



Louisiana Managed
Medicaid Association

Provider COVID-19 Screening and Testing Practices

A survey of nearly 1,000 Louisiana
healthcare providers during the first
wave of the pandemic

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Survey Results.....	3
Respondent Characteristics.....	3
Patient Screening.....	5
Employee Screening.....	10
Diagnostic Testing.....	17
Antibody Tests.....	21
Methodology.....	23
About the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association.....	24

Introduction

The rapid emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic required health care providers of all types to adapt to unprecedented challenges. Throughout the course of this emergency, Louisiana’s health care providers have demonstrated a tireless commitment to serving their patients.

Following the initial phase one stay-at-home order, as in-person patient visits and non-urgent care resumed, providers had to make crucial decisions about what screening and testing practices to implement. With no modern precedents to draw on, evolving – sometimes conflicting – recommendations from authorities, and intractable supply chain realities, providers made decisions they judged best for their patients, their practices, and their communities.

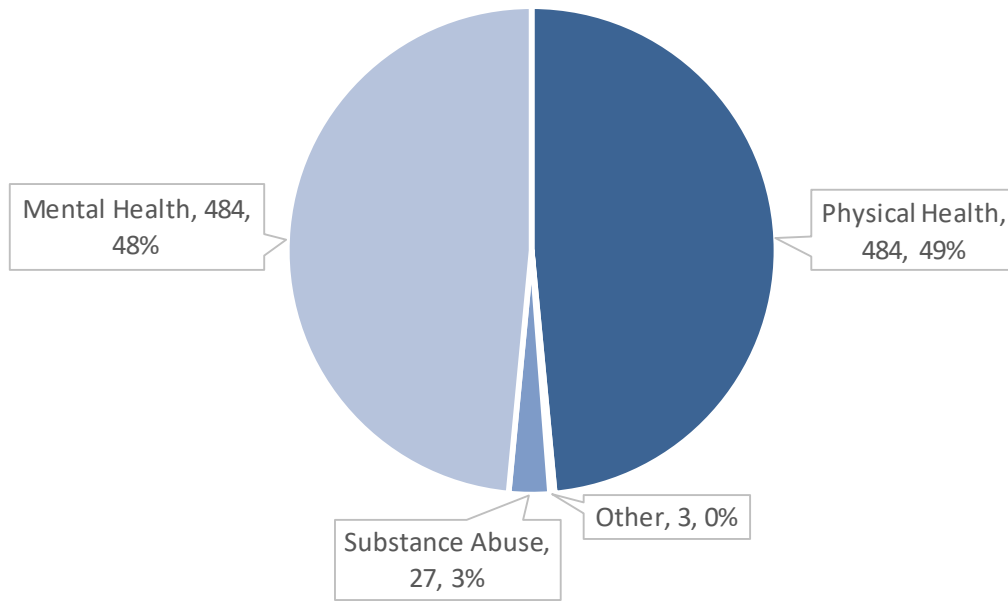
As a coalition of the state’s five Medicaid health plans, the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association conducted this survey of providers to add to the public knowledge of how our health care system adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We seek to understand the status of screening and testing, identify strengths and opportunities for improvement, and uncover lingering challenges. Ultimately, we hope this research will help Louisiana’s health care regulators, providers and health plans respond to and manage the ongoing pandemic.

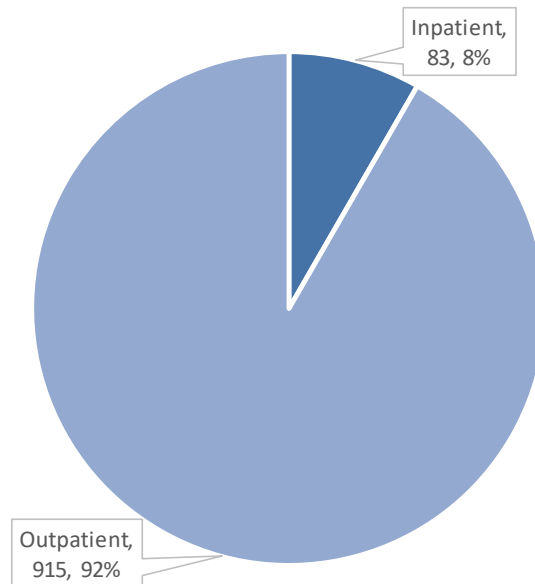
Survey Results

Respondent Characteristics

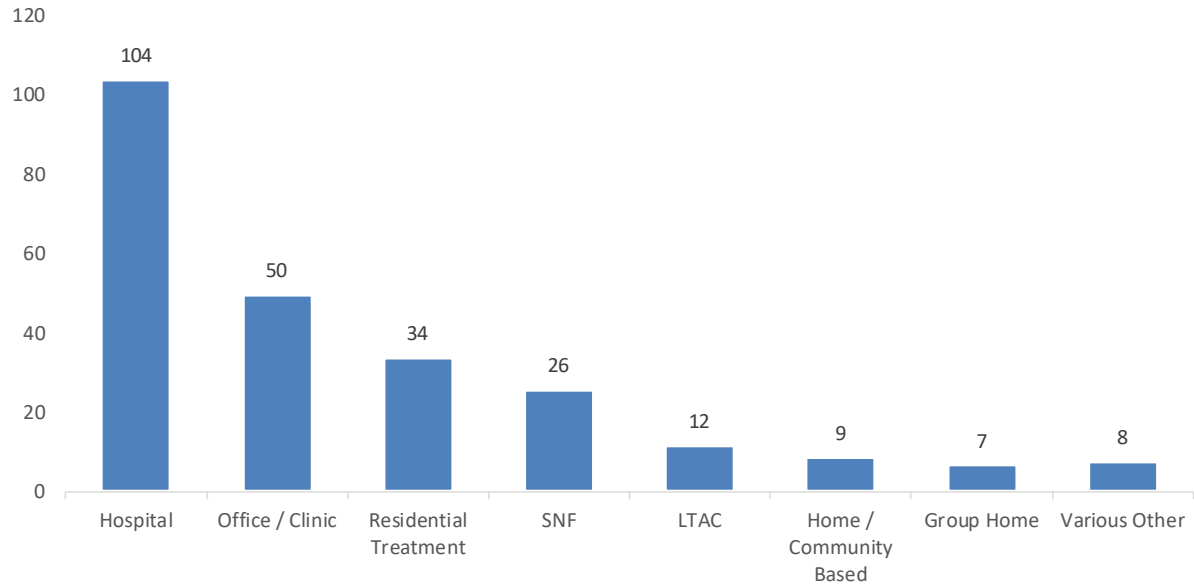
1) Please identify your Provider Type
(998 of 998 responses included)



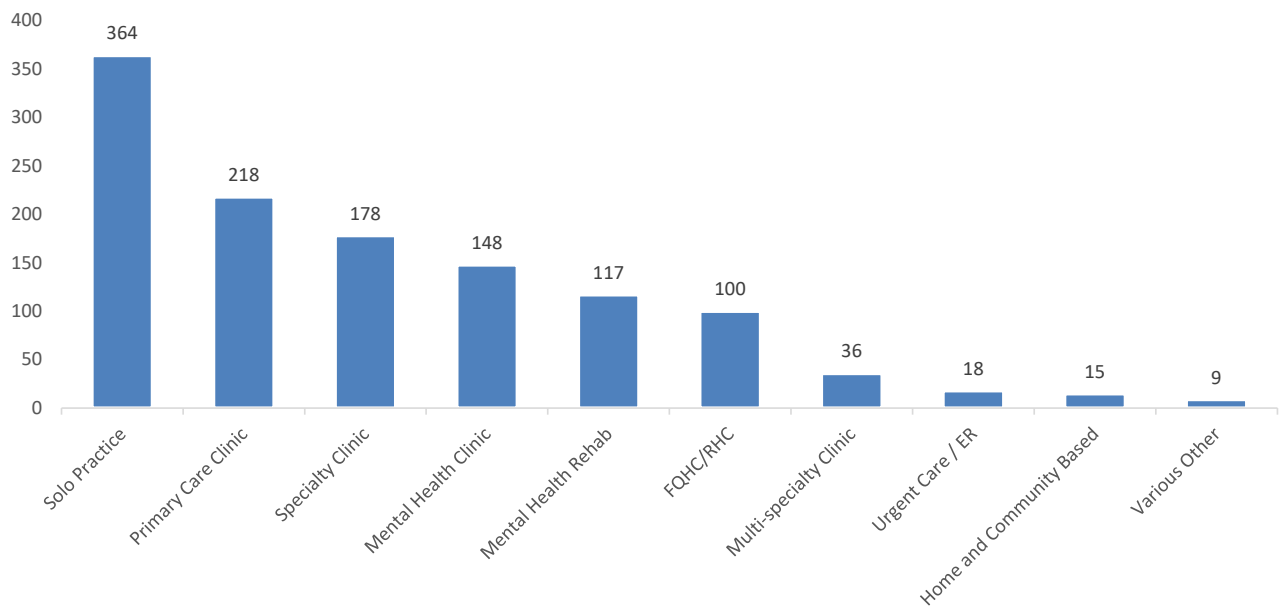
2) Do you provide inpatient or outpatient services?
(998 of 998 responses included)



3) If you provide inpatient services, please identify type(s)
(201 of 998 responses included)

