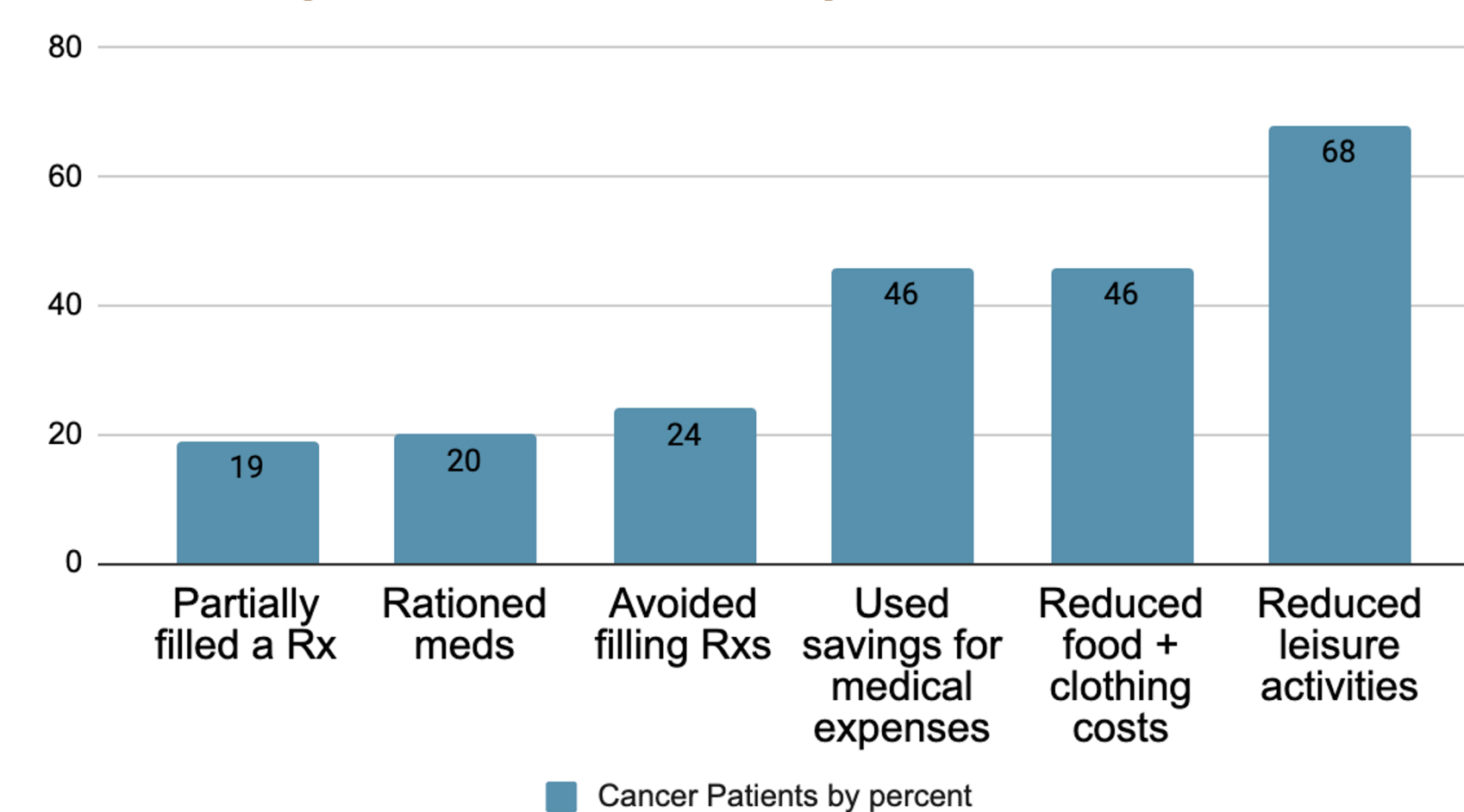


Introduction

- Financial toxicity (FT) refers to the detrimental effects of the excess financial strain caused by the diagnosis of cancer on the well-being of patients, their families and society
- With continued escalation in the costs of cancer treatment, FT has become an important consideration in recent cancer care¹
- New Day Foundation, a Michigan based not-for-profit organization, and similar organizations provide financial support through financial aid and navigation to lessen the financial burden of a cancer diagnosis
- New Day Foundation receives their clients through referrals from oncology social workers at various medical centers in Michigan
- Hypothesis: Health care systems with formal evaluation processes for financial support need in cancer patients are more successful in referring out to financial support organizations

Chart 1: Impact of FT on cancer patients



- FT manifests as patients partially filling prescriptions (Rx), rationing medications, dipping into savings for out of pocket expenses and cutting back on food, clothing costs and leisure activities
- Chart 1 is based on a 2015 study based on survey of adult cancer patients¹

Aims and Objectives

- This project aims to elucidate the differences in how health systems in southern Michigan evaluate the need for financial support for cancer patients
- Secondary aim is to evaluate what a successful system does well and make a policy recommendation to adhere to that standard

