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Exploring the Relationship Between Geographic Preference & Interview Invitations Across Specialties

2024 ERAS® Analysis

Data as of 2/28/2024

Association of
American Medical Colleges

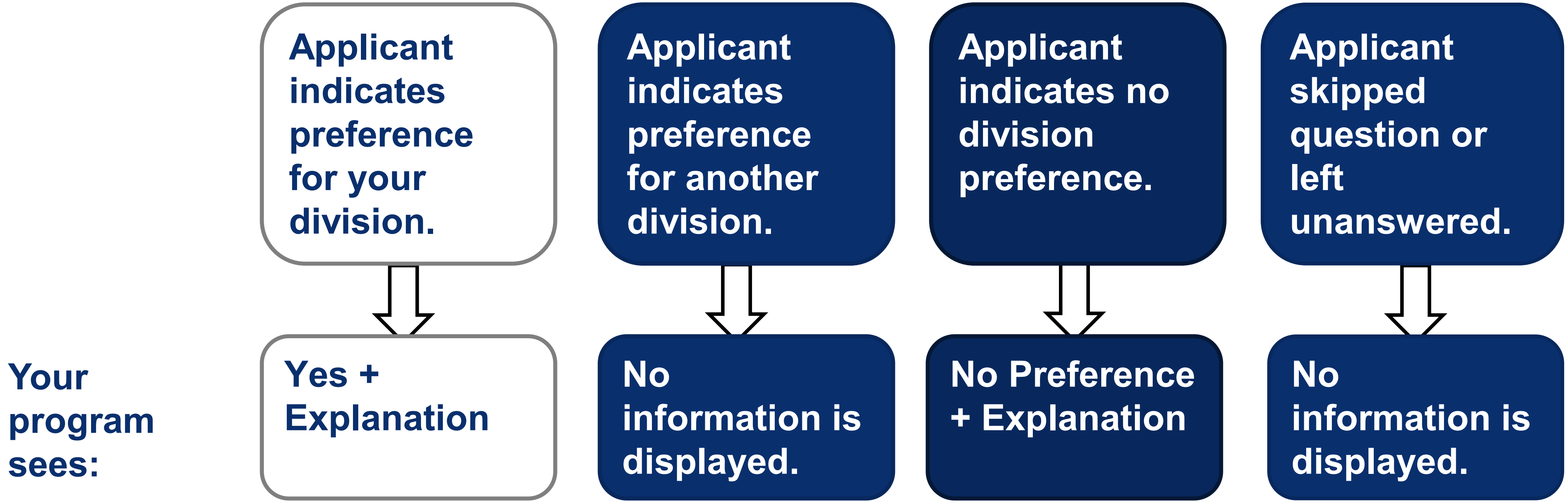
Geographic Preferences: Overview

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 divisions and location setting.

How are geographic preferences shared with programs?



Applicant indicates preference for your division.

Applicant indicates preference for another division.

Applicant indicates no division preference.

Applicant skipped question or left unanswered.

Your program sees:

Yes + Explanation

No information is displayed.

No Preference + Explanation

No information is displayed.

Sample of 2024 ERAS Applicants

The sample for analysis includes the following specialties who had at least 10 programs and made geographic preferences viewable at their program as of September 29, 2023.

- Adult Neurology.
- Anesthesiology.
- Child Neurology.
- Dermatology.
- Diagnostic Radiology.
- Emergency Medicine.
- Family Medicine.
- General Surgery.
- Internal Medicine.
- Internal Medicine-Pediatrics.
- Internal Medicine/Psychiatry.
- Interventional Radiology.
- Neurological Surgery.
- Obstetrics & Gynecology.
- Orthopedic Surgery.
- Otolaryngology.
- Pathology.
- Pediatrics.
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.
- Psychiatry.
- Radiation Oncology.
- Transitional Year.
- Urology.
- Vascular Surgery-Integrated.

Analysis

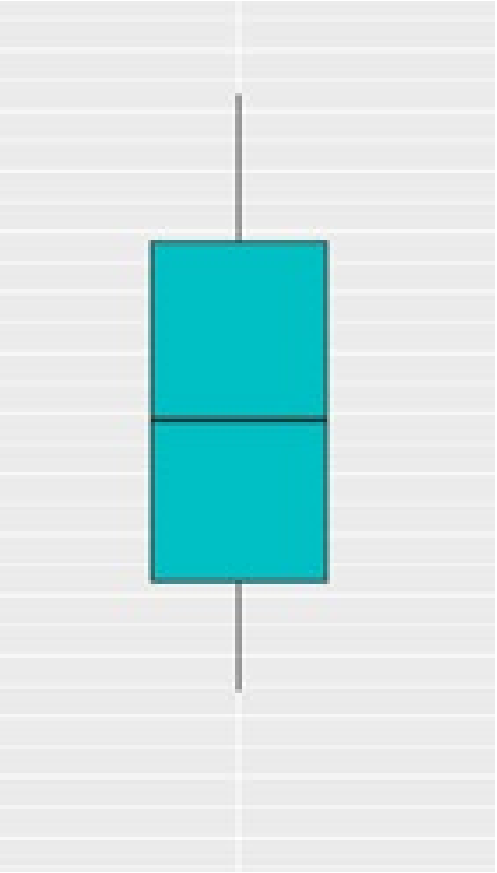
- **Predictors:**
  - Geographic Preference.
- **Outcome:**
  - Scheduled to interview PDWS or Thalamus Interview Scheduler as of February 28, 2024, (Main Residency Match® only).
- **Analysis:**
  - Results analyzed separately by program.
  - Computed geographic preference to interview conversion rates by program.
  - Summarized the distribution of conversion rates programs using boxplots.

What information is provided by a boxplot?

Boxplots show the distribution of signal to interview conversion rates for all programs in a specialty.

The colored box shows the signal to interview conversion rates for the bulk of the programs. The bottom of the box is the 25th percentile, the horizontal line is the median or the 50th percentile, and the top of the box is the 75th percentile.

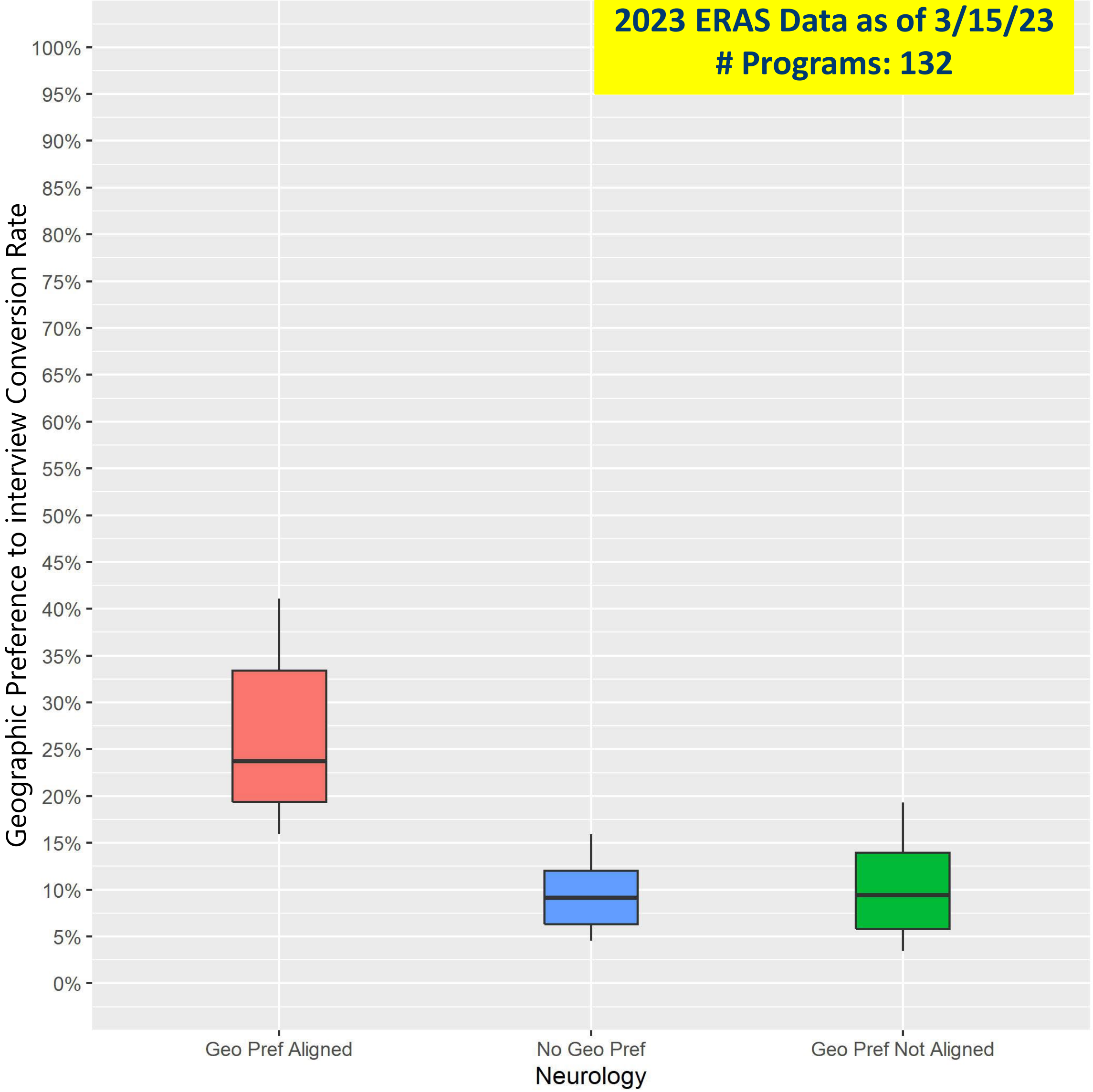
The whiskers represent the 10th and 90th percentile of programs’ interview invitation rates.



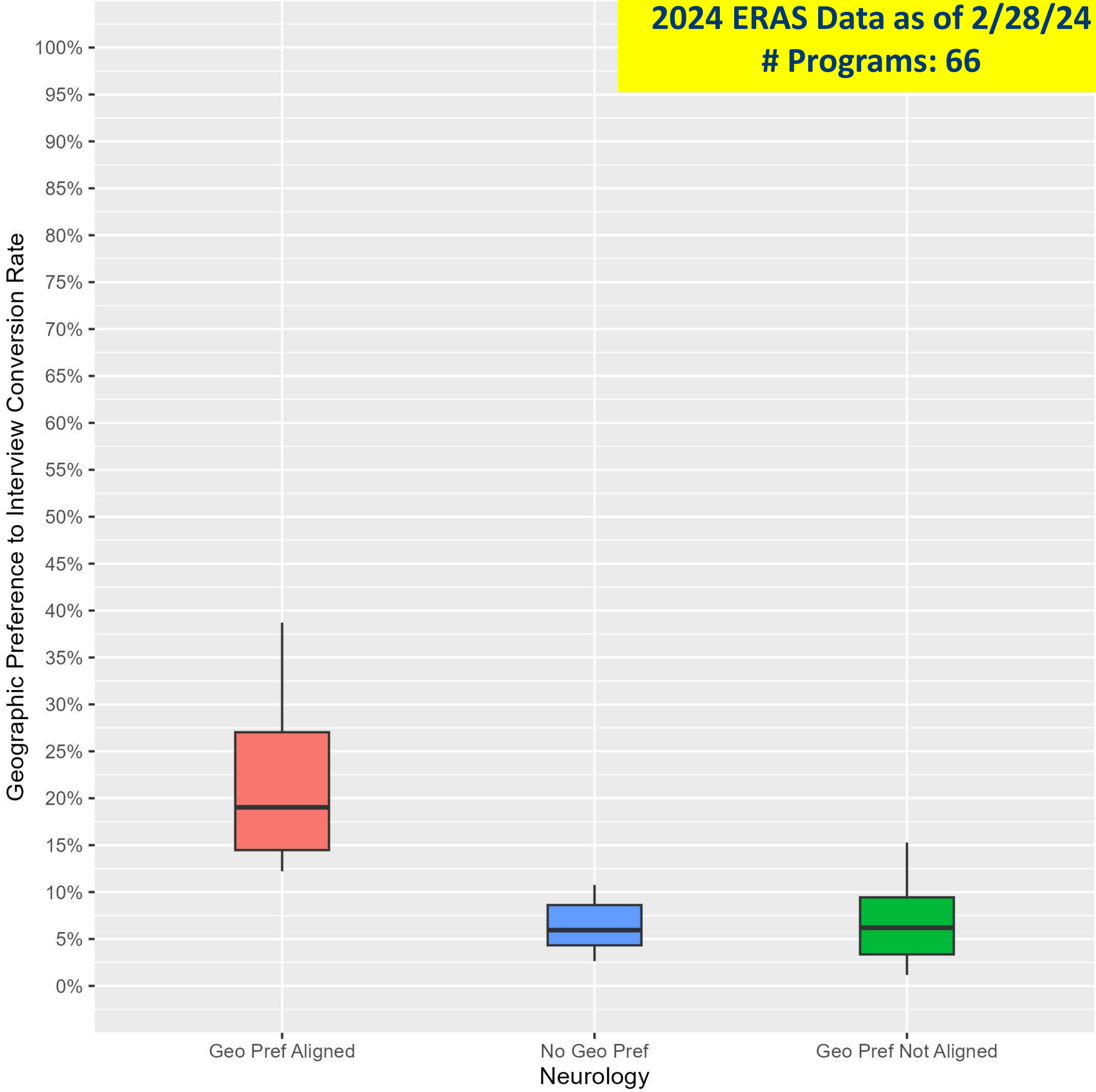
Adult Neurology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	176
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	87
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	66
Total analytic sample	**66**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**76%**
Total % of all Adult Neurology programs in 2024 ERAS® cycle	**38%**

Adult Neurology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison



2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# Programs: 132

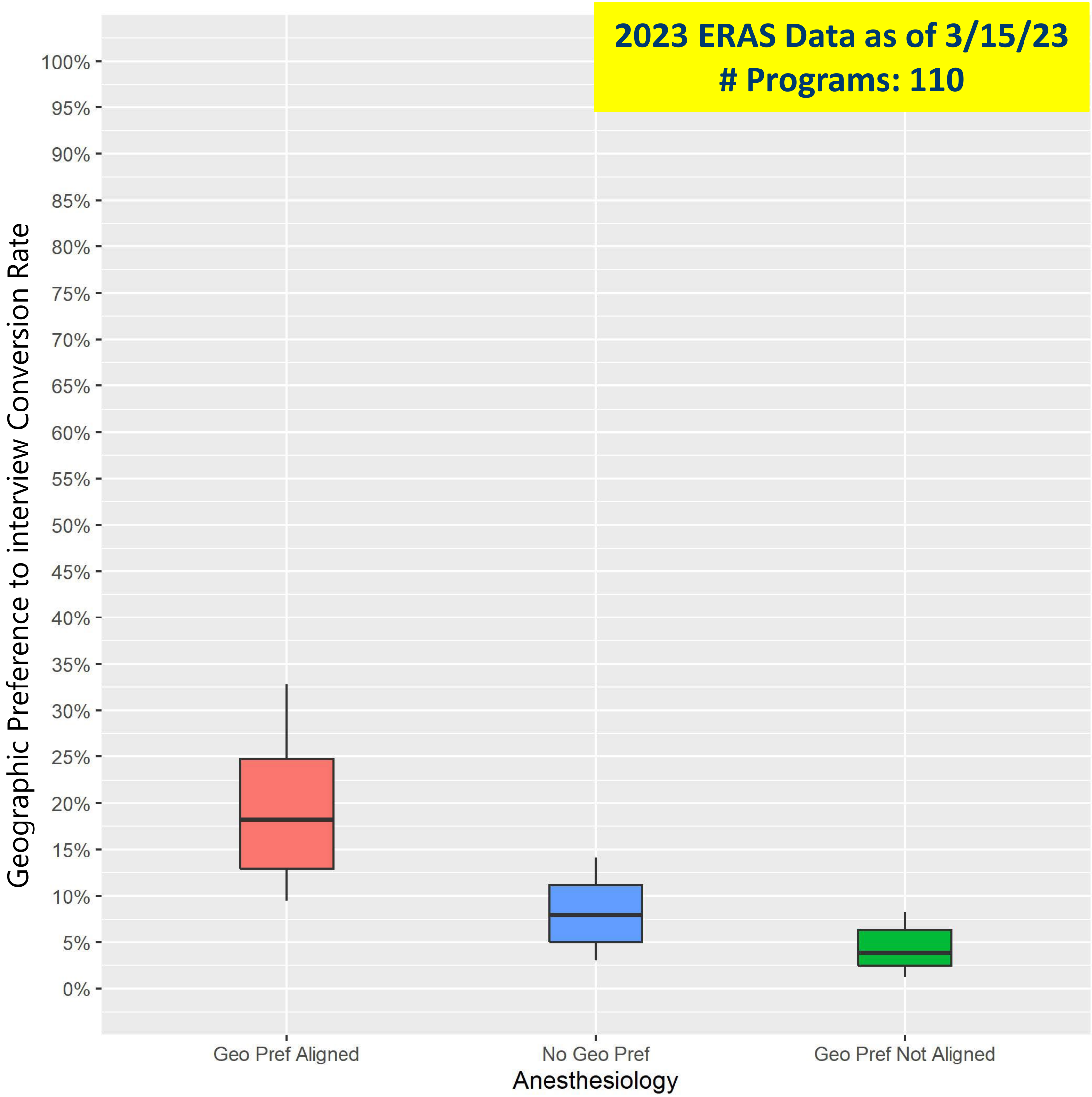


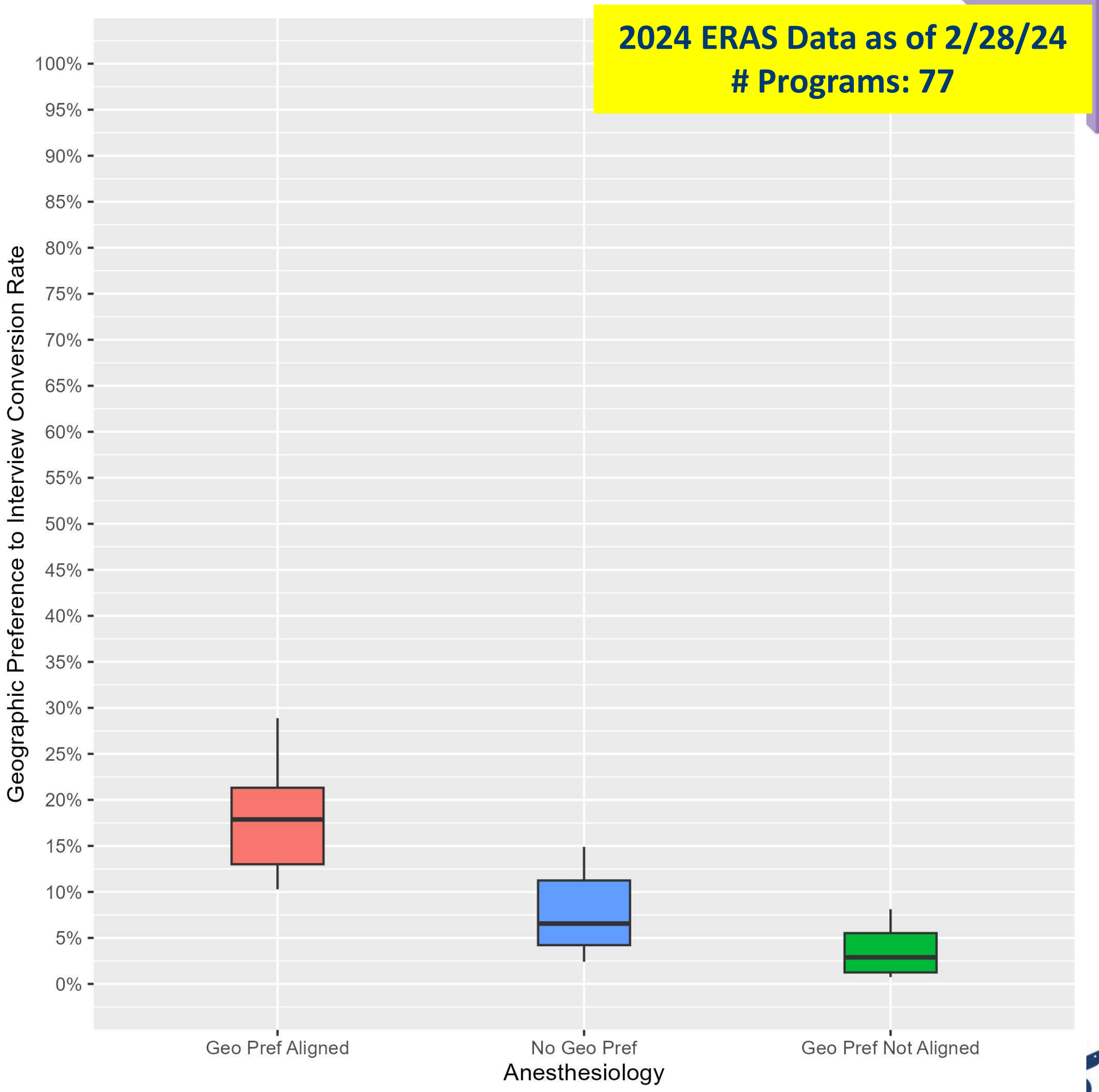
2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# Programs: 66

