



Health Centers at the Launch of Coverage Expansion: Thriving or Just Surviving?

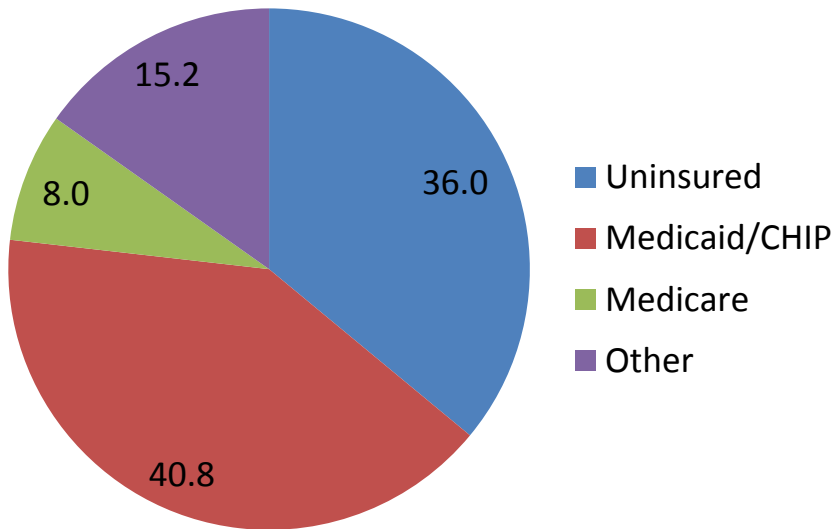
Melinda Abrams
The Commonwealth Fund
mka@cmwf.org

