

ASTRO COVID-19 Practice Response Survey: Updated Results from Three Waves of Data Collection

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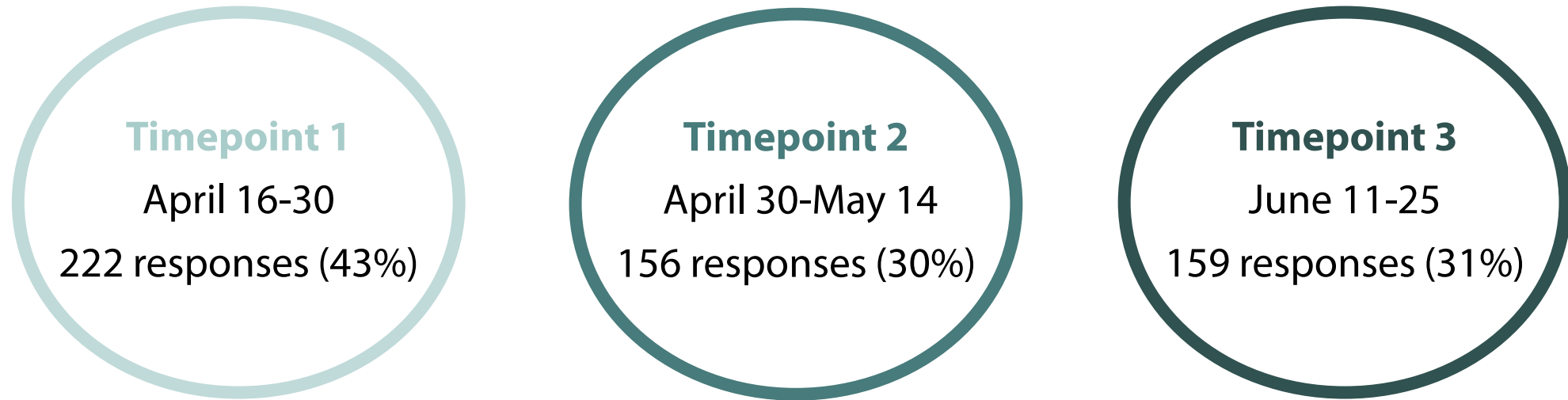
Disclosures

- Employer: University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Department of Radiation Oncology
- I have no relevant conflicts of interest to disclose.
- Data reported on behalf of the American Society of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) in collaboration with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC)

Study Design

- Web-based survey of leaders from academic and community practices.
- To our knowledge, this is only longitudinal U.S. specialty COVID-19 practice survey.

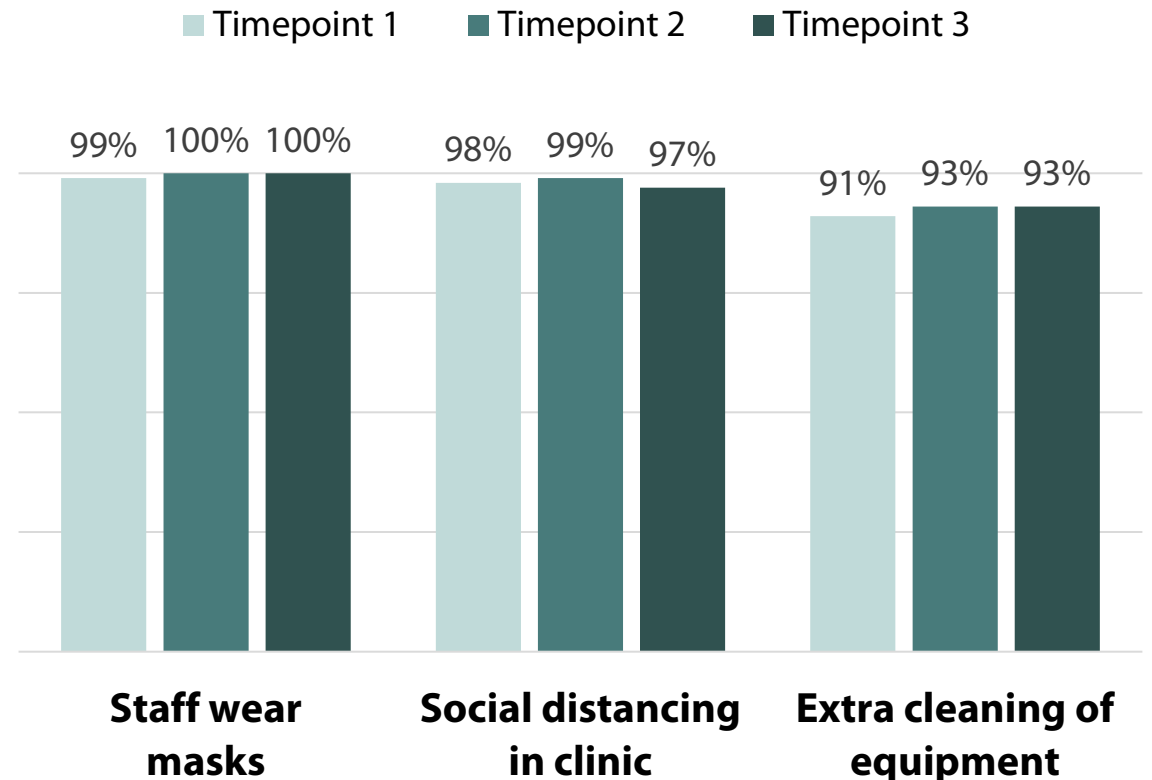
Longitudinal Design (3 Timepoints)