Anesthesiology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	166
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	89
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	77
Total analytic sample	**77**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**87%**
Total % of all Anesthesiology programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**46%**

Anesthesiology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison





Child Neurology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	77
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	32
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	26
Total analytic sample	**26**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**81%**
Total % of all Child Neurology programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**34%**

Child Neurology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

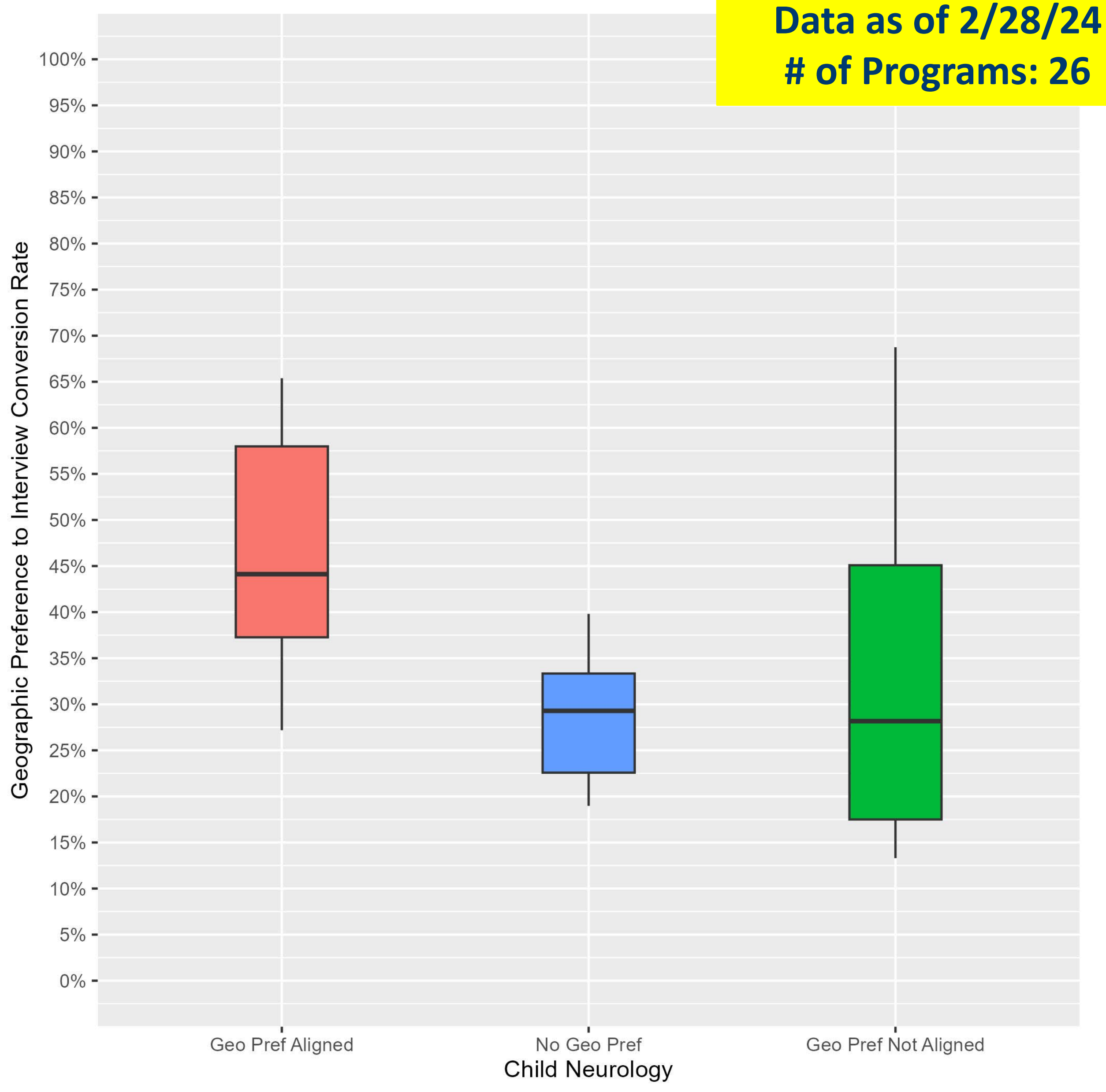
- Median of interview offers: 44%.
- 10th percentile: 27%.
- 90th percentile: 65%.

Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 29%.
- 10th percentile: 19%.
- 90th percentile: 40%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 28%.
- 10th percentile: 13%.
- 90th percentile: 69%.

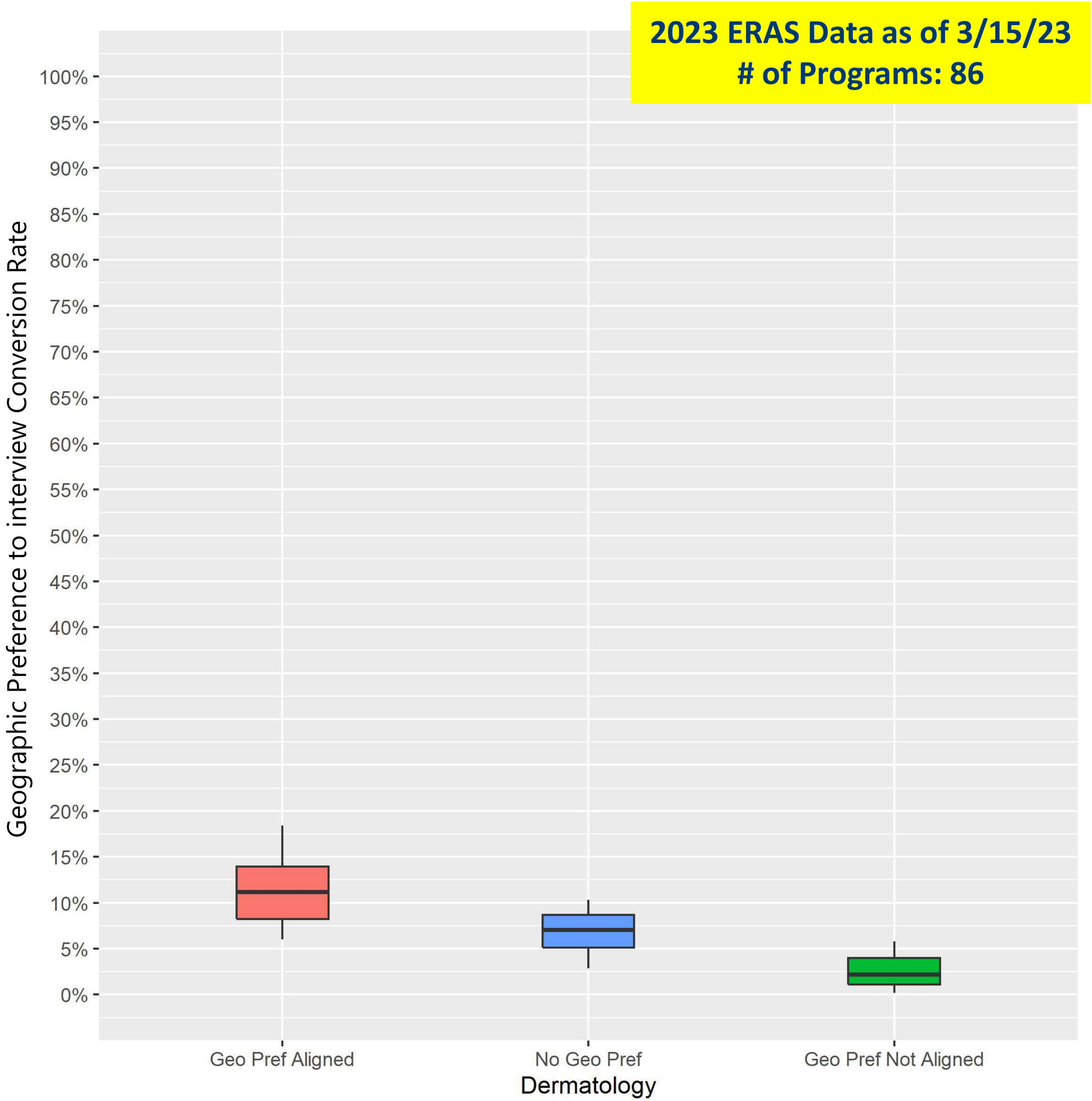


Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 26

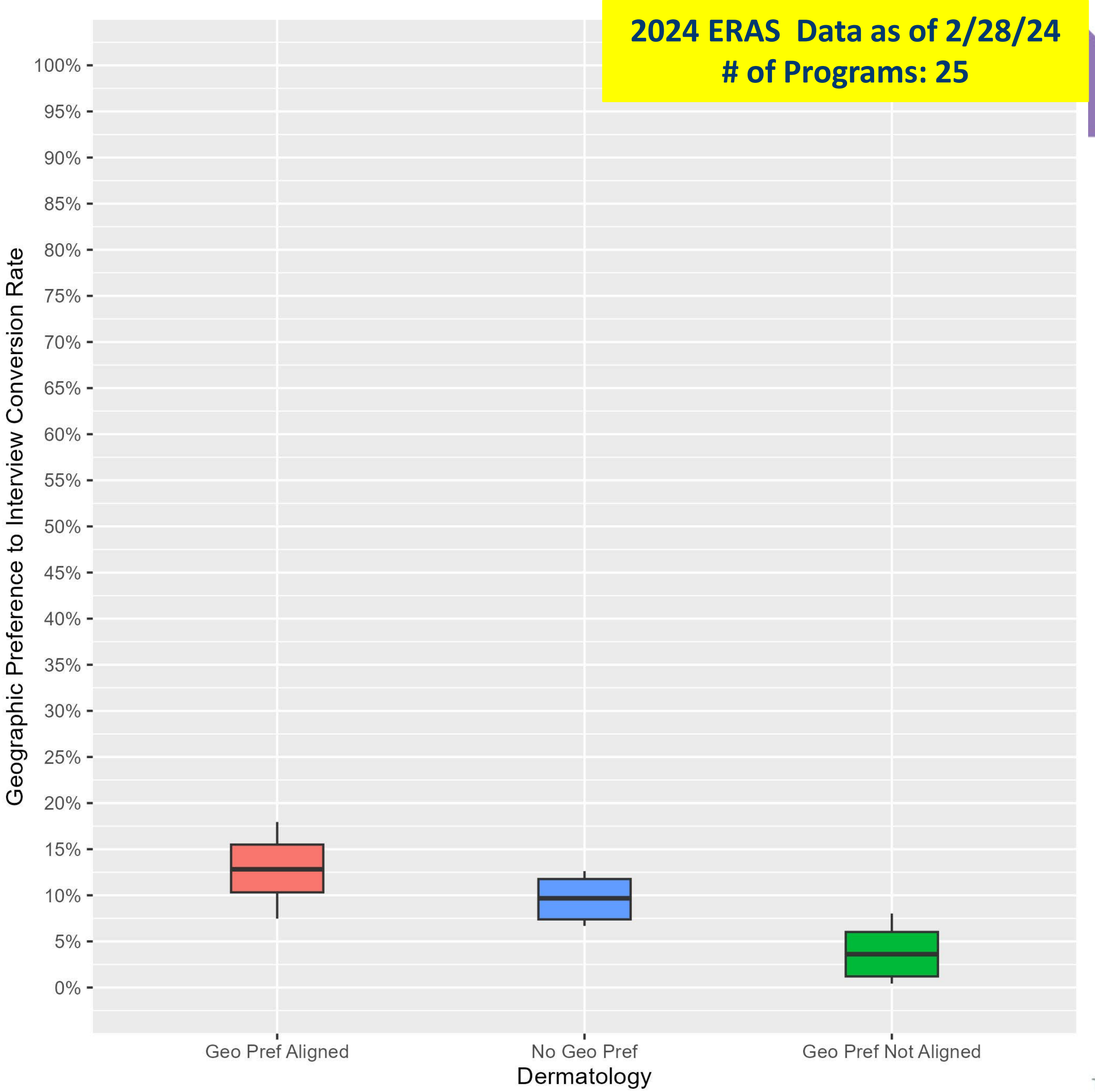
Dermatology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	138
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	43
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	25
Total analytic sample	**25**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**58%**
Total % of all Dermatology programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**18%**

