



# The PA Profession in Germany

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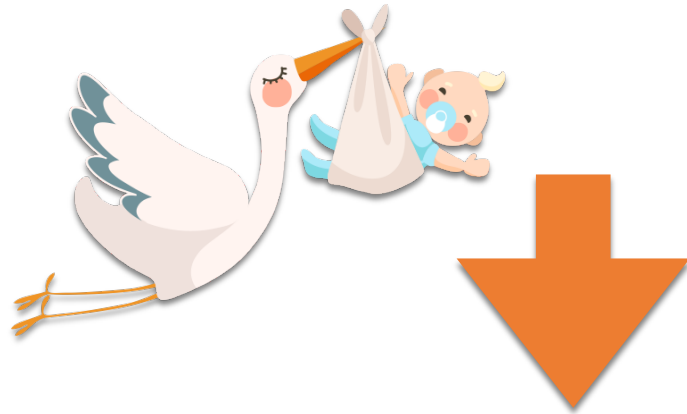
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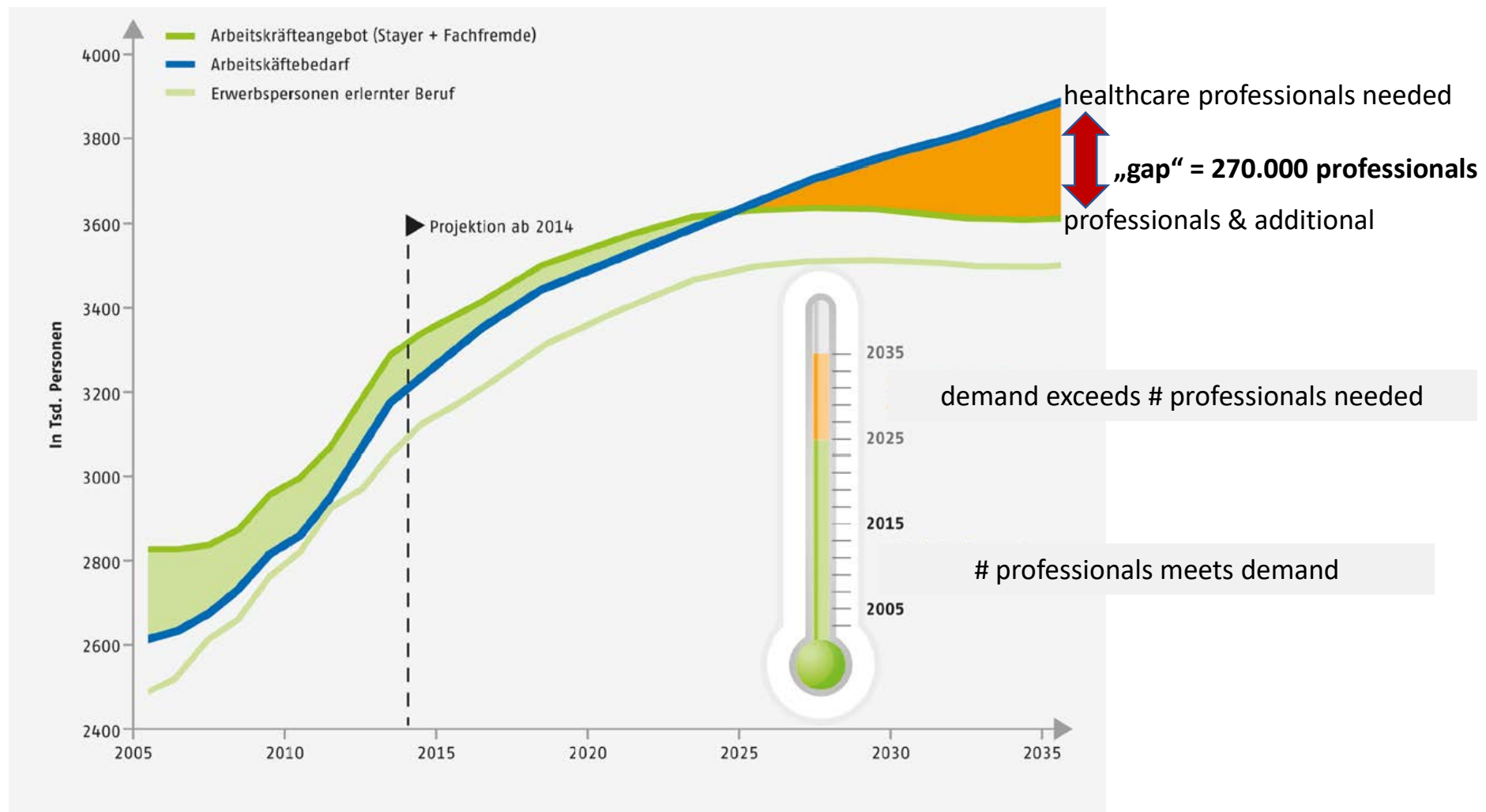
# Demographic & epidemiologic changes in Germany

