

# ACEP Poll on the Critical Issues Facing Emergency Patients

August 29 - September 19, 2007

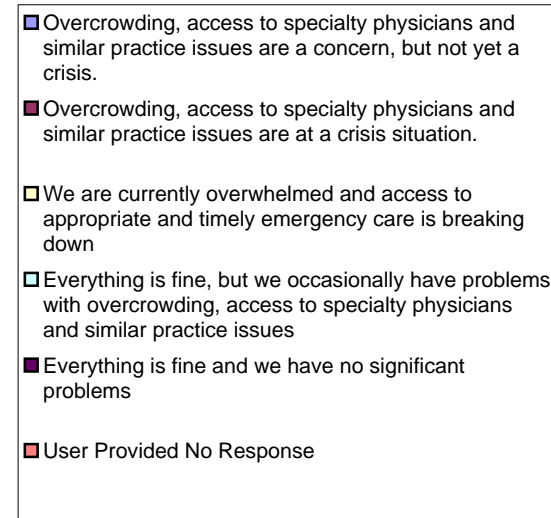
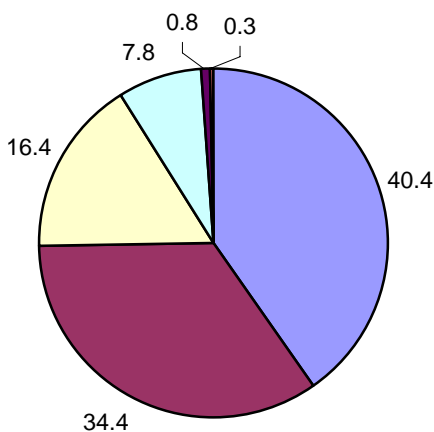


The American College of Emergency Physicians conducted this poll from August 28 to September 19, 2007. A link to the survey was e-mailed to 20,836 emergency physicians. ACEP received a total of 1,496 responses, and the data are summarized in the following pages.

Respondents are practicing emergency physicians, working in community hospitals (64.6 percent), teaching hospitals (31.8 percent) and public hospitals (2 percent). They also work in urban areas (49.1 percent), suburban areas (37.7 percent) and rural areas (12.2 percent).

**1. The current emergency care environment in my area is best described as:**

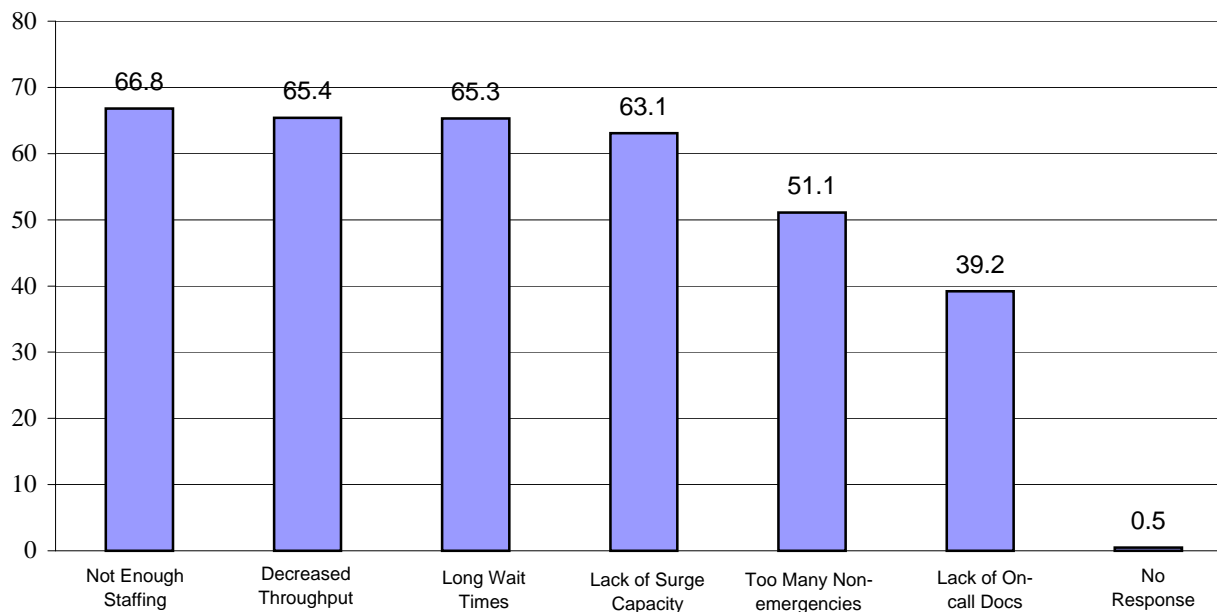
<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Overcrowding, access to specialty physicians and similar practice issues are a concern, but not yet a crisis.	40.4	604
Overcrowding, access to specialty physicians and similar practice issues are at a crisis situation.	34.4	515
We are currently overwhelmed and access to appropriate and timely emergency care is breaking down	16.4	245
Everything is fine, but we occasionally have problems with overcrowding, access to specialty physicians and similar practice issues	7.8	116
Everything is fine and we have no significant problems	0.8	12
User Provided No Response	0.3	4