Dermatology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison



2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# of Programs: 86

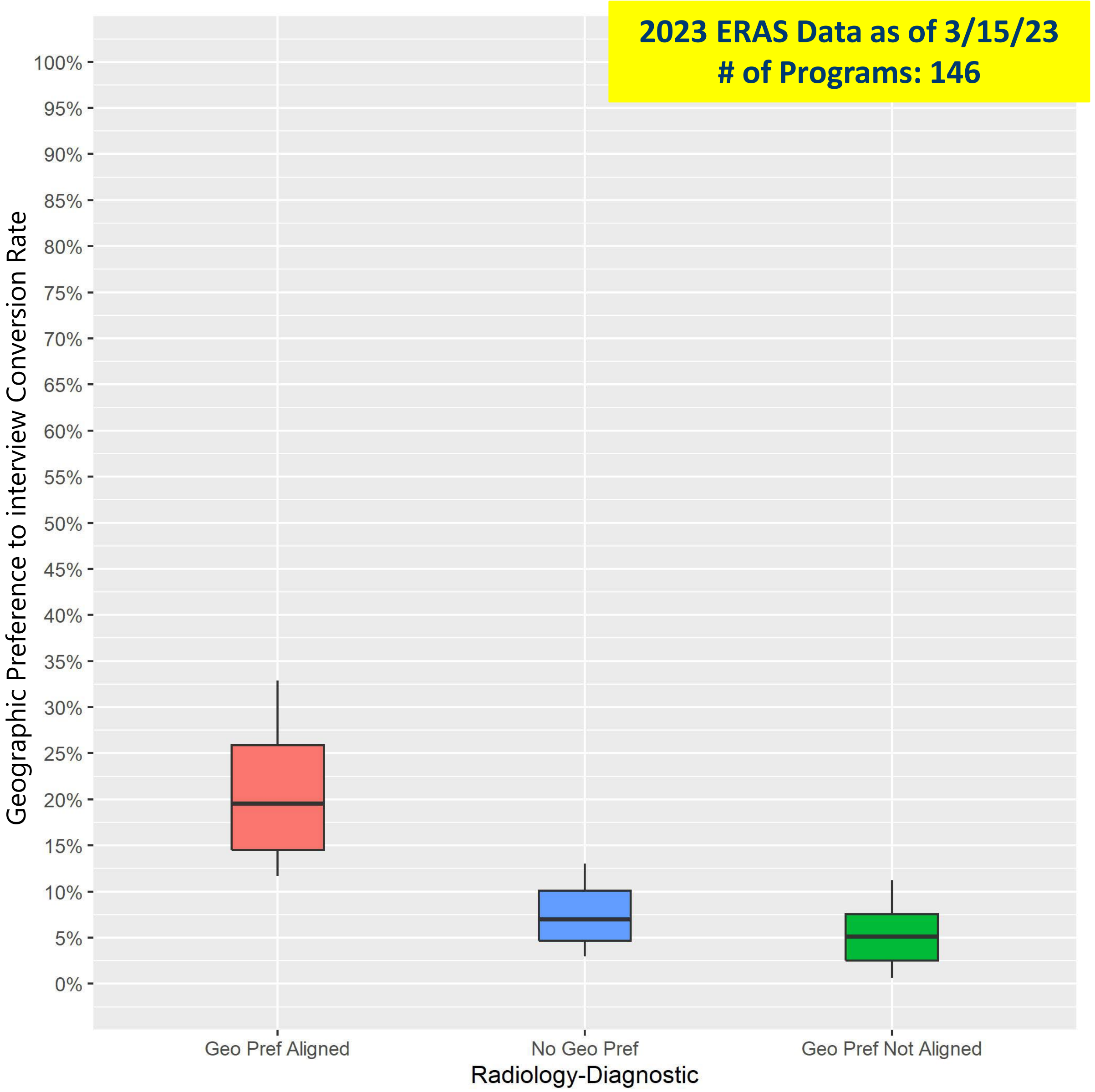


2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 25

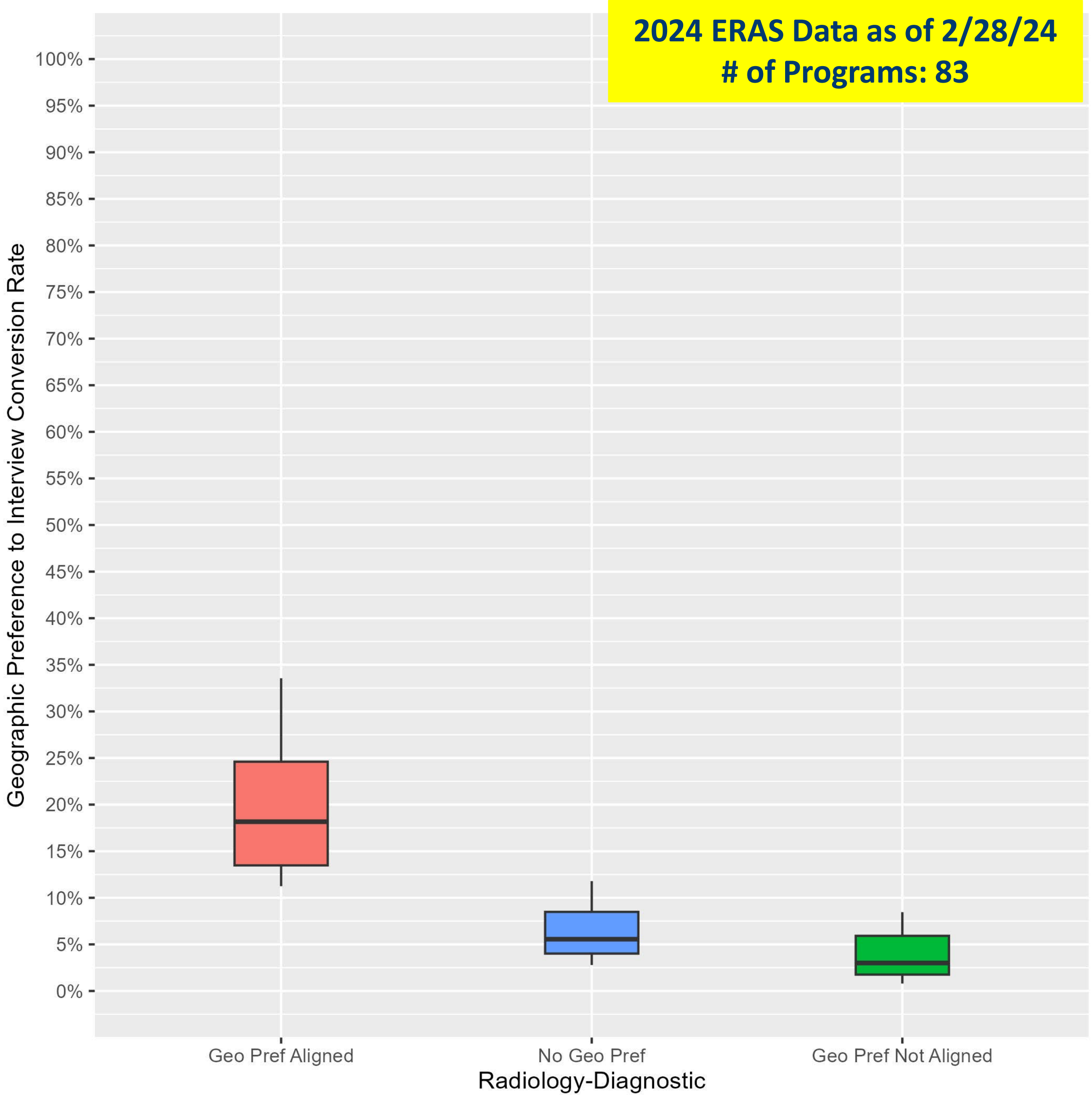
Diagnostic Radiology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	187
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	99
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	83
Total analytic sample	**83**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**84%**
Total % of all Diagnostic Radiology programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**44%**

Diagnostic Radiology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison



2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# of Programs: 146



2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 83

Emergency Medicine: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	280
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	147
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	130
Total analytic sample	**130**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**88%**
Total % of all Emergency Medicine programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**46%**

Emergency Medicine: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

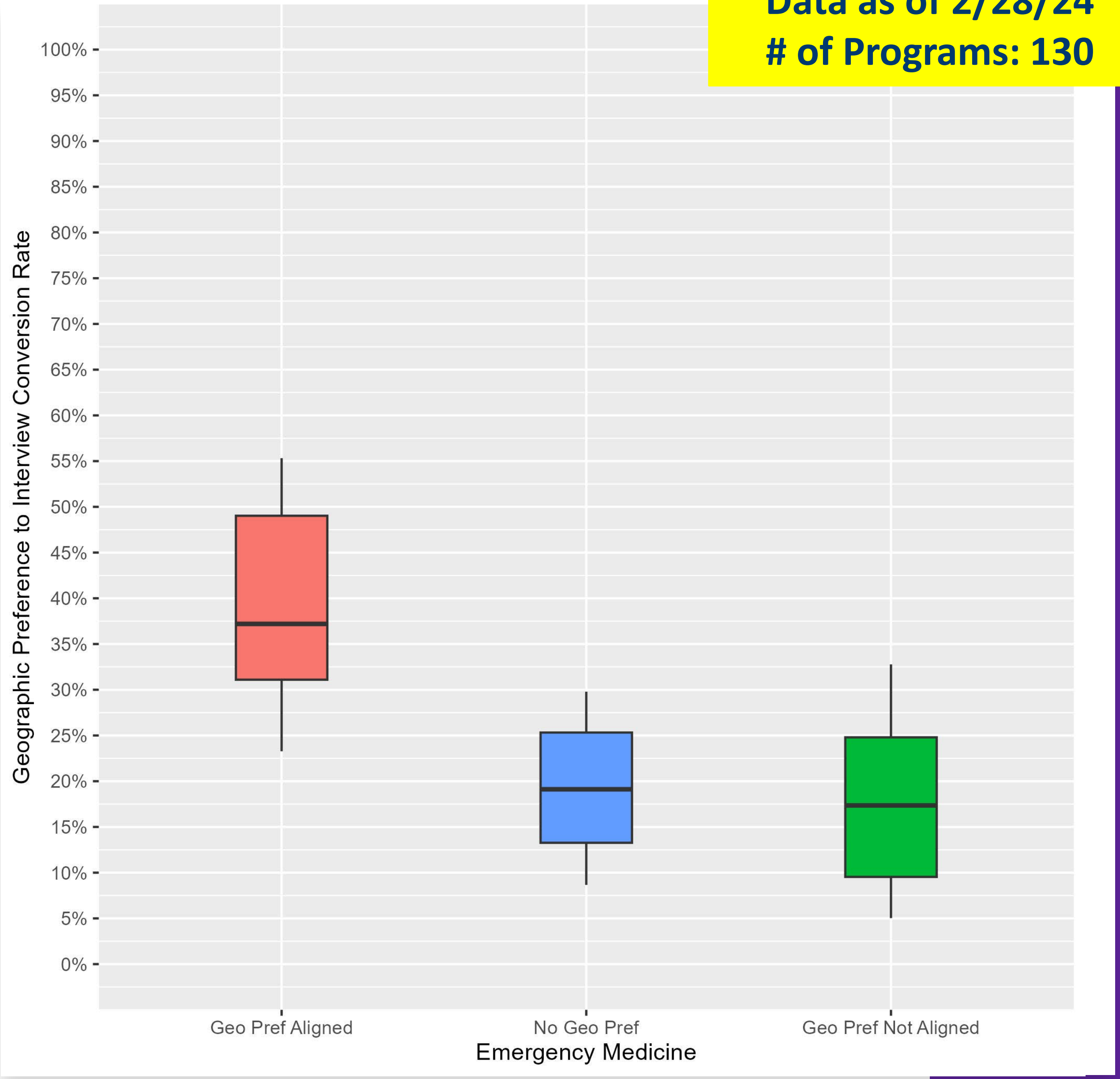
- Median of interview offers: 37%.
- 10th percentile: 23%.
- 90th percentile: 55%.

Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 19%.
- 10th percentile: 9%.
- 90th percentile: 30%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 17%.
- 10th percentile: 5%.
- 90th percentile: 33%.



Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 130

Family Medicine: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	730
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	392
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	347
Total analytic sample	**347**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**89%**
Total % of all Family Medicine programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**48%**

Family Medicine: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

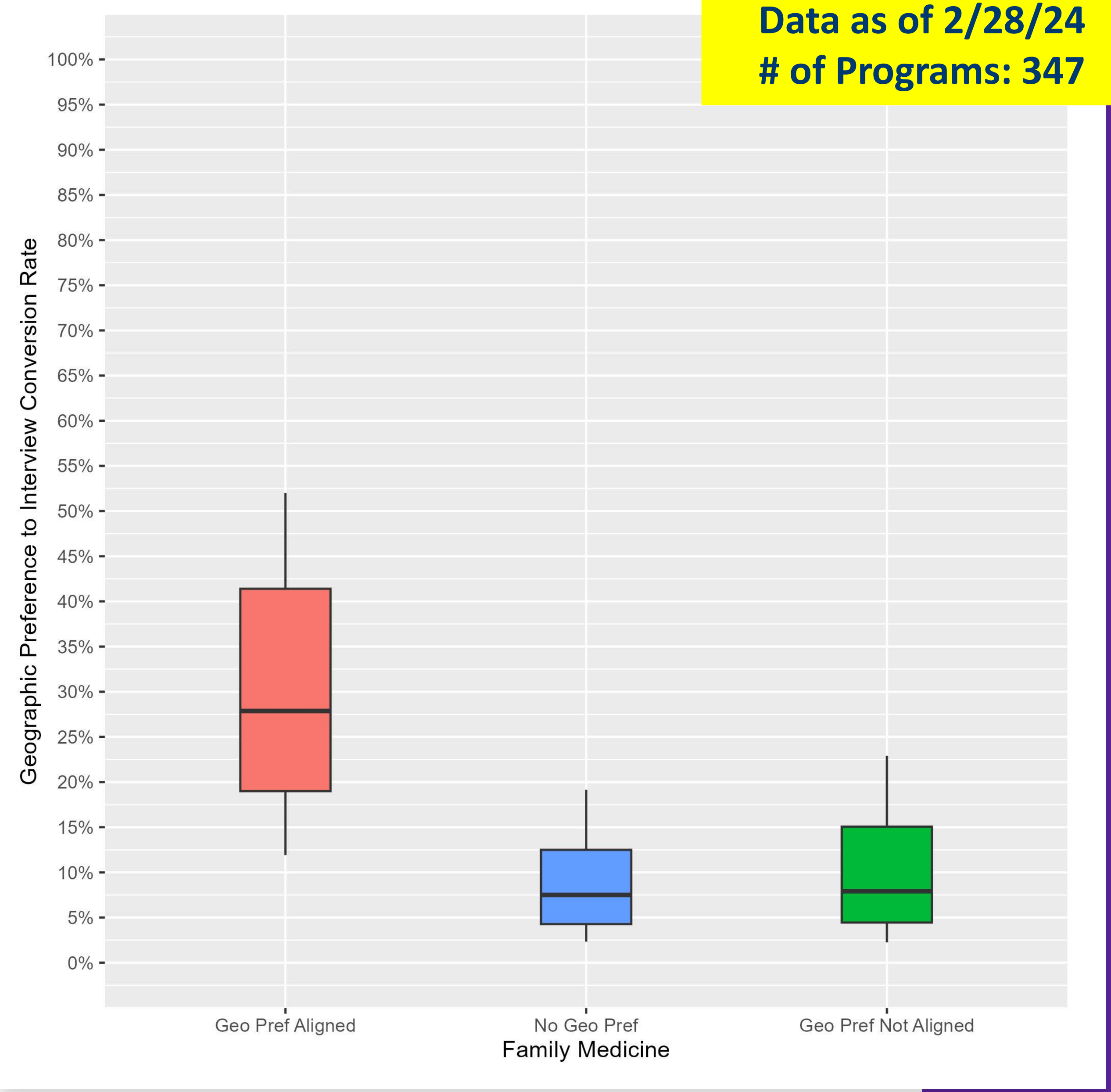
- Median of interview offers: 28%.
- 10th percentile: 12%.
- 90th percentile: 52%.

Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 8%.
- 10th percentile: 2%.
- 90th percentile: 19%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 8%.
- 10th percentile: 2%.
- 90th percentile: 23%.

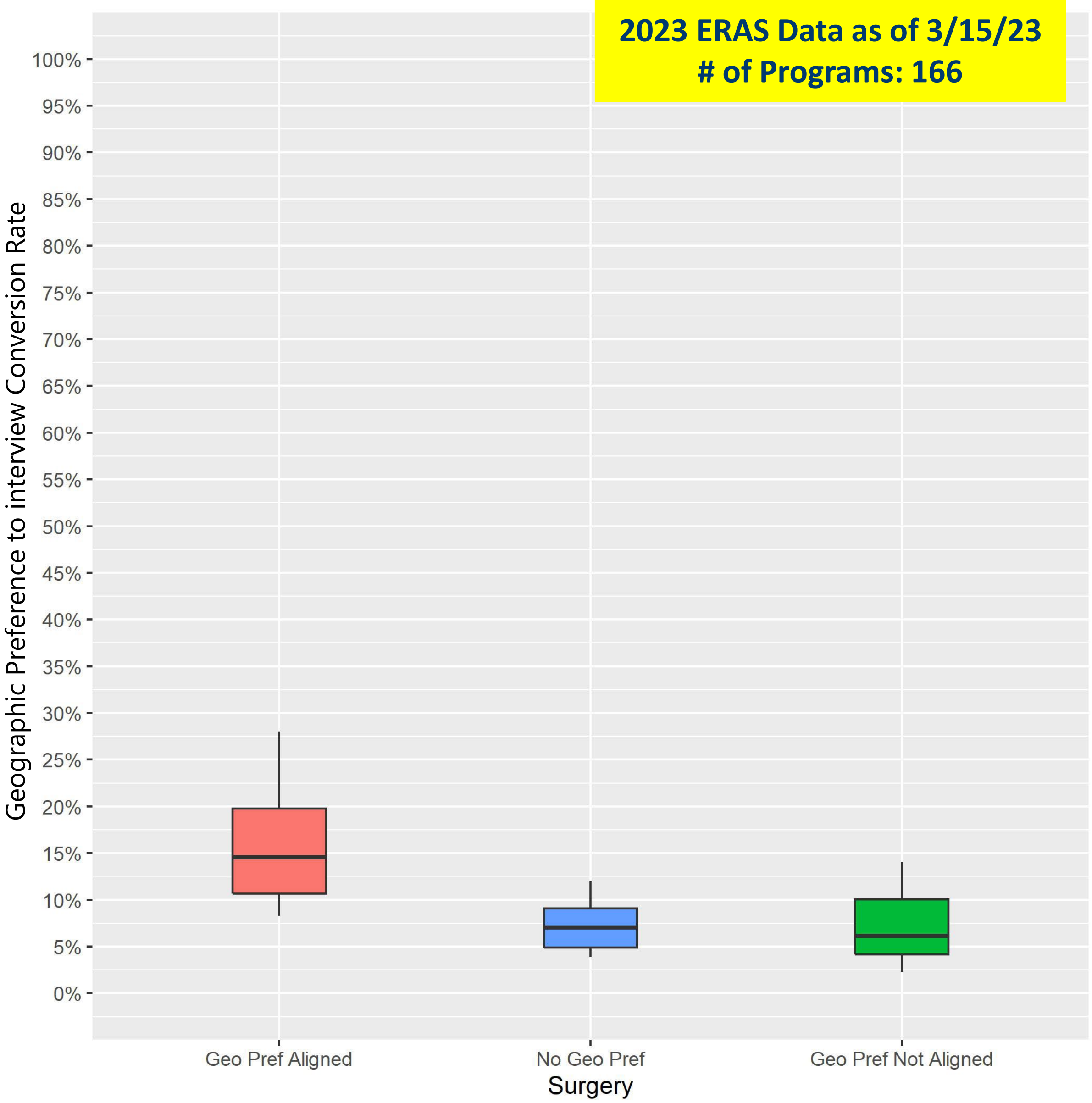


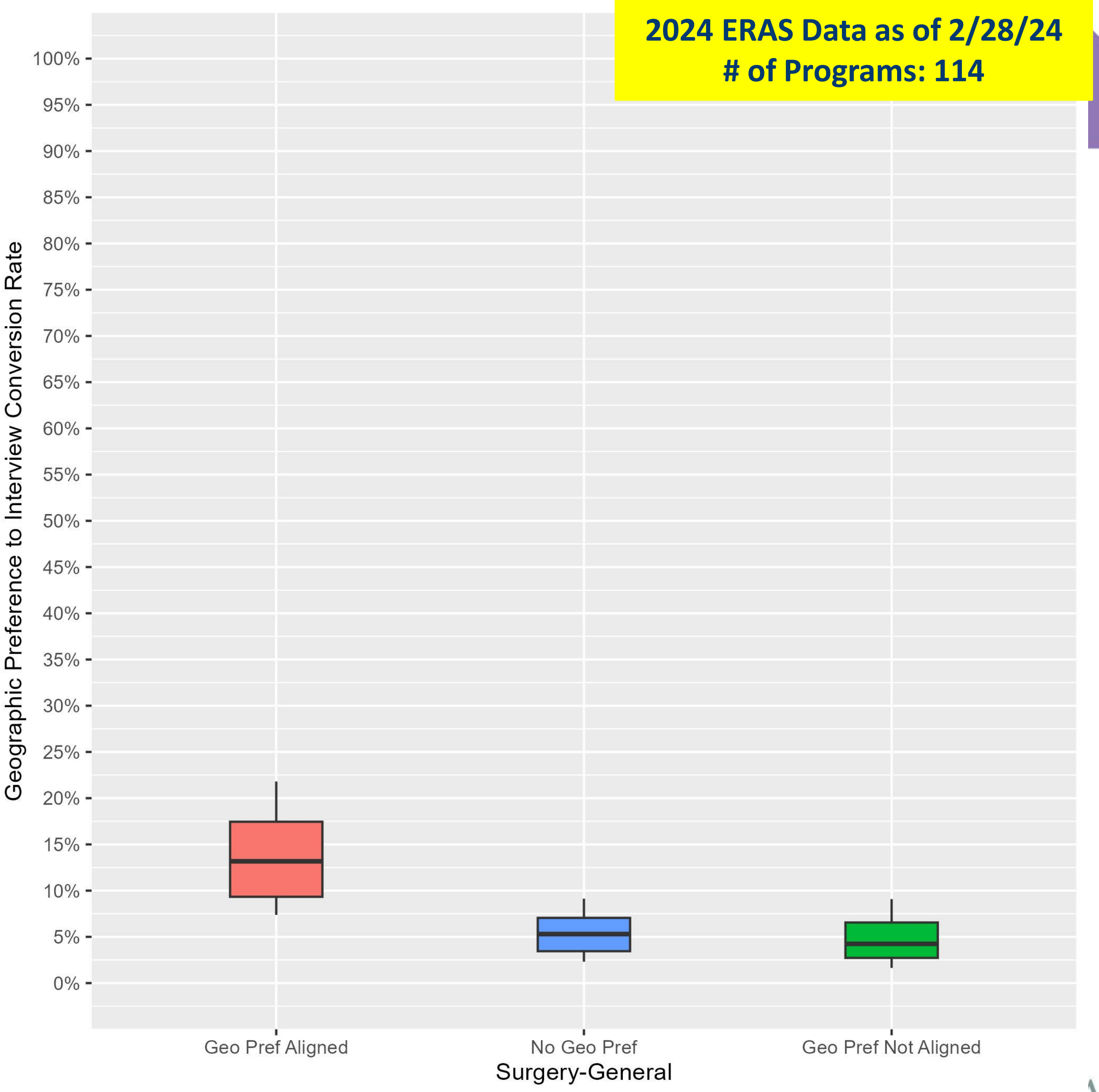
Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 347

