



American Hospital  
Association®



University of Michigan  
Health System



# Impact of Drug Shortages: Results of Two Independent National Surveys

September 26, 2011

Roslyne D. W. Schulman  
Director, Policy Development  
American Hospital Association

Gundy Sweet, PharmD, FASHP  
Director, Drug Information Service  
University of Michigan Health System

# Disclosures:

---

- Roslyne D. W. Schulman, American Hospital Association has nothing to declare.
- Gundy Sweet, PharmD, University of Michigan Health System and College of Pharmacy has nothing to declare.

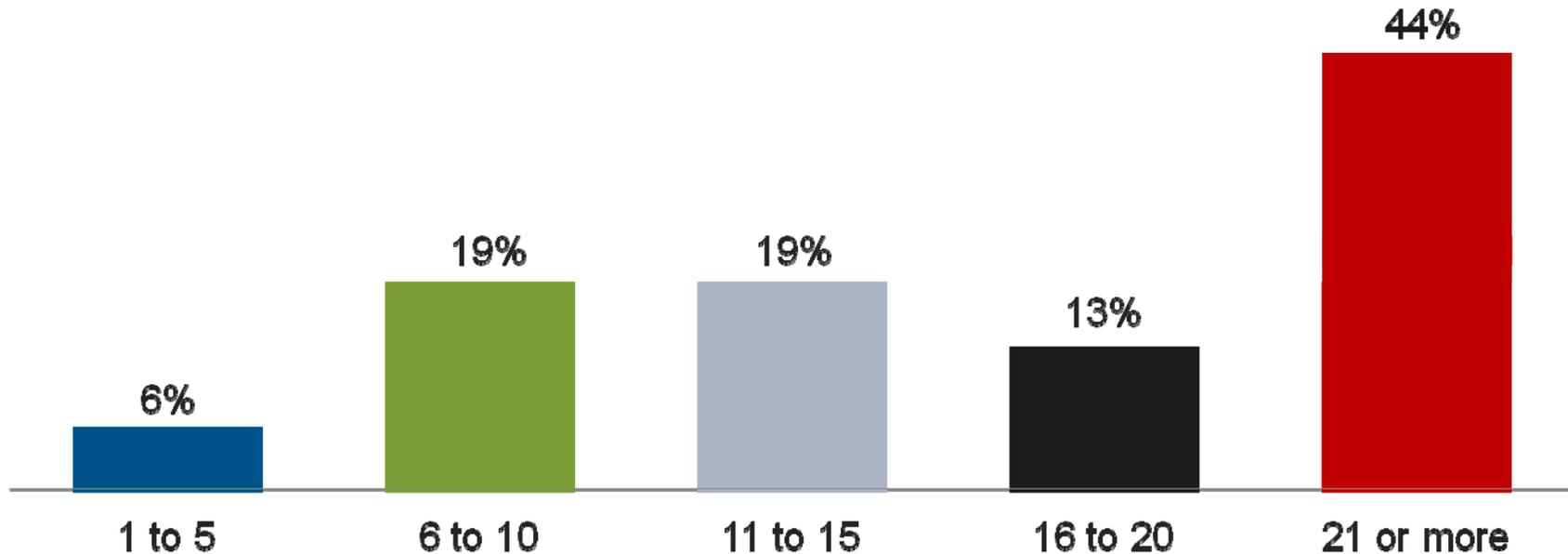
	<b>AHA Survey</b>	<b>ASHP/Michigan Survey</b>
Population	Community hospital CEOs	Directors of pharmacy in ASHP database
Survey Dates	June 2011	Nov 2010
Responses received	820 health systems	353 health systems
Purpose	-Assess impact of drug shortages on patients and hospitals	-Quantify personnel resources required to manage shortages -Define breadth of shortages -Assess adequacy of information resources

- Nationally there are about 2,800 urban hospitals,1,300 critical access hospitals and 1,000 other rural hospitals.
- All 50 states are represented in survey results.