**2. My biggest concerns about patient care in my hospital are (choose all that apply):**

Total Number of Responses 1496

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Not enough staffing and/or resources to effectively care for all ED patients	66.8	999
Decreased throughput in the emergency department (ED) because of boarded patients	65.4	978
Long waiting times because of overcrowding which is harmful to patients	65.3	977
Lack of surge capacity	63.1	944
Too many non-emergency patients (whether incurred or not insured) in the ED	51.1	764
The lack of on-call specialists which is causing delays in patient care	39.2	586
User Provided No Response	0.5	8



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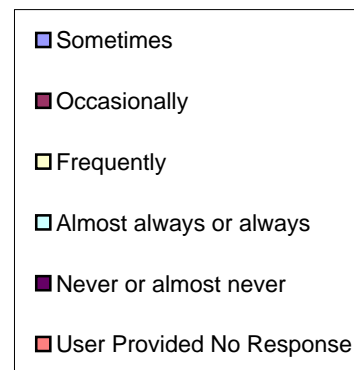
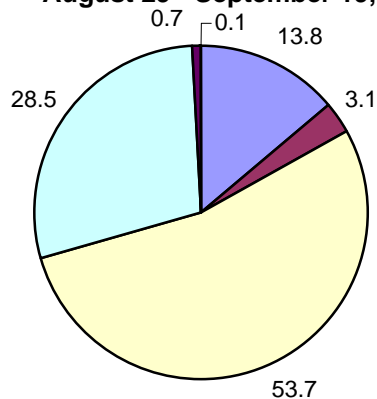
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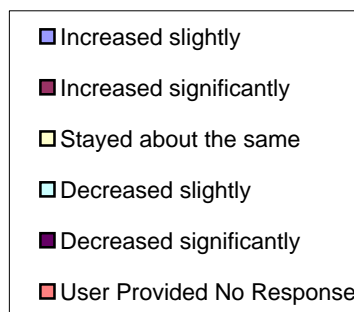
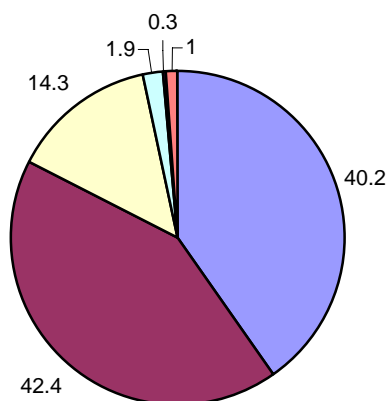
**3. My ED is overcrowded:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Sometimes	13.8	206
Occasionally	3.1	47
Frequently	53.7	804
Almost always or always	28.5	426
Never or almost never	0.7	11
User Provided No Response	0.1	2



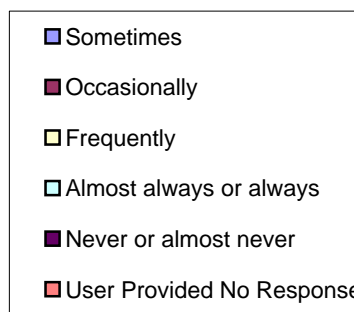
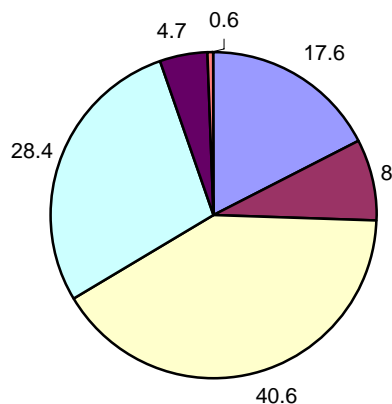
**4. In the past year, crowded conditions in my ED have:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Increased slightly	40.2	601
Increased significantly	42.4	634
Stayed about the same	14.3	214
Decreased slightly	1.9	28
Decreased significantly	0.3	4
User Provided No Response	1	15



