

# Strategies and Characteristics of Highly Prolific Physician Assistant Authors Who Contributed Research to JAAPA and JPAE between 2011 and 2020

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## Introduction

- There is interest in increasing PA participation in research.
- Three main domains are frequently suggested to improve PA participation in research which are material support (such as pay, funding, and protected time), educational support, and social support.
- This study evaluates features of accomplished PA researchers and whether they experience the three main types of support

## Purpose

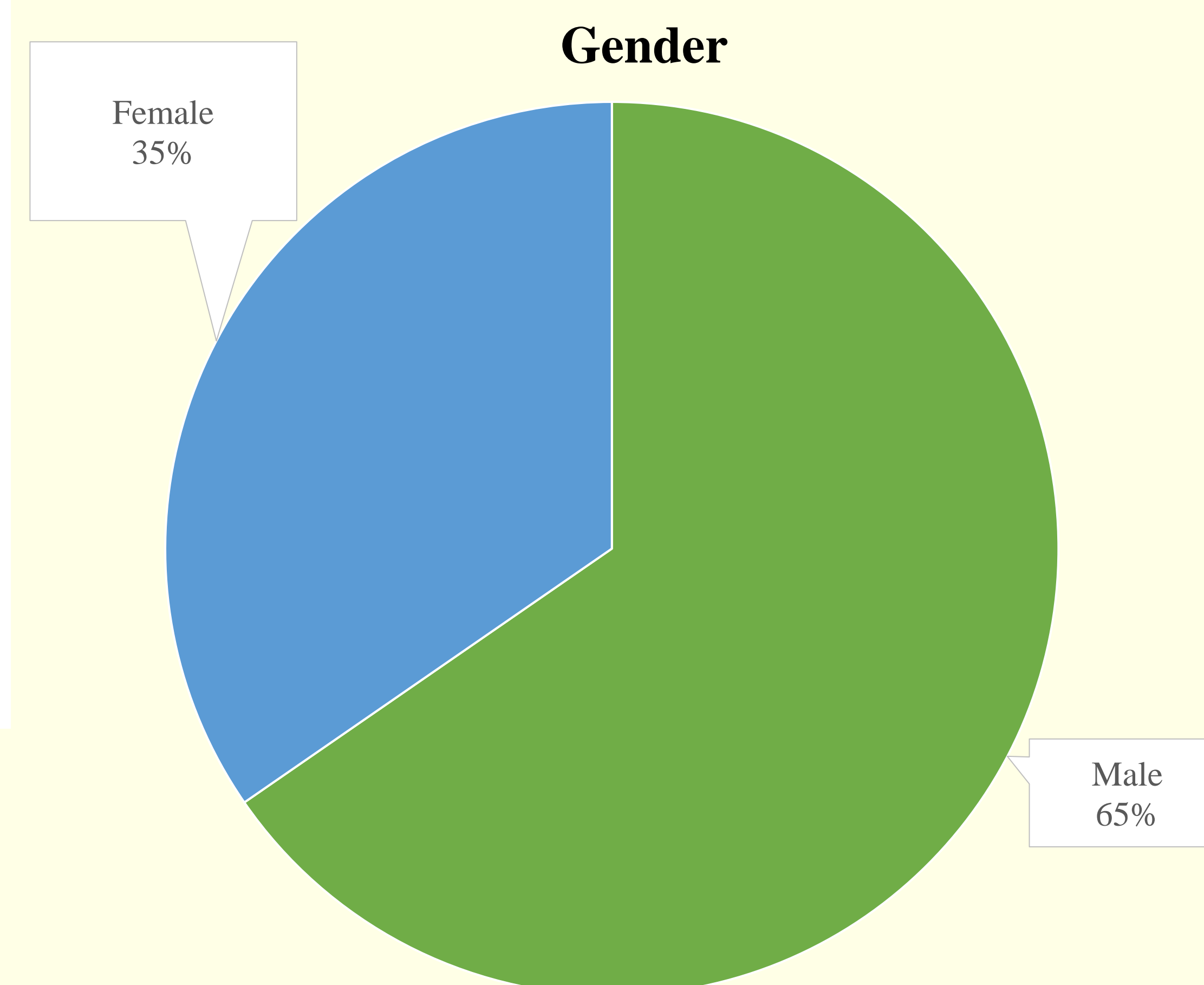
- The aim of the study is to identify and characterize the top 25% of PA researchers in JAAPA and JPAE between 2011-2020.

