

2002 Tobacco Survey: Results from the Tobacco Product Line Working Group

An 11-question survey was developed to obtain current information on Navy Medical Tobacco Programs. Forty-eight (48) medical sites responded to the survey. Respondents included 3 Medical Centers, 18 Naval Hospitals and 28 Medical Clinics.

Primary Care Services

Of the respondents, 45 replied that they screen for smoking as a vital sign in primary care clinics, while 39 report that they screen for smokeless tobacco use. Referral to group tobacco cessation programs was reported at 46 of the MTF's. Brief counseling by the providers as part of clinical preventive services was reported at 41 of the sites. Individual tobacco counseling by primary care managers was reported at 13 of the sites, and at two of the three medical centers. A tracking system for tobacco users, by PCM enrollment, was not common, as only 2 of the 48 reported that they engage in this practice.

Pharmacotherapy

Some type of tobacco cessation medications is available at 47 of the 48 MTF pharmacies. Zyban and NRT patches are both available at 47 locations. The NRT gum is on the formulary at 23 sites. The newer NRT products include the NRT Inhaler, available at 2 Naval Hospitals, and the NRT nasal spray, which is not available at any of the surveyed sites.

Prescribing

The question of who is authorized to prescribe pharmacotherapy agents drew a range of responses. The responses appeared to be fairly bimodal as they ranged from 1 to 37, which illustrates that different locations may either restrict or not restrict prescribing of these products.

As to which providers are credentialed to prescribe the pharmacotherapy agents to aid in tobacco cessation, a total of 36 responded (22 at clinics, 11 at hospitals and 2 at medical centers) that all physicians in primary care are able to do so. Speciality care clinicians are credentialed to prescribe at 18 of the sites (9 hospitals, 7 clinics and 2 medical centers). Dentists are credentialed to prescribe at 7 of the sites and at 6 of the Naval Hospitals. A few other specialties (pharmacists, psychologists and nonclinical nurses) are able to prescribe at a limited number of sites.

Costs of Pharmacotherapy

The cost of pharmacotherapy to assist in tobacco cessation was reported by 30 sites while the remaining 18 said that they were unable to determine the costs. The average (mean) reported cost for tobacco cessation medications is \$38,760 at the 14 Naval Hospitals, \$18,474 at the 14 clinics, and \$33,000 at 2 of the medical centers.

Policy

The command policy for pharmacotherapy indicated that at 27 of the sites, all agents are funded when a credentialed clinician prescribes them. At 33 of the MTF's, prescriptions are limited to those individuals who are participating in the formal tobacco cessation program.

Group Treatment

Tobacco cessation group treatment is offered at all sites with the exception of 3 clinics. The group treatment includes use of the American Cancer Society Fresh Start Program at 21 sites, and the American Lung Association Freedom From Smoking Program at 14 locations. Tailored tobacco cessation group programs are provided at 24 of the MTF's. The survey did not define "tailored".

Training

Training staff for tobacco cessation counseling seemed to draw a range of responses. Facilitator training for group cessation programs is provided at 21 clinics, 15 hospitals and all three medical centers. Nursing and health educator training for patient centered counseling is provided at 20 locations. Seventeen sites report that they provide tobacco cessation training for corpsmen.

Training specifically for clinicians consisted of three types. Training for clinicians in prescribing for pharmacotherapy is done at 13 sites. Training in patient-centered counseling was also reported at 13 sites. Clinician training in the pathophysiology of tobacco use is provided at 9 sites. Again, the survey did not define "patient-centered counseling."

Metrics

A list of tobacco metrics was presented on the survey and respondents were queried as to which measures were in current use. 27 respondents (16 clinic, 10 hospital and 1 medical center) state that they use the annotation of tobacco use in the outpatient record as a

metric. The absolute number of tobacco users who quit after completing group treatment is a metric at 18 locations. The seven-day point prevalence rate at six months post treatment is an outcome measure at 17 sites. Fourteen sites report relapse data, and 13 sites indicated they use other metrics.

Of note, only 1 site keeps metrics on the number of tobacco users who quit following brief clinical advice. Four locations state that they use the metric of the % of tobacco users who quit following brief clinician counseling. Five sites report use of the % of tobacco users within their TRICARE Prime treatment population. At 7 sites, the % of tobacco users who receive individualized cessation counseling during acute care visits is kept. Six sites (4 clinic, 2 hospital) reveal that they use no tobacco outcome measures.

