

**Involuntary Patient  
Discharge Survey 2002**

**A Collaborative Network  
Project**

**CMS/Forum of ESRD Networks**

**Baltimore, Maryland**

**March 27, 2003**

# Survey Background

- ◆ 2001 data collection by NW 11 and NW 14
- ◆ 2002 CMS/Forum of ESRD Networks Annual Meeting
- ◆ CMS/Forum Workgroup
- ◆ Perceived increase in incidence

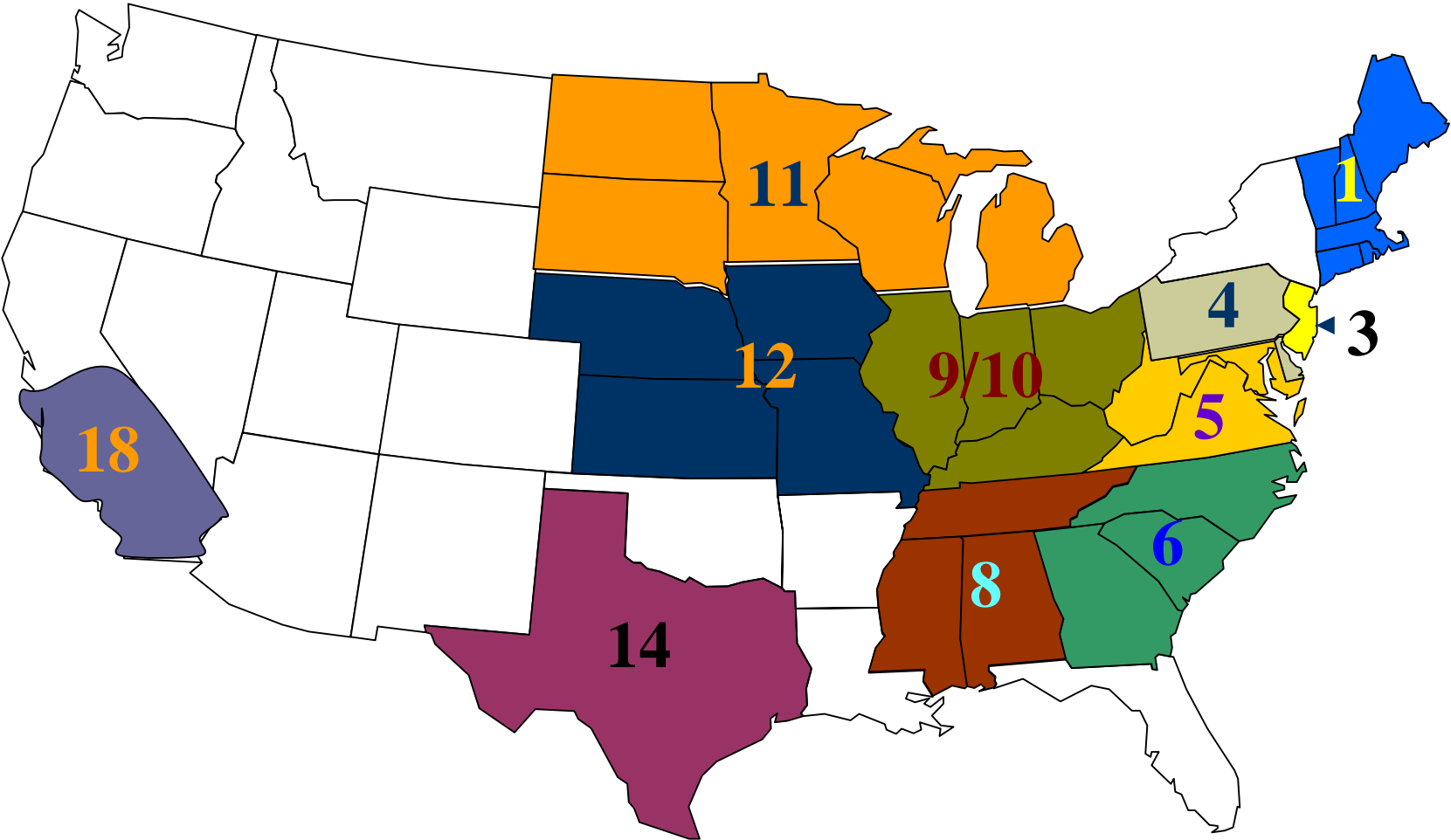
# Purpose & Goals

- ◆ Begin to quantify the number of HD/PD patients involuntarily discharged
- ◆ Begin to gain an understanding of the reason(s) patients are being involuntarily discharged

# Purpose & Goals

- ◆ Begin to describe the characteristics of the involuntarily discharged patient population
- ◆ Begin to identify the placement outcome for the involuntarily discharged patient

