

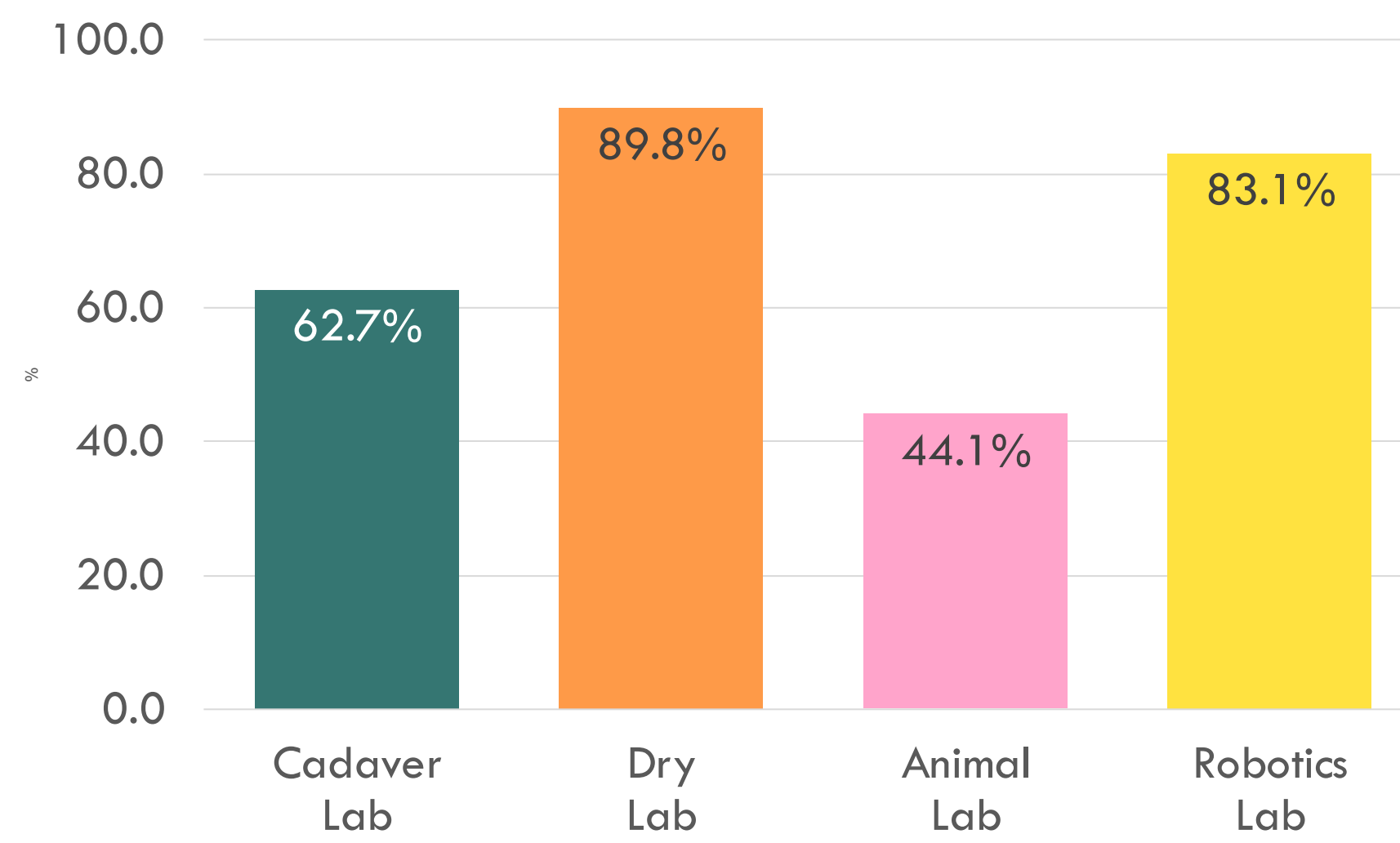
INTRODUCTION

The AAGL, the accrediting body for Complex Benign Gynecology Fellowship (CBGF) has shown interest in obtaining formal subspecialty recognition.¹ Efforts to gain subspecialty recognition often coincide with a push for increased standardization within the field, including in areas like simulation training. The AAGL has taken a groundbreaking step by providing a centralized, publicly accessible list for trainees to explore the different simulation labs available at each program.²

