ERAS | THE FUTURE IN FOCUS

AAMC
Electronic Residency Application Service®

MyERAS® Content and Program Signaling for Fellowships



Association of American Medical Colleges

Geographic Preferences: Overview

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Geographic Preferences

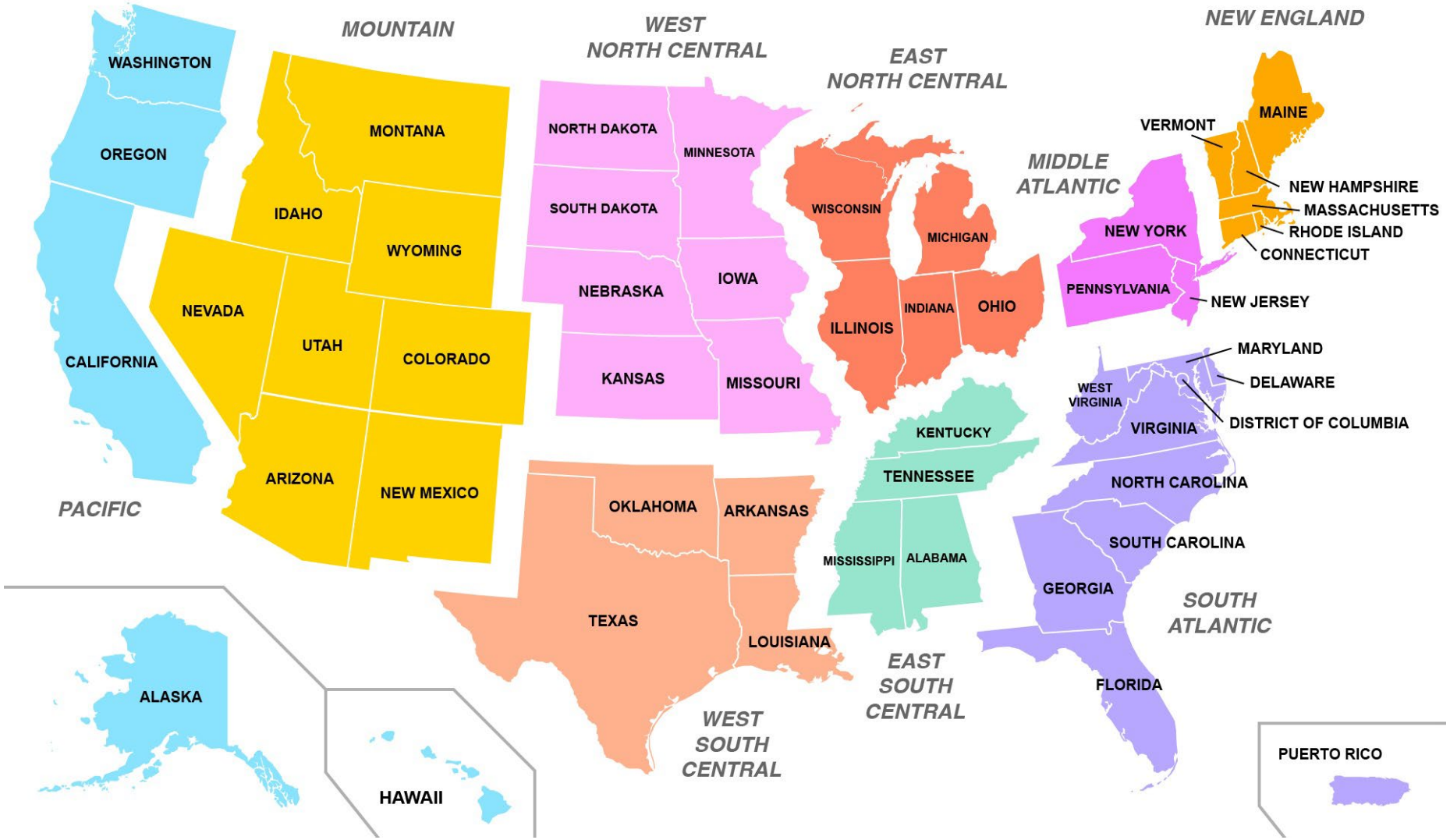
Goals for Geographic Preferences Section:

Provide a process for sharing geographic preferences that enhances accuracy and fairness.

