

# Assessment of PCP Knowledge of HCV Screening, Recommendations, and Treatment Options

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a Difference



## Background

- At least 50% of individuals infected with HCV are unaware of their status
- Adults born between 1945-1965 have rates of HCV five times higher than other adults
- CDC guidelines recommend that all baby boomers be tested for HCV at least once in their lifetime

## Aims

- Assess primary care provider (PCP) knowledge of HCV screening guidelines and treatment options
- Assess the accuracy of self-reported testing practices

## Methods

- A baseline survey to assess PCP and support staff knowledge about HCV testing, treatment, and guidelines was developed
- Only practice-level identifiers were used, the survey was blinded with respect to individual identity
- 7 primary care practices were surveyed
  - MDs, DOs, MAs, and RNs
- Self reported testing practices were then compared to practice-level testing data extracted from the electronic medical record (EMR)
- Survey was conducted through May and June 2014 followed by an education session, EMR prompts for HCV testing went live in July 2014 to all 7 primary care practices

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the following individuals should be tested for hepatitis C: (check all that apply)

- Persons with a history of injection drug use
- Persons with a history of receiving a blood transfusion prior to 1992
- Persons with multiple tattoos and/ or piercings
- Persons born between 1945 and 1965
- Persons between the ages of 13 and 65
- Persons engaging in "high-risk" sexual practices
- Persons with persistently abnormal alanine aminotransferase

Please indicate which chronically infected HCV patients you do not refer to a specialist with expertise in HCV management (check all that apply):

- Persons with no evidence of liver disease/ damage
- Persons actively using non injection drugs
- Persons actively using injection drugs
- Persons with active alcohol abuse/ dependence
- Persons with poorly controlled depression
- Persons with poorly controlled bipolar disorder
- Persons with poorly controlled schizophrenia
- Persons who are homeless
- Persons with frequently missed primary care appointments
- Persons with poor adherence to prescribed medications
- None of the above- I refer all patients

Figure 1. Physician's Responses to HCV Survey Questions (n=57)