The Good News

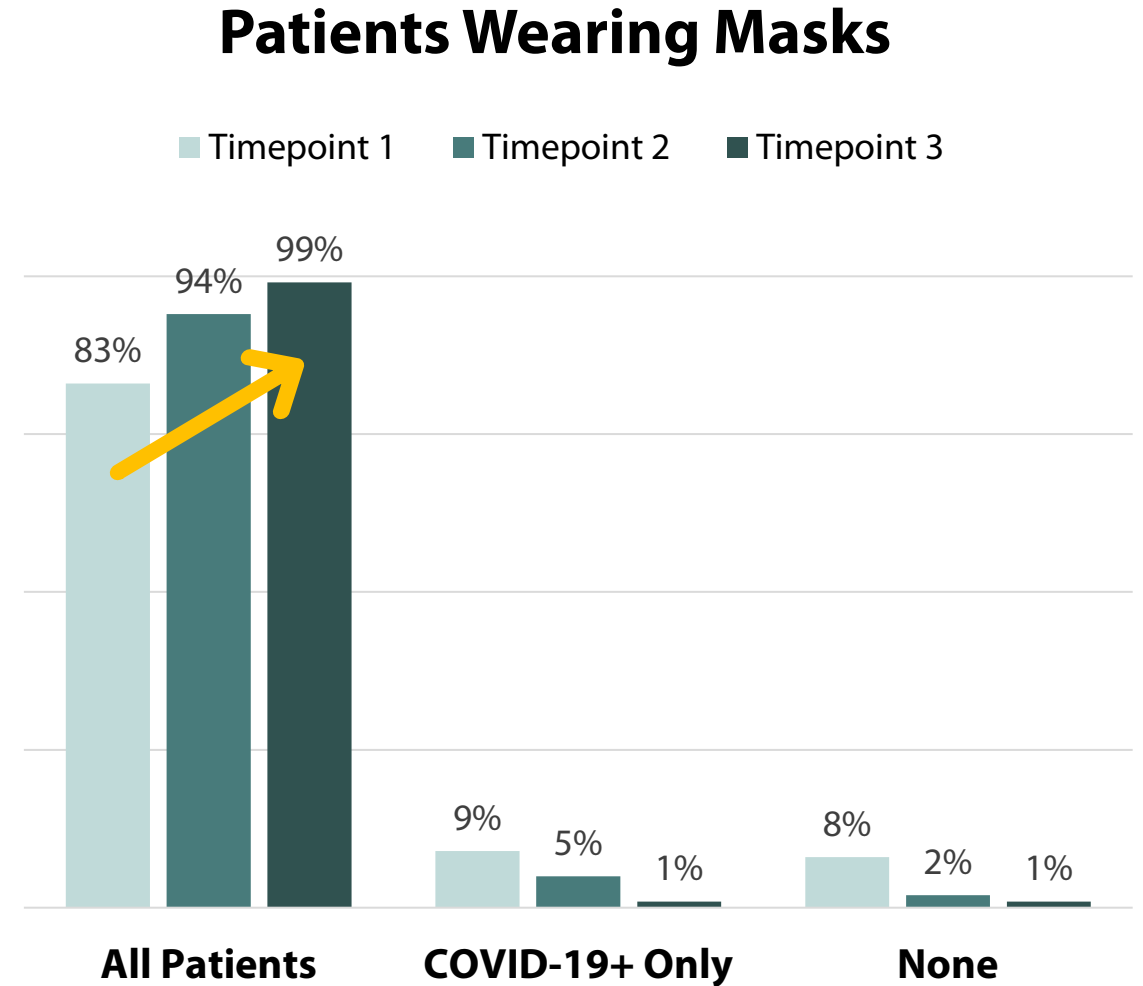
- **100% of radiation oncology networks/departments remained open during the pandemic.**
- Only 6% closed a satellite clinic to centralize services.
- Nearly all practices (97%) increased and implemented measures to reduce transmission risk for patients and staff.

