

# 2010 CTR Exam Results

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In 2010, 335 candidates challenged the NCRA CTR Exam, compared to a high of 623 candidates in 2007. The large number of candidates in 2007 may have been due to many wanting to take the exam before the educational requirements were updated the next year. In 2008, Eligibility Route 1 was updated to require a minimum of two years' full-time (24 months or 3,900 hours) or equivalent experience in the Cancer Registry field and 2 semesters/3 quarters of college-level courses in human anatomy and/or physiology. In 2009, Route 1's eligibility requirements were again updated to include the equivalent of one year of college education that includes 2 semesters/3 quarters of human anatomy and/or physiology, one semester of medical science/biology, and a college-level course in medical terminology. In 2010, Eligibility Route 1 was eliminated, meaning all candidates must have a minimum of an associate's degree.

Seventy-eight percent (244) of 2010 exam takers were first-time candidates, higher than 2008 (73%) and 2009 (74%). Overall, 68% of the candidates passed the exam, but only 43% of repeat candidates passed compared to 78% of first-time candidates—again, a pattern similar to previous years. In 2009, 64% passed the exam with 36% of repeat candidates and 74% of first-time candidates successful (Fig. 2).

Below is additional gathered from the 2010 exams:

**Content Category:** Content areas were reorganized and weighted differently starting with the 2007 exams. The name of one content area, *Registry Organization and Operations (ROO)*, remained the same. Six other areas were reorganized into three content areas, as follows:

- *Anatomy, Physiology, and Histology* and *Abstracting and Coding* became *Abstracting, Coding, and Follow Up*.
- *Statistics and Epidemiology* and *Computer Principles* are now *Data Analysis and Interpretation*.
- *ICDO Coding Exercise* and *Staging by Site Exercises* are now *Application of Coding and Staging Principles*.

Because of these changes, 2010 exam results will only be compared with results from exams from 2007 forward (2007, 2008, and 2009).

The open-book category of *Application of Coding and Staging Principles* received the highest average percent correct, 76%, compared to 75% in 2009 and 78% in both 2007 and 2008. The two categories of *Registry Organization and Operations (ROO)* and *Abstracting, Coding, and Follow Up*, with 75% average correct for both, were similar to 2009 (74% for both categories), 2008 (74% and 75% respectively), and 2007 (73% and 74% respectively). The lowest average percent correct, 73%, was found in the category of *Data Analysis and Interpretation*, an increase compared to 2009 (71%), 2008 (68%), and 2007 (64%) (Fig. 3).

**Eligibility Route:** In 2010, Route 1 was dissolved. Route 2 became Route A, Route 3 became Route B, Route 4 became Route C, and Route 5 became Route D. For purposes of comparison, Route A will be compared to Route 2 of previous years, Route B to Route 3, Route C to Route 4, and Route D to Route 5. In 2010, 20% of candidates selected eligibility Route A; those selecting Routes 1 & 2 in previous years are as follows: 42% in 2009, 52% in 2008, and 73% in 2007. Route B was selected by 47%, compared to 58% in 2009, 48% in 2008 and 27% in 2007. Routes C & D were selected by 30%; this is similar to previous years (Fig. 5).

## 2010 Eligibility Routes

**Route A.** Experience: Successful completion of 160 hours of work practicum in a CTR-staffed Cancer Registry (may be part of an NCRA-approved program curriculum) **AND** Education: Successful completion of an NCRA-accredited associate degree program **OR** successful completion of an NCRA-

accredited formal education program and successful completion of a minimum of an associate degree or equivalent (4 semesters/6 quarters).

**Route B.** Experience: Minimum one year full-time (12 months or 1,950 hours) or equivalent experience in the Cancer Registry field **AND** Education: successful completion of a minimum of an associate degree or equivalent (4 semesters/6 quarters) in an approved college-level curriculum in a recognized allied health field as determined by NCRA's Council on Certification.

**Route C.** Experience: Minimum one year full-time (12 months or 1,950 hours) or equivalent experience in the Cancer Registry field **AND** Education: successful completion of a minimum of an associate degree or equivalent (4 semesters/6 quarters) **AND** license or certification in a recognized allied health field as determined by NCRA's Council on Certification.

**Route D.** Experience: Minimum one year full-time (12 months or 1,950 hours) or equivalent experience in the Cancer Registry field **AND** Education: successful completion of a master's or higher college level curriculum in a recognized allied health field as determined by NCRA's Council on Certification.

The passing rates of candidates by Eligibility Route in 2010 were Route A, 77%; Route B, 59%; Route C, 74%; and Route D, 87%.

Again, results by eligibility route for the various content areas cannot be compared with years prior to 2007 because of the reorganization of content areas. In 2010, the average percent correct in each of the content areas was higher than 2009 results (Fig. 3). However, Route 3 candidates were the exception, performing worse in each content area compared to 2009 data. In *Registry Organization and Operations*, Route 2 candidates performed best at 79%. Route 5 candidates performed best in the content areas of *Abstracting, Coding and Follow Up, Data Analysis and Interpretation* and *Application of Coding and Staging Principles*: 85%, 83%, and 81% respectively (Fig. 4).

**Employer:** The primary employer of 2010 candidates continued to be the Hospital Registry at 67%, compared to 76% in 2009, 67% in 2008, and 76% in 2007. The second-largest employer continues to be Central or State Cancer Registries at 20%, compared to 15% in 2009, 17% in 2008, and 14% in 2007 (Fig. 6).

**Residency:** The U.S. location of CTR Exam candidates is shown in Fig 11. Additionally, 7% (31) of the candidates were from other countries or U.S. territories: 6 from Puerto Rico, 14 from Canada, 5 from South Korea, 2 from Korea, 2 from Singapore, 1 from Saudi Arabia and 1 from Jordan. In 2009 there were 24 international/U.S. territory candidates and, in both 2008 and 2007, there were 26.

