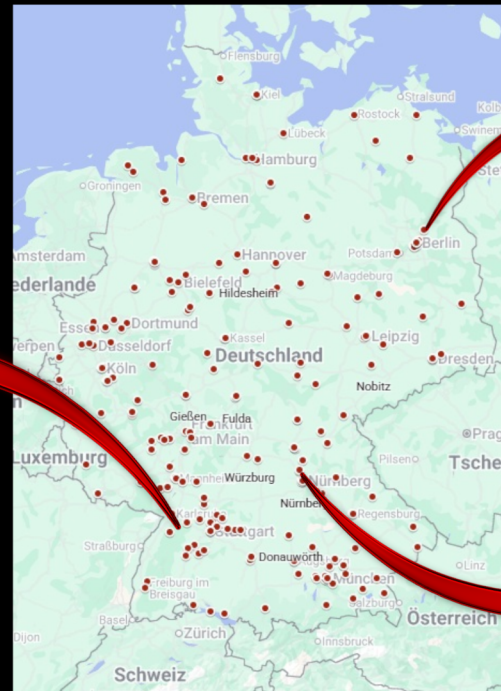
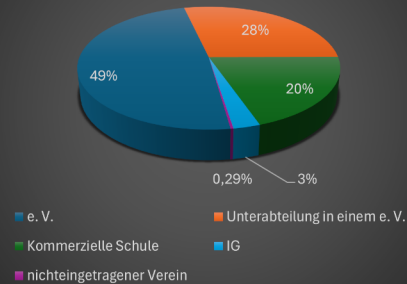


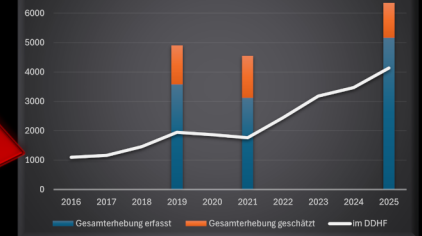
German HEMA Census 2025



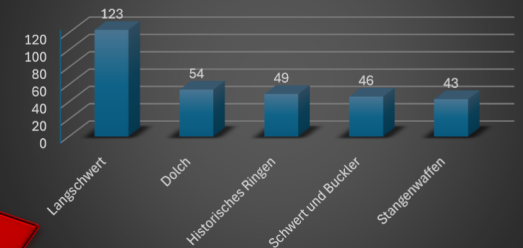
Mitgliederverteilung



Mitgliederentwicklung HEMA Deutschland



Beliebteste Waffenkategorie nach Standorten



Methodology

I. Data Collection

For the DDHF Census 2025, all 227 known HEMA groups in Germany were contacted—including 122 DDHF member groups and 105 non-DDHF groups. The survey was conducted via a three-stage contact procedure: First, all groups received a questionnaire via email, followed by a reminder and a final minimalist text email (without images/links) to bypass spam filters. If no response was received, additional channels such as social media (Facebook, Instagram) and publicly available phone numbers were used. DDHF groups were pursued more rigorously, as they are contractually obligated to provide data.

Concurrently, 10 groups were identified as inactive, duplicate, or never established. Public announcements of the survey added five previously unknown groups. However, 18.7% of groups remained unreachable.

II. Extrapolation

The extrapolation of collected data was based on category-weighted averages. Groups were divided into main categories: commercial schools, registered associations (e.V.), subdivisions, interest groups (IGs), and other non-registered entities. For non-responding groups, only averages from participating non-DDHF groups were used to avoid distortion by large DDHF associations.

Each non-responding group was assigned a category through systematic online research (e.g., checking for membership fees, training offerings). Commercial schools and subdivisions were easiest to identify, while IGs and non-registered entities posed challenges. For ~5% of unclassifiable groups, subdivision averages were applied.

The pptm (parts per ten million) calculation for federal states used official population data to estimate HEMA's reach relative to total residents.

III. Legal Organizational Forms in German HEMA (Explained for International Audiences)

Registered Associations (e.V.) - Most common; legal entity with liability protection for members; eligible for grants; non-profit.

Subdivision in Registered Associations - HEMA sections within larger Association (e.g., university sports, town sport association).

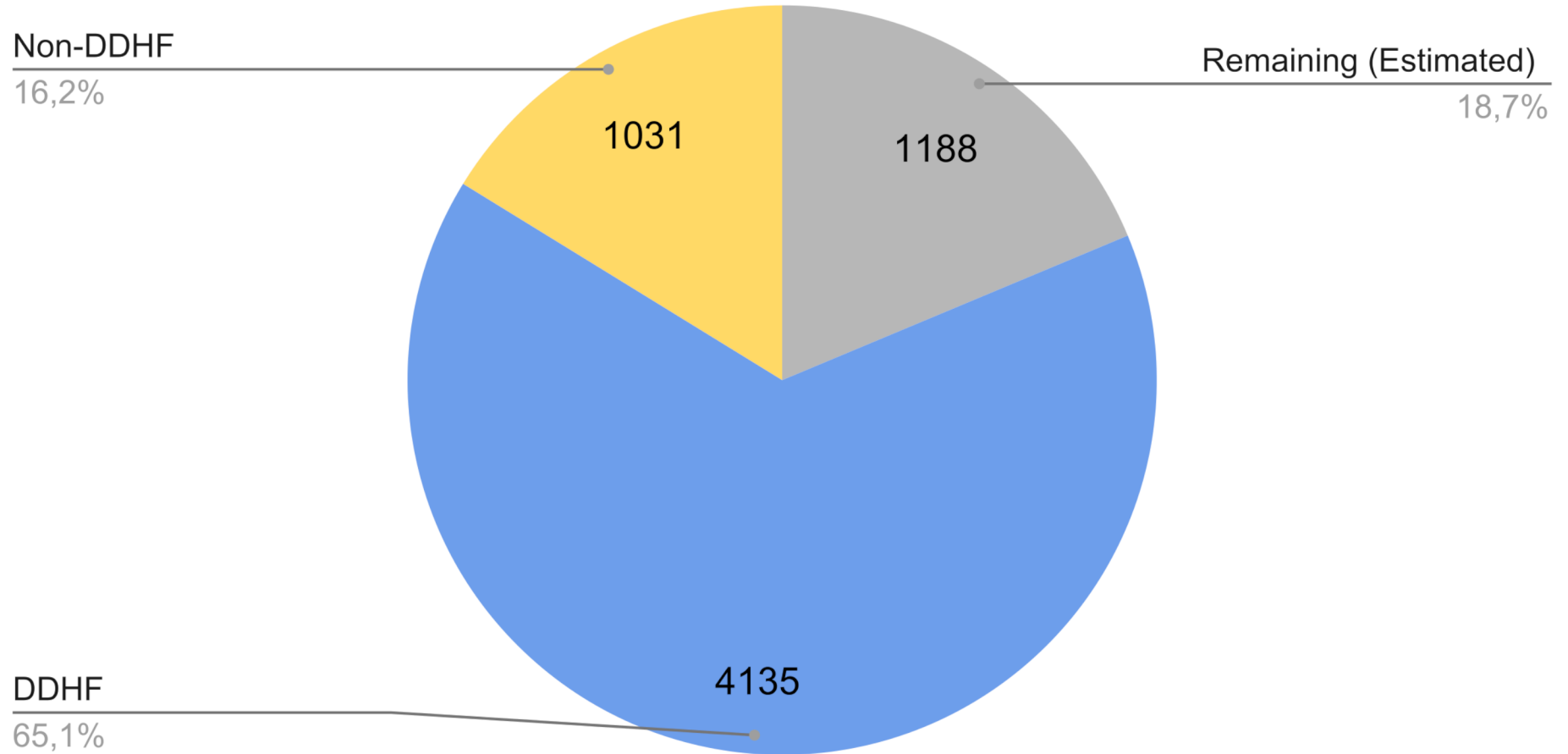
Commercial Schools - For-profit businesses offering paid classes, in various legal for-profit entities.

Community of interest (IG) - Mostly as a GbR (Gesellschaft bürgerlichen Rechts), the simplest form to form a group in Germany.