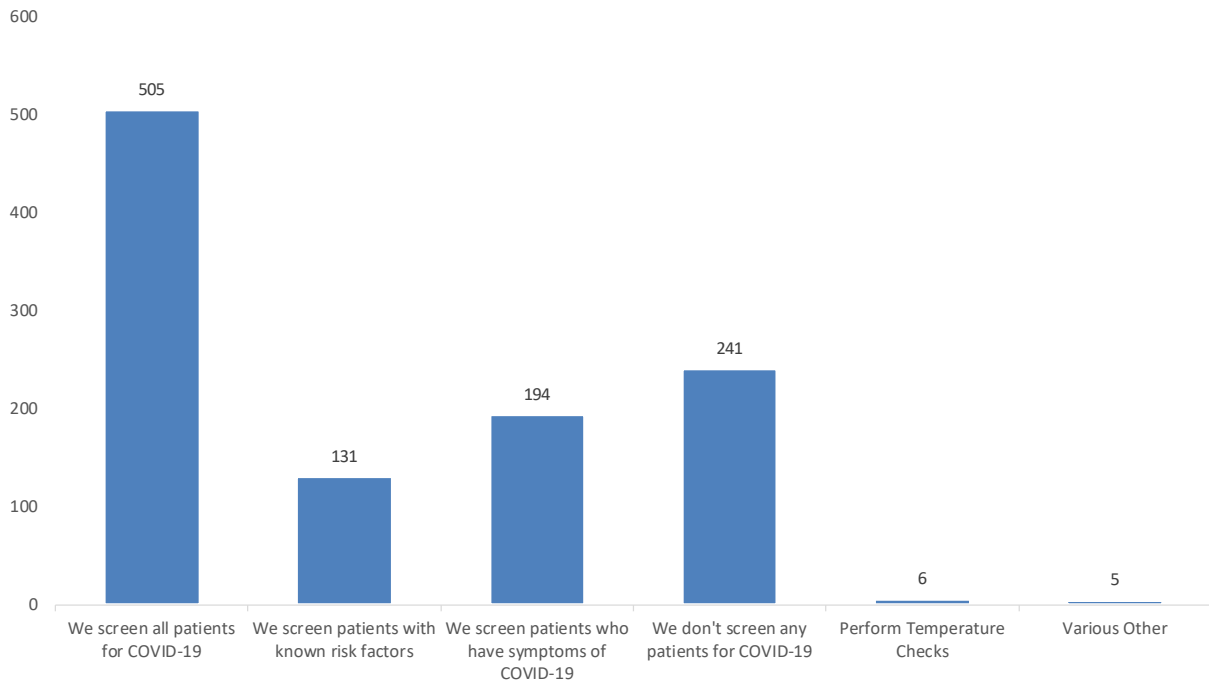


4) If you provide outpatient services, please identify type(s)
(957 of 998 responses included)

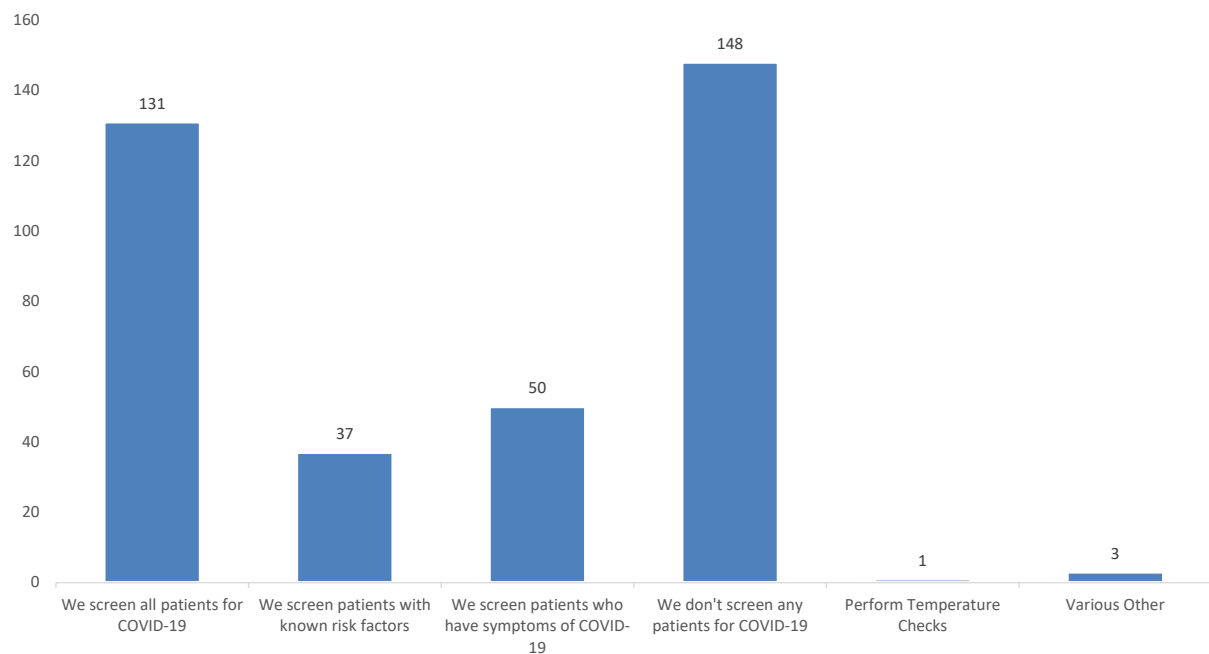


Patient Screening

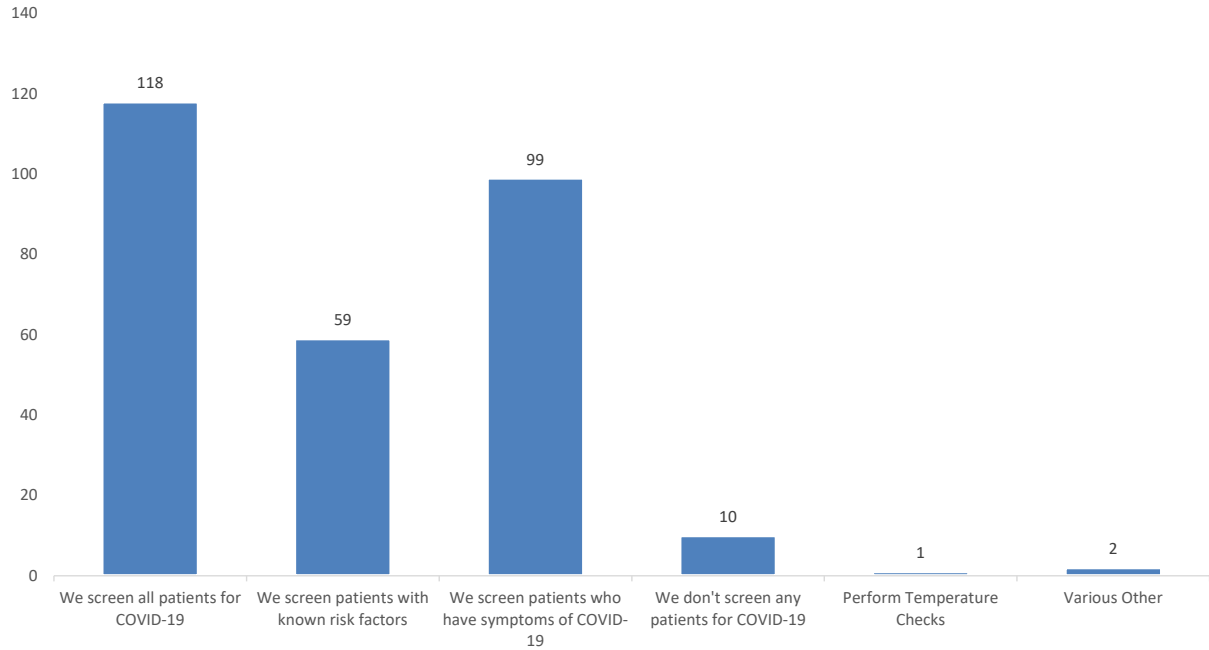
**5a) Screening for COVID-19 is a series of questions asked to determine a person's risk for COVID-19. Which of the following apply to your organization in regards to screening patients?
(903 of 998 responses included)**



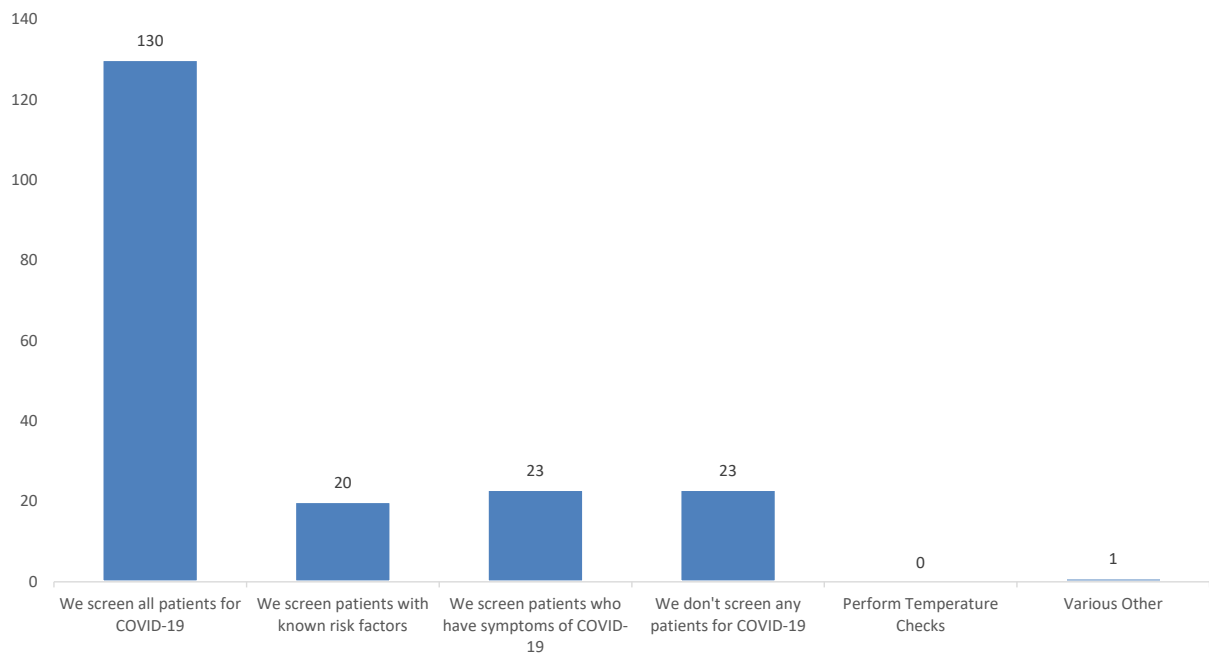
**5b) Responses to question #5a limited to respondents that indicated "Solo Practice" in question #4.
(318 of 998 responses included)**



