

HCV Diagnostic Testing and Reporting Practices in Public Health Laboratories

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What are Public Health Labs?

Public health laboratories provide clinical diagnostic testing, disease surveillance, environmental and radiological testing, emergency response support, applied research, laboratory training and other essential services to the communities they serve.



Public Health Compared to Clinical/Commercial Labs

Respective Lab Roles

Health Care Labs

- Diagnostic testing
- Some reference testing
- Medical management
- Focus = [Individuals](#)

Public Health Labs

- Some diagnostic testing
- Reference testing
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Focus = [Communities](#)

Inter-dependent Network

Identify Public Health Threats

Who are we testing?

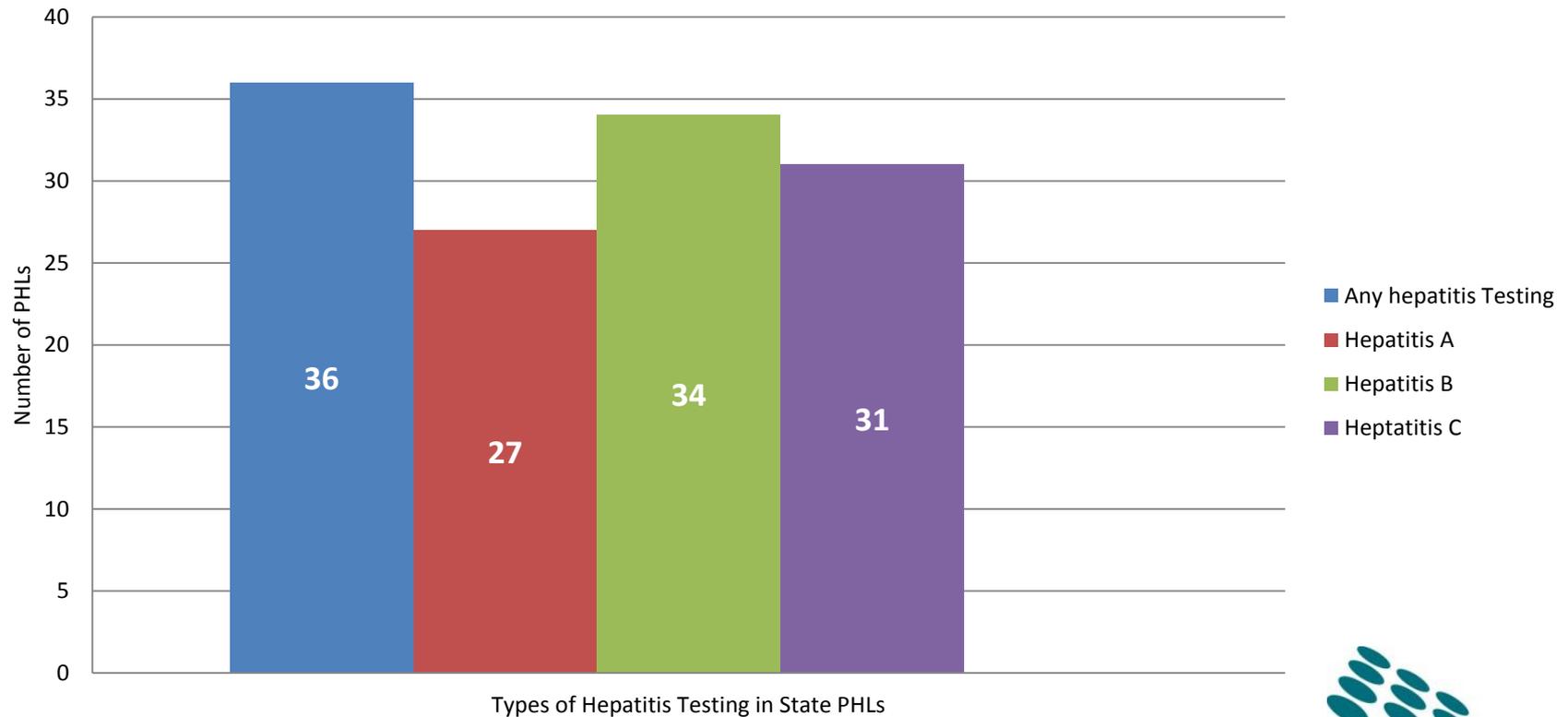
- Public Clinics (STD, HIV, etc)
- Corrections
- Universities
- Planned Parenthood
- Emergency Responders
- Special Requests from PH (outbreak investigations)