General Surgery: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	344
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	158
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	114
Total analytic sample	**114**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**72%**
Total % of all General Surgery programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**33%**

General Surgery: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison





Internal Medicine: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	626
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	308
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	270
Total analytic sample	**270**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**88%**
Total % of all Internal Medicine programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**43%**

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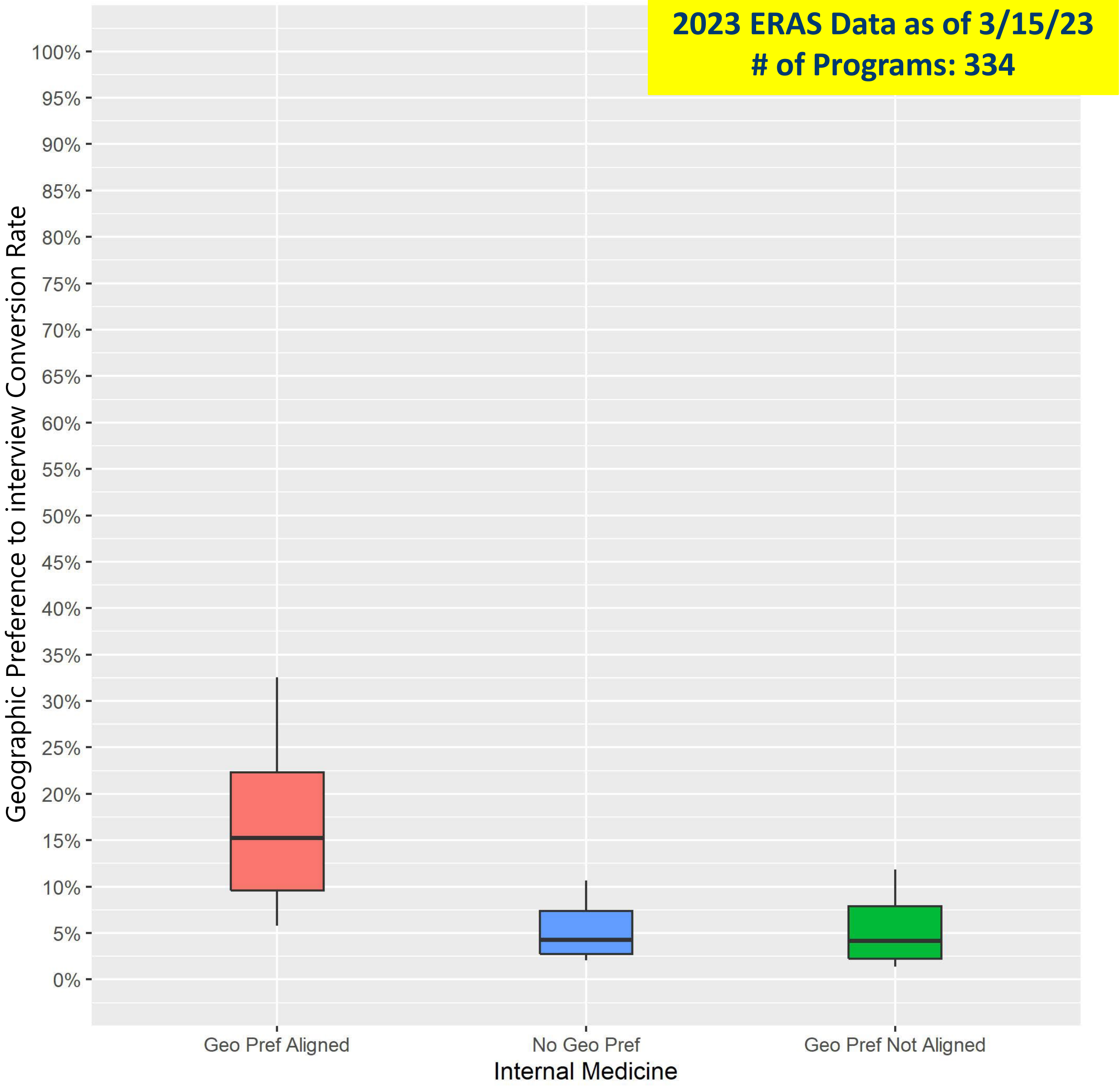
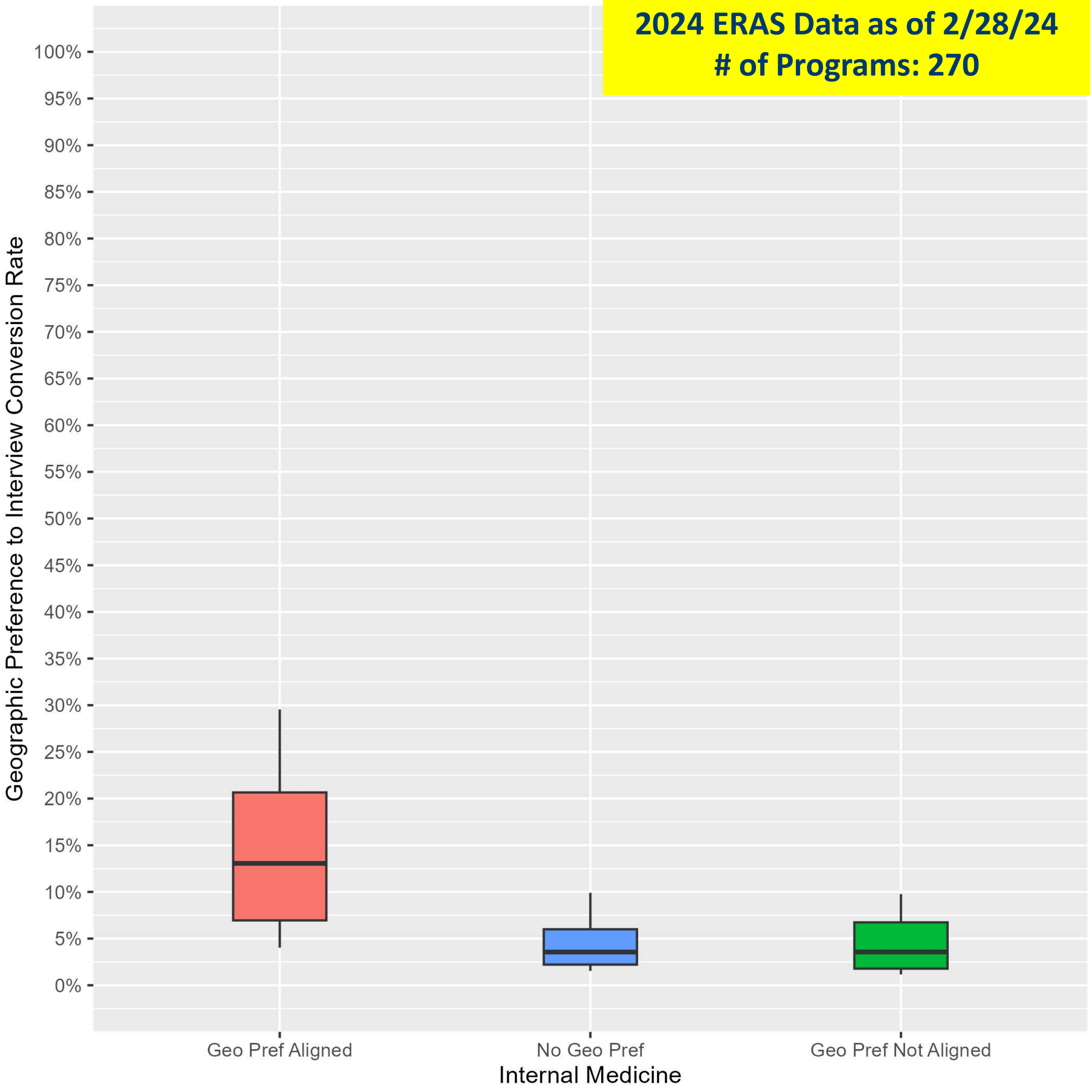
Internal Medicine: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison



2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# of Programs: 334



2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 270

Internal Medicine/Pediatrics: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	77
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	39
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	35
Total analytic sample	**35**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**90%**
Total % of all Internal Medicine/Pediatrics programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**45%**

Internal Medicine/Pediatrics: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 35%.
- 10th percentile: 20%.
- 90th percentile: 63%.

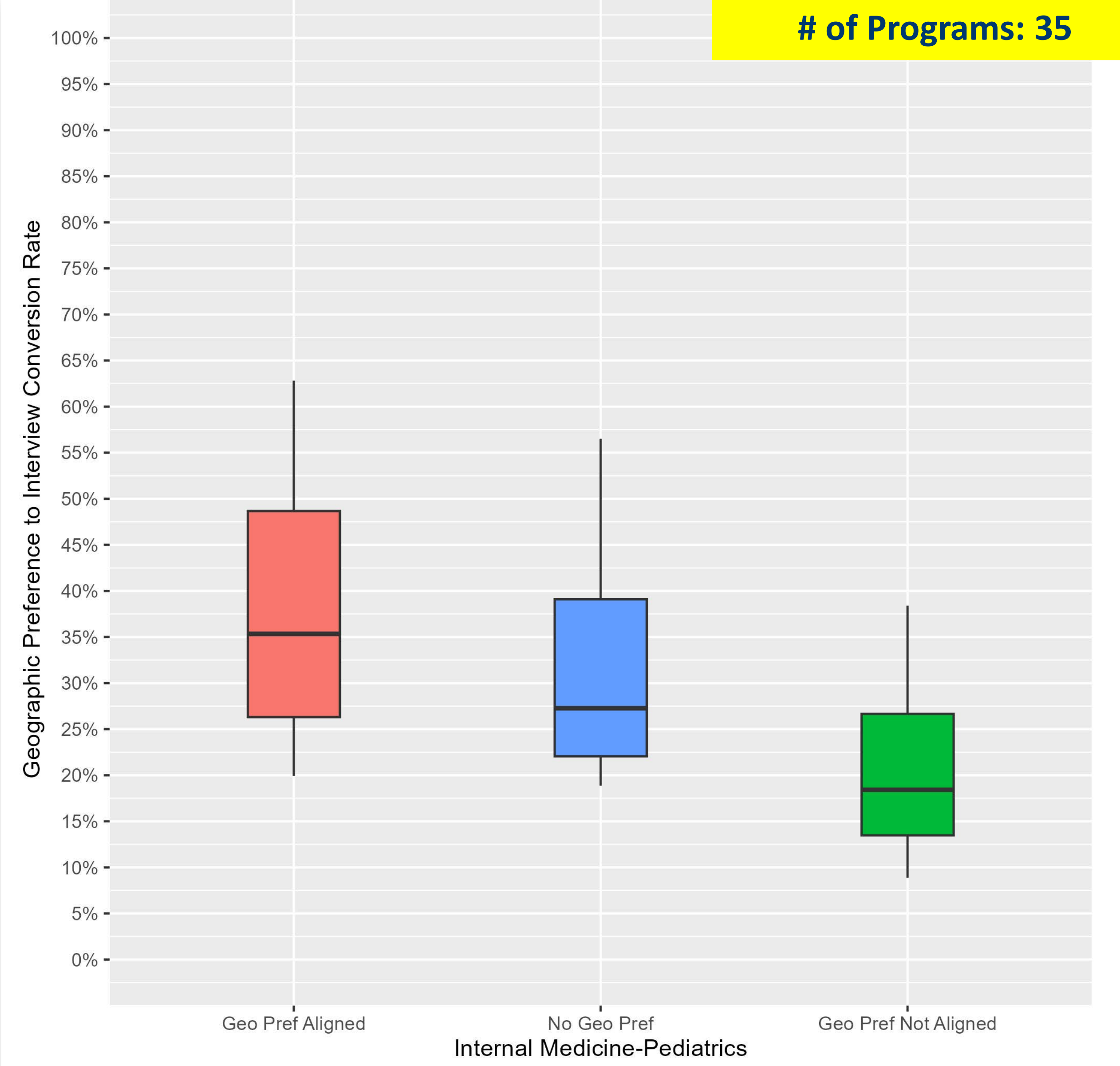
Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 27%.
- 10th percentile: 19%.
- 90th percentile: 57%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 18%.
- 10th percentile: 9%.
- 90th percentile: 38%.

Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 35



Internal Medicine/Psychiatry: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	13
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	10
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	10
Total analytic sample	**10**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**100%**
Total % of all Internal Medicine/Psychiatry programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**77%**

Internal Medicine/Psychiatry: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

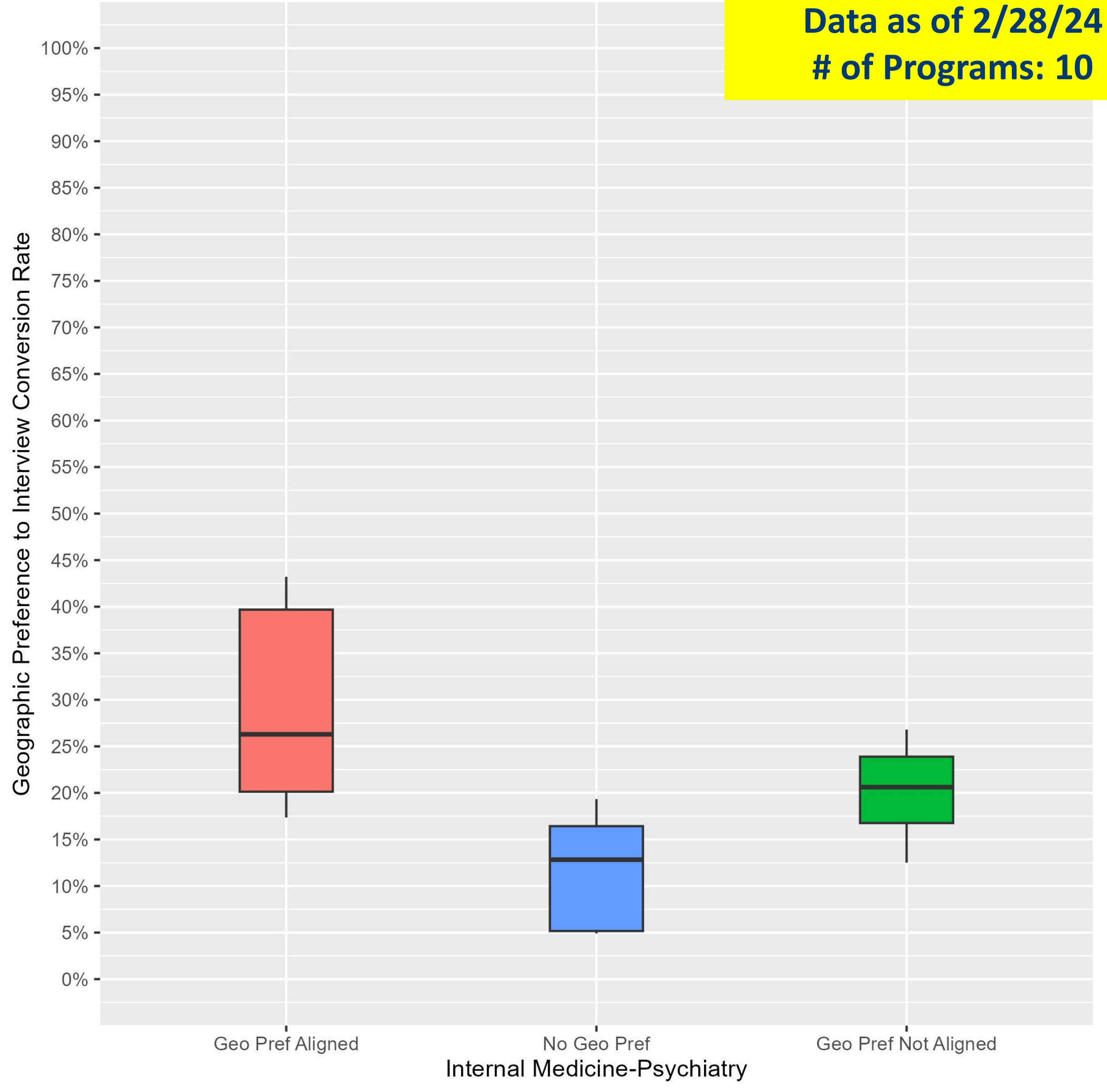
- Median of interview offers: 26%.
- 10th percentile: 17%.
- 90th percentile: 43%.

Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 13%.
- 10th percentile: 5%.
- 90th percentile: 19%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 21%.
- 10th percentile: 13%.
- 90th percentile: 27%.