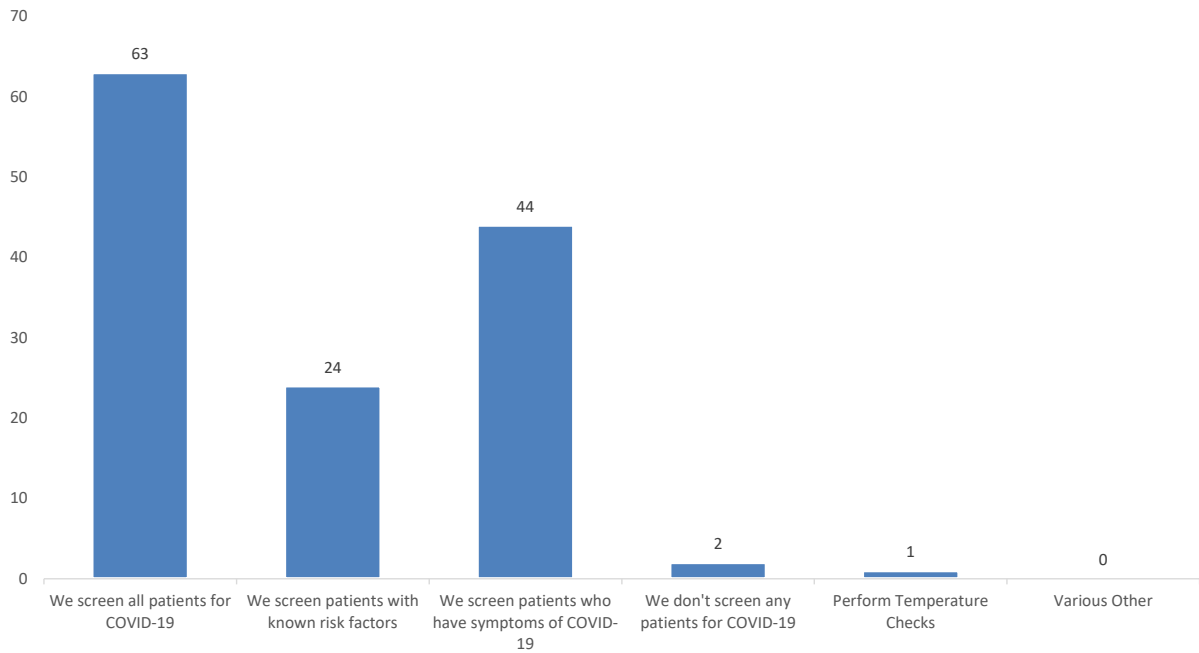
5c) Responses to question #5a limited to respondents that indicated “Primary Care Clinic” in question #4.
 (209 of 998 responses included)



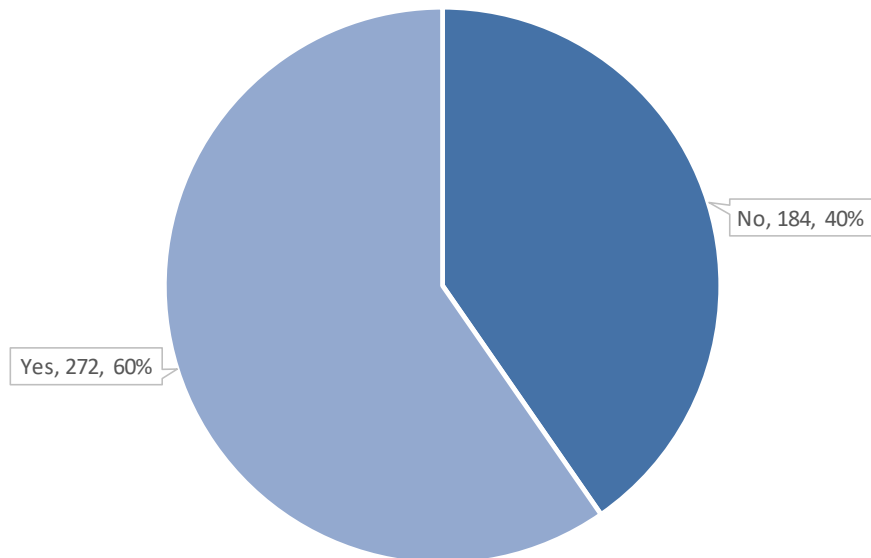
5d) Responses to question #5a limited to respondents that indicated “Specialty Clinic” in question #4.
 (163 of 998 responses included)



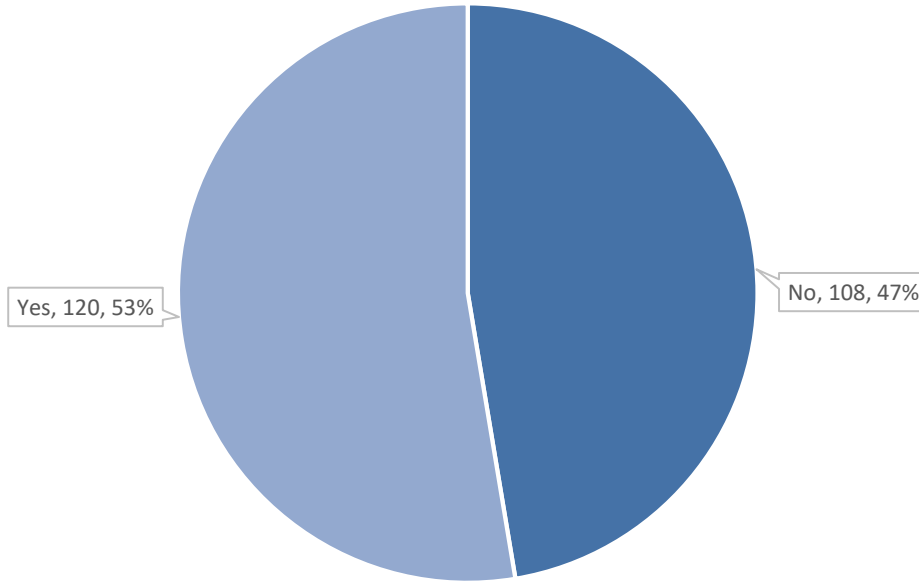
5e) Responses to question #5a limited to respondents that indicated “FQHC/RHC” in question #4.
 (100 of 998 responses included)



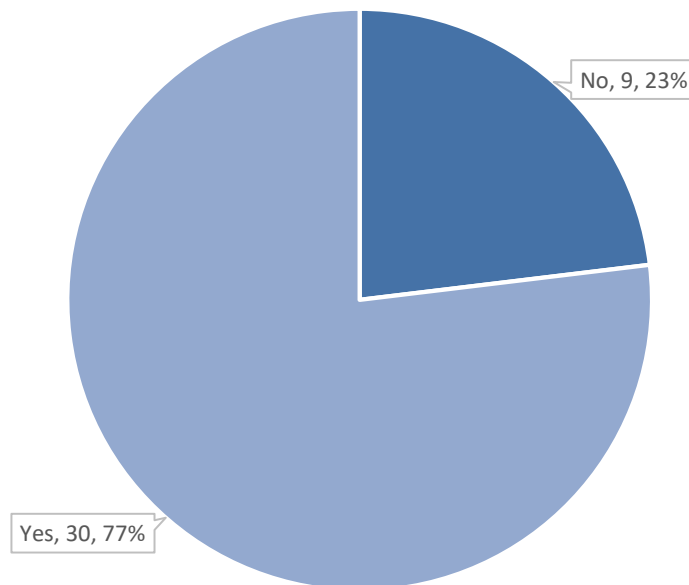
6a) If you are not screening patients for COVID-19, are you planning to screen in the next 3-6 months?
 (456 of 998 responses included)



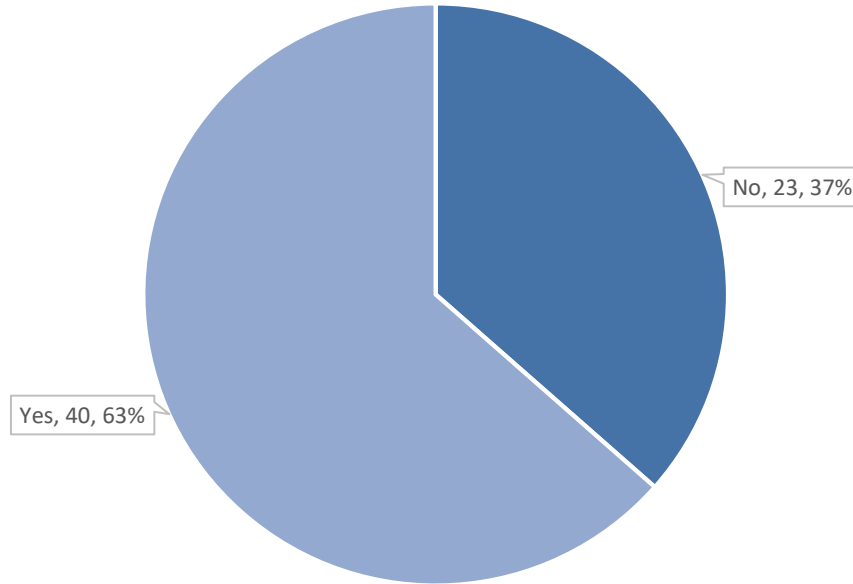
**6b) Responses to question #6a limited to respondents that indicated “Solo Practice” in question #4.
(228 of 998 responses included)**



