



# Anticoagulation Therapy after Aortic Tissue Valve Replacement

## Final Results

*CTSNet Editors,  
Valve Technology Center*

## Objectives

- **Primary:** To determine the frequency of awareness among CTSNet surgeons of the American College of Cardiology guidelines for post-op warfarin therapy in patients with tissue valve replacement.
- **Secondary:** To determine whether awareness of these guidelines affects anticoagulation practices following aortic tissue valve replacement (ATVR).

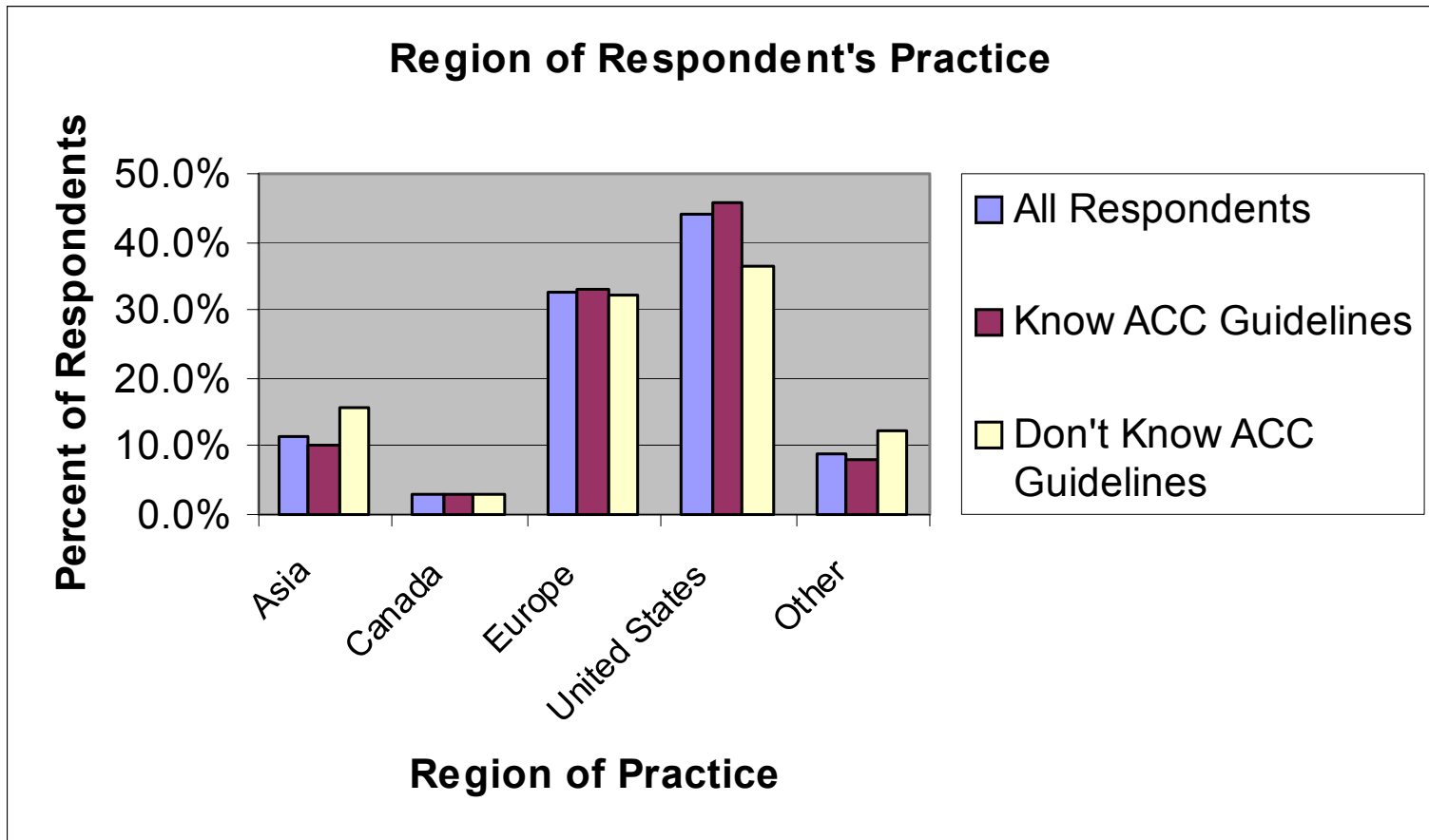
## Methods

- **Study Population:** Surgeon members of CTSNet who perform aortic tissue valve replacement (ATVR) procedures.
- **Recruitment:** Blast email notification of online survey instrument. Announcement on CTSNet Home Page and Valve Technology Center home page.
- **Design:** Cross-sectional study. Surgeons completed online survey accessed through [www.CTSNet.org](http://www.CTSNet.org). Member login required. Single submission. June 30, 2003 – August 28, 2003.
- **Analysis:** Descriptive statistics.