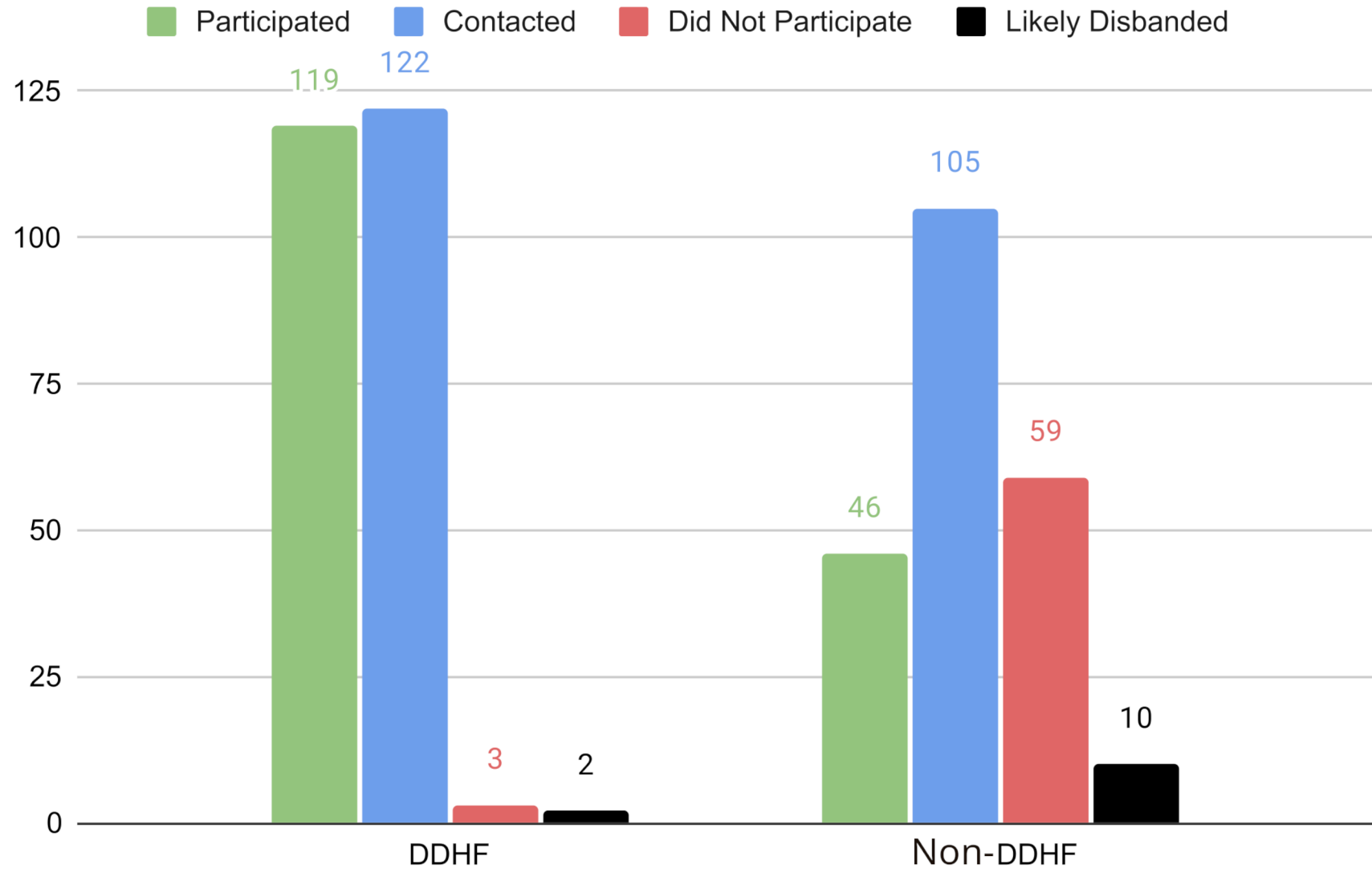
Non-Registered Associations - Legally a GbR but organizationalwise very close to an "e. V.", mostly as a step to get registered.

