

WeSmellBetter.com Report – Region 1 Starters & Average Pass Rate, 2025 and All Years

Following is my initial attempt at summarizing data for pass rates by state, using the states in AKC Scent Work Region 1. There is information for 2025 and then “the sport up to January 24, 2026” for each class by state, and then for each level.

When this analysis was requested, I suspect competitors were looking for information to support the idea that pass rates in their area were generally lower than in other parts of the country – that, at least some of the time, the deck was stacked against them before they crossed the start line. At least in Region 1, I’m just not seeing anything particularly surprising or even interesting. I included the number of “starters” that the AKC reported for each class because if there *are* variations in pass rates, it seems to me that those could easily be the result of a smaller sample. Some states, those that are very small in population or in area, have far fewer starters, so each starter has a bigger impact on the average – for good or for ill -- than in places like (hold my beer) Pennsylvania. Vermont has an overall much higher pass rate for Detective than any place else in the Region. Does that mean you need to go there for your Detective Qs? Well, not in 2025, because there were no Detective trials in Vermont. The big “60% Pass Rate!” bar on that graph reflects the results of 13 different dogs that were entered in Double Detective trials on a single day in July of 2024, both with the same judge. One of the trials had an 85% pass rate, which is exciting, but it’s certainly not the highest Detective class trial Q rate ever.

Using states for analysis is obvious and yet, when you do it, so arbitrary. We know where the trials were, but not where the competitors were from (and have no way of knowing that in any comprehensive fashion). We *could* figure out where the judges were from by accessing publicly published data but what do you look at there – “home” vs. “away”? *Anecdotally*, I am completely convinced that, at Arizona trials, the distinction does make a huge difference, that it isn’t until a judge has experienced how odor interacts with the local microclimate on several occasions that they begin to be able to use that information to create stable and level-appropriate puzzles. But trying to apply that hypothesis across the spectrum is... above my pay grade.

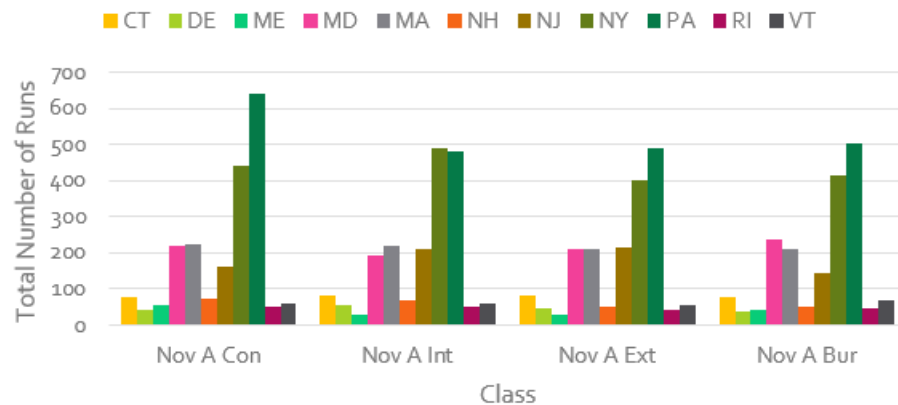
Along those lines, the data I used here is from the WeSmellBetter “Qualifiers By Class” summary report that is available to anybody, any time. The Coder is busy doing other things and I didn’t want to bother him for custom queries, so I just copied that data and pasted it into Excel, one tab per state showing Starters and Average Pass Rates for each class for 2025 and for “everything up to January 26.” If you want to play with that data, I’m happy to share that Excel spreadsheet with you with the caveat that it was a lot of copying and pasting and I got bored, so Beware and Double Check Everything.

In fact, “Double Check Everything” is good advice. I’m not a professional, don’t even play one on TV, so before you get excited about anything you see, let’s make sure I didn’t put “everything” data into the 2025 bucket for one class by mistake, for example.

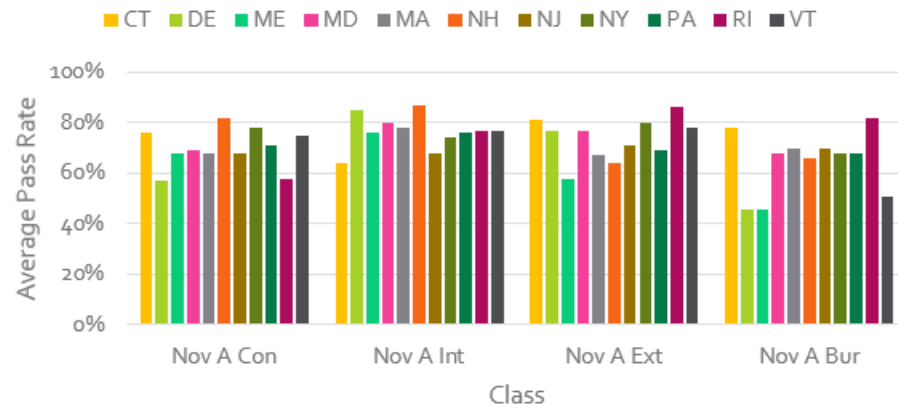
And, in general... is there anything to get excited about? Other than “pass rates are amazingly equitable, all things considered” I’m just not seeing it. I will gird myself to go after the other four Regions Any Time Now, but, as always, look forward to your thoughts!

