87%	87%	88%
Sports	73%	65%	86%
Women's Health	86%	81%	100%
Wound Management	92%	92%	N/A
All specialty areas	82.89%	81.18%	89.07%

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

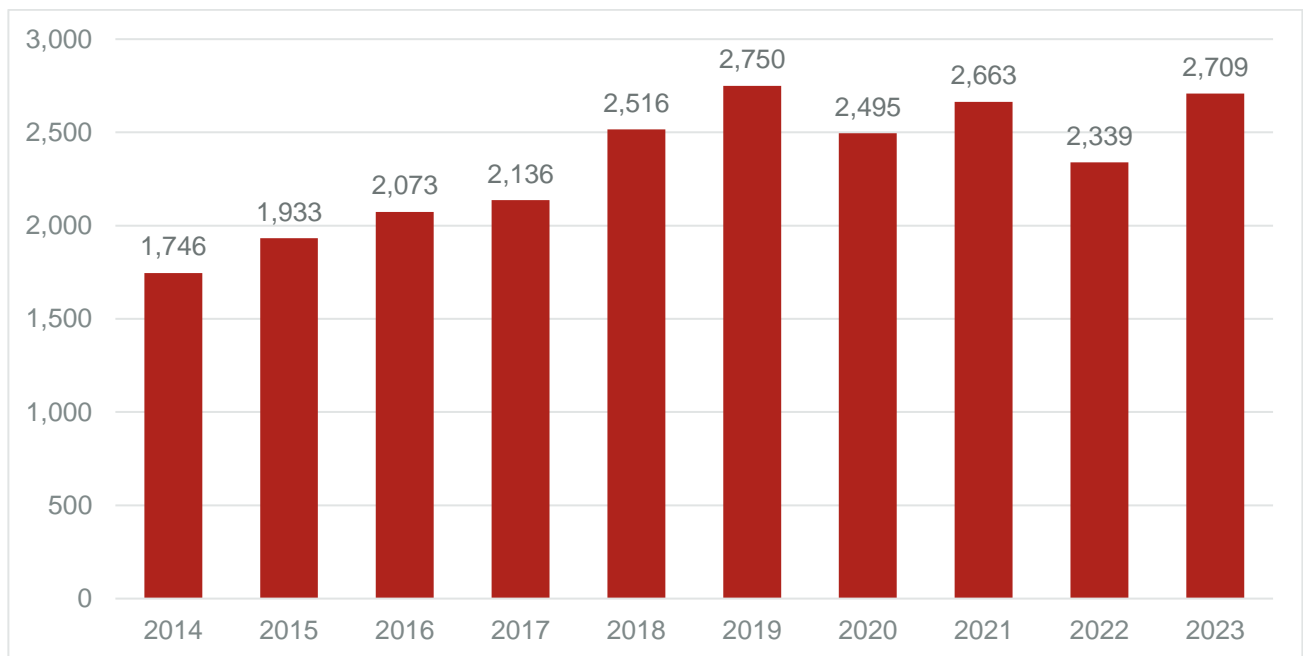


Table 7. Total Number of Current Specialists by Specialty Area

Specialty Area	Number
Cardiovascular & Pulmonary	423
Clinical Electrophysiology	169
Geriatrics	3,070
Neurology	4,002
Oncology	183
Orthopaedics	17,107
Pediatrics	2,102
Sports	2,609
Women's Health	708
Wound Management	23
Total	30,396