**5. Boarding of admitted patients in the ED in my hospital happens:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Sometimes	17.6	264
Occasionally	8	119
Frequently	40.6	608
Almost always or always	28.4	425
Never or almost never	4.7	71
User Provided No Response	0.6	9

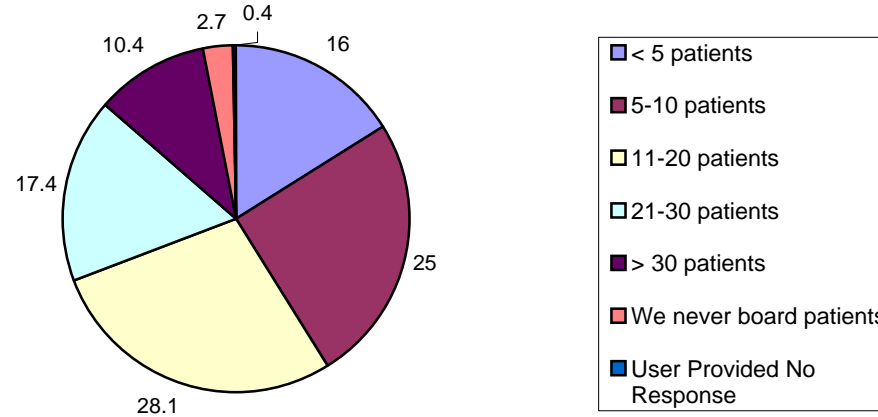


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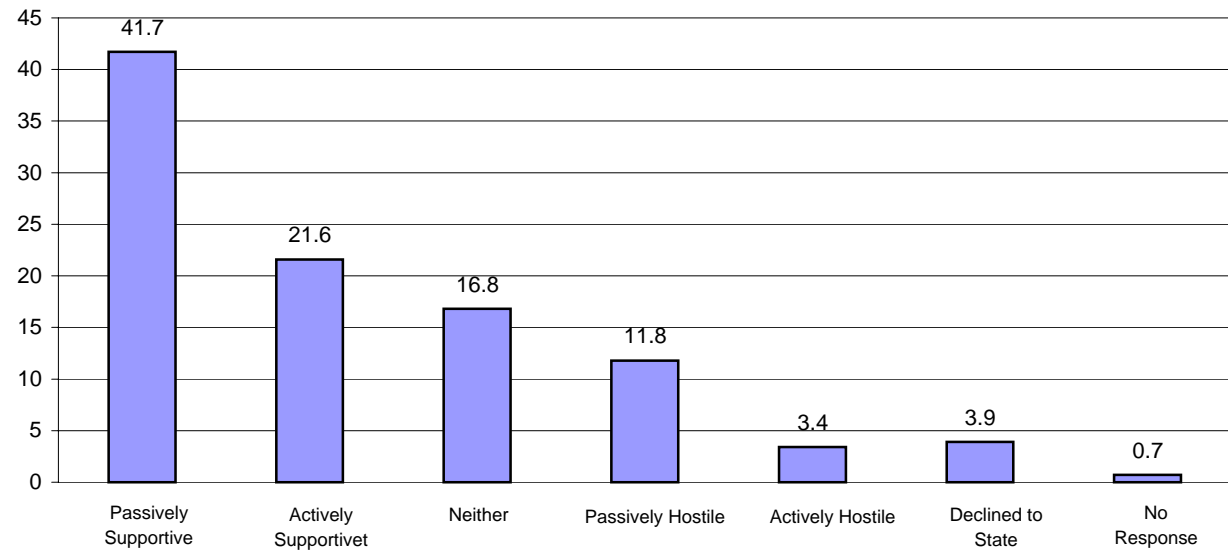
**6. The most patients boarding in my ED at any one time have been:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
< 5 patients	16	240
5-10 patients	25	374
11-20 patients	28.1	421
21-30 patients	17.4	260
> 30 patients	10.4	155
We never board patients	2.7	40
User Provided No Response	0.4	6