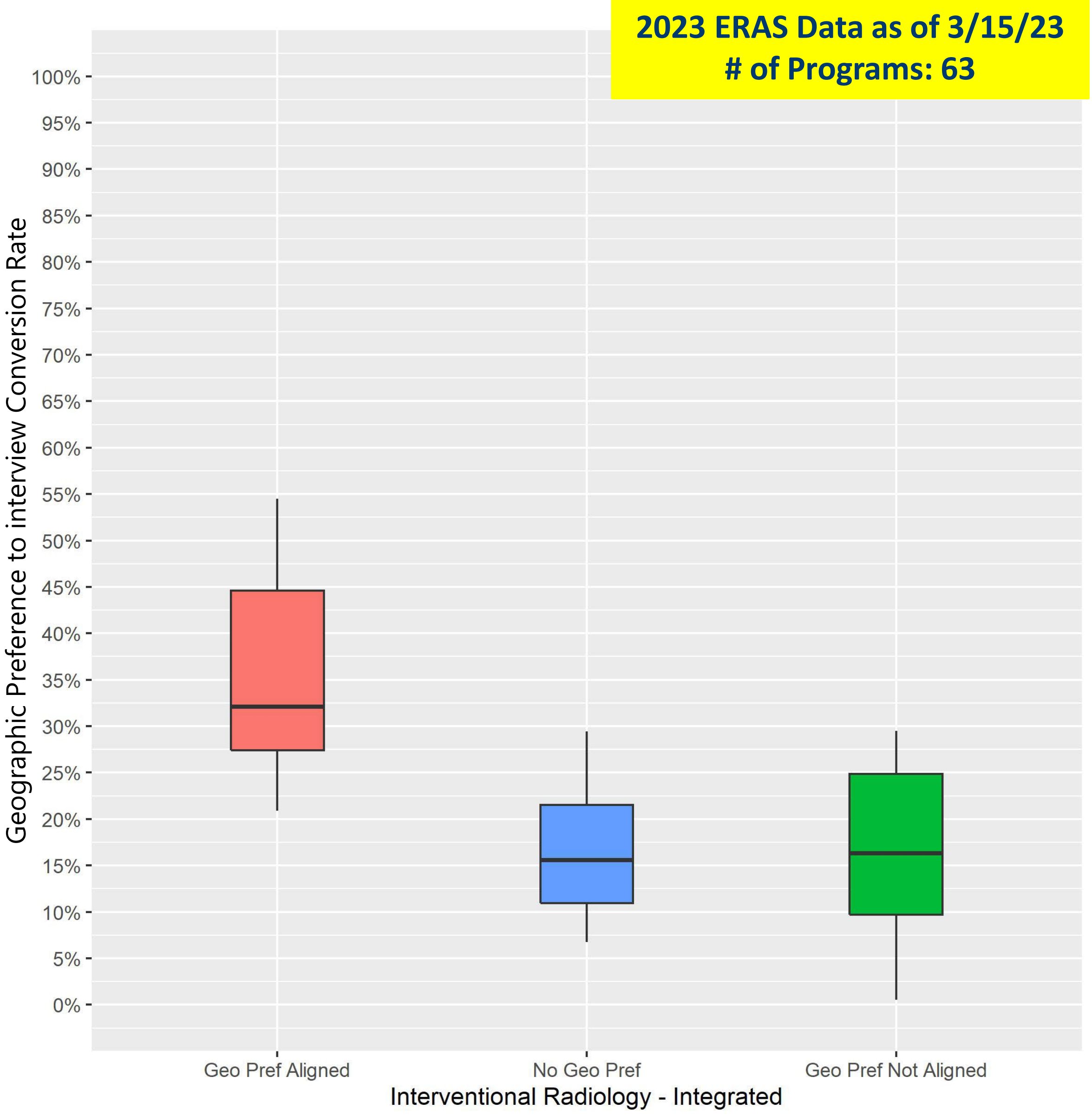


Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 10

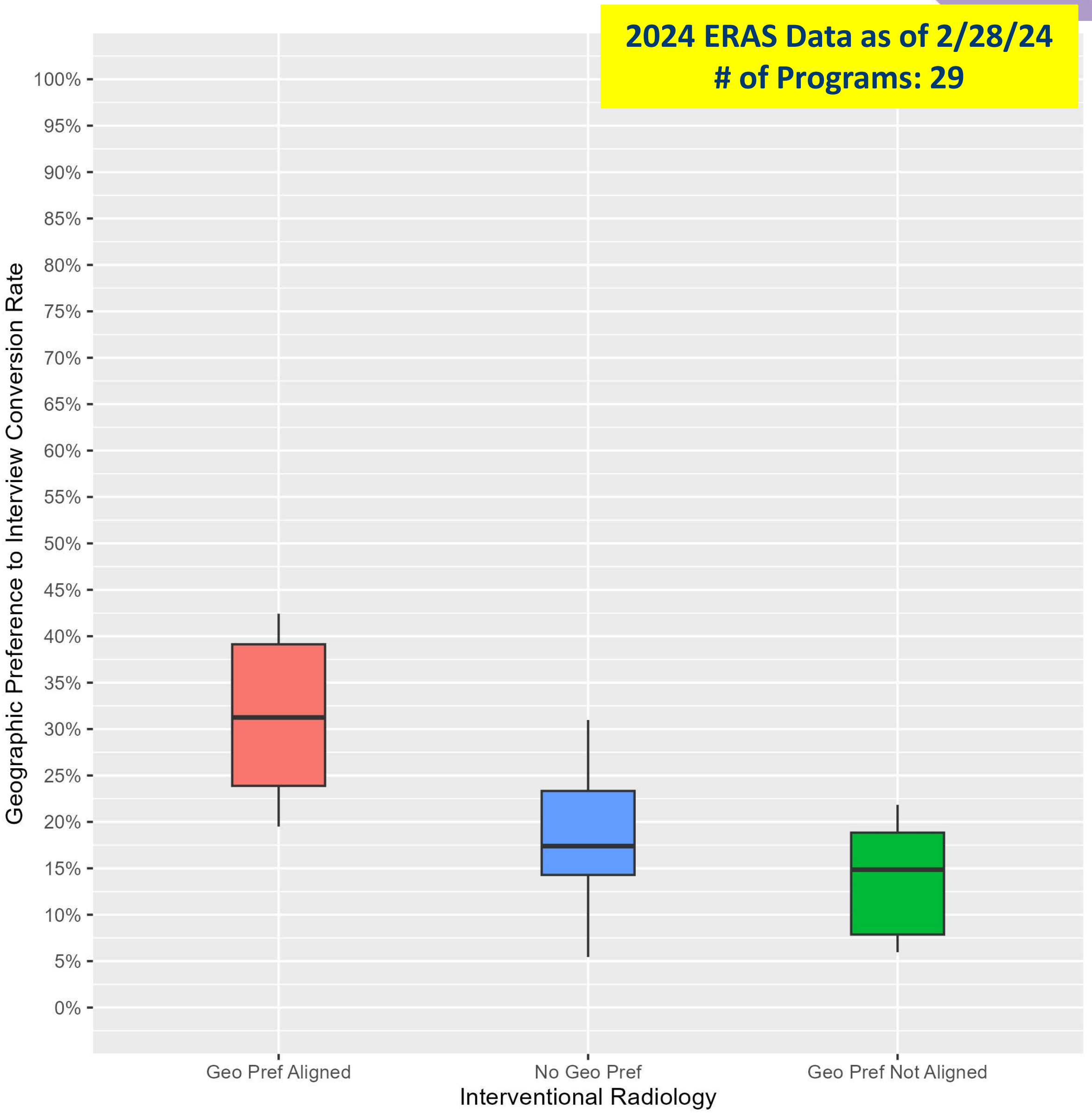
Interventional Radiology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	96
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	50
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	29
Total analytic sample	**29**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**58%**
Total % of all Interventional Radiology programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**30%**

Interventional Radiology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison



2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# of Programs: 63



2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 29

Neurological Surgery: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	116
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	54
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	43
Total analytic sample	**43**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**80%**
Total % of all Neurological Surgery programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**37%**

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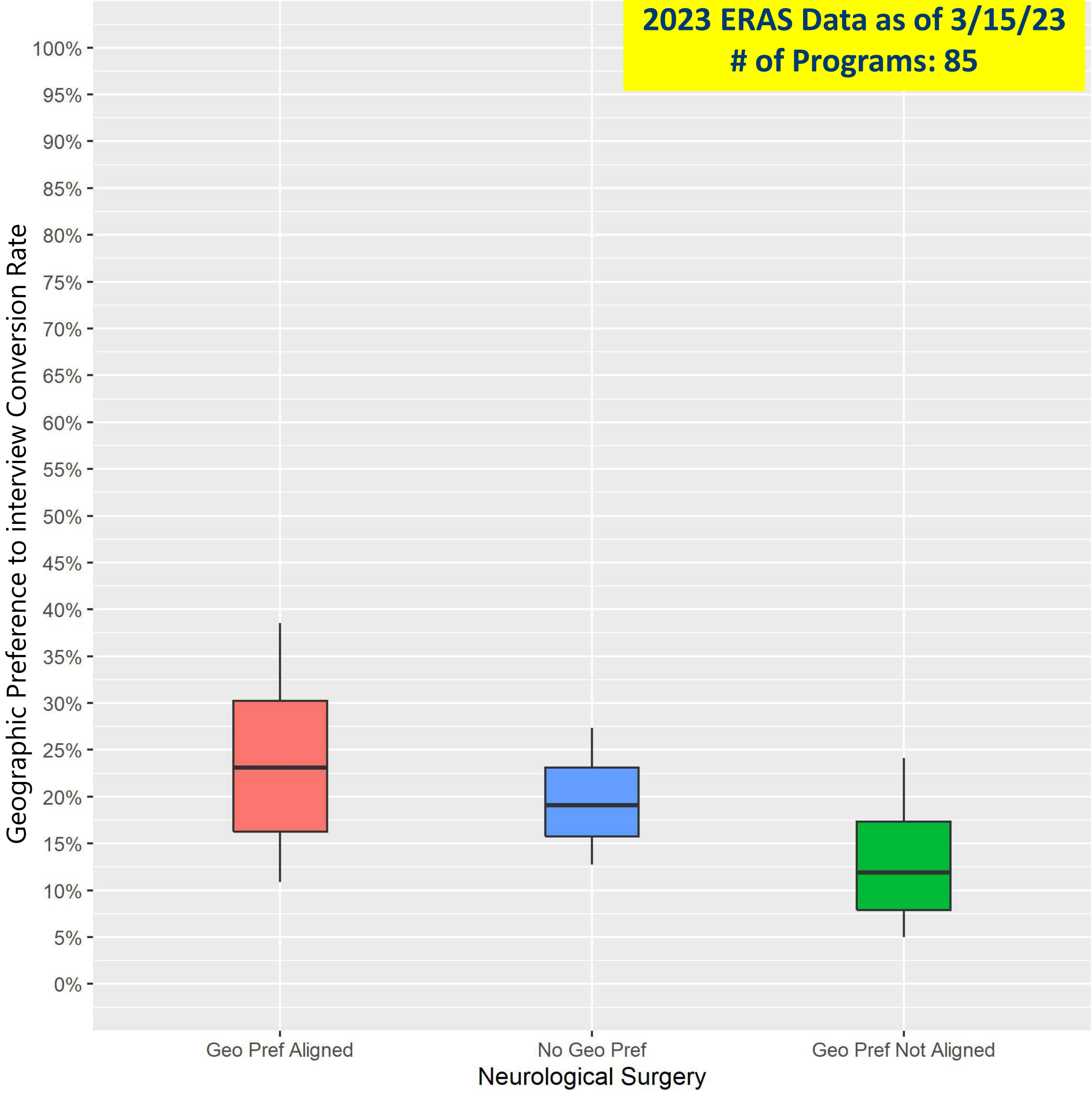
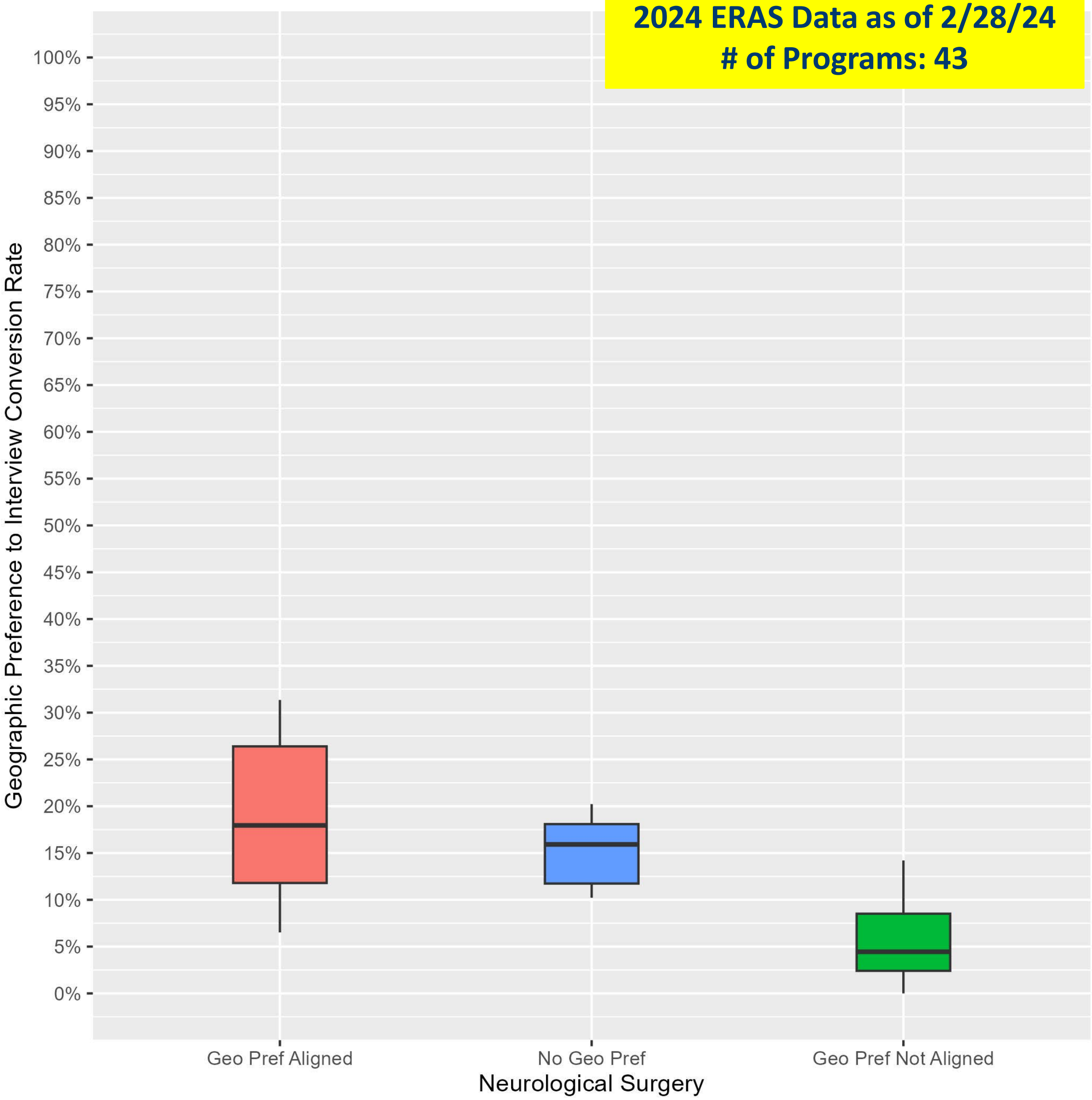
Neurological Surgery: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison


2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# of Programs: 85


2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 43

OBGYN: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	287
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	140
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	115
Total analytic sample	**115**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**82%**
Total % of all OBGYN programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**40%**

OBGYN: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 16%.
- 10th percentile: 11%.
- 90th percentile: 27%.

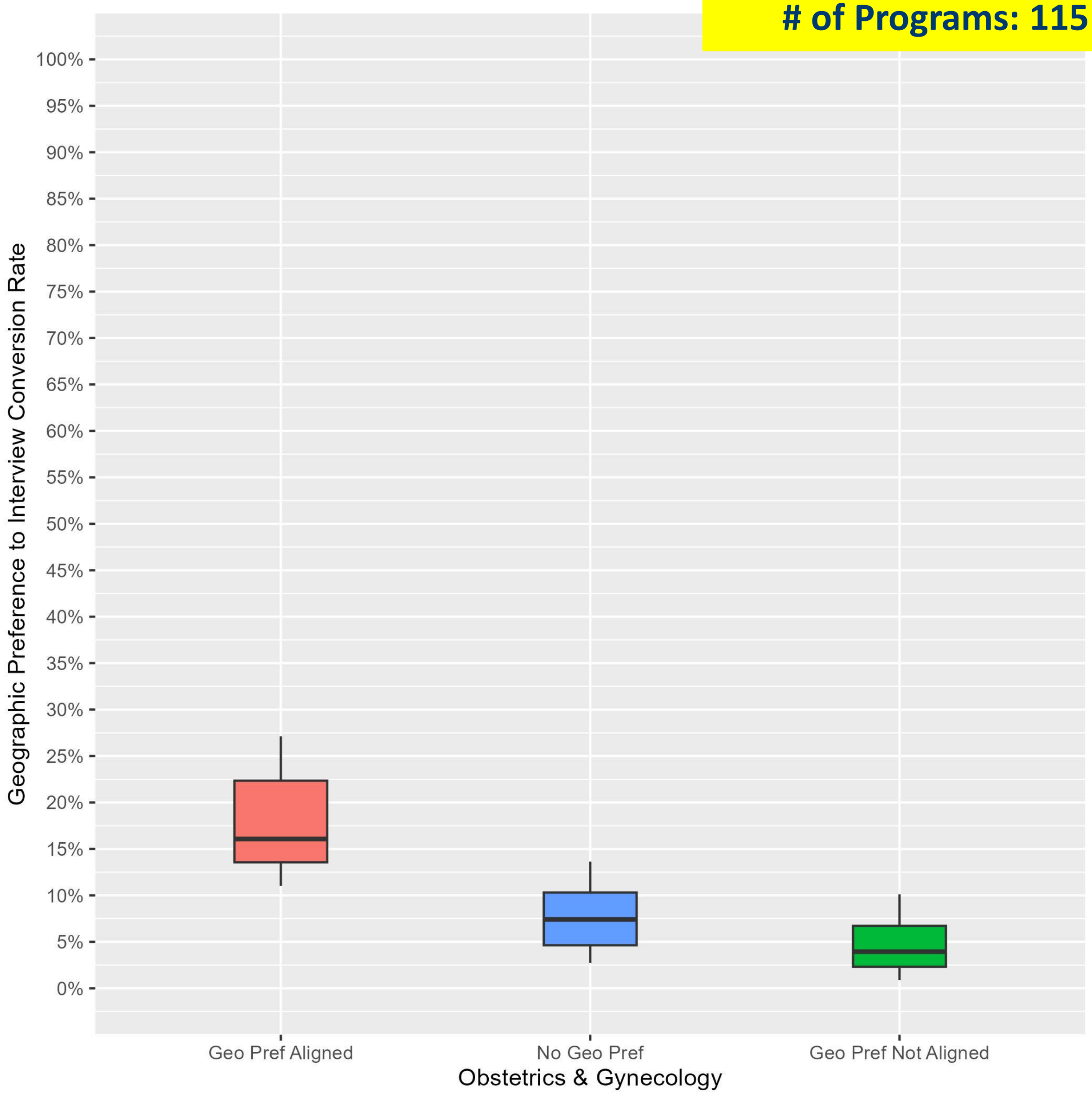
Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 7%.
- 10th percentile: 3%.
- 90th percentile: 14%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 4%.
- 10th percentile: 1%.
- 90th percentile: 10%.

