

## **WeSmellBetter.com Report – Region 5 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 5. 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. In Region 5, the evidence points to the opposite... if you look at the final graph, pass rates by levels for all years, it’s remarkable how consistent those are. And that is in what is arguably the most diverse region, where California dominates not just the Region but the nation in the number of runs while Alaska and Hawaii have so very few. One of the hardest things about Scent Work is that, while it is fabulous for dogs of any age, that means it is often in Scent Work trialing and training where you first see your senior dog slowing down and possibly becoming too frail to continue to travel for what can be a long day at a trial. When I think of the thrill of looking forward to trying Detective contrasted with the limited opportunities folks have in Hawaii to trial and time inexorably taking its toll as they rise through the levels... it breaks my heart.

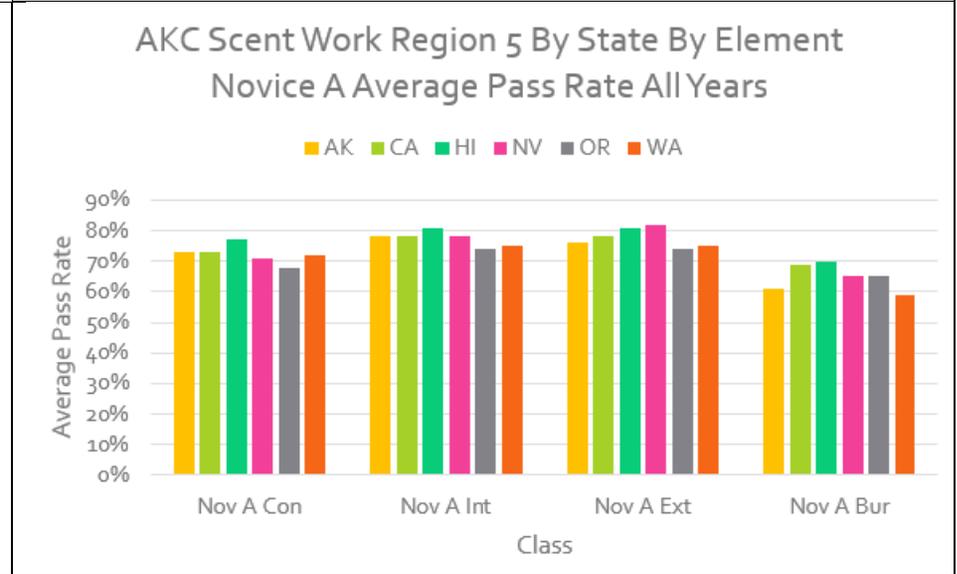
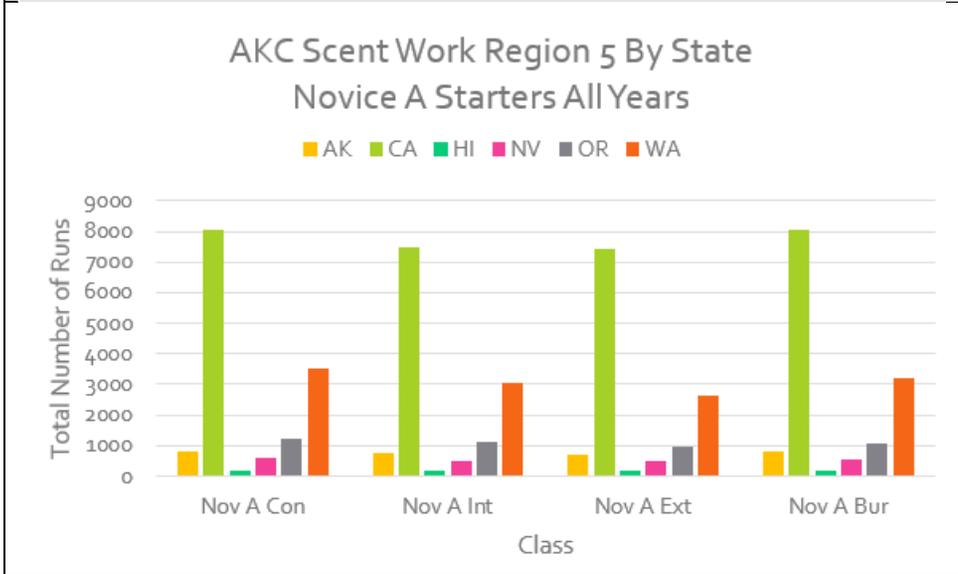
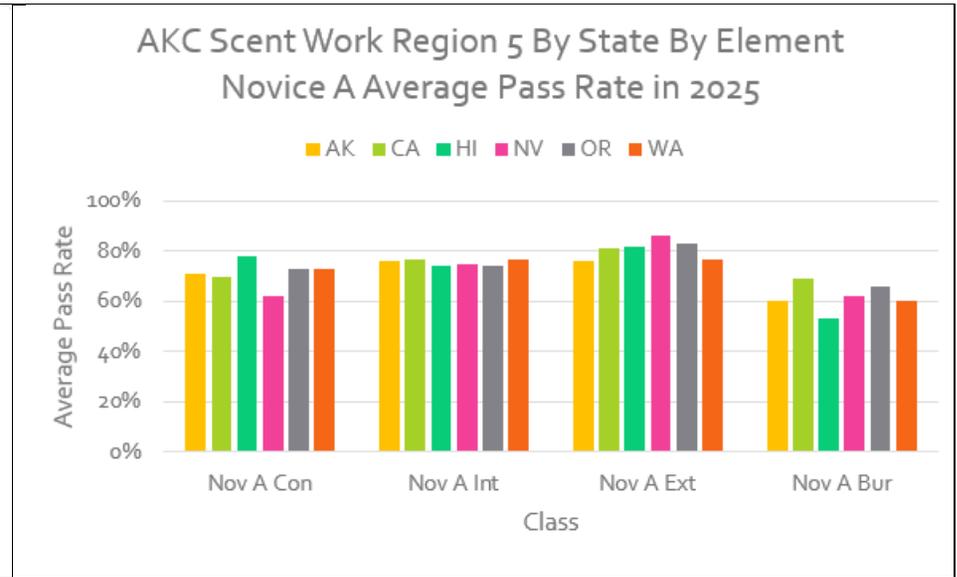
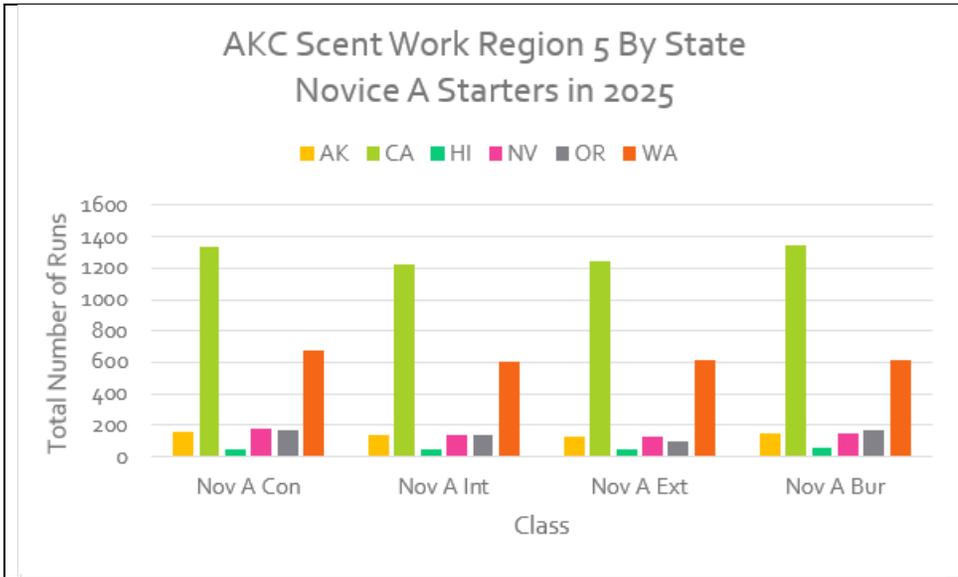
California has some high pass rates in Master but I have a suspicion that one reason is that they have a lot of experienced “repeat customers,” teams working on not just Elite but Numeric Elites in the Master classes, because it’s fun and challenging and good practice for Detective.