**Birth rate**  
**minus 50 % since 1964**



**Average life expectancy**  
**plus 14 % since 1962**





Maier, T. u.a.: Die Bevölkerung wächst – Engpässe bei fachlichen Tätigkeiten bleiben aber dennoch bestehen (BIBB-Report 3/2016). Bonn 2016 – URL: [www.bibb.de/veroeffentlichungen/de/publication/show/id/8147](http://www.bibb.de/veroeffentlichungen/de/publication/show/id/8147) (Stand: 17.11.2016)

The German Council  
of Science and Humanities (2012)

**WR**

WISSENSCHAFTSRAT

*„... what is required is for members of the healthcare professions to gain a **qualification which is adapted to the changed requirements,** along with a greater degree of **collaborative organization** in healthcare in general.“*

<http://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/en/home.html>



## **„Doing things differently“**

**Increase collaboration in traditional tasks,  
due to increasing complexity**



## **„Doing different things“**

**Carry out new tasks previously performed by doctors**

**There are legal uncertainties in task sharing and responsibilities**

**Task sharing / reallocation must be in accordance with**

- 1. complexity of task**
- 2. professional qualification of all parties involved**

**Qualification is vital to legally enable healthcare professionals to perform complex tasks**



## Physician Assistants in Germany – reasoning

- demographic & epidemiologic changes in Germany
- shortage of Healthcare Professionals
- silo mentality
- need to do things differently & need to do different things
- legal uncertainties
- task sharing & delegation requires (academic) qualification due to increasing complexity
- majority of physicians in Germany (and Europe) now agree more with task sharing / reallocation



- Decision of the **117th** German Medical Assembly **2014** to set up a working group “academically educated Health Professions” of the BÄK and KBV to develop of a concept for a nationwide professional “Physician Assistant (PA)”
- German Medical Assembly continues to vote in **2015** and **2016** for a nationally regulated occupational profile Physician Assistant (PA)
- The **120th** German Medical Assembly **2017** publishes the guideline “*Physician Assistant – a new profession in German healthcare*”