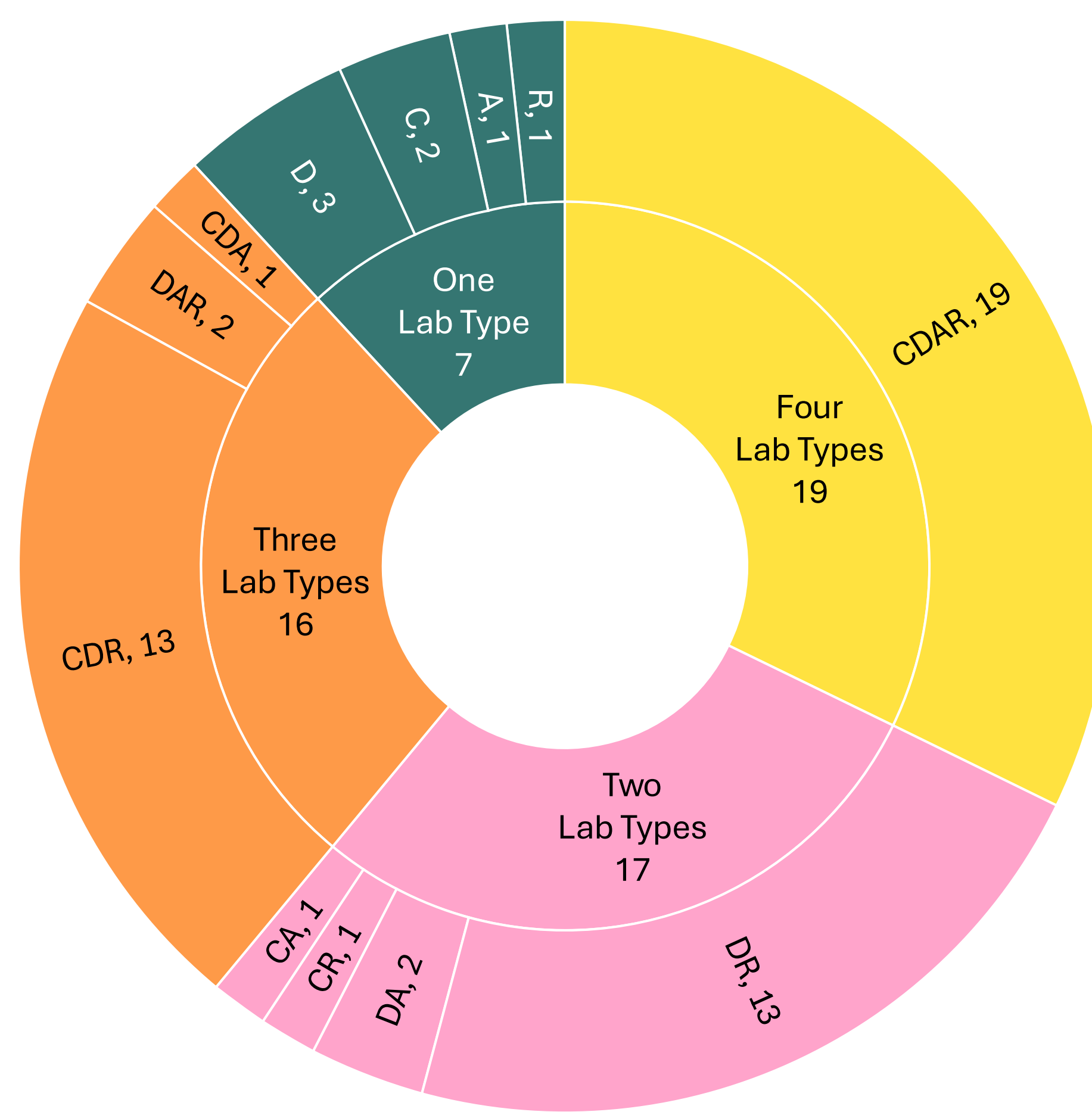
METHODS

We reviewed the 61 programs listed on AAGL's 2025 accredited programs. Two programs lacked complete forms and were excluded. The remaining 59 program description forms were analyzed to determine the prevalence of different simulation lab types and the 15 unique combinations in which they were offered. Results were summarized using counts and percentages.