Infection Control Practices



Infection Control

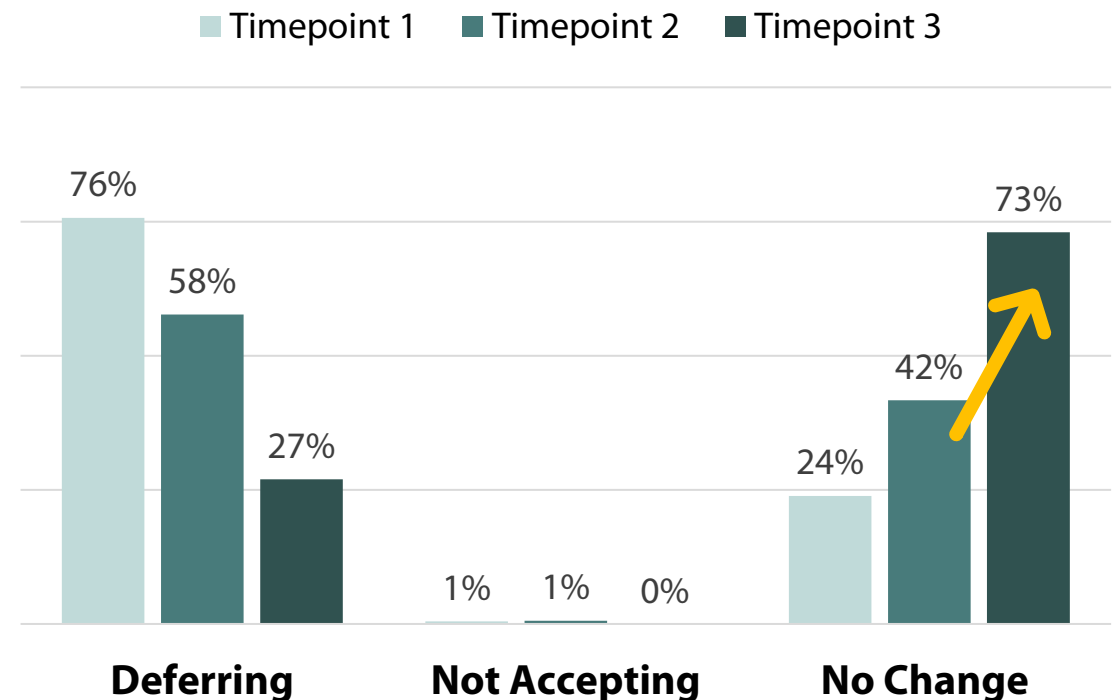
- Patients did their part—adoption of masking grew briskly across time.



Patient Visits

- The vast majority of sites experienced delays in referrals (76%) and/or patient treatment (92%) in April, in keeping with lock-down events and guidelines.
- Scheduling of new patients resumed over time, consistent with national re-opening, though not to pre-pandemic levels.