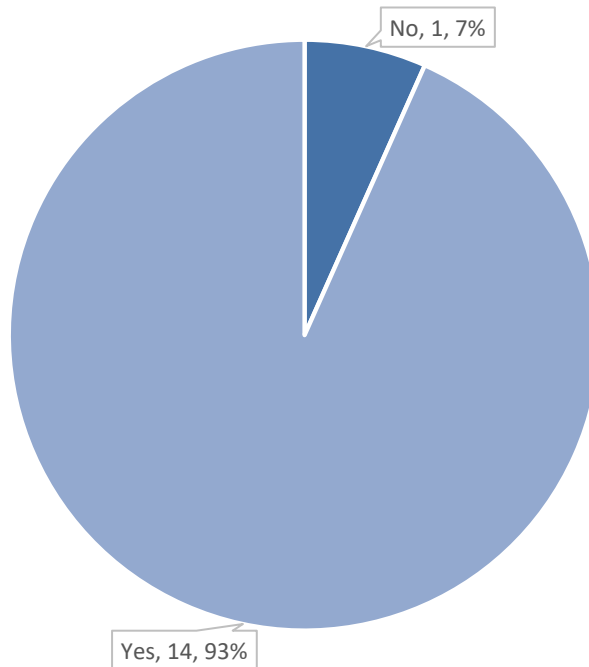
**6c) Responses to question #6a limited to respondents that indicated “Primary Care Clinic” in question #4.
(39 of 998 responses included)**



**6d) Responses to question #6a limited to respondents that indicated “Specialty Clinic” in question #4.
(63 of 998 responses included)**



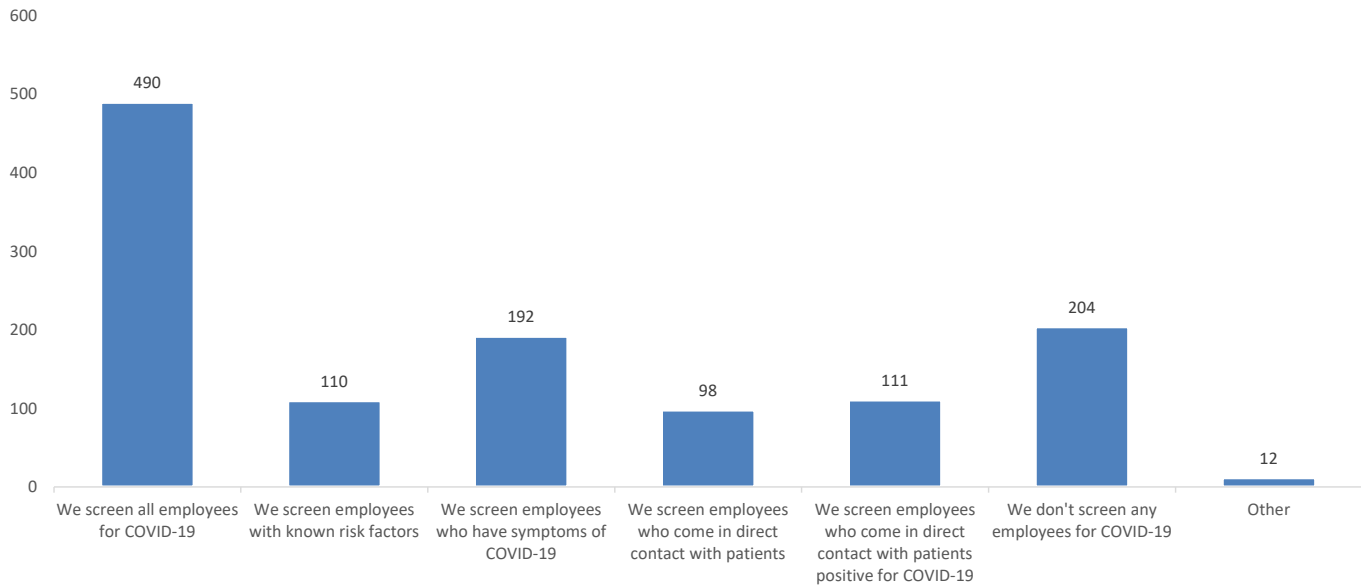
**6e) Responses to question #6a limited to respondents that indicated “FQHC/RHC” in question #4.
(15 of 998 responses included)**



Employee Screening

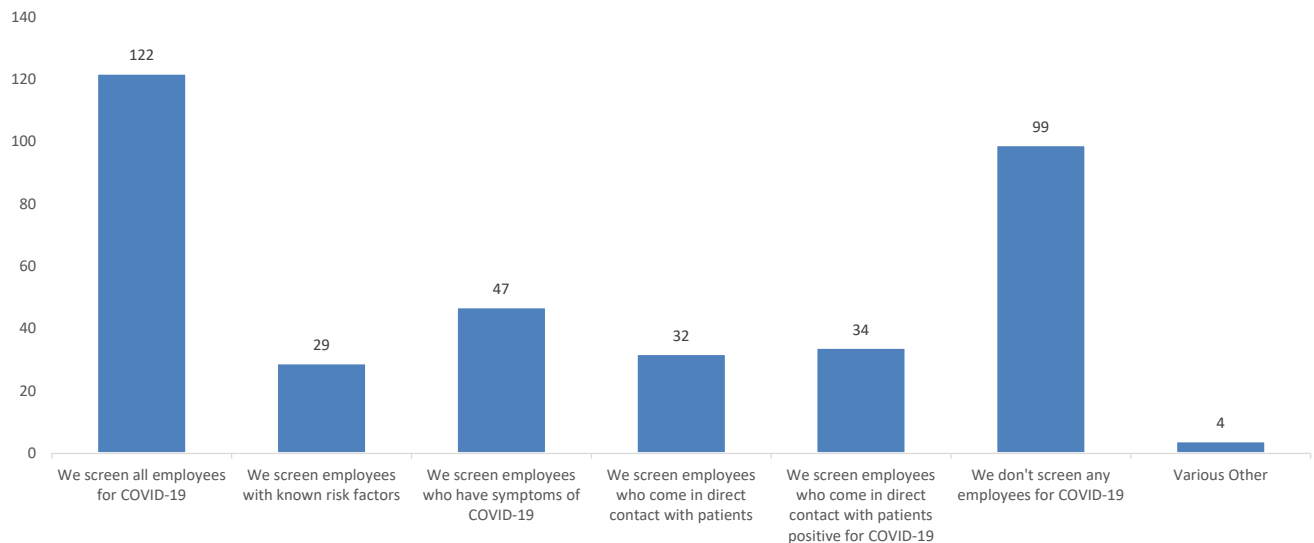
7a) Screening for COVID-19 is a series of questions asked to determine a person's risk for COVID-19. Which of the following apply to your organization regarding screening employees?

(857 of 998 responses included)

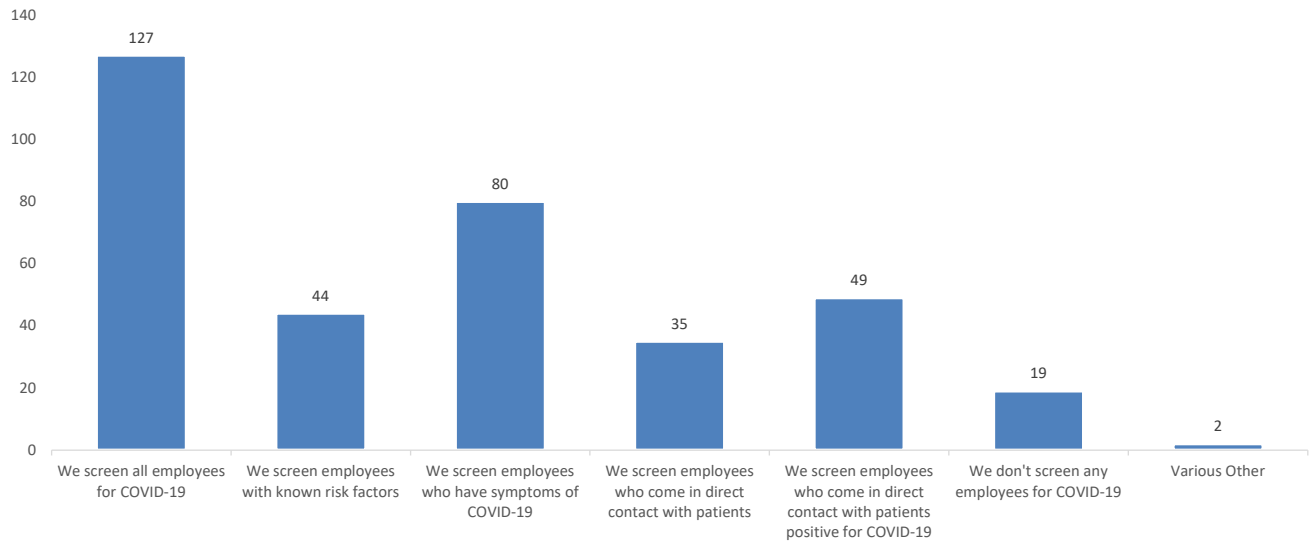


7b) Responses to question #7a limited to respondents that indicated "Solo Practice" in question #4.

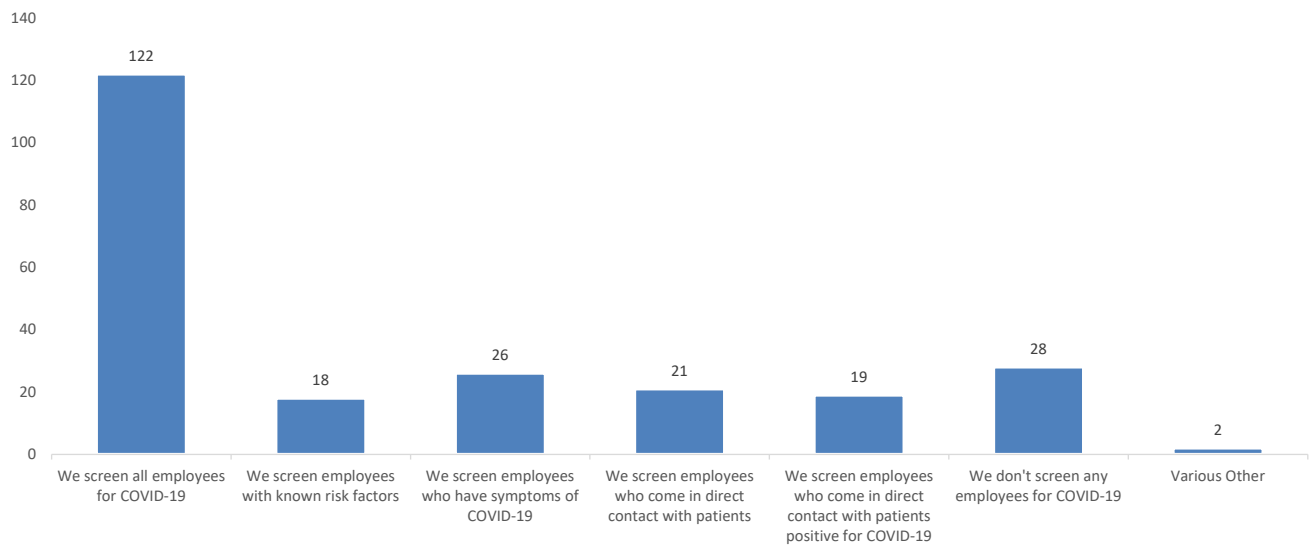
(256 of 998 responses included)