Alliance for Health Reform Briefing
May 16, 2014

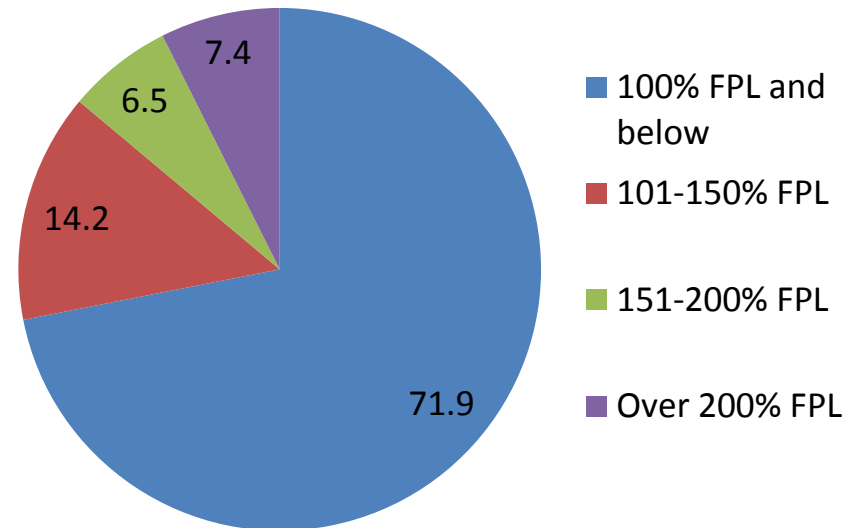
Background

1200 Federally Qualified Health Centers serve more than 21 million patients through 8,500 sites

Patients by Insurance, 2012

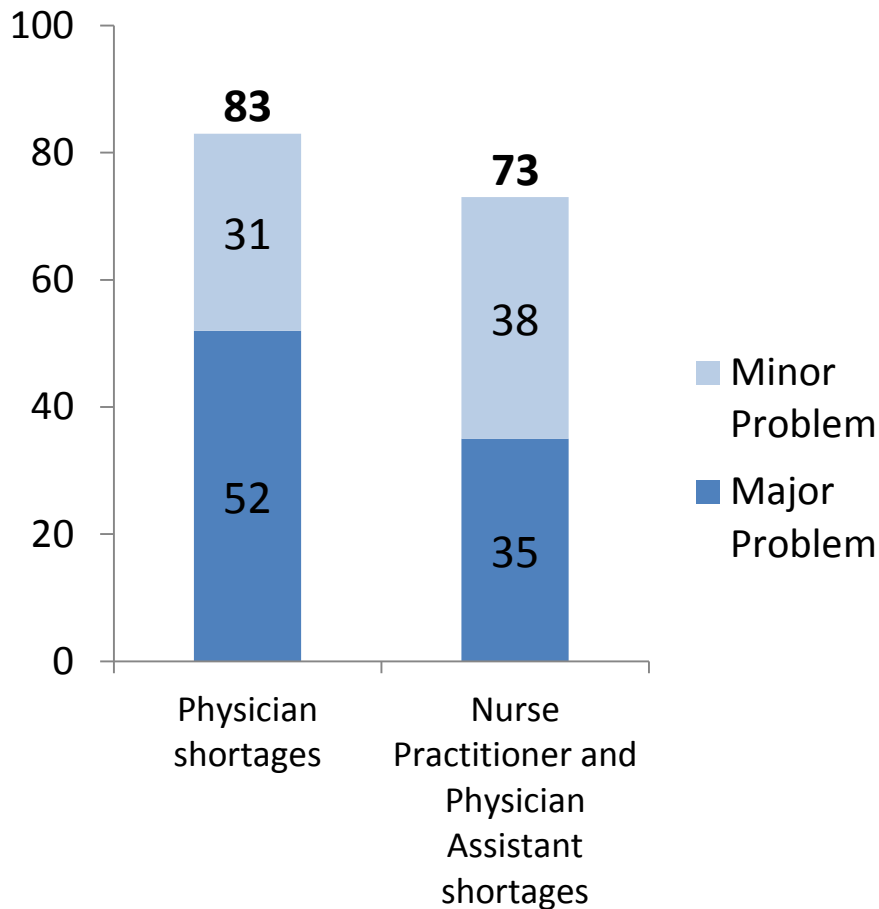


Patients by Poverty Level, 2012

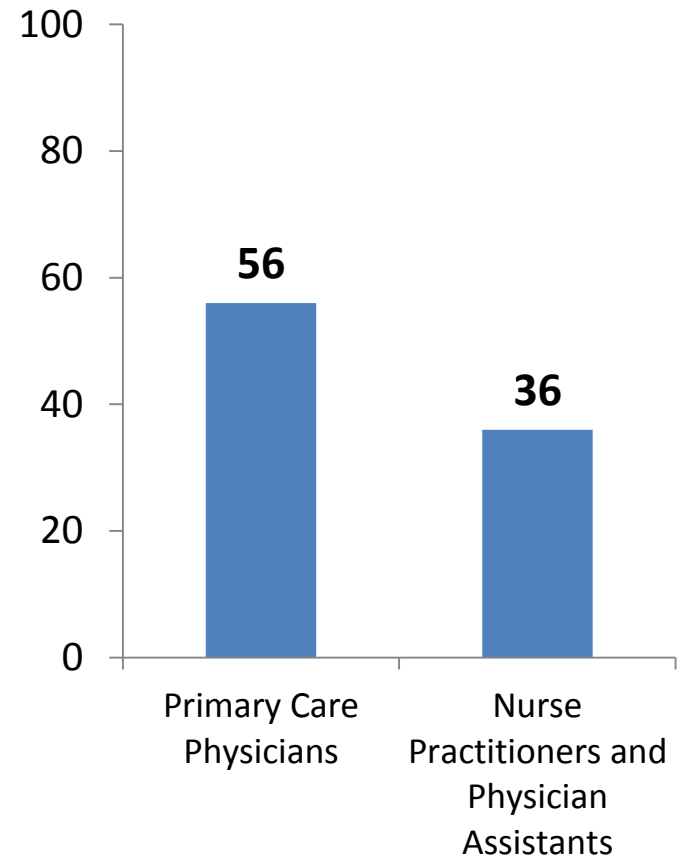


Current Shortages and Predicted Workforce Concerns in 2014:

Percent of centers reporting perceived workforce challenges in 2014:

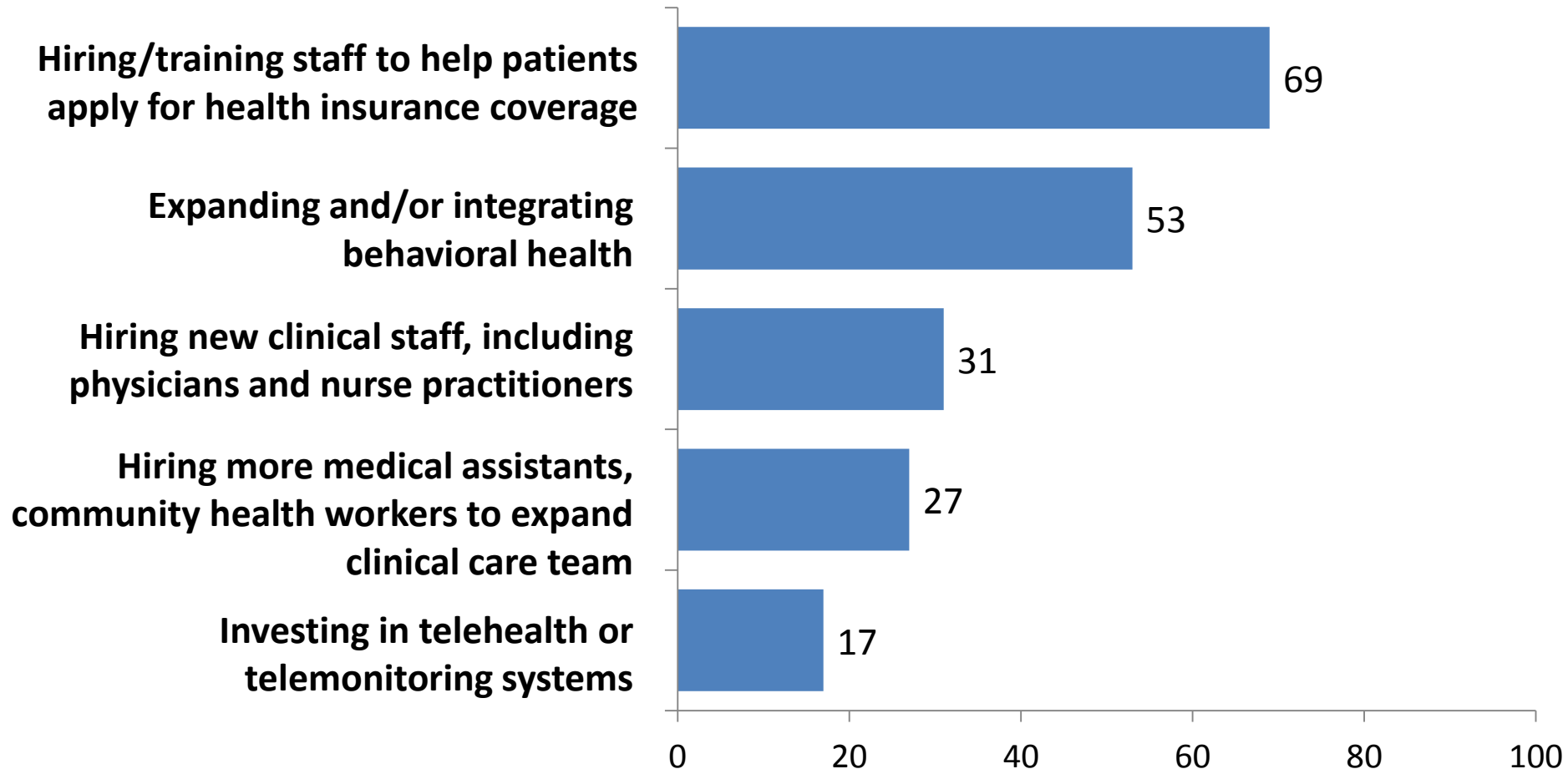


Percent of centers reporting current shortages:



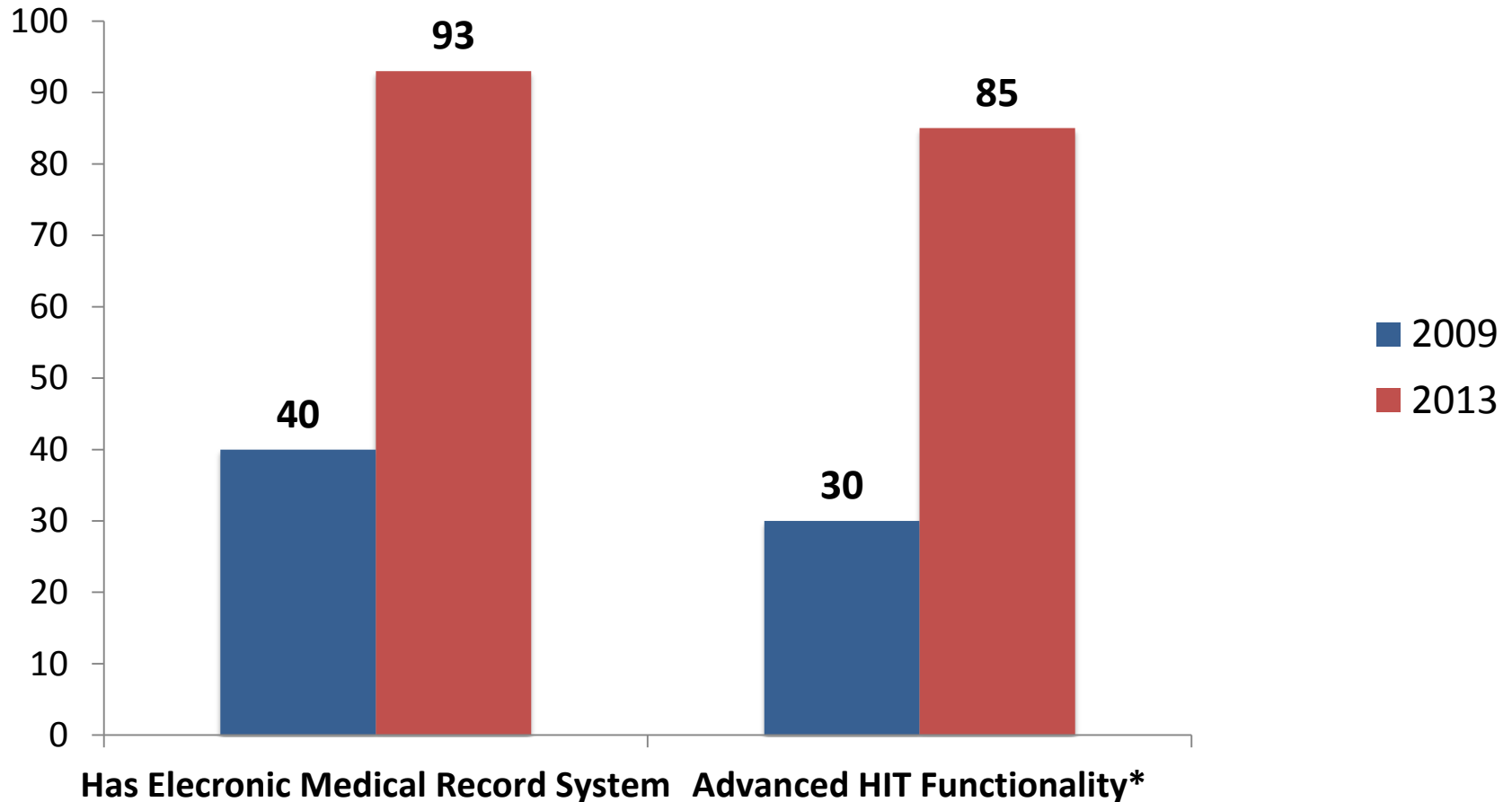
FQHCs Actively Preparing for New Patients

Percent of FQHCs implementing activities to prepare for Medicaid expansion and/or creation of new insurance exchanges in 2014:



Trends in Health Information Technology Capacity in FQHCs, 2009-2013

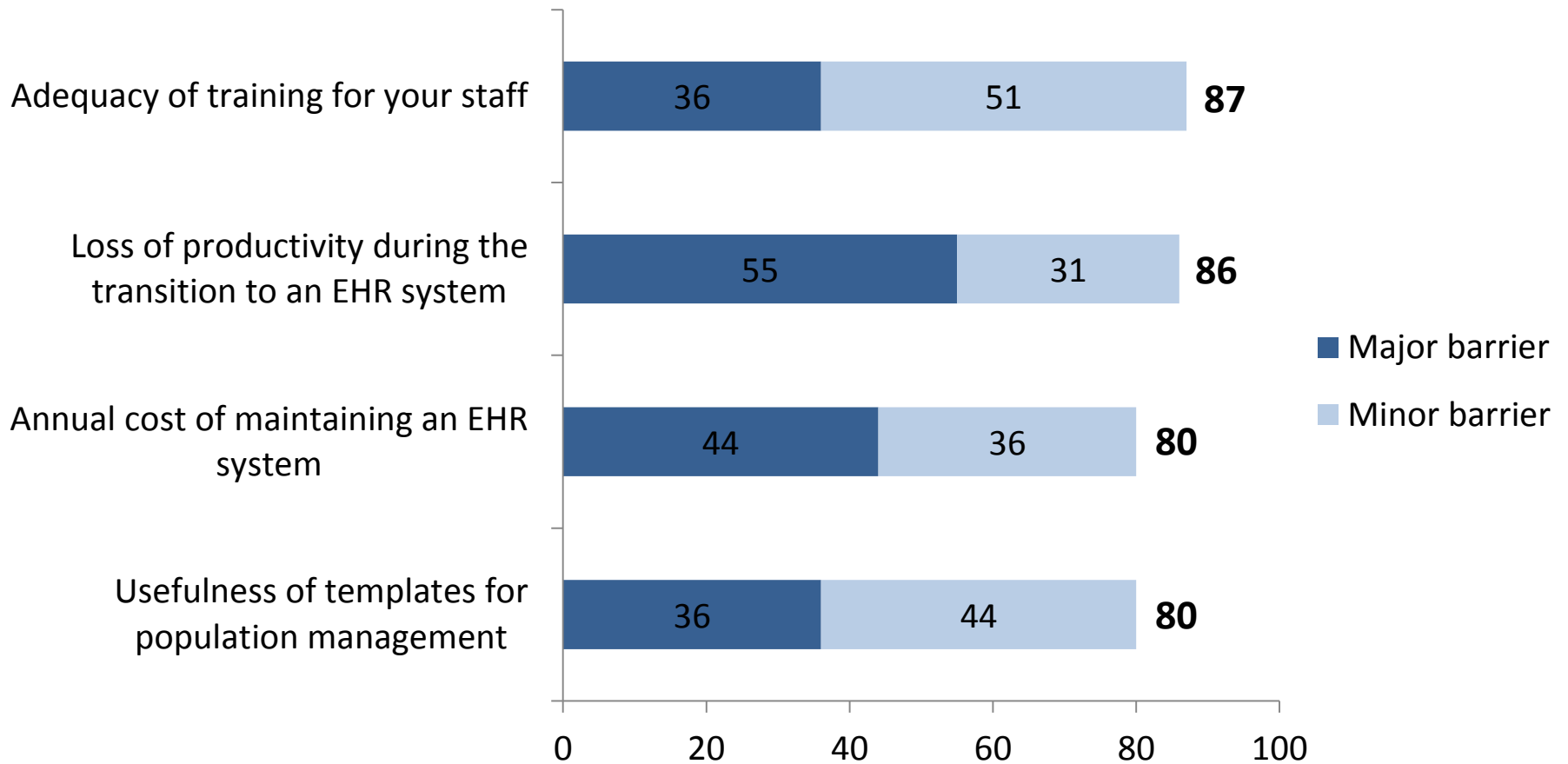
Percent of centers reporting:



*Advanced HIT Functionality is defined as meeting at least 9 of 13 functions reported in 2009 and 2013