# Twelve Participating Networks



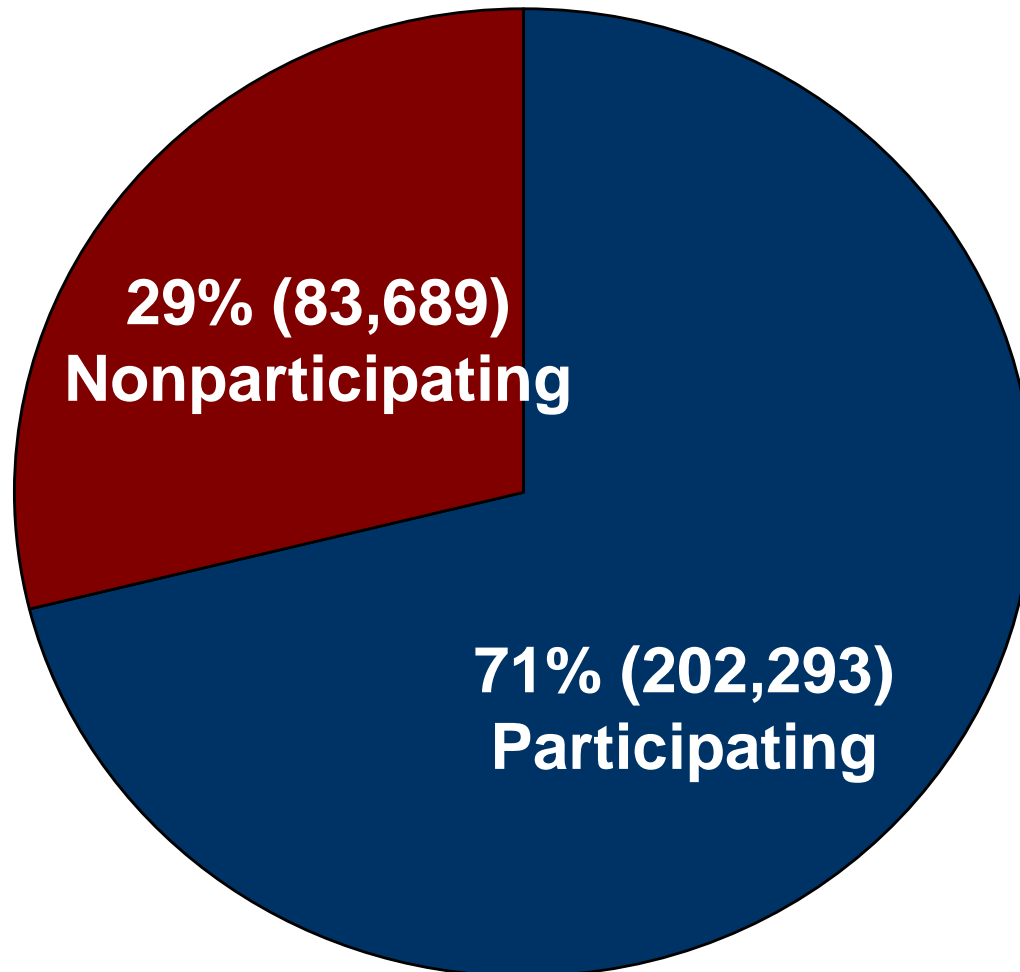
# Important Points

- ◆ OMB clinical exemption
- ◆ CMS support
- ◆ Voluntary Network participation
- ◆ Effort to minimize reporting burden

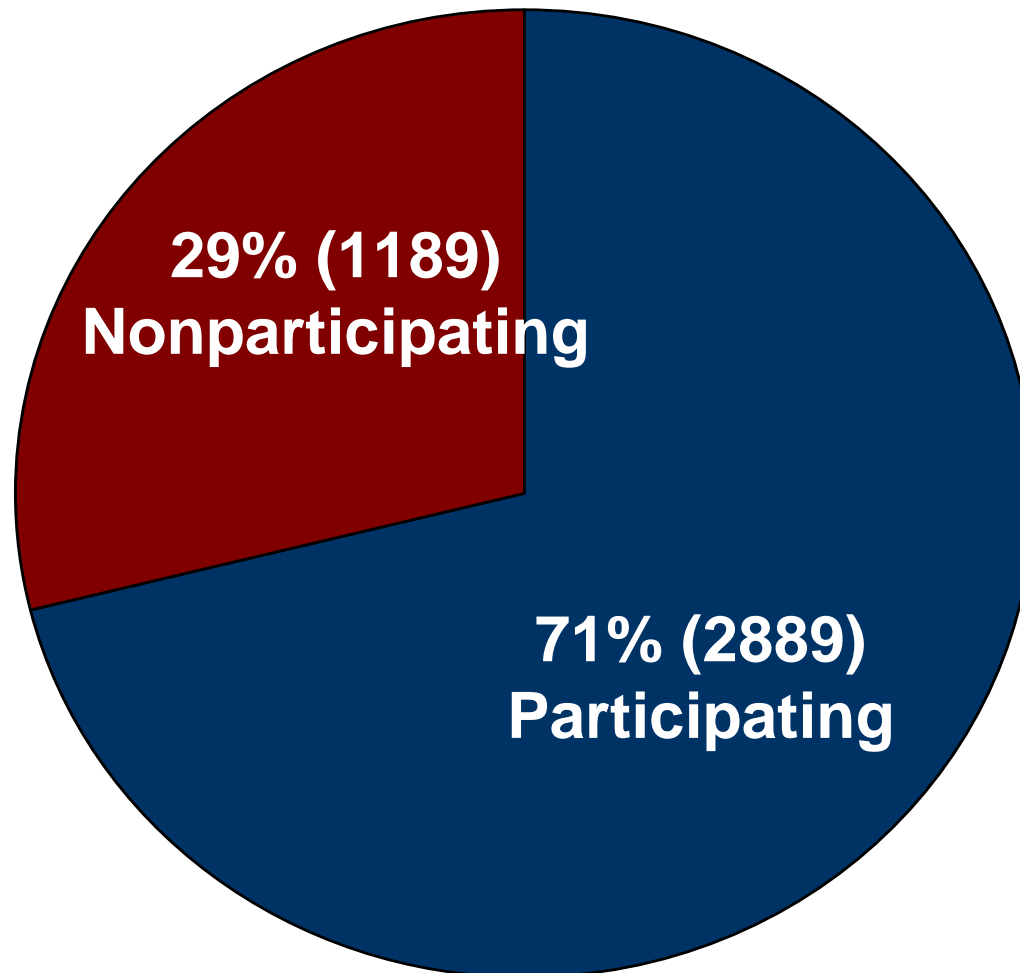
# Methodology

- ◆ 9 question survey with definitions
- ◆ Medical record
- ◆ SIMS linkage
- ◆ Participating Networks compiled and blinded data
- ◆ Network 11 compiled aggregate data
- ◆ 5% data validation
- ◆ Further data analysis pending