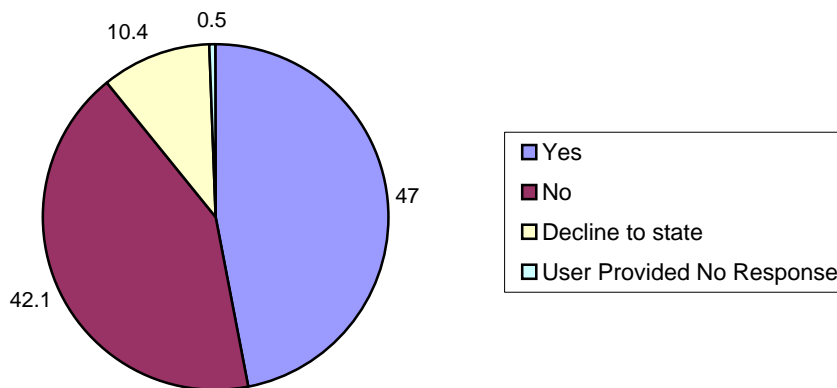
**7. My hospital is supportive of ending or reducing boarded patients in the ED?**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Passively supportive (talks supportively about actions that would decrease boarding)	41.7	624
Actively supportive (is currently taking actions to decrease boarding) No response	21.6	323
Neither hostile or supportive	16.8	252
Passively hostile (talks negatively about actions that would decrease boarding)	11.8	177
Actively hostile (takes actions that increases boarding)	3.4	51
Decline to state	3.9	59
User Provided No Response	0.7	10



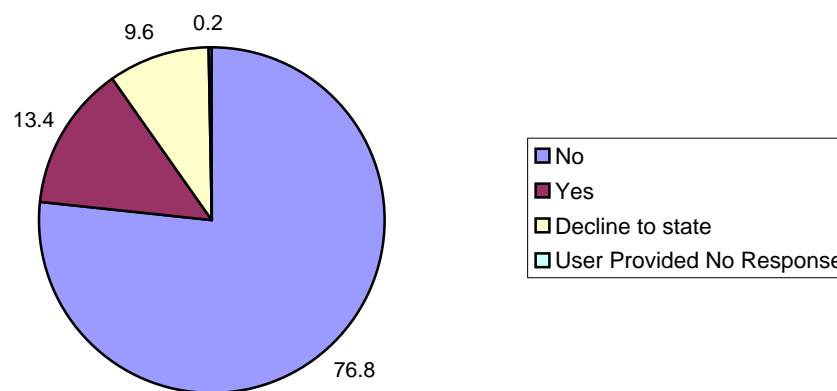
**8. Have you personally had experience with a patient suffering harm as a result of boarding?**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Yes	47	703
No	42.1	630
Decline to state	10.4	156
User Provided No Response	0.5	7



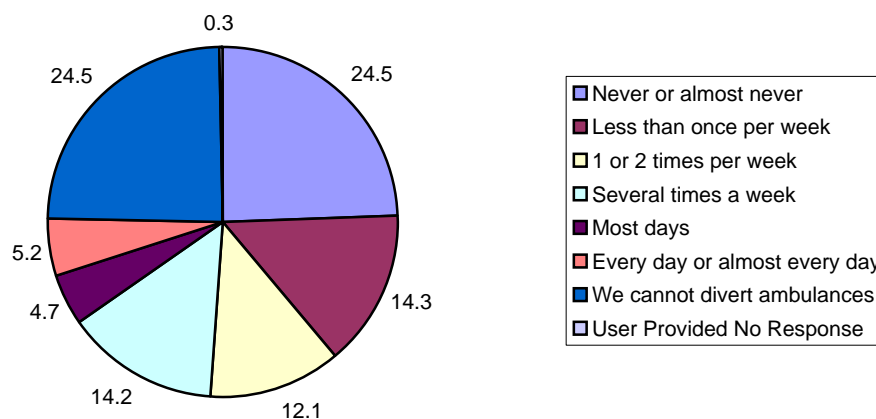
**9. Have you personally had experience of a patient dying as a result of boarding?**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
No	76.8	1149
Yes	13.4	200
Decline to state	9.6	144
User Provided No Response	0.2	3



**10. My hospital goes on ambulance diversion:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Never or almost never	24.5	367
Less than once per week	14.3	214
1 or 2 times per week	12.1	181
Several times a week	14.2	213
Most days	4.7	71
Every day or almost every day	5.2	78
We cannot divert ambulances	24.5	367
User Provided No Response	0.3	5