**Age:** Candidates between the ages of 30 and 39 were the largest category at 23%, compared to 26% in 2008 and 28% in 2007. Candidates between 40 and 49 were the second-largest group at 21%, a slight decrease from 2009. Candidates between 50 and 59 comprised 19% compared to 21% in 2009 and 18% in 2008. Those younger than 29 years of age comprised 12% of test takers, an increase of 7% from 2009. Three percent was 60 and older. Twenty-one percent did not indicate an age (Fig. 7).

**Experience:** The majority of candidates, 71% (80% in 2009, 68% in 2008, 69% in 2007), continue to have between one and five years of experience (Fig. 8). Candidates having less than one year of experience, 13% of candidates, had the highest pass rate at 84%, followed by those with between one and five years experience, with a pass rate of 65%. Those with more than 10 years had a pass rate of 62% followed by those with six to 10 years' experience, with a pass rate of 42%.

**Academic level:** In 2010, Route 1 was eliminated, requiring all candidates to have at least an associate's degree to be eligible to sit for the exam. Percentage of candidates with at least an associate's degree in past years was 88% in 2009, 72% in 2008, and 54% in 2007. The 1% in "Some College" and 9% in "Other" is attributed to accepting 60 college-level credits as equivalent to an associate's degree (Fig. 9).

The passing score for the 2010 CTR exams was 70% or above. The average total exam scores generally increased with years of education. Scores in other categories were: some college, 71%; associate's degree, 74%; bachelor's degree, 76%; master's degree, 80%; and doctorate, 76%. This distribution is also similar to past years (Fig. 10).

*Note 1: Percentages are not generally reported for non-responders, but reported percentages are based on the total number of candidates.*

*Note 2: All comparisons are based on observed percentages and no tests of significance were performed on differences.*

Fig. 1.

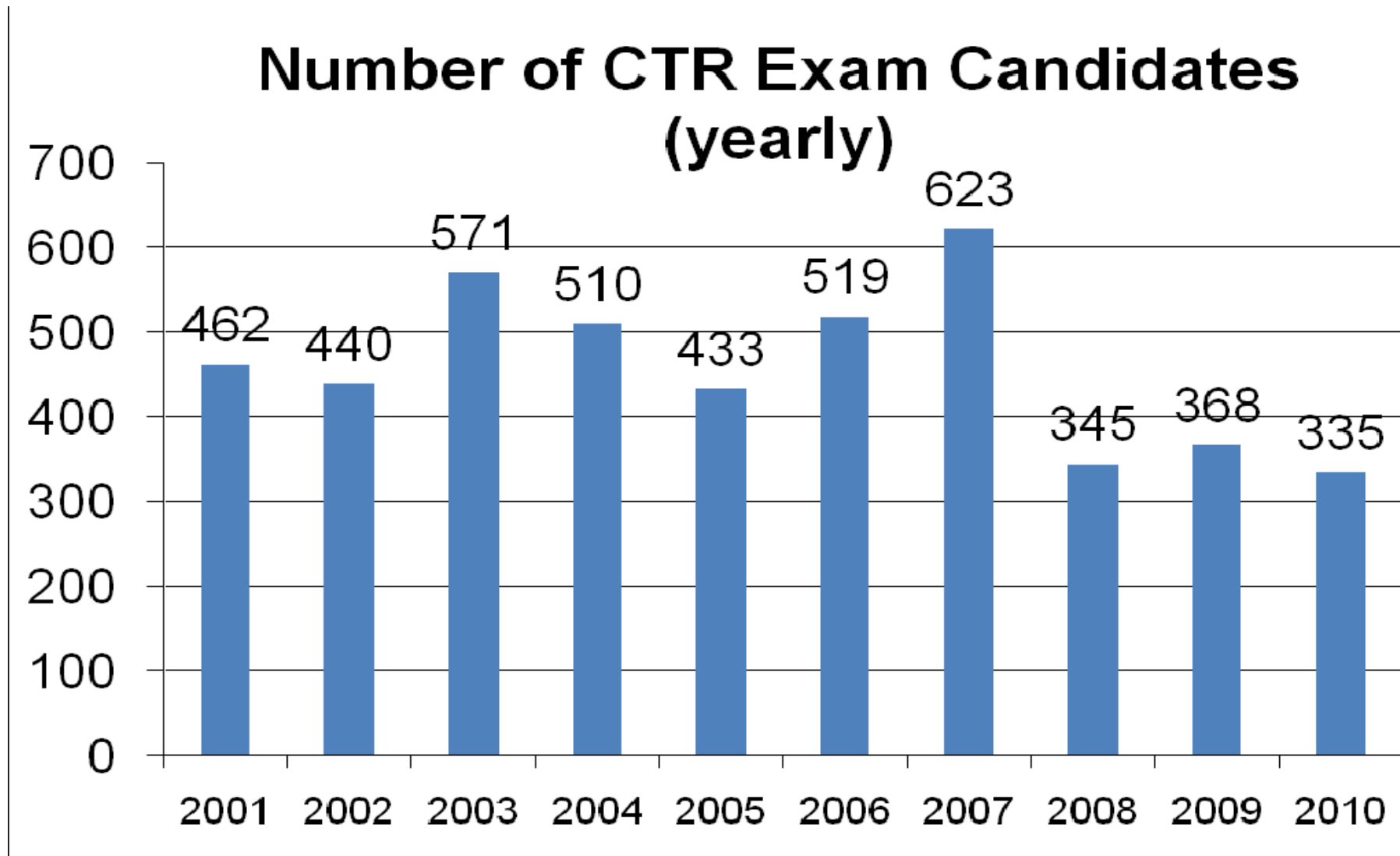


Fig. 2.