- 
- **Over 99% of hospitals reported experiencing one or more drug shortages in both surveys**
    - Nearly half of the hospitals reported 21 or more drug shortages in the 1<sup>st</sup> six months of 2011 alone
    - The number of shortages experienced increases with increasing hospital size
    - Drug shortages happened across all treatment categories
  - **Patient care has been impacted as a result of drug shortages**
    - Patient care has been delayed
    - Treatment with less effective alternatives has been required
    - Adverse patient outcomes have occurred

# Over 99% of hospitals reported experiencing one or more drug shortages with nearly half having $\geq 21$ shortages in the 1<sup>st</sup> six months of 2011 alone

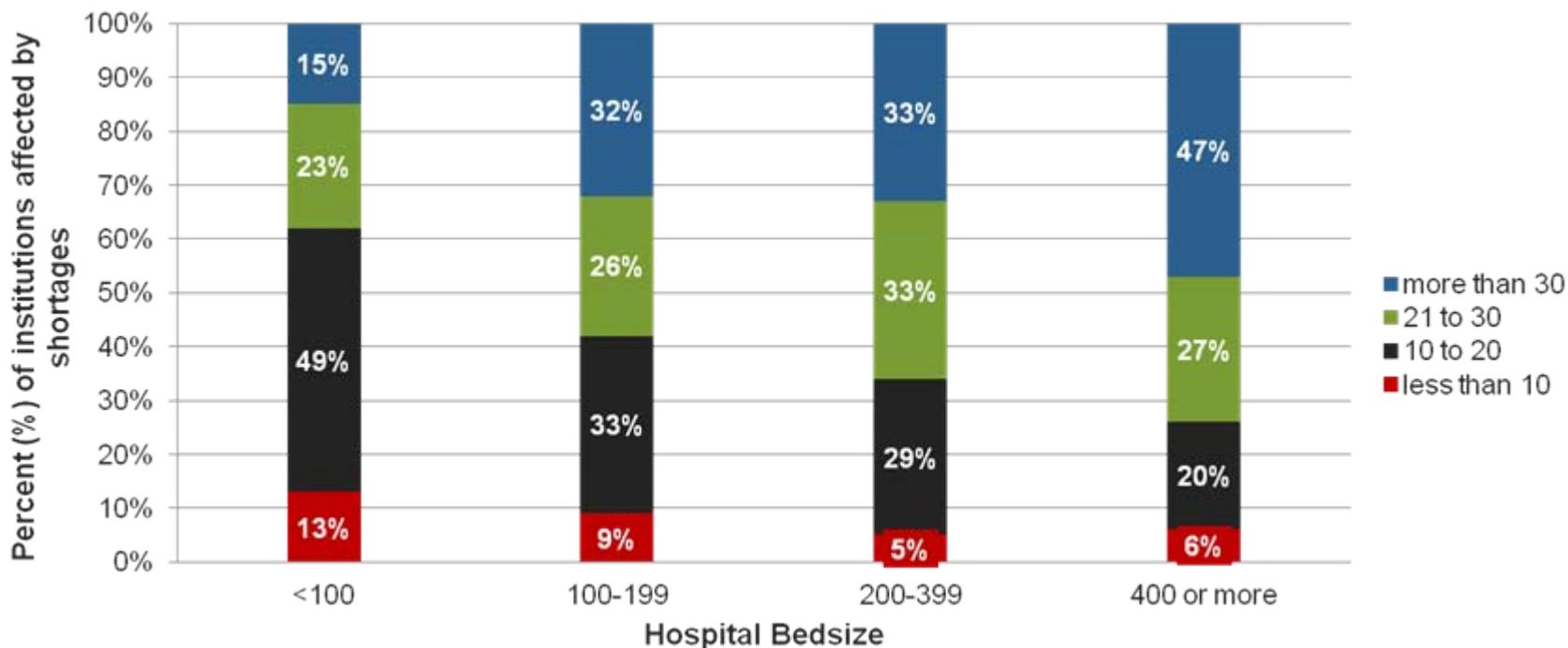
Percent of Hospitals Reporting Number of Unique Drug Shortages\*  
Data from 1<sup>st</sup> six months of 2011\*\*



