

The Connecticut Hospital Stroke Care Survey

A project sponsored by:

The Connecticut Department of Public Health

Conducted by:

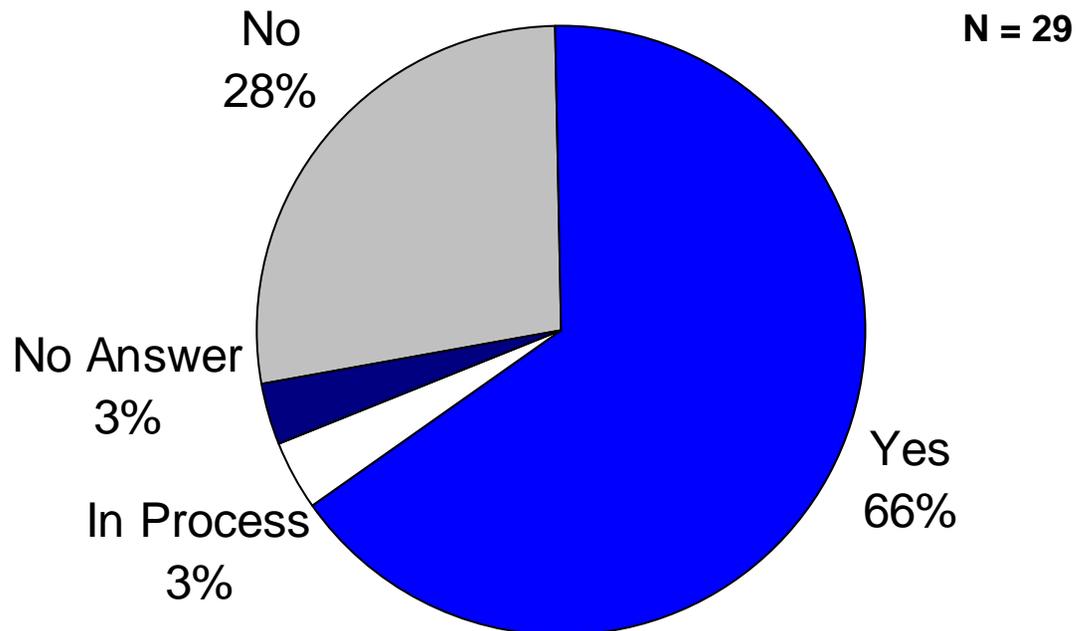
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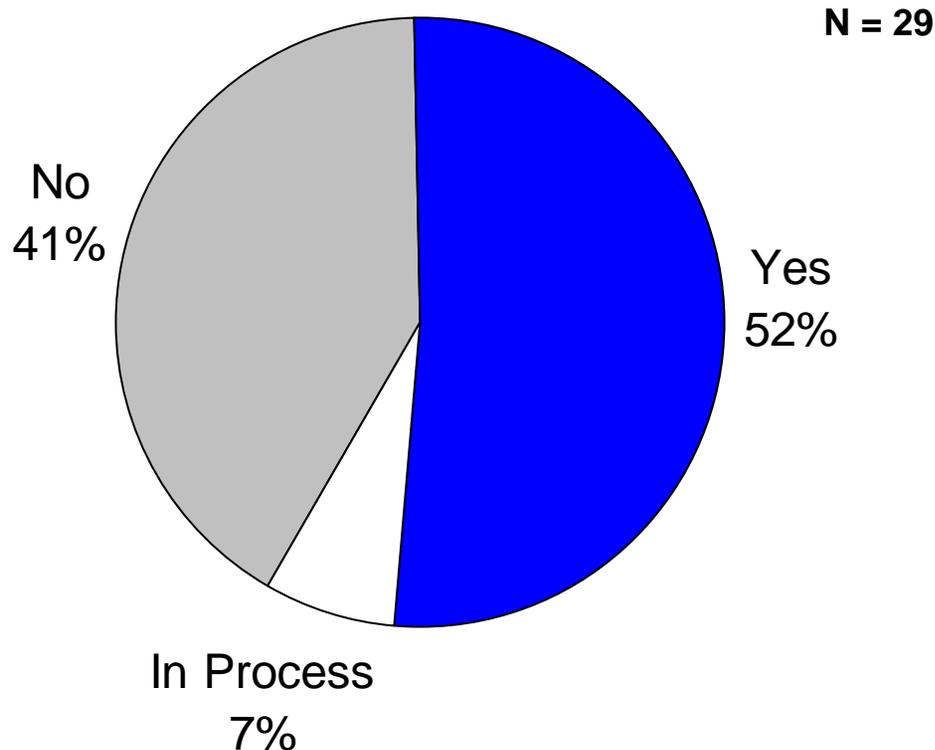
Does Your Hospital Have A Formal Stroke Protocol?