Obstacles

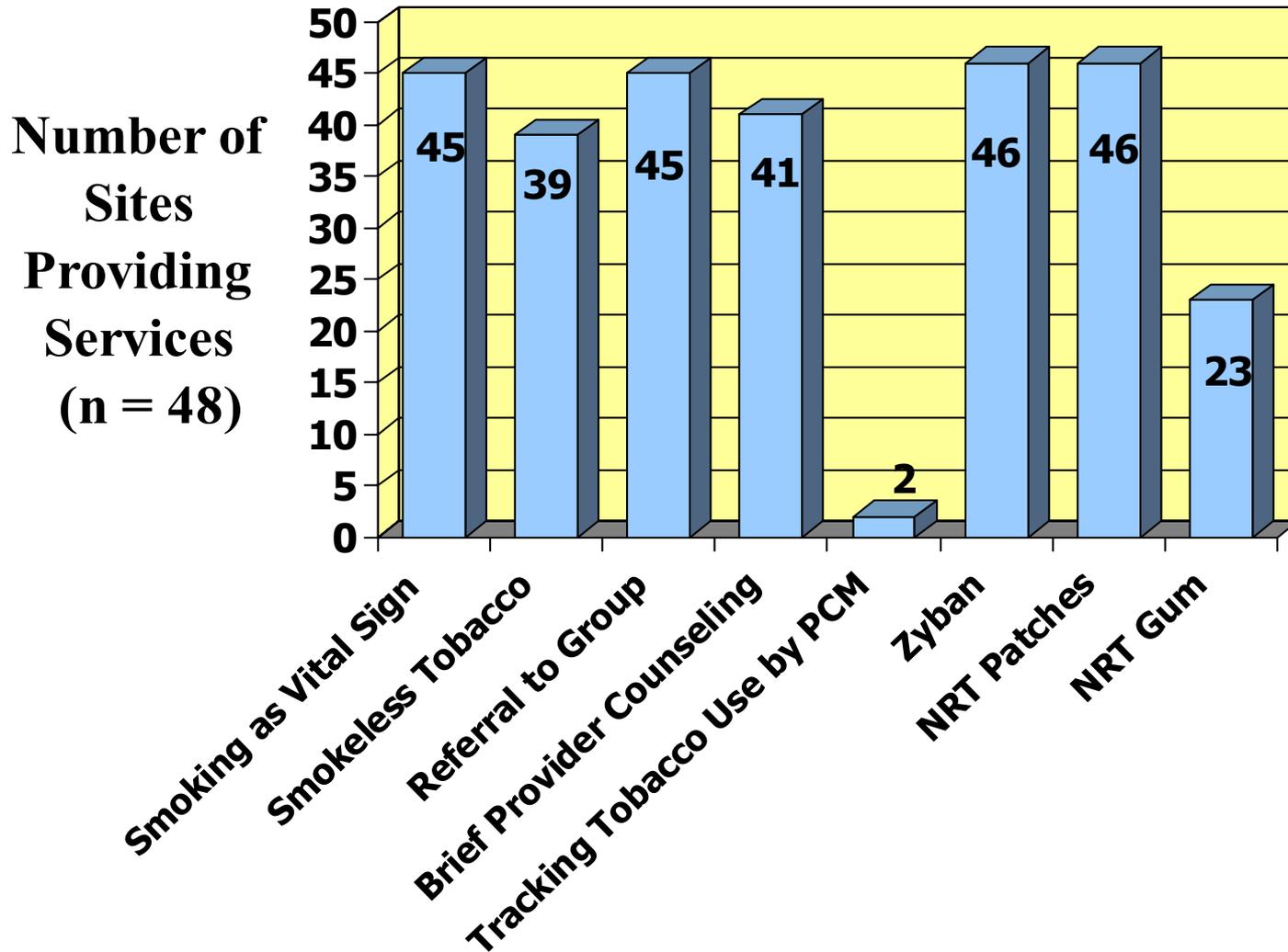
A list of possible obstacles to the provision of tobacco cessation services and programs was provided in the survey. Seventeen sites state that lack of resources (manpower, funds, time-intensive programs) is an obstacle. Fifteen locations report that the lack of trained staff is an obstacle. Eleven sites mention limitations on pharmacotherapy products and 9 cite limited types of interventions/treatment options.