# Patient Sample (N=285,982)

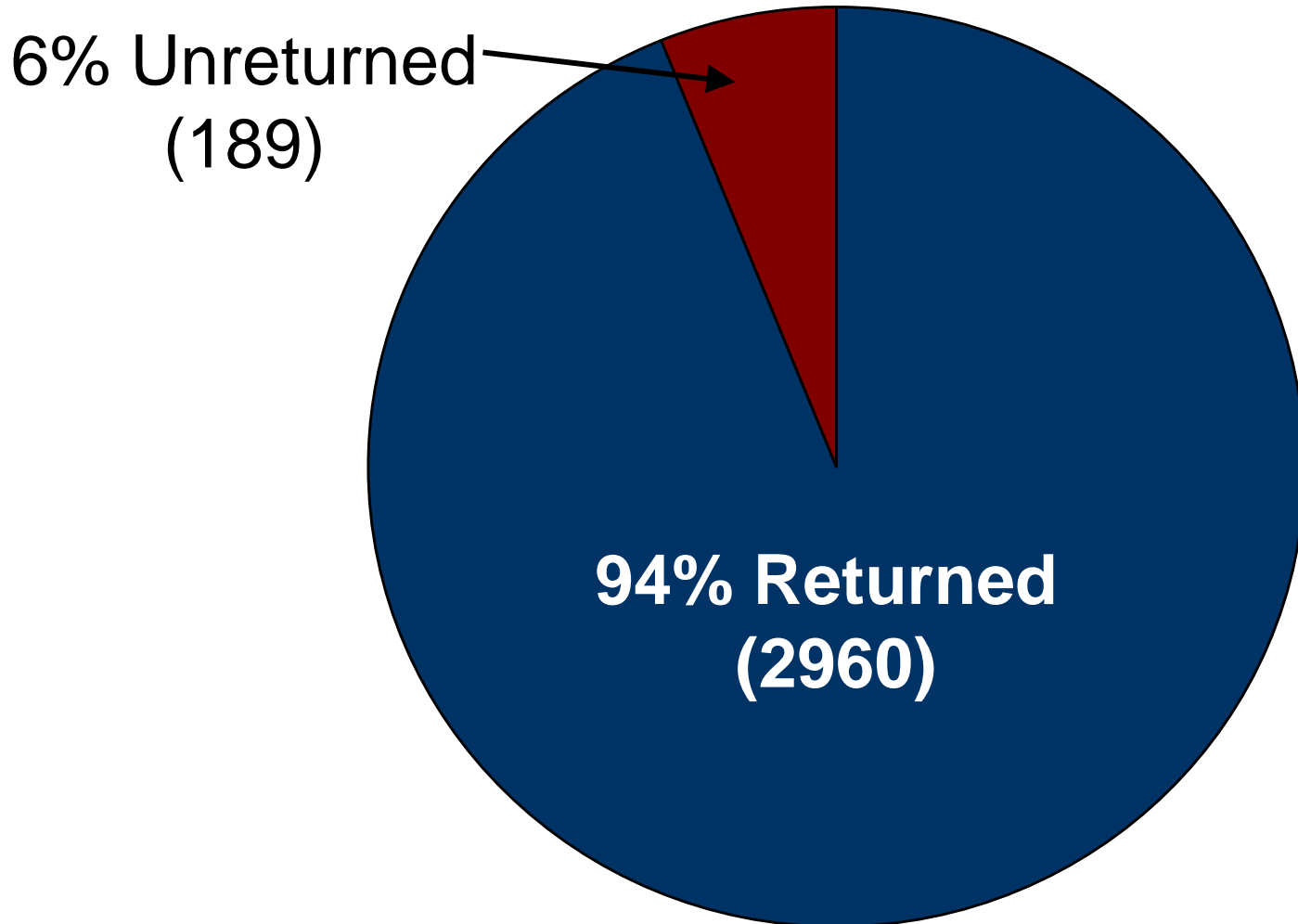


# Facility Sample (N=4078)



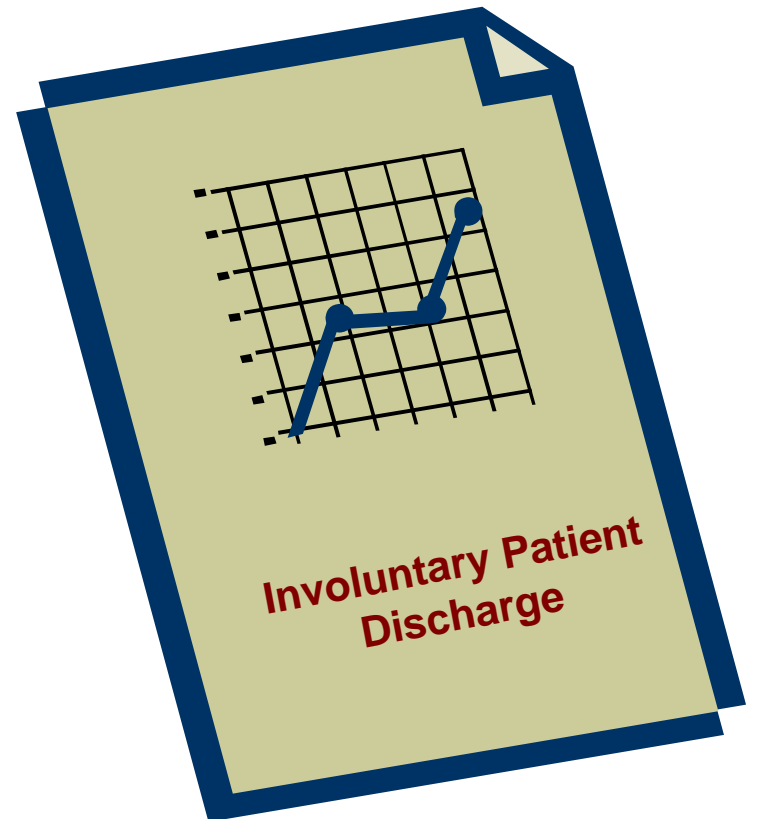
# Survey Return Rate

(N=3149)