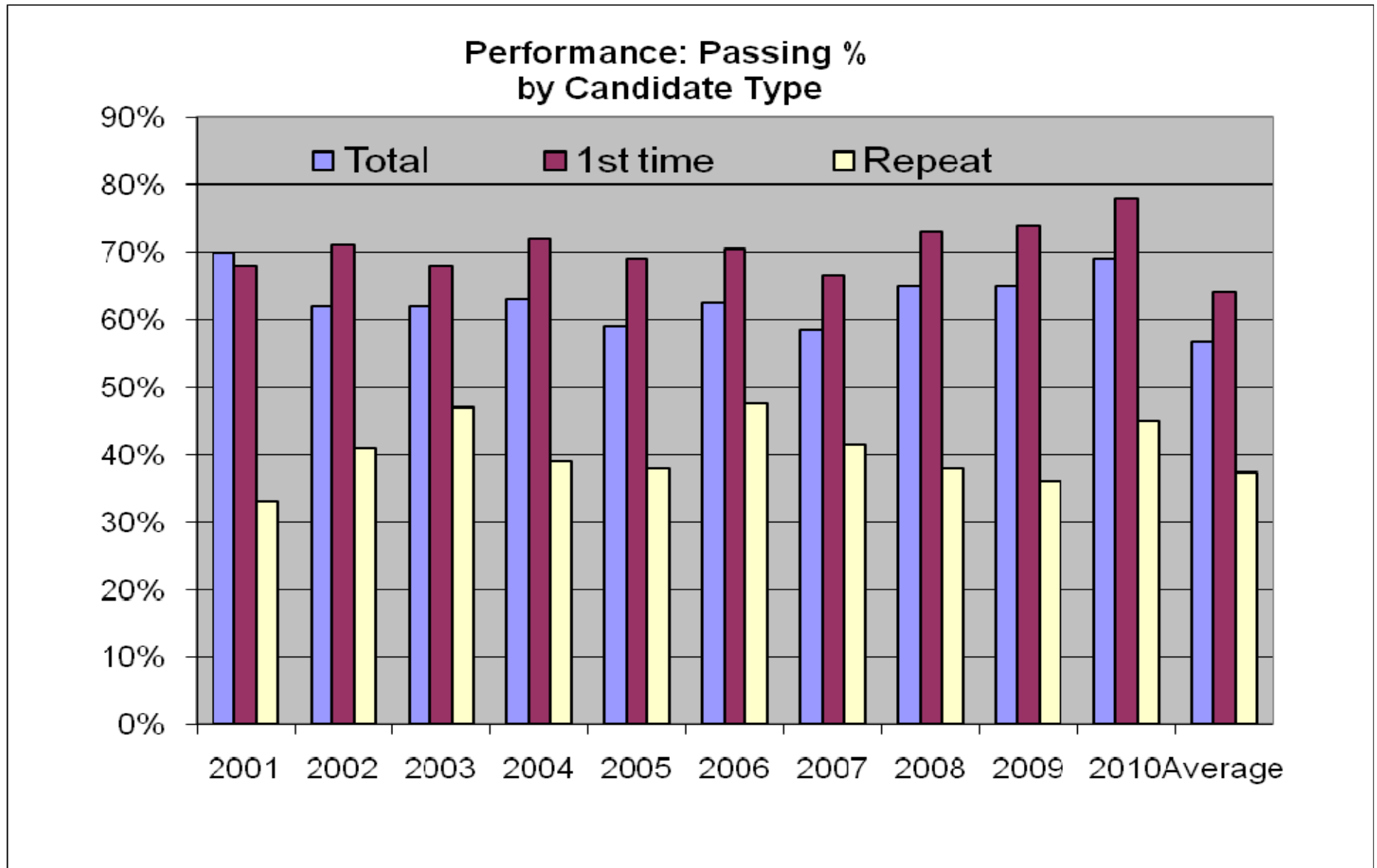


Fig. 3.