Communicate the importance of geography for an applicant.

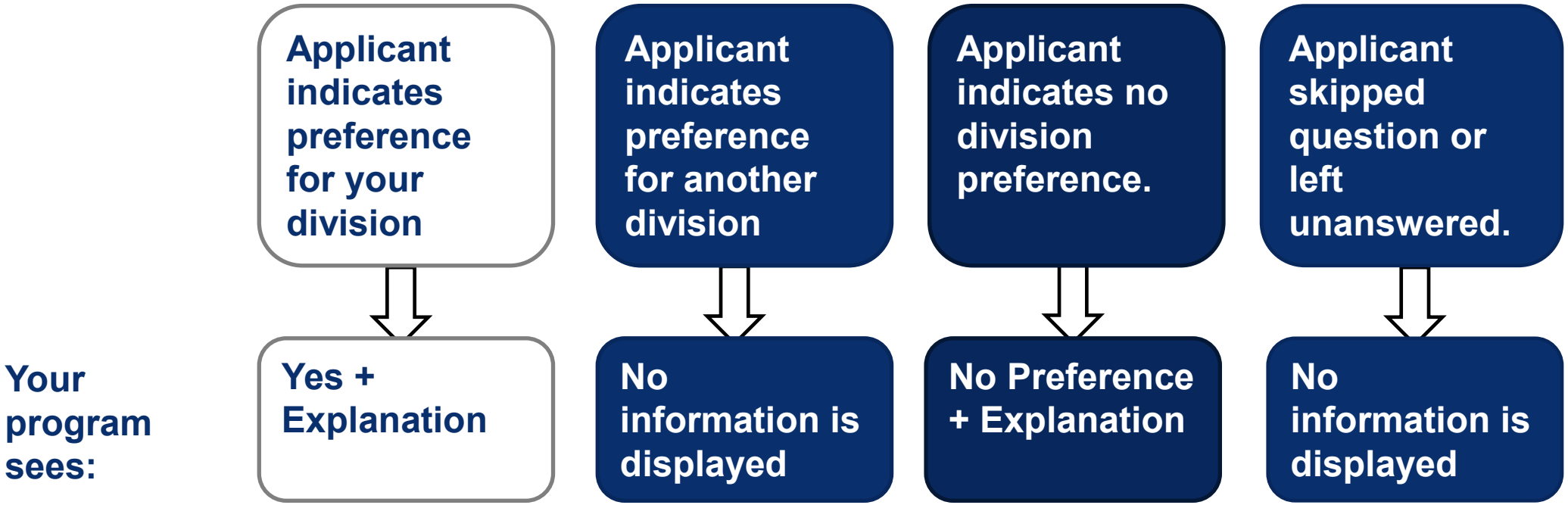
Provide an opportunity to share preferences for regions and location setting.

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How are geographic preferences shared with programs?