# Number of Discharges

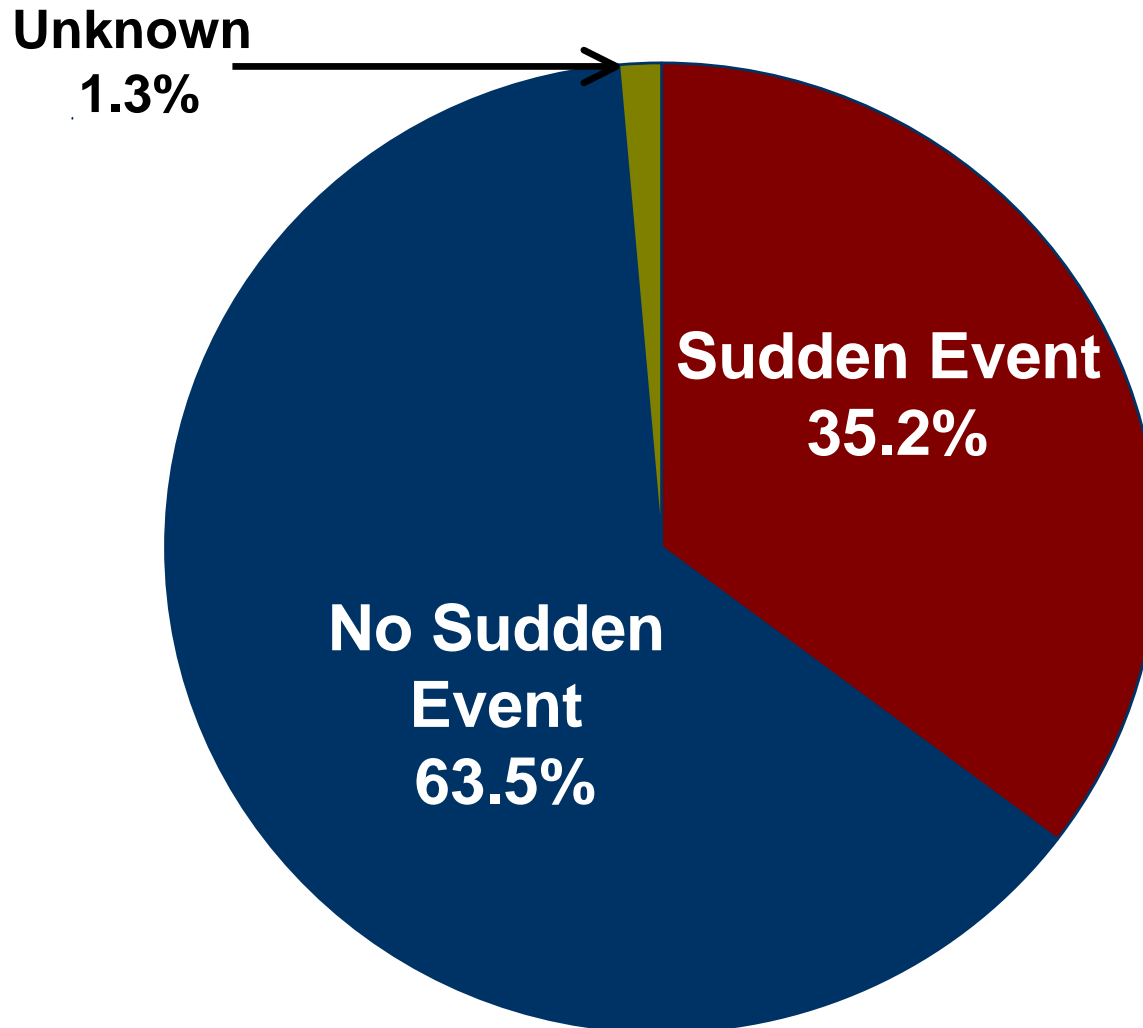
- ◆ Twelve participating Networks served about 202,293 dialysis patients. There were 458 discharged patients, which is 0.2% of this patient population.



# Demographics

	<b>Discharged Patients (N=458)</b>	<b>Dialysis Population (N=285,982)</b>
<b>Age</b>		
18 – 44	48.8%	16.2%
44-54	29.9%	17.7%
≥ 55	21.3%	65.6%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	69.9%	53.0%
Female	29.9%	46.6%
<b>Race</b>		
African American	60.6%	40.0%
Caucasian	34.3%	53.5%
Other	5.1%	6.5%