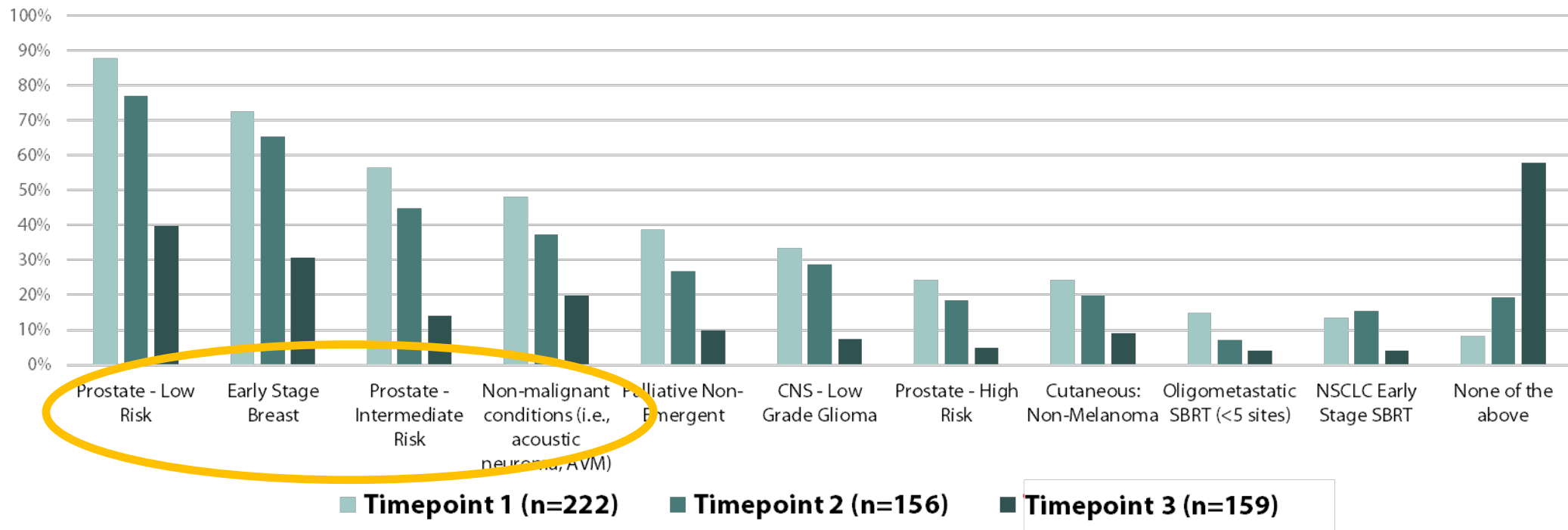
How Practices Scheduled New Patient Visits



Treatment Delays

- In line with expert guidelines, most common treatment delays were for early-stage, lower-risk disease. These delays decreased with each survey.

