

IDENTIFYING GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH
WITHIN THE AMERICAN UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION’S
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

AUTHORS: ATIEH ASHKEZARI¹ MS; SIMON J. HALL ¹, MD

1. NORTHWELL HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY, NEW HYDE PARK, NY

BACKGROUND

- Physicians influence healthcare policy through advocacy.
- Political Action Committees (PACs) provide a way for physicians to support lawmakers who advance their priorities.
- The **American Urological Association Political Action Committee (AUA PAC)¹**
- Non-partisan fund supporting federal candidates.
- Focused on urology-specific issues: reimbursement, workforce development, scope of practice, and patient access.
- Serves as urology’s unified voice in D.C.
- Despite its importance, participation among urologists remains low.
- Understanding demographic and regional patterns can help guide targeted outreach and strengthen future advocacy.

OBJECTIVES

- Measure AUA PAC participation in **2023 and 2024**.
- Compare engagement across:
 - Region** (AUA sections), **Gender and Age groups**, Identify which groups are leading advocacy efforts.
 - Provide insights to guide mentorship, outreach, and training strategies for future advocacy growth.

METHODS

- Design:** Cross-sectional analysis of AUA PAC contributor lists (2023, 2024) ^{2, 3}.
- Data sources:** AUA Census reports (2023, 2024).
- Region:** Assigned by AUA section.
- Age:** Estimated as residency graduation year + 35.
- Gender:** Classified using AUA Census and NPI registry (male/female) ^{4, 5}.
- Population:** Practicing urologists, fellows, residents, medical students. (AUA executives/non-urologists were excluded.)

- Analysis:**
- Calculated participation = contributors ÷ census population.
- Stratified by region, gender

RESULTS

AUA Region	Total Urologists 2023 ⁴	Contributors 2023 (%)	Total Urologists 2024 ⁵	Contributors 2024 (%)
New England	792	13 (1.64%)	807	9 (1.12%)
New York	1,098	19 (1.73%)	1,104	30 (2.72%)
Mid-Atlantic	1,436	15 (1.04%)	1,429	21 (1.47%)
Southeastern	2,997	22 (0.73%)	3,059	31 (1.01%)
North Central	2,549	22 (0.86%)	2,532	22 (0.87%)
South Central	2,078	22 (1.06%)	2,100	26 (1.24%)
Western	2,704	37 (1.37%)	2,720	31 (1.14%)
Northeastern	522	5 (0.96%)	523	6 (1.15%)
Total	14,176	155 (1.09%)	14,274	176 (1.23%)