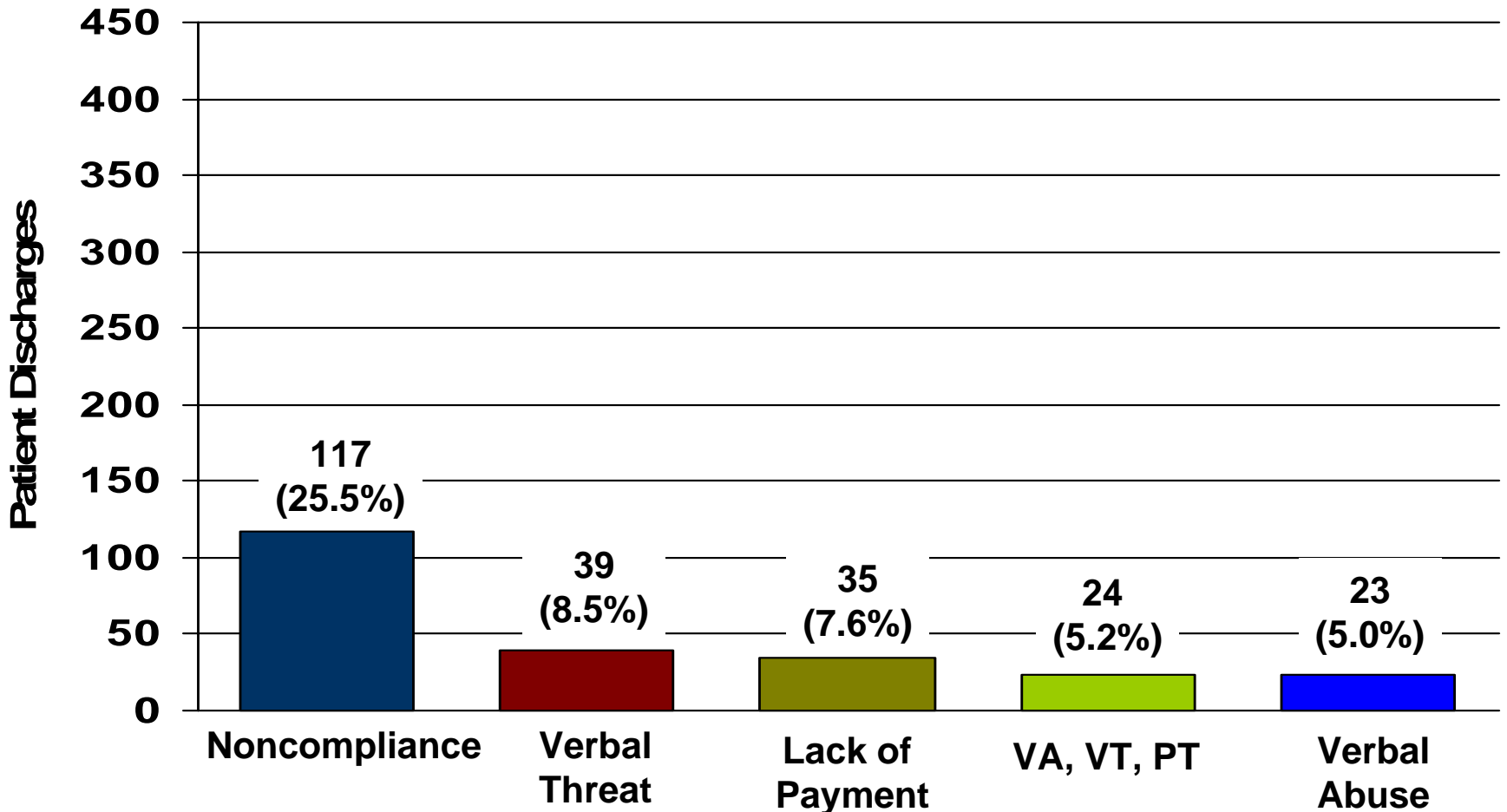
# Sudden Event Trigger



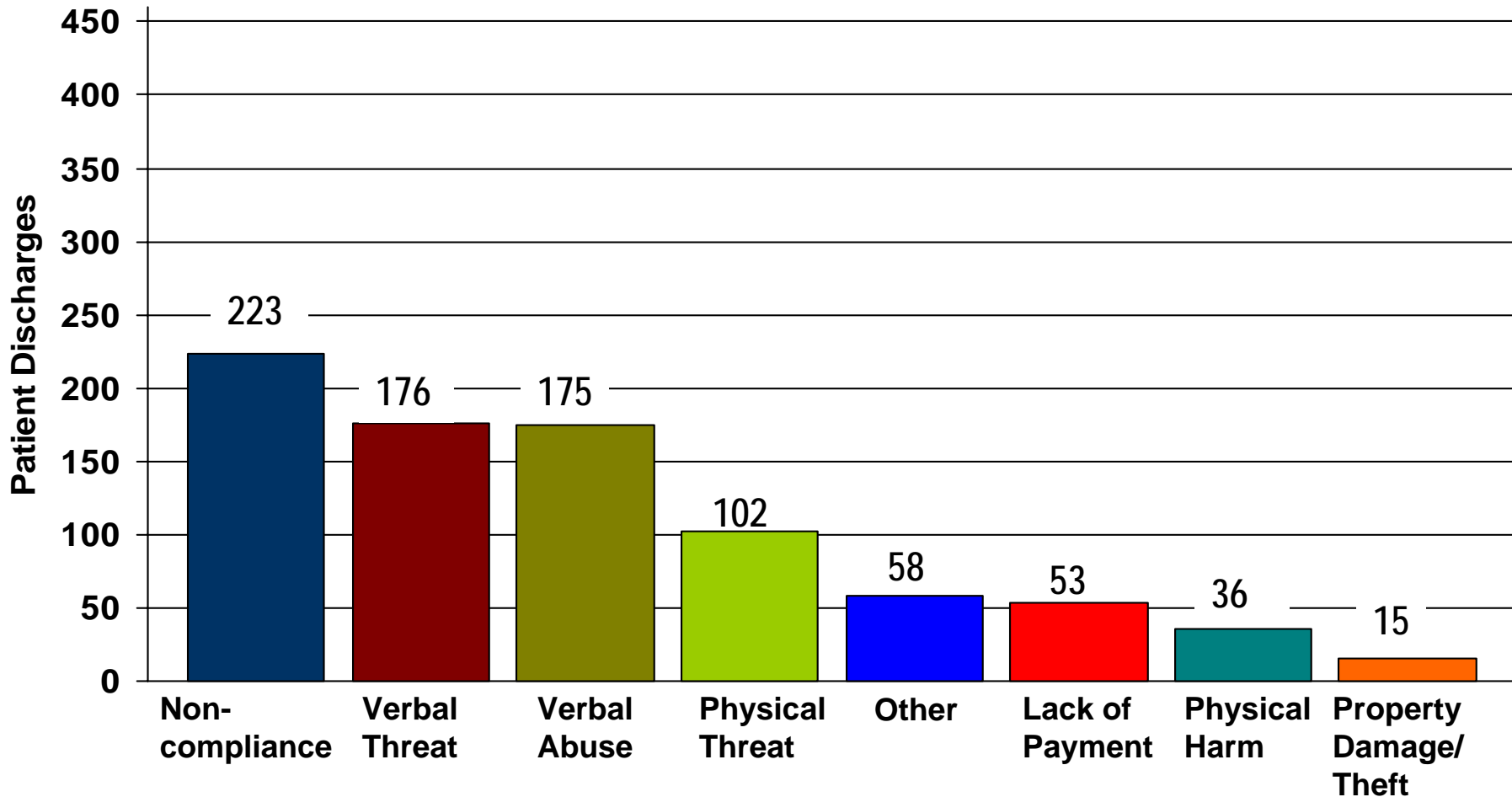
# Reasons for Discharge

- ◆ Noncompliance
- ◆ Lack of payment
- ◆ Verbal abuse
- ◆ Verbal threat
- ◆ Physical threat
- ◆ Physical harm
- ◆ Property damage/theft
- ◆ Other