Clinical Practice Guideline

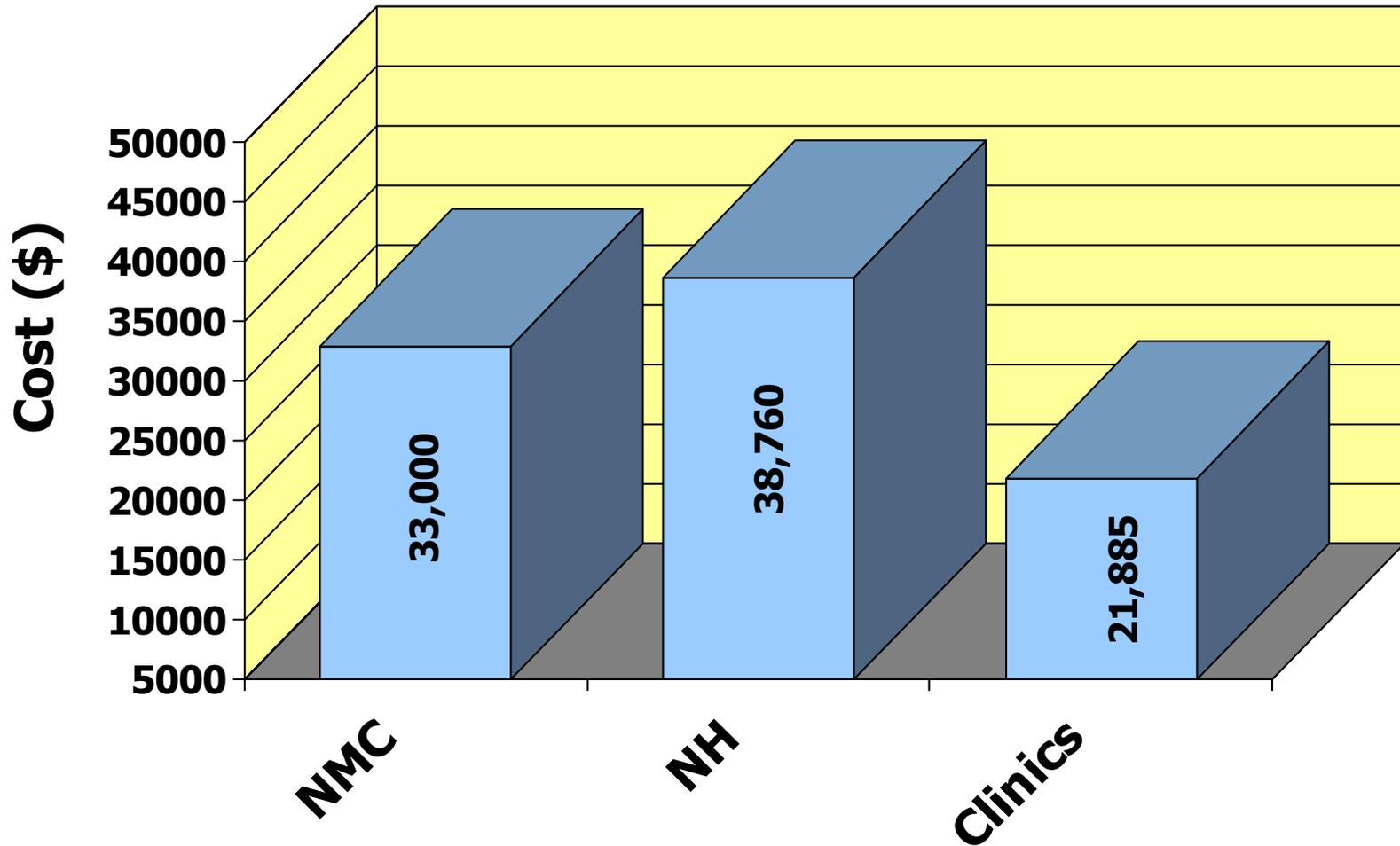
The survey inquired about current implementation of the DoD/VA Tobacco Use Cessation Clinical Practice Guideline in Primary Care. Twenty-seven sites report that they have *not* implemented the Tobacco Guideline. Fifteen sites (7 clinic, 6 hospital, and 2 medical center) indicate implementation of the DoD/VA Clinical Practice Guideline.