2009 Viral Hepatitis Testing Survey

- In 2009 APHL and DVH conducted a survey of State Public Health Labs that asked questions related to their viral Hepatitis Testing Practices in 2008
- APHL received responses from 41/51 SPHLs invited to participate -- an 80% response rate

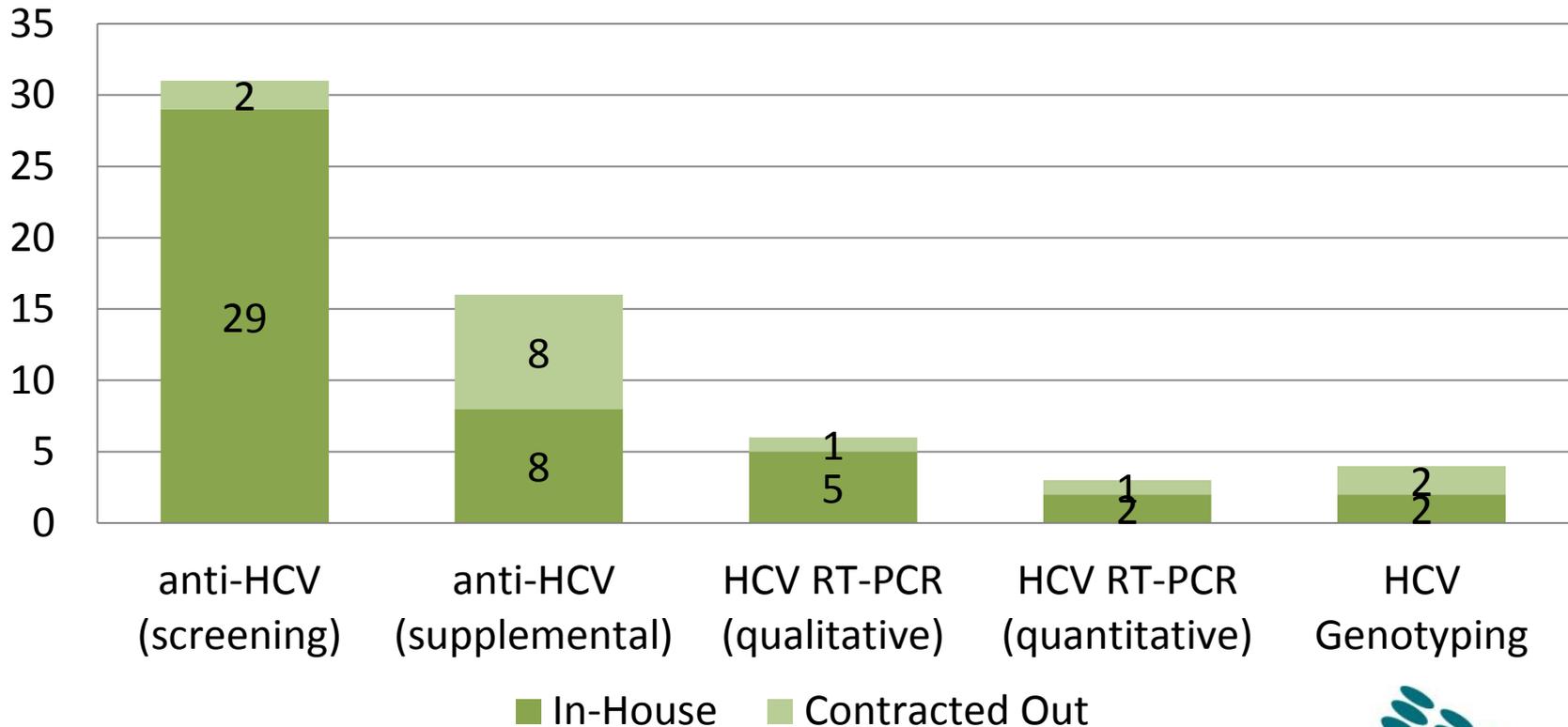
HCV Testing Practices

Hepatitis Testing Services Offered in State Public Health Laboratories



HCV Testing Practices

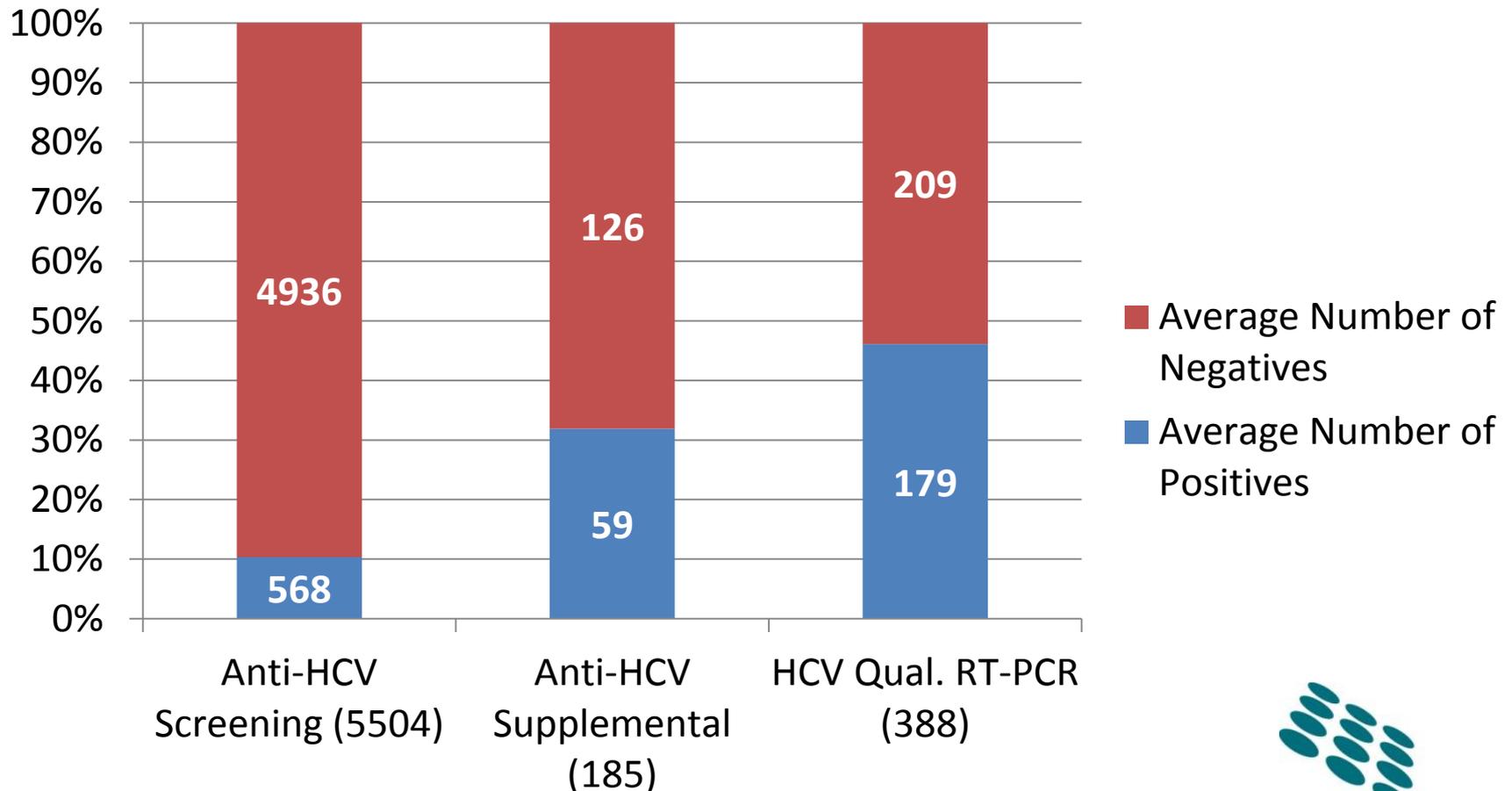
Hepatitis C Assay Types Offered in SPHLs (2008) n=31