Table 1: AUA PAC Participation by Region

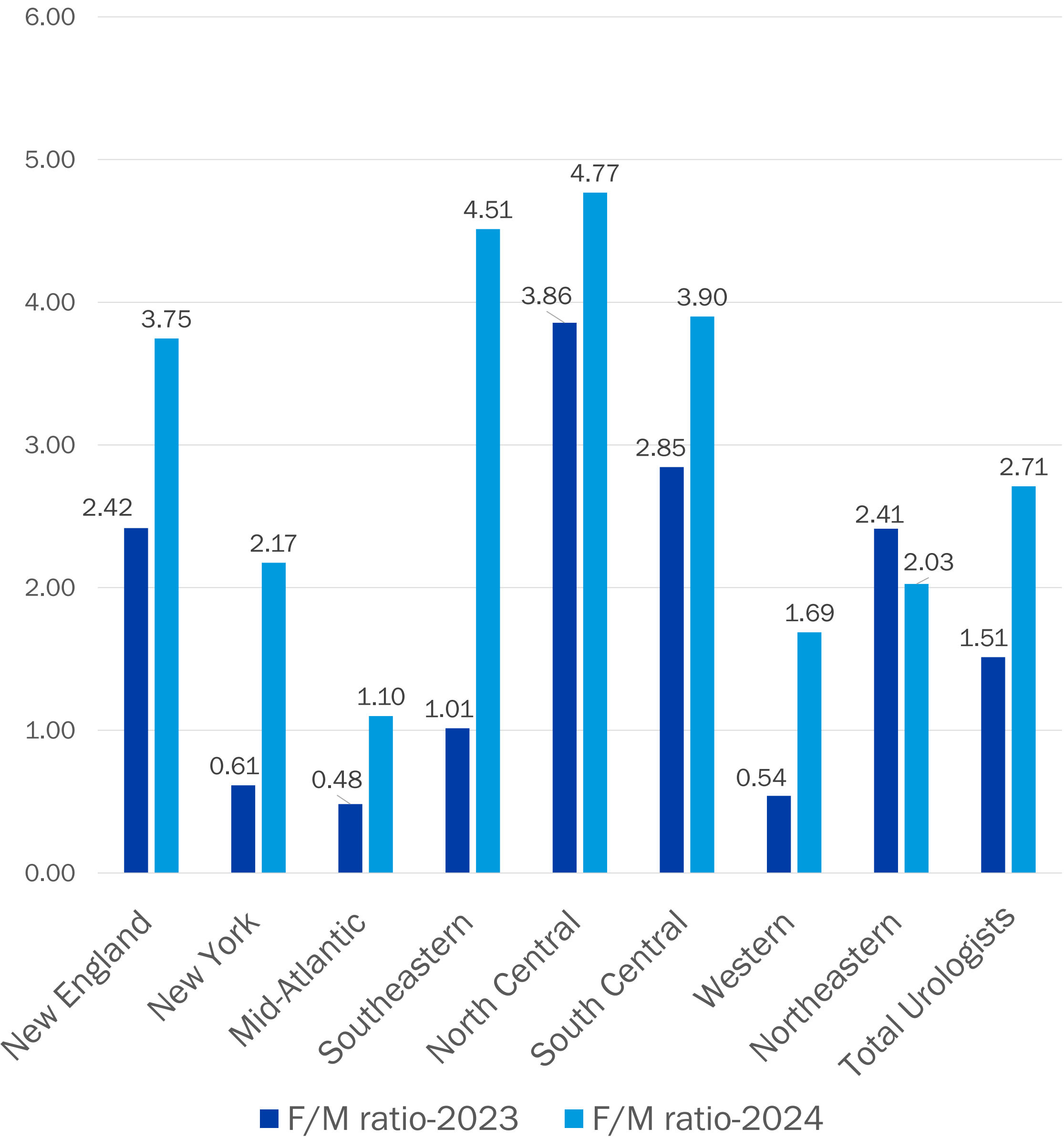


Figure 1: Female-to-Male AUA PAC Contributor Ratio by Region

Age Group	AUA Population 2023 ⁴	Contributors 2023 n (%)	PAC Rate 2023	AUA Population 2024 ⁵	Contributors 2024 n (%)	PAC Rate 2024
≤ 35	680	19 (12.3%)	2.79%	882	48 (27.3%)	5.44%
36–44	3,413	25 (16.1%)	0.73%	3,564	22 (12.5%)	0.62%
45–54	2,884	46 (29.7%)	1.60%	3,058	41 (23.3%)	1.34%
55–64	3,102	33 (21.3%)	1.06%	3,013	32 (18.2%)	1.06%
≥ 65	4,097	32 (20.6%)	0.78%	3,756	33 (18.8%)	0.88%
Total	14,176	155 (100%)	1.09%	14,273	176 (100%)	1.23%

Table 2: AUA PAC Contribution Rates by Age Group

DISCUSSION

Participation rates remain low (<3% in all regions).
Regional variation: New York consistently leads; North Central lowest.
Gender gap reversed: Women contributed at **higher proportional rates** than men in every region by 2024.
Generational shift: Younger urologists and trainees increasingly view advocacy as part of professionalism.
Mid-career gap: Lowest engagement among ages 36–44; may reflect limited advocacy training during residency.
Broader context: National data show female and early-career physicians more active in civic and advocacy efforts. Most surgical residencies lack structured advocacy curricula, contributing to limited physician political engagement.
Implication: Without institutional support and mentorship, advocacy participation may remain stagnant despite promising trends among women and younger physicians.

CONCLUSION

Overall engagement remains low across AUA PAC (≈1%).
Women and early-career urologists (≤35 yrs) are the most engaged groups.
Trainee participation is rising, suggesting advocacy is valued by the next generation. Mentorship, structured advocacy training, and targeted outreach can help sustain and expand these trends.
Strengthening participation will ensure that urology’s collective voice continues to shape policies that protect patients, advance access, and secure the future of the specialty.

References:

1. American Urological Association Political Action Committee. What We Do. Available at: <https://www.myaupac.org/what-we-do>. Accessed July 3, 2025.
2. American Urological Association Political Action Committee. AUA PAC 2023 Members. Available at: <https://www.myaupac.org/who-we-are/auapac-2023-members>. Accessed July 3, 2025.
3. American Urological Association Political Action Committee. AUA PAC 2024 Members. Available at: <https://www.myaupac.org/who-we-are/auapac-2024-members>. Accessed July 3, 2025.
4. American Urological Association. 2023 AUA Census Report. Available at: <https://www.auanet.org/documents/Data/census/Census%20Report2023.pdf>. Accessed July 3, 2025.
5. American Urological Association. 2024 AUA Census Report. Available at: <https://www.auanet.org/documents/Data/census/2024%20Census%20Report.pdf>. Accessed July 3, 2025.