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Program Signals: Overview



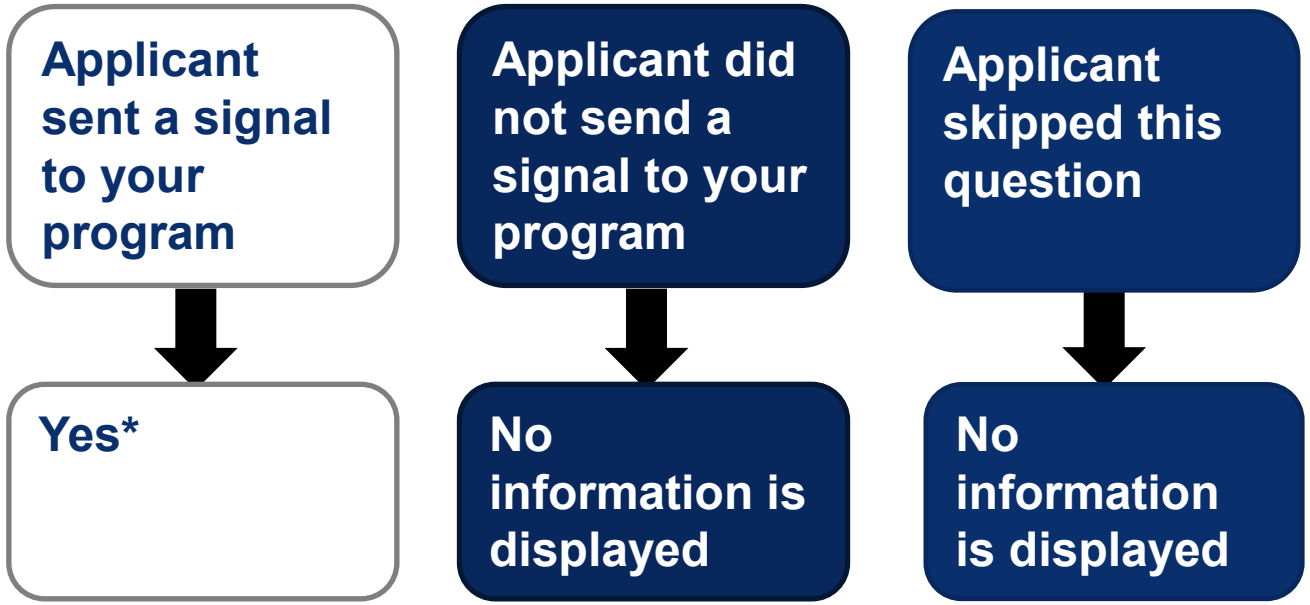
What is a program signal?

Program signals ***offer applicants the opportunity to express interest*** in a program at the time of application.

Program signals are ***intended to be used by programs as one of many data points*** in deciding whom to invite to interview.

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How are Program Signals shared with programs?



*Slight variation of text for two tier signal strategy. These programs would see Gold or Silver

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Pros & Cons of Signal Approaches

	Small # of Signals	Large # of Signals	Two-Tier
Pros	• True top programs. • Guards against use of program signals as interview invitation criteria.	• Distributes signals more evenly.	• Greater flexibility for applicants • Distribute signals more evenly
Cons	• Insufficient for accurately representing all applicant preferences.	• Tempting to use as threshold. • Value of the signal may be diluted.	• Tempting to use as a threshold. • Explanation more challenging.
Example	• General Surgery (5) • Internal Medicine (7)	• Ortho (30) • ENT (25)	• OBGYN (3 Gold, 15 Silver) • Derm (3 Gold, 25 Silver)

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Pediatrics: Interview Rates by Program Signal Status