Two-thirds of all Connecticut adult acute care hospitals surveyed have a formal stroke protocol.



Does your hospital have an acute “stroke team” or multi-disciplinary group available to evaluate a suspected stroke patient within 15 minutes of the patient’s arrival?

Fifty-two percent of hospitals surveyed have such an acute “stroke team” or multi-disciplinary group, and an additional 7% are in the process of creating one.



If yes, please identify team members by specialty...

Of those hospitals that do have a “stroke team” or multi-disciplinary group:

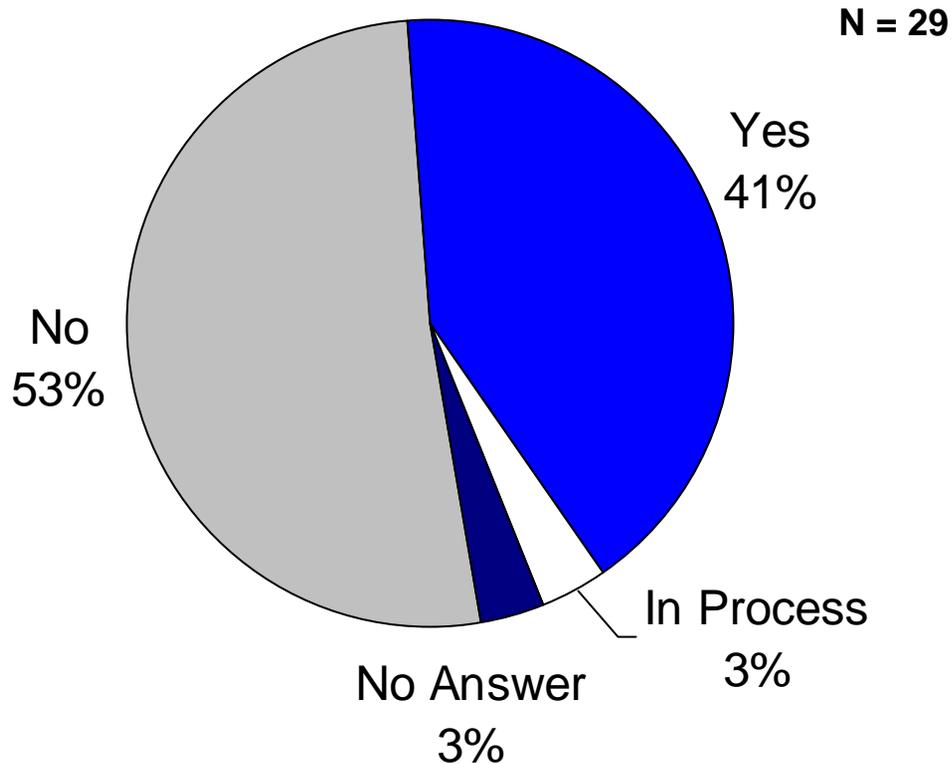
TABLE 1: Stroke Team Member Availability at Hospitals with a Stroke Team (N = 16)

	Present for evaluation	Available for phone consultation	Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in person
Neurologist	44%	75%	69%
Neurosurgeon	44%	81%	63%
Radiologist	44%	81%	63%
Emergency physician	88%	31%	75%
Emergency nurse	88%	31%	75%
CT Technologist	75%	31%	81%
Other	44%	38%	38%

NOTE: Includes multiple mentions among the 48% of hospitals that indicated that they have a “stroke team”

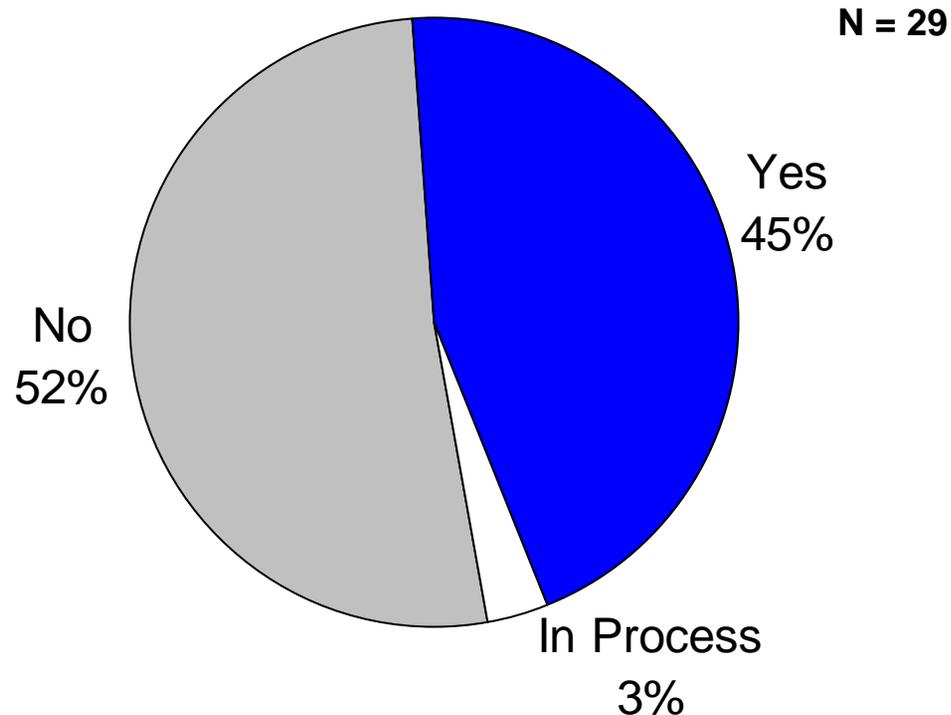
Has your hospital implemented a quality improvement system related to the monitoring of stroke patients?