As before, 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.

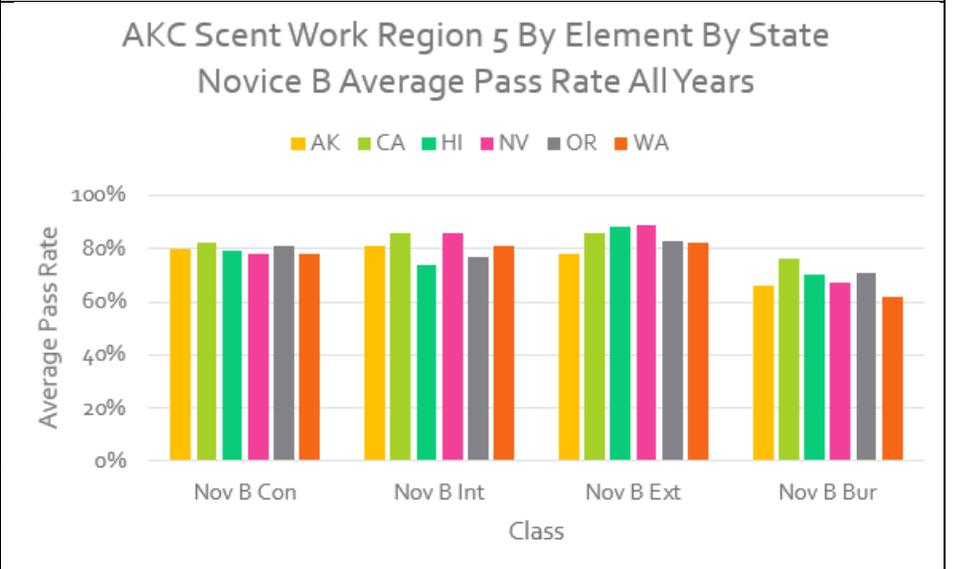
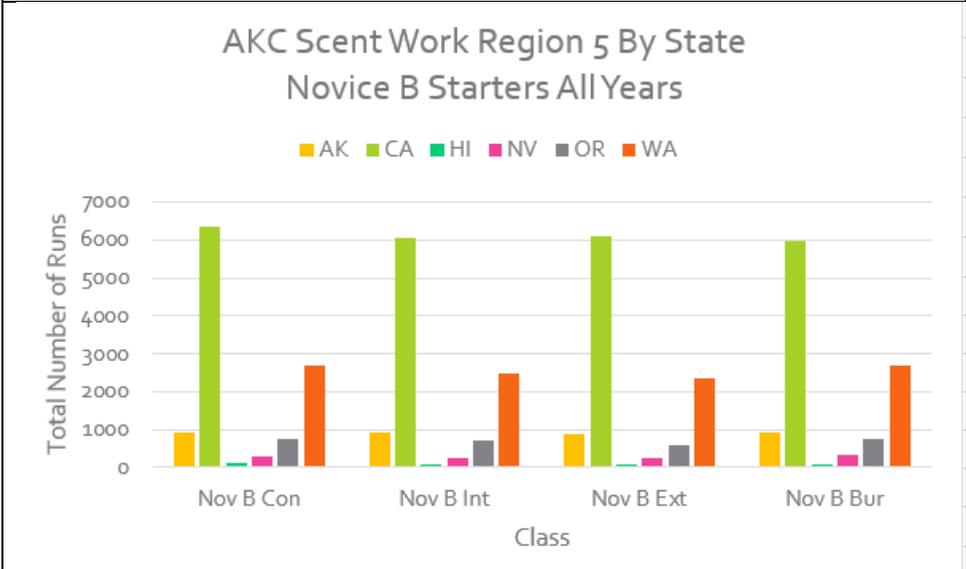
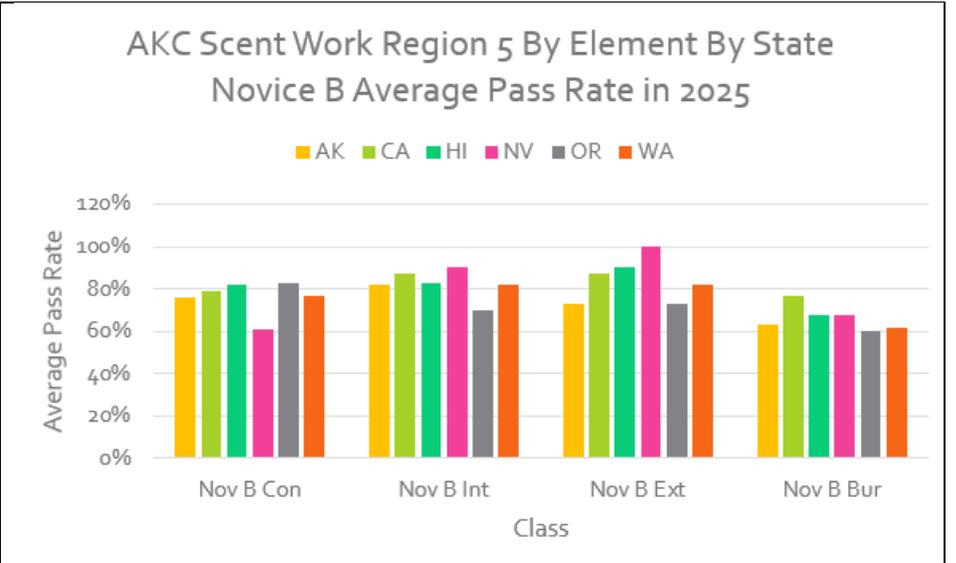
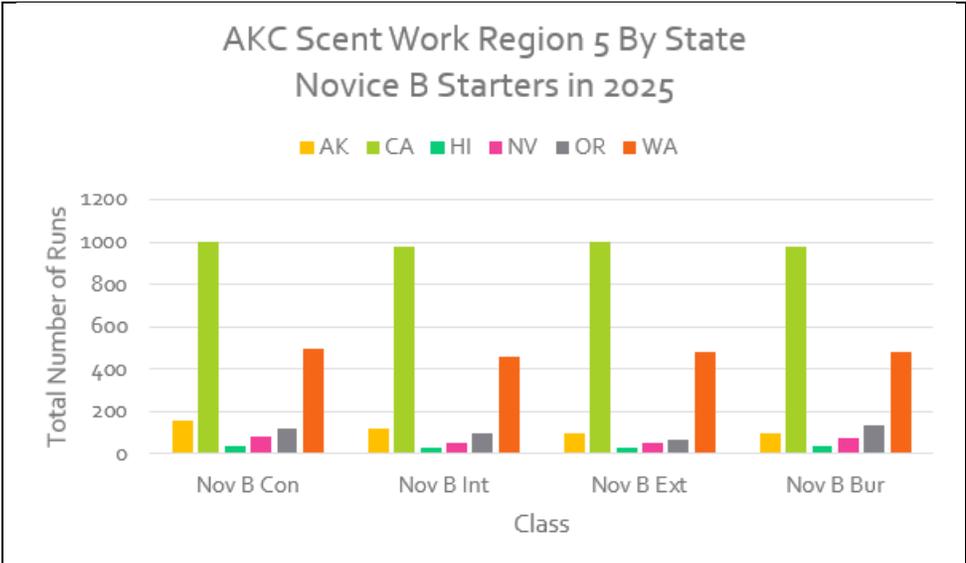
In fact, “Double Check Everything” is good advice. I’m not a professional, don’t even play one on TV, so before you get excited about anything you see, let’s make sure I didn’t do something stupid with the data.

What do you see – anything to get excited about in Region 5?