Total number of practitioners by DDHF Membership

5166 persons recorded, 6354 estimated

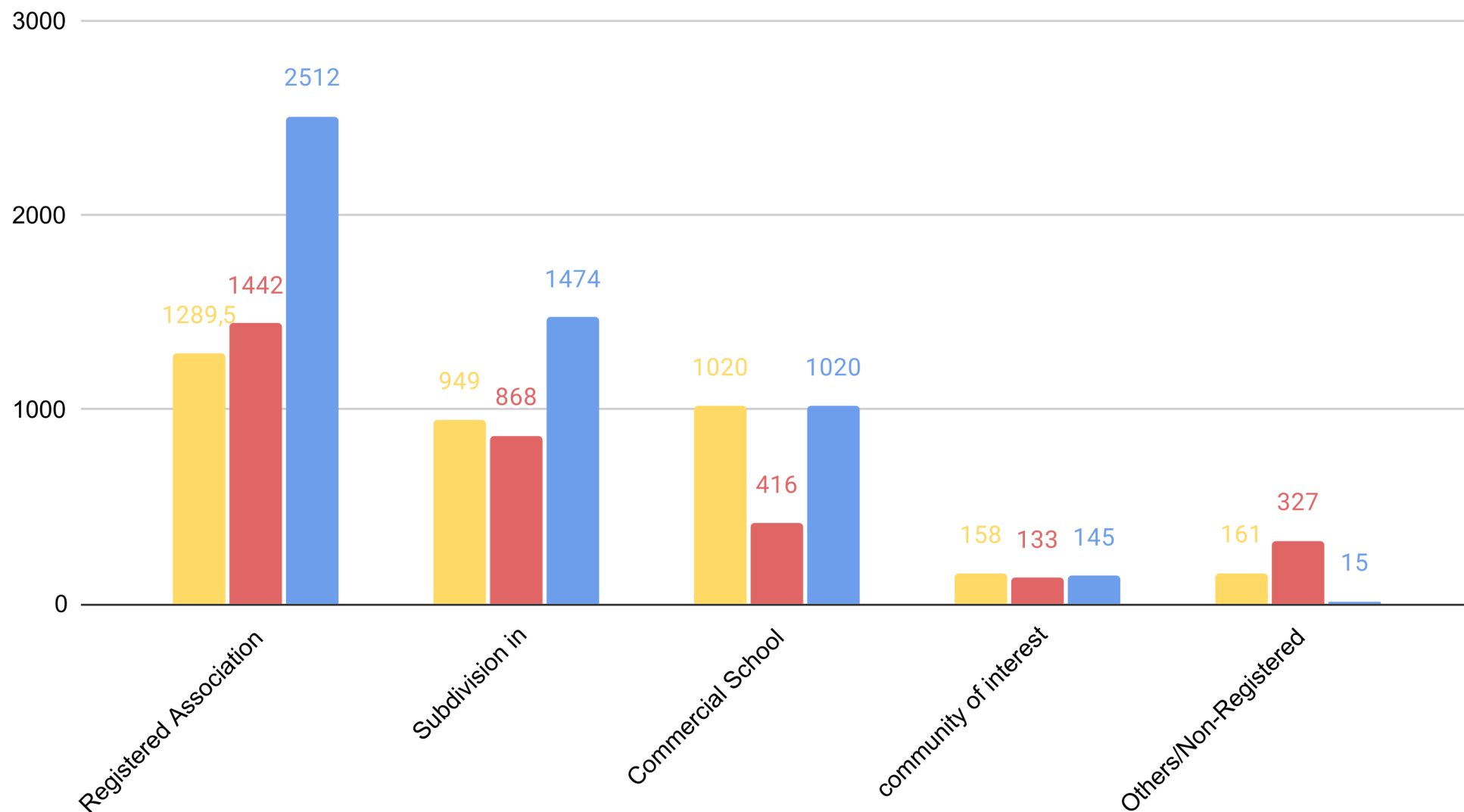


Number of Locations Contacted and Participating in the Census

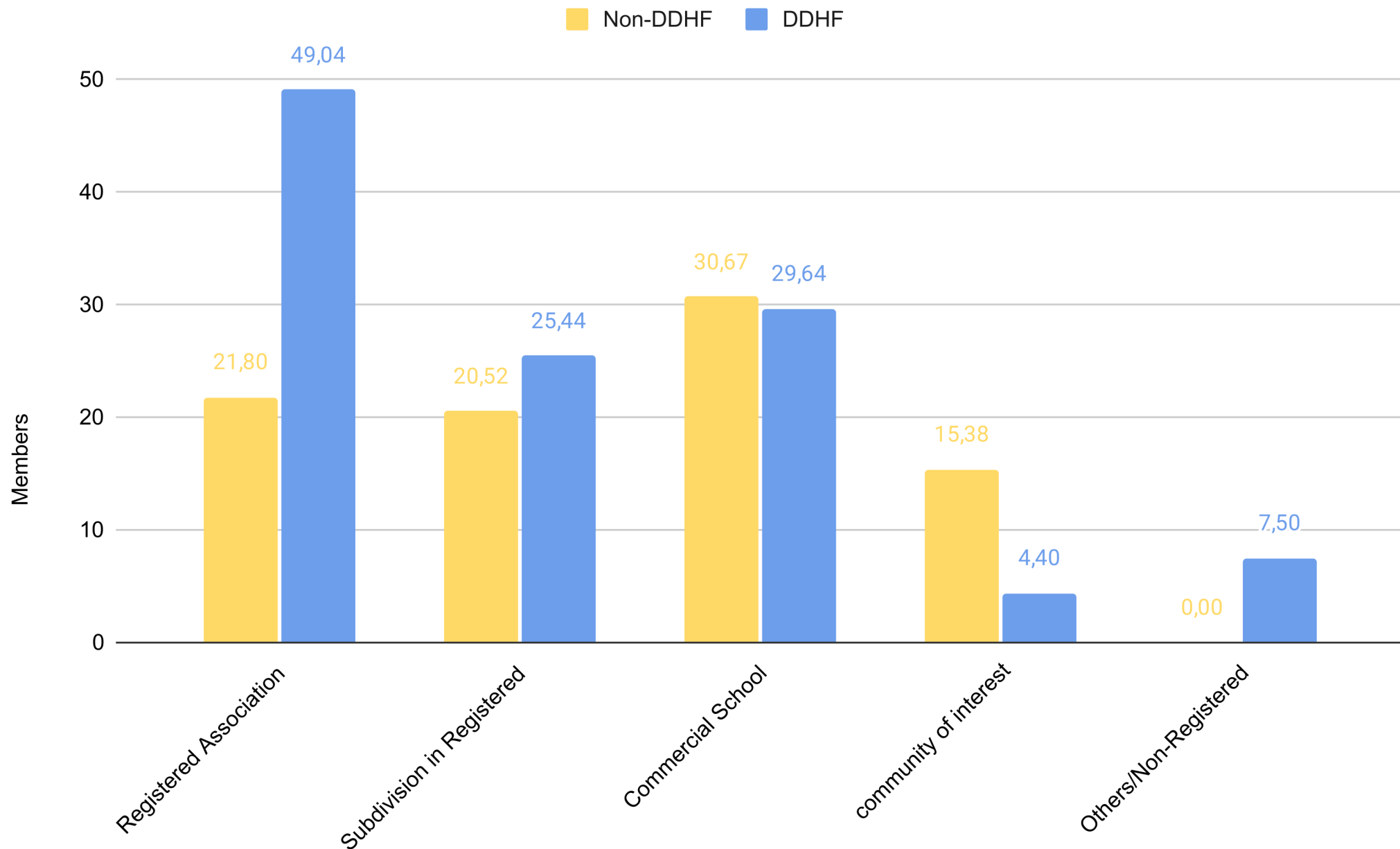


Total Number Practitioners by Type of Organisation

2019 2021 2025

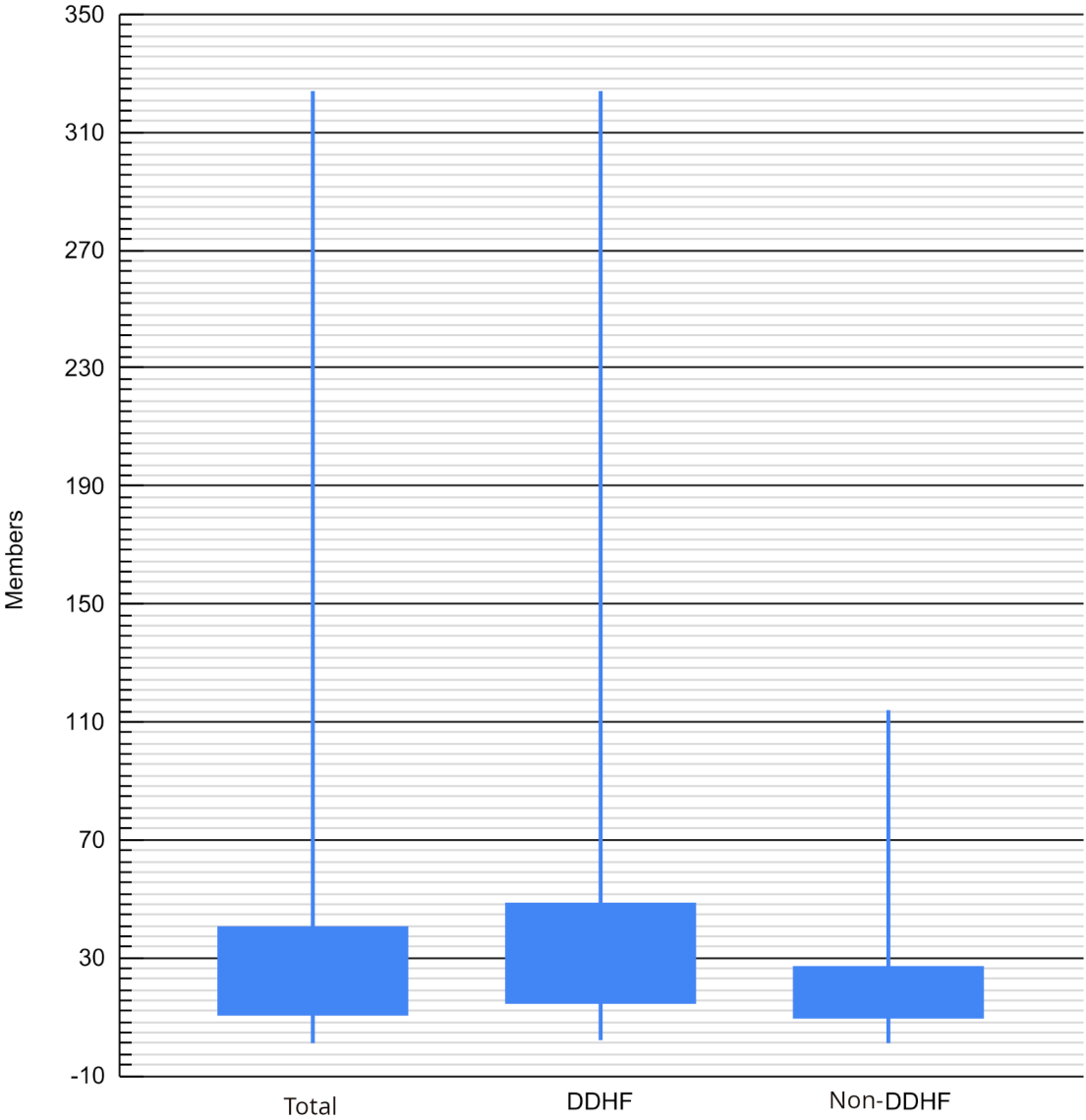


Average Membership per Location by Type of Organisational Form



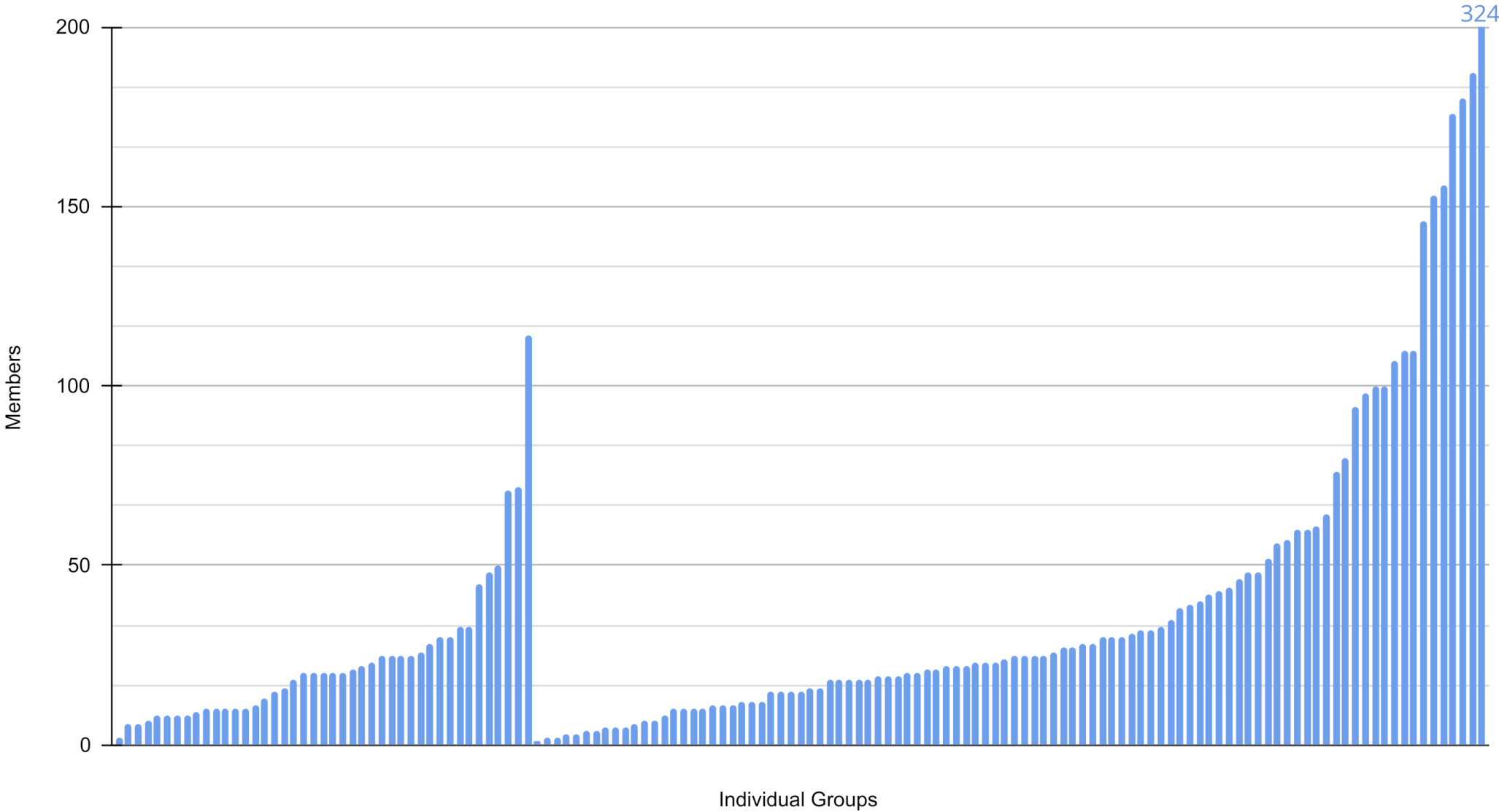
Distribution of Clubs by Number of Members as Box Plot