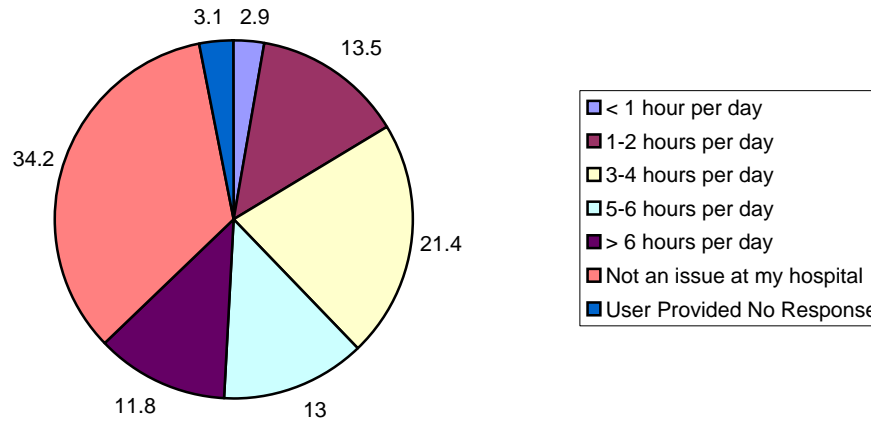


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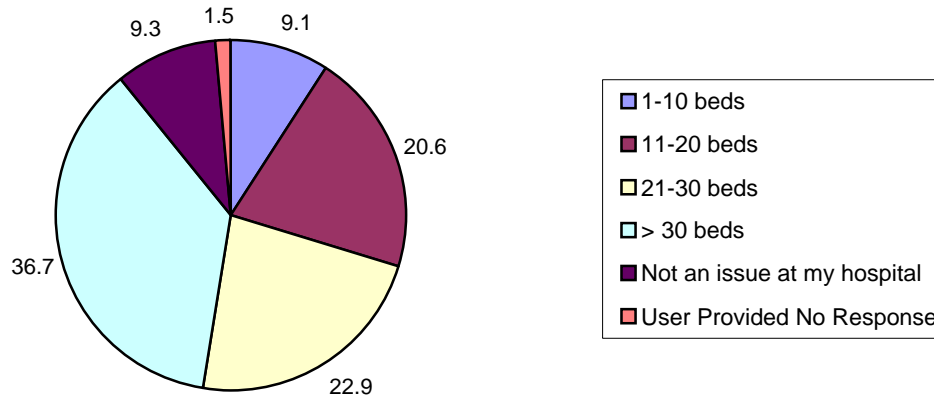
**11: When ambulance diversion occurs at my hospital, it usually lasts:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
< 1 hour per day	2.9	44
1-2 hours per day	13.5	202
3-4 hours per day	21.4	320
5-6 hours per day	13	195
> 6 hours per day	11.8	177
Not an issue at my hospital	34.2	511
User Provided No Response	3.1	47



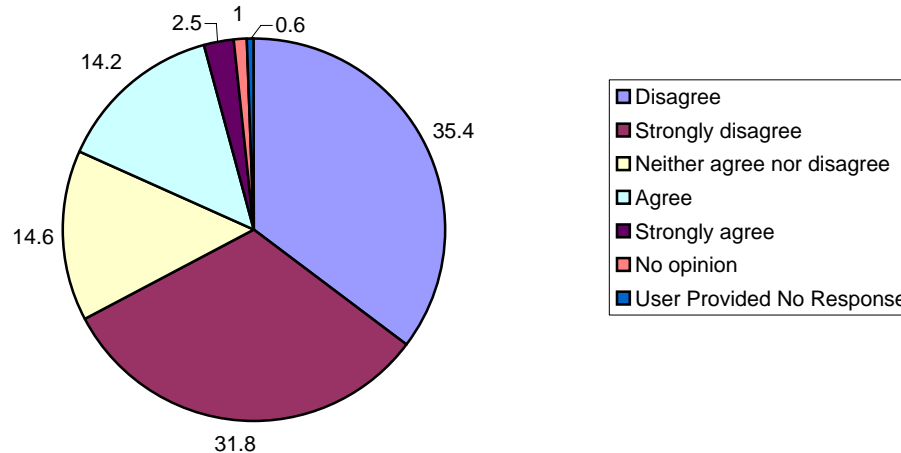
**12. To improve patient flow in the ED, my hospital's inpatient capacity should be increased by:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
1-10 beds	9.1	136
11-20 beds	20.6	308
21-30 beds	22.9	342
> 30 beds	36.7	549
Not an issue at my hospital	9.3	139
User Provided No Response	1.5	22



