

# Missing Funding Combined May 9th Update

Jeremy Berg  
5/13/2025

## Non-Competitive Renewal (Continuation) Awards

NIH grants are typically made over multiple years (average 4.0 years mandated by Congress annually).

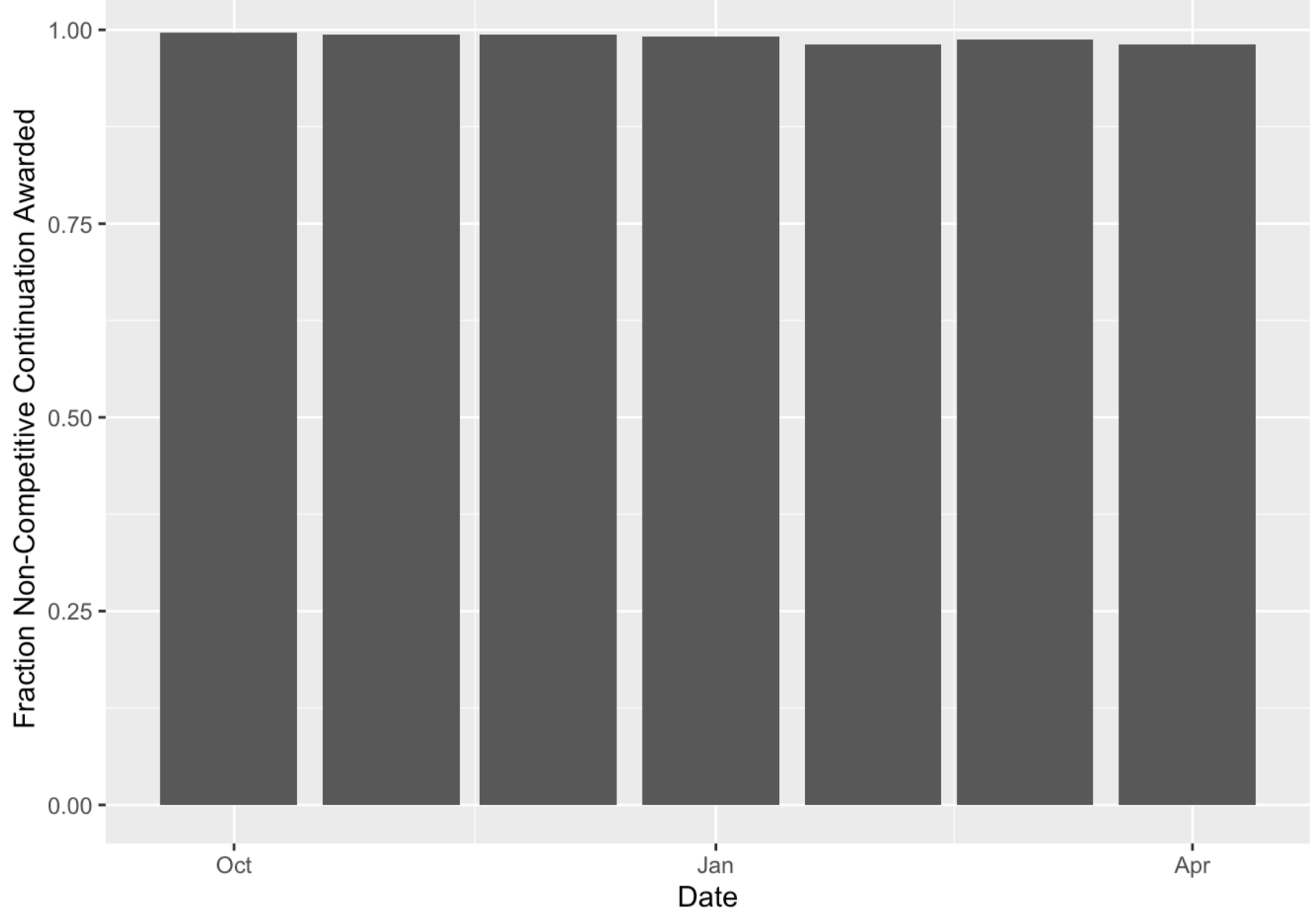
Grants are almost always paid in installments over several fiscal years. A new or competitive renewal application is subject to full peer review and Advisory Council approval and then awarded by an institute or center if it is deemed highly meritorious and aligned with the programatic priorities of the institute or center.