--Kristi (wesmellbetter@gmail.com)

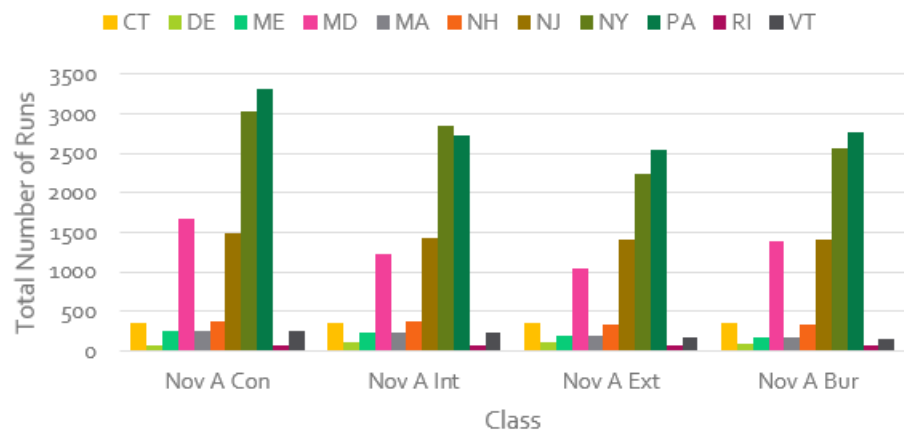
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By State
Novice A Starters in 2025



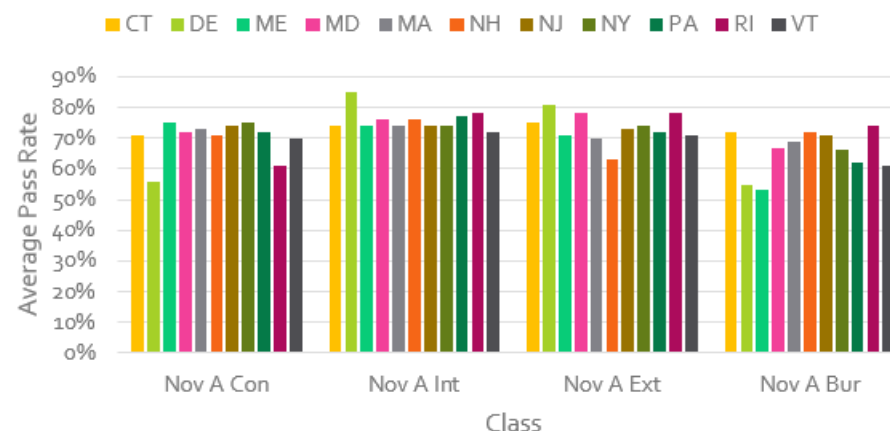
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By State By Element
Novice A Average Pass Rate in 2025



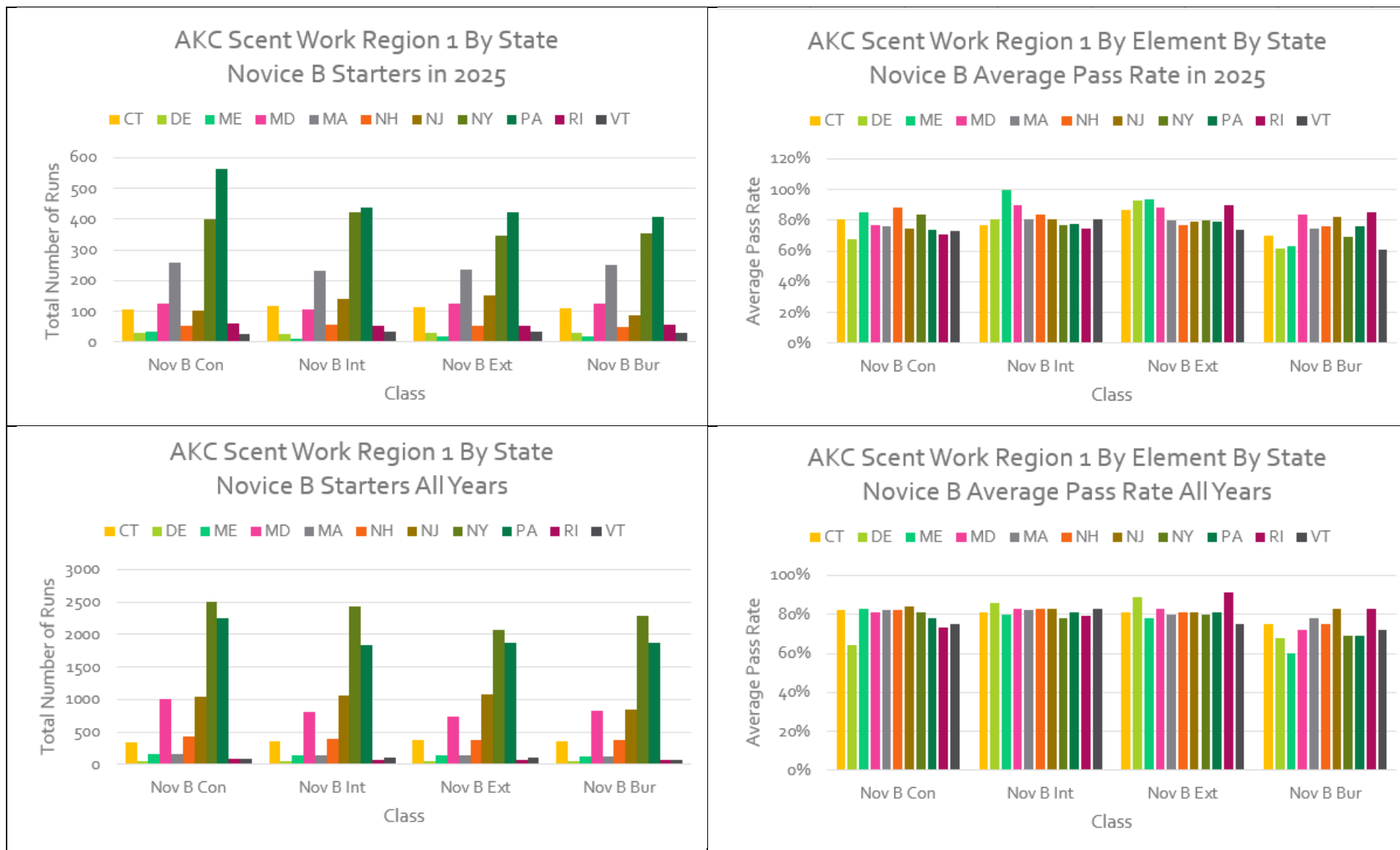
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By State
Novice A Starters All Years