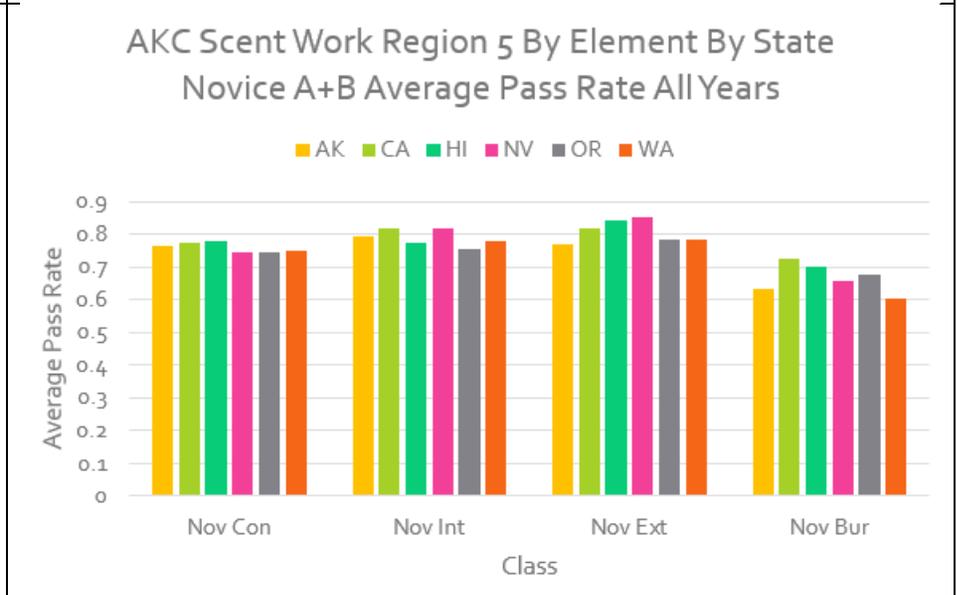
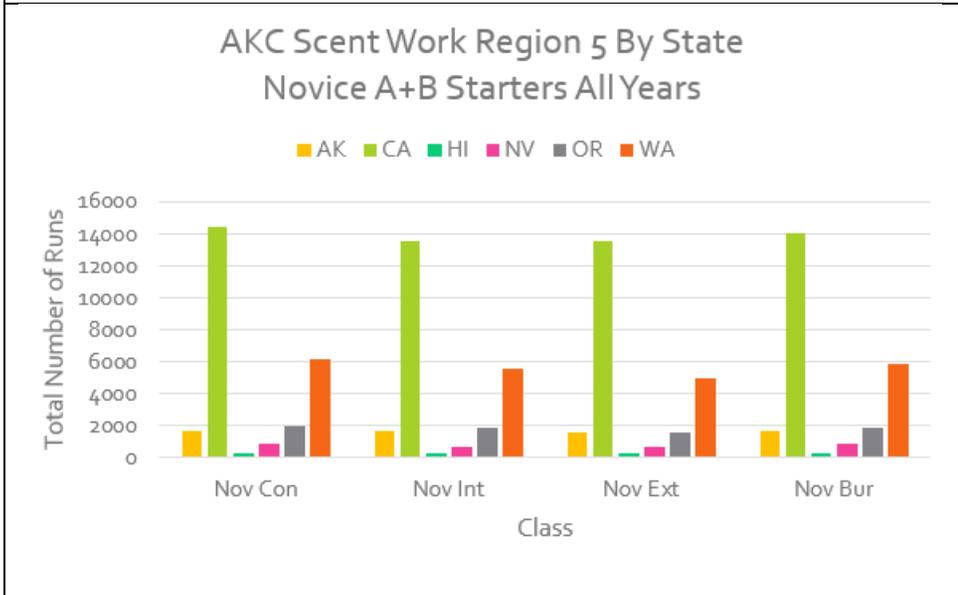
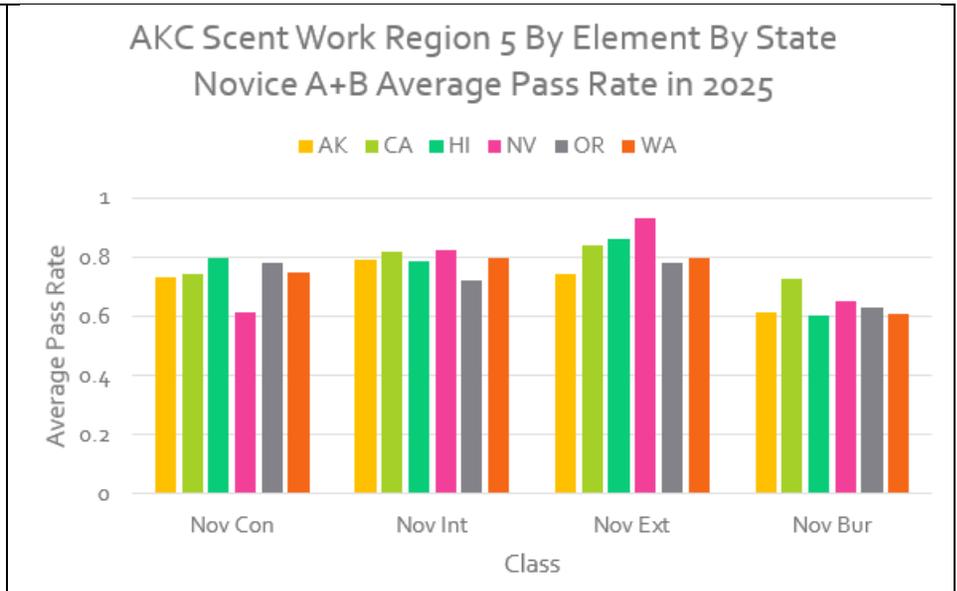
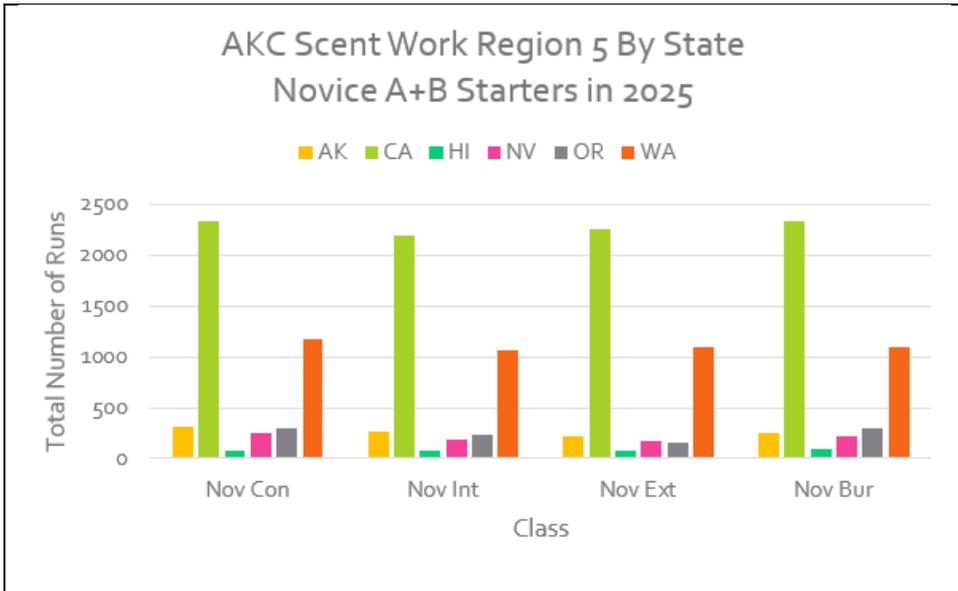
--Kristi (wesmellbetter@gmail.com)



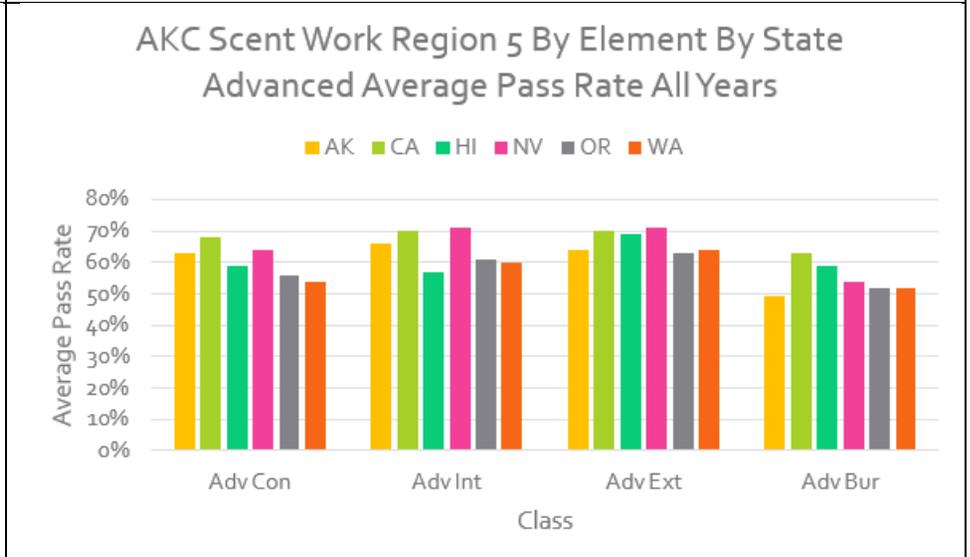
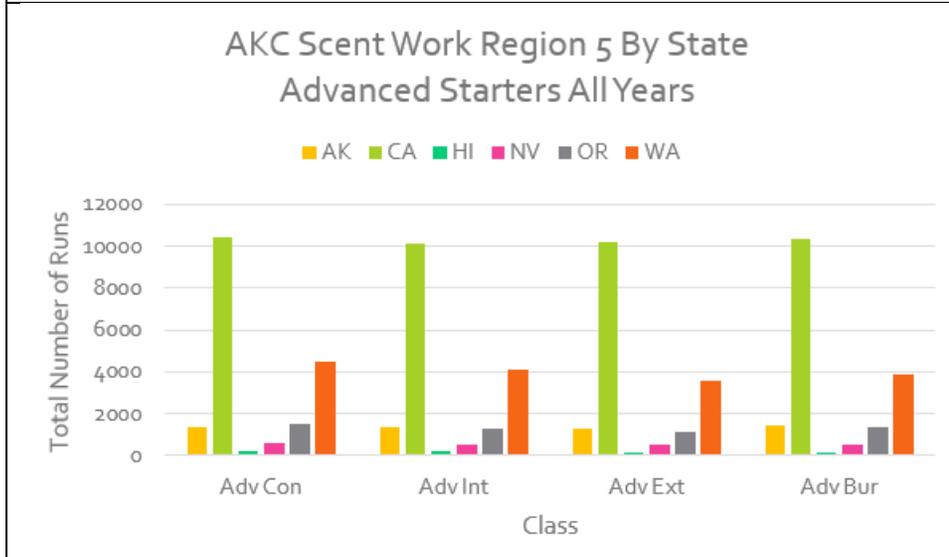
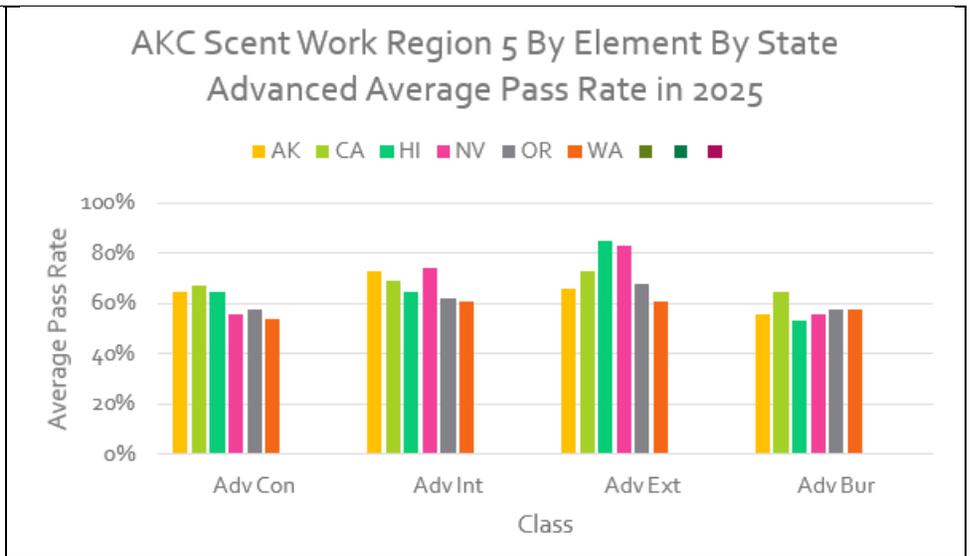
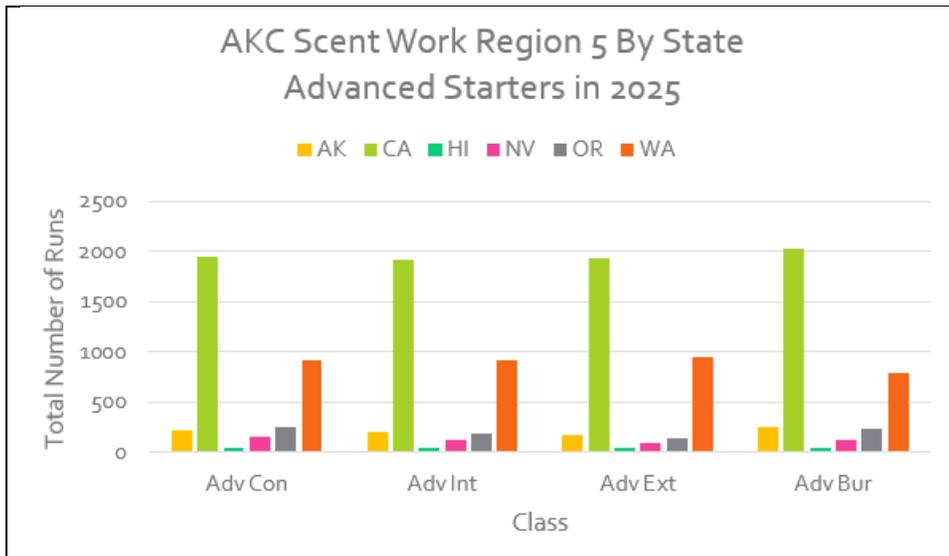
AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Novice A Class, By Element, By State for Region 5  
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



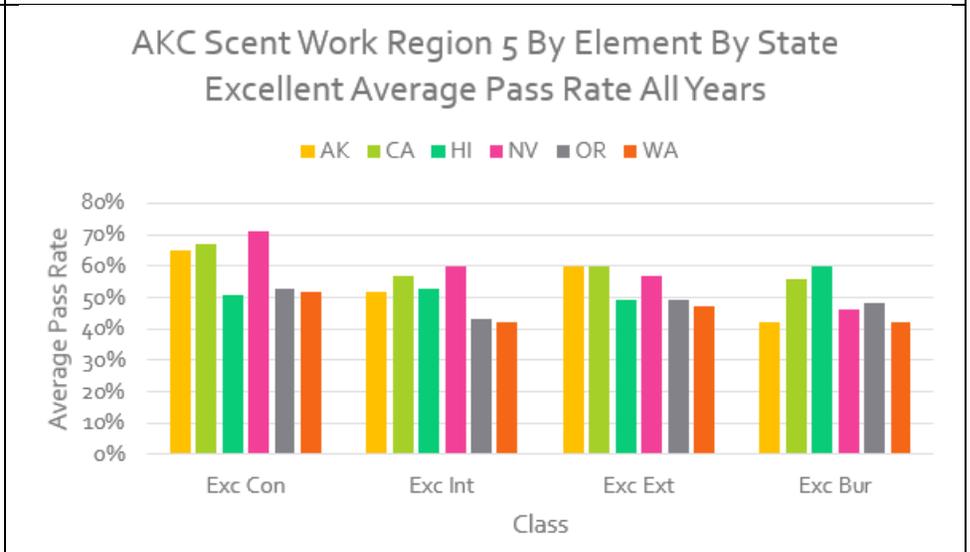
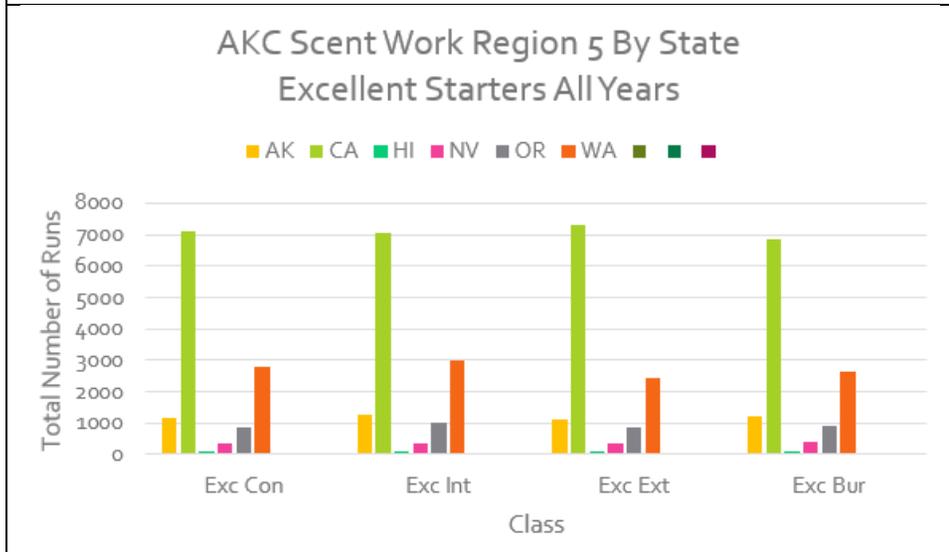
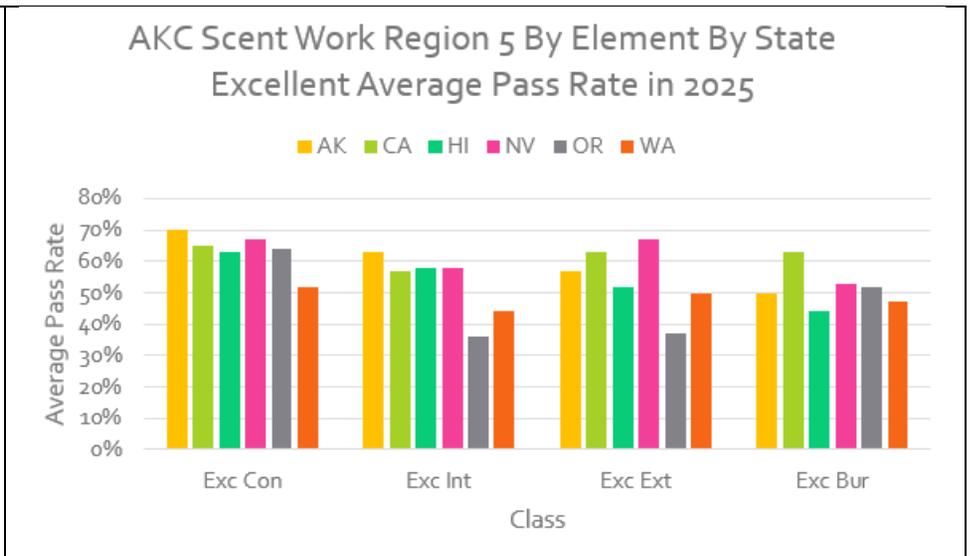
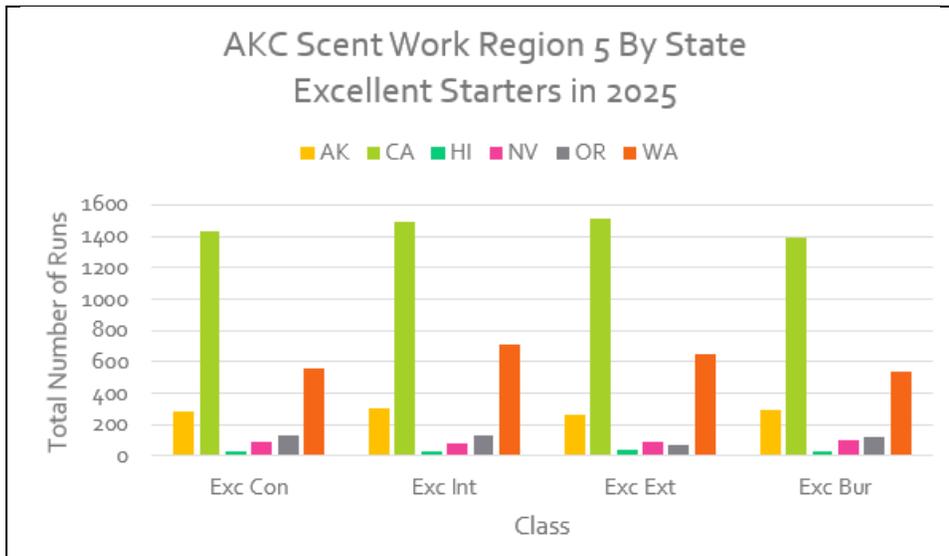
AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Novice B Class, By Element, By State for Region 5  