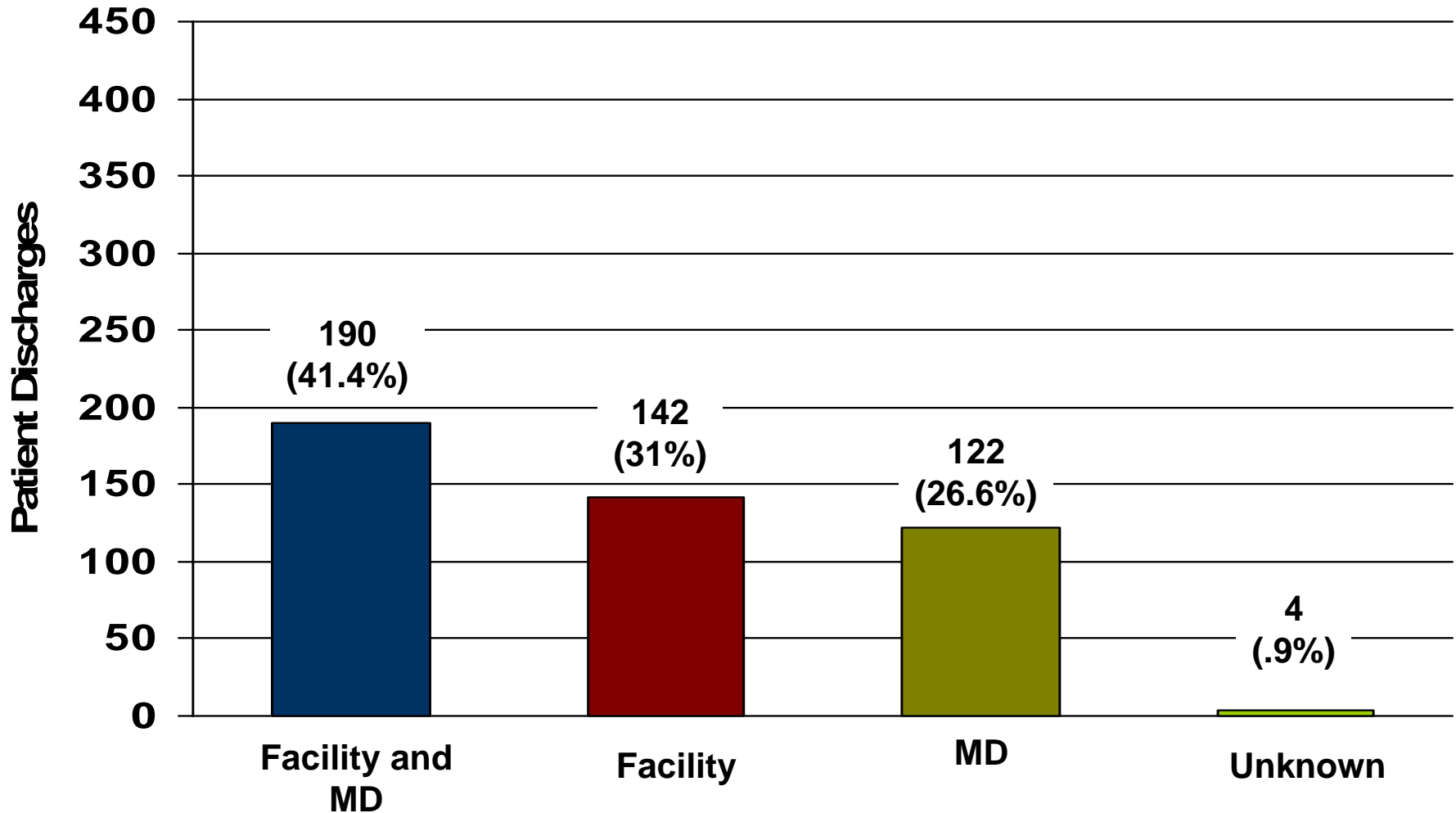
# Top Reasons for Discharge (N=458)