### Performance: Average % Correct by Exam Category

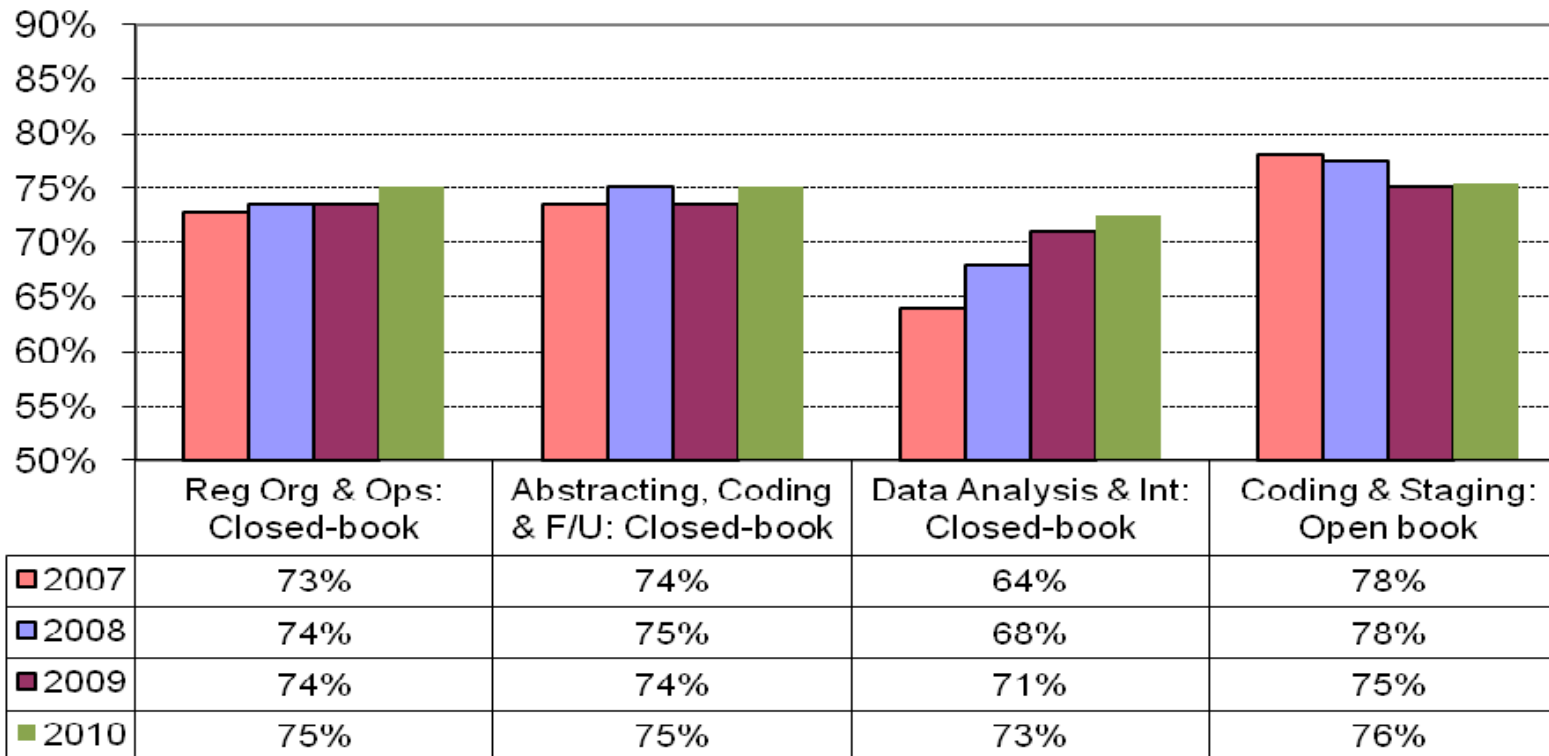


Fig. 4.

**Performance: Average % Correct by Exam Category and Eligibility Route**

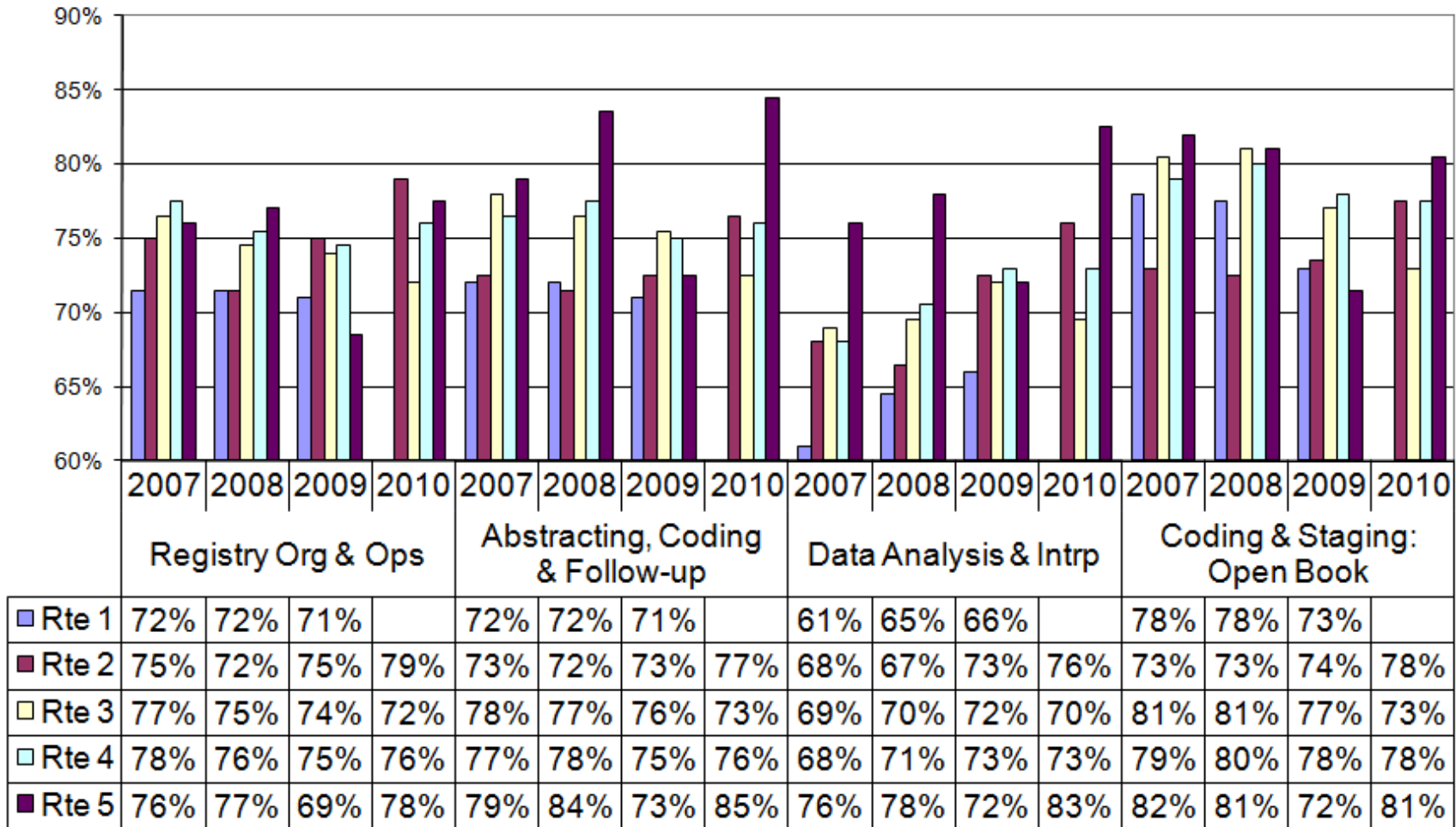


Fig. 5.