Median Overall: 22 // DDHF: 24,5 // Non-DDHF: 20



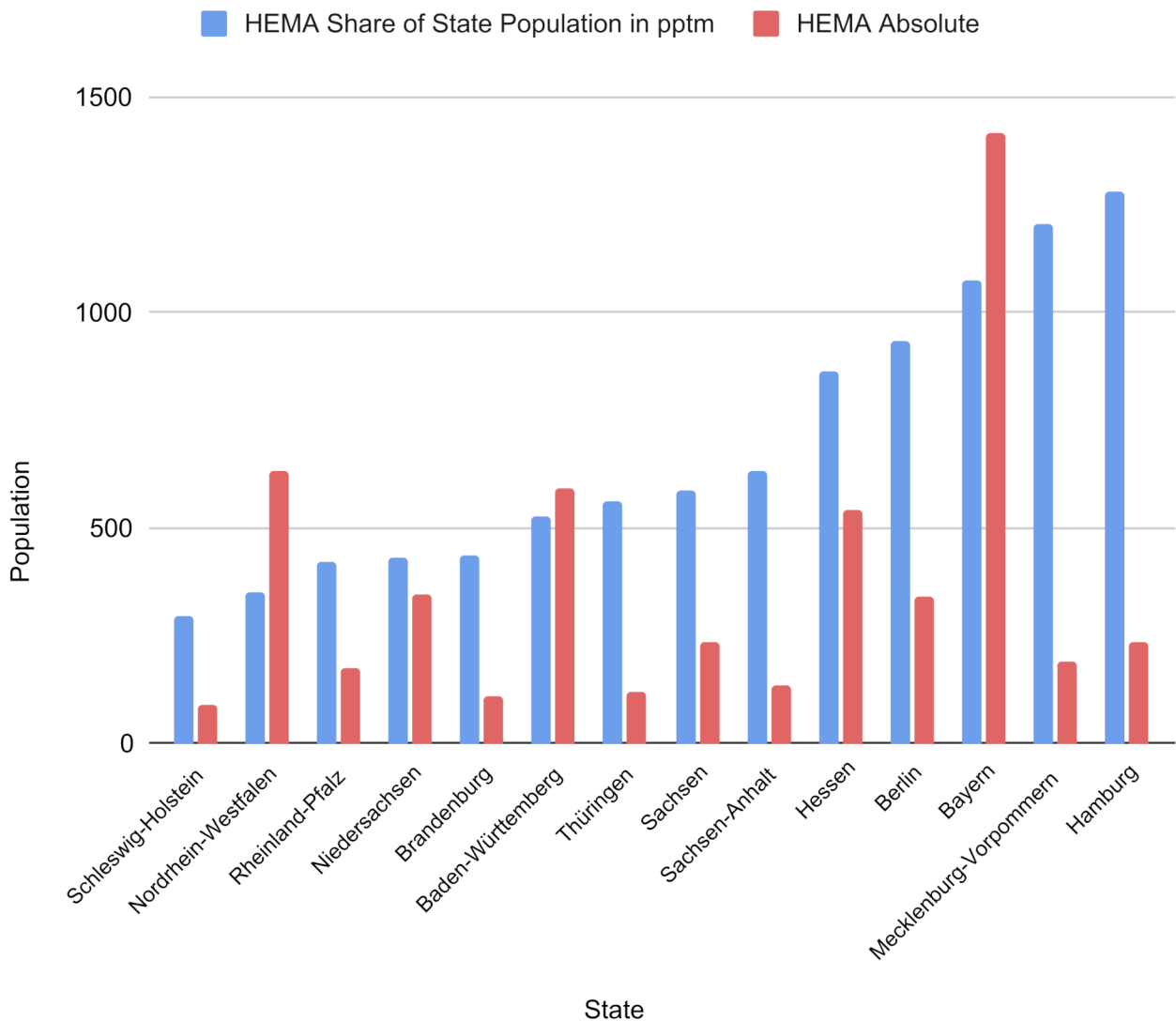
Distribution of Clubs by Number of Members

Left Group Non-DDHF // Right Group DDHF



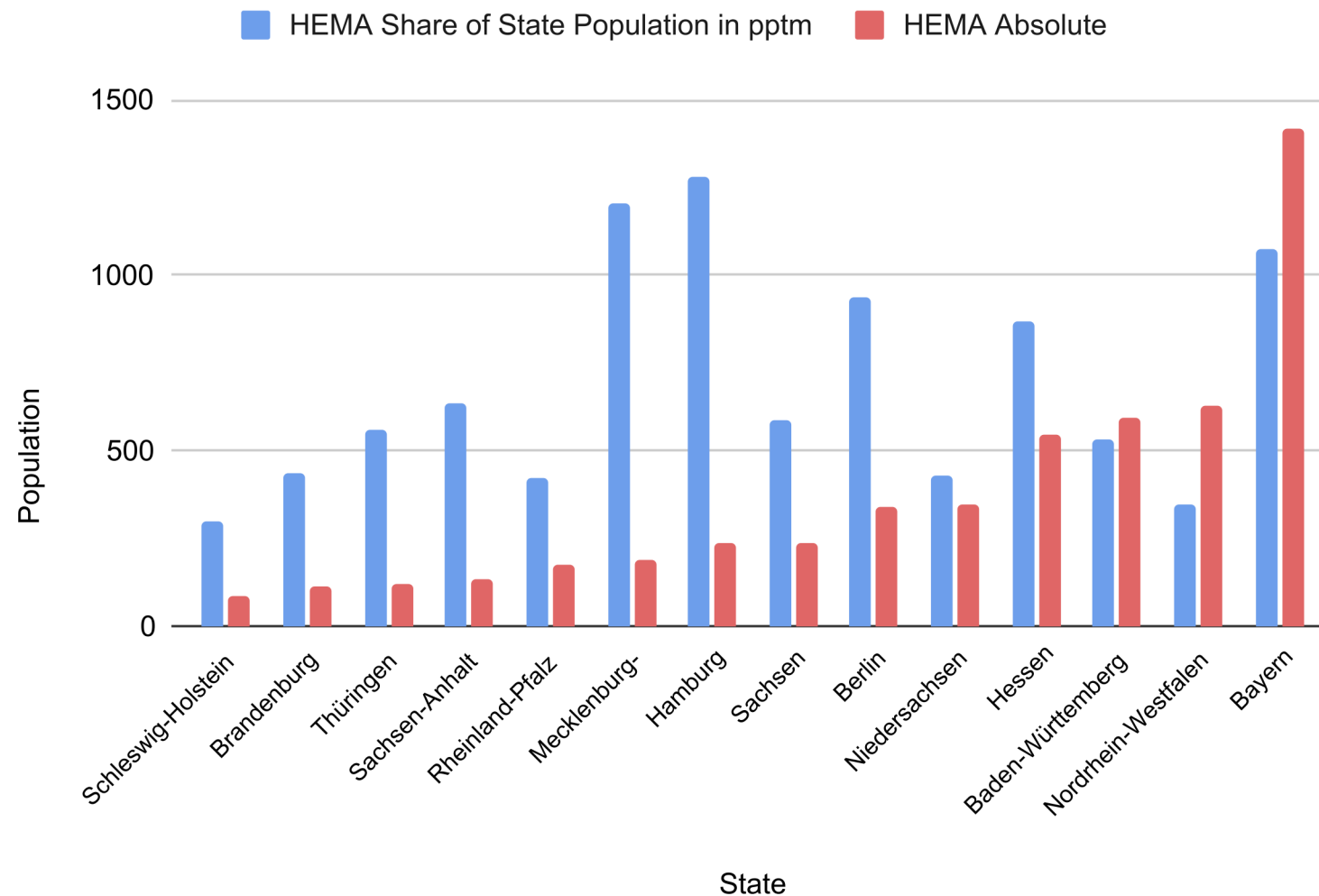
HEMA Membership by State as Share of Population (Parts per ten million) and Total