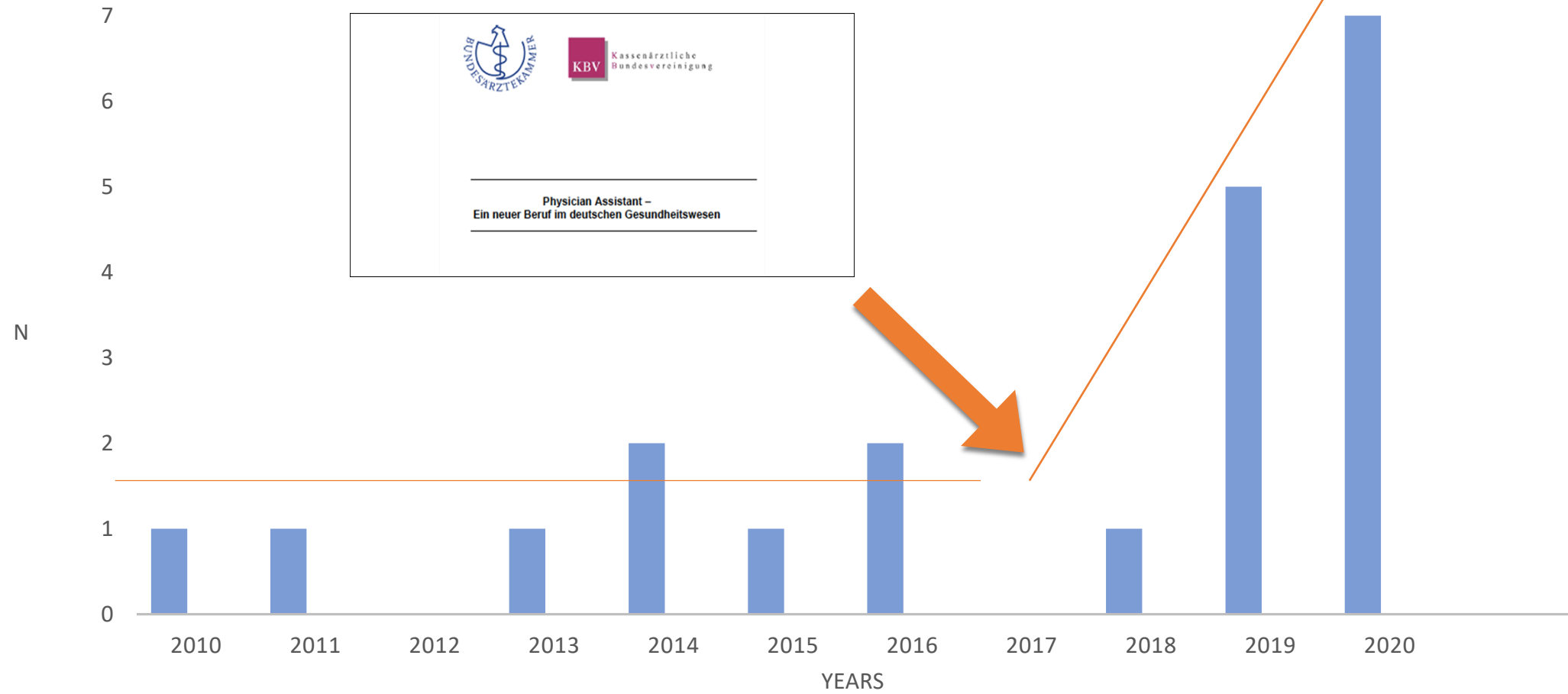
I. Reason

II. Scope of practice

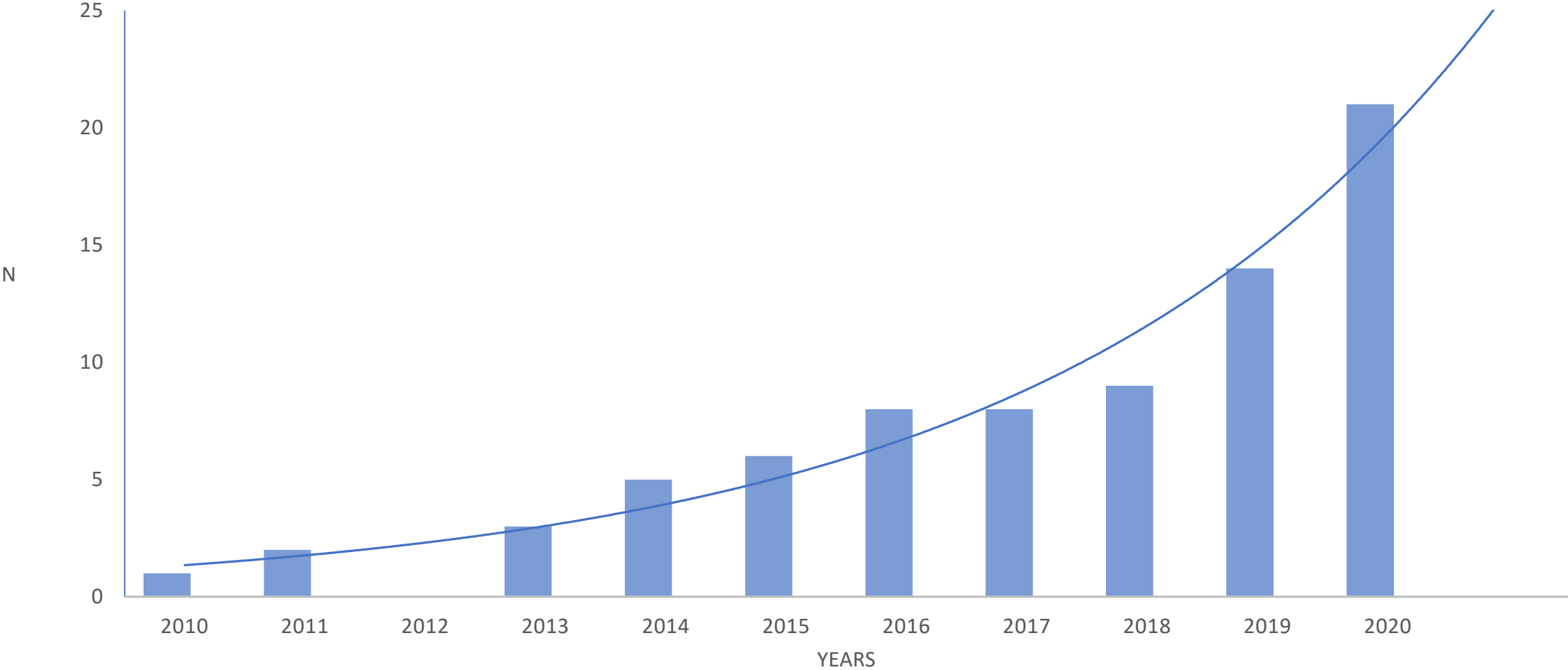
III. Course content and competencies to be taught