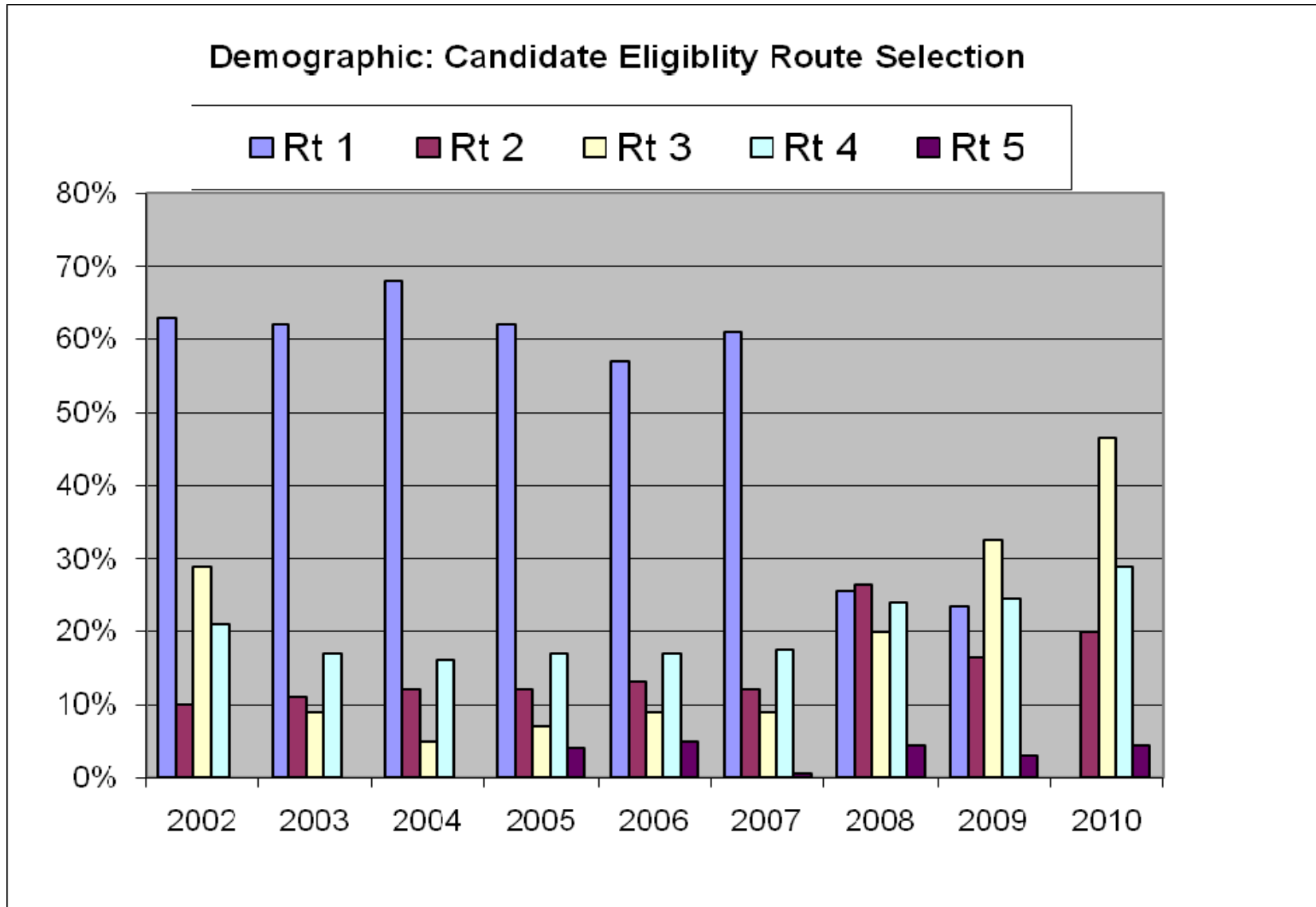


Fig. 6.