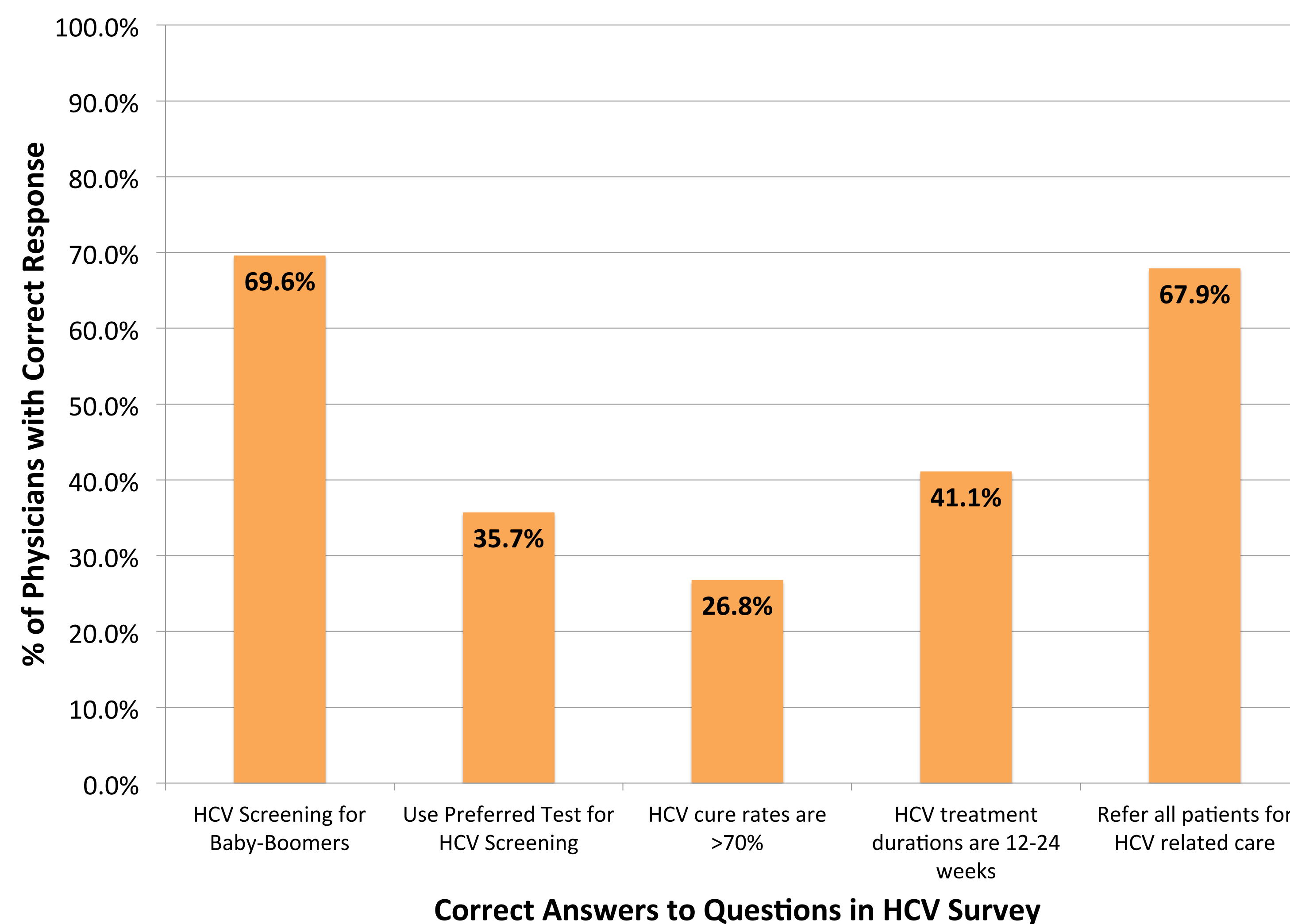
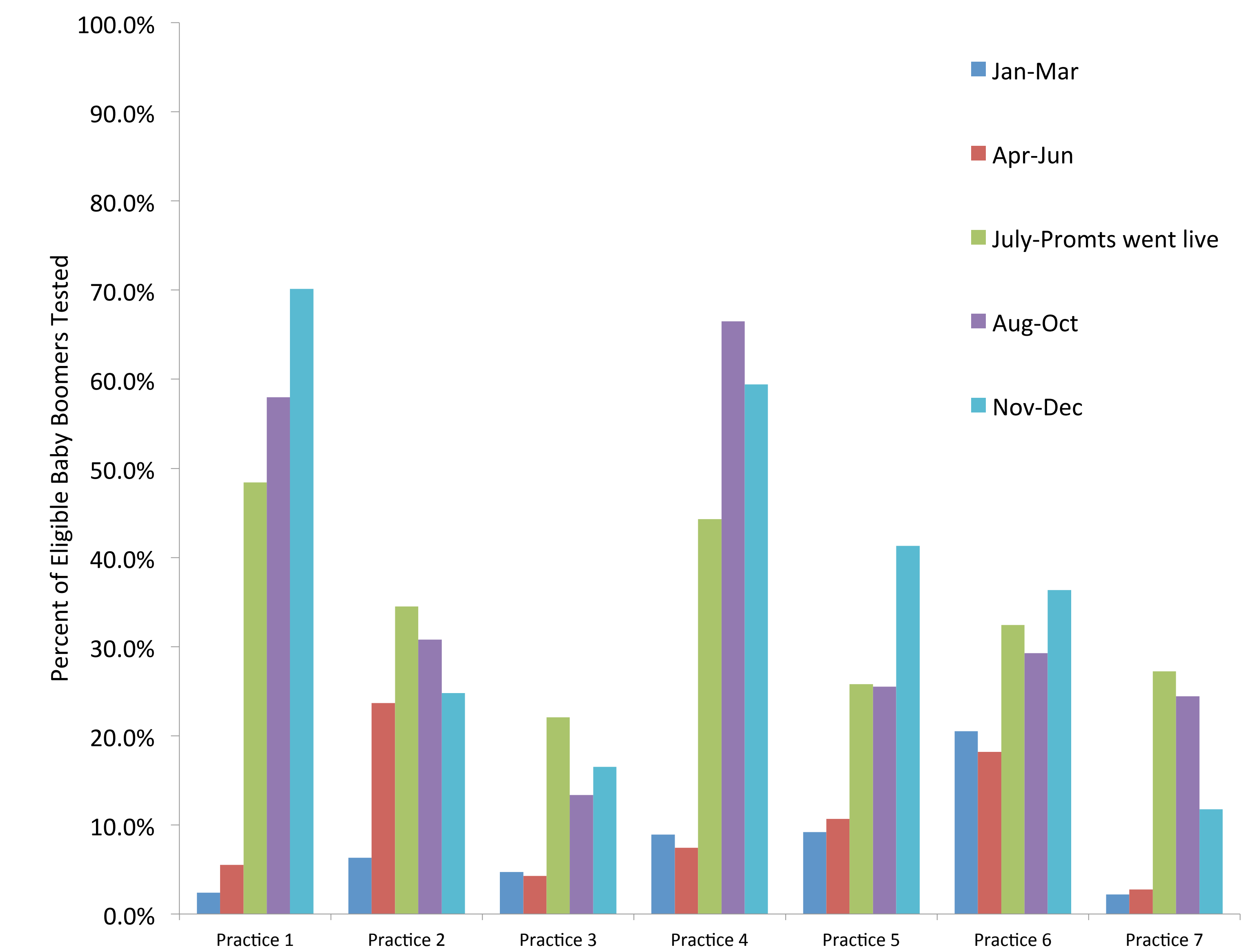


Figure 4. Practice Level Testing of HCV for Baby-Boomers Not Previously Tested



## Conclusions

- There is a lack of awareness amongst both physicians and support staff regarding recent developments in HCV treatment options
- PCPS are aware of the baby-boomer HCV screening guidelines, but are not routinely implementing them. This, however, changed significantly after both interventions, HCV education and the EHR prompt, were implemented
- Not all providers refer chronic HCV patients to subspecialty care
- Targeted education should be provided to all PCPs and support staff
- Additional tools are needed to integrate CDC testing recommendations into clinical workflow

## Future Directions

- Providers at primary care practices will continue to be educated on best practices in testing methods in accordance with CDC screening guidelines and prompts
- Providers at primary care practices will be notified of their testing behaviors through report cards that will be distributed monthly
- Physicians at the same primary care offices will receive the same HCV survey six months later to assess efficacy of HCV education, report cards, and HCV prompt implementation

Figure 1. Sample questions from HCV survey

Please choose the best estimate of the rates of cure for current hepatitis C therapies:

- Less than 10%
- 10-30%
- 30-50%
- 50-70%
- Greater than 70%