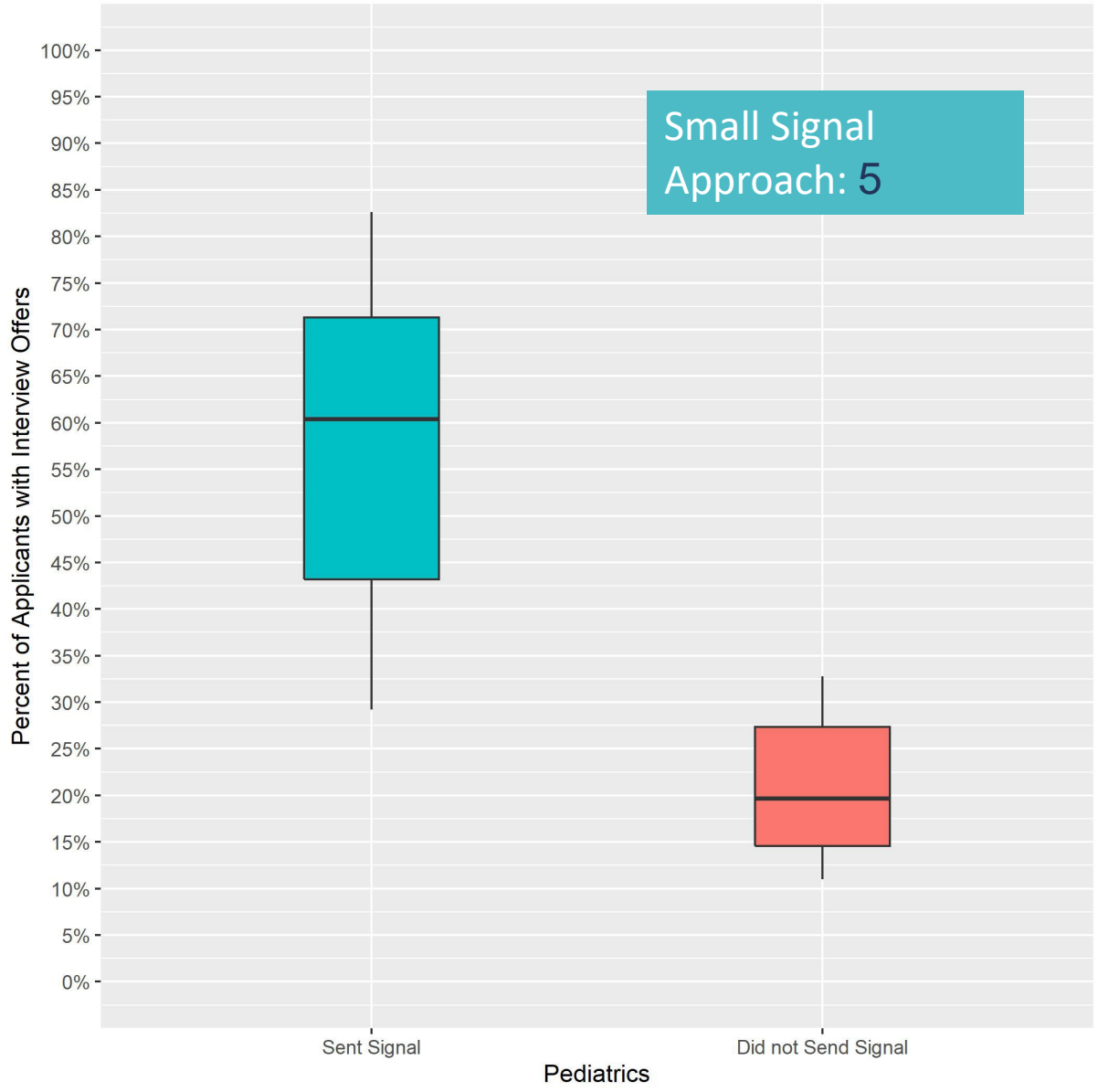
Number of Pediatrics programs plotted: 186 (2023 ERAS cycle).

Applicants who sent a signal:

- Median of interview offers: 60%.
- 10th percentile: 29%.
- 90th percentile: 83%.

Applicants who did not send a signal:

- Median of interview offers: 20%.
- 10th percentile: 11%.
- 90th percentile: 33%.