Subsequent non-competitive renewal awards are reviewed administratively, both for scientific progress and financial compliance. These awards are then made, pending approval of the program officer and grants management specialist.

### Fiscal Year 2023 Results

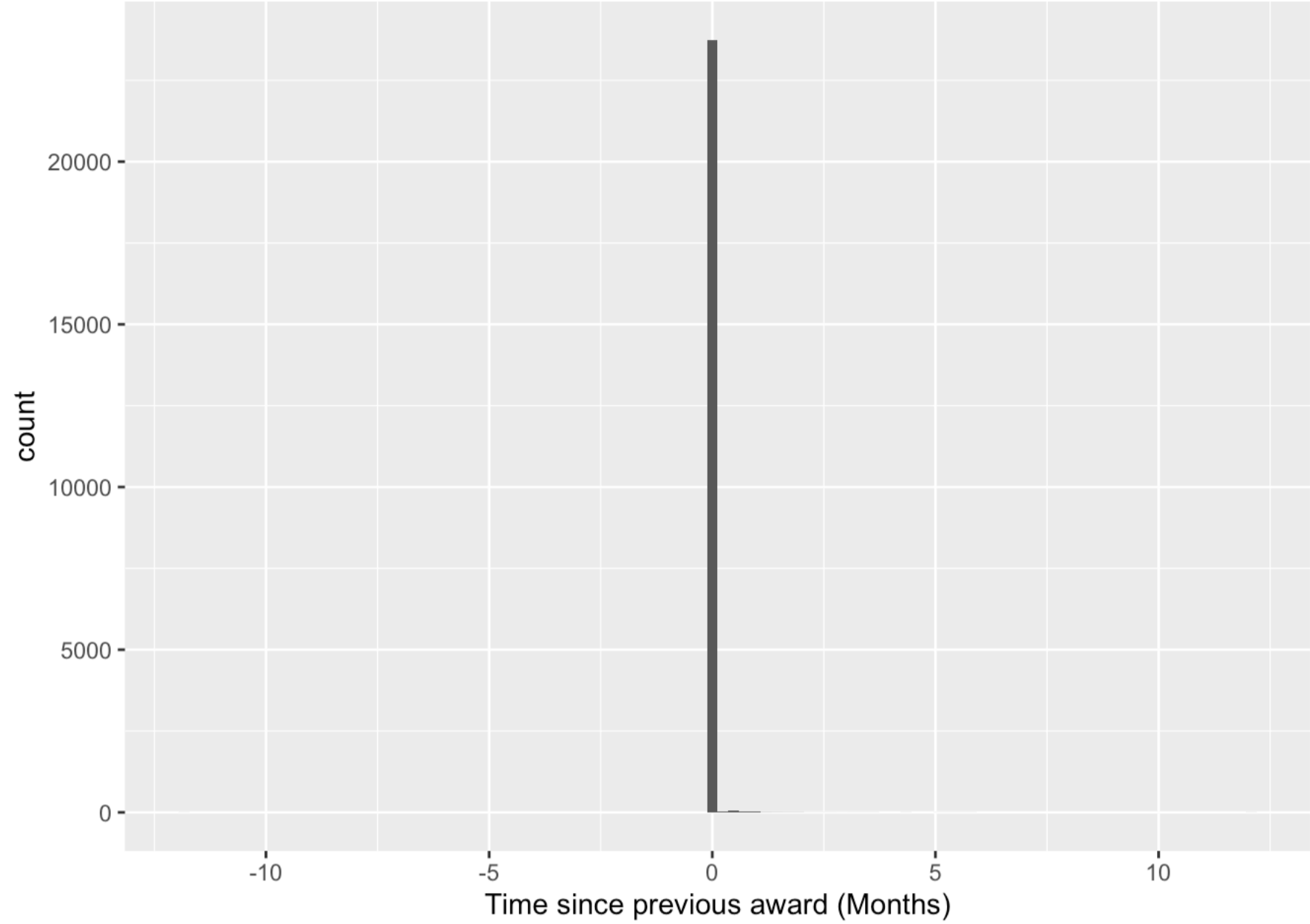
All new, competitive renewal, and non-competitive renewal awards made in fiscal year 2023 (FY23) with budget end dates extending into fiscal year 2024 (FY24) were examined. This was done through March, 2024 to match the analysis to be done for fiscal year 2024 awards extending into fiscal year 2025 (FY25).