## Demographic: Candidates by Primary Place of Employment

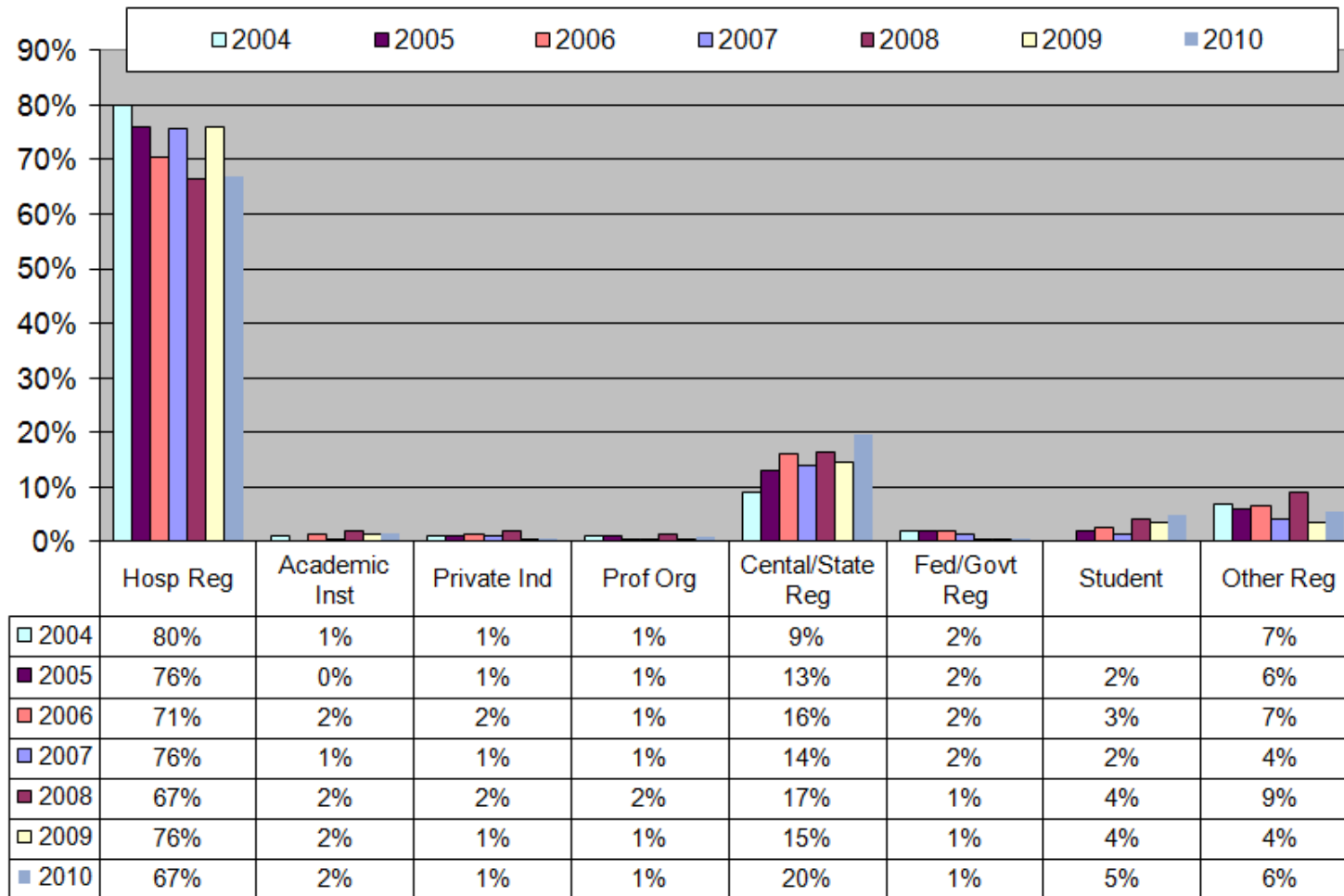


Fig. 7.

**Candidate Demographic: Age Distribution**

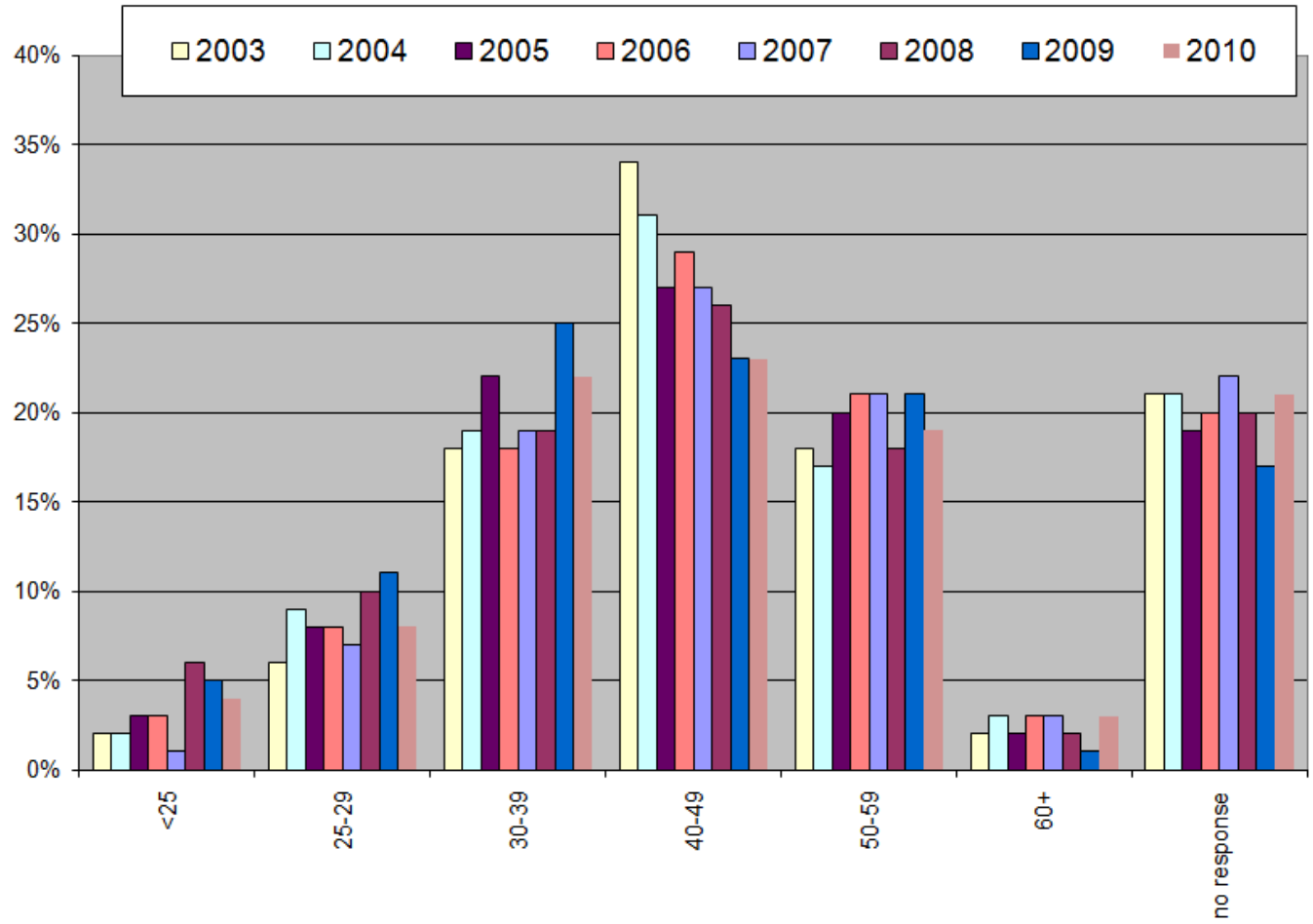


Fig. 8.