AKC Scent Work Region 1 By State By Element
Novice A Average Pass Rate All Years

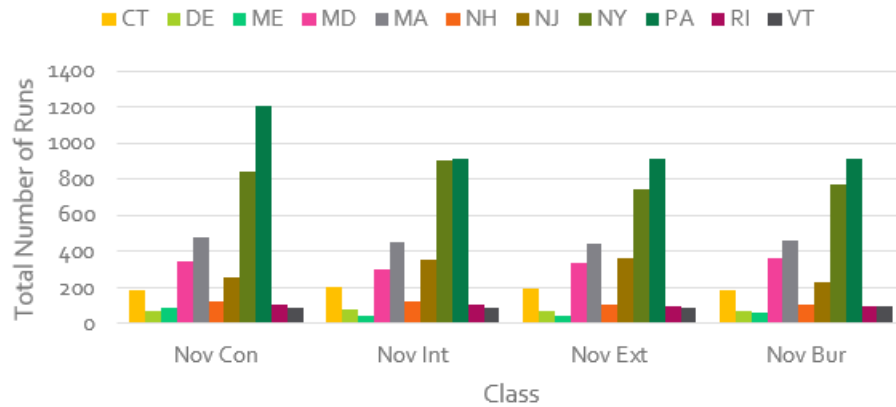


AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Novice A Class, By Element, By State for Region 1
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)

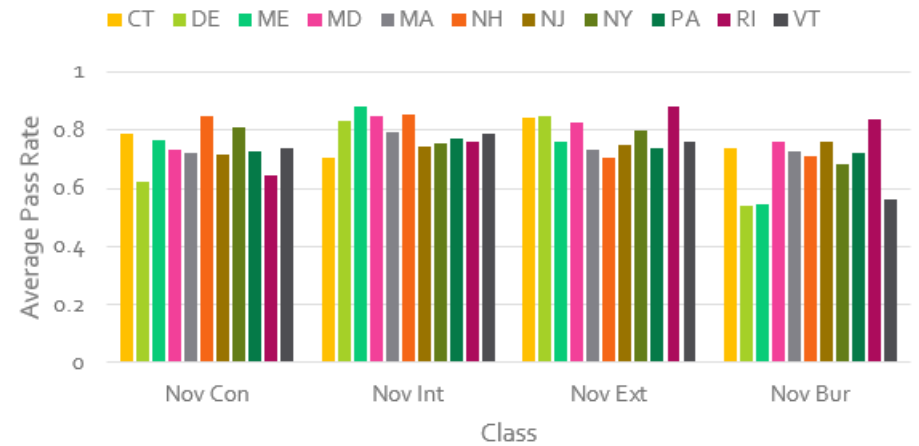


AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Novice B Class, By Element, By State for Region 1
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)

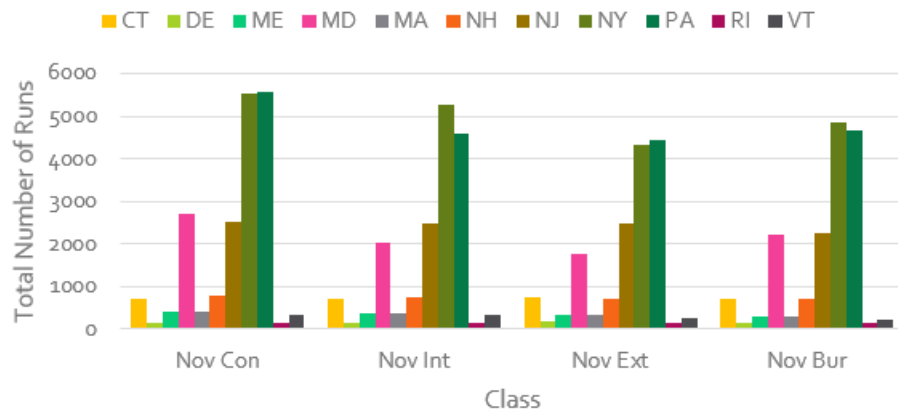
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By State
Novice A+B Starters in 2025