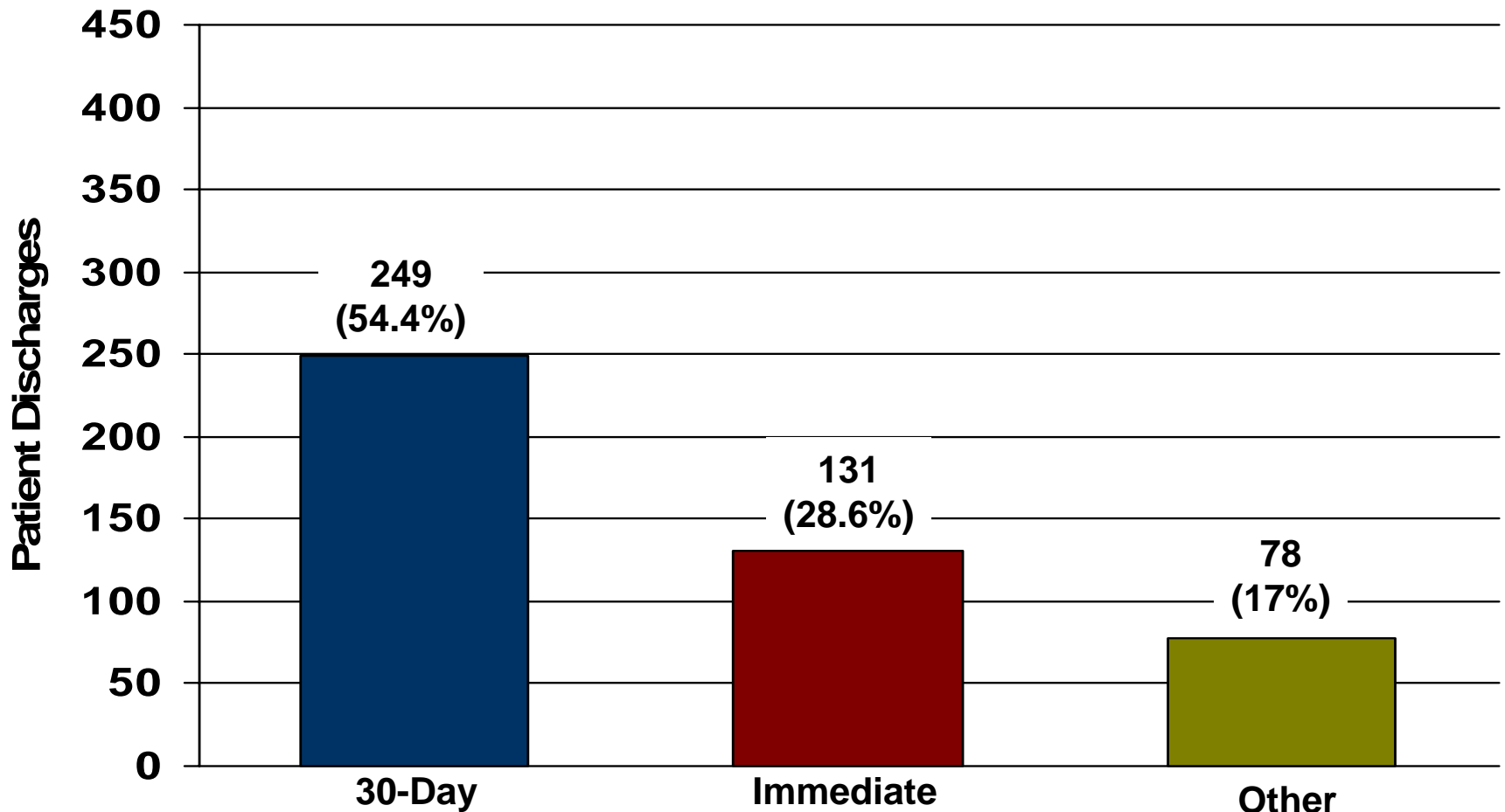
# All Reasons for Discharge



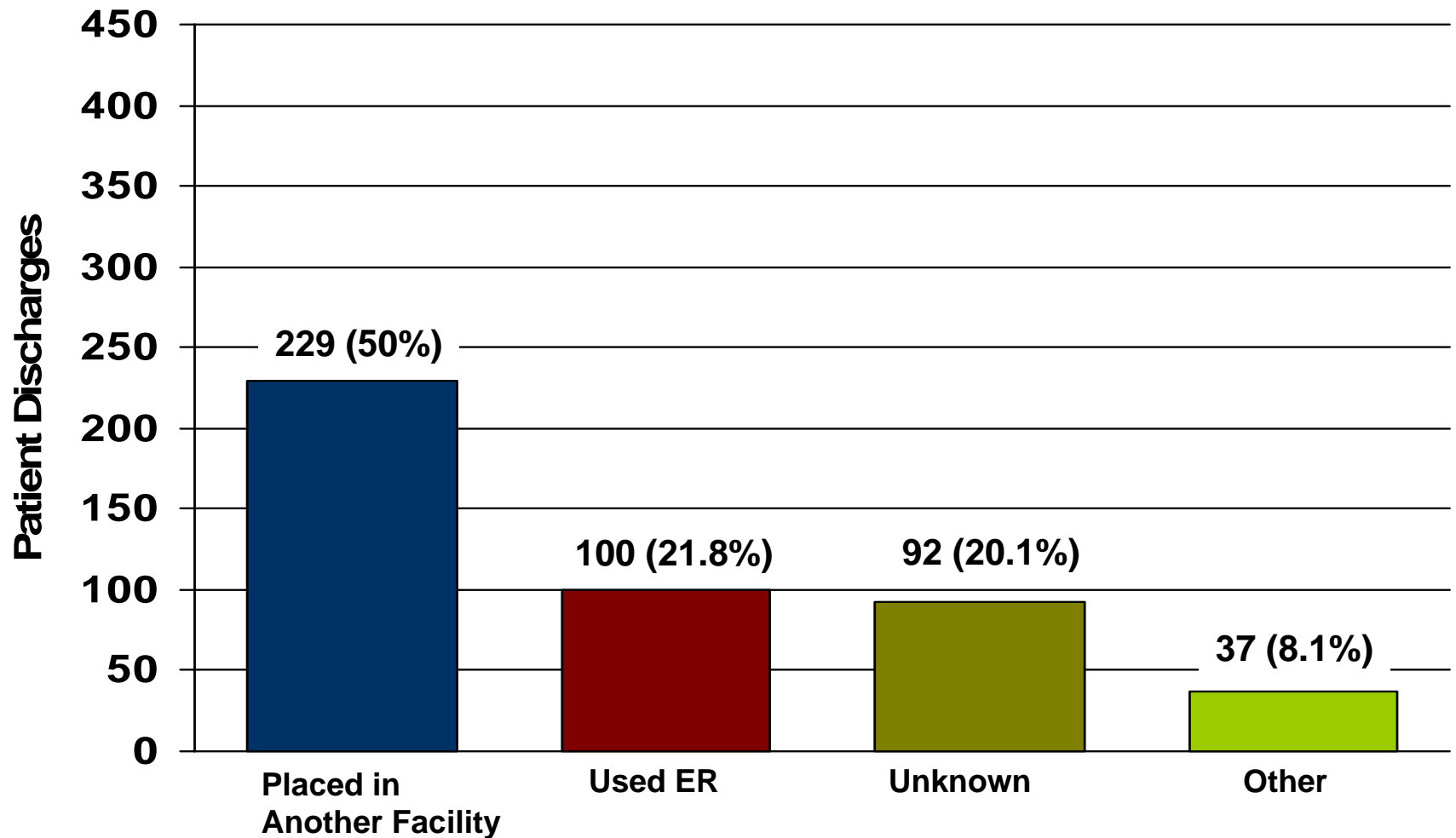
# Discharged by



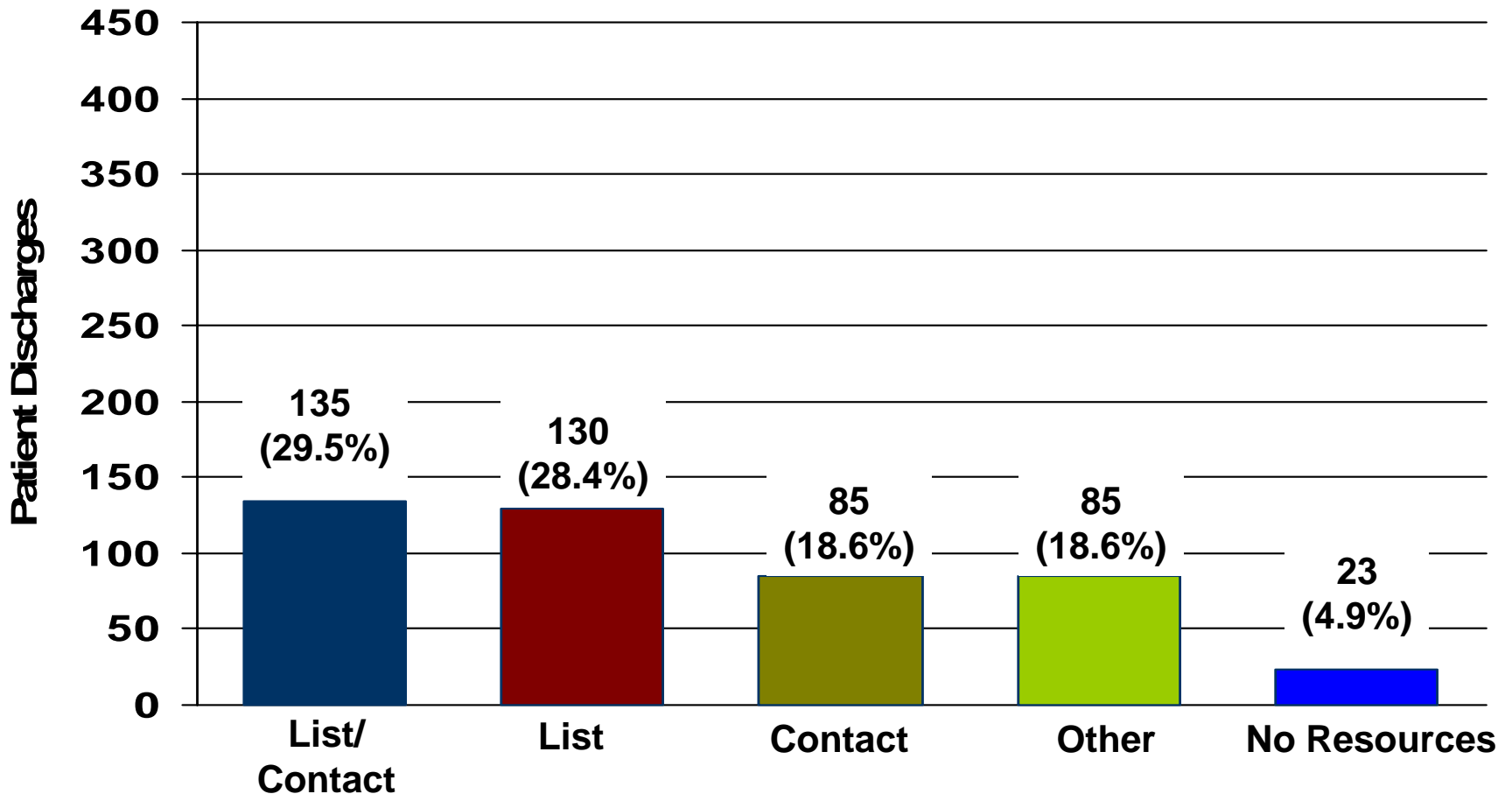
# Discharge Notice



# Patient Outcome at Discharge



# Facility Placement Efforts



# Data Observations

- ◆ New data
- ◆ Further statistical analysis pending



# Patient Outcome and Discharge Reason

<b>Patient Outcome</b>	<b>Discharge Reason</b>		
	<b>Noncompliance (N=117)</b>	<b>Verbal Threat (N=39)</b>	<b>Lack of Payment (N=35)</b>
<b>Placed in a facility</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>
<b>Emergency Room</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>28.6%</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

# Discharge Agent and Discharge Reason

<b>Discharge Agent</b>	<b>Discharge Reason</b>		
	<b>Noncompliance (N=117)</b>	<b>Verbal Threat (N=39)</b>	<b>Lack of Payment (N=35)</b>
<b>Medical Director/ Neph</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
<b>Facility &amp; Medical Director/ Neph</b>	<b>23.9%</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
<b>Facility</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>30.8%</b>	<b>68.6%</b>
<b>Nephrologist</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

# Patient Race and Discharge Reason

<b>Patient Race</b>	<b>Discharge Reason</b>		
	<b>Noncompliance (N=117)</b>	<b>Verbal Threat (N=39)</b>	<b>Lack of Payment (N=35)</b>
<b>Caucasian</b>	<b>39.3%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>45.7%</b>
<b>African-American</b>	<b>56.4%</b>	<b>56.4%</b>	<b>42.9%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>

# Discharge Notice and Discharge Reason

<b>Discharge Notice</b>	<b>Discharge Reason</b>		
	<b>Noncompliance (N=117)</b>	<b>Verbal Threat (N=39)</b>	<b>Lack of Payment(N=35)</b>
<b>30-Day</b>	<b>76.1%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>68.6%</b>
<b>Immediate</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>64.1%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>22.9%</b>

# Time on Dialysis and Discharge Reason

<b>Time on Dialysis</b>	<b>Discharge Reason</b>		
	<b>Noncompliance (N=117)</b>	<b>Verbal Threat (N=39)</b>	<b>Verbal Abuse (N=23)</b>
<b>&lt; 6 months</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>6-12 months</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>12-48 months</b>	<b>57.4%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>
<b>&gt; 48 months</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	<b>59.0%</b>	<b>65.2%</b>