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Orthopedic Surgery: Interview Rates by Program Signal Status

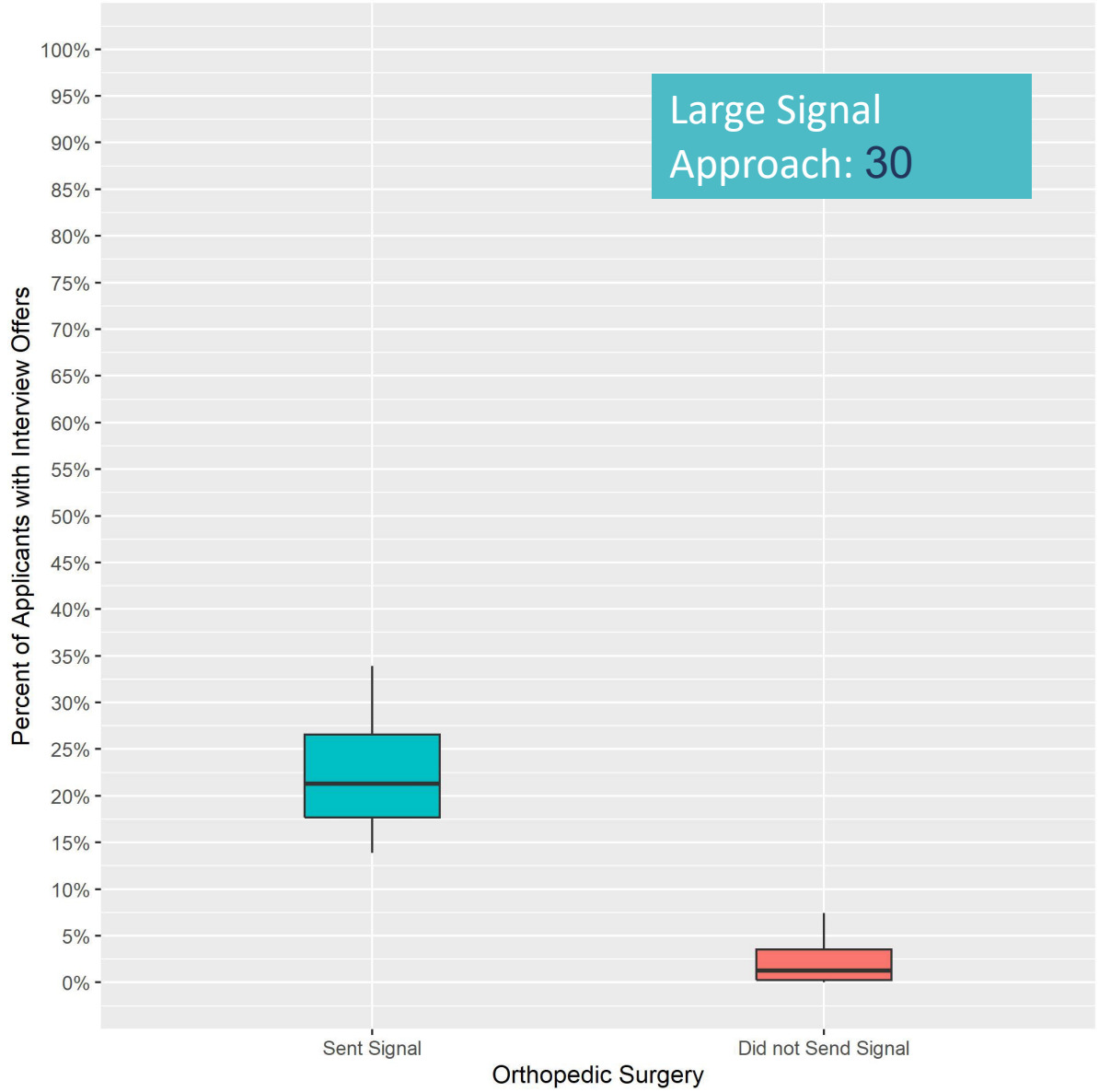
Number of Orthopedic Surgery programs plotted: 158 (2023 ERAS cycle).

Applicants who sent a signal:

- Median of interview offers: 21%.
- 10th percentile: 14%.
- 90th percentile: 34%.

Applicants who did not send a signal:

- Median of interview offers: 1%.
- 10th percentile: 0%.
- 90th percentile: 7%.