Data sorted by HEMA share of the state population

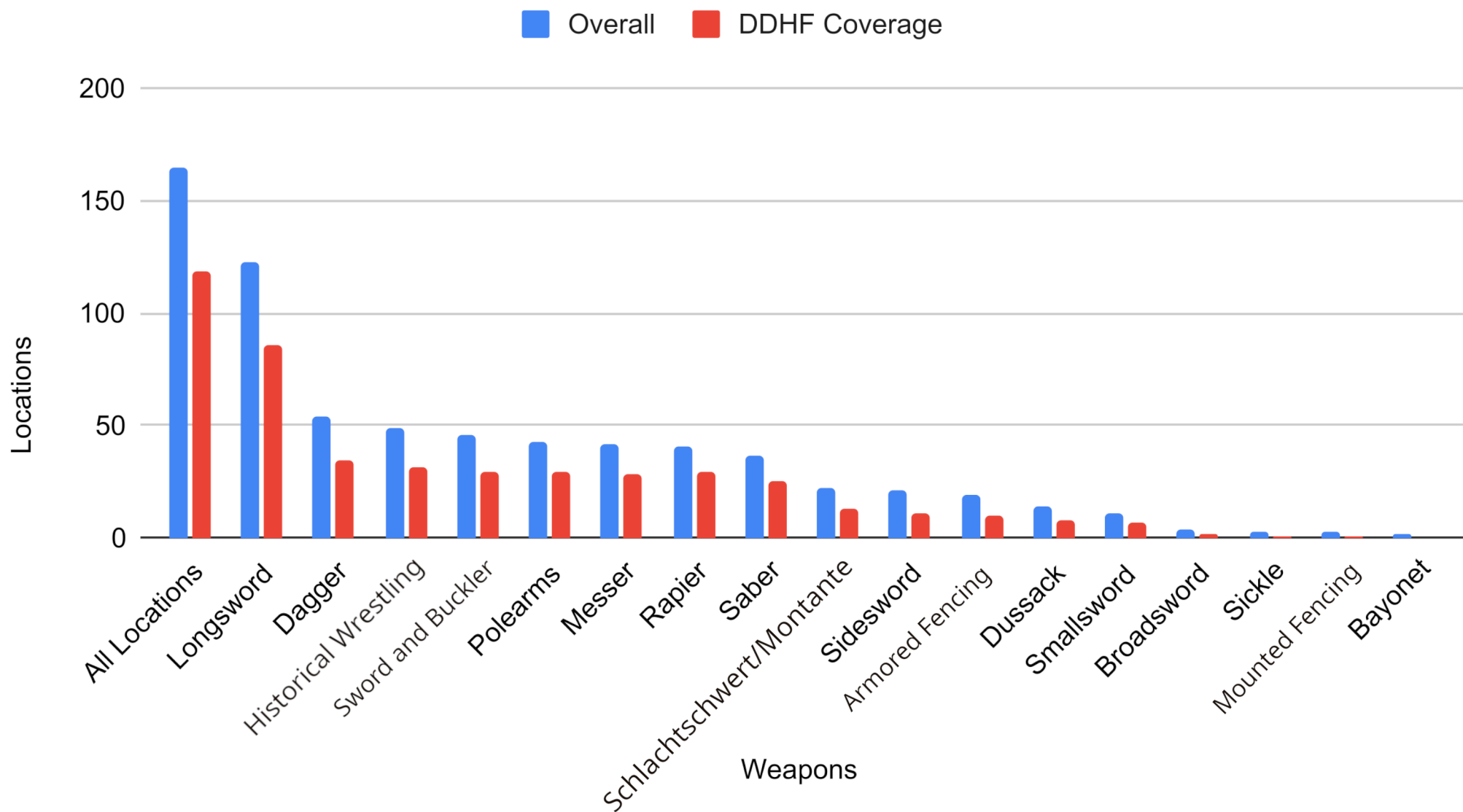


HEMA Membership by State as Share of Population (Parts per ten million) and Total