Forty-one percent have implemented a quality improvement system related to the monitoring of stroke patients, and one other hospital is in the process of implementing such a system.



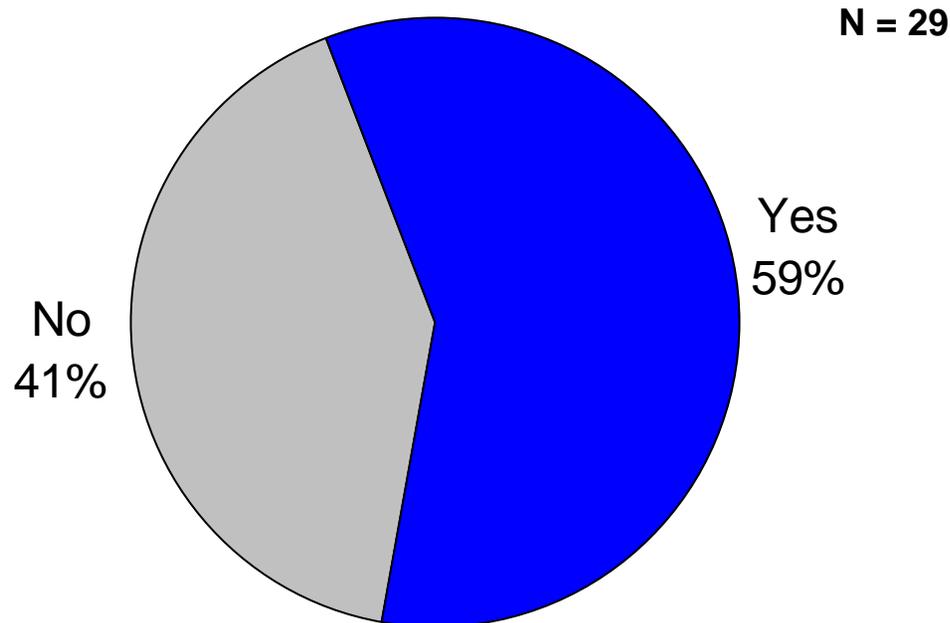
Does your hospital have a pre-hospital "Stroke Alert Protocol" for EMS services?

A majority of adult acute care hospitals surveyed (52%) do not have a pre-hospital "Stroke Alert Protocol" for EMS services.



Does your hospital have a pre-hospital stroke assessment tool used by ED physicians and EMS providers for suspected stroke patients?

Fifty-nine percent of hospitals surveyed have a pre-hospital stroke assessment tool used by ED physicians and EMS providers for suspected stroke patients.



Place a check next to each of the following diagnostic services that your hospital provides.