The fraction of grants with award dates in each month are shown below:



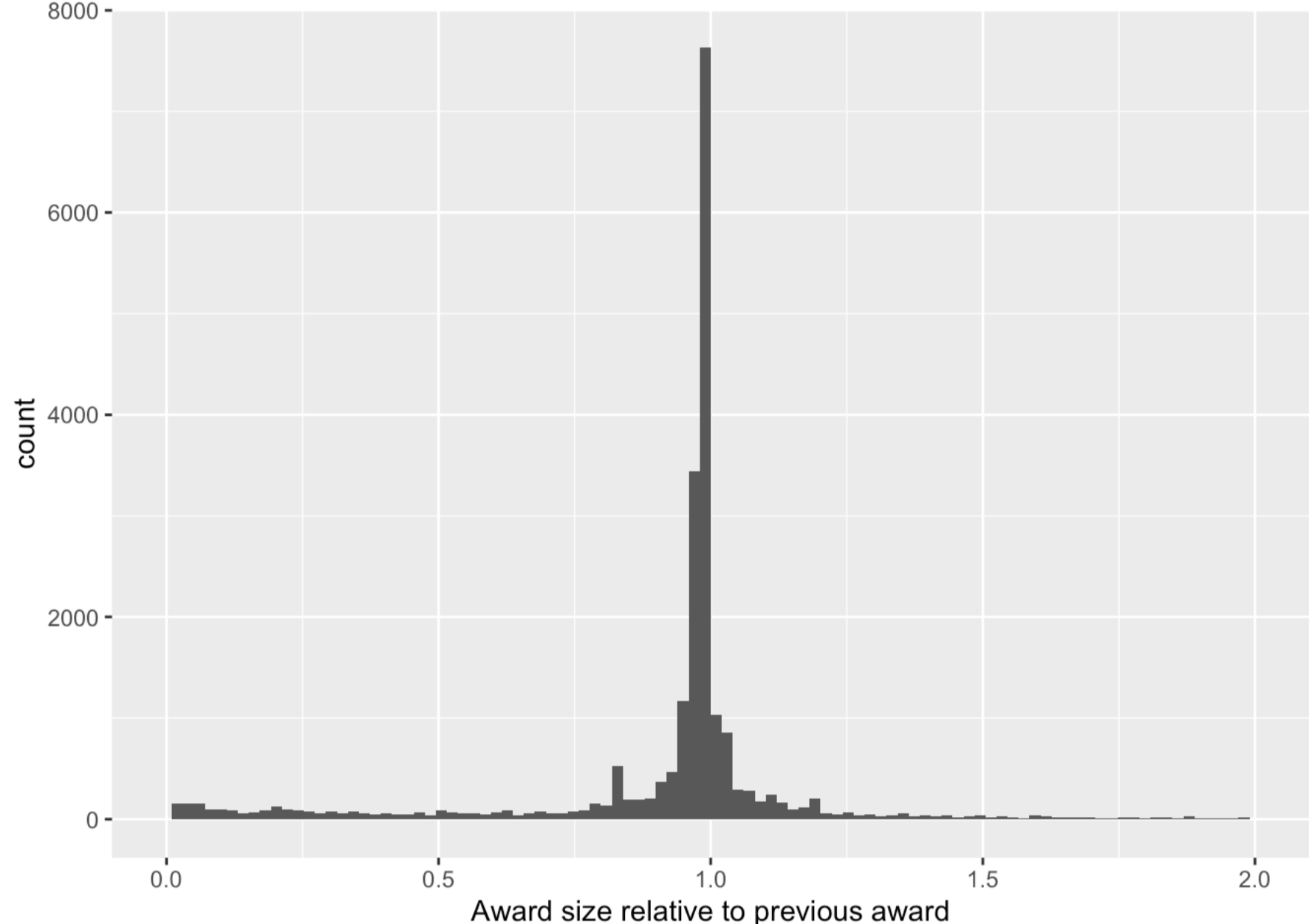
Overall, 98.7% of grants received non-competitive renewals.