Data sorted by absolute numbers in each federal state

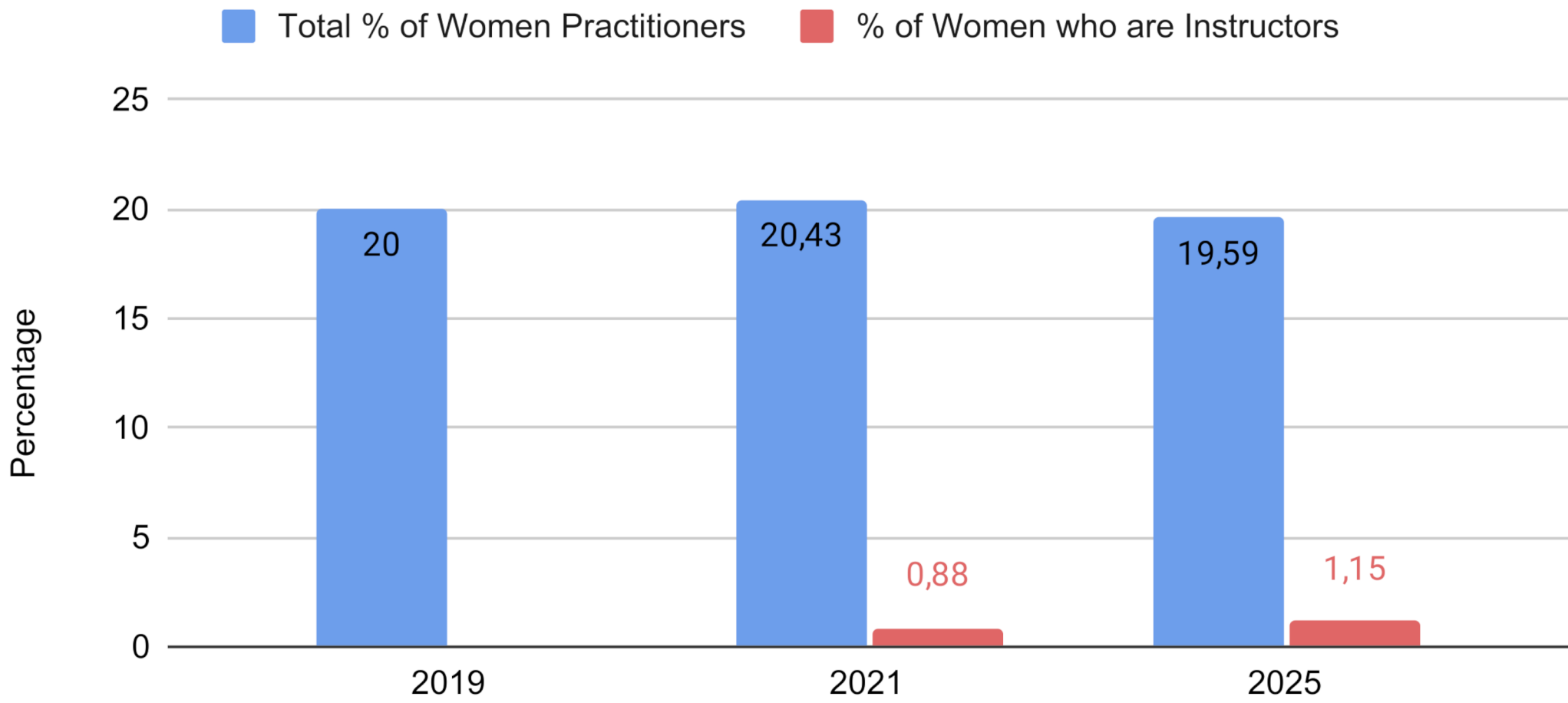


Weapon Categories at Locations Overall and DDHF Coverage



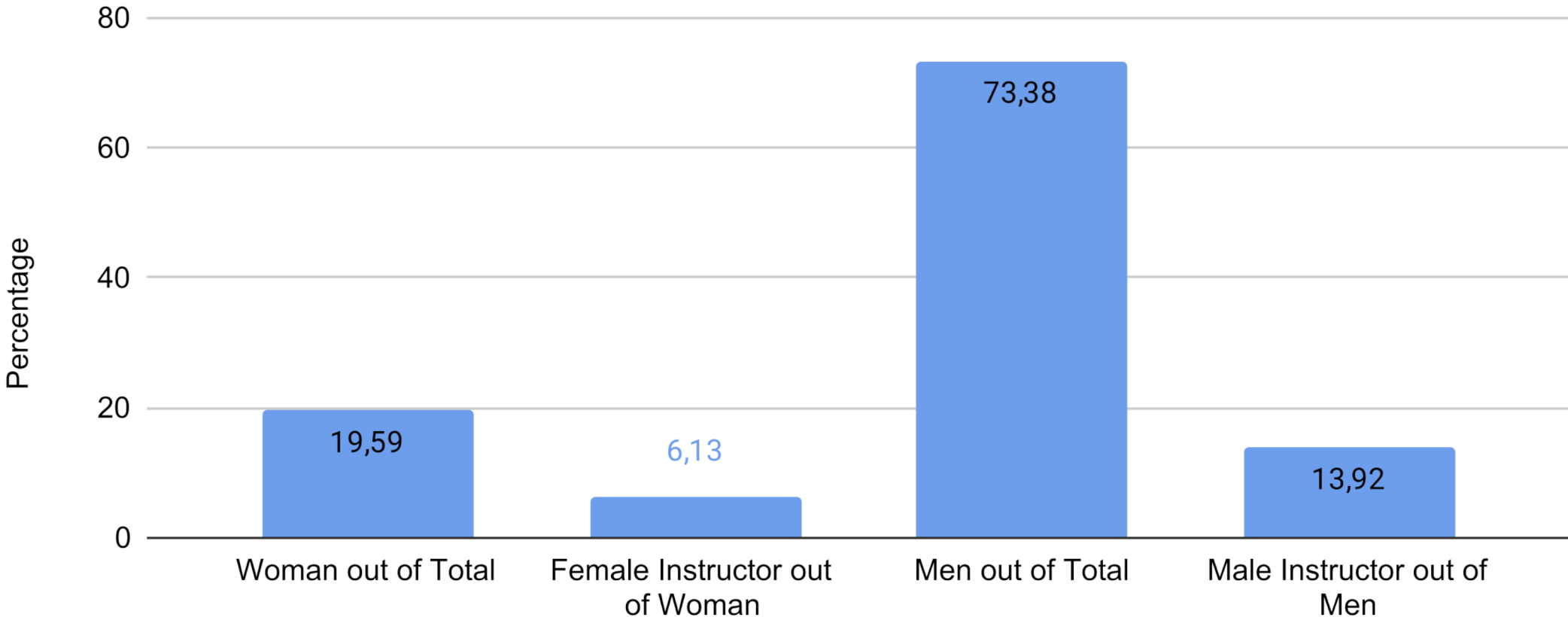
Women Practitioners and Woman Instructors as Percentage of All Practitioners

2019 no Data for female Instructor available



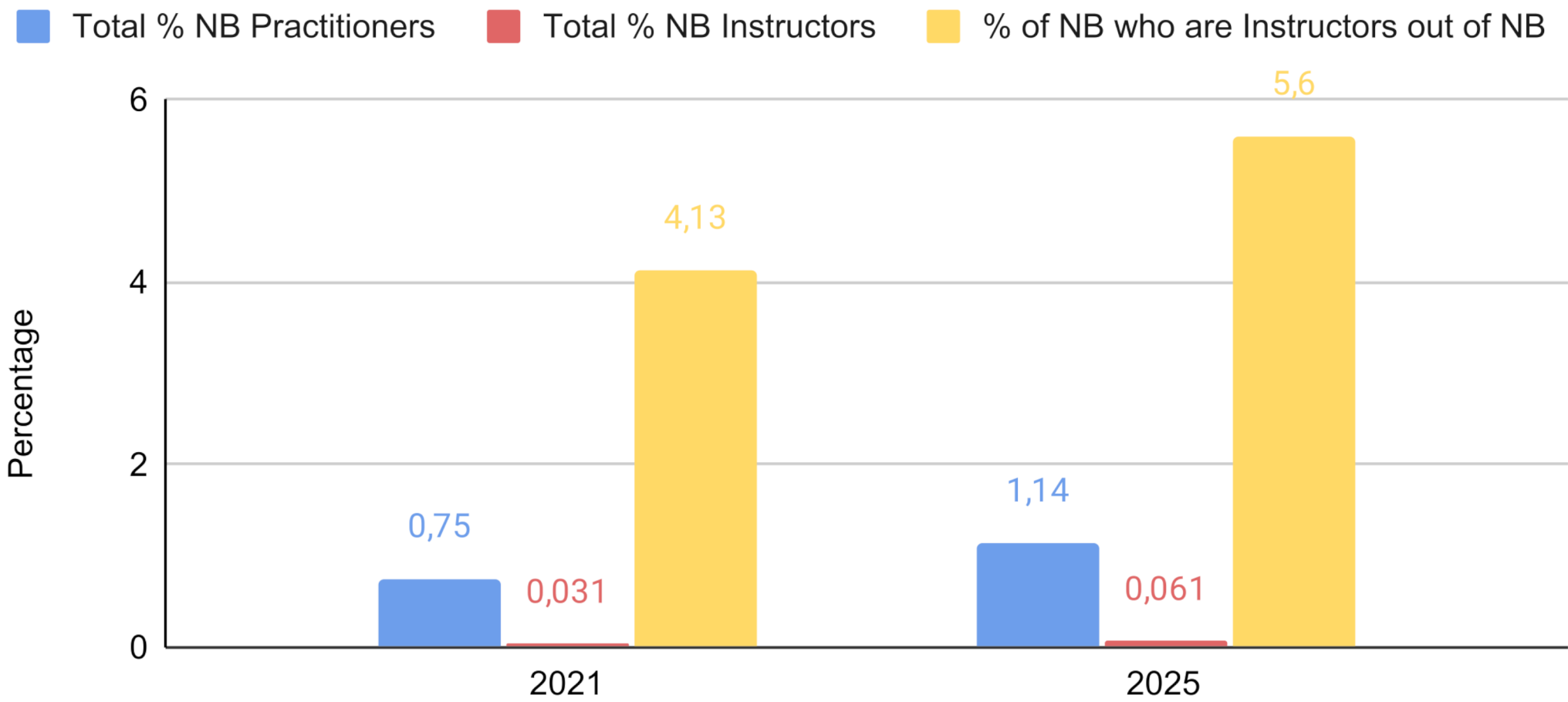
Percentage of Total Practitioners by Gender, and percentage of Instructors in total gender population