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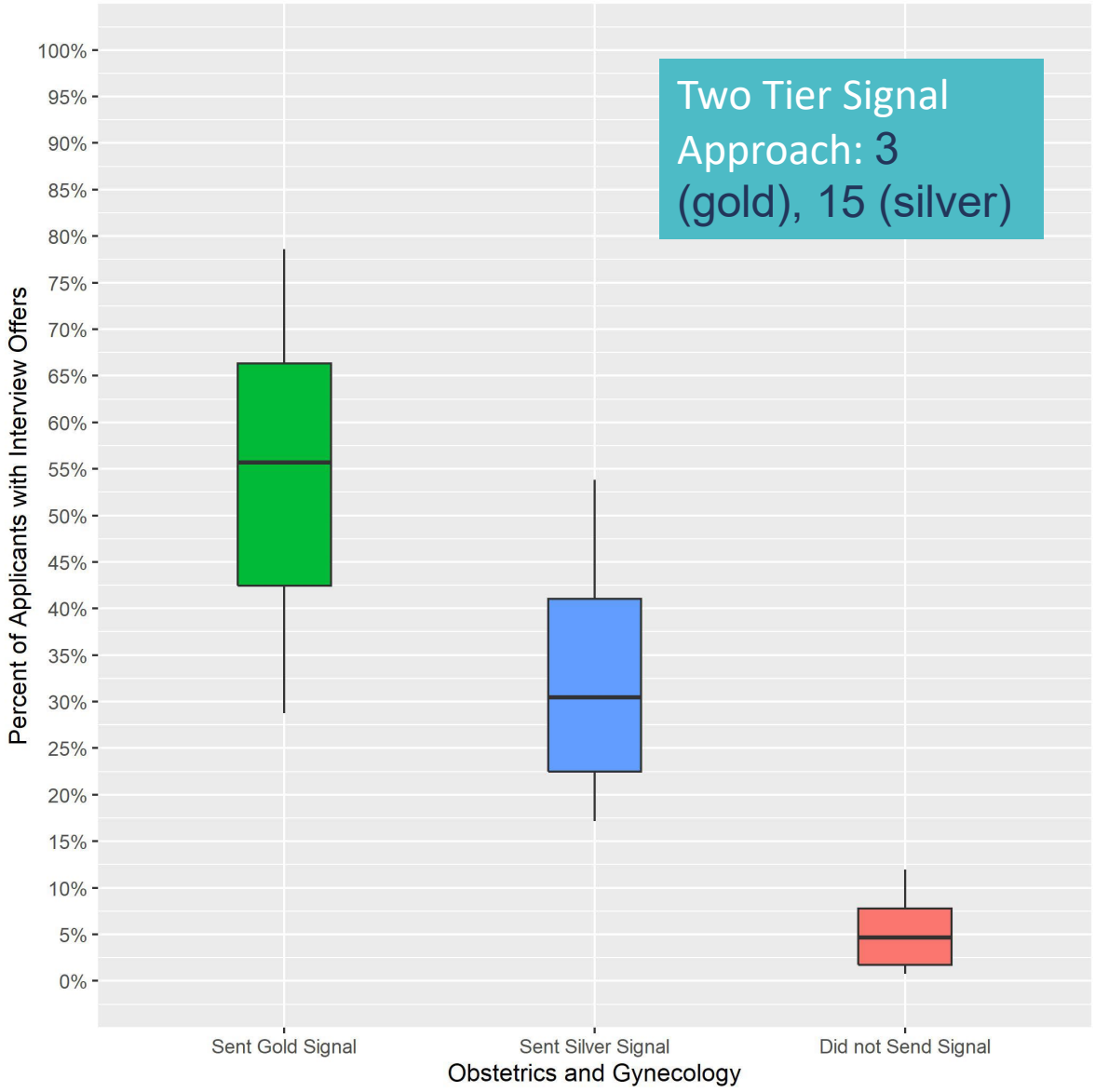
OBGYN: Interview Rates by Program Signal Status

Number of OBGYN programs plotted: 174 (2023 ERAS cycle).