The timing of these awards is shown by comparing the Budget End Date of the previous award with the Budget Start Date of the noncompetitive renewal award.



This shows that almost all awards are made to start at the Budget End Data of the previous award.

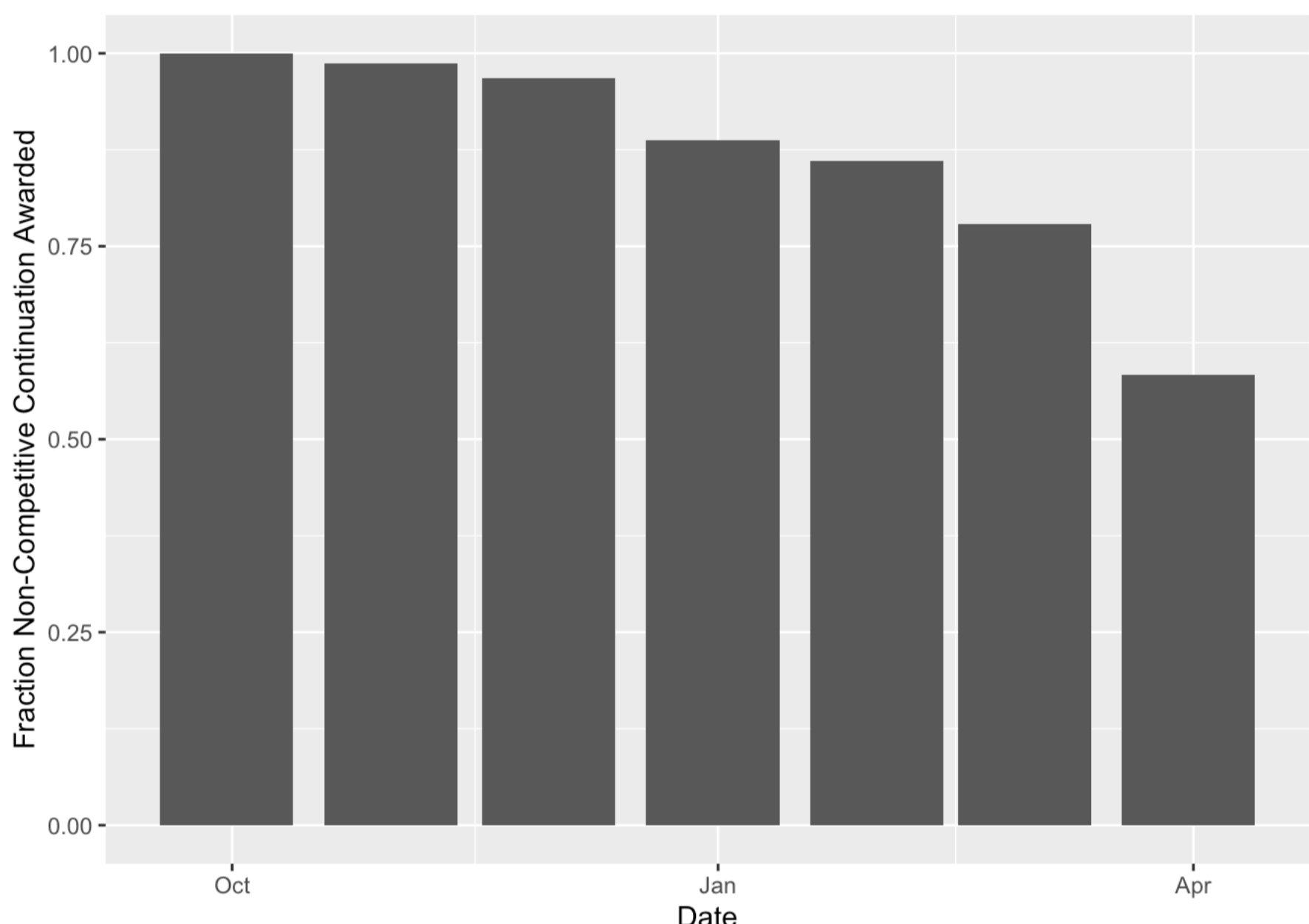
The distribution of sizes of the non-competitive awards relative to the previous awards is shown below:



Overall, the average non-competitive renewal award is 92% of the size of the previous award. This is due at least in part of the fact that new and competitive renewal awards often include costs for one-time expenses such as equipment.

### Fiscal Year 2024 Results

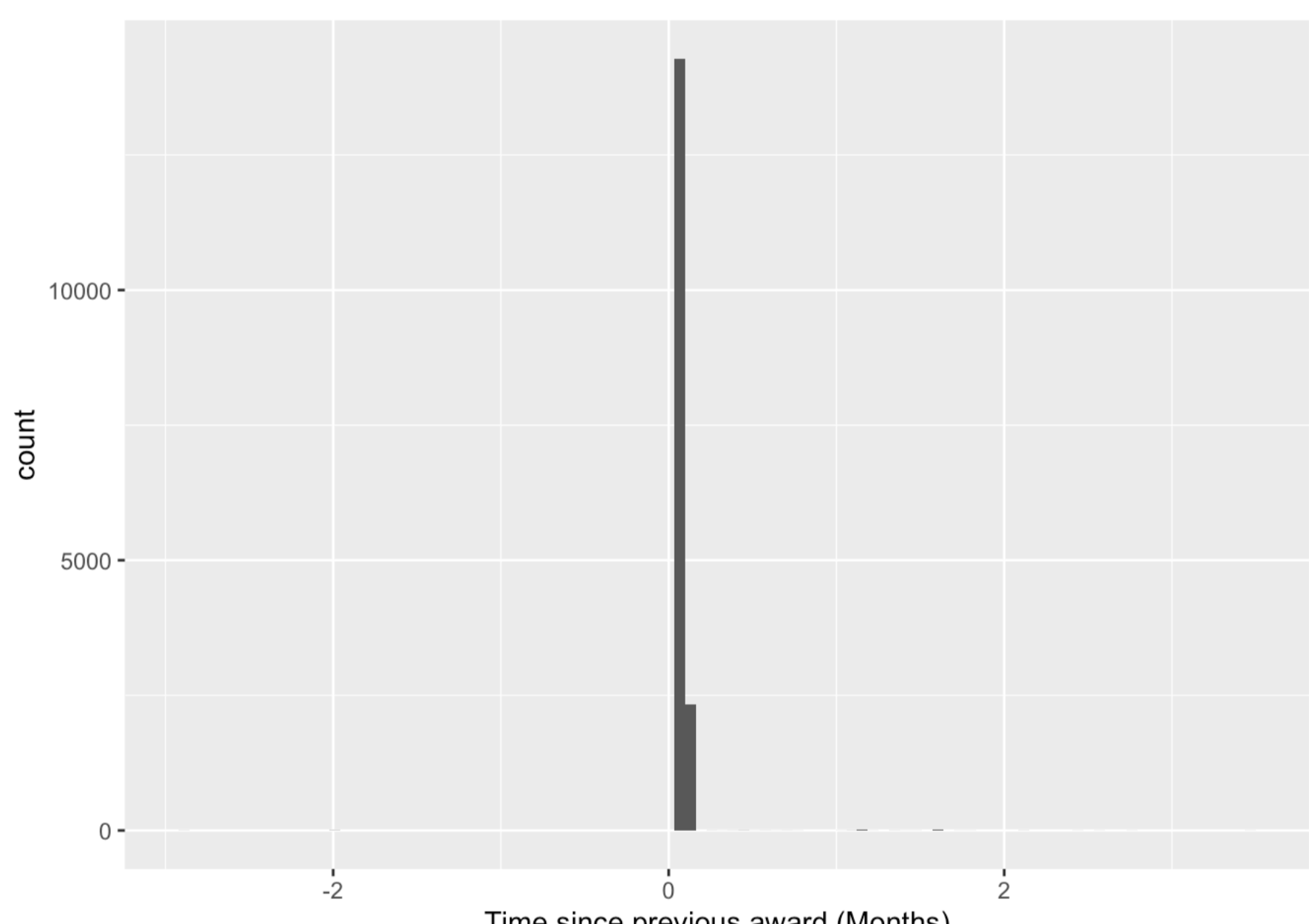
The fraction of grants with award dates in each month are shown below:



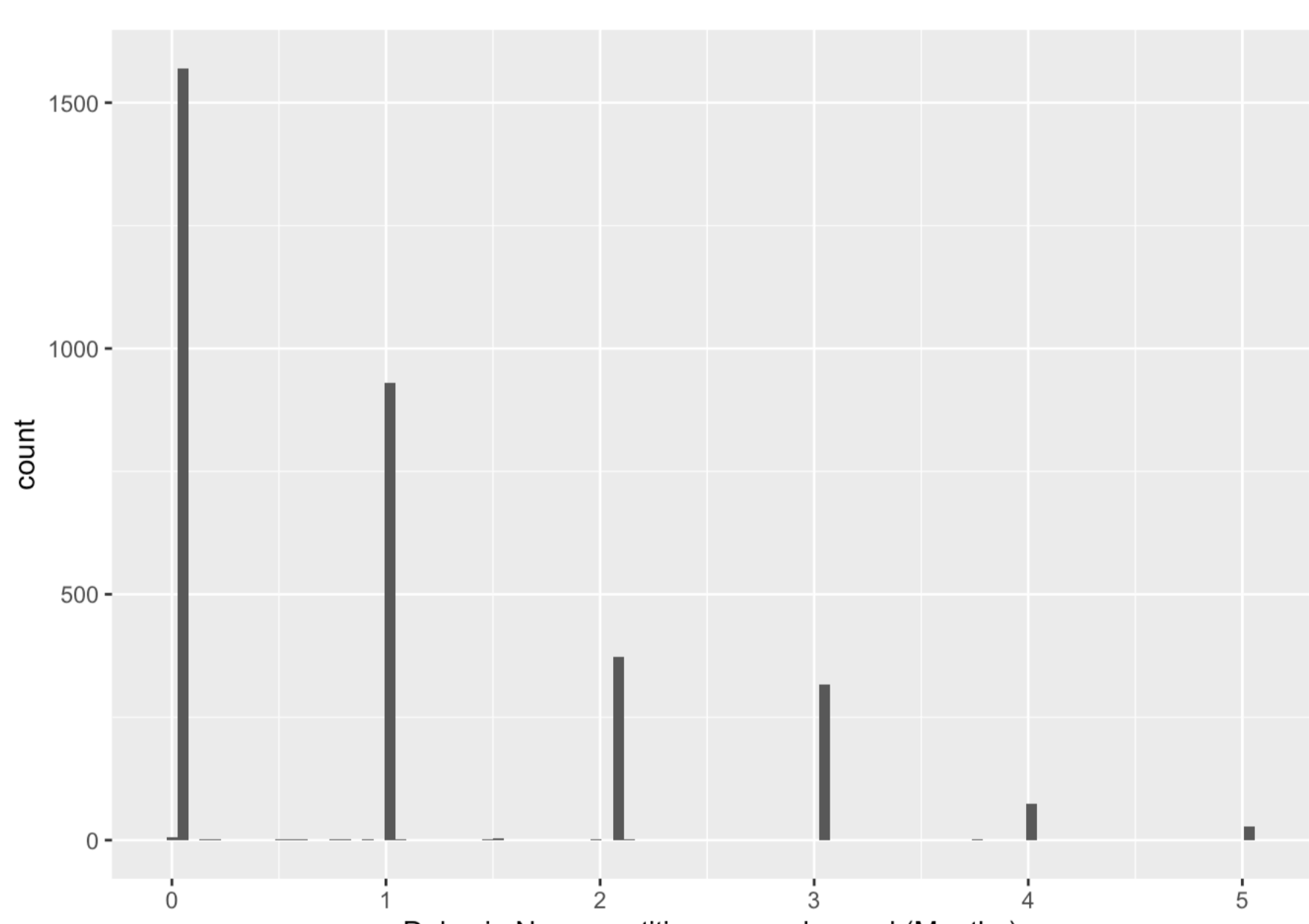
It is apparent that many awards have been at least delayed. Note that this does not have anything to do with delays in Study Sections or Advisory Council meetings as these are not involved with the issuing of non-competitive renewal awards.