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



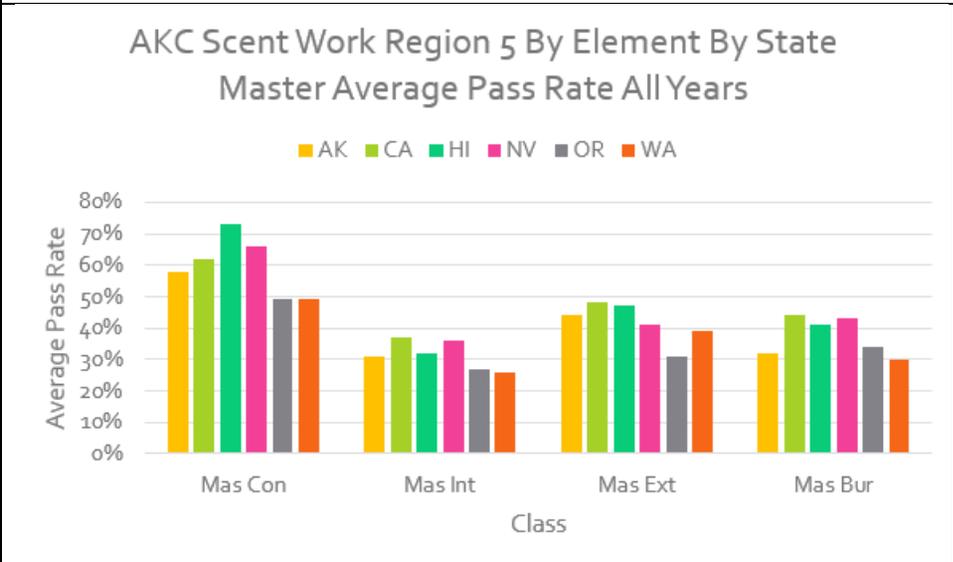
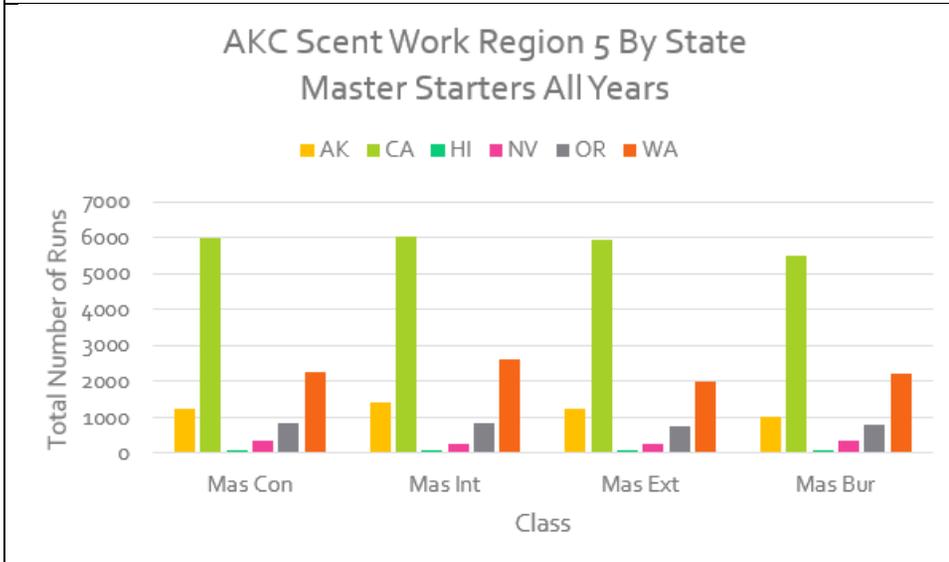
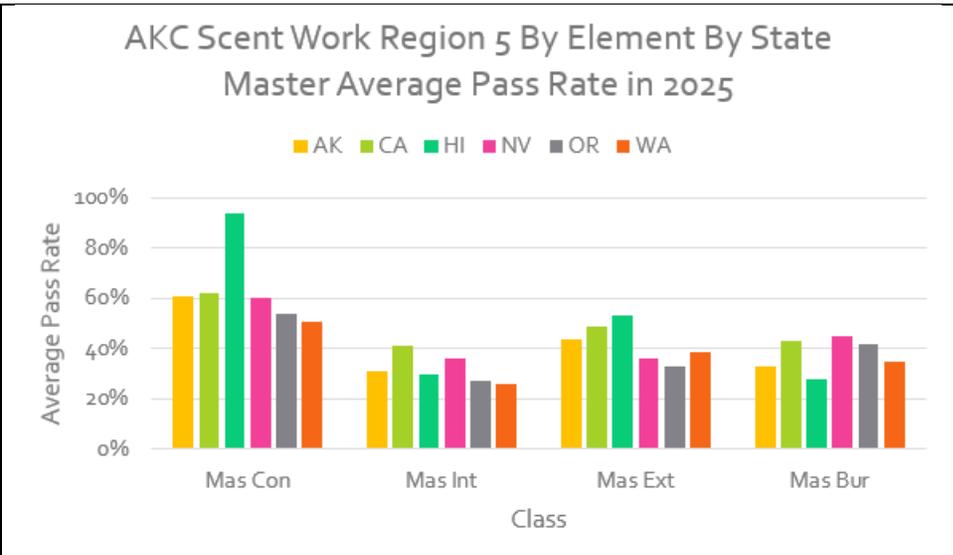
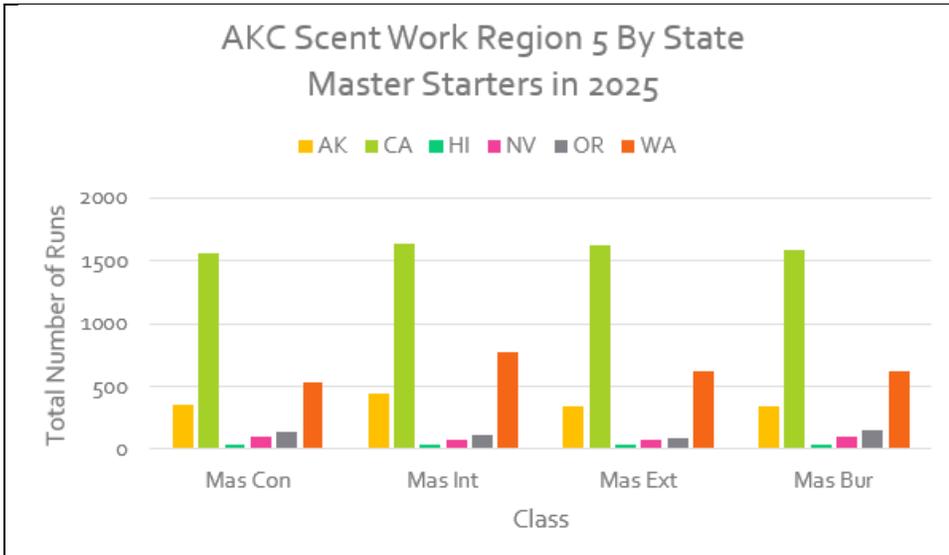
AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Combined Novice A & B Classes, By Element, By State for Region 5  
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



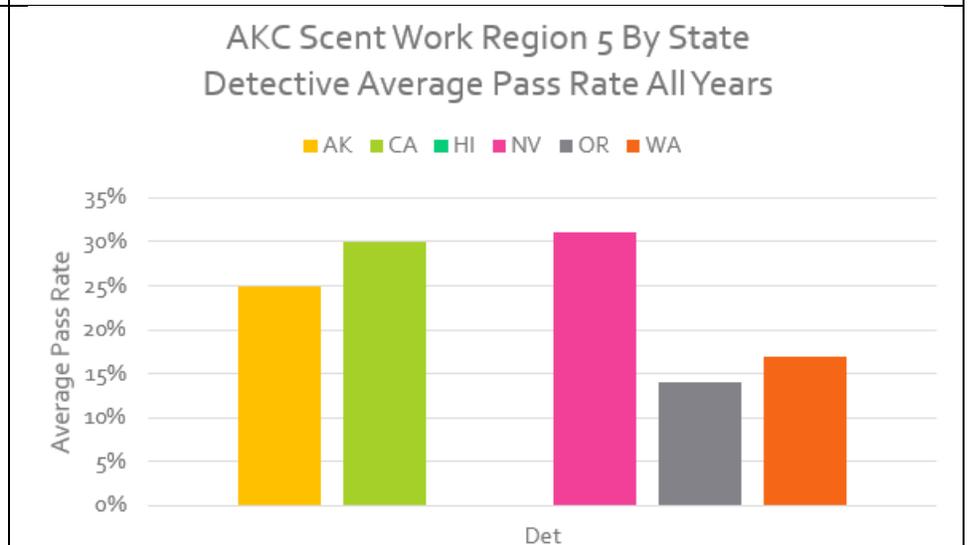