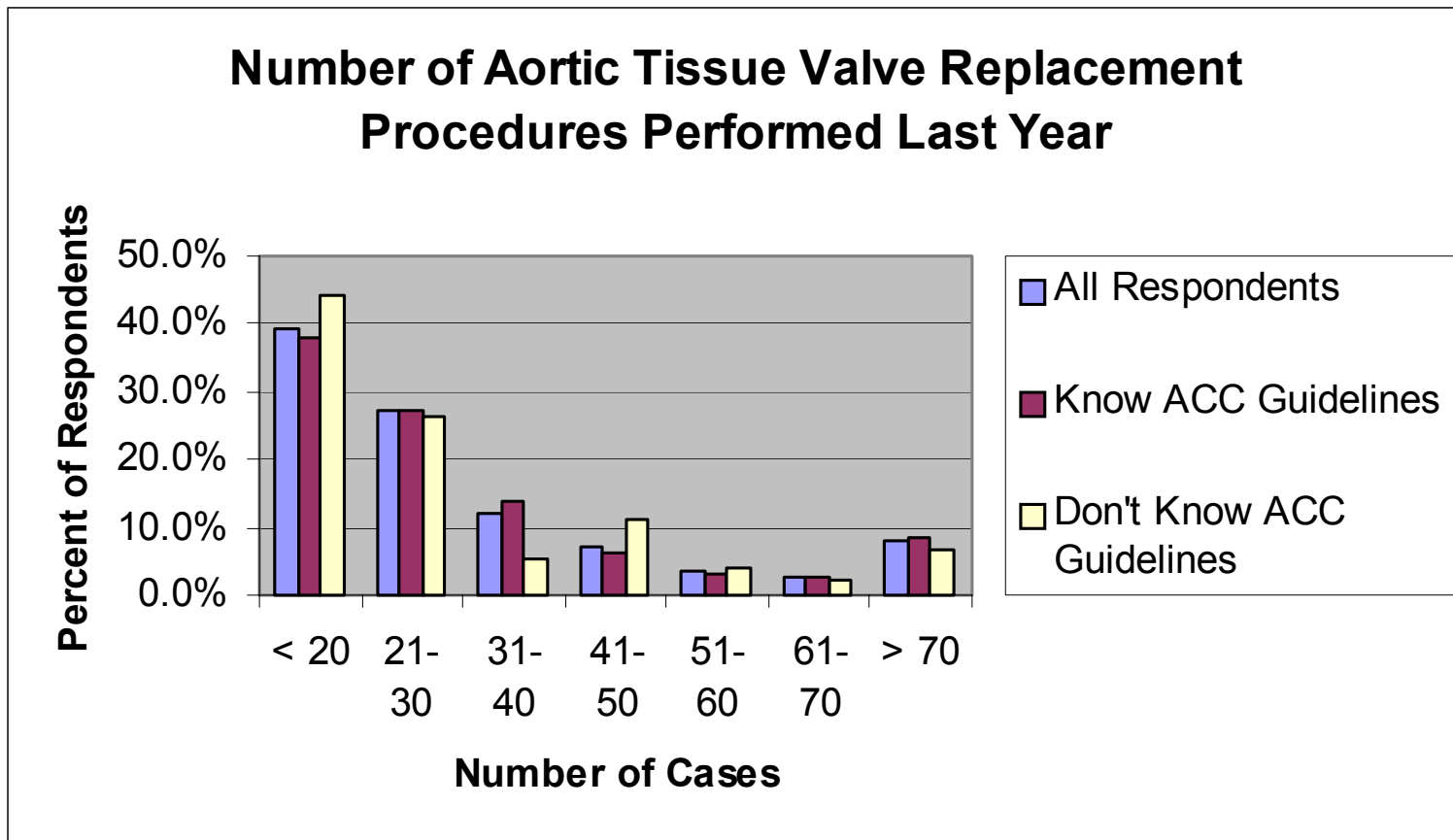
## Results: Awareness of ACC Guidelines

- 726 CTSNet-member surgeons completed the survey.
  - 79% were aware of ACC post-op warfarin guidelines
  - 21% were not aware of the ACC guidelines
- The following results are segmented as follows:
  - All respondents
  - Know ACC Guidelines
  - Don't Know ACC Guidelines
- Note: ATVR = Aortic Tissue Valve Replacement