# Patient Outcome and Discharge Notice

<b>Patient Outcome</b>	<b>Discharge Notice</b>		
	<b>30-Day (N=249)</b>	<b>Immediate (N=131)</b>	<b>Other (N=78)</b>
<b>Placed in a facility</b>	<b>49.8%</b>	<b>47.3%</b>	<b>55.1%</b>
<b>Emergency Room</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>32.1%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>24.1%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>

# Patient Outcome and Placement Effort

<b>Patient Outcome</b>	<b>Placement Effort</b>		
	<b>List/Contact (N=135)</b>	<b>List Only (N=130)</b>	<b>Contact (N=85)</b>
<b>Placed in a facility</b>	<b>63.7%</b>	<b>31.5%</b>	<b>83.5%</b>
<b>Emergency Room</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30.8%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>33.1%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

# What Did We Learn?

- ◆ Discharged patients represent a small % of the total HD/PD population
- ◆ Discharging facilities (n=353) represent a small % of all facilities providing HD/PD services

# And...

- ◆ Noncompliance was the most frequent reason for discharge
- ◆ Patients were discharged by facilities, physicians, and a combination of the two
- ◆ 50% of discharged patients were placed in other units, 22% used the emergency room, and 20% had an unknown outcome

# What Participants Told Us

- ◆ Minimal burden
- ◆ Definitions clear
- ◆ Survey format understandable
- ◆ Valuable data collection effort

# What We Noted

- ◆ High survey return rate (94%)
- ◆ Providers willing to complete survey
- ◆ Request for feedback and follow up from facility personnel

# What We Don't Know

- ◆ Mortality rate for involuntarily discharged patients
- ◆ Length of time in between placements
- ◆ Types or severity of noncompliance
- ◆ Time spent by providers and Networks dealing with discharged patients

# More Information Needed

- ◆ Efforts to prevent discharge
- ◆ Patient demographics
- ◆ Policies governing patient discharge
- ◆ Is this problem increasing

# What We Achieved

- ◆ Baseline number of patients discharged
- ◆ Initial understanding of:
  - Reasons for discharge
  - Characteristics of the population
  - Placement outcomes

# Recommendations

- ◆ Continue to partner with the provider community
- ◆ Use existing tools and continue to develop additional resources to address issue
- ◆ Refine definitions

# Recommendations

- ◆ Share findings with Networks, CMS, the renal community, and the National Consensus Workgroup
- ◆ Continue to track the incidence of involuntarily discharged patients