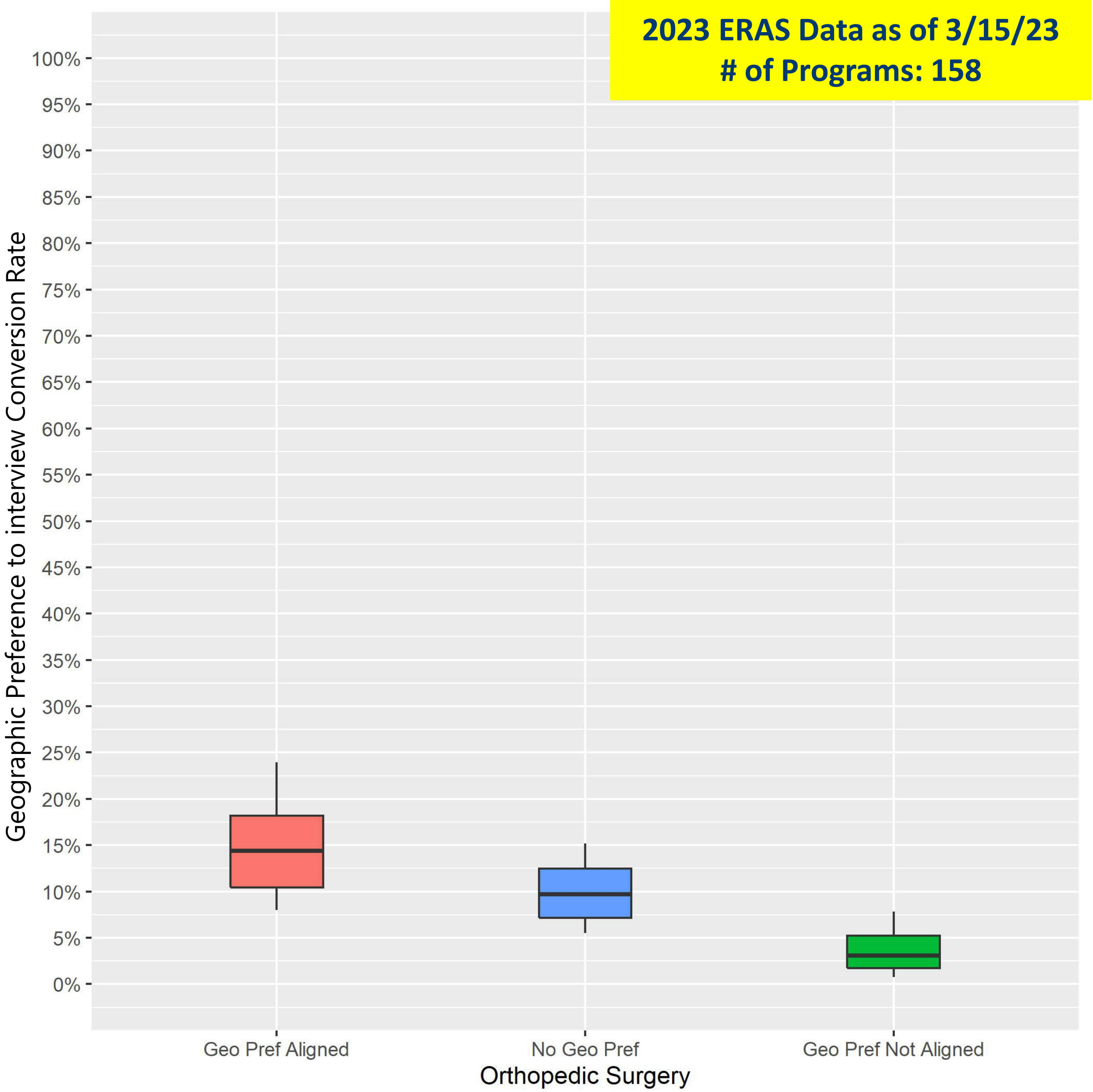
Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 115

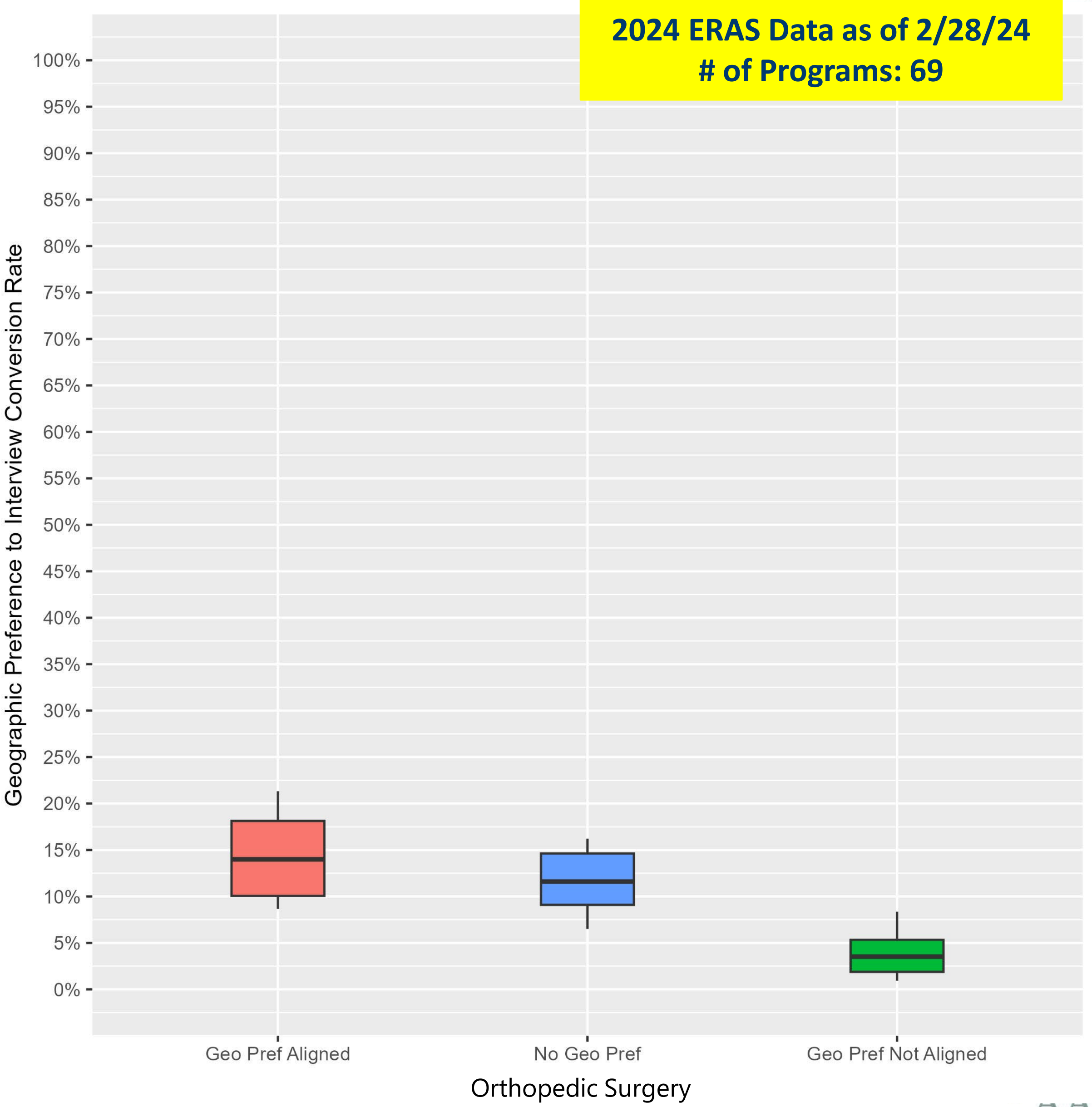


Orthopedic Surgery: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	201
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	94
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	69
Total analytic sample	**69**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**73%**
Total % of all Orthopedic Surgery programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**34%**

Orthopedic Surgery: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison


2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# of Programs: 158


2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 69

Otolaryngology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	125
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	55
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	38
Total analytic sample	**38**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**69%**
Total % of all Otolaryngology programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**30%**

Otolaryngology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 25%.
- 10th percentile: 9%.
- 90th percentile: 40%.

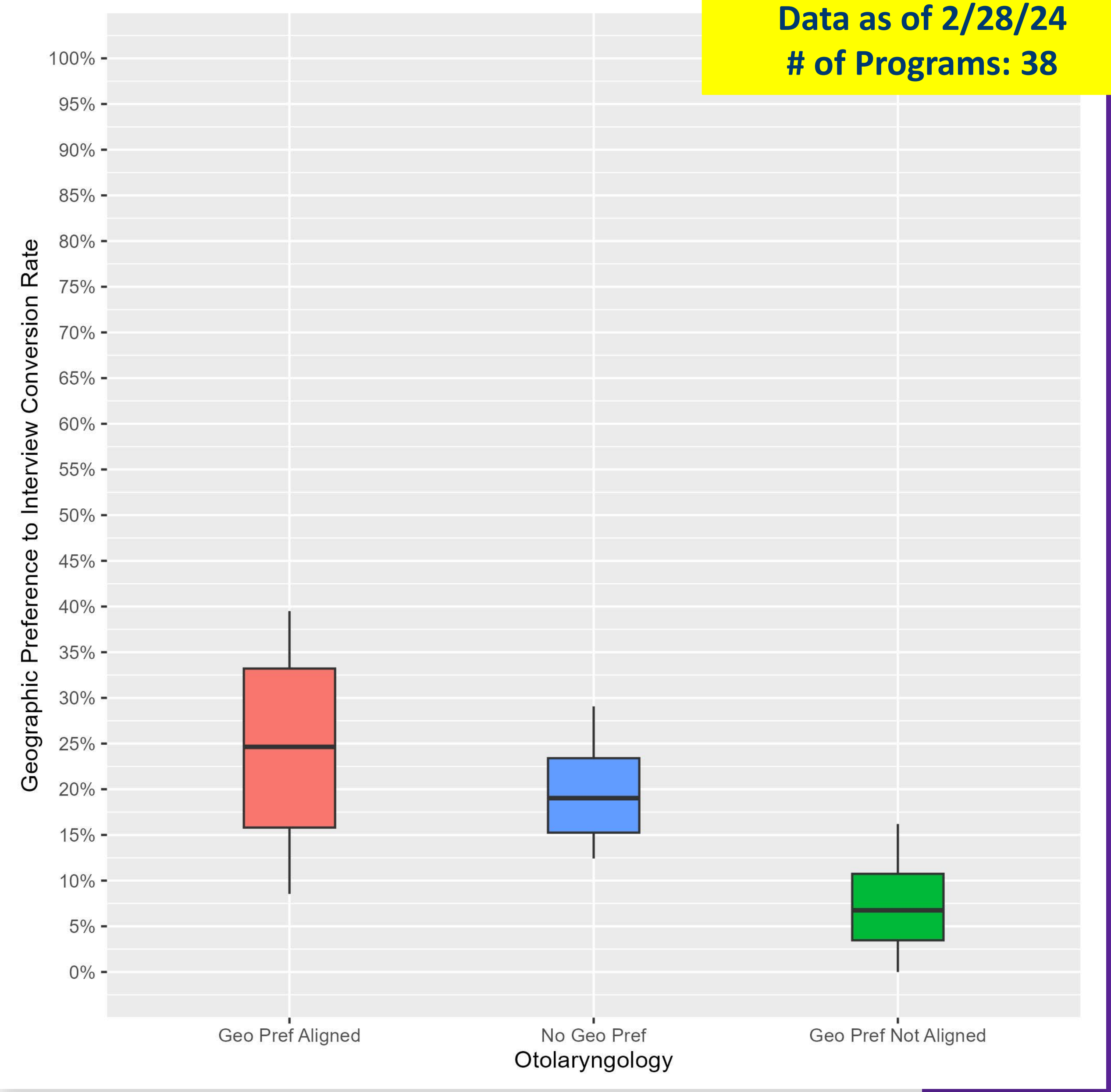
Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 19%.
- 10th percentile: 12%.
- 90th percentile: 29%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 7%.
- 10th percentile: 0%.
- 90th percentile: 16%.

Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 38



Pathology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	139
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	66
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	48
Total analytic sample	**48**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**72%**
Total % of all Pathology programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**35%**

Pathology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

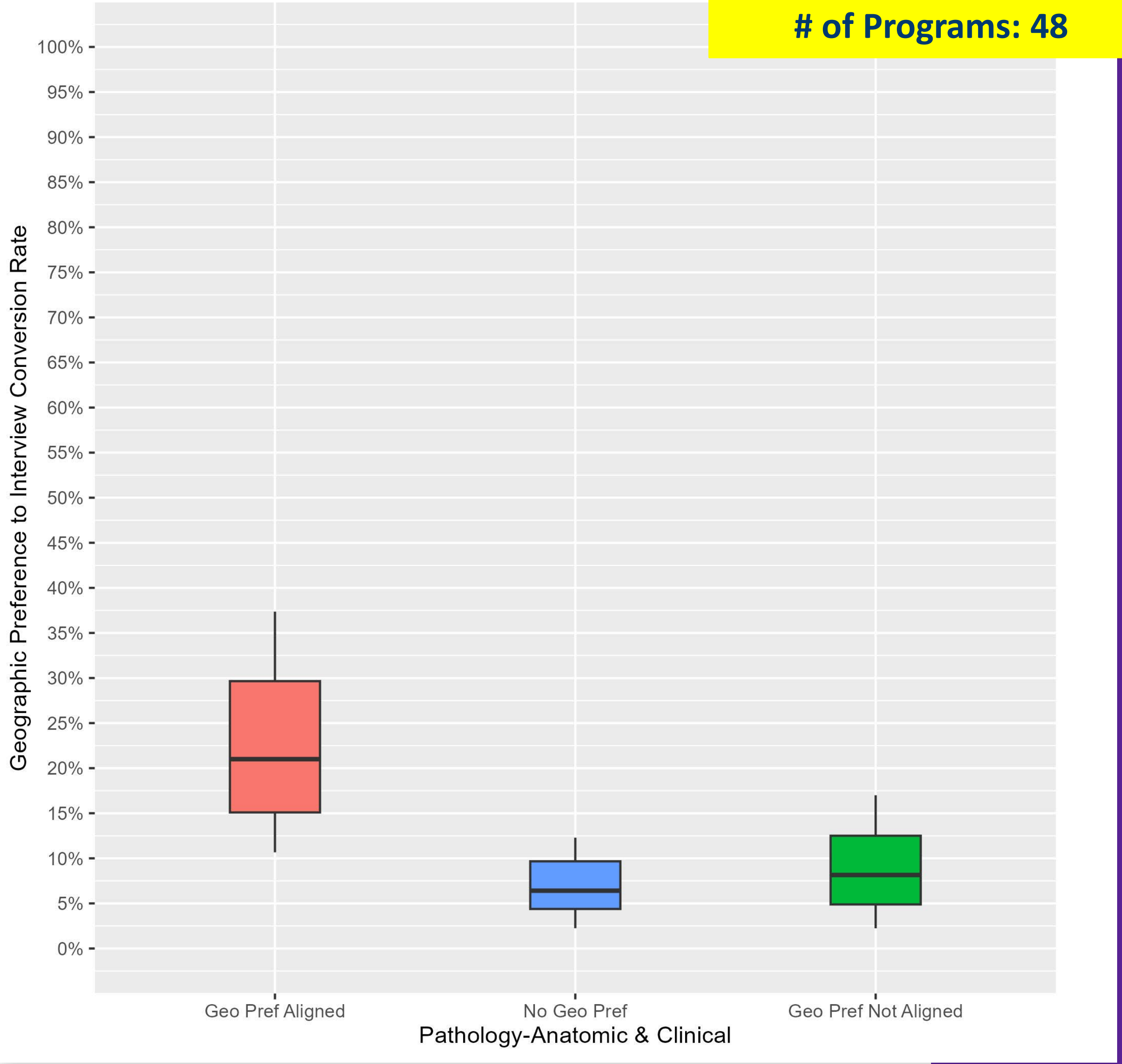
- Median of interview offers: 21%.
- 10th percentile: 11%.
- 90th percentile: 37%.

Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 6%.
- 10th percentile: 2%.
- 90th percentile: 12%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 8%.
- 10th percentile: 2%.
- 90th percentile: 17%.



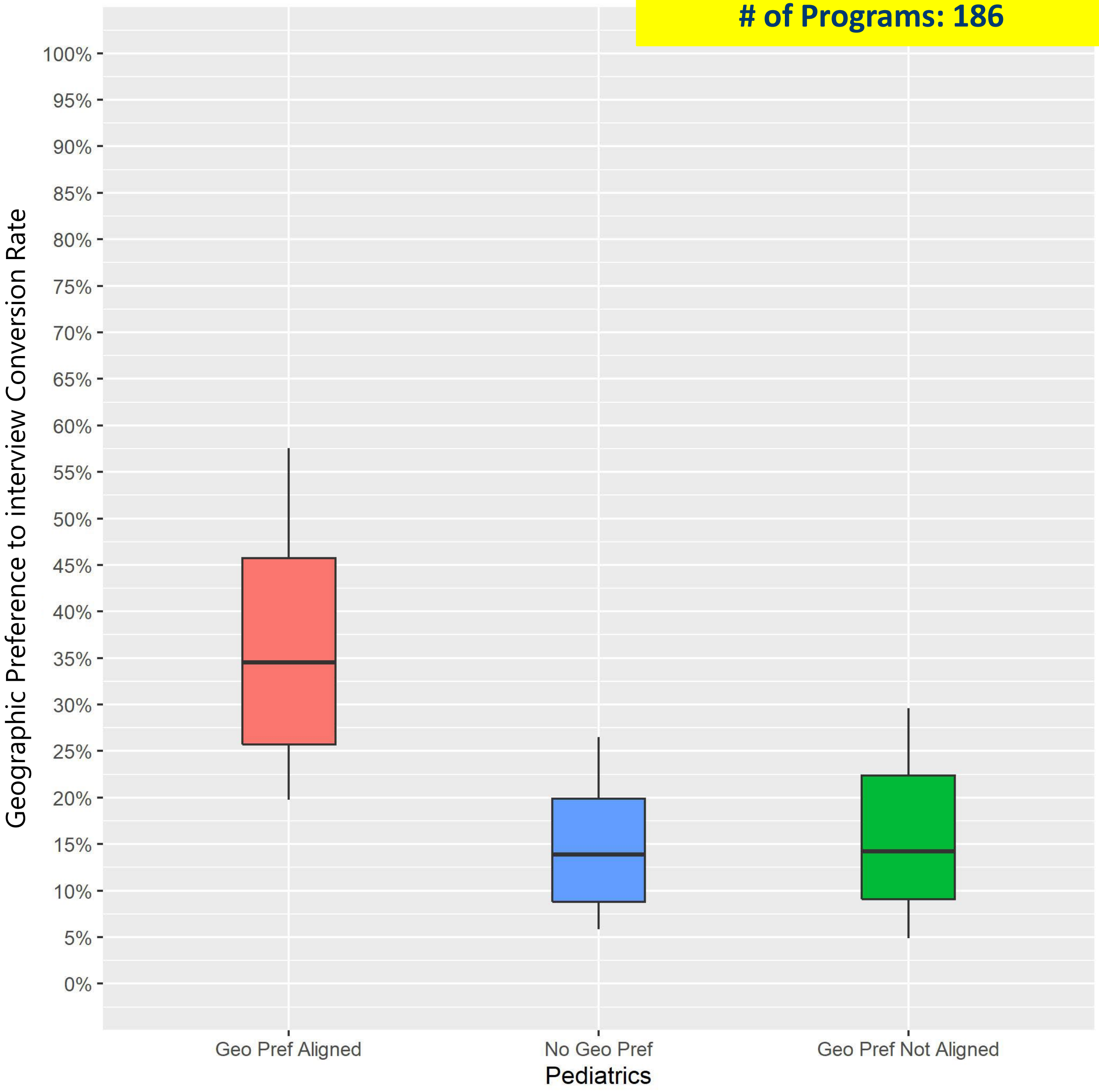
Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 48