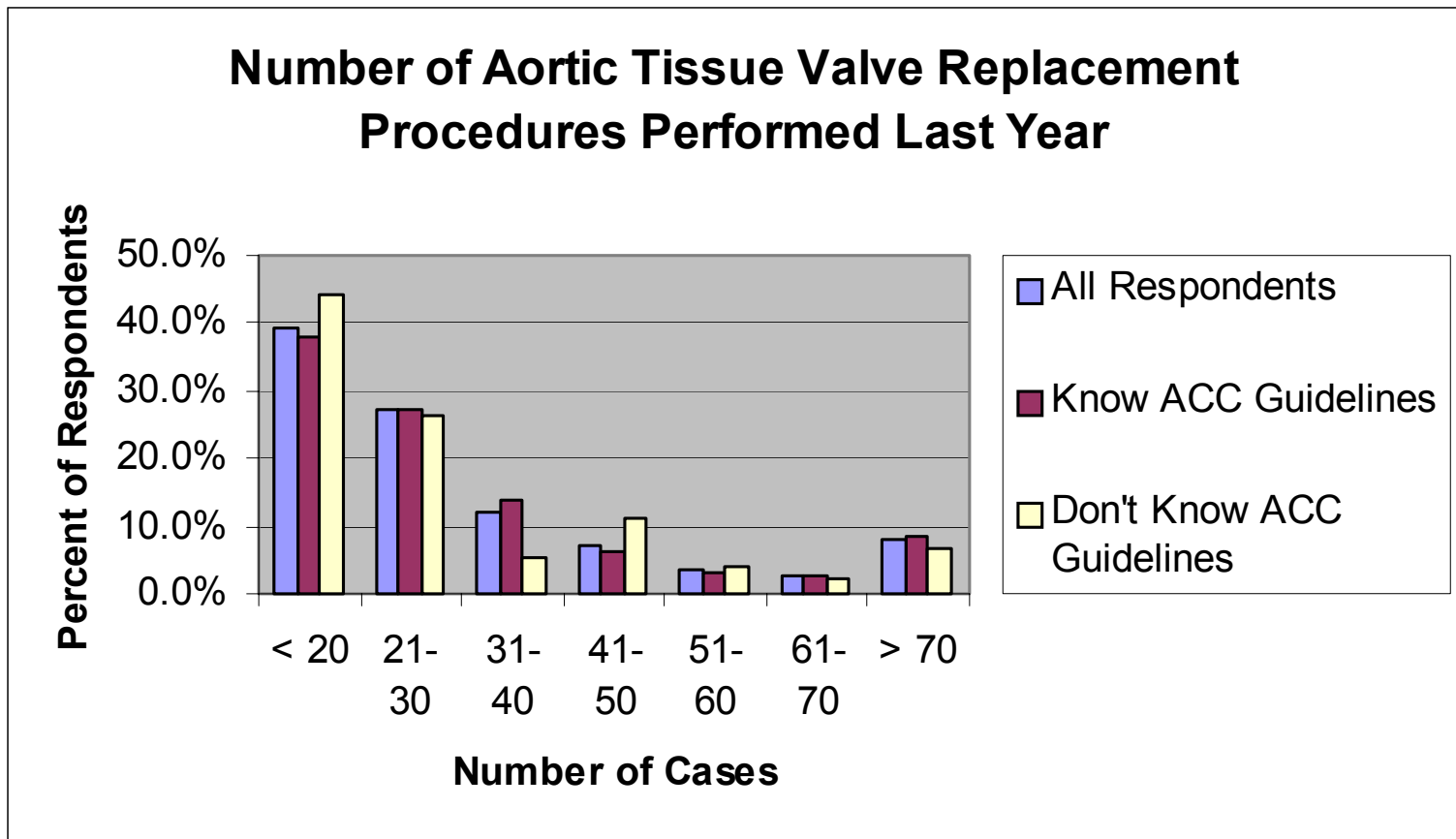
## Region of Practice



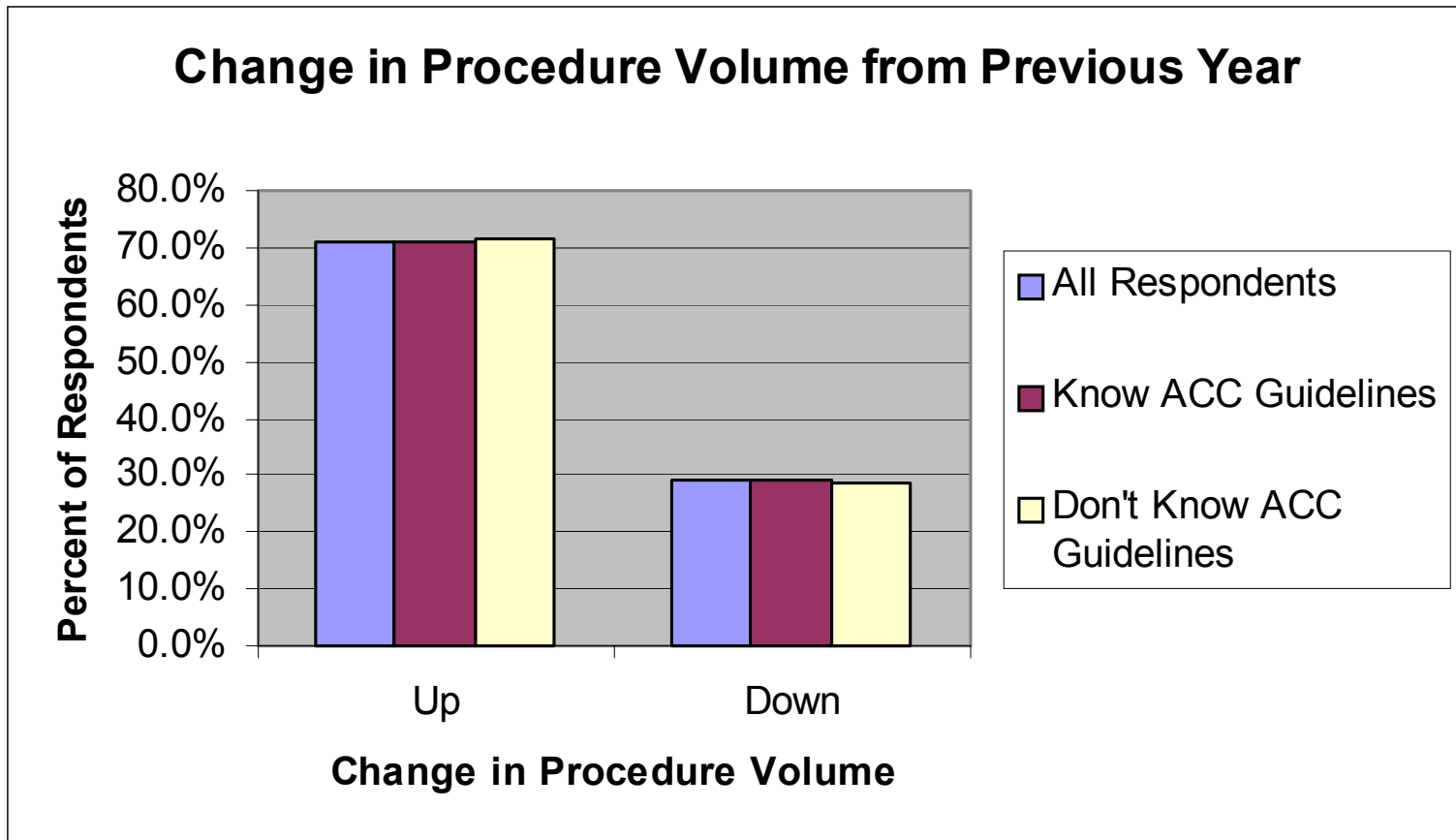
## ATVR Procedures Performed Last Year



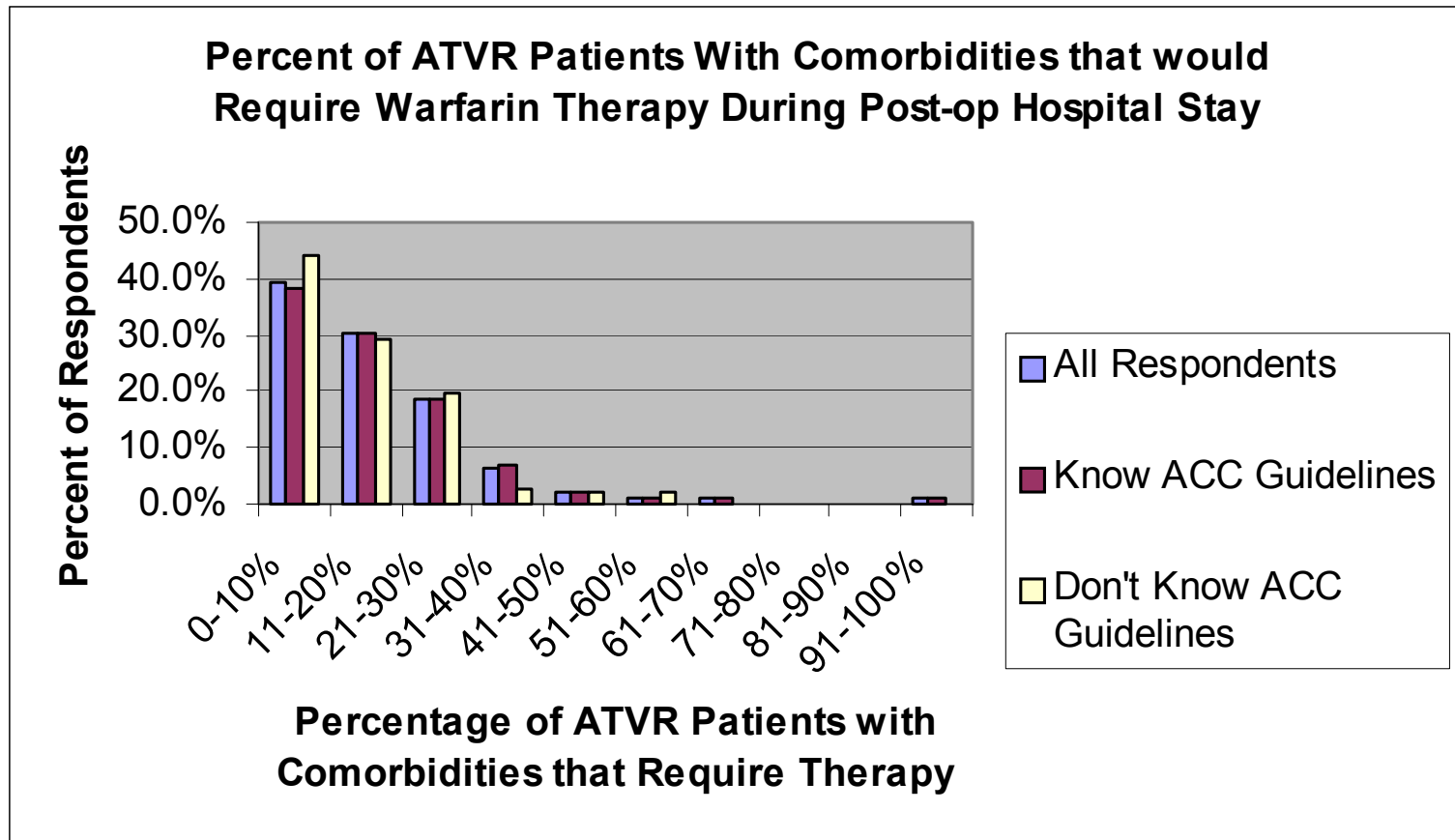
## ATVR Procedures Performed Last