IV. Quality criteria for the introduction of study programs

# Number of new PA-programs in Germany since 2005



# Cumulative # of PA-programs in Germany since 2010





PA-programs (Bachelor) in Germany

# PAAs in Germany

## **Number of PA-students:**

2015 = 225 (published 2016)

Academic Year 2019/20 approximately 1.000 students (own data)

## **Number of PA-graduates:**

179 - 300 (published 2017 & 2018)

1.000 Graduates in 2019 (own data & DGPA)

DGPA, 2015; 1 (1): 15ff; BÄK, KBV 2017, Rößler 2018, Korzilius 2017

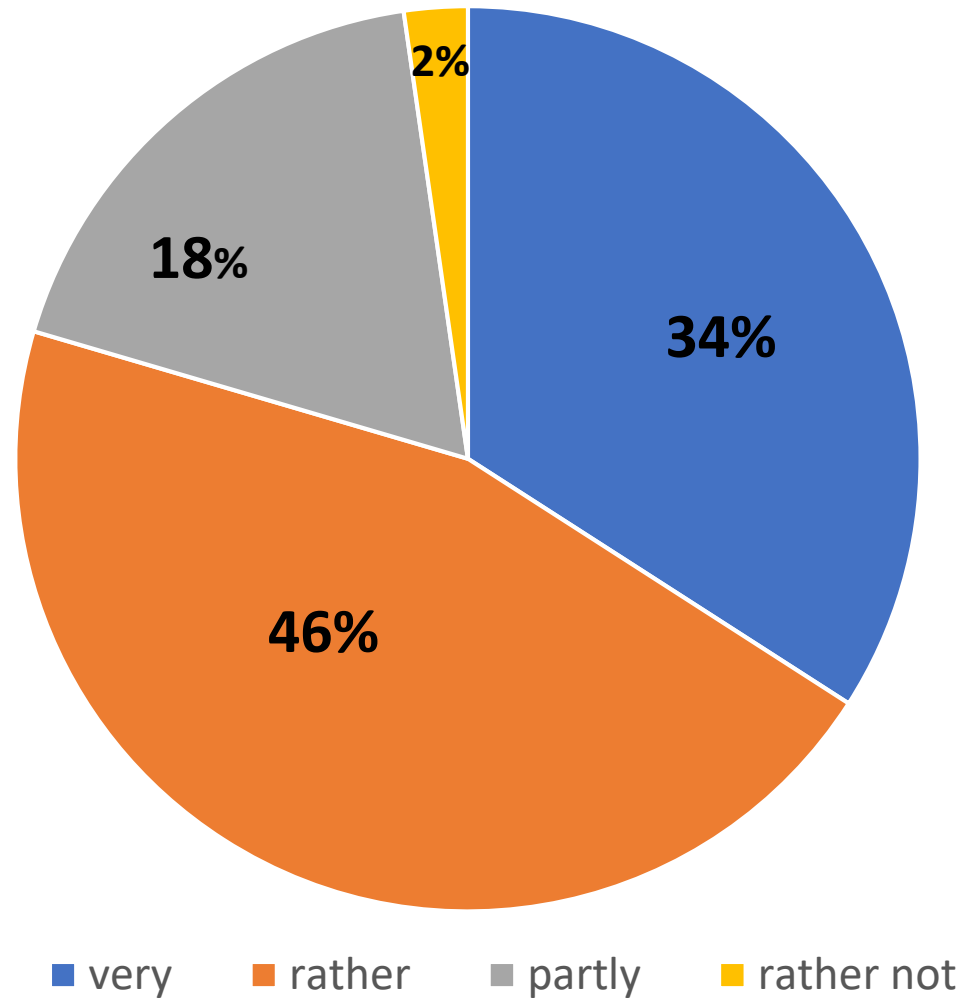
# Physician Assistants (PA) in practice

## Questions

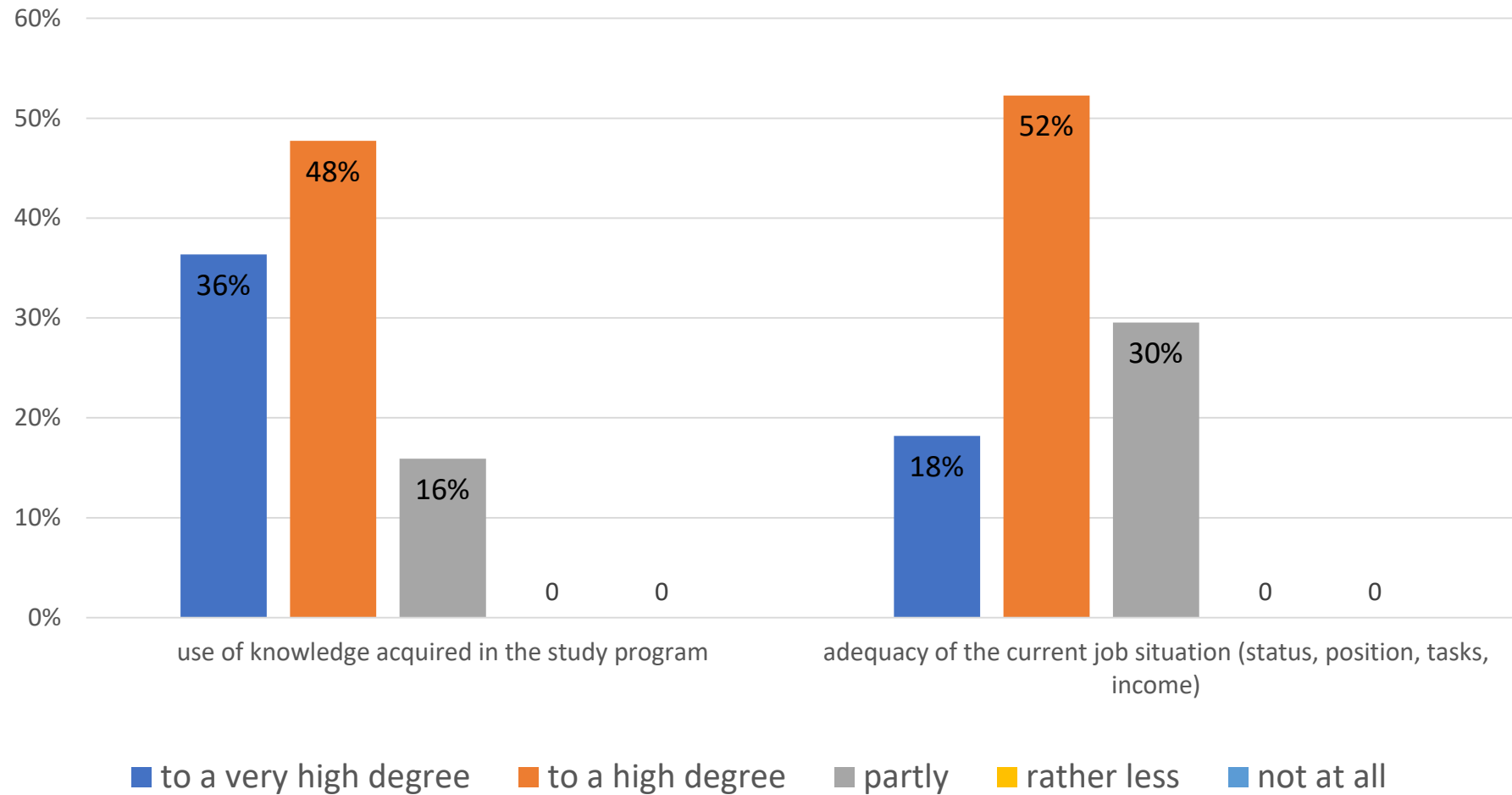
- whereabouts of the graduates
- acceptance of the new profession
- earning potential
- scope of practice of PA
- job satisfaction of the graduates

 mandatory report / evaluation

Are you satisfied working as PA ?