## Demographic: Candidates by Experience

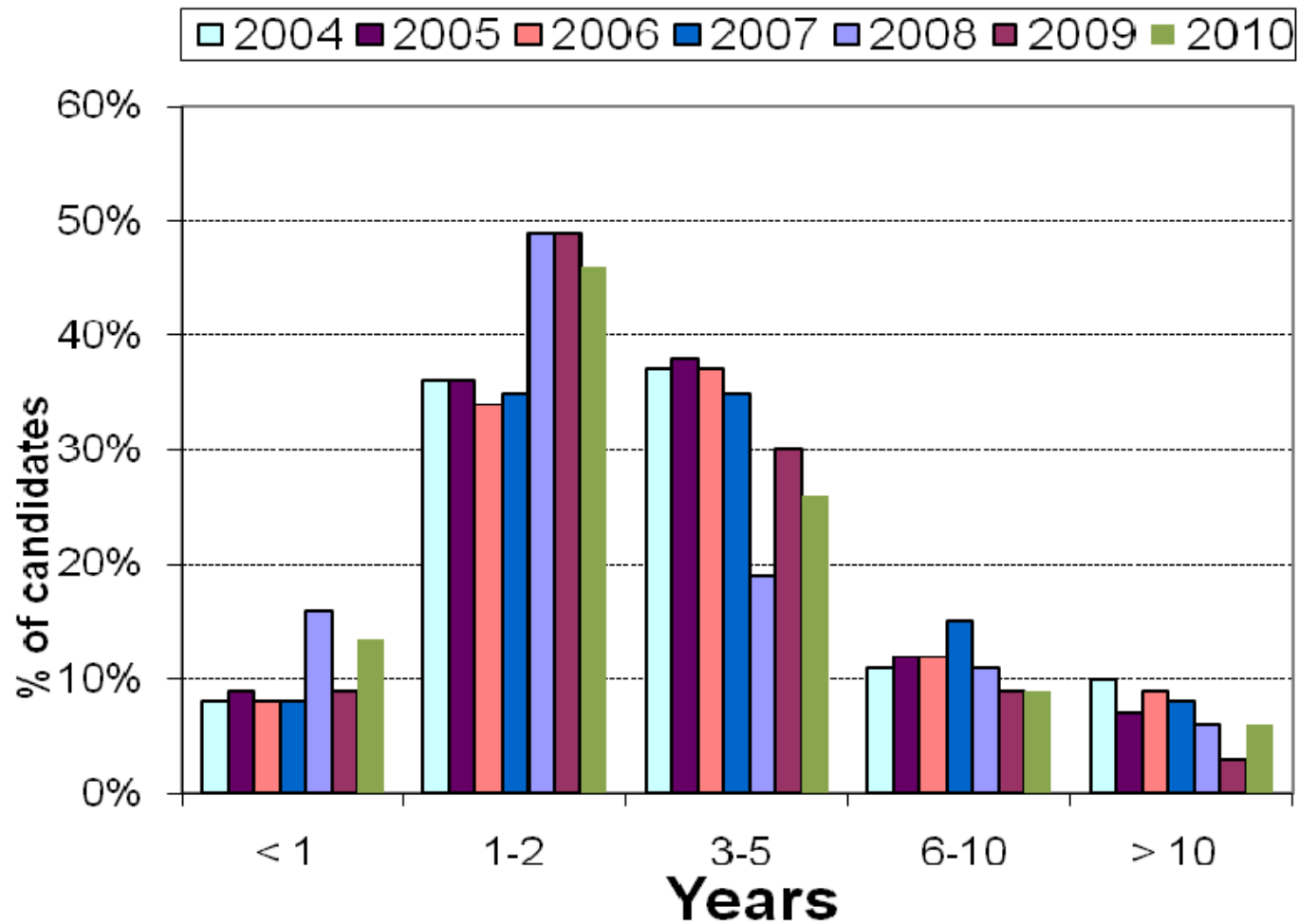


Fig. 9.