\*\*Similar results reported in the UofM/ASHP survey in November 2010\*\*

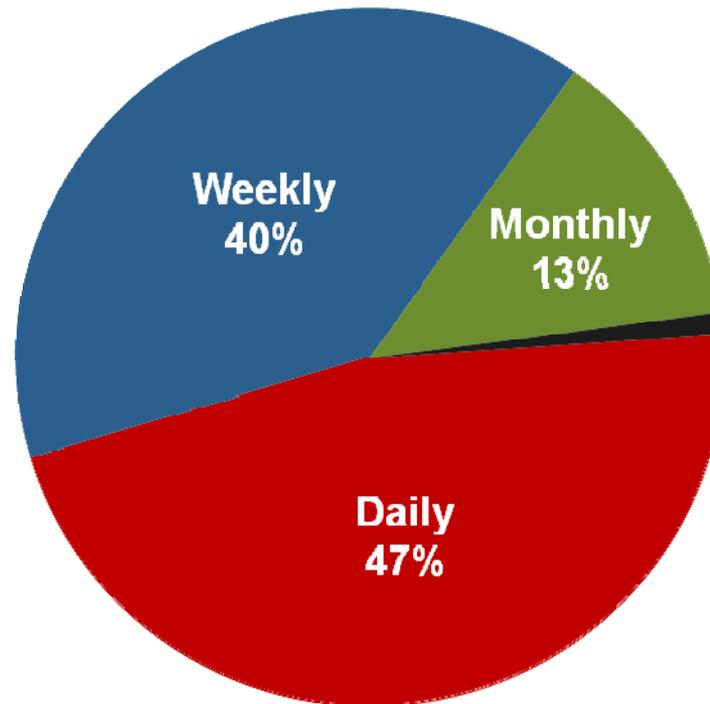
# As hospital size increased so did number of shortages