## Description and methodology

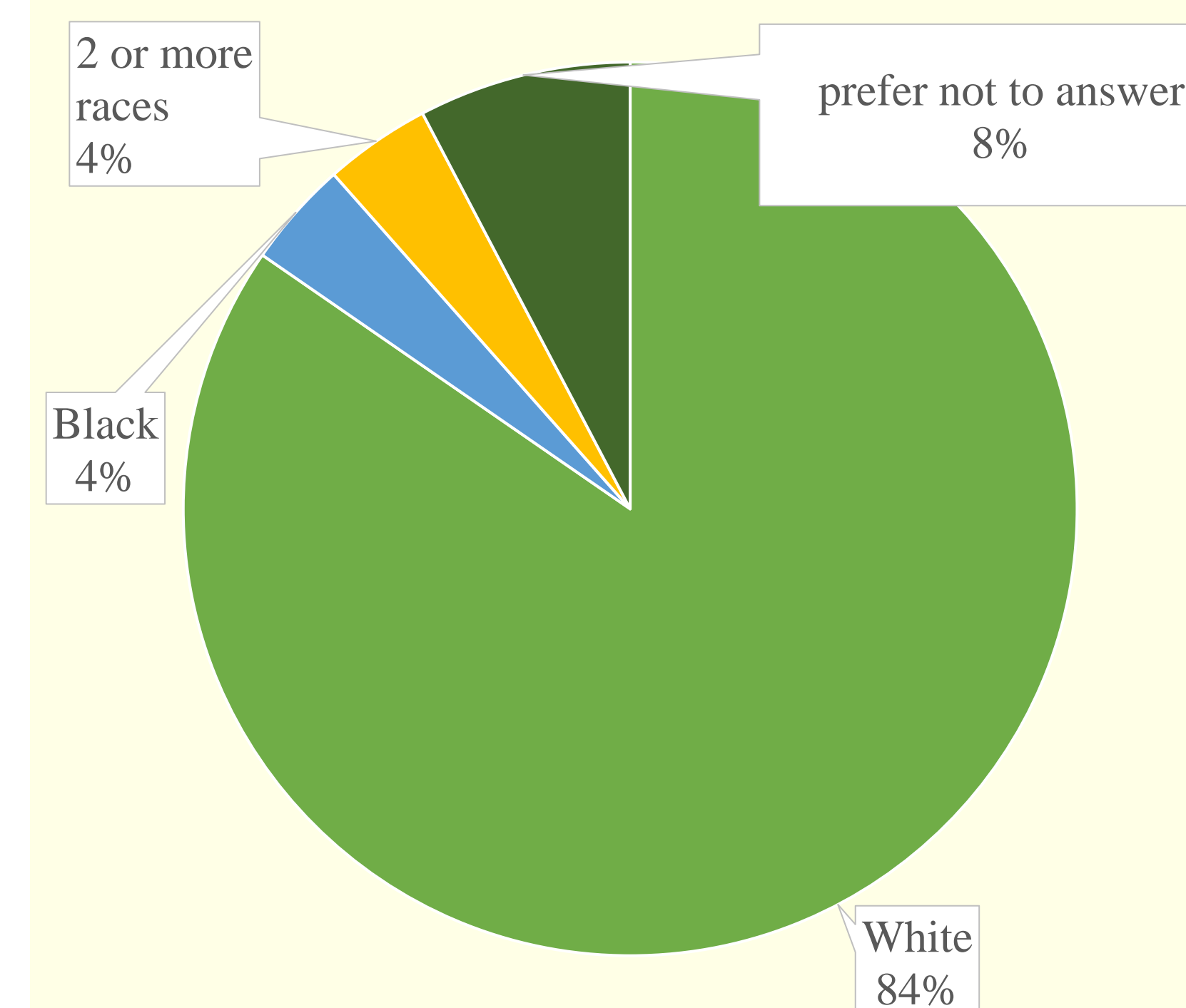
- Inclusion criteria- PA and published a research article between 2011-2020 in JPAE or JAAPA and publication volume top 25% of PAs in this group
- Link to electronic survey was sent which consisted of demographic information and 25 Likert-Scale questions
- Descriptive statistics analyzed using Microsoft Excel. Exact test was performed using R statistical software (version.41717: R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria)
- ATSU IRB deemed exempt, protocol number 2021-194.

## Results

- The top 25% of PA researchers were identified. Authors published  $\geq 9$  documents in JPAE or  $\geq 13$  documents for JAAPA. 73 authors were identified. 8 authors not available online. 65 authors were connected online and were sent survey links. 26 completed the survey; response rate was 40%.
- Respondents were predominantly White and male. The percentage of women participants 35% was much lower than population data by NCCPA showing 69.7% women  $p=0.00032$ . The percent of White participants 84% was not statistically different than anticipated based on NCCPA data 80.8%  $p=0.30$ .
- Social connections were rated highly. Respondents have good mentors in research (4.19), mentor other PAs (4.31), and collaborate with peers (4.62).
- They were neutral about protected time (3.12), they tended not to get funding for research (2.73), nor additional pay (2.0). They felt PA school did not prepare them for research skills (1.88).
- Respondents agreed, "I find joy in conducting research." (4.35).



Racial category with which you most closely identify



Highest level of education	Count (Percentage)
Doctorate	20 (77%)
Master's	5 (19%)
Bachelor's	1 (4%)
If you have a Master's, do you have a MPH?	5 (19%)
How many years have you been a PA	
20 or more	21 (81%)
15-19	3 (11%)
14 or fewer	2 (8%)
Faculty/administrator in academic setting	20 (77%)
Faculty with tenure or tenure track	6 (30%)

5-point Likert scale items: (1) Strongly disagree; (2) Disagree; (3) Neither agree nor disagree; (4) Agree; (5) Strongly agree	Score	SD
I find joy in conducting research	4.35	0.69
I get paid more for conducting research	2.00	1.10
I get recognition for conducting research	4.12	0.71
I have had good mentors regarding research	4.19	0.80
I mentor other PAs regarding research	4.31	0.62
I have peers that I collaborate with regarding research	4.62	0.50
I learned my research skills in my PA program	1.88	0.99

## Conclusion

- PA researchers are successful and finding joy in their endeavors despite low to moderate support regarding funding, pay for research, and protected time.
- Social support measures among PA researchers were rated highly. Women were underrepresented in this group.
- More research is needed to determine if the barriers to research amongst PAs disproportionately affect women.

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