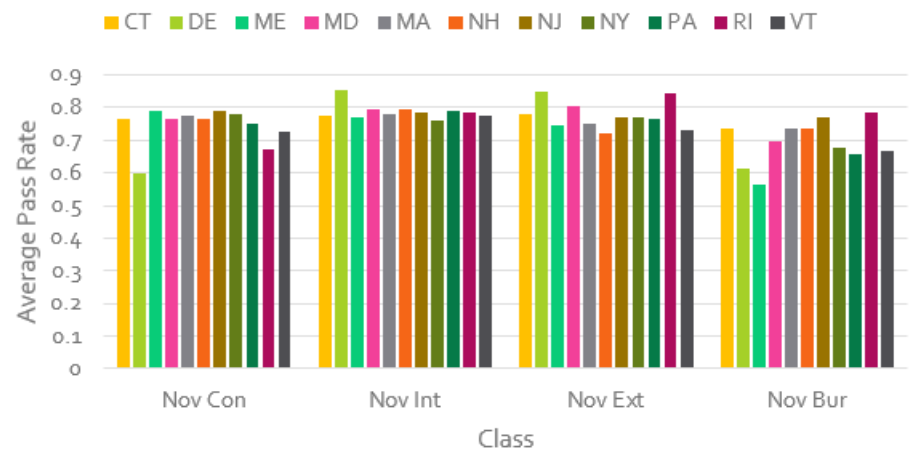
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By Element By State
Novice A+B Average Pass Rate in 2025



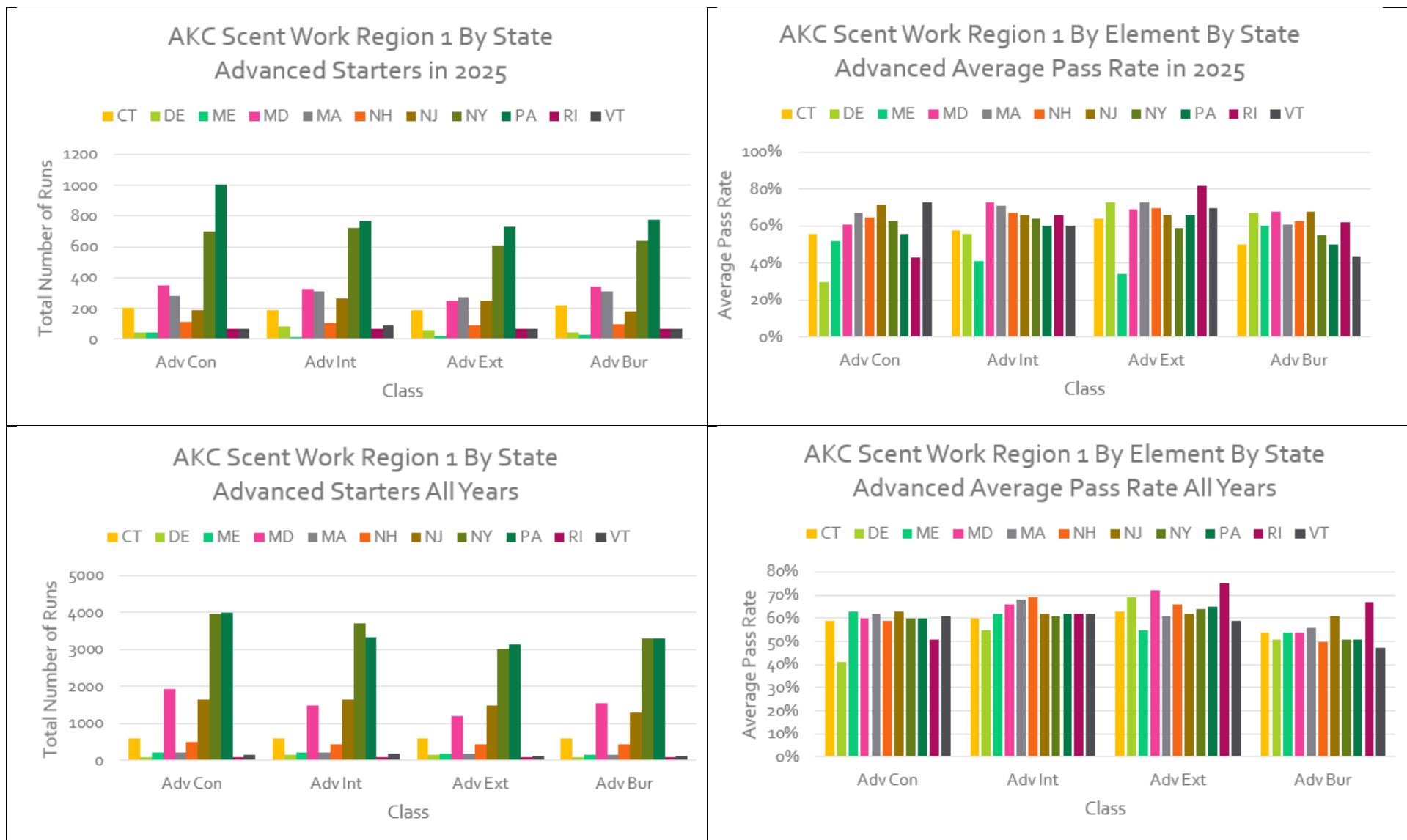
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By State
Novice A+B Starters All Years