Number of shortages experienced by hospital size



# Nearly half of hospitals reported experiencing a drug shortage on a daily basis and only 1% experienced no shortages

Percent of Hospitals Experiencing a Drug Shortage by Frequency

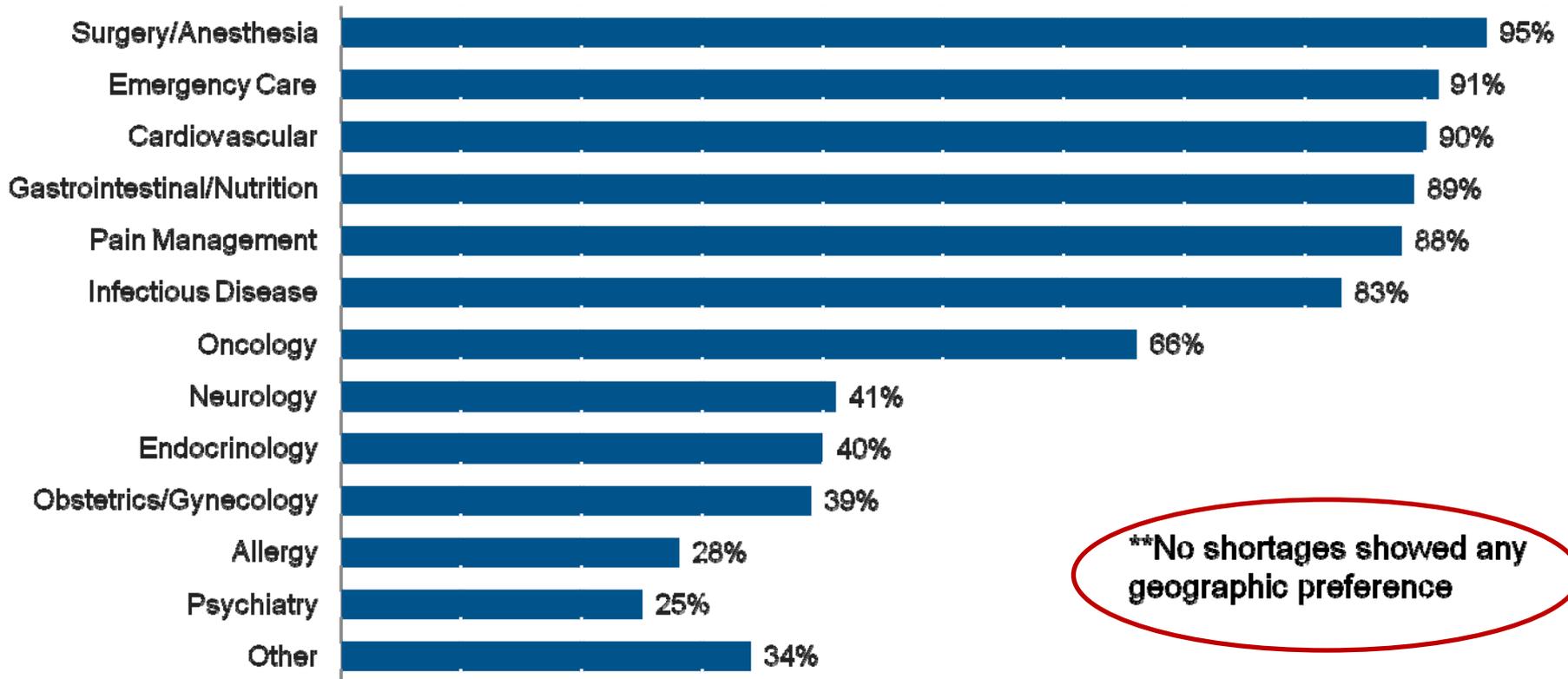


**Only 1% did not experience any shortages\*\***

\*\*Similar results reported in the UofM/ASHP survey in November 2010\*\*

# Hospitals report experiencing drug shortages across all treatment categories

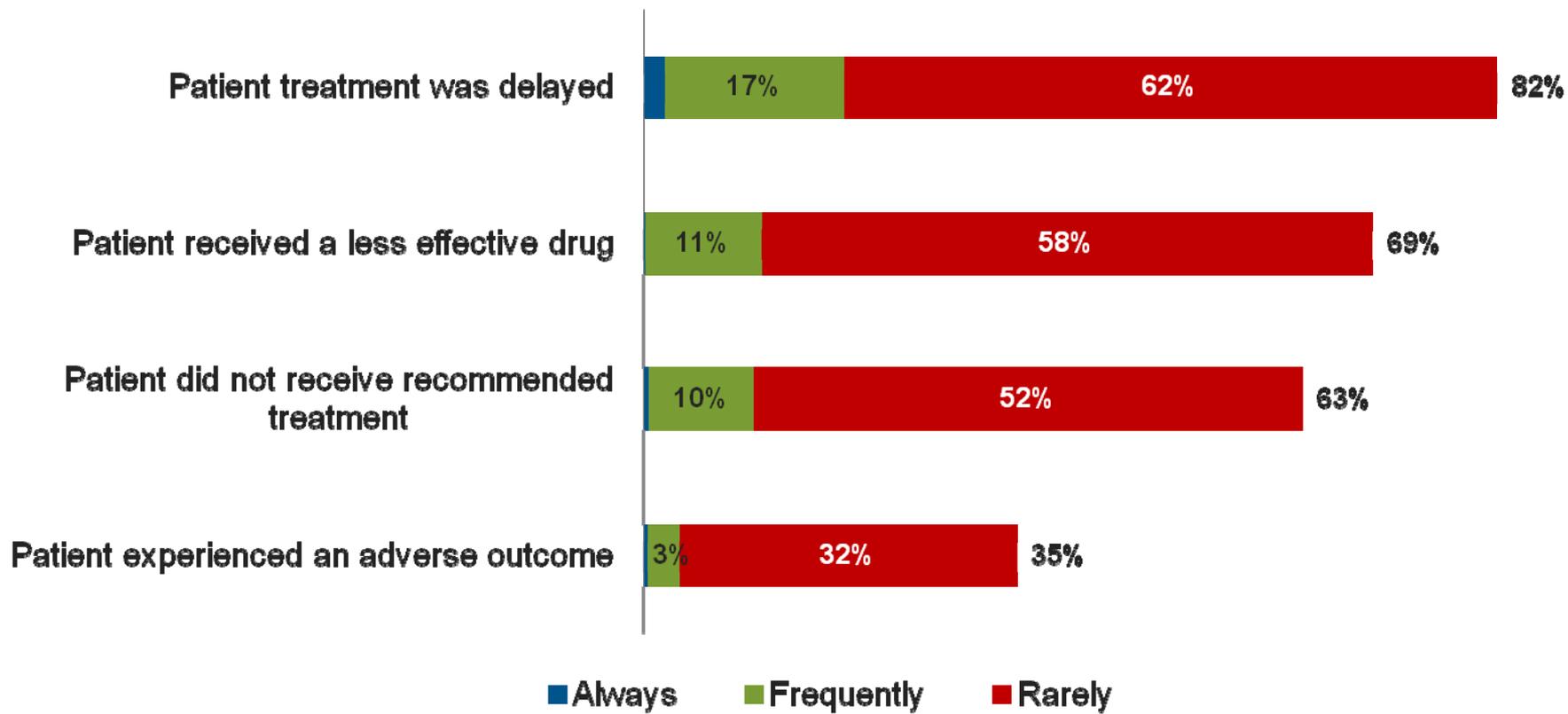
## Percent of Hospitals Experiencing a Drug Shortage by Treatment Category