Overall, 77.4% of grants received the anticipated non-competitive renewals through the end of April 2025.

Again, these awards were generally made at the Budget End Date of previous awards with a slightly larger number slightly late, compared to fiscal year 2023.



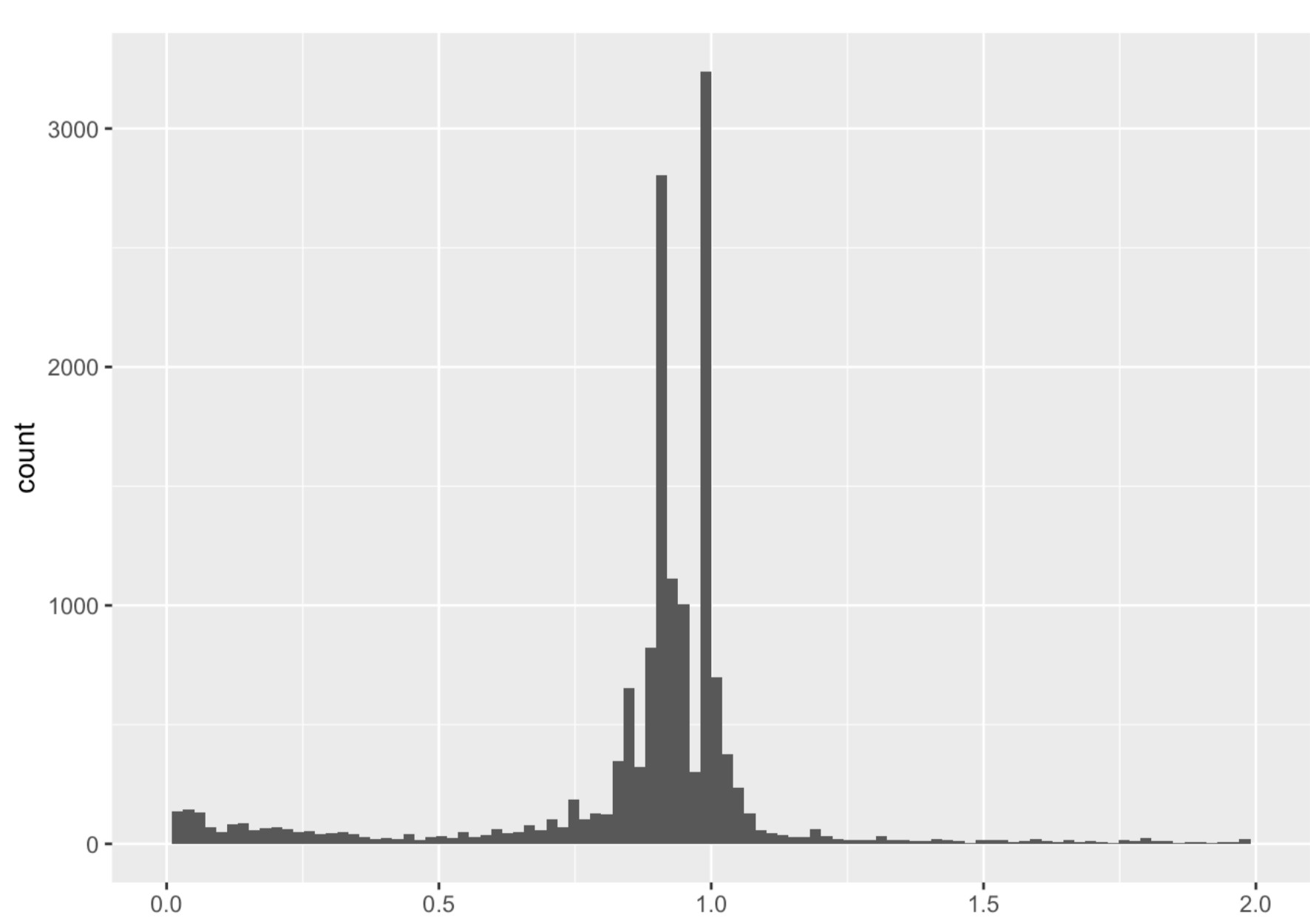
We can now examine the Budget End Dates of the awards that were due but have not been made.