**13. My ED is equipped and staffed to deal effectively with a natural or man-made disaster:**

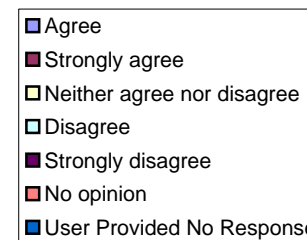
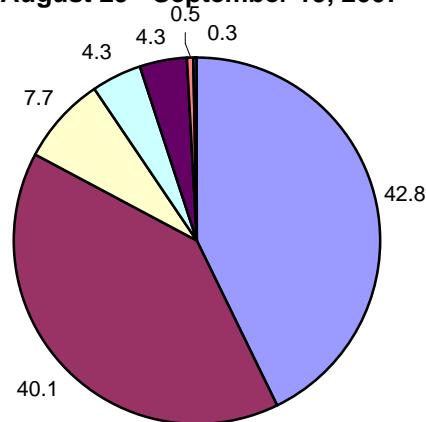
<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Disagree	35.4	529
Strongly disagree	31.8	475
Neither agree nor disagree	14.6	219
Agree	14.2	212
Strongly agree	2.5	37
No opinion	1	15
User Provided No Response	0.6	9



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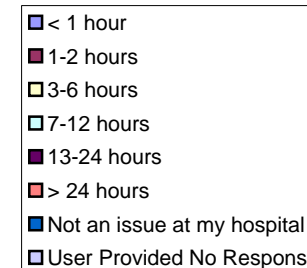
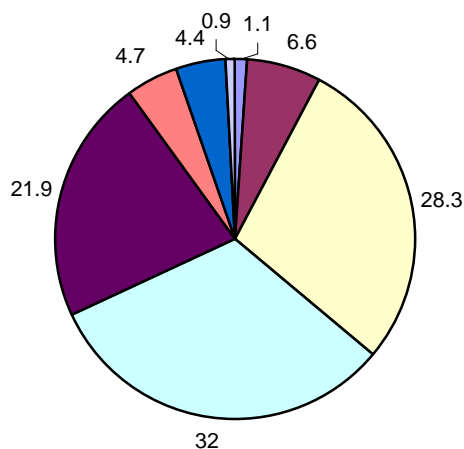
**14. Crowded conditions in my ED are having an adverse impact on patient care:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Agree	42.8	641
Strongly agree	40.1	600
Neither agree nor disagree	7.7	115
Disagree	4.3	64
Strongly disagree	4.3	64
No opinion	0.5	7
User Provided No Response	0.3	5



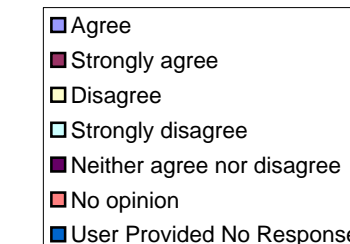
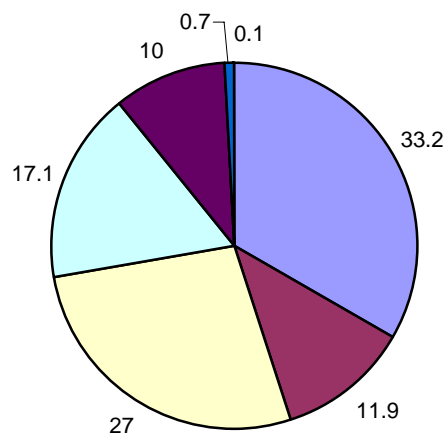
**15. Boarded patients wait in the ED for an in-patient bed on average:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
< 1 hour	1.1	17
1-2 hours	6.6	98
3-6 hours	28.3	424
7-12 hours	32	479
13-24 hours	21.9	327
> 24 hours	4.7	71
Not an issue at my hospital	4.4	66
User Provided No Response	0.9	14