Pediatrics: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

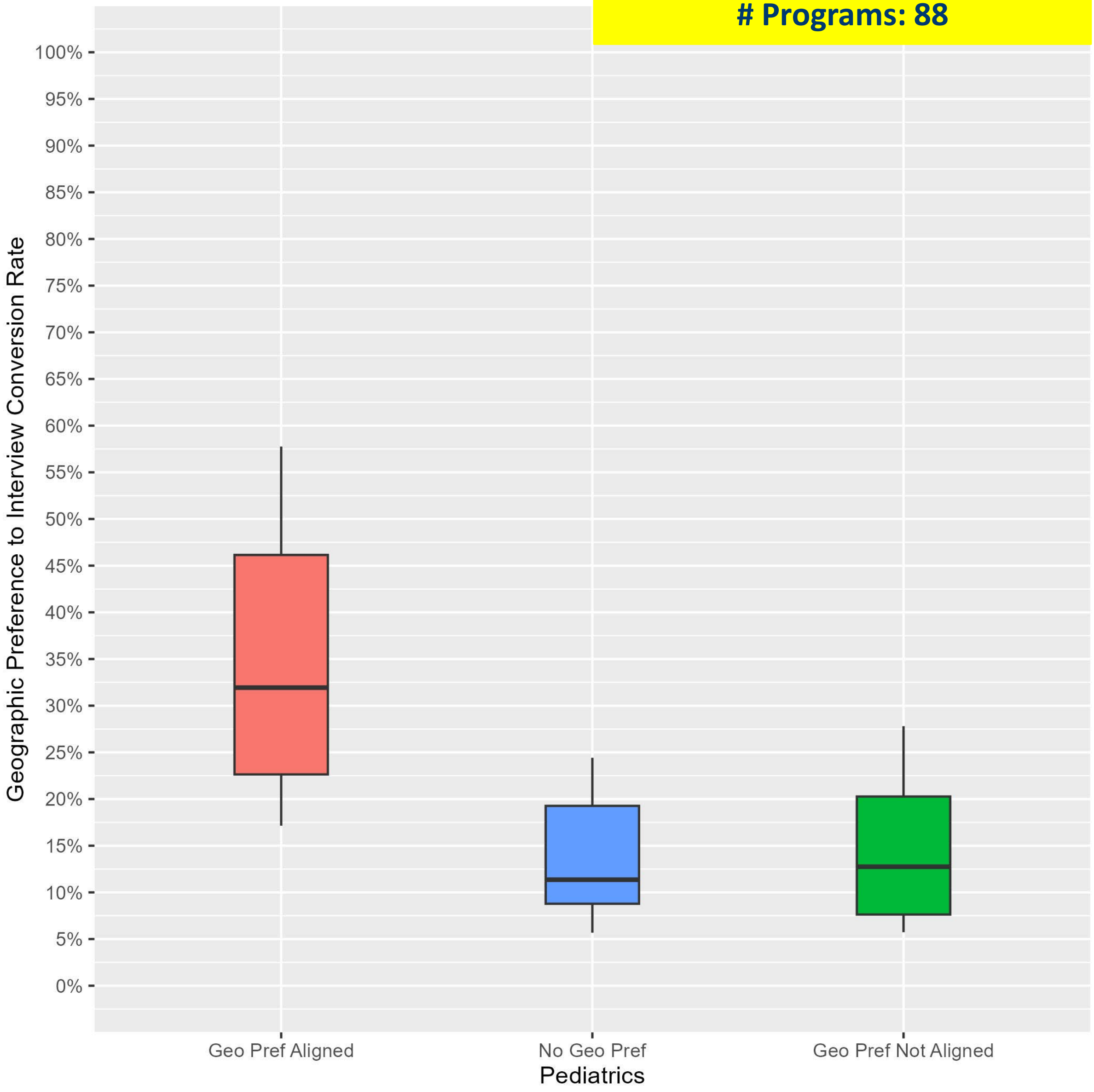
	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	211
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	101
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	88
Total analytic sample	**88**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**87%**
Total % of all Pediatrics programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**42%**

Pediatrics: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison

2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# of Programs: 186



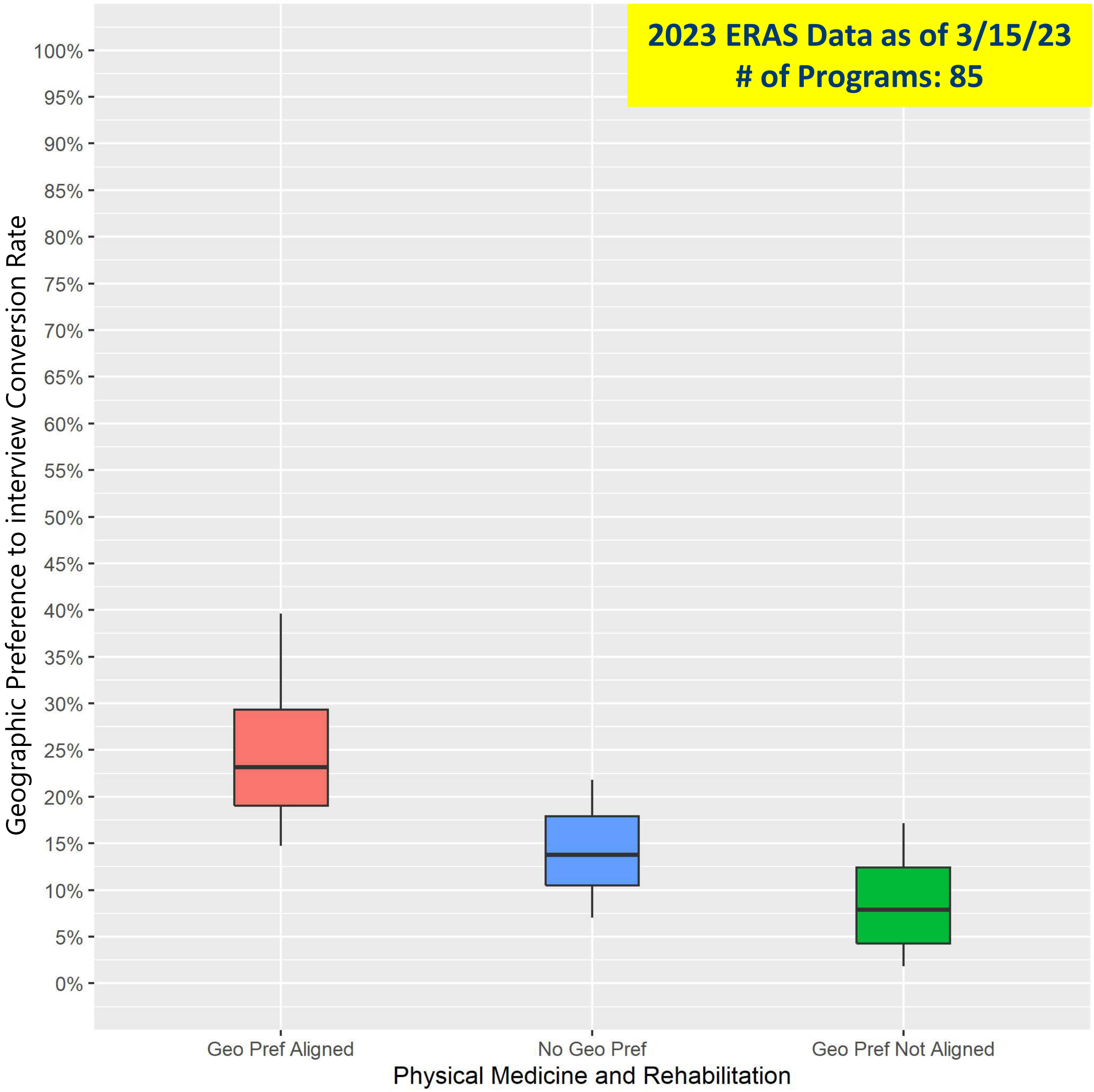
2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# Programs: 88



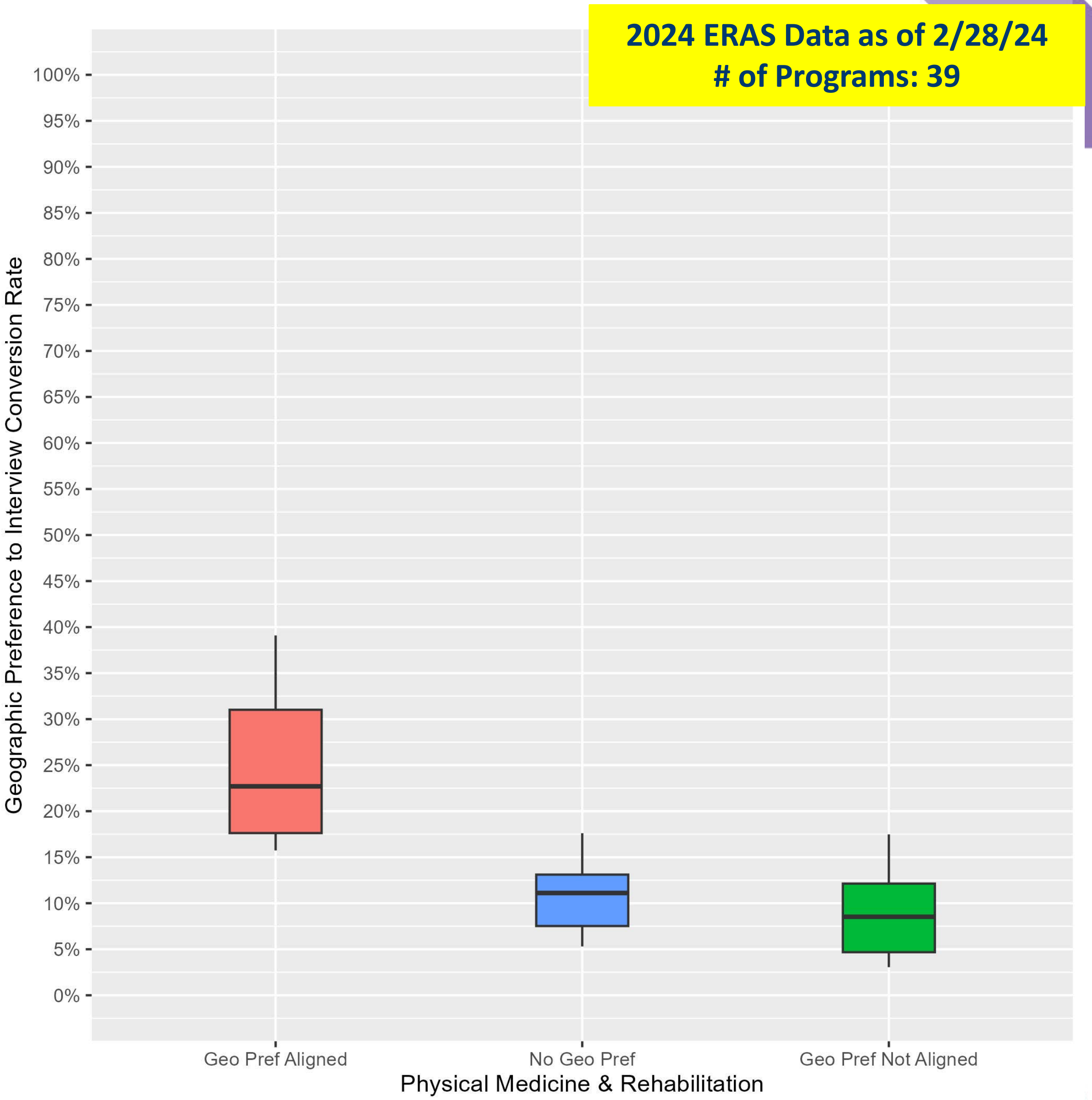
PM&R: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	107
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	47
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	39
Total analytic sample	**39**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**83%**
Total % of all PM&R programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**36%**

PM&R: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison



2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# of Programs: 85

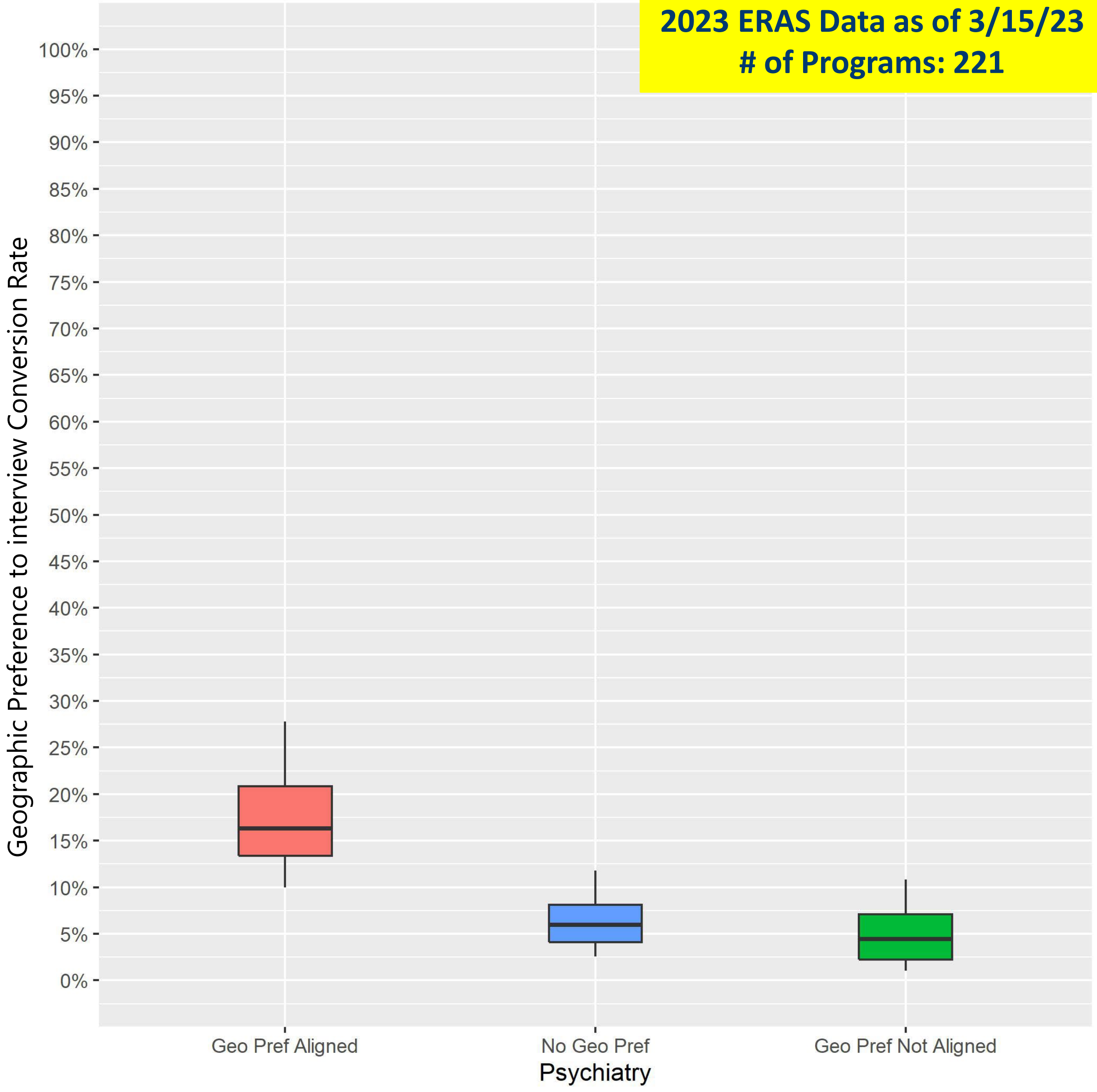


2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 39

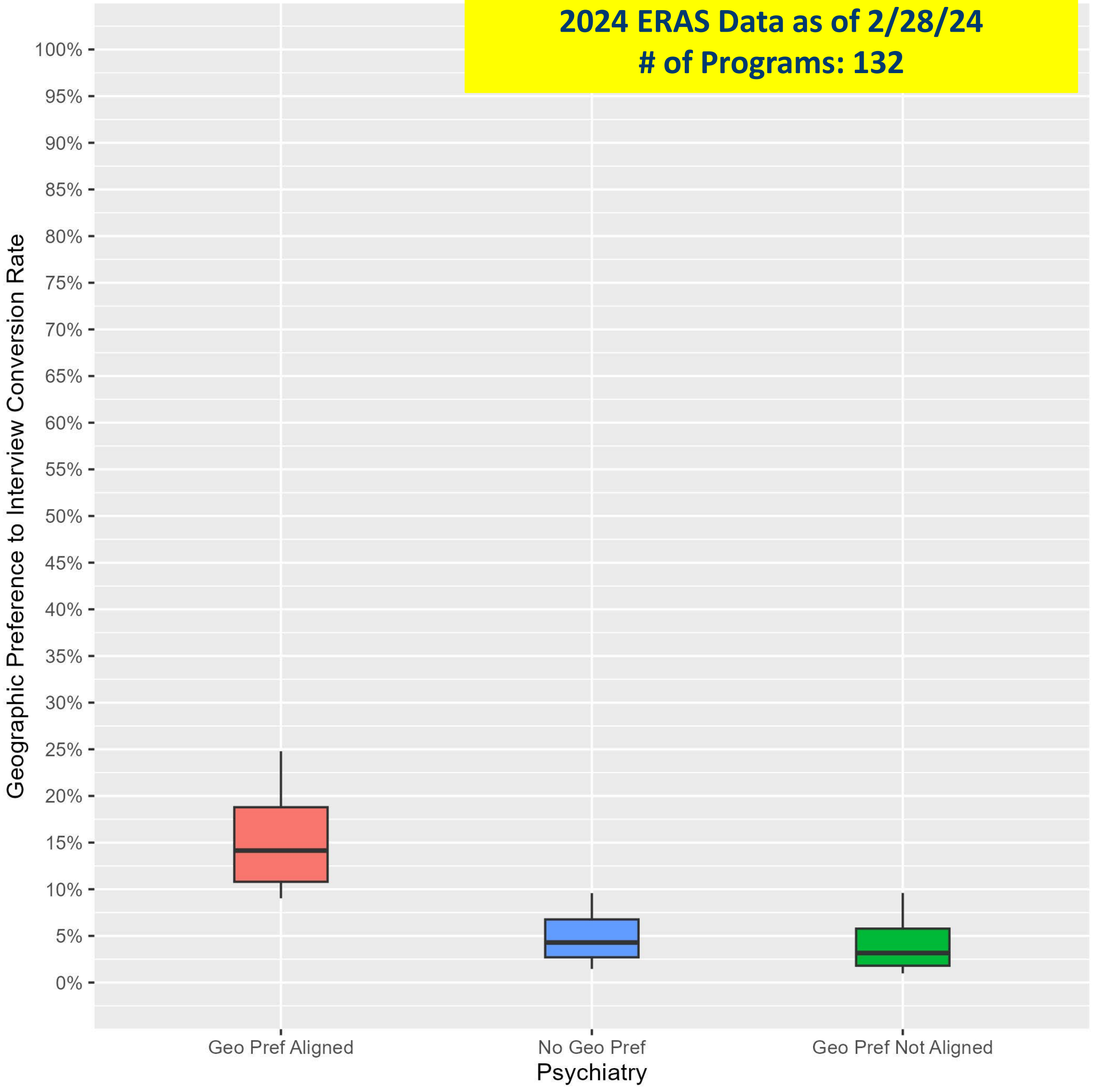
Psychiatry: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	304
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	161
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	132
Total analytic sample	**132**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**82%**
Total % of all Psychiatry programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**43%**

Psychiatry: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment Year-Over-Year Comparison



2023 ERAS Data as of 3/15/23
# of Programs: 221



2024 ERAS Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 132

Radiation Oncology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	85
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	29
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	19
Total analytic sample	**19**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**66%**
Total % of all Radiation Oncology programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**22%**

Radiation Oncology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 51%.
- 10th percentile: 38%.
- 90th percentile: 73%.