The Health Promotion Program at Navy Environmental Health Center conducted this survey. Comments can be forwarded to Dr. Mark Long or Mr. Steve Heaston.
<http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/contact.htm>

Primary Care Services

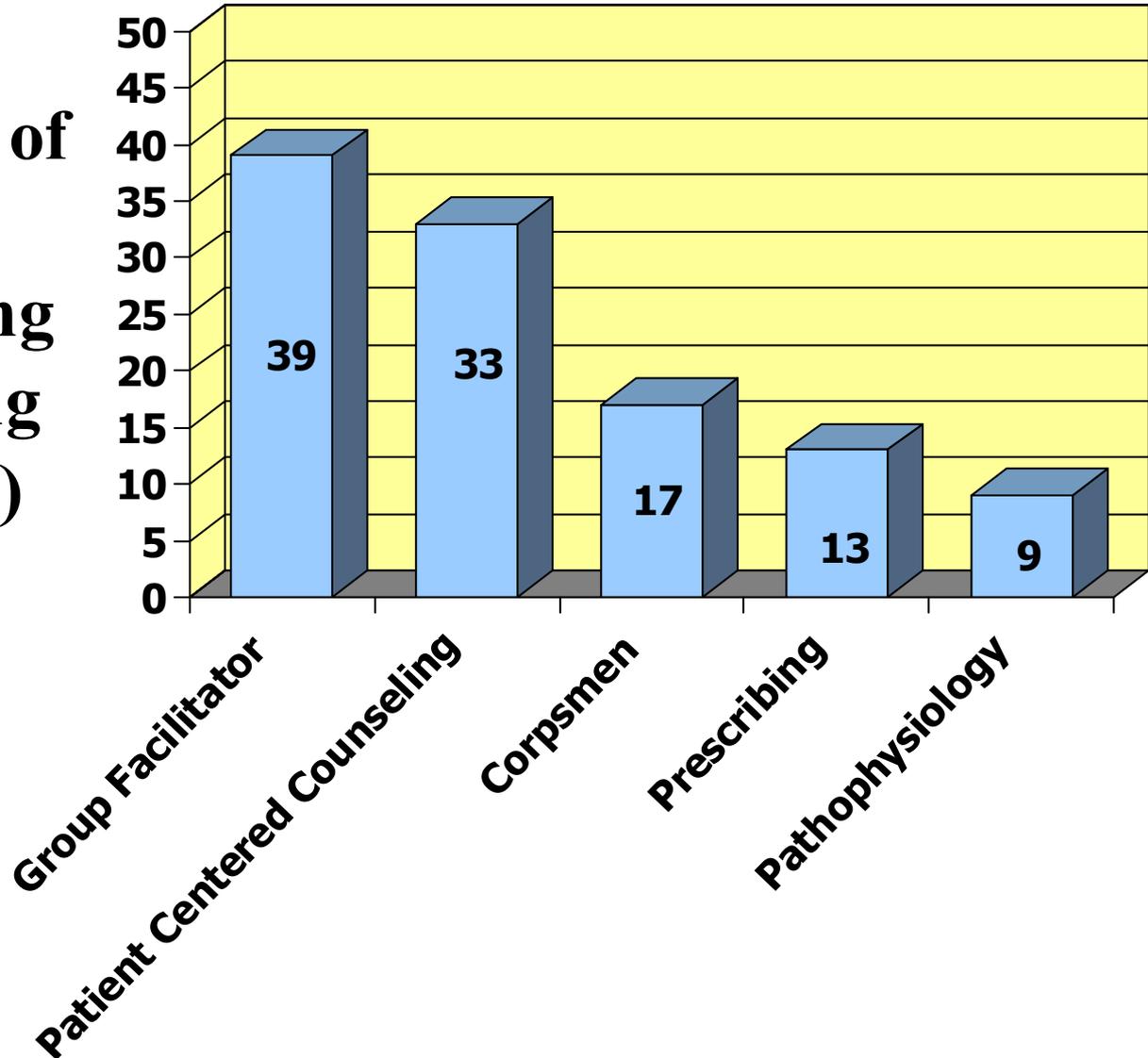


Pharmacotherapy Products Mean Cost Per Site, FY 2001



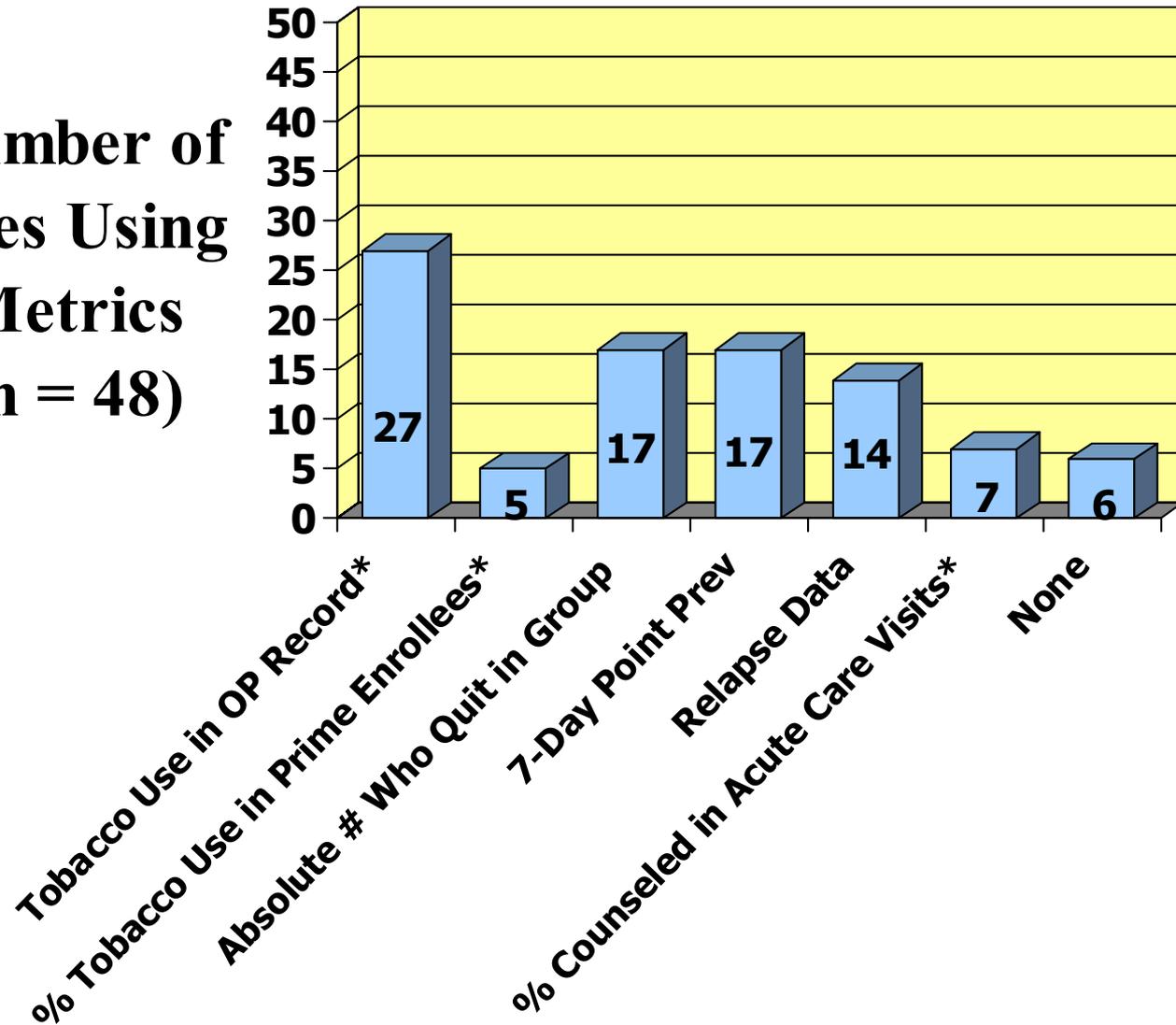
Training Topics

Number of
Sites
Providing
Training
(n = 48)