Methods

Oncologic social workers contact list shared from New Day Foundation based on previous referrals



90 oncologic social workers sent Qualtrics survey link



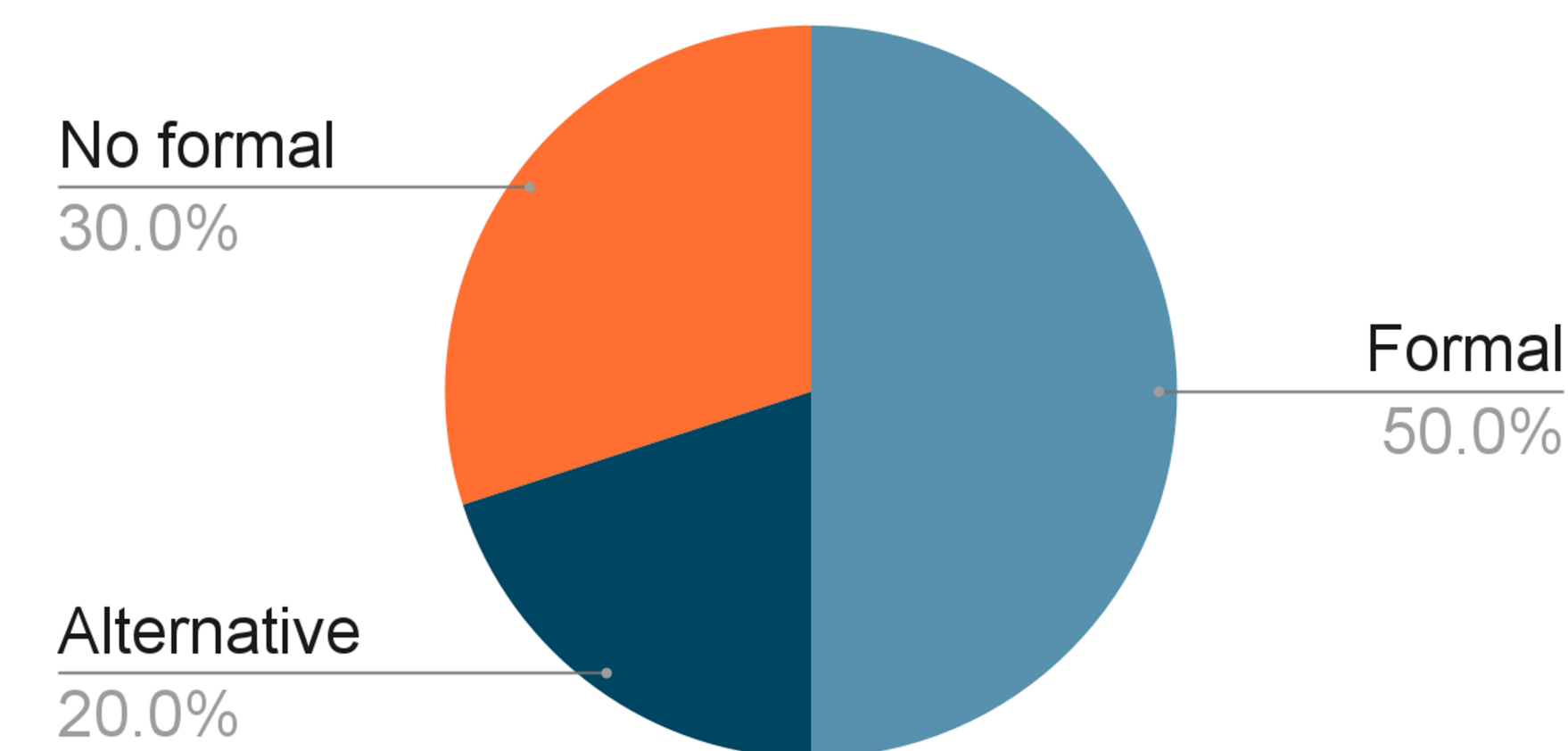
Survey results collected for 3 months with periodic email reminders

- Survey included 10 total questions, 1 was qualitative while 9 were quantitative
- Questions asked- demographic information screened (1), employment information screened (1), cancer diagnosis and treatment (1), staff dedicated to financial screenings (1), assessment process (3), referral patterns (2), open ended question for respondents to provide further information (1)

Results

- Initial survey sent out to: 90
- Responses: 38
- Responses excluded due to incompleteness: 8
- Final responses considered: 30
- Hospitals/ cancer centers represented: 20
 - Other 10 represent multiple entries for same hospitals

Chart 2: Financial support evaluation process by percentage of hospitals



*Alternative= screened by other professions including nurse navigators, physicians, ...