Prevalence of Simulation Lab Types Across all CBGF Programs

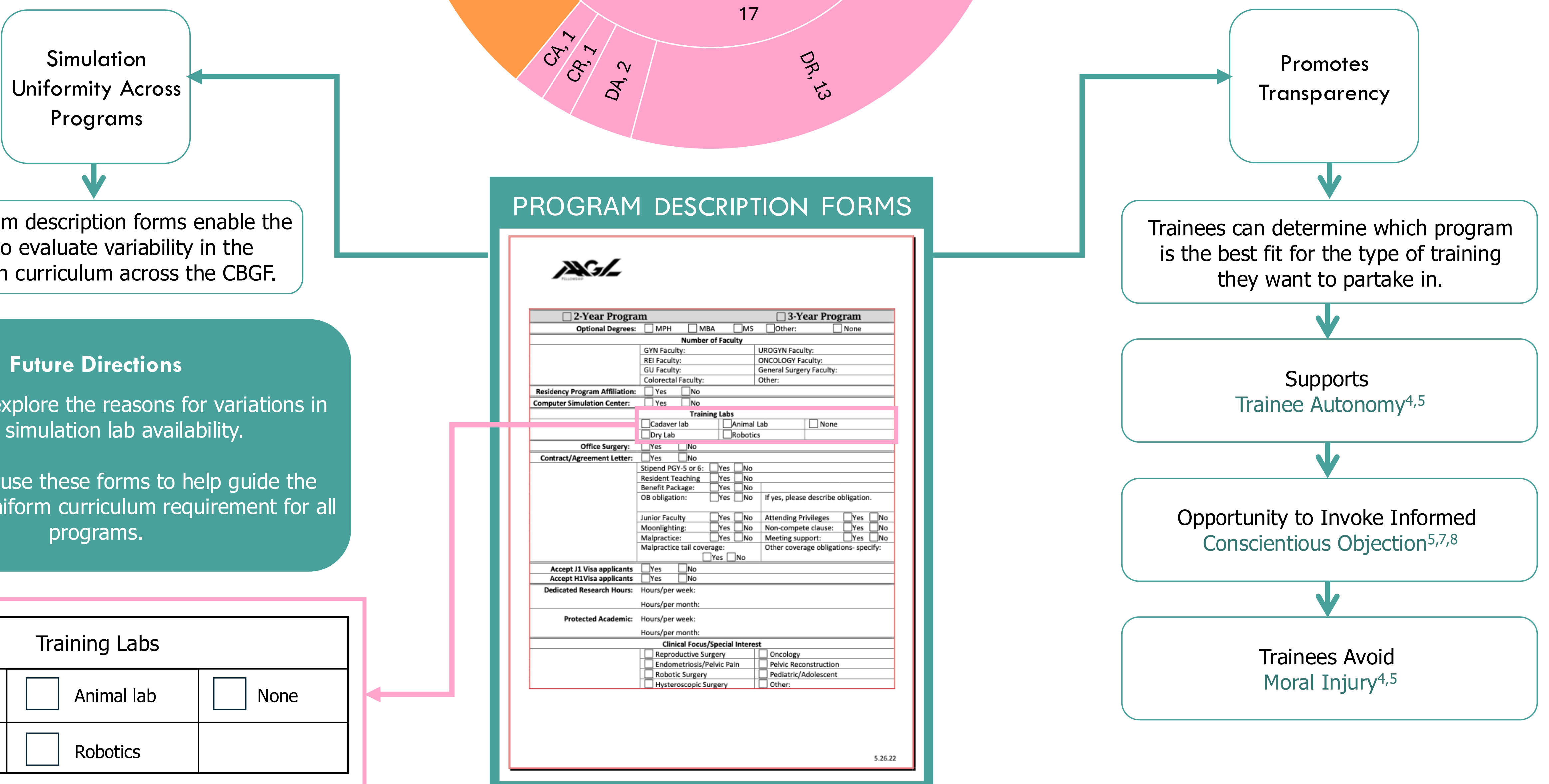


Different Combinations of Simulation Lab Types Across All Listed CBGF Programs



RESULTS

Of the 59 programs with complete program descriptions, 37 (62.7%) offered a cadaver lab, 53 (89.8%) offered a dry lab, 26 (44.1%) offered an animal lab, and 49 (83.1%) offered a robotics lab. Analyzing all CBGF programs shows that the most frequently offered curriculum includes all four lab types (19, 32.2%), followed by two (17, 28.8%), three (16, 27.1%), and one (7, 11.9%) lab type(s).
 1 (1.7%) offers an animal lab (A)
 1 (1.7%) robotics lab (R)
 2 (3.4%) cadaver lab (C)
 3 (5.1%) dry lab (D)
 1 (1.7%) cadaver and animal lab (CA)
 1 (1.7%) cadaver and robotics lab (CR)
 2 (3.4%) dry and animal lab (DA)
 13 (22.0%) dry and robotics lab (DR)
 1 (1.7%) cadaver, dry, and animal lab (CDA)
 2 (3.4%) dry, animal, and robotics lab (DAR)
 13 (22.0%) cadaver, dry, and robotics lab (CDR)
 19 (32.2%) programs offer all four simulation lab types (CDAR)



LIMITATIONS

LIMITATIONS OF THE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION FORMS

The program description forms² and the Program Requirements for Complex Benign Gynecology Fellowship¹⁰ do not clearly define:

- What an institution's simulation curriculum must encompass to satisfy a specific lab type
- What types of simulation labs must be offered as a requirement for accreditation
- The specific topics or skills that simulation training should encompass
- Whether animal lab simulations involve live, anesthetized animals, and/or if simulations are conducted on animal tissue

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study does not explain why there is significant variability in the different simulation labs offered by these programs. These differences may stem from:

- Disparities in local resources
- Challenges related to securing institutional leadership approval
- Cost of acquiring and maintain simulation faculties and equipment
- Faculty availability to participate
- Faculty interest and expertise in simulation
- Ethical concerns

Institutional vs Individual Preferences

Regardless of an institution's belief about whether training on live animals is beneficial for surgical training, individual trainees may hold differing views from their institution regarding the extent to which a training modality is justified or unjustified, or consistent with their moral, religious, or personal beliefs.^{6,7,8,9}

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