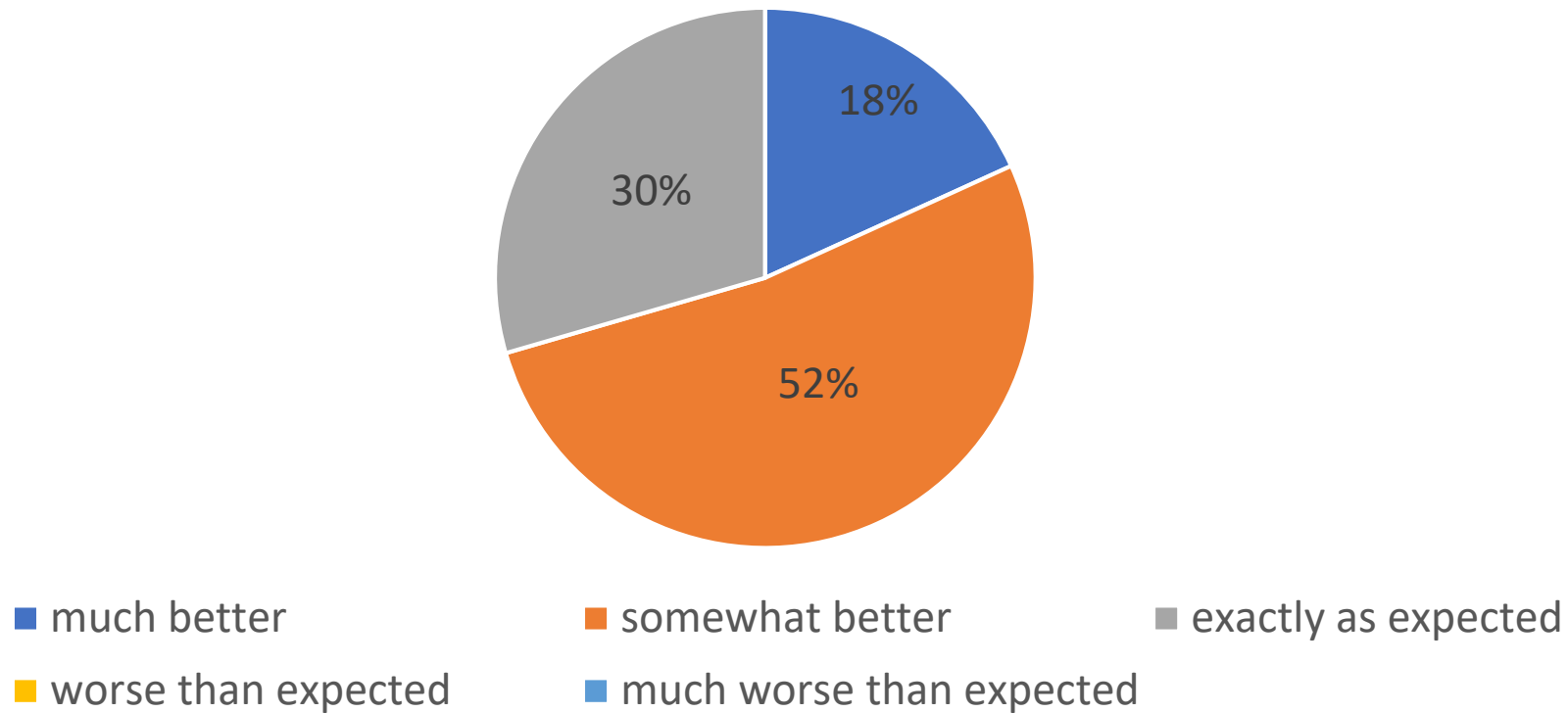


## Acquired knowledge / job situation





## Fulfillment of expectations regarding professional situation after graduation from the PA program



# Professional representation of PAs in Germany

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Physician Assistants (DGPA)
- Deutscher Hochschulverband Physician Assistant (DHPA)

# Summary

- Increase of students in the PA programs
- Substantial increase of the number of universities with PA programs
- Increase of Physician Assistants in medical care
- Majority of graduates is working in hospitals
- General framework for PA Bachelor programs is determined

**The PA profession is now established in Germany**  
**- named to be one of the top jobs 2019**

# Outlook

- Expert group developed curriculum especially for PA in outpatient care - will be implemented and published shortly
- First Masters program for PA will start in 2020
- Implementing standards for tests and examinations (European Certificate)
- Expansion of clinical training sites
- Optimizing the political and legal framework
- Enhancing collaboration with international partners



# Thank you for your attention!

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