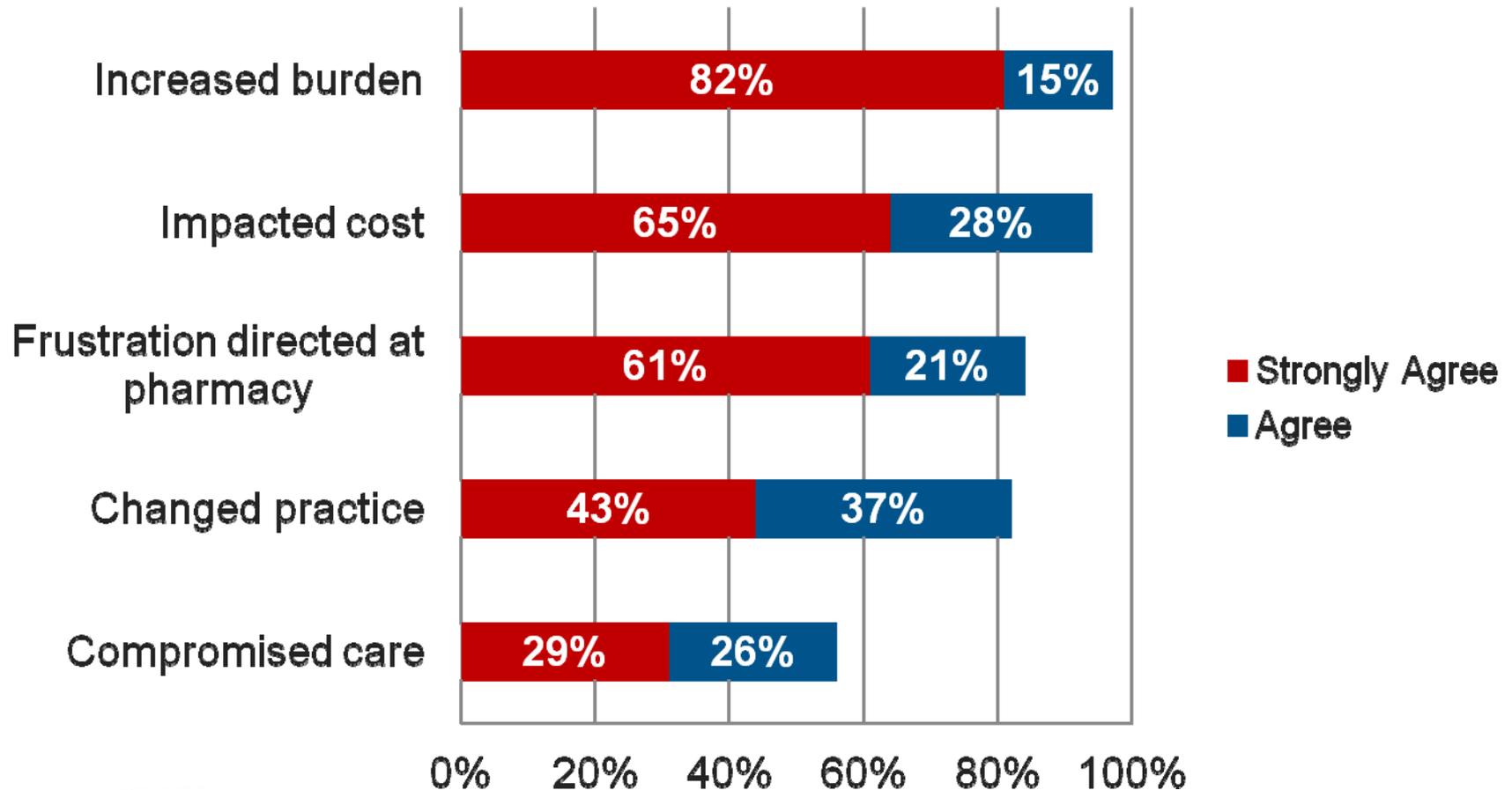
**\*\*No shortages showed any geographic preference**