AKC Scent Work Region 1 By Element By State
Novice A+B Average Pass Rate All Years

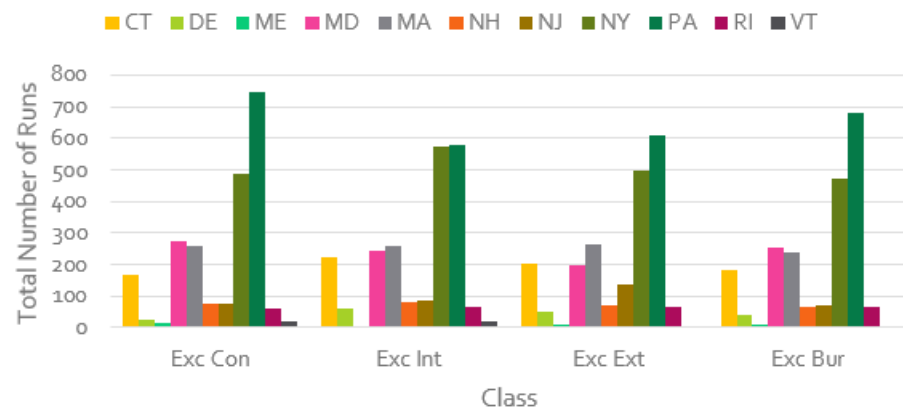


*AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Combined Novice A & B Classes, By Element, By State for Region 1
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)*

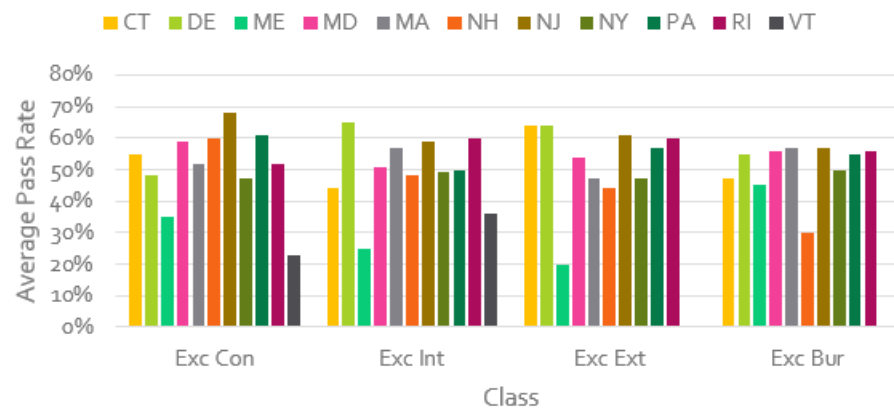


AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Advanced Classes, By Element, By State for Region 1
 2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)

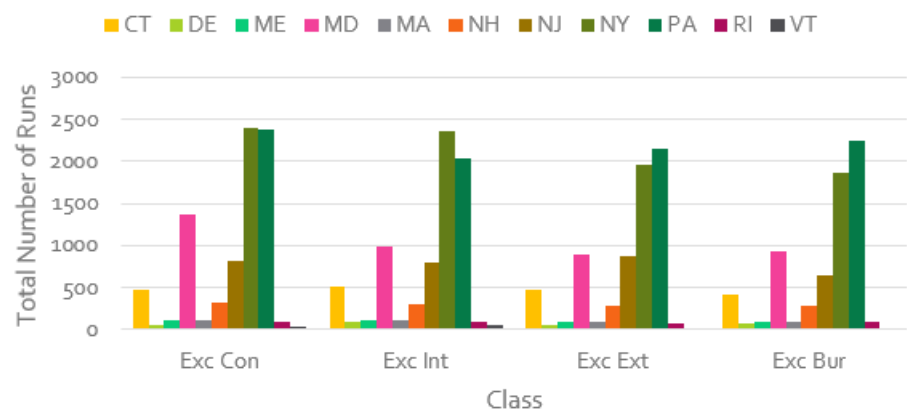
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By State
Excellent Starters in 2025



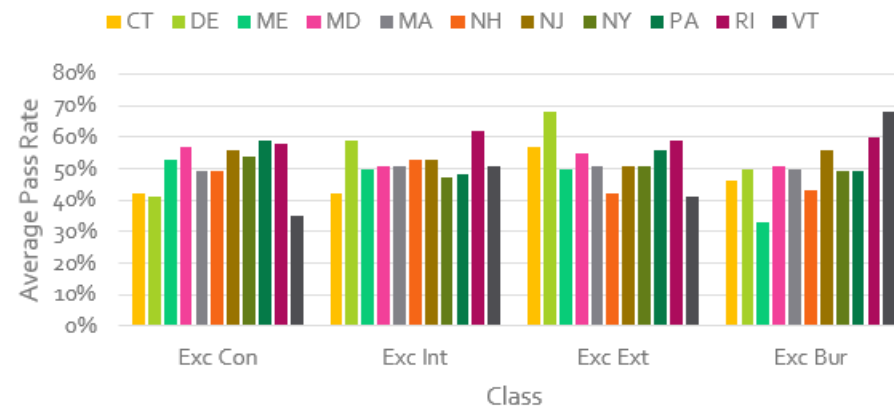
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By Element By State
Excellent Average Pass Rate in 2025