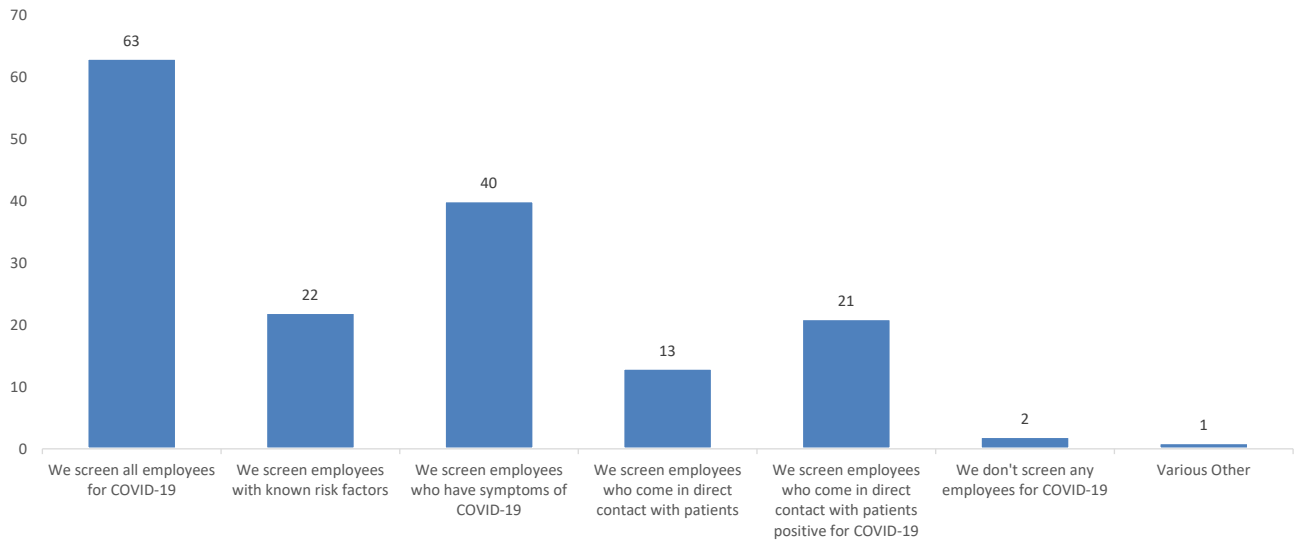
7c) Responses to question #7a limited to respondents that indicated “Primary Care Clinic” in question #4.
 (208 of 998 responses included)



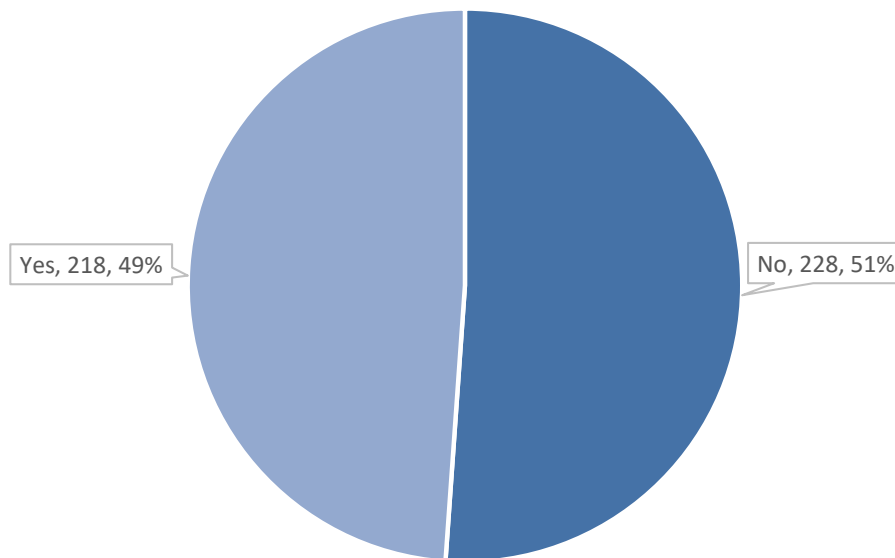
7d) Responses to question #7a limited to respondents that indicated “Specialty Clinic” in question #4.
 (168 of 998 responses included)



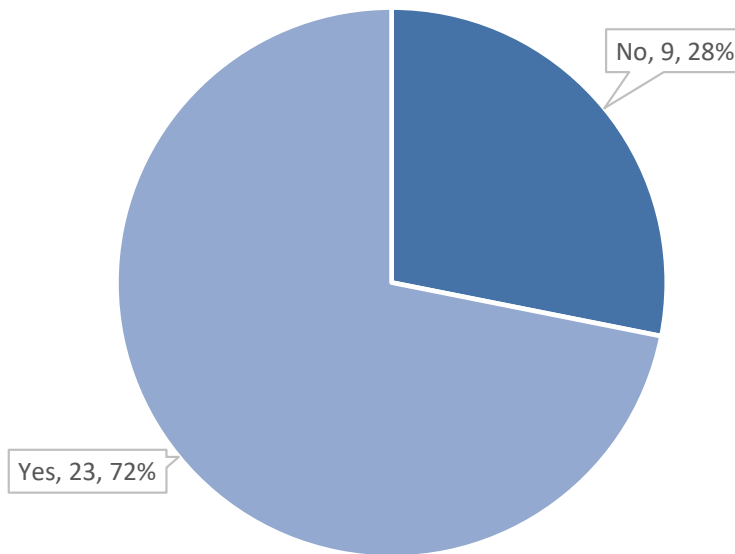
**7e) Responses to question #7a limited to respondents that indicated “FQHC/RHC” in question #4.
(100 of 998 responses included)**



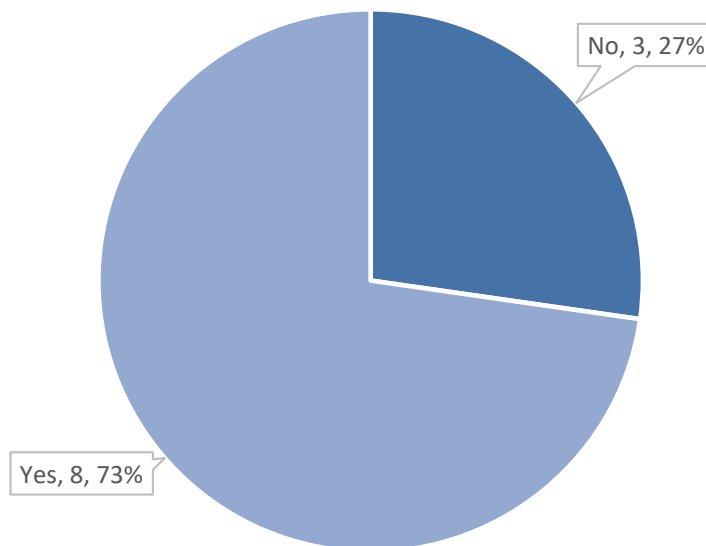
**8a) If you are not screening employees for COVID-19, are you planning to screen in the next 3-6 months?
(446 of 998 responses included)**



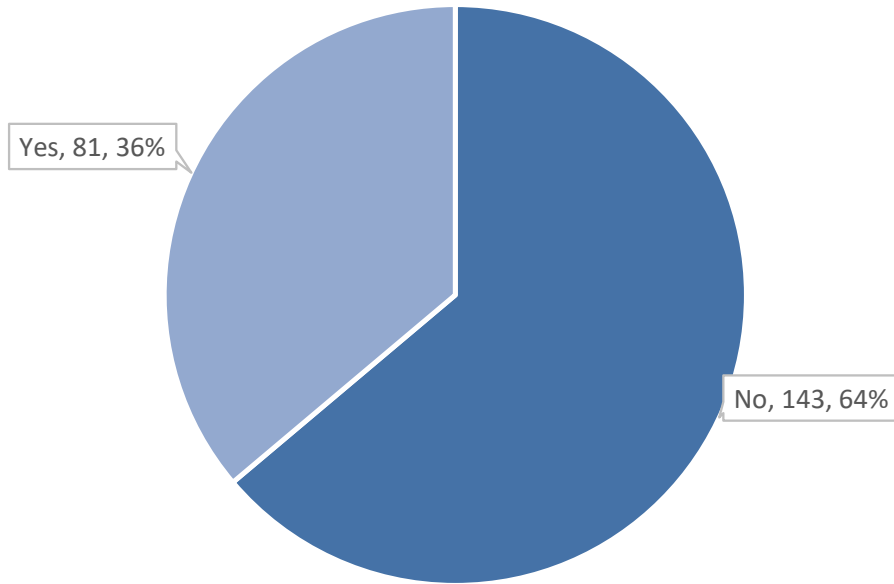
**8b) Responses to question #8a limited to respondents that indicated “Hospital” in question #3.
(32 of 998 responses included)**