Delayed disease sites/treatments during COVID-19

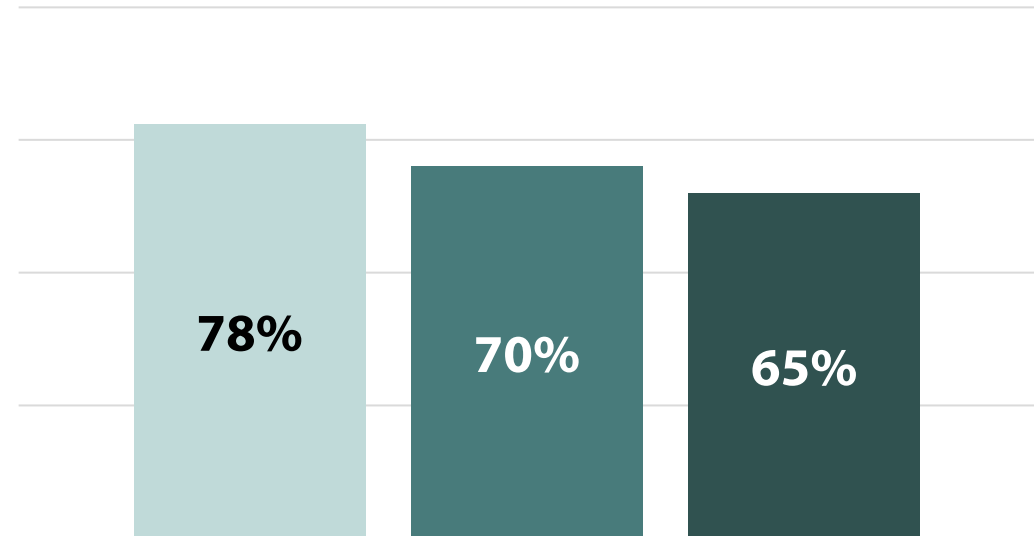


The Challenges

- 80% sites reported shortages of COVID-19 resources; this continued through June.
 - PPE (masks, gowns, gloves)
 - Medical-grade hand sanitizer
 - COVID-19 test swabs

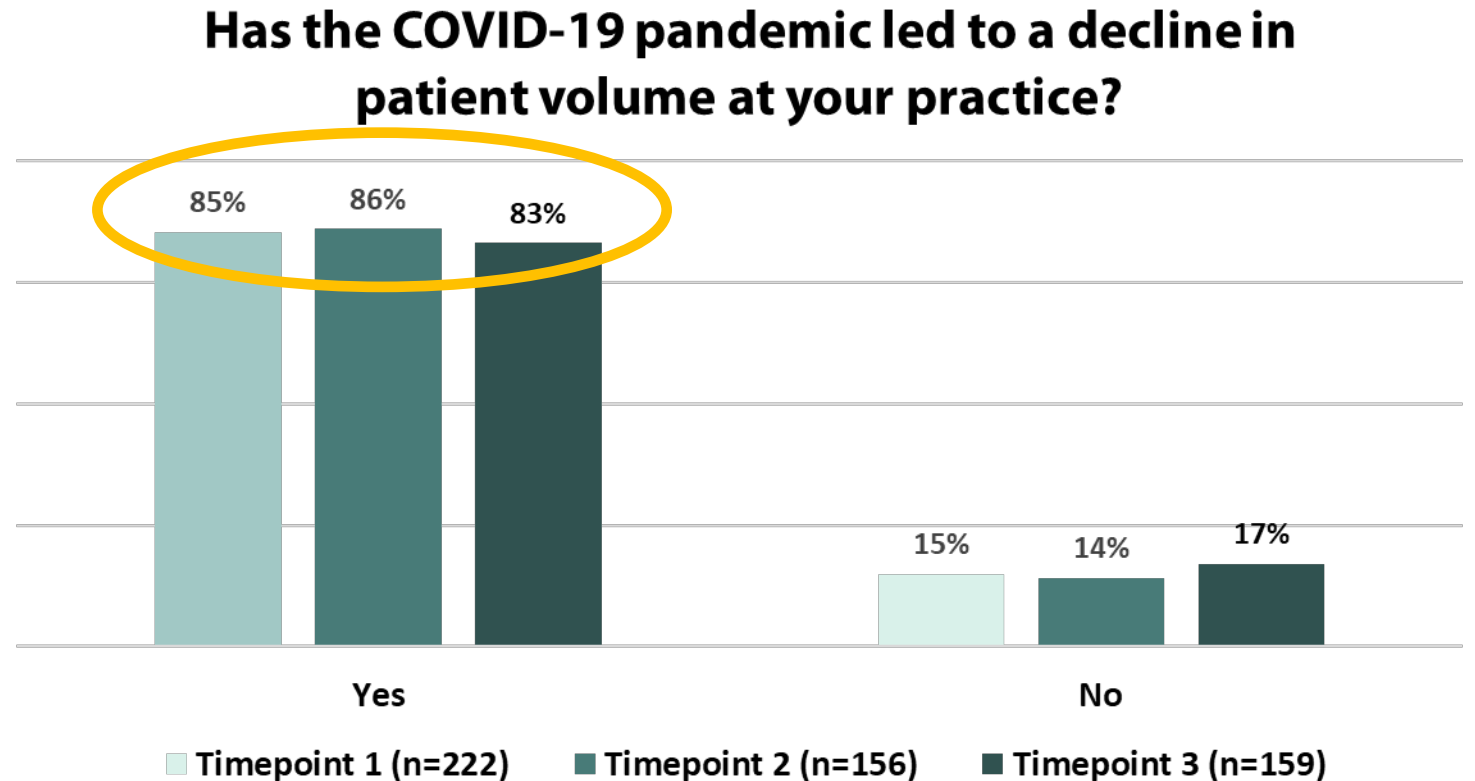
Practices Experiencing Resource Shortages