Total = Total Survey // Women = Absolute Number of Women // Men Likewise

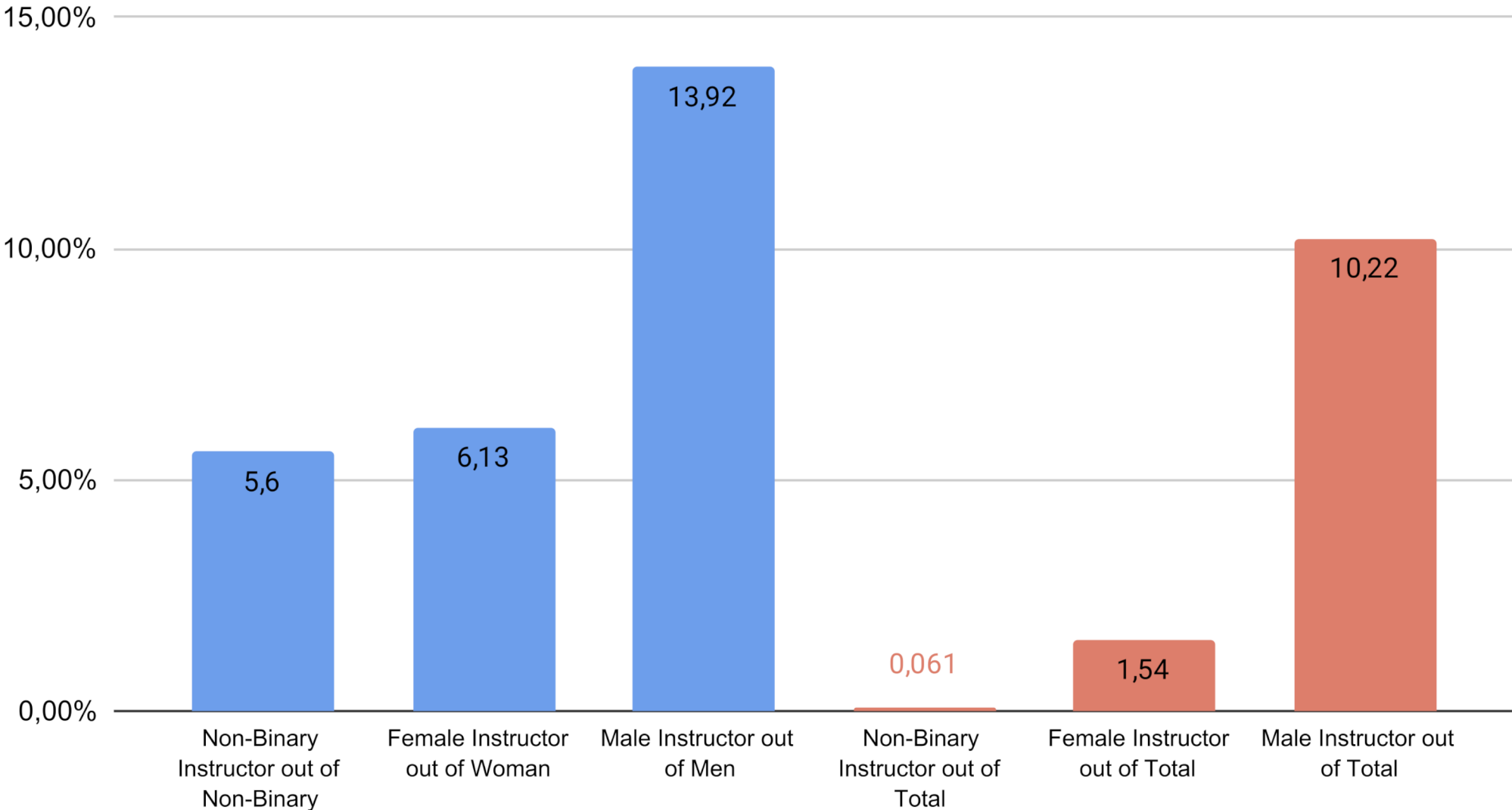


Non-Binary Practitioners and Trainers as Percentage of All Practitioners, and Trainers as % of total NB practitioners

Total = Total Survey

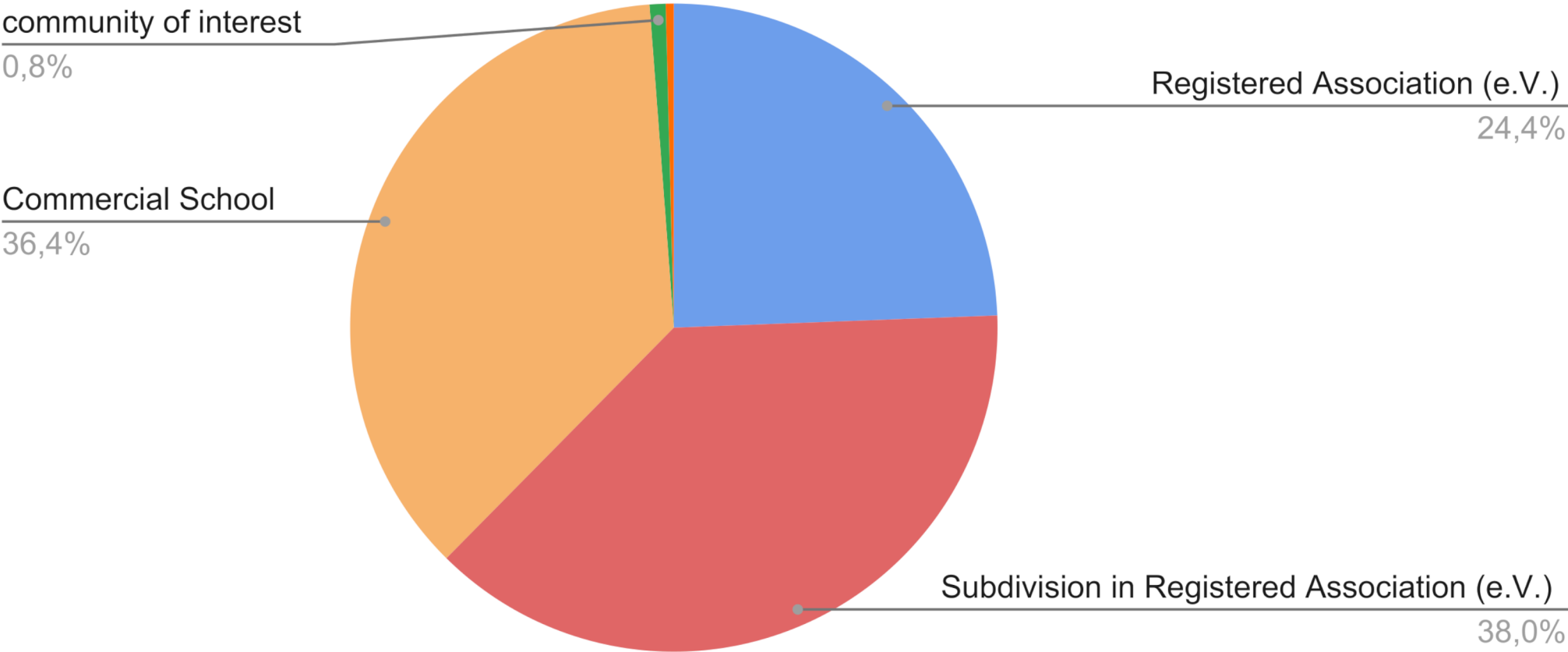


% of Instructors by Gender, as % of Total and % of Gender



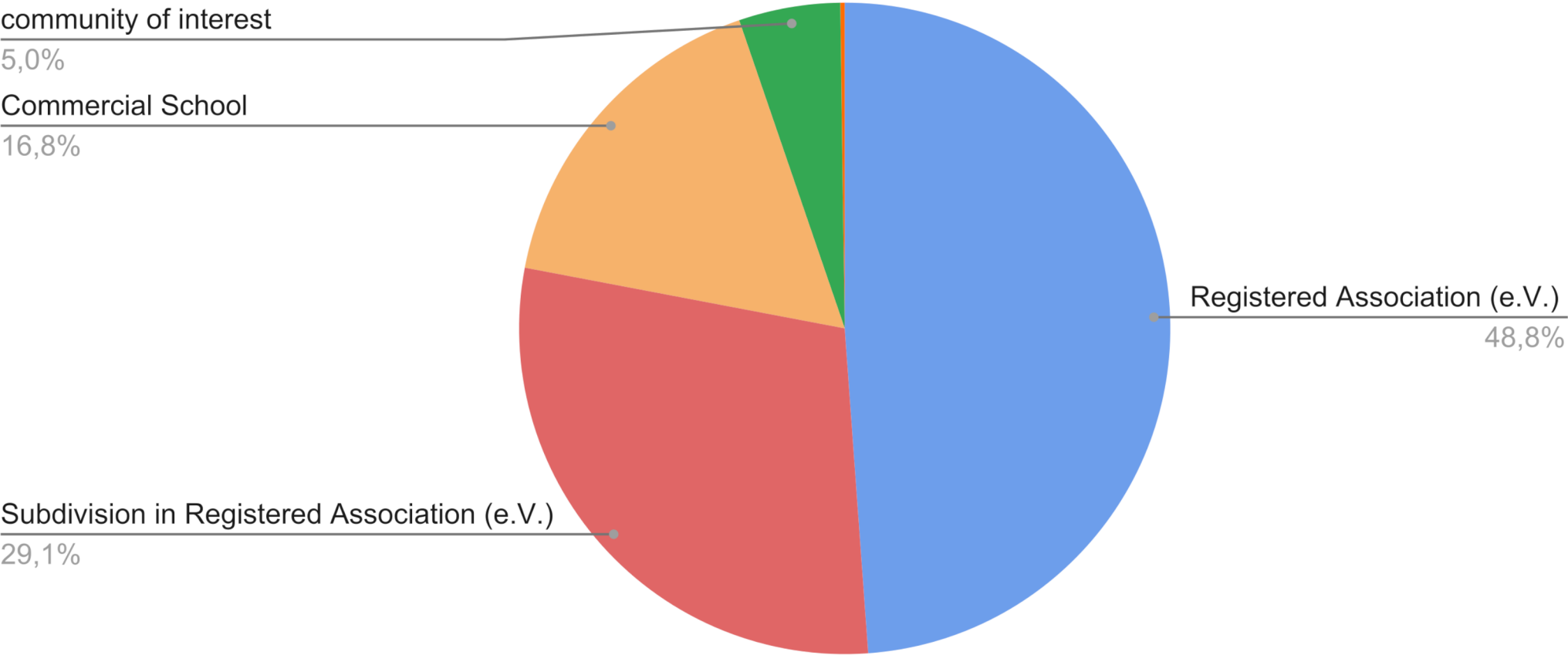
Youth Distribution by Organizational Form