This reveals that some awards are up to 5 months late. Based on the analysis above, some of the awards that are only slightly late may have been made, but are not yet documented in NIH Reporter or may be made soon. However, for awards that a month or more late, there is not historical precedent that these awards will be made.

Further analysis is underway to examine the topics of these awards and possible reasons for their delay.

The size distribution of the non-competitive awards relative to the previous awards is shown below:



Overall, the average non-competitive renewal award is 87.7% of the size of the previous award. As noted above, this is due at least in part of the fact that new and competitive renewal awards often include costs for one-time expenses such as equipment. In addition, prior to the passage of an appropriation bill for NIH (which has not yet occurred in FY2025), NIH will often make awards at lower levels with the expectation that these awards will be revised upwards if a reasonable appropriation is provided.

### Overall impact of the delay in making timely non-competitive awards

Suppose that the awards the same percentage of awards for FY25 had been made at the same rate of FY24 (98.7%) albeit at the lower level (87.7%), what level of additional funding would have been distributed?

Amount anticipated: \$9.4 B.

Amount awarded: \$7.35 B.

Amount withheld: \$2.05 B.

## Competitive Awards (New and Competitive Renewal Grants)

New and competitive renewal grants are made following peer review at Study Sections, approval by Advisory Councils, and funding decisions and awards from institutes and centers.

The new administration "paused" grant making although this is subject to a temporary injunction. In addition, until very recently NIH was blocked from announcing Study Sections and Advisory Councils in the Federal Register as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

This, combined with the general slowdown of NIH functions has resulted in a substantial decrease in the number of new and competitive renewal awards issued.

### How big is this drop off?

For Fiscal Year 2023, there were 5867 awards made between 10/1/2022 and 5/1/2023. These amounted to total costs of \$2.72 B.

For Fiscal Year 2024, there were 5089 awards made between 10/1/2023 and 5/1/2024. These amounted to total costs of \$2.26 B.

The results for Fiscal Year 2025 can be compared with these.

For Fiscal Year 2025, there were 3469 awards made between 10/1/2024 and 4/1/2025. These amounted to total costs of \$1.66 B.

The difference between the average amount for FY2023 and FY2024 and that for FY2025 is \$0.83 B.

The combined cash flow loss is \$2.88 B.