■ Timepoint 1 ■ Timepoint 2 ■ Timepoint 3



Fewer Patient Visits

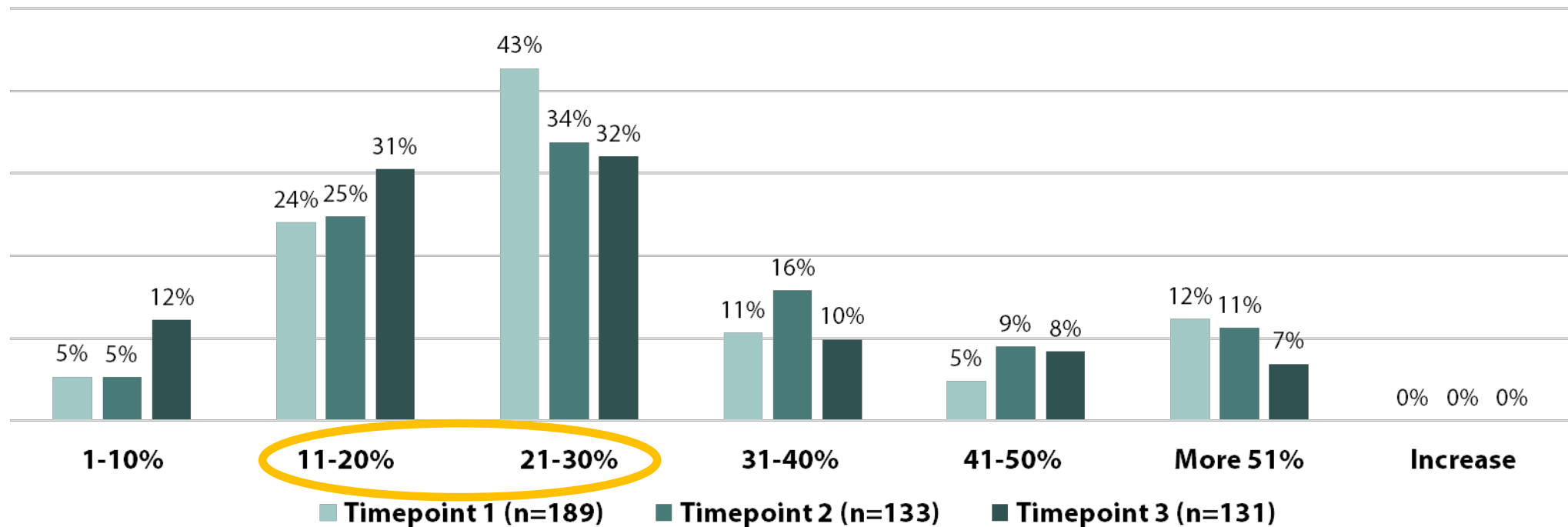
- More than 8 in 10 U.S. radiation oncology practices experienced declines in patient volume due to the pandemic
- Roughly half of the practices also reported staffing shortages due to reduced patient volume



Financial Hardship

- Over 2/3 practices reported at least 10-30% revenue loss.
- About 10% practices reported high-threat losses.

Estimated Practice Revenue Loss Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic



Conclusions

- Patient access to radiation treatment was fully sustained.
- Practice responses were rapid, flexible, and data-driven. These were maintained and refined despite financial headwinds.
- Pandemic supply chain shortfalls were broadly felt.
- The current “3rd U.S. surge” lends a unique opportunity for our field to lead the way towards studying long-term pandemic impact and health system responses.