Criteria for Performing Supplemental HCV Testing

- 13 SPHLs provide supplemental testing only on specimens below the specified s/co
- 6 SPHLs provide supplemental testing on physician request
- 7 labs perform testing for public clinics that refer patients to care upon any positive screening test – 2 of those labs include language recommending supplemental testing if the s/co ratio is below the threshold;

Average Annual SPHL HCV Testing Volume in 2008



HCV Reporting Practices

- 29/31 SPHLs performing or referring HCV testing report positive results to the state or local health department.
- 28/31 SPHLs performing HCV testing report results to the test requesters.
- 1 SPHL has results reported by reference lab

HCV Reporting Practices

- 10/ 31 SPHLs report negative HCV results to the state or local health department
- 29/31 SPHLs report negative HCV results to test requestors
- 1 SPHL has results reported by reference lab
- 1 SPHL does genotyping only

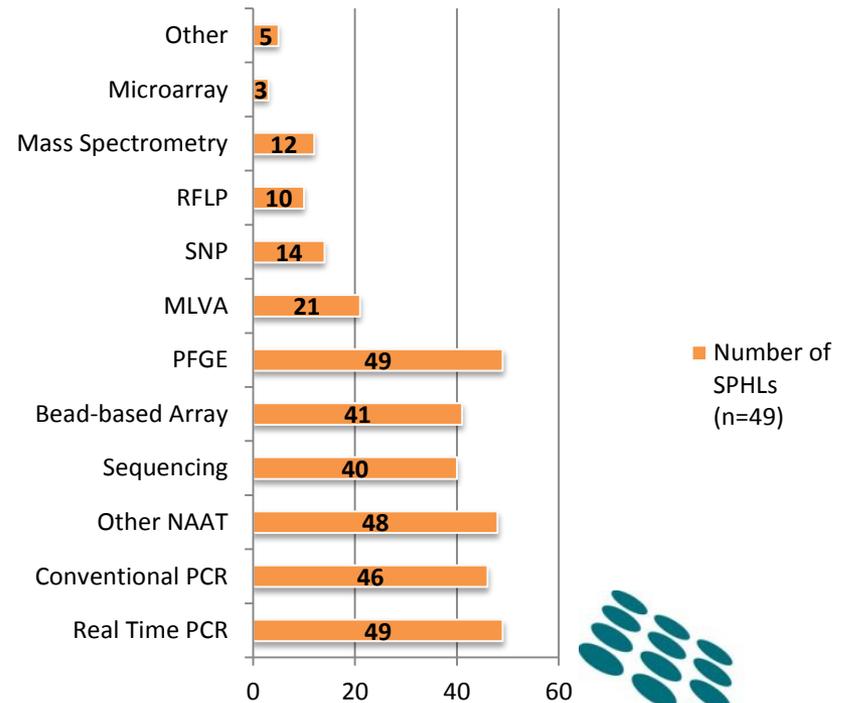
Electronic Reporting in SPHLs

- All SPHLs have existing LIMS
- Several SPHLs are linked into their state's health information exchange system. All SPHLs are working towards this.

Molecular Testing Capability in SPHLs

- In September 2010, APHL asked SPHLs to report on their current molecular testing practices for infectious diseases.
- 100% of the 49 respondents reported using molecular technology for ID testing

Types of Molecular Technology Used for ID Testing in SPHLs in 2010



Summary

- The role that Public Health Laboratories play in HCV testing varies widely by state. In some states their role is significant whereas in others they play no role.
- PHLs provide testing for high risk populations; assist in outbreak investigations; provide useful numerator/ denominator information
- PHL adoption of CDC's 2003 HCV recommendations was mixed

Summary

- PHLs have the existing infrastructure, expertise and desire to expand their role in hepatitis C testing in this era of improved therapy
- With a rapid CLIA waived test now available, and the importance of genotyping for therapy, plus the wider use of molecular methods, PHLs are interested in relooking at the testing guidelines and assisting in updating them.