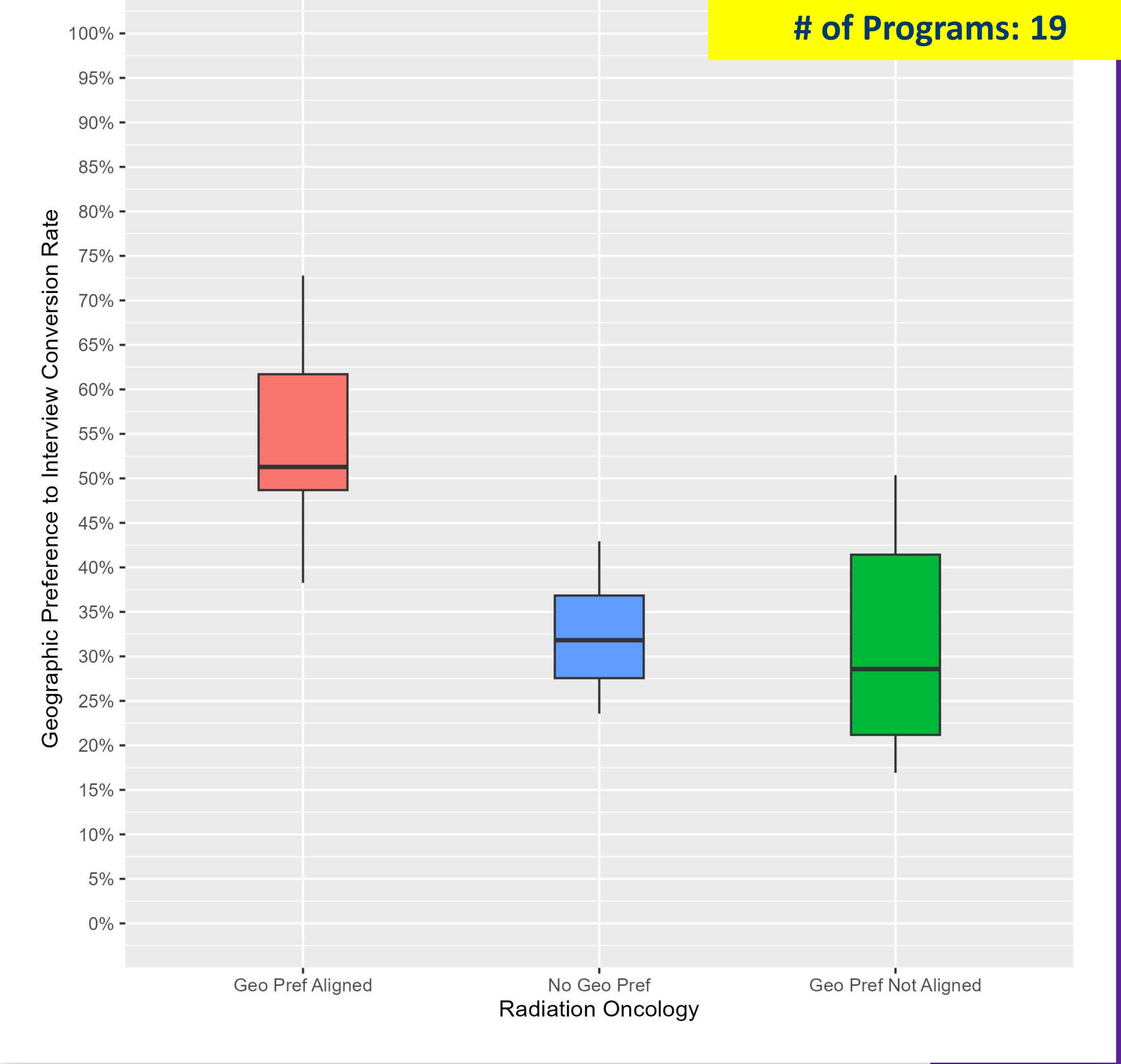
Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 32%.
- 10th percentile: 24%.
- 90th percentile: 43%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 29%.
- 10th percentile: 17%.
- 90th percentile: 50%.

Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 19



Transitional Year: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	168
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	67
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	45
Total analytic sample	**45**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**67%**
Total % of all Transitional Year programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**27%**

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Transitional Year: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

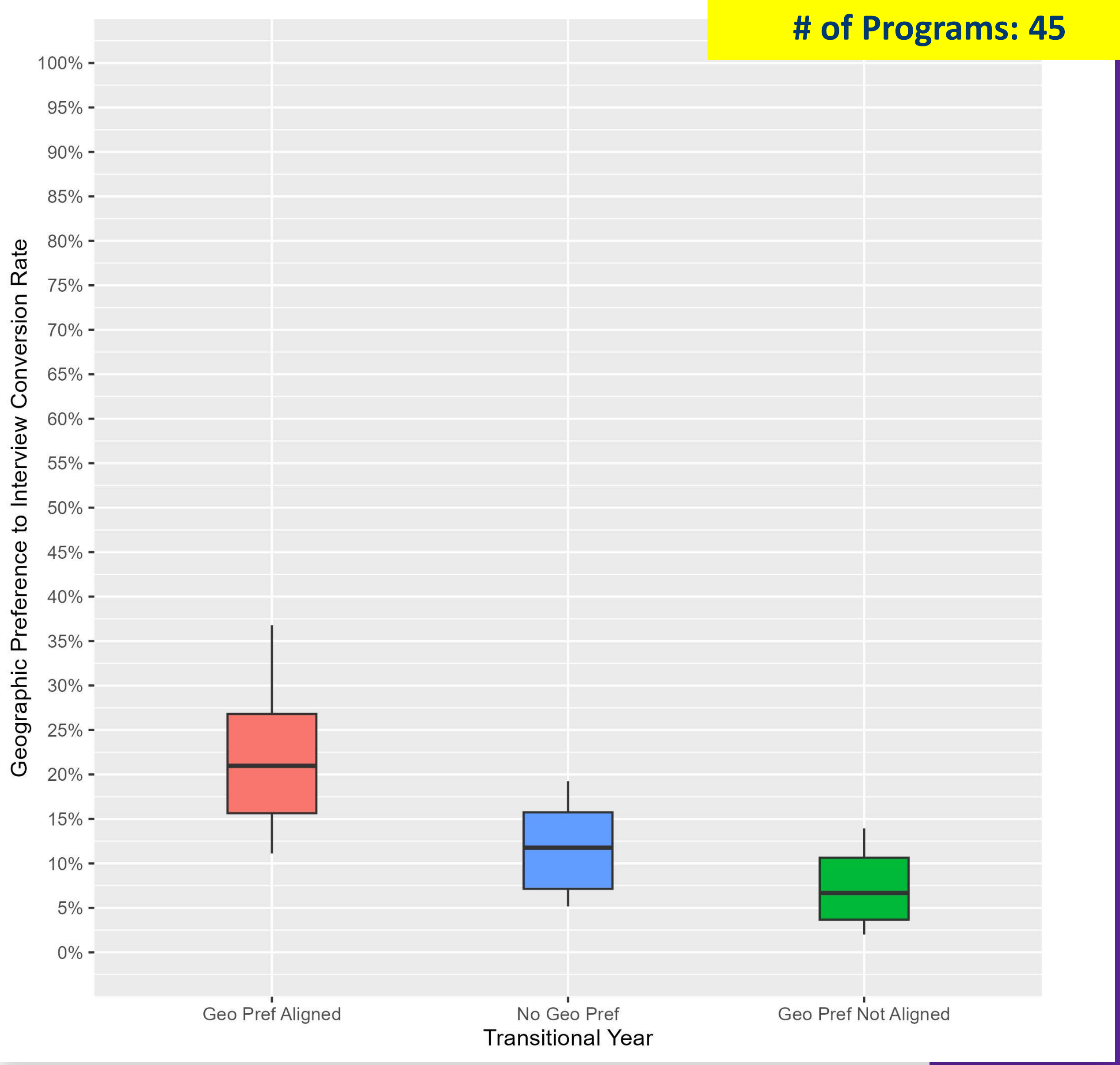
- Median of interview offers: 21%.
- 10th percentile: 11%.
- 90th percentile: 37%.

Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 12%.
- 10th percentile: 5%.
- 90th percentile: 19%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 7%.
- 10th percentile: 2%.
- 90th percentile: 14%.



Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 45

Urology: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	145
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	120
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	53
Total analytic sample	**53**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**44%**
Total % of all Urology programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**37%**

Urology: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 24%.
- 10th percentile: 14%.
- 90th percentile: 43%.

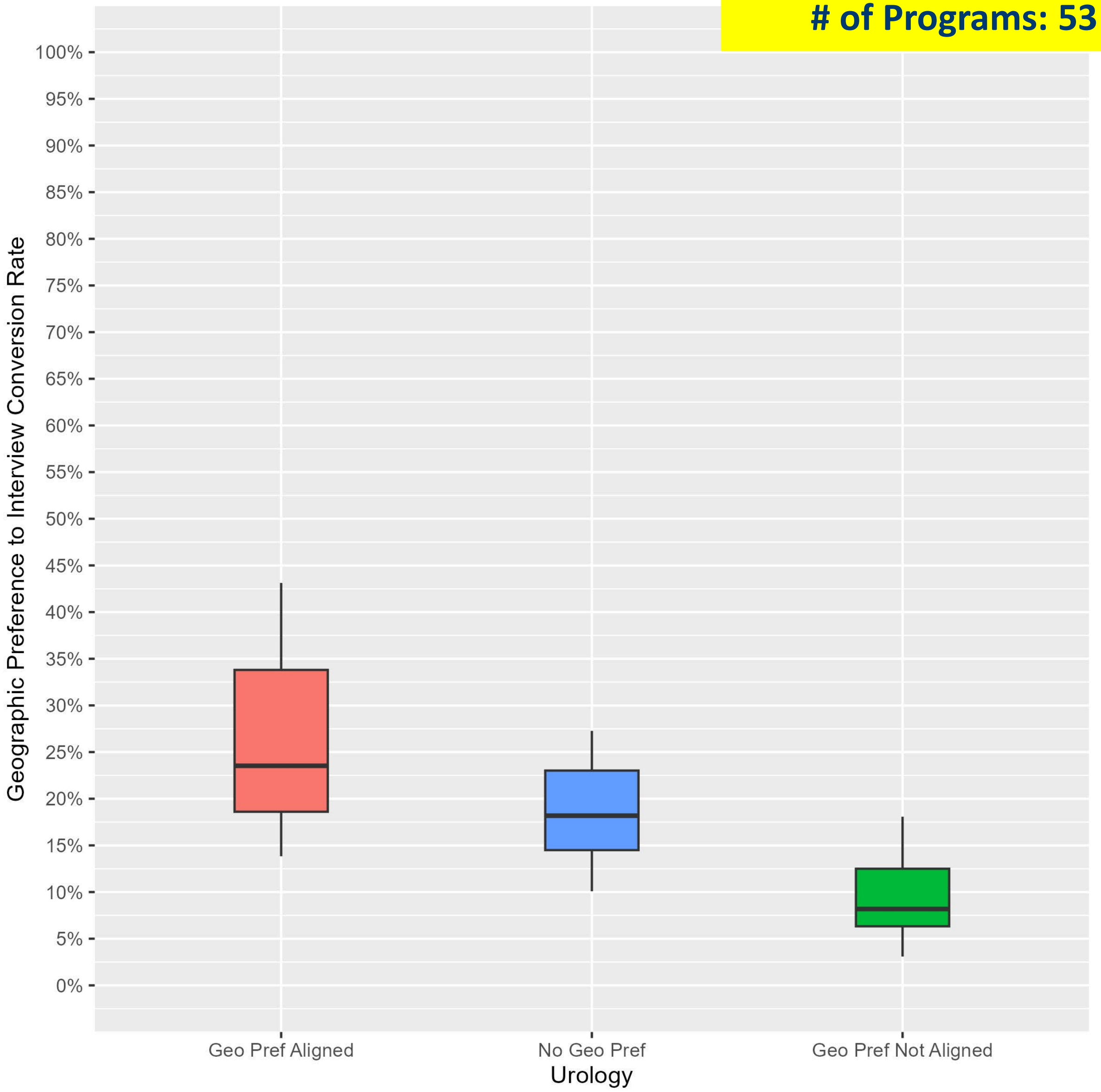
Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 18%.
- 10th percentile: 10%.
- 90th percentile: 27%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 8%.
- 10th percentile: 3%.
- 90th percentile: 18%.

Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 53



Vascular Surgery: Program Sample & Inclusion Criteria

	N of Programs for Geographic Preference
Total programs	76
Total programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	29
Met inclusion rule equal to or larger than 7:1; Provided PGY1 info in GME track; Provided interview offer data by February 28, 2024	22
Total analytic sample	**22**
Total % of programs who made geographic preference viewable at their program	**76%**
Total % of all Vascular Surgery programs in 2024 ERAS cycle	**29%**

Vascular Surgery: Interview Rates by Geographic Preference Alignment

Applicants whose geographic preference aligned with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 36%.
- 10th percentile: 17%.
- 90th percentile: 51%.

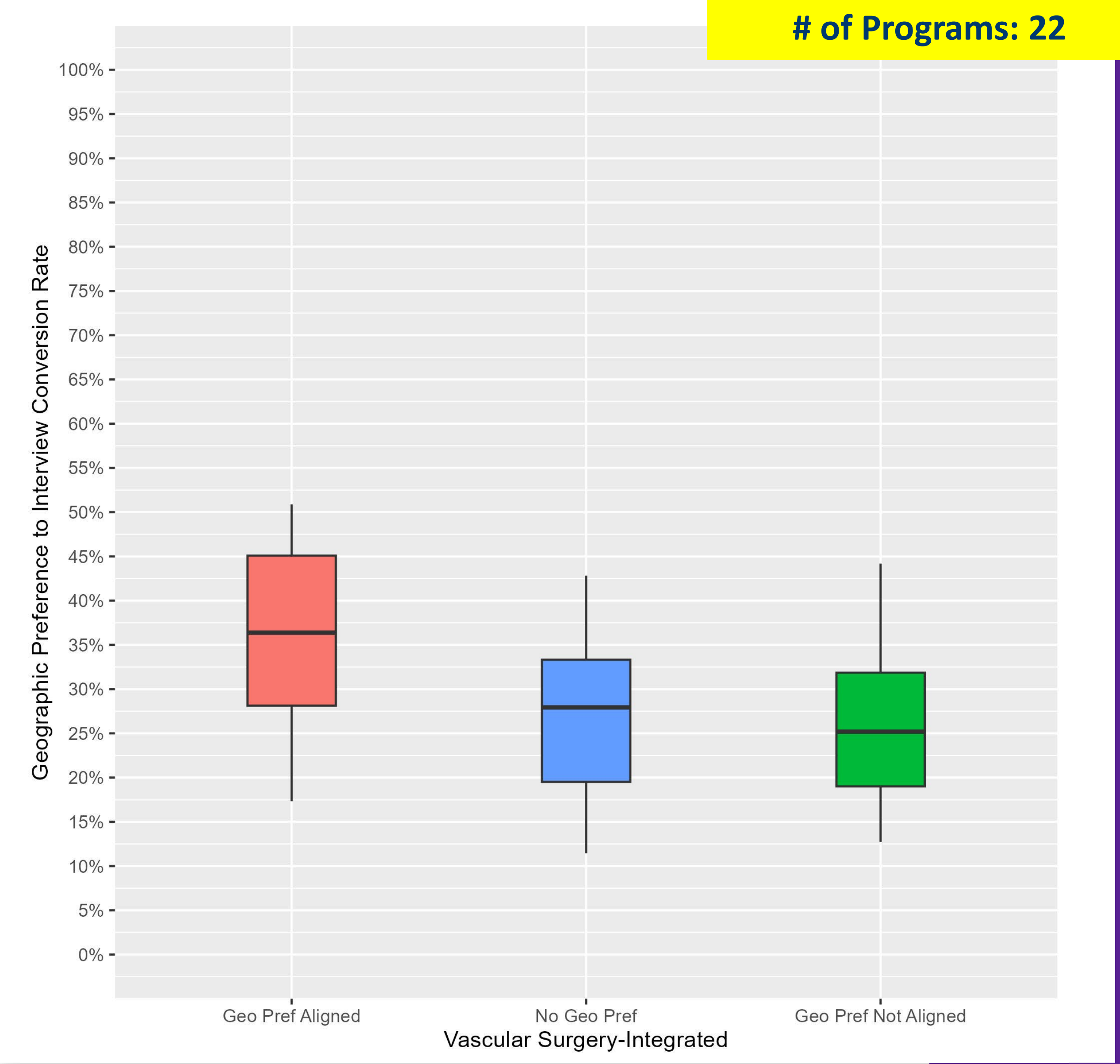
Applicants with no geographic preference:

- Median of interview offers: 28%.
- 10th percentile: 11%.
- 90th percentile: 43%.

Applicants whose geographic preference(s) did not align with the program:

- Median of interview offers: 25%.
- 10th percentile: 13%.
- 90th percentile: 44%.

Data as of 2/28/24
# of Programs: 22



Executive Summary

Having an **aligned geographic preference has a greater impact on interview invitation rates** compared to having no preference or a misaligned preference in all specialties, although this impact is lower than sending a program signal.

In half of the specialties we examined (12 of 24), median interview rates were higher for those who selected no geographic preference compared to those who were unaligned.

For 11 other specialties, median interview rates between those with no preference and those who were unaligned were nearly the same.

There is **great variability in use** of geographic preferences by programs, and opportunity for program director training on the meaning of no preference.

Limitations and Considerations

- Because a relatively low percentage of programs made geographic preferences viewable by 9/29/23 in each specialty, results should be interpreted with caution and may not apply to all programs.
- These results do not account for out of state or in-state status. Geographic preferences can be interpreted or contextualized differently for in-state vs. out-of-state applicants.
- Geographic preferences are only one part of the application, and are considered alongside program signals, academic qualifications, and other aspects of the application by program directors when making interview invitation decisions.
- The impact of geographic preferences across applicant types and demographic subgroups will continue to be studied in future cycles as applicants, advisors and program directors learn more about their meaning and utility at different programs.

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For more information:

- ERAS Statistics. This page contains current and historical data related to ERAS applicants and applications. It includes *Final End of Season Data*, *Specialty Specific Data*, and *Cross Specialty Applicant Data*.