Recertification Program Data

Application Numbers

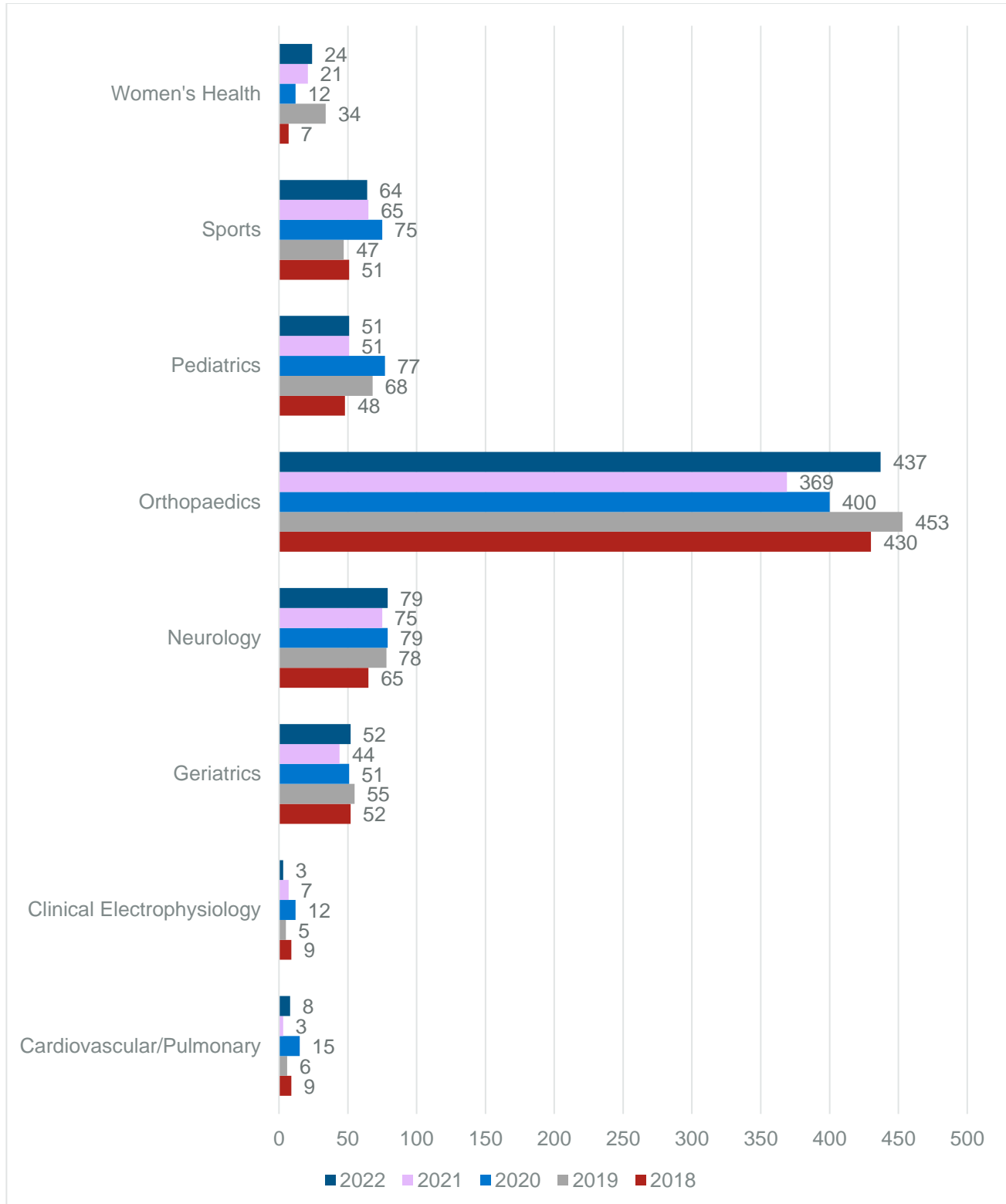
Figure 15. Number and Breakdown of Recertification Applications Received Across All Specialties



Table 8. APTA Member Status of 2022 Recertification Applicants (N=924)

Member Status	Number (Percentage)
Members	589 (63.7%)
Nonmembers	335 (36.3%)

Figure 16. Number of Recertified Specialists by Specialty Area (excludes oncologic and wound management specialists, as certifications began in 2019 and 2022, respectively, and none were eligible for recertification)



Maintenance of Specialist Certification Program Data

Learning Plan Submission Numbers

Table 9. Maintenance of Specialist Certification Learning Plans Submitted in 2023

Specialty Area	Submission Total
Cardiovascular & Pulmonary	106
Clinical Electrophysiology	48
Geriatrics	406
Neurology	958
Oncology	39
Orthopaedics	2,881
Pediatrics	475
Sports	463
Women's Health	140
Wound Management	N/A
Total	5,477