Non-registered associations neglected here

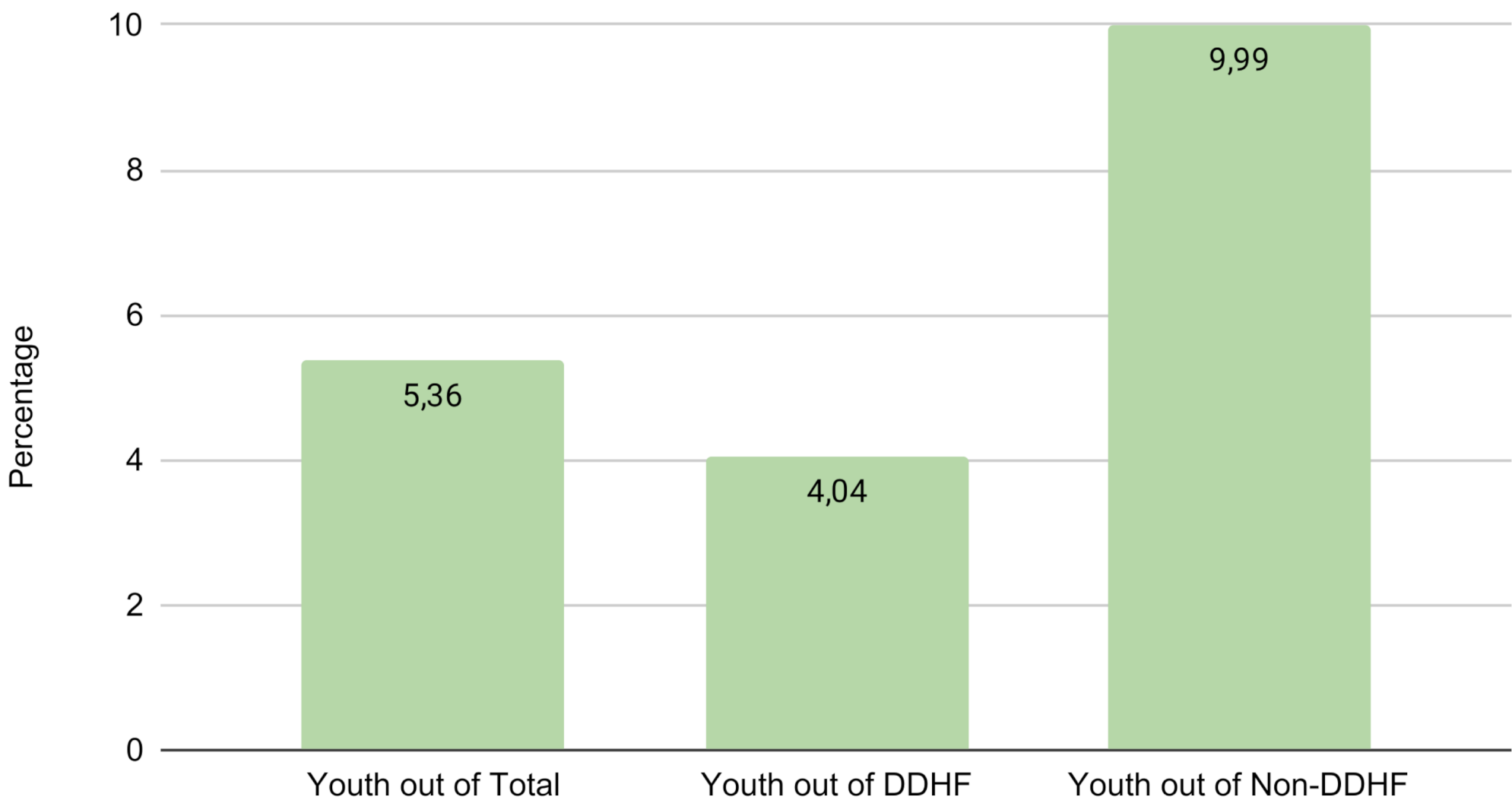


Female Distribution by Organizational Form

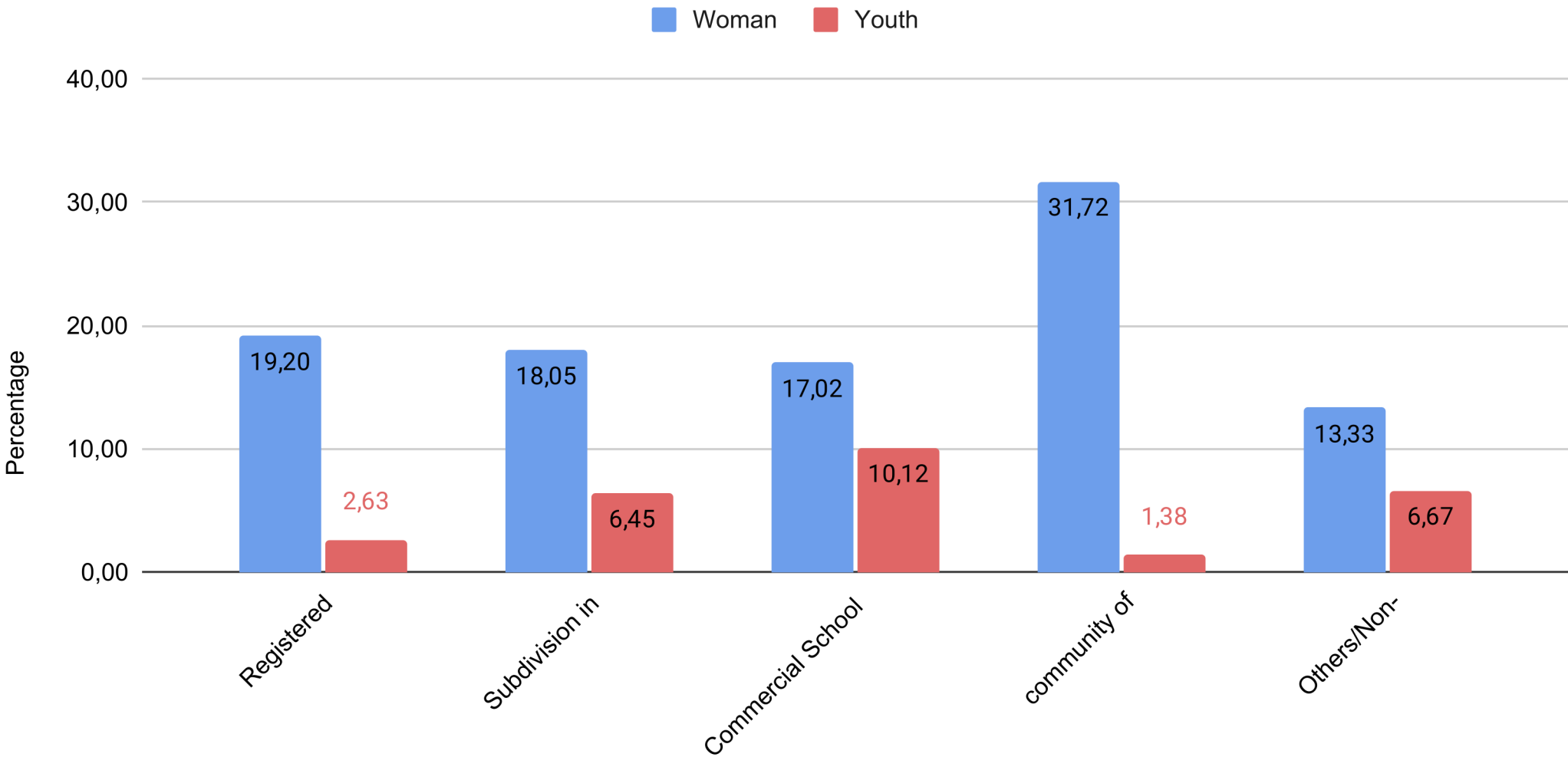
Non-registered associations neglected here



Youth Share by Association Affiliation



Distribution of respective shares in different organizational forms





In 2024, an analysis was conducted to determine which factor the distribution of HEMA groups correlates with. Population density, population age and income were compared (in this order maps below). Without question, the highest correlation was with population density; HEMA is mostly a city sport. This possibly indicates where there is still significant potential to establish a new HEMA group.

On the left is the map of population density combined with the HEMA locations for 2025.

Population Density

Age

Income