Year



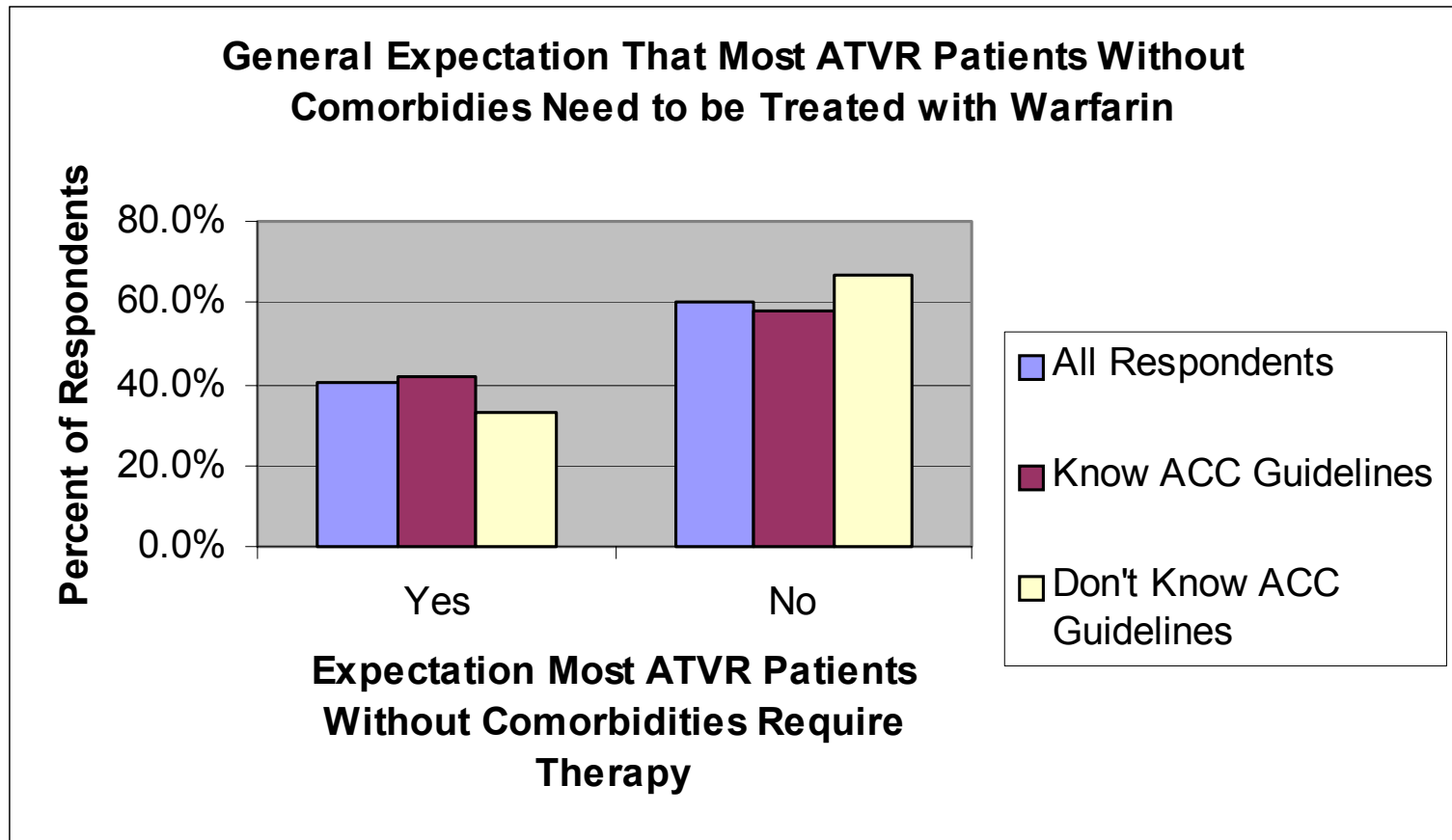
## Change in Procedure Volume from Previous Year



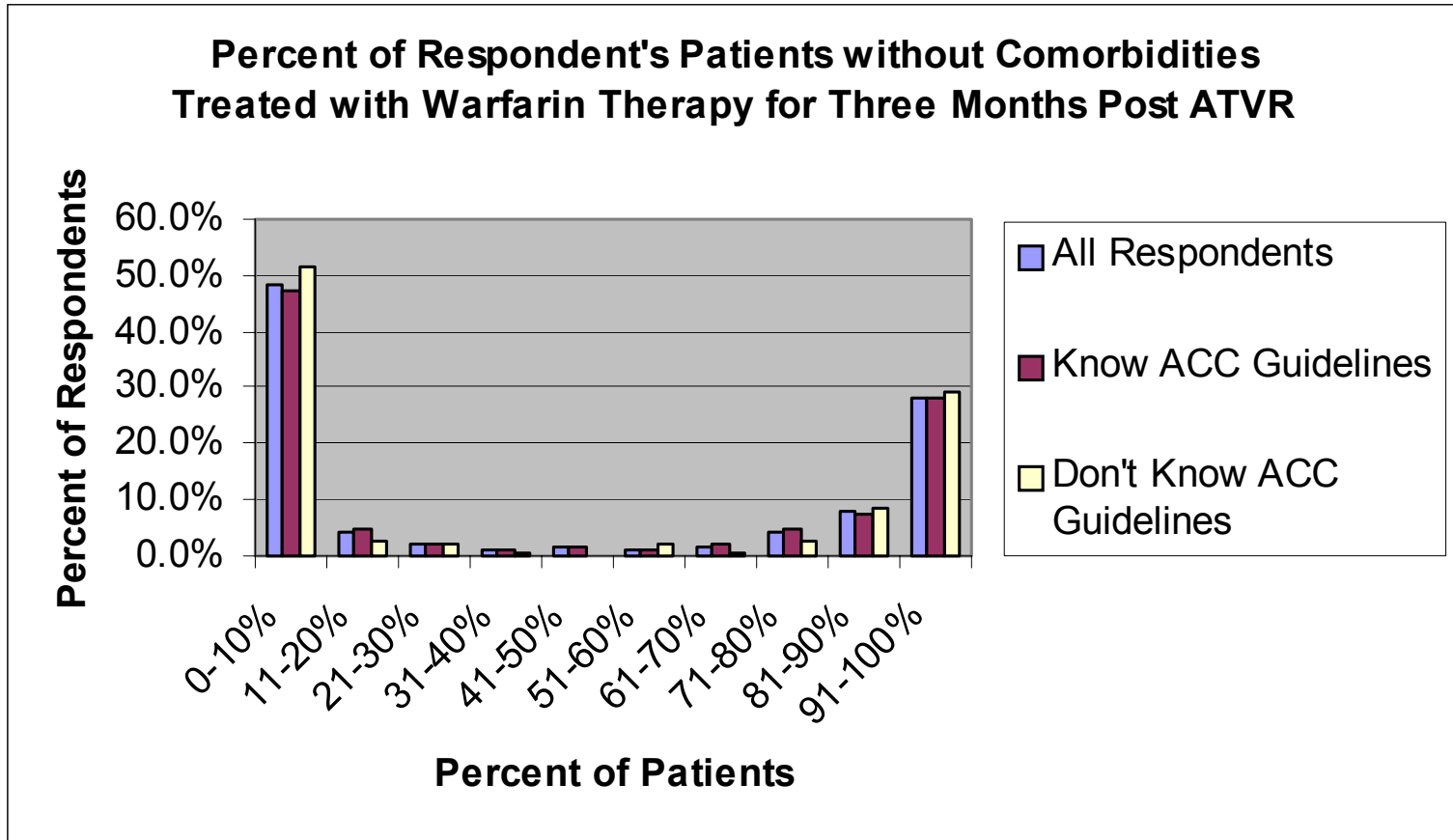
## Percent of ATVR Patients with Comorbidities Requiring Post-op Warfarin Therapy