# 20% of hospitals reported always or frequently delaying patient treatment and over 10% were not always able to provide the patient with the recommended treatment

## Percent of Hospitals Reporting the Impact on Patient Care as a Result of a Drug Shortage

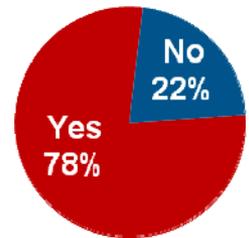


# Over half of hospitals report shortages are changing practice/ compromising care and nearly all report an increased burden



Source: UofM/ASHP survey of 353 health systems collected in November 2010

- **Hospitals are taking many actions to reduce the impact of drug shortages**
  - Closely tracking inventory and moving stock
  - Changing dispensing practices (using different dose form, compounding from multidose vial instead of ready-to-use systems)
  - Allocating supplies/rationing resources to those in greatest need
  - Identifying and implementing alternative therapies
  - Adding back-up inventory for critically necessary drug categories
  - Establish contracts with new suppliers to secure back-up sources of drugs
- **Most shortages required use of several of these techniques**



Hospitals are using all information resources available to them but 70% feel the information is inadequate

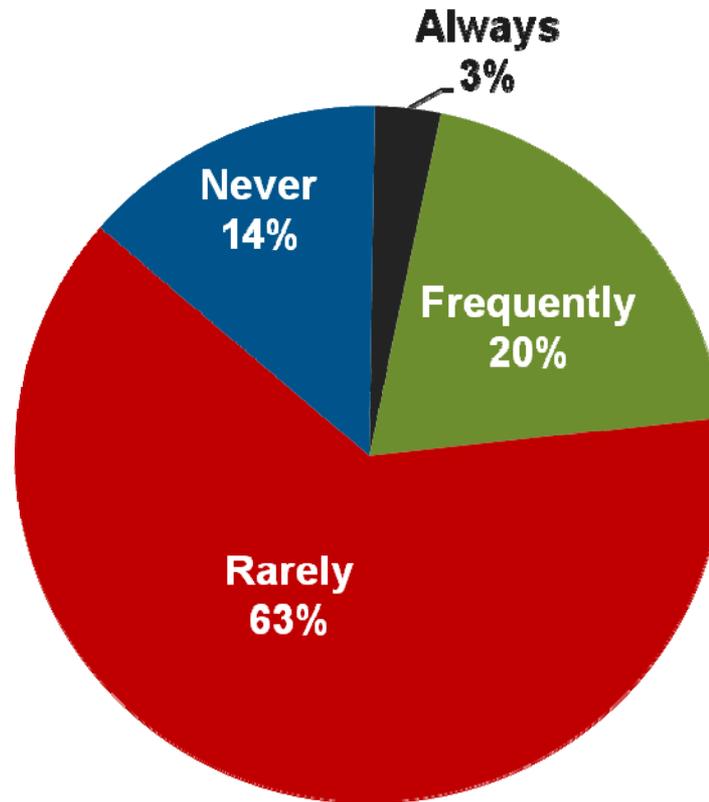
Information Resource	Reported Use
ASHP Drug Shortage website	89%
Wholesaler website/communications	84%
GPO website/communications	74%
FDA Drug Shortage website	72%
Direct communications with manufacturers	67%

70% felt information available to manage drug shortages was inadequate

# Three of 4 hospitals report that they rarely or never receive advance notice of drug shortages...

Percent of Hospitals Reporting They Receive Advance Notice of Drug Shortages from Drug Manufacturers, Wholesalers, Distributors, Group Purchasing Organizations or the FDA\*\*