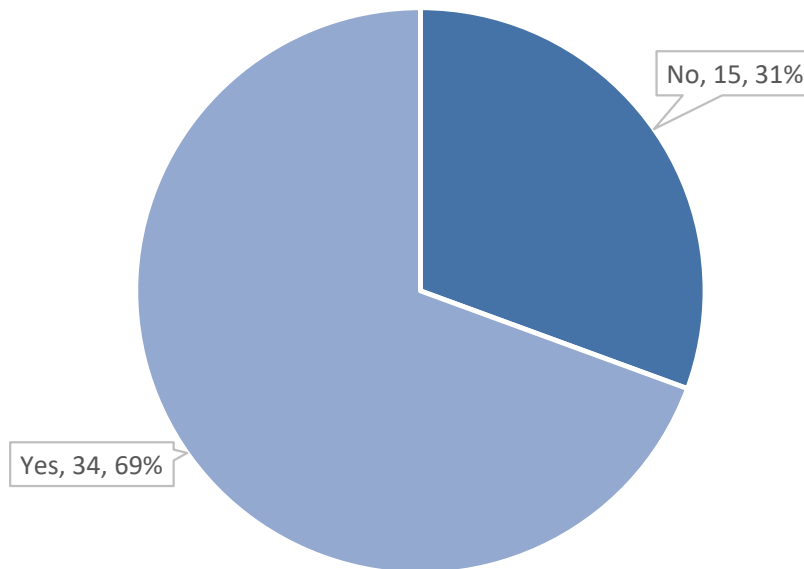
**8c) Responses to question #8a limited to respondents that indicated “Residential Treatment”
in question #3.
(11 of 998 responses included)**



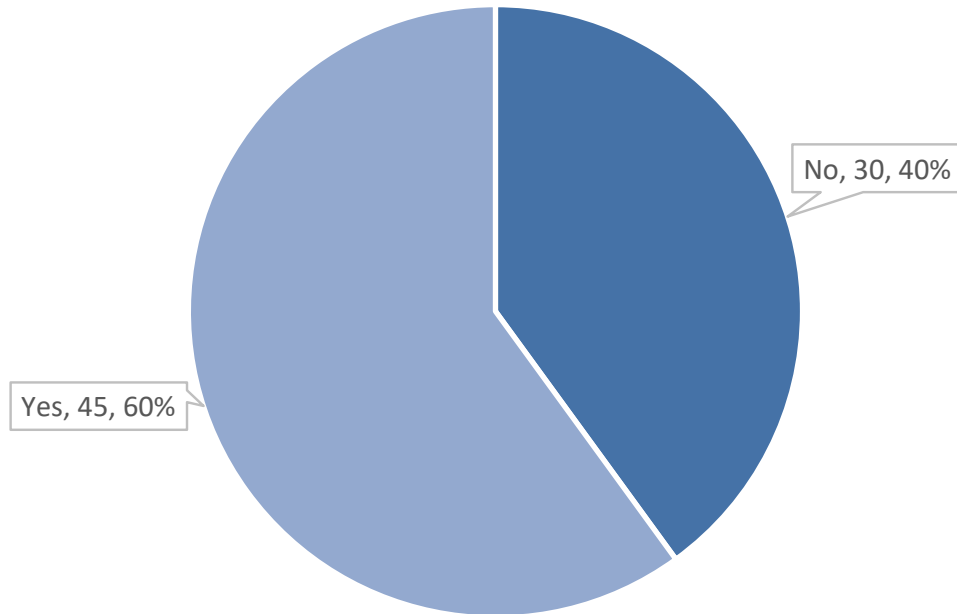
**8d) Responses to question #8a limited to respondents that indicated “Solo Practice” in question #4.
(224 of 998 responses included)**



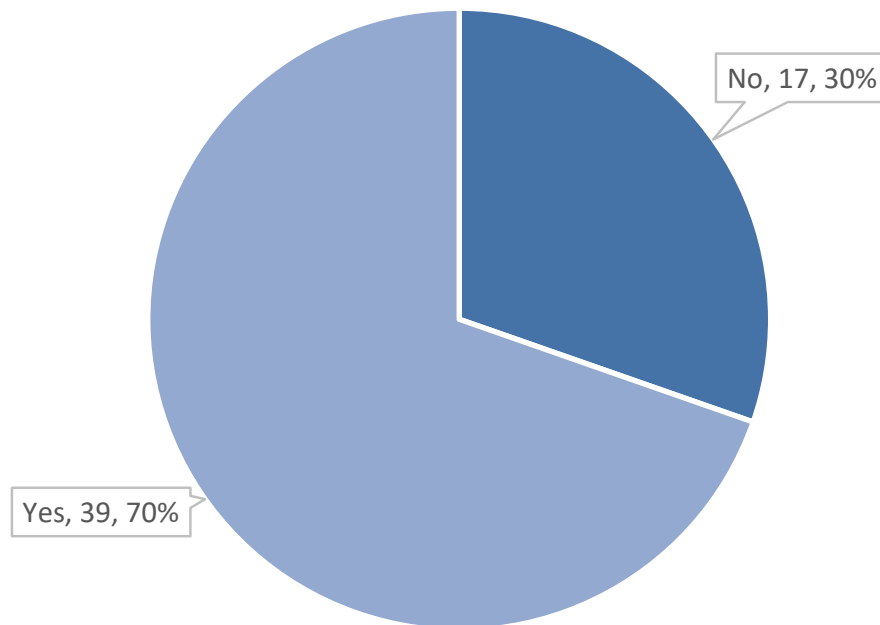
**8e) Responses to question #8a limited to respondents that indicated “Primary Care Clinic” in question #4.
(49 of 998 responses included)**



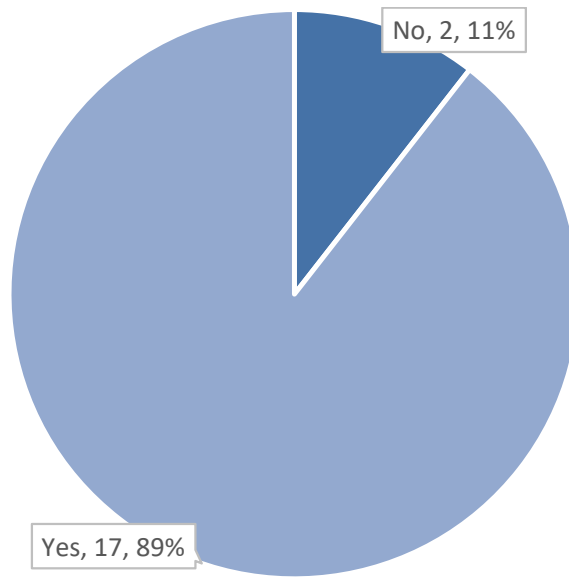
**8f) Responses to question #8a limited to respondents that indicated “Mental Health Clinic” in question #4.
(75 of 998 responses included)**



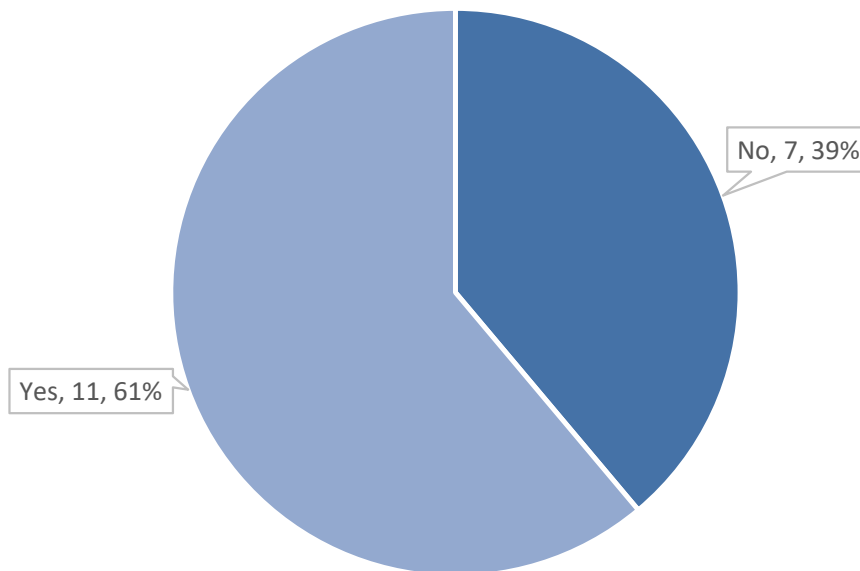
**8g) Responses to question #8a limited to respondents that indicated “Mental Health Rehab”
in question #4.
(56 of 998 responses included)**



**8h) Responses to question #8a limited to respondents that indicated “FQHC/RHC” in question #4.
(19 of 998 responses included)**

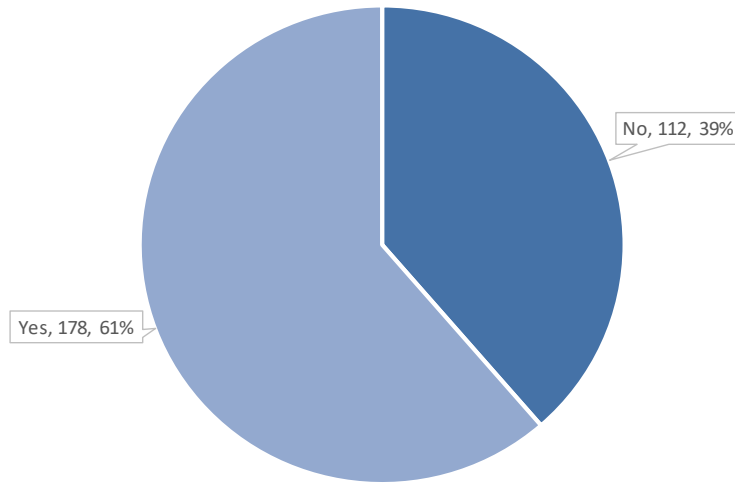


**8i) Responses to question #8a limited to respondents that indicated “Multi-Specialty Clinic” in question #4.
(18 of 998 responses included)**