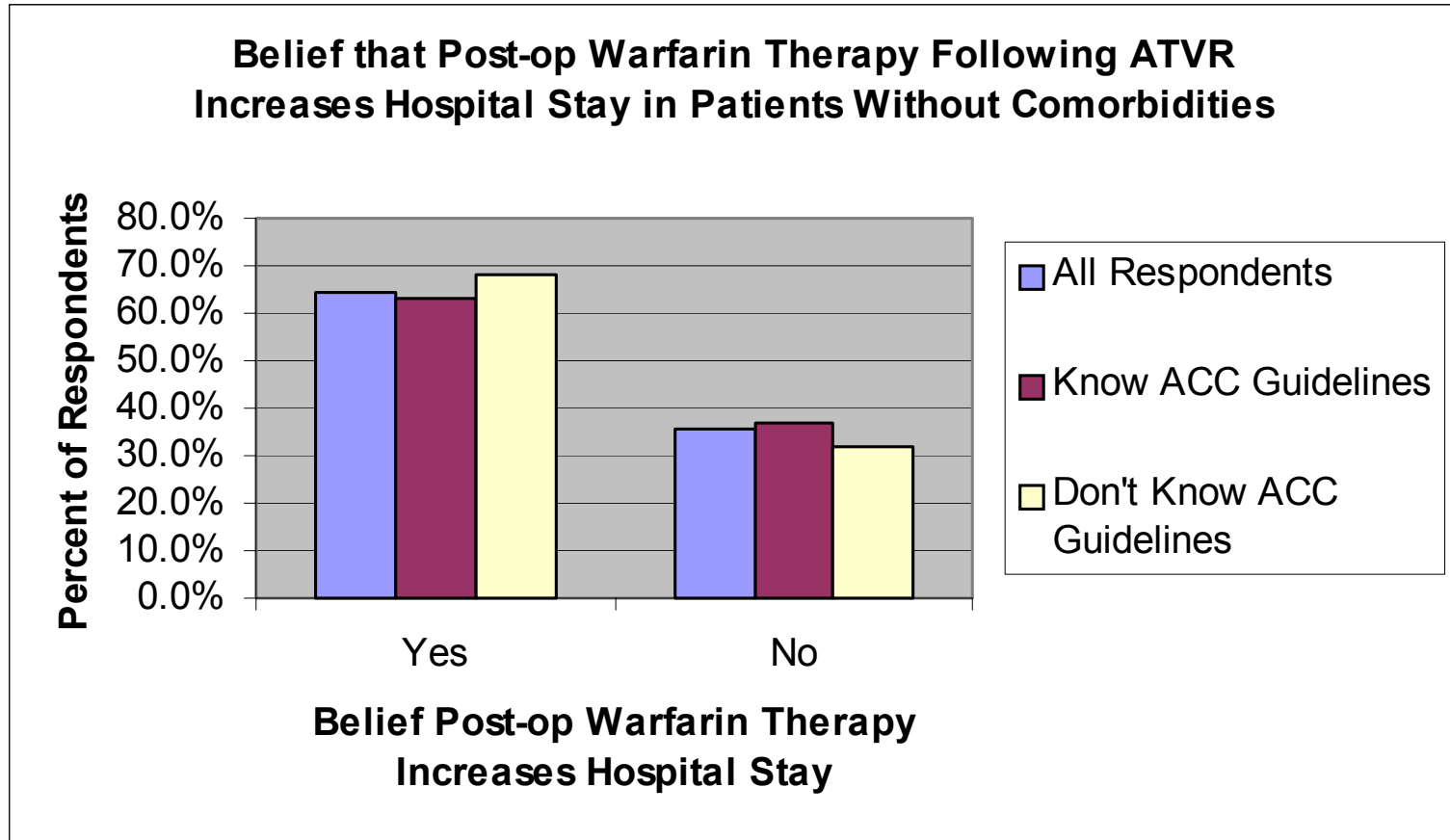
## Expectation of Warfarin Treatment in ATVR Patients without Comorbidities



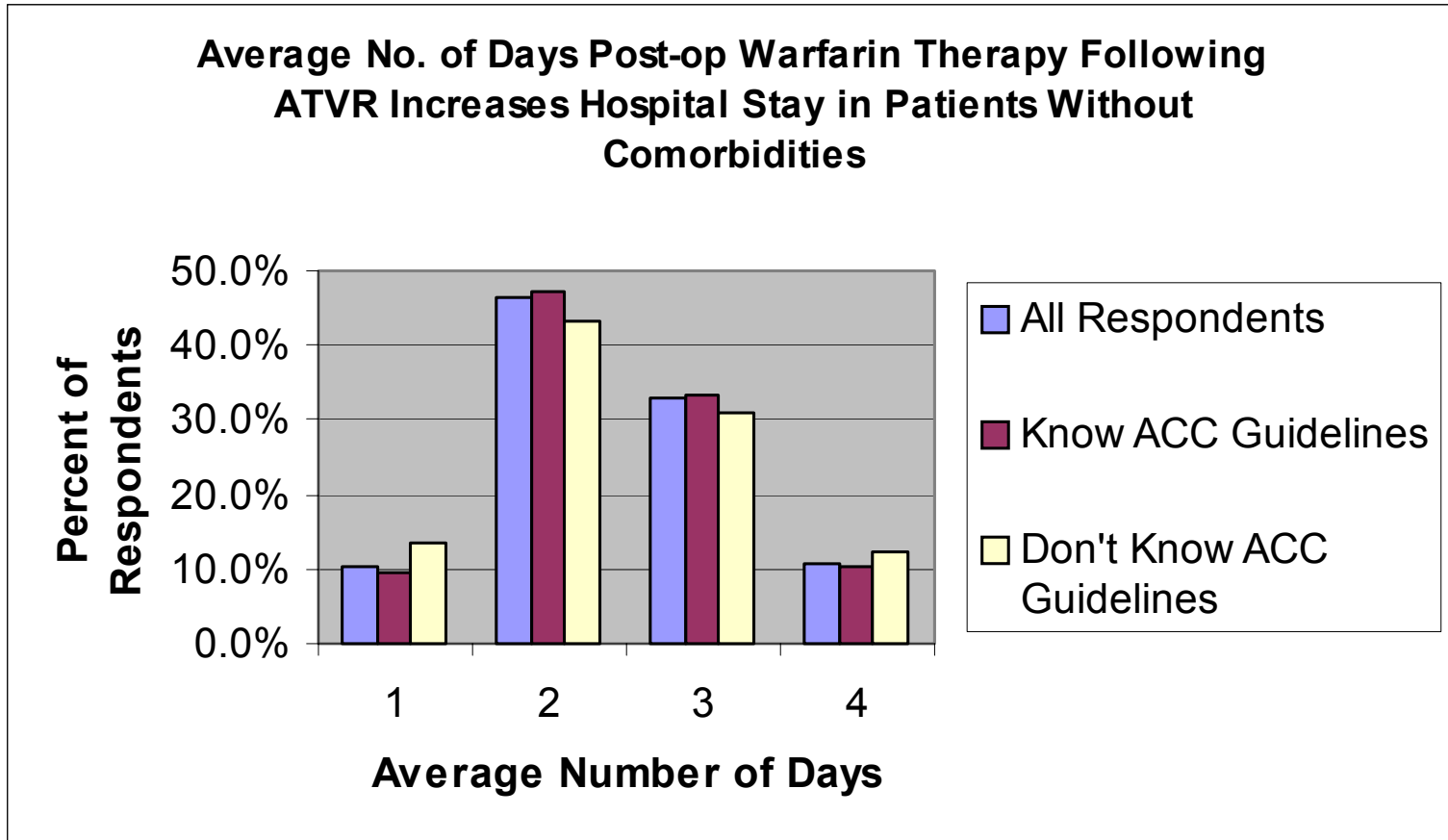
## Percent Patients without Comorbidities Treated with Warfarin for 3 Months after ATVR