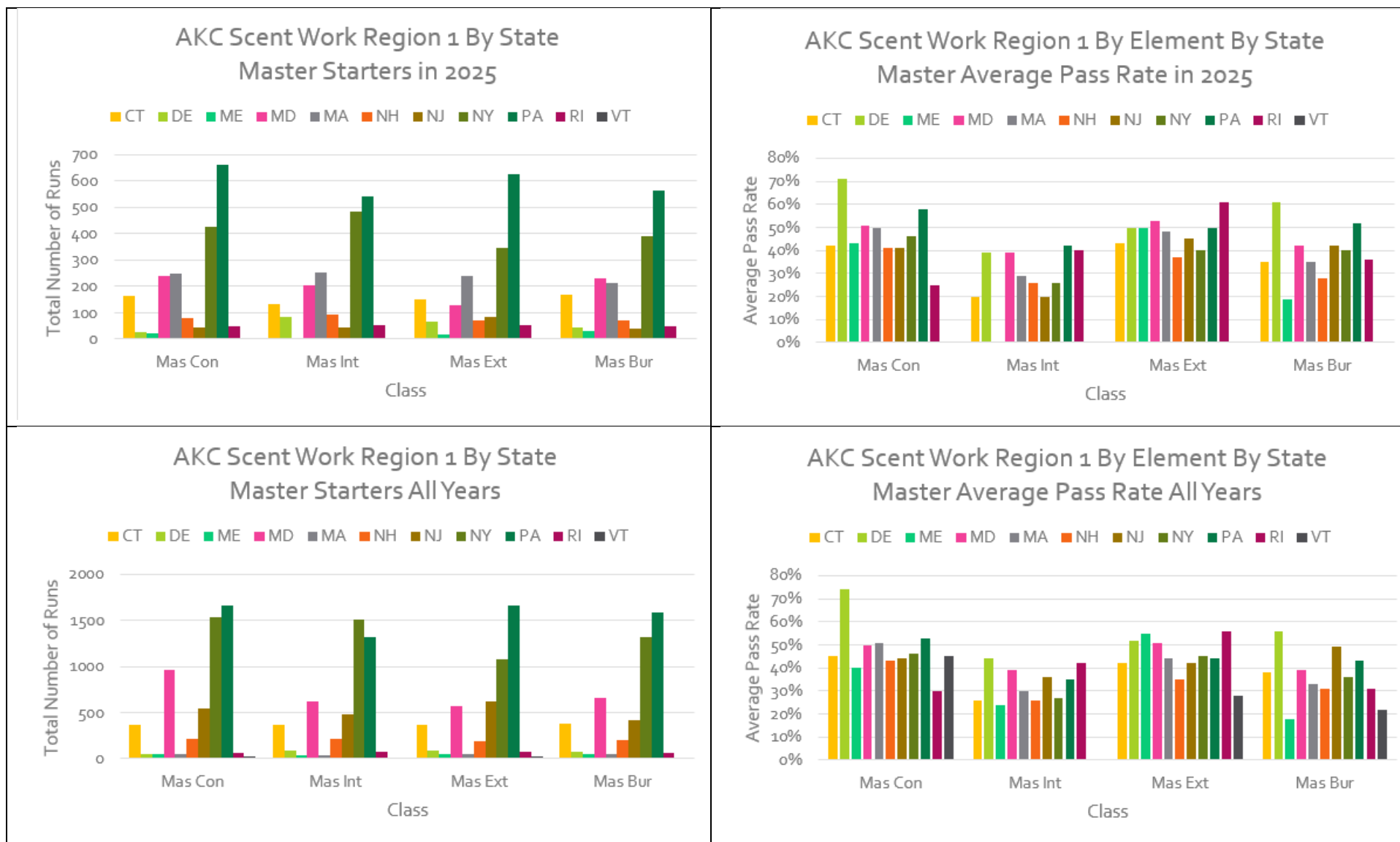
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By State
Excellent Starters All Years