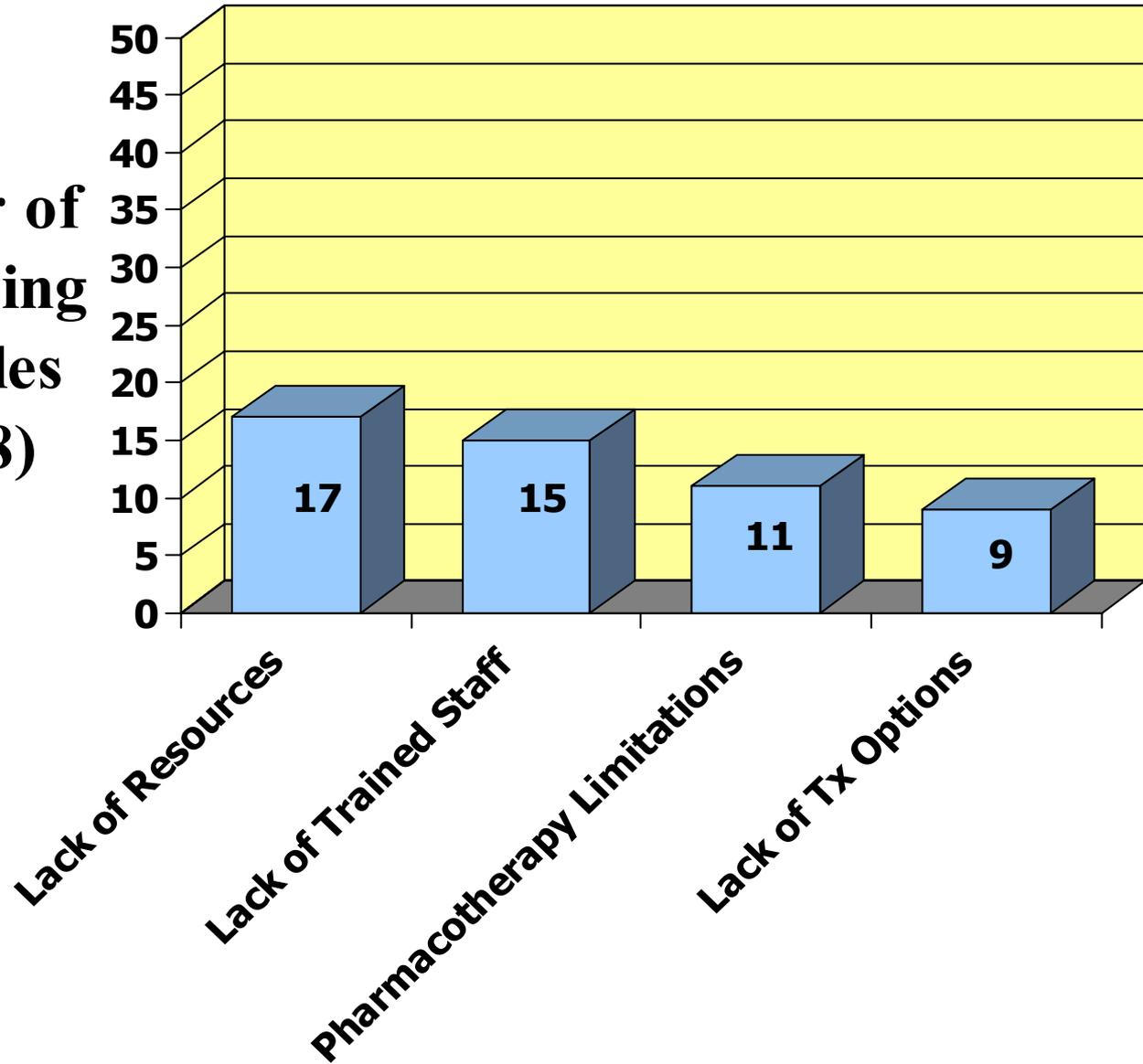
Metrics (*=CPG Metrics)

Number of
Sites Using
Metrics
(n = 48)



Obstacles

Number of
Sites Citing
Obstacles
(n = 48)



Use of DoD/VA Tobacco Use Cessation Clinical Practice Guideline in Primary Care (n = 48)