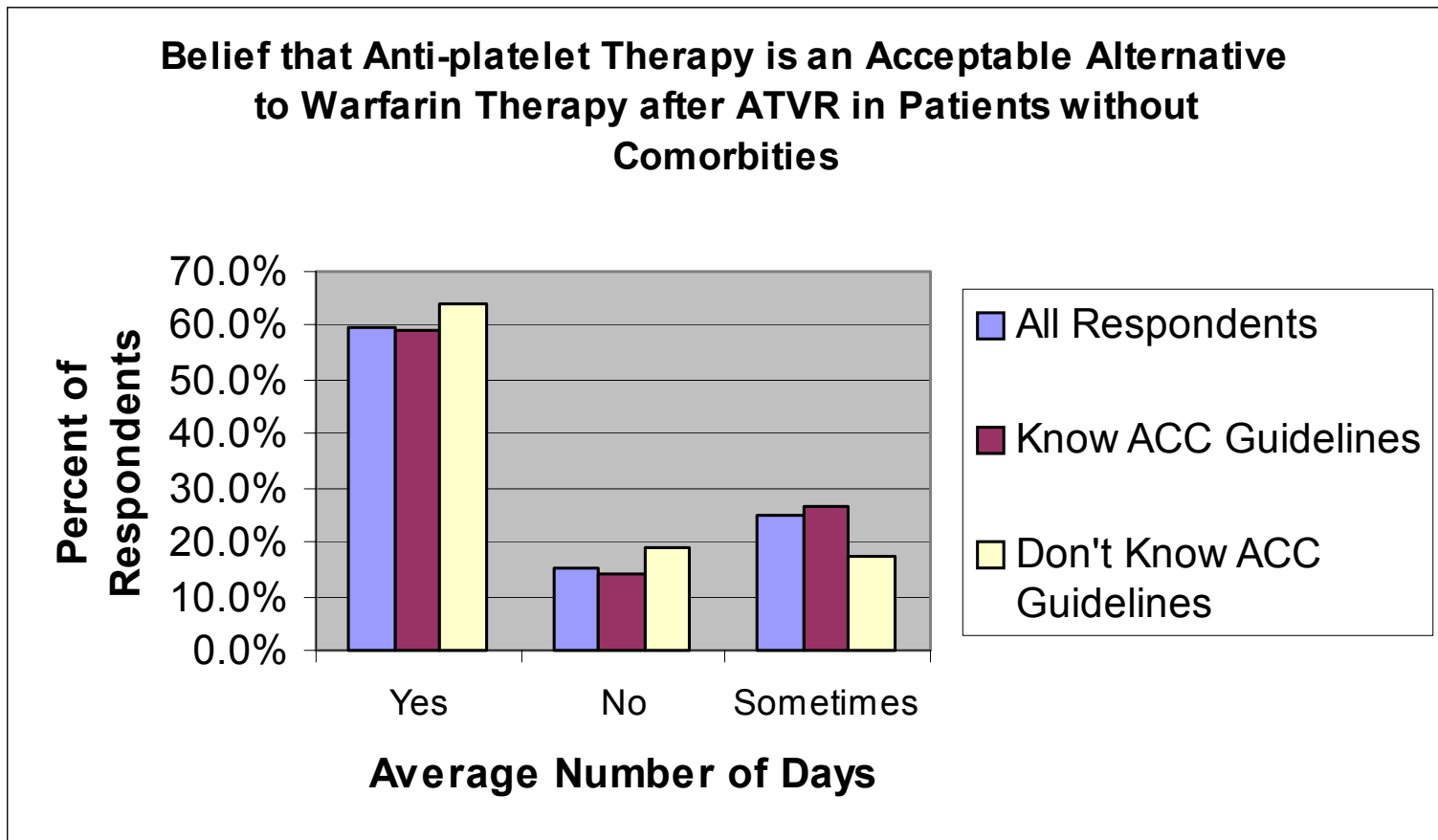
## Belief that Post-Op Warfarin Rx Increases Length of Stay in ATVR Patients without Comorbidities