### Demographic: Percent of Candidates by Highest Academic Level

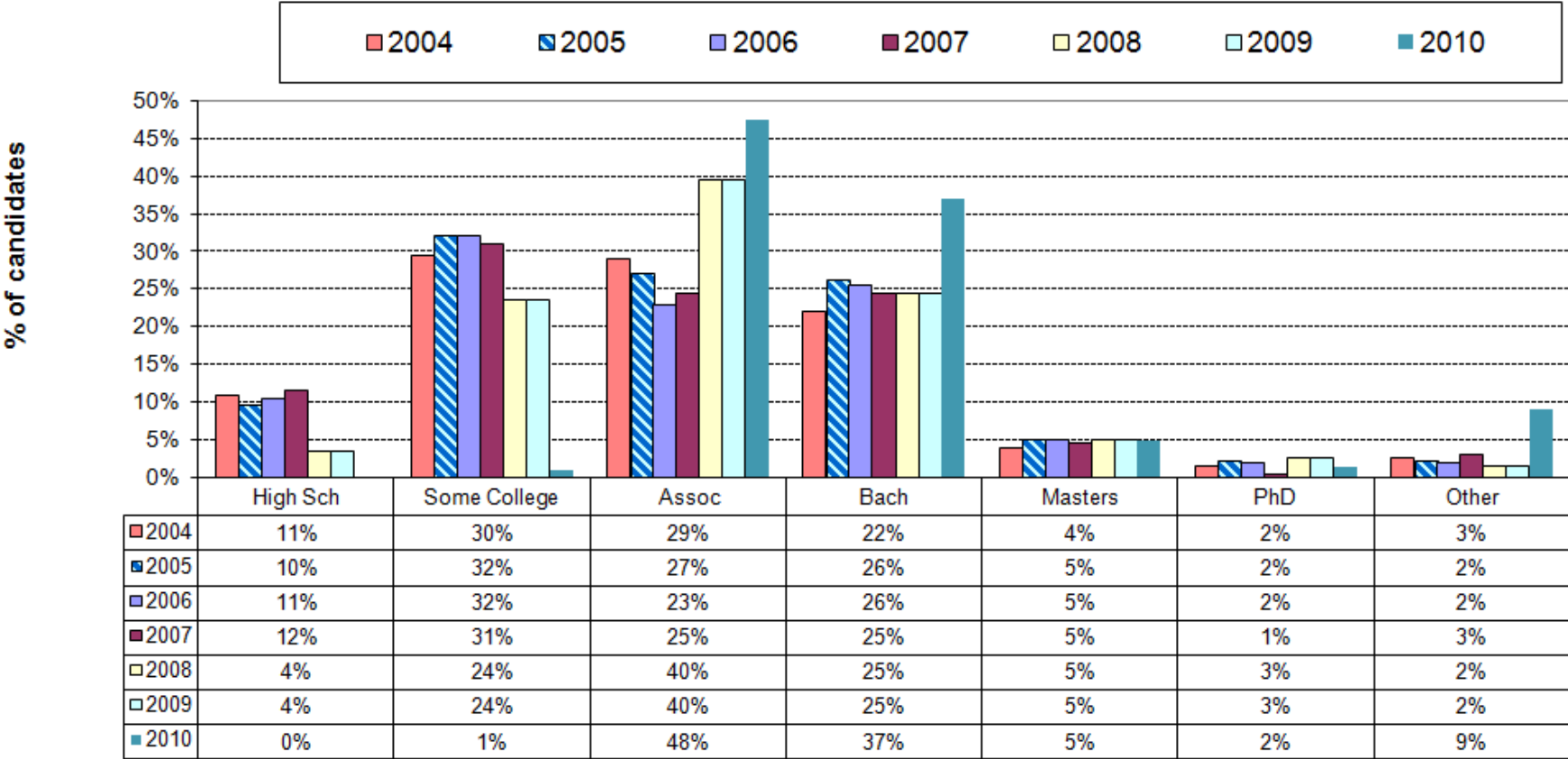


Fig. 10.

### Performance: Avg Total Score (%) by Highest Academic Achievement

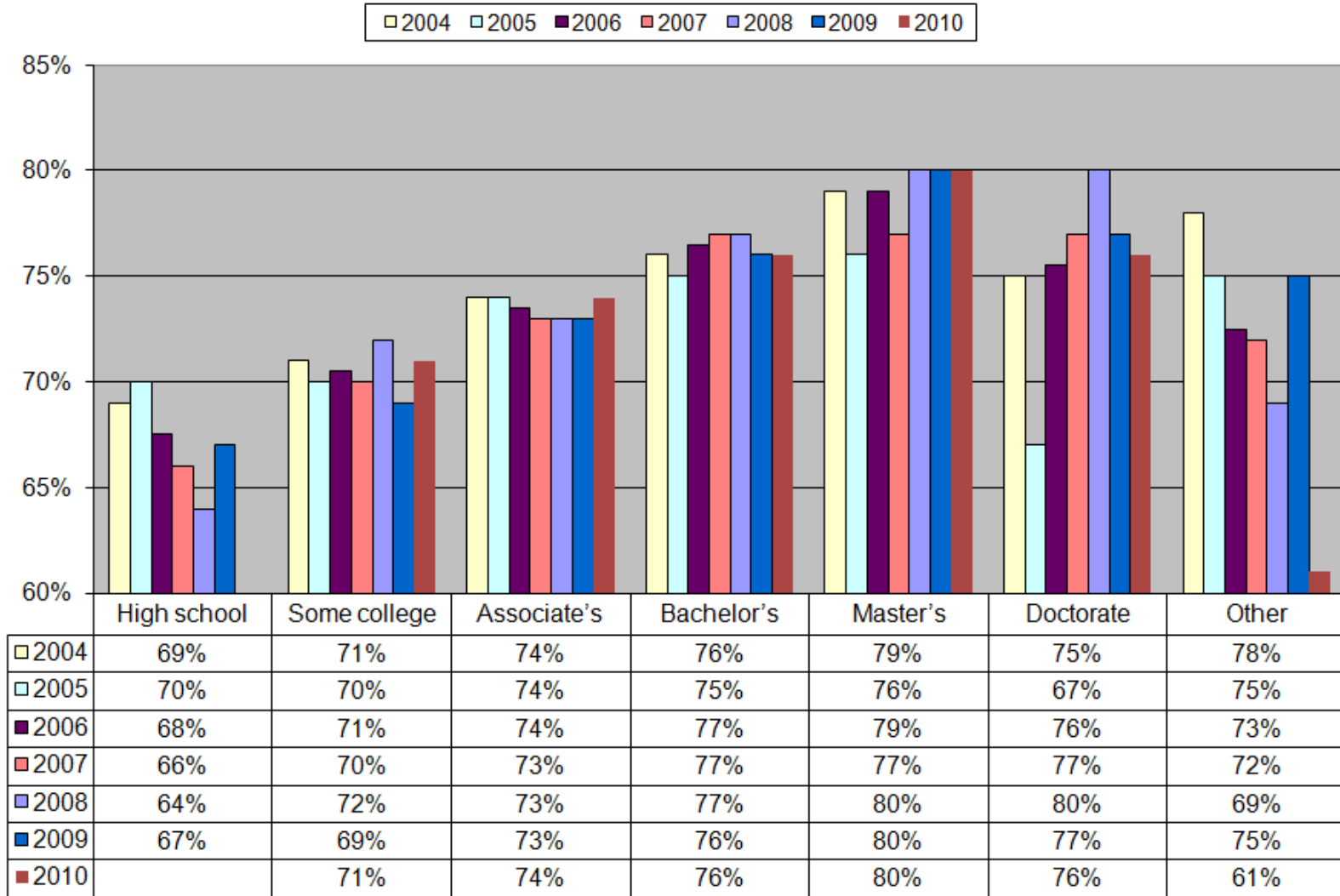


Fig. 11.

## Candidate Demo: U.S. Residence