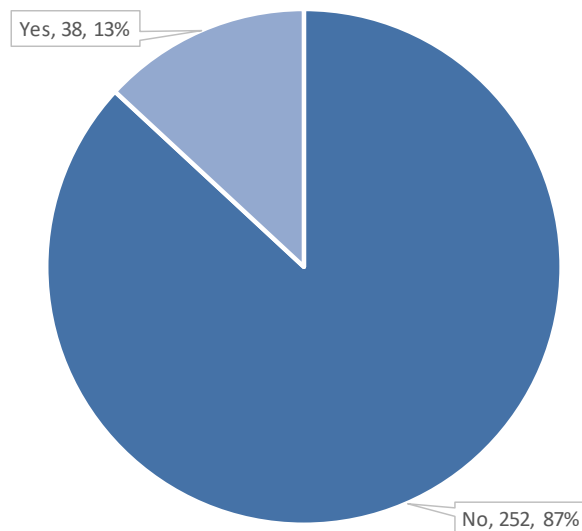


Diagnostic Testing

9) For initial diagnostic testing, CDC recommends collecting and testing upper tract specimens (nasopharyngeal swab). Is your facility collecting and testing upper tract specimens?
(290 of 998 responses included)¹

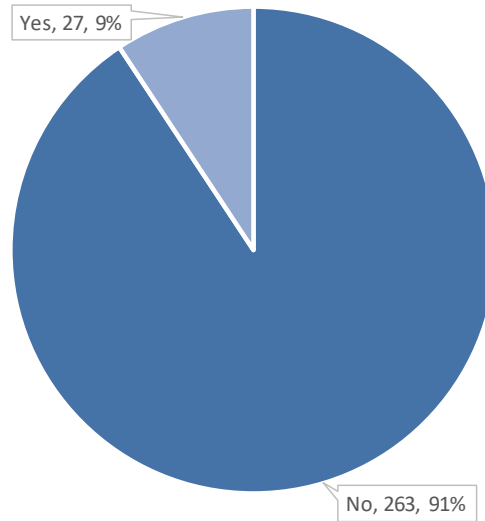


10) CDC also recommends collecting lower tract specimens, if available. Is your facility collecting sputum and testing for COVID-19 for patients who develop a productive cough?
(290 of 998 responses included)¹

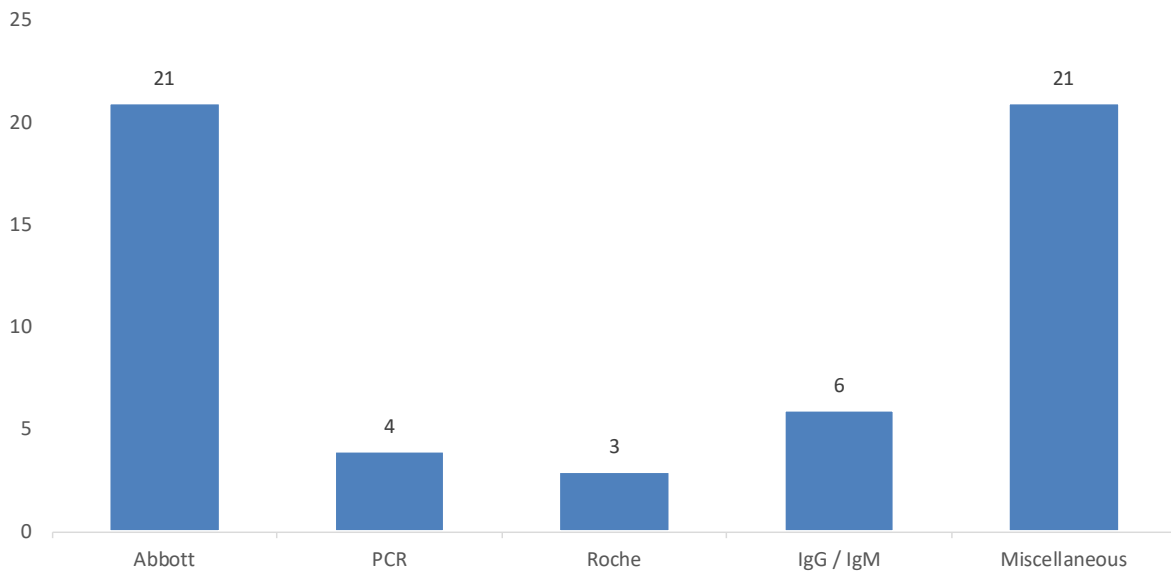


¹ Summarized responses were limited to only those respondents that indicated they were "Physical Health" in question 1 and either "Primary Care Clinic", "FQHC/RHC", or "Solo Practice" in question 4.

**11) On March 21, 2020 the US Food and Drug Administration issued the first emergency use authorization for a point of care COVID-19 diagnostic test (rapid test). Is your facility performing rapid diagnostic tests?
(290 of 998 responses included)²**

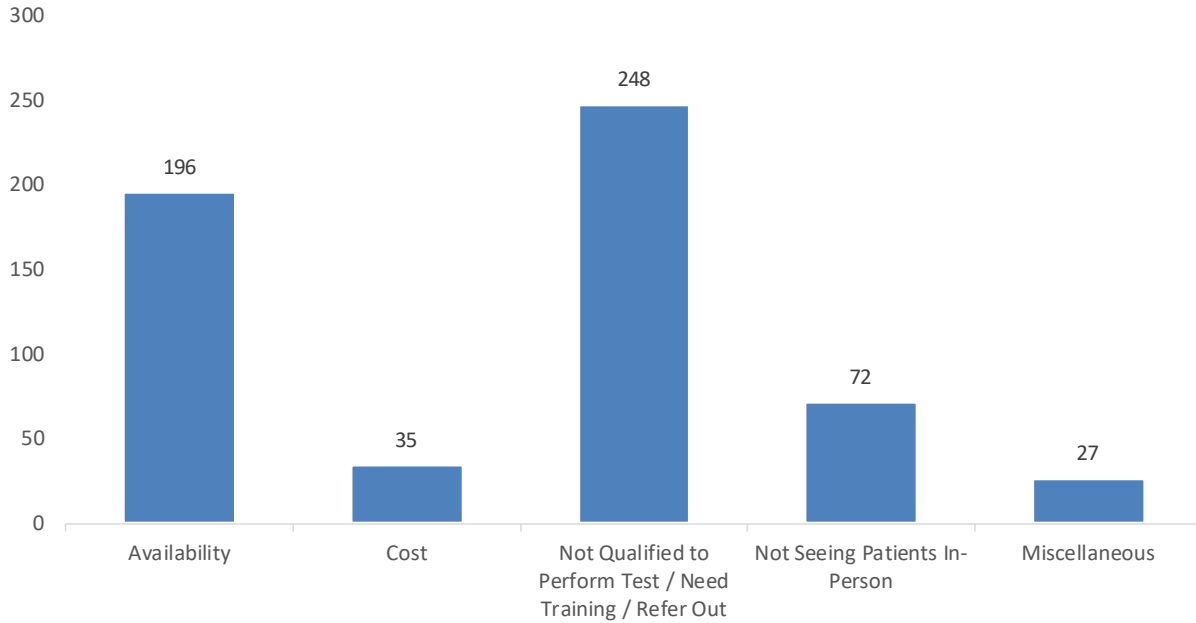


**12) If you are performing rapid tests, which one are you using?
(52 of 998 responses included)**

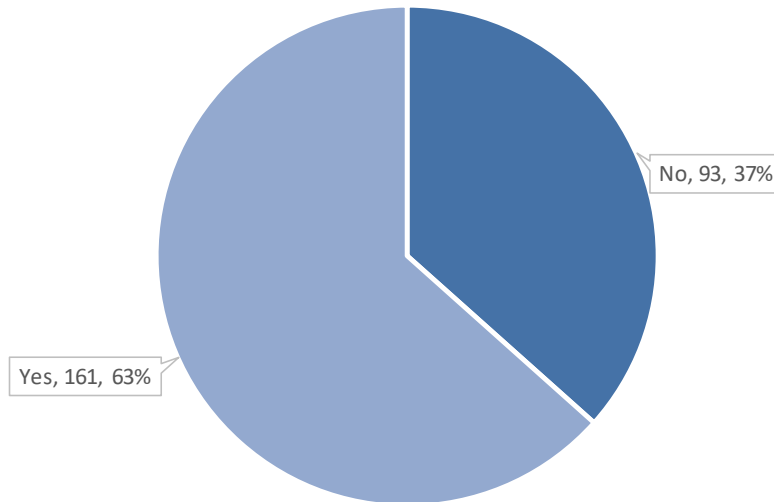


² Summarized responses were limited to only those respondents that indicated they were “Physical Health” in question 1 and either “Primary Care Clinic”, “FQHC/RHC”, or “Solo Practice” in question 4.

13) If you are not performing any tests, please list barriers to testing.
(529 of 998 responses included)

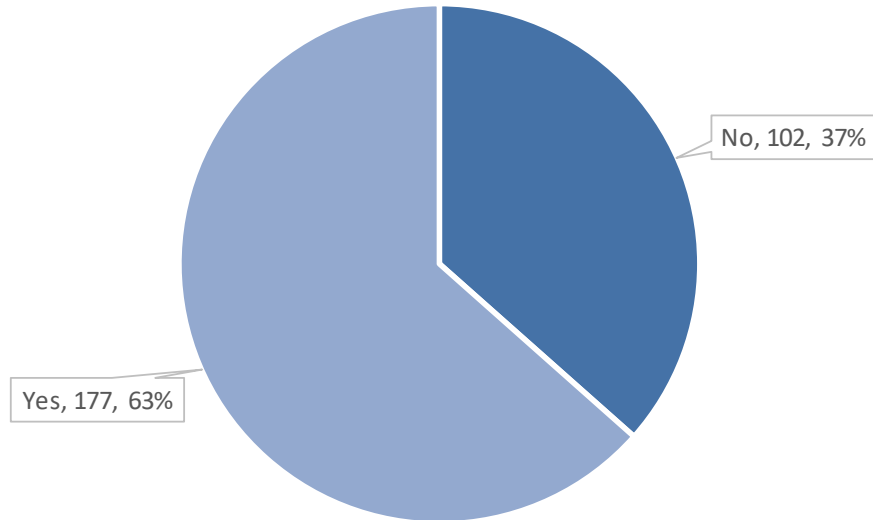


14) Do you plan to perform any diagnostic tests in the next 3-6 months?
(254 of 998 responses included)³