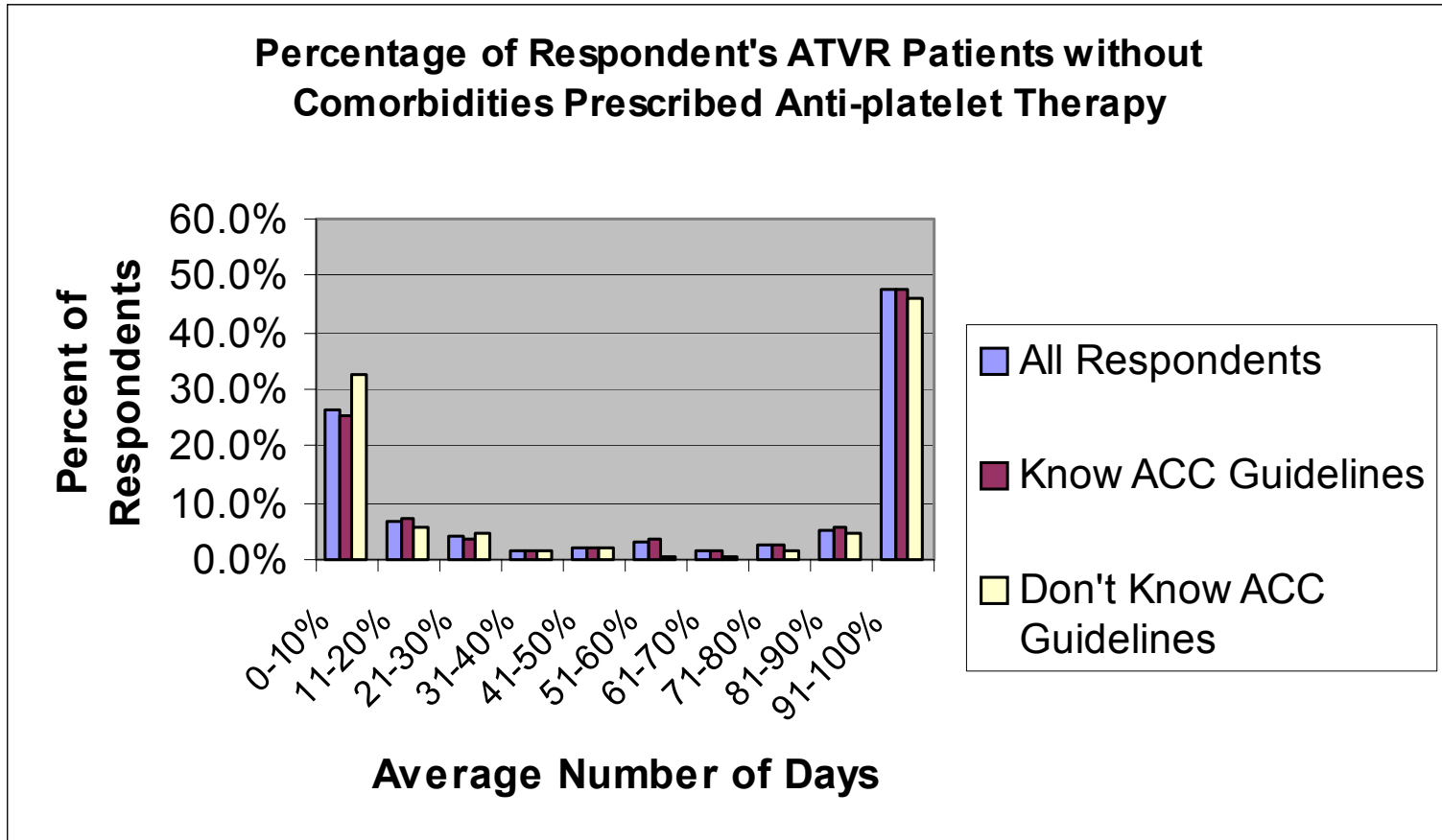
## Average Increase in Length of Stay



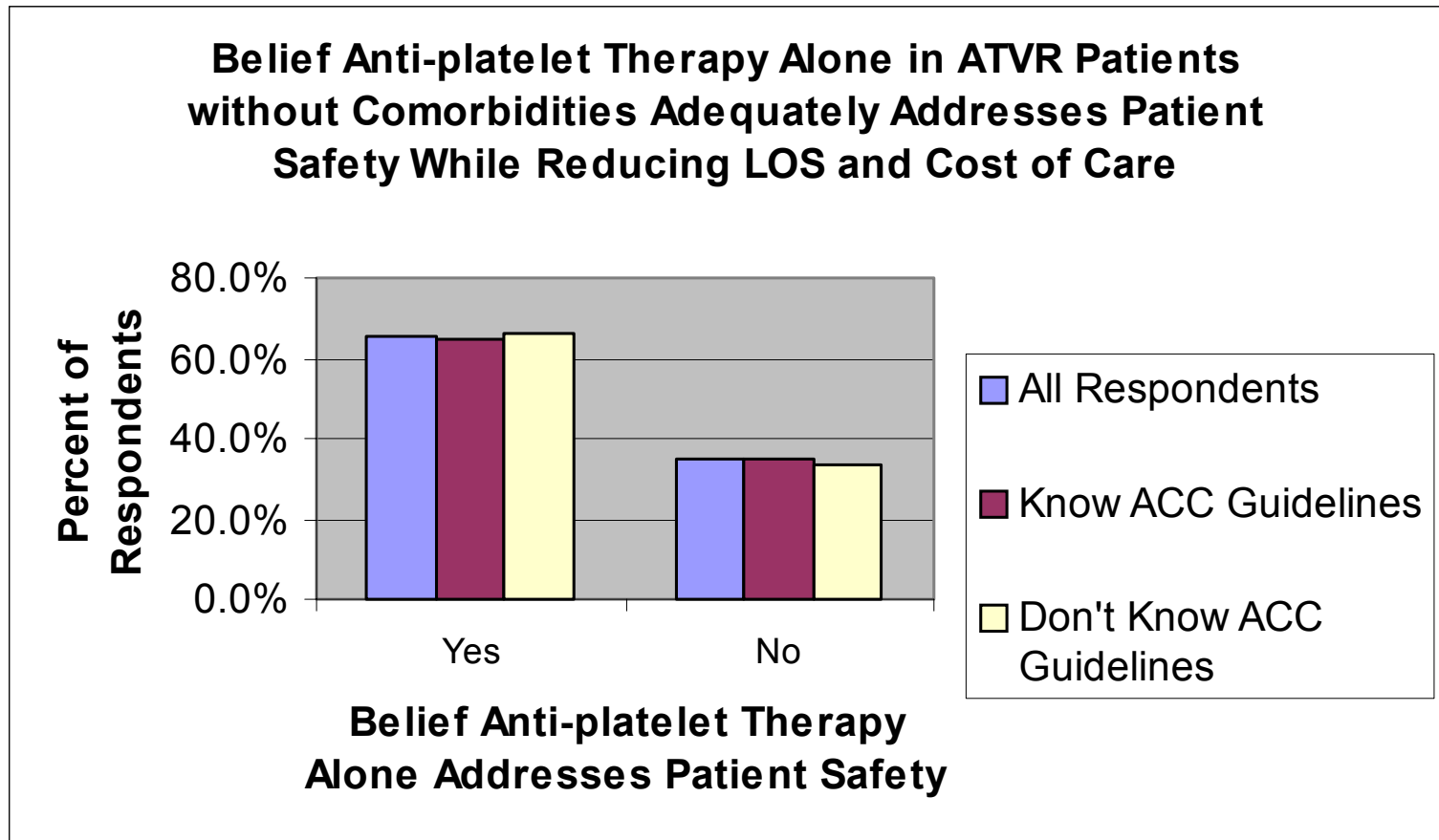
## Belief Anti-platelet Therapy is an Acceptable Alternative to Warfarin Therapy