**16. My hospital has adequate on-call specialist coverage:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Agree	33.2	497
Strongly agree	11.9	178
Disagree	27	404
Strongly disagree	17.1	256
Neither agree nor disagree	10	150
No opinion	0.1	1
User Provided No Response	0.7	10





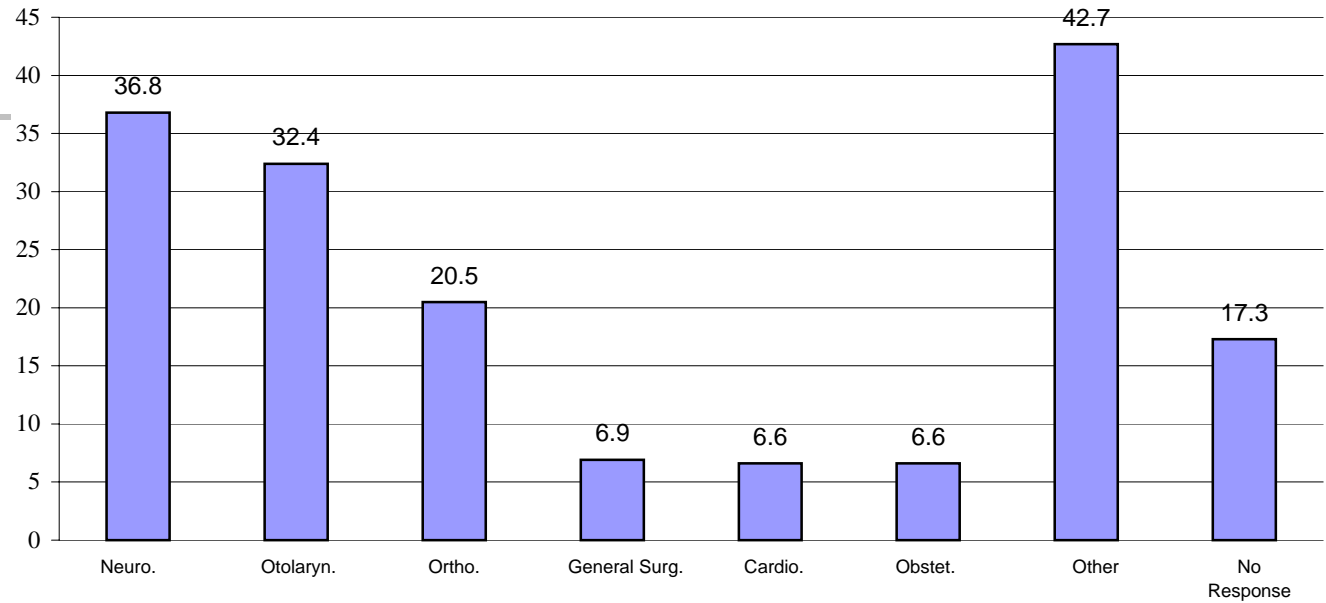
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**17. My hospital has the most difficulty finding on-call coverage for (choose all that apply):**

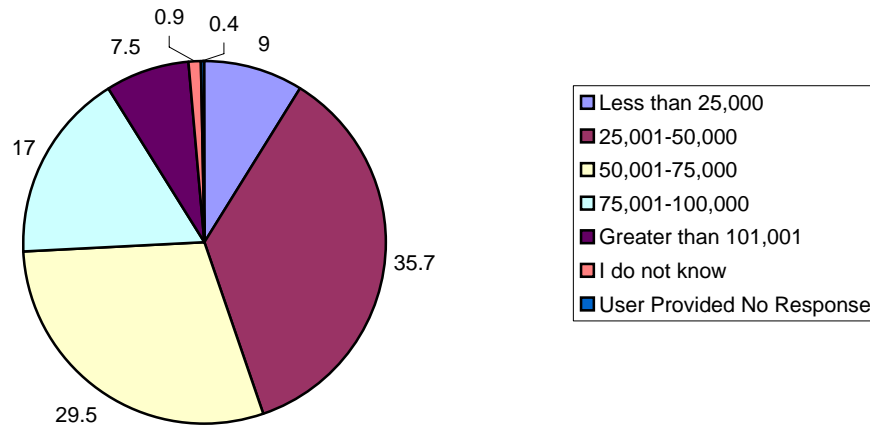
Total Number of Responses 1496

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Neurosurgeons	36.8	550
Otolaryngologists	32.4	485
Orthopedists	20.5	307
General Surgeons	6.9	103
Cardiologists	6.6	99
Obstetricians	6.6	99
Other	42.7	639
User Provided No Response	17.3	259