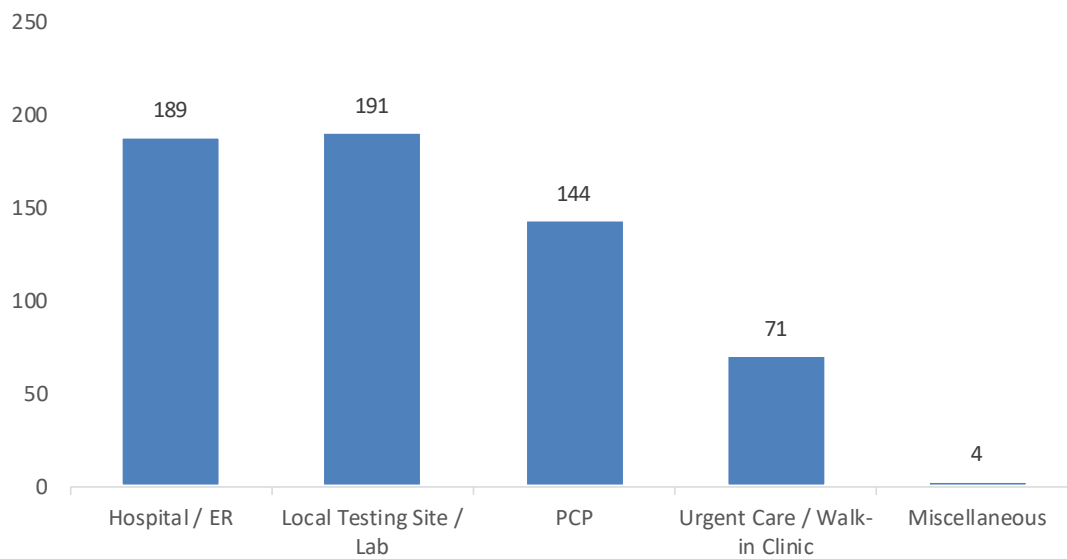


³ Summarized responses were limited to only those respondents that indicated they were “Physical Health” in question 1 and either “Primary Care Clinic”, “FQHC/RHC”, or “Solo Practice” in question 4.

15) Do you refer for testing?
(279 of 998 responses included)⁴



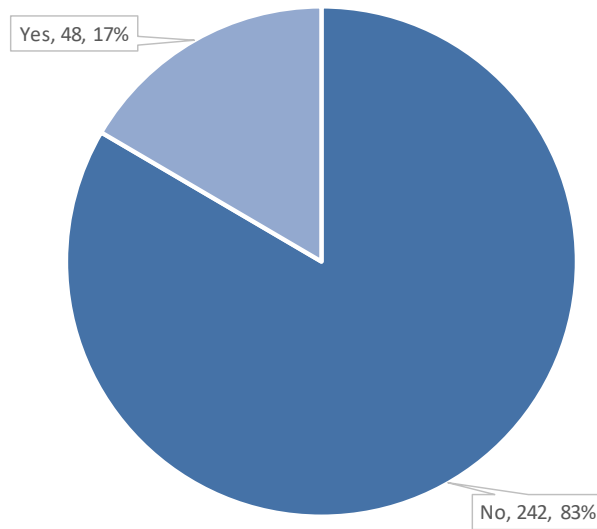
16) If yes, where do you refer for testing?
(497 of 998 responses included)



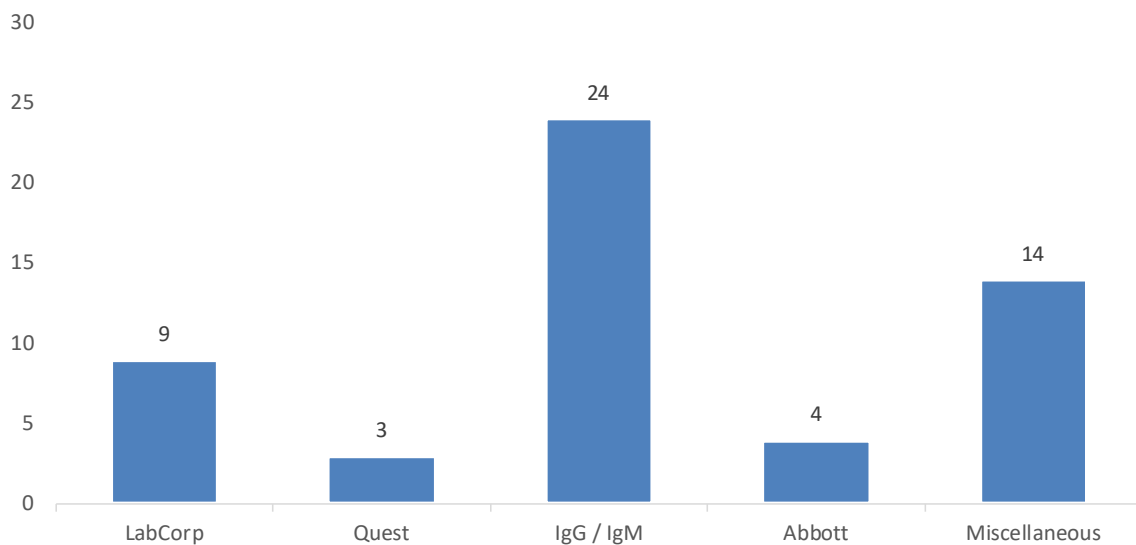
⁴ Summarized responses were limited to only those respondents that indicated they were "Physical Health" in question 1 and either "Primary Care Clinic", "FQHC/RHC", or "Solo Practice" in question 4.

Antibody Tests

17) Antibody tests check to see if a person has previously been infected with COVID-19. Is your organization currently administering antibody testing?
(290 of 998 responses included)⁵

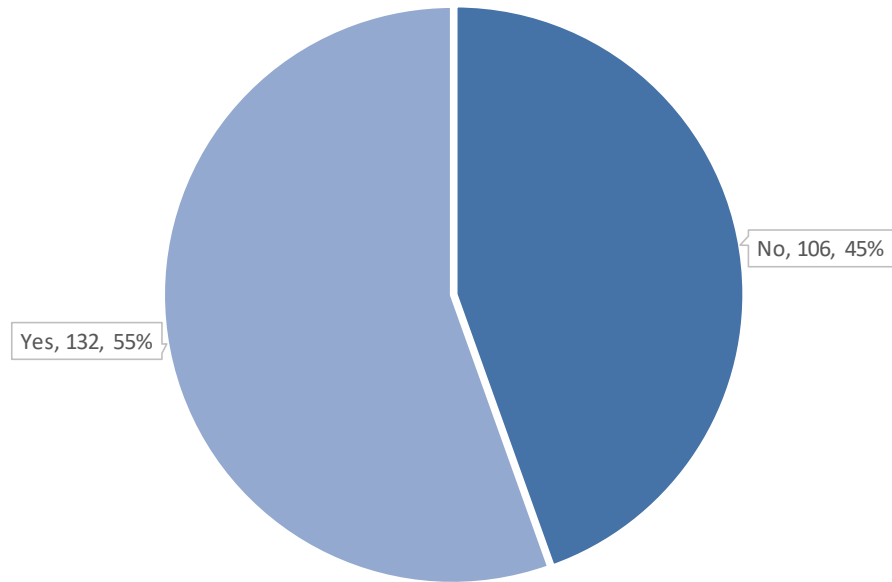


18) If yes, what antibody tests are you administering?
(53 of 998 responses included)



⁵ Summarized responses were limited to only those respondents that indicated they were “Physical Health” in question 1 and either “Primary Care Clinic”, “FQHC/RHC”, or “Solo Practice” in question 4.

19) If you are not administering any antibody tests, do you have plans to administer in the next 3-6 months?
(238 of 998 responses included)⁶



⁶ Summarized responses were limited to only those respondents that indicated they were “Physical Health” in question 1 and either “Primary Care Clinic”, “FQHC/RHC”, or “Solo Practice” in question 4.

Methodology

The survey was conducted to establish a baseline of current and future COVID-19 provider screening and testing practices.⁷ An email invitation to the survey was circulated to 10,716 providers within the Medicaid health plans' networks on April 23, 2020.⁸ The survey was closed on June 2, 2020.

Nine-hundred and ninety-eight respondents completed the survey.

The preceding findings exclude responses to individual questions if the response to that question was left blank by the respondent or otherwise determined not to be applicable. The number of responses included for each question is documented along with each summary exhibit in the preceding section.

For questions 1-2, 6, 8-11, 14-15, 17, and 19 the respondent was only allowed to select one answer from a pre-populated set of options. The responses to these questions are summarized using pie charts to indicate the prevalence of each response.

For questions 3-5, and 7, the respondent was allowed to select multiple answers from a pre-populated set of options. For these questions, the results were summarized using a bar chart to show the number of responses for each option. Note that for these questions the sum of responses assigned to the various options will exceed the total number of responses included in the summary since some respondents selected more than one option.

Questions 3-5, and 7 also included an "Other" option which allowed the respondent to further specify their response through a free-response field. The answers to these questions indicated a significant portion of "Other". As a result, the associated "Other" free-responses were reviewed and re-categorized using judgement. The summary of responses to questions 3-5 and 7 include additional uncertainty due to the judgement relied upon to categorize the "Other" responses.

Questions 12, 13, 16, and 18 were free-response questions that allowed the respondent to directly input their response instead of selecting from pre-populated options. These responses were categorized into the most common types of responses observed. Some responses to these questions were assigned to multiple categories. There is additional uncertainty in the summarization of responses for questions 12, 13, 16, and 18 as a result of the judgement relied upon in summarizing the responses.

More detailed survey results, analysis and methodology are available from LMMA by contacting Chris Broussard, Communications Chair, chbroussard@LouisianaHealthConnect.com.

⁷ The LMMA COVID-19 provider survey can be viewed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9WL3YGM>

⁸ Each health plan provided a list of email addresses for providers in their network, resulting in 10,716 unique email addresses.

About the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association

Over 1.6 million Louisiana residents receive health care coverage through the Medicaid health plans of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association. We collaborate with government partners, providers, community organizations and our members to improve health, encourage whole-person wellness, and responsibly manage health care costs.

The Medicaid health plans of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association are:



AETNA BETTER HEALTH® OF LOUISIANA