Chart 3: Factors considered when evaluating for financial support referral

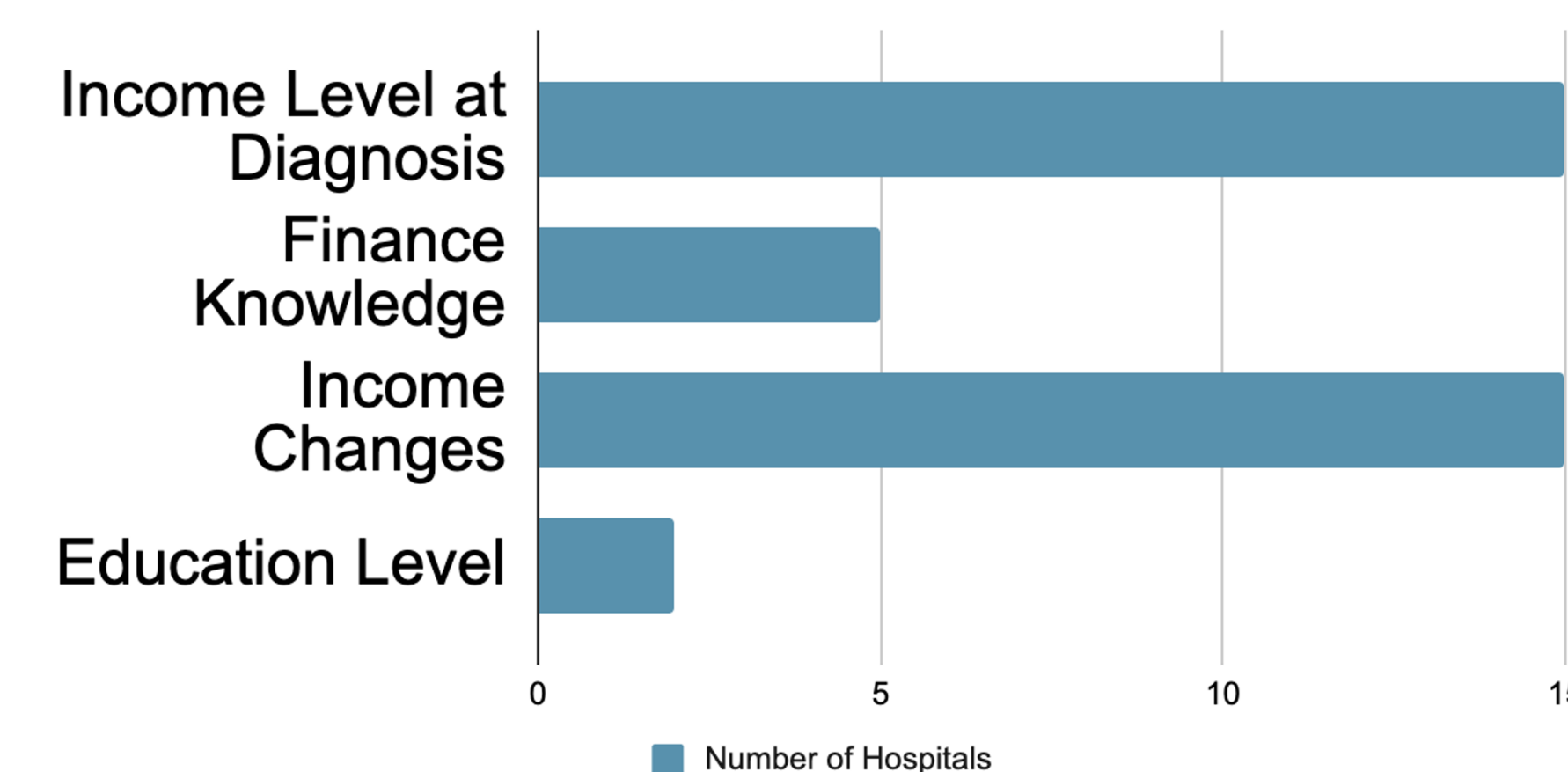


Table 1: Relationship between Hospital Referral Volume and Formal Evaluation Process

Formal Referral Process?	Low Referral (<100 per year) (hospitals)	High Referral (>100 per year) (hospitals)	All (hospitals)
Yes	5 (50%)	5 (71%)	11 (55%)
Alternate	3 (30%)	0 (0%)	4 (20%)
No	2 (20%)	2 (29%)	5 (25%)

Chi-square analysis, p= 0.2794

Conclusions

- Income level at diagnosis and anticipated income changes were asked at 75% of hospitals while evaluating for finance knowledge (20%) and education level (10%) were not routinely asked
- There is not a significant difference (p=0.28) in the presence of a formal evaluation system between hospitals with more than 100 financial support referrals a year compared to those under 100 referrals a year
- Results support the idea of heterogeneity between hospitals in the evaluation process and referral system in connecting cancer patients with financial support
- Limitations include low response rate leading to a non-significant p-value and optional Qualtrics questions leading to incomplete responses and unintended skipped questions
- Currently, we are performing a follow up study via virtual interview to elicit qualitative information and to gain a deeper understanding of each system's process. This further data will allow us to make a policy recommendation per our second aim
- While FT continues to have a huge impact on cancer patients, there is yet a streamlined evaluation and referral process across health systems

References

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