Applicants who sent a gold signal:
- Median of interview offers: 56%.
- 10th percentile: 29%.
- 90th percentile: 79%.

Applicants who sent a silver signal:
- Median of interview offers: 30%.
- 10th percentile: 17%.
- 90th percentile: 54%.

Applicants who did not send a signal:
- Median of interview offers: 5%.
- 10th percentile: 1%.
- 90th percentile: 12%.



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Guidance

Applicants

- Signal your TRUE preferences
- Signal your home and rotation institutions if they are your TRUE preference
- Don’t send “love letter” follow-up emails

Programs

- Be honest on your website abut how you’re using signals
- Advise your home and rotating students to SIGNAL
- Don’t overweight signals in your review process
- Look for corroborating information in the application to support an applicants’ preference
- Don’t use signals after interview day

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Program Signals

Do:

✓ Use signals when deciding whom to invite to interview *only.*

✓ Consider signals as a “plus factor,” not a screening tool.

Do not:

- Overweigh signals in your selection process.

- Assume applicants who do not signal your program are not genuinely interested in your program.

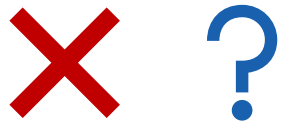
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Appropriate vs. Inappropriate Interview Questions



Appropriate questions for programs that received a signal:

- What about “XX” specialty interests you and why?
- You sent a signal to my program, so it must be a strong interest for you. Could you share with me what it is about this particular program that especially excites or inspires you?



Inappropriate questions:

- What programs did you signal?
- You did not send a signal to our program. Why not? If you had additional signals, would you have signaled this program?
- After completing interviews, would you change the list of programs you sent signals, if possible? Would you signal our program?

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Ask yourselves key questions and look at the data for your and other specialties

Conceptual

- What are you trying to learn from signals?
- What goals are we trying to accomplish with signals?
- How much risk do we want to ask applicants to bear?
- How much change can our community tolerate?
- How much evidence do we need to support a change?

Data

- Did specialties that used a different approach accomplish goals that we didn't?
- Did specialties use signals similarly regardless of # of signals?
- Will signals reduce application volume?

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Next Steps

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Follow-up Discussion

- How do we socialize and educate programs and applicants?
- Which sub-specialties are interested and benefit from signals?
- Which sub-specialties are interested in combination program signals?

Next Steps

- Consider conceptual and data discussion questions.
- Set up next touch points with ERAS for additional comms, training, education.
- **Specialty leadership** confirm participation and indicate model and number in February.

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July Cycle Timeline for ERAS 2026



March 2025	April/May 2025	June 2025	July 2025
• Feb 28*: Deadline for specialties to agree to participate in program signals. • March 28*: Deadline for specialties to communicate to AAMC the model and number of program signals they wish to use.	• May 31 @5 p.m. ET: 2024-2025 ERAS Application season ends. • ERAS Program Management (EPM) Registration for ERAS 2025-2026 Season. Individual programs register and may opt-in to participate in program signals.	• 2025-2026 ERAS Season Opens • EFDO Token distribution for fellowship applicants. • Deadline for individual programs to opt-in to receive program signals in EPM.	• Application opening for applicants to begin submitting MyERAS applications and program signals. • Application opening for programs to begin reviewing.

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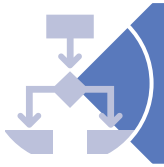
Individual Program Opt-In Via EPM

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- Individual programs will have the opportunity to opt-in or opt-out during ERAS Registration.



Training and Education



Communication to applicants/advisors



Protects applicants

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For more information:

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ERAS for Institutions Webpage

SCAN ME

ERAS Statistics and Preliminary Data

SCAN ME

MyERAS Program Signaling for ERAS 2024-2025

SCAN ME

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