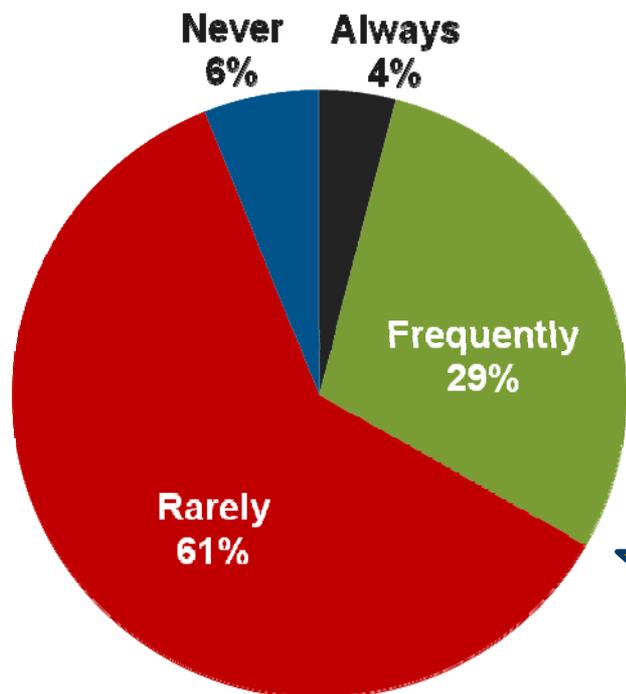
★ Advanced/timely notification is needed



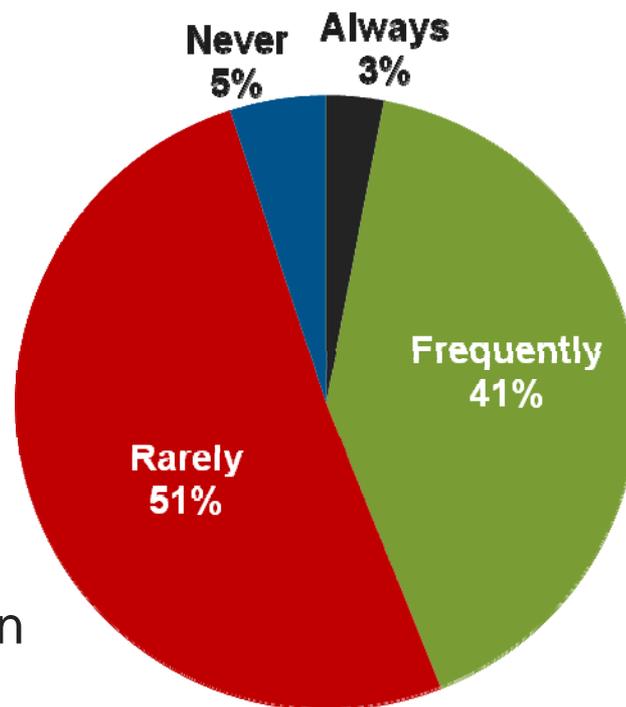
\*\*Similar results reported in the UofM/ASHP survey in November 2010\*\*