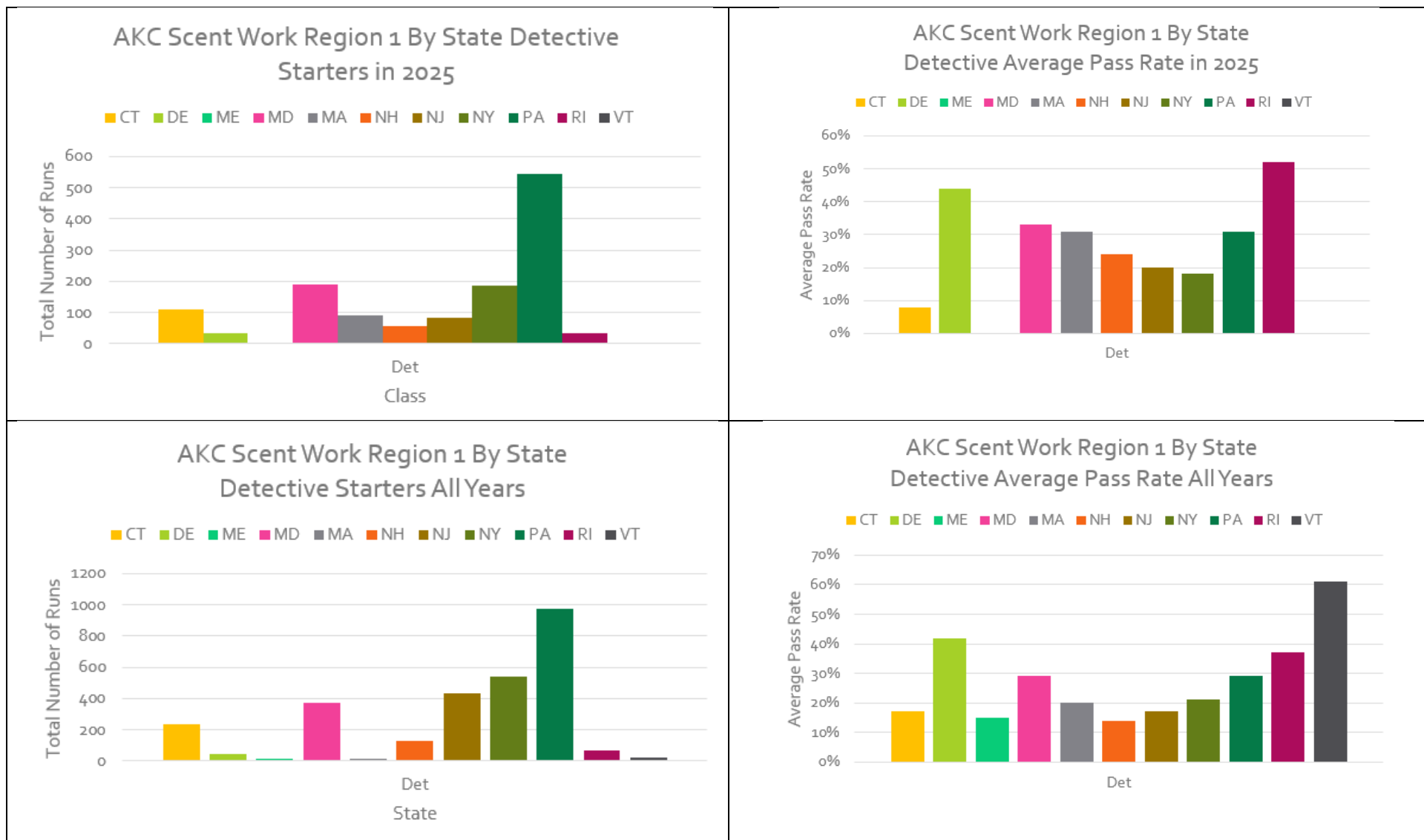
AKC Scent Work Region 1 By Element By State
Excellent Average Pass Rate All Years



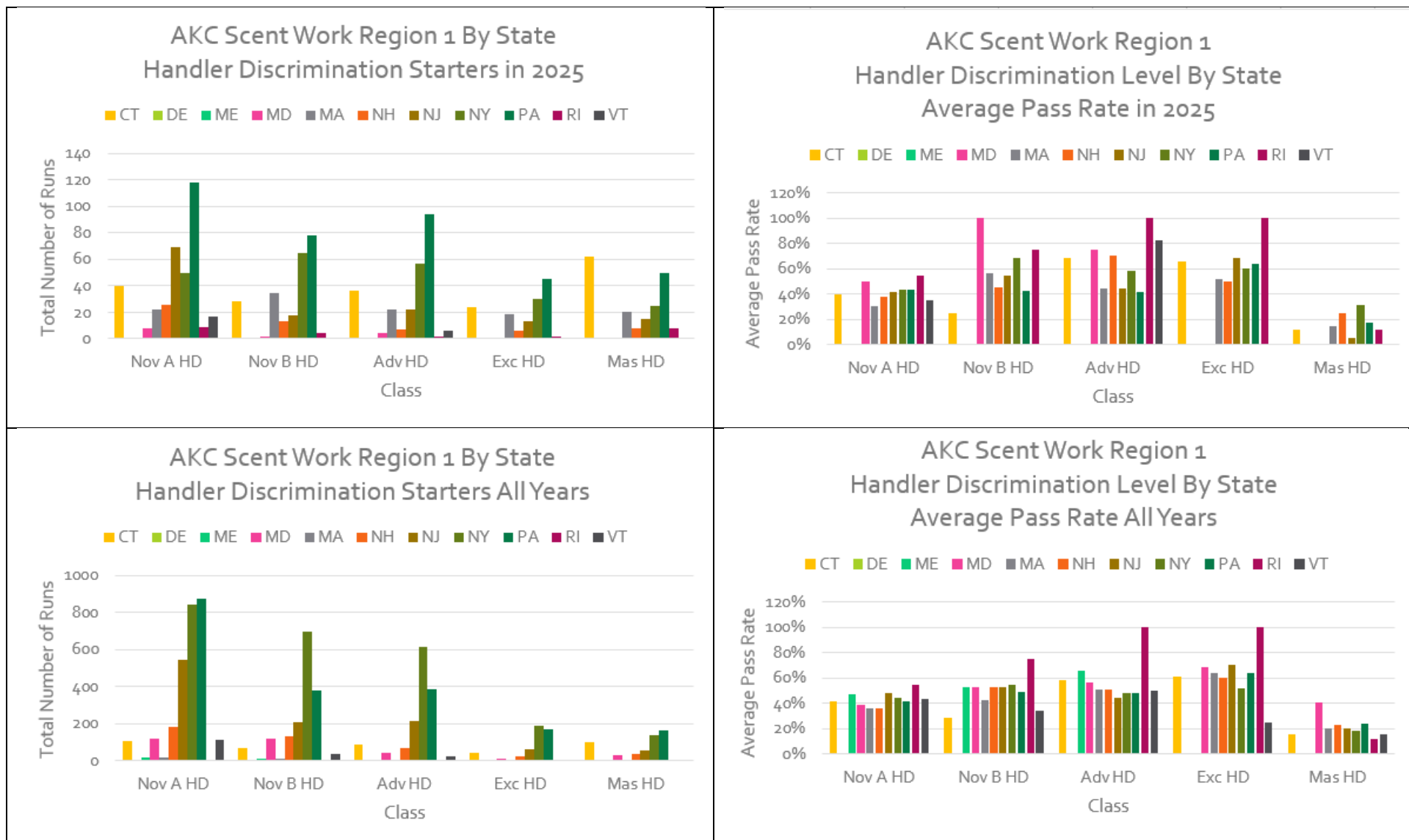
AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Excellent Classes, By Element, By State for Region 1
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