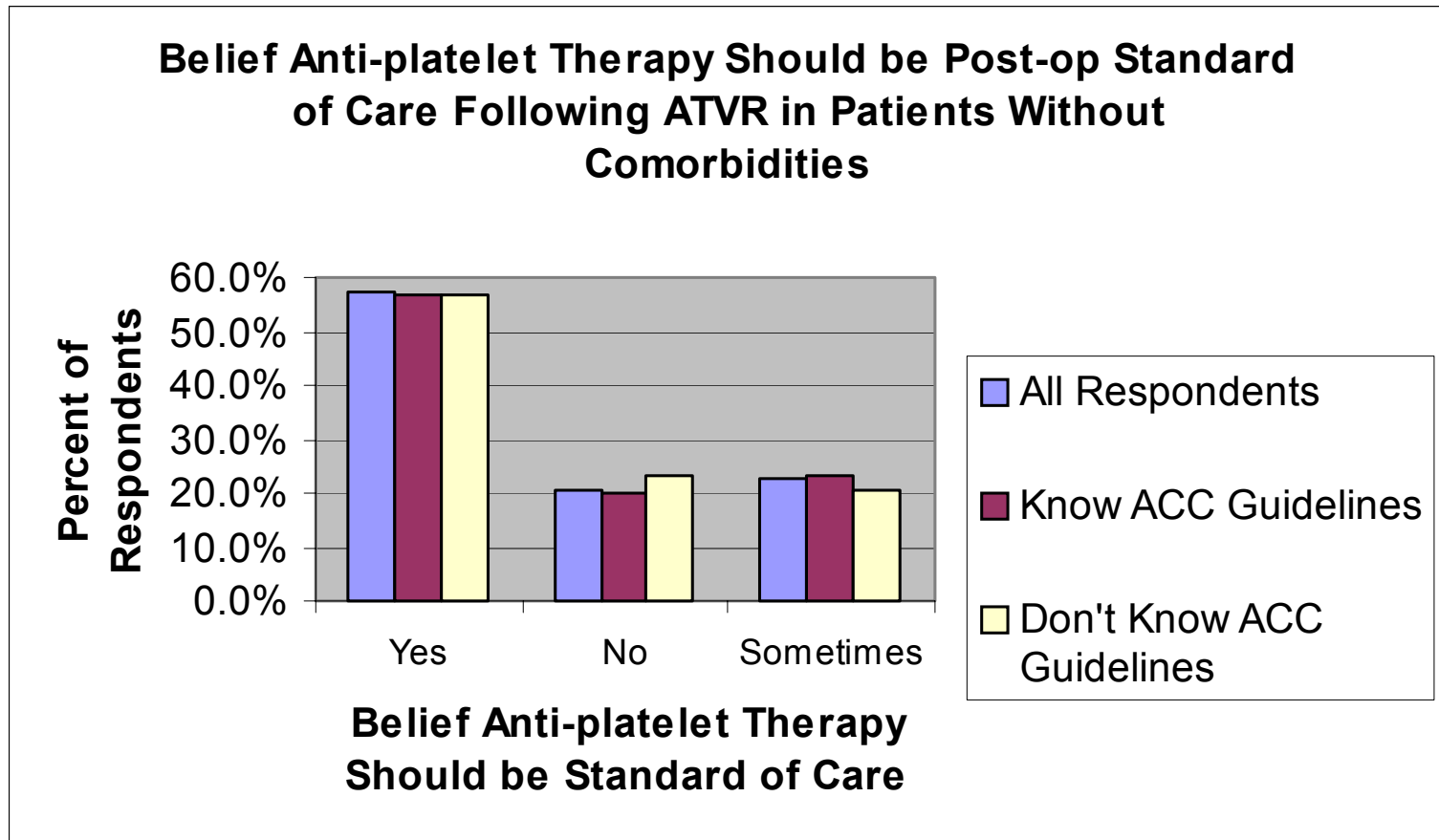
## Prescription of Anti-platelet Therapy in ATVR Patients without Comorbidities



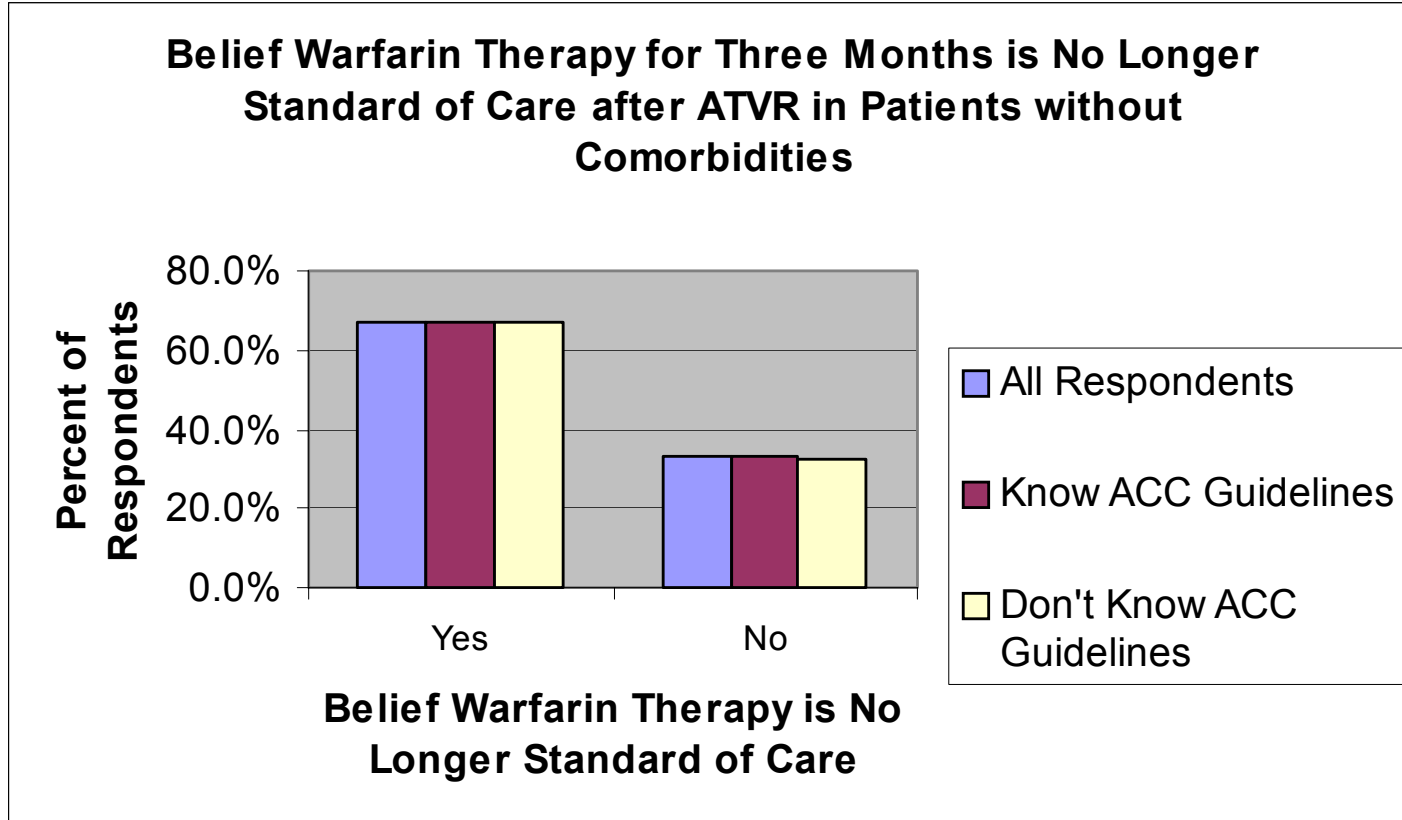
## Safety, LOS and Cost with Anti-platelet Therapy Alone in ATVR Patients without Comorbidities



## Belief in Anti-platelet Therapy as Post-op Standard



## Belief Warfarin Therapy for Three Months No Longer Standard of Care in ATVR Patients without Comorbidities



## Conclusions

- **Most respondents (80%) are familiar with the ACC guidelines on anticoagulation therapy following aortic tissue valve replacement.**
- **Yet, most respondents do not strictly adhere to those guidelines.**
- **Many surgeons believe that anti-platelet therapy, rather than warfarin, may be adequate following aortic tissue valve replacement in patients without comorbidities.**