**18. Our annual ED volume is:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Less than 25,000	9	135
25,001-50,000	35.7	534
50,001-75,000	29.5	441
75,001-100,000	17	254
Greater than 101,001	7.5	112
I do not know	0.9	14
User Provided No Response	0.4	6

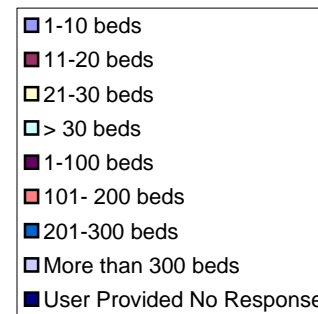
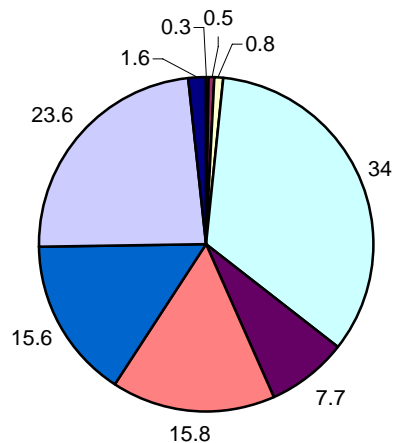


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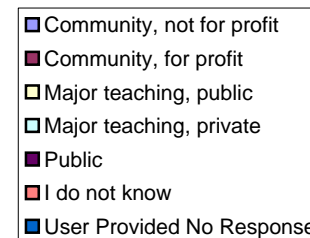
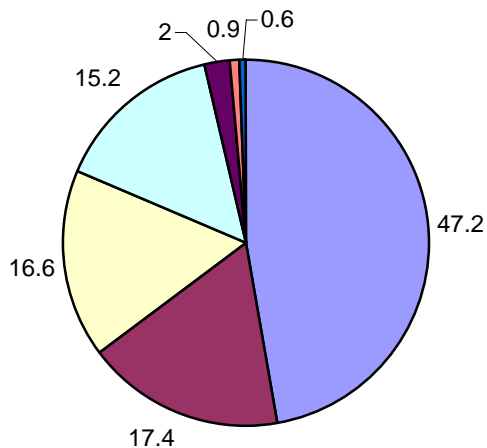
**19. My hospital's inpatient capacity is:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
1-10 beds	0.3	5
11-20 beds	0.5	8
21-30 beds	0.8	12
> 30 beds	34	509
1-100 beds	7.7	115
101- 200 beds	15.8	236
201-300 beds	15.6	234
More than 300 beds	23.6	353
User Provided No Response	1.6	24



**20. What is your hospital type?:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Community, not for profit	47.2	706
Community, for profit	17.4	260
Major teaching, public	16.6	249
Major teaching, private	15.2	228
Public	2	30
I do not know	0.9	14
User Provided No Response	0.6	9

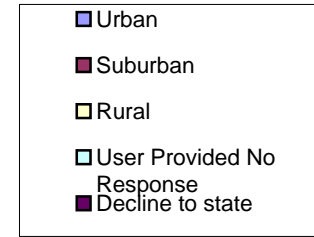
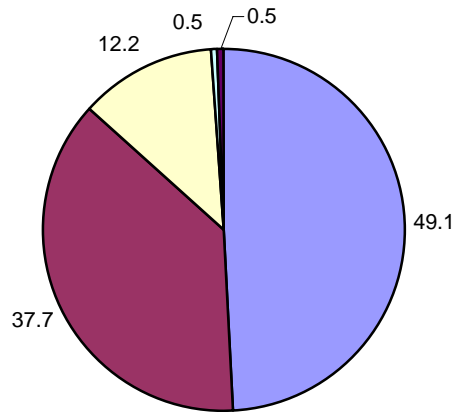


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**21. My hospital is:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Urban	49.1	734
Suburban	37.7	564
Rural	12.2	183
User Provided No Response	0.5	8
Decline to state	0.5	7



**22. My hospital's trauma center designation is:**

<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Count</u>
Level 1	28.9	433
Level 2	23.9	357
Level 3	11.7	175
Not designated a trauma center	31.4	469
Not sure/decline to state	3.6	54
User Provided No Response	0.5	8