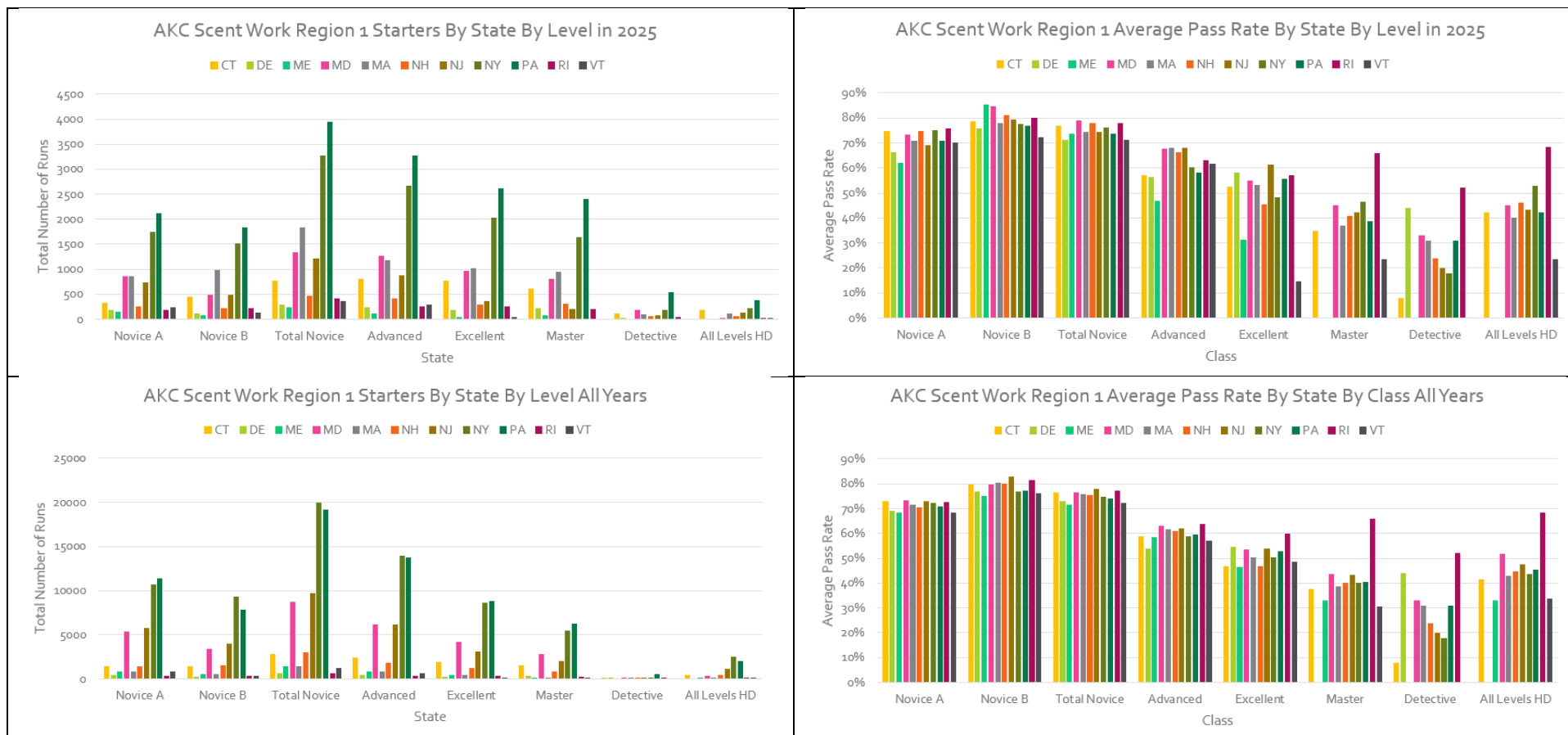
AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Master Classes, By Element, By State for Region 1
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for Detective, By State for Region 1
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



*AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for Handler Discrimination, All Levels, By State for Region 1
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)*



*AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for Each Level, By State for Region 1
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)*

Note that these numbers are accumulated “in general” and do not correlate to titles which reflect the overall accomplishment of a single dog at a level, i.e. “a Q is just a Q.”