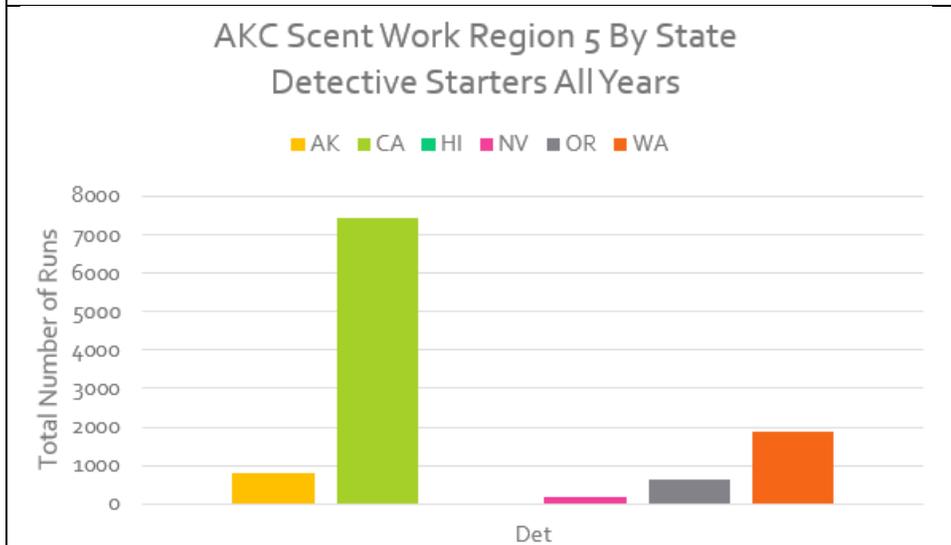
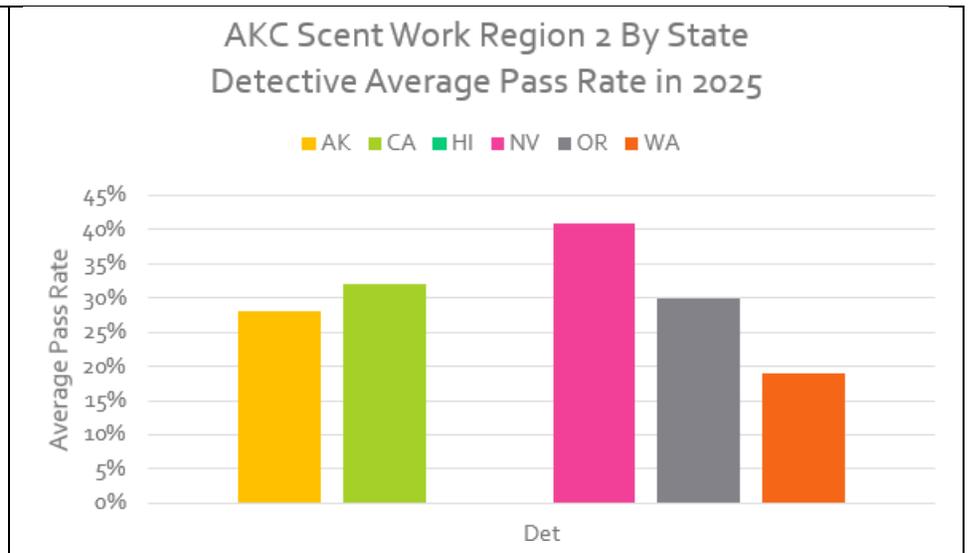
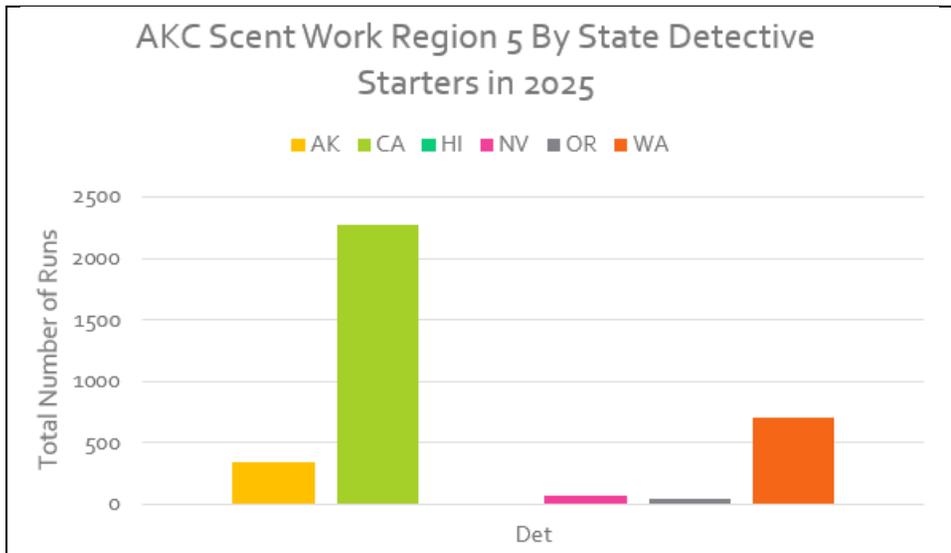
AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Advanced Classes, By Element, By State for Region 5  
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



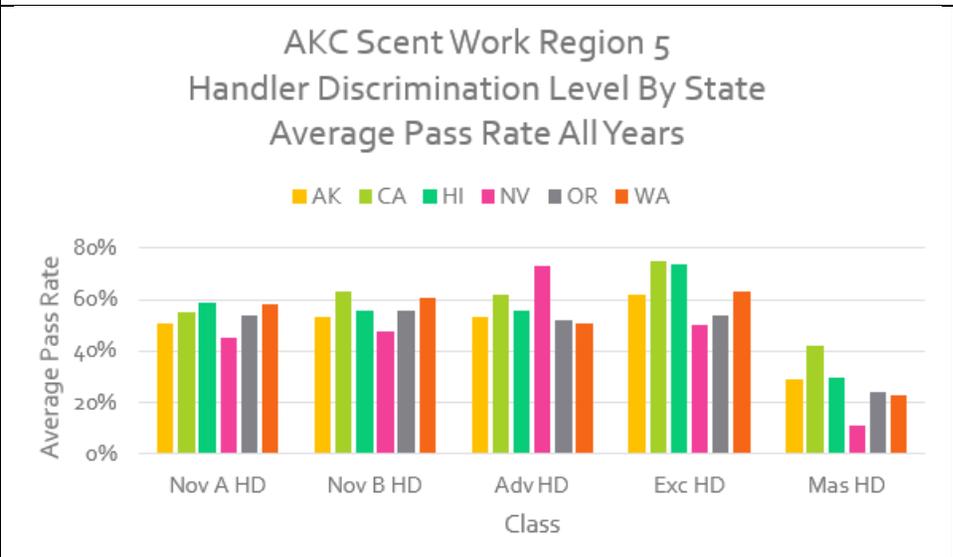
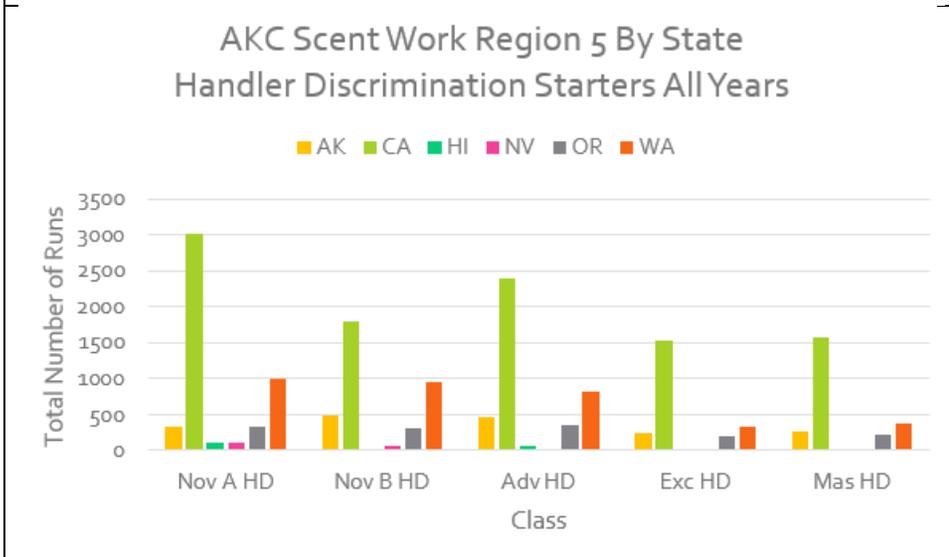
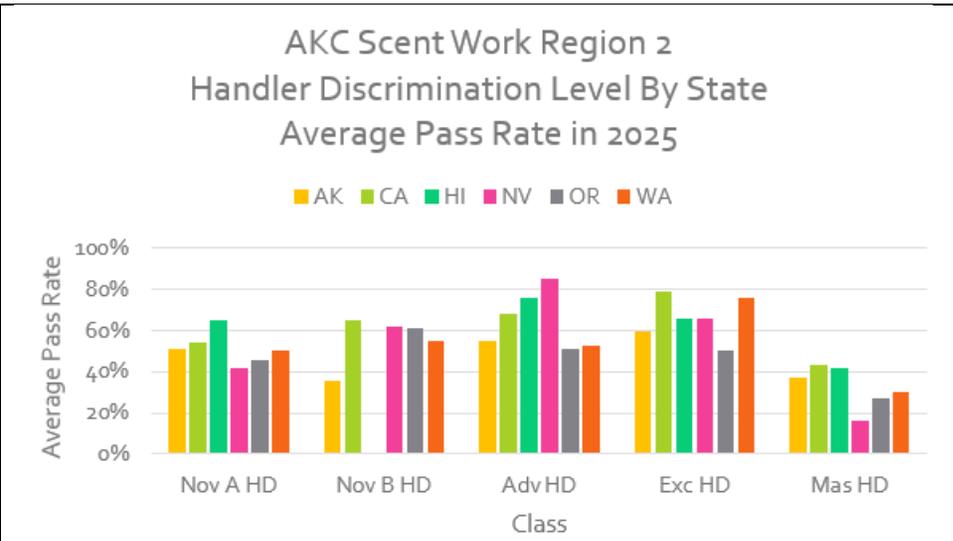