# ...and are often not informed of the cause or the expected duration of the shortage\*\*

Percent of Hospitals Informed of the Cause of the Drug Shortage



Percent of Hospitals Informed of the Expected Duration of the Drug Shortage

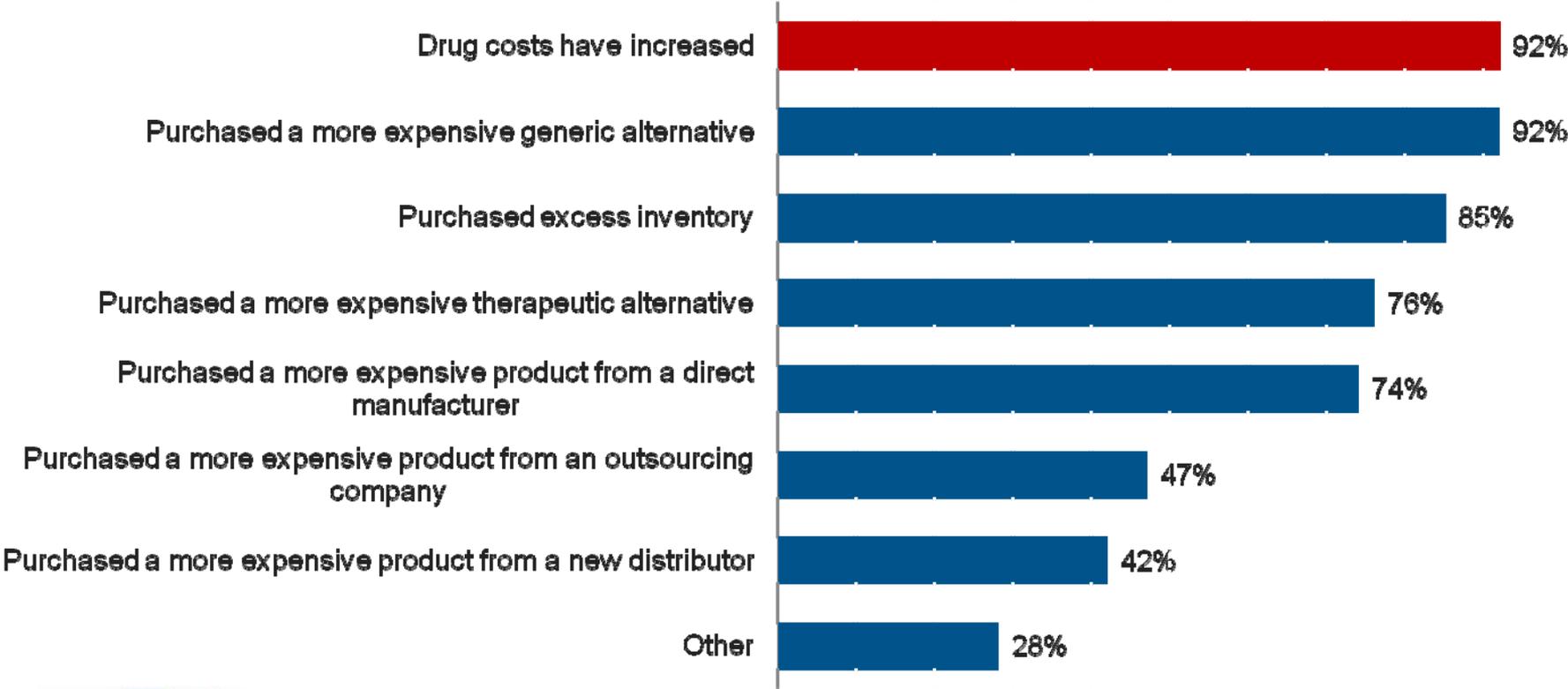


★ Accurate information is needed

- **Labor resources associated with managing shortages are not insignificant**
  - Most institutions reallocated existing staff; few added incremental staff to manage shortages
  - Significant association exists between time needed to manage shortages and hospital size, level of automation, and number of shortages experienced
- **Multidisciplinary involvement is required for many shortages**
  - Majority of hours are spent by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
  - Involvement of physicians and nurses is often required
- **National labor costs associated with managing drug shortages are estimated at \$216 million annually**

# Increased drug costs as a result of purchasing more expensive alternative drugs from other sources is also reported by nearly all hospitals

Percent of Hospitals Reporting Increased Drug Costs as a Result of Drug Shortages \*

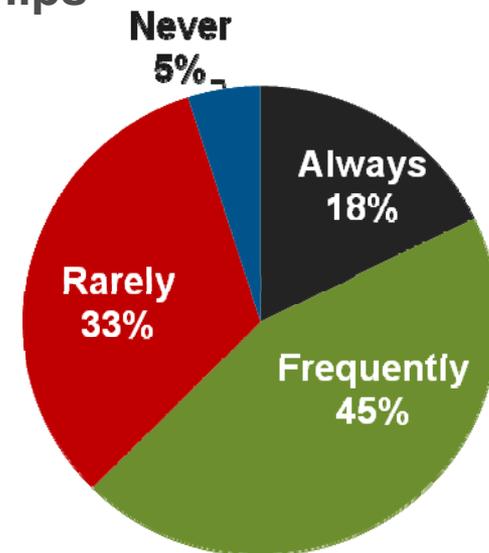


Source: AHA survey of 820 non-federal acute care hospitals collected in June 2011  
\*Percentages include hospitals reporting they “always” or “frequently” took indicated action.

# Summary: Numerous Negative Impacts Resulting from Drug Shortages

- Patient Care
- Personnel Resource Utilization
- Financial Burden
- Strained Healthcare Professional Relationships

Two-thirds of hospitals report that drug shortages are straining relationships with medical staff.



# Closing Quotes from Respondents

---

“We spend more hours now putting out these fires and finding medication than improving patient care.”

“There is a great deal of time and effort involved in communicating with all staff.”

“In 30 years of practice I have never seen problems like we are having now.”