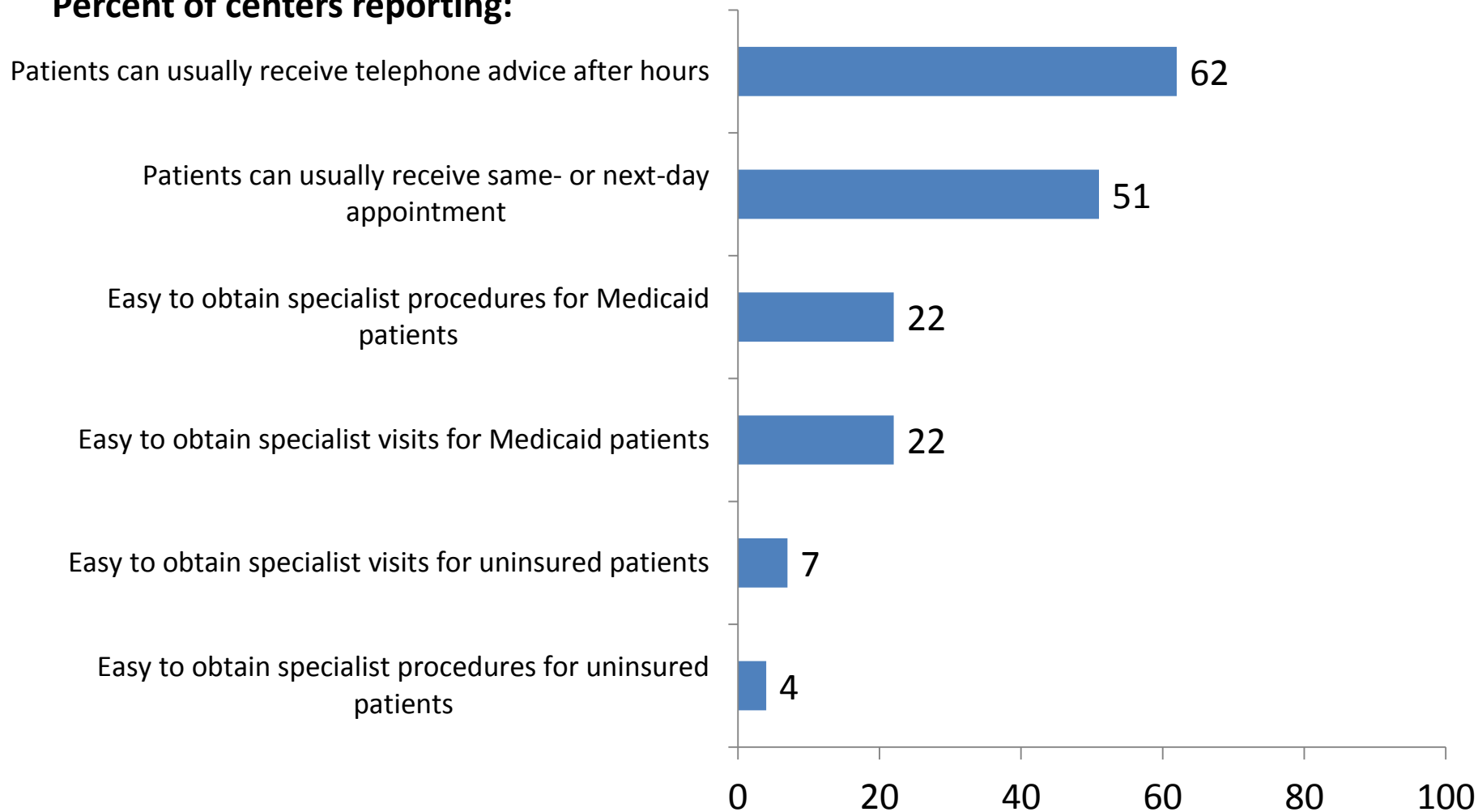
Barriers to EHR Adoption, 2013

Percent of centers reporting the following barriers when using EHR systems:



More than Half of FQHC Patients Can Obtain An Appointment Same- or Next-Day

Percent of centers reporting:



Conclusions/Implications

- All FQHCs to see an influx of patients
 - need to continue attracting PCPs and other clinical personnel, as well as expanding telehealth
 - Health Center Trust Fund set to expire in 2015 – need to ensure FQHCs’ stability as they prepare for new patients
- Integrating behavioral health care is critical — consider extending “health home” provision of ACA beyond 2 years
- HIT adoption is impressive, but there are still gaps, particularly with inter-operability and engaging patients

Questions/Issues for Discussion

- What impact are you projecting the coverage expansions to have on your patient load and patient mix? How are you preparing for the changes?
- How have recent federal investments (HITECH, ARRA, ACA) affected operations and ability to build capacity?
- What challenges do you foresee moving forward?
- What can federal officials do to make it easier for FQHCs to fulfill their mission and successfully meet patient needs?