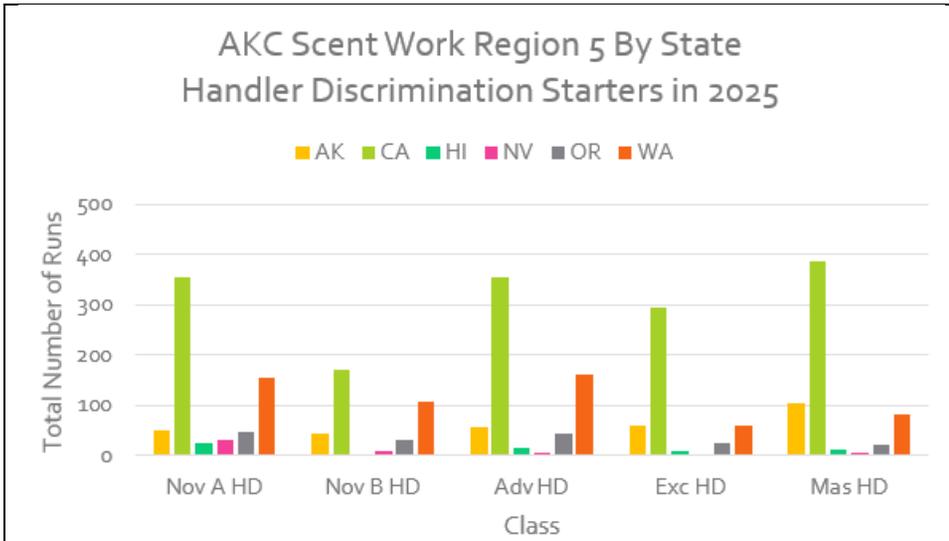
AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Excellent Classes, By Element, By State for Region 5  
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



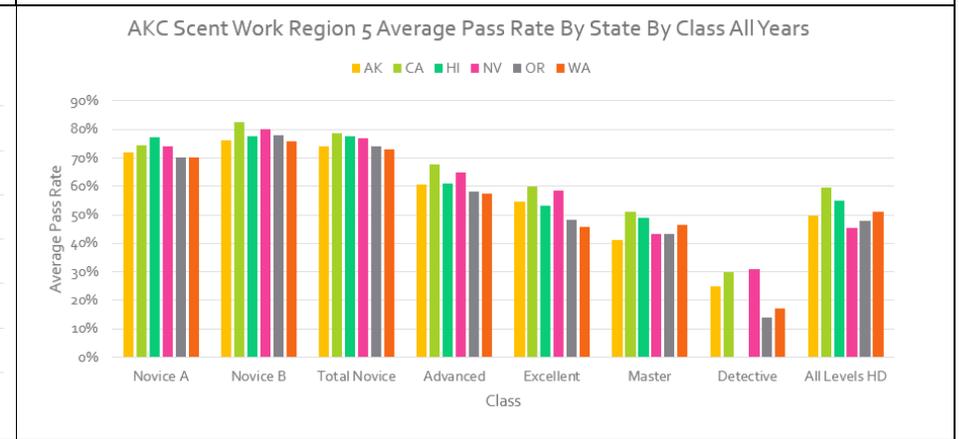
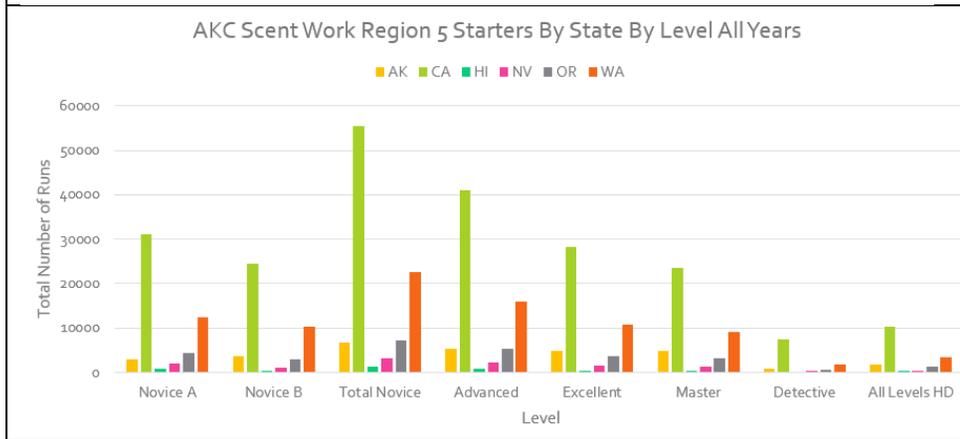
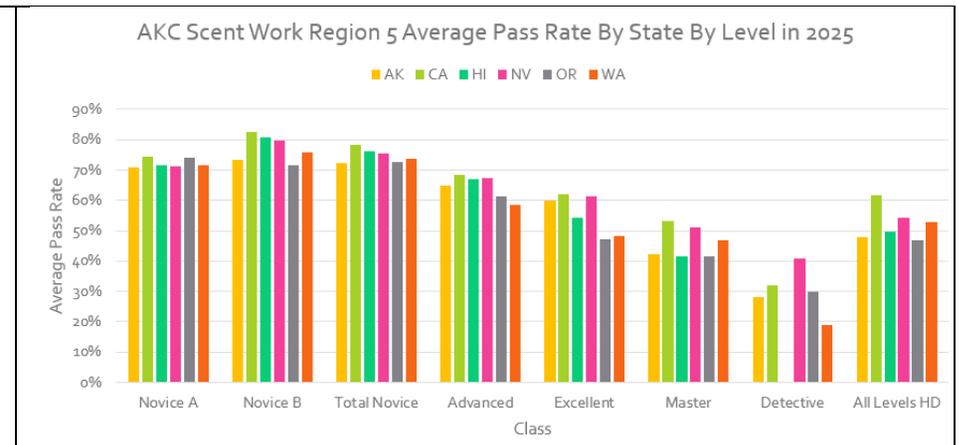
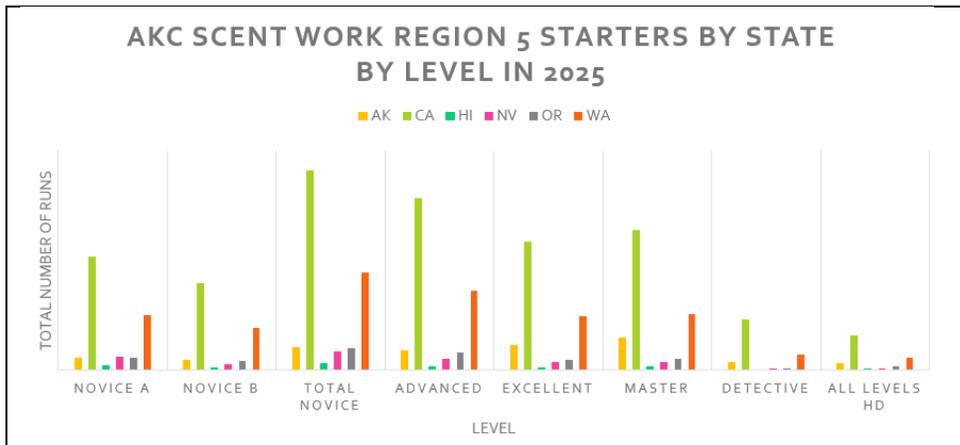
AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for the Master Classes, By Element, By State for Region 5  
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for Detective, By State for Region 5  
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 5  
2025 & All Years (up to January 24, 2026)



AKC Scent Work Starters and Average Pass Rates for Each Level, By State for Region 5  
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.”