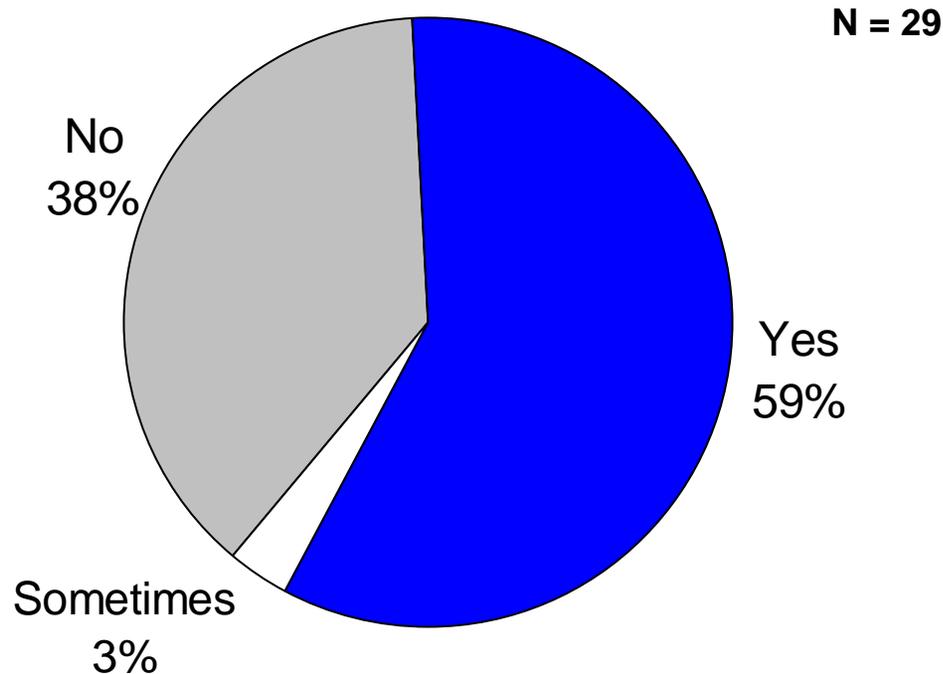
All hospitals surveyed provide MR angiography and Carotid Doppler (ultrasound) study as diagnostic services.

TABLE 2: Diagnostic Services Available for Stroke Care Patients (N = 29)

	% Yes
CT Angiography	83%
MR Angiography	100%
Diffusion MRI	90%
Carotid Doppler (ultrasound) study	100%
Echocardiography – TTE	86%
Echocardiography – TEE	93%

Are stroke patients administered the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) as part of a stroke protocol?

Fifty-nine percent of hospitals surveyed administer the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) to all stroke patients as part of the stroke protocol.



Is (Service) for stroke patients available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

t-PA for stroke patients is available to the ED 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at all hospitals.

TABLE 3: Other Services Available for Stroke Care Patients (N = 29)

	% Yes
t-PA	100%
Neurologist Consultation	86%
CT Neuroimaging Testing and Interpretation	97%
MRI Neuroimaging Testing and Interpretation	35%

Which of the following are available at your hospital 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and are the results available within 45 minutes of being ordered?

All hospitals surveyed have stroke relevant laboratory services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in person, and nearly 83% of all hospitals have results back from such services within 45 minutes of being ordered.

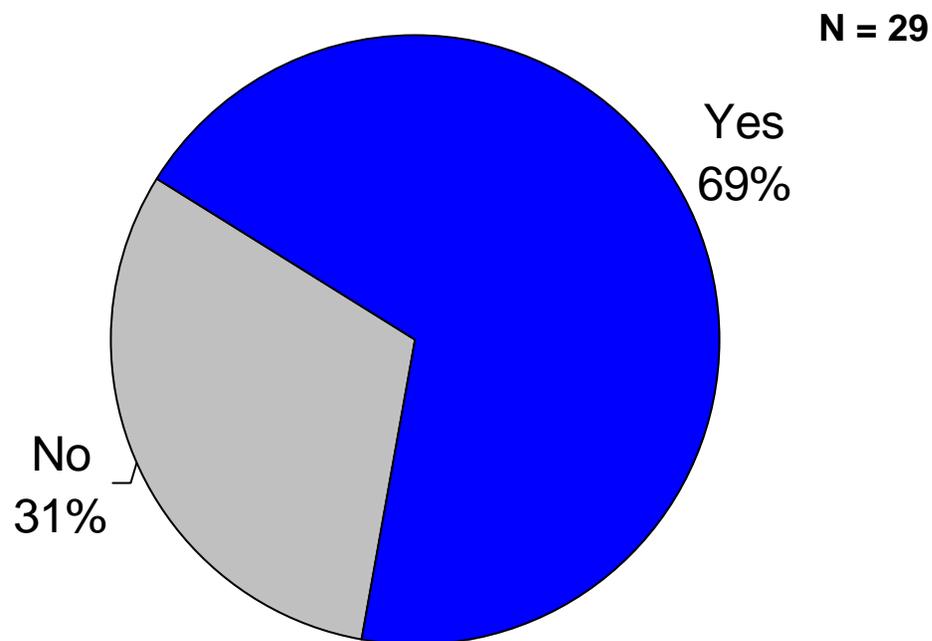
TABLE 4: Timing of Service Availability (N = 29)

	Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in person	Results available back within 45 min of being ordered
Stroke relevant laboratory services	100%	83%
X-ray	100%	83%
EKG	97%	86%

Does your hospital have a critical pathway, care-map, or collaborative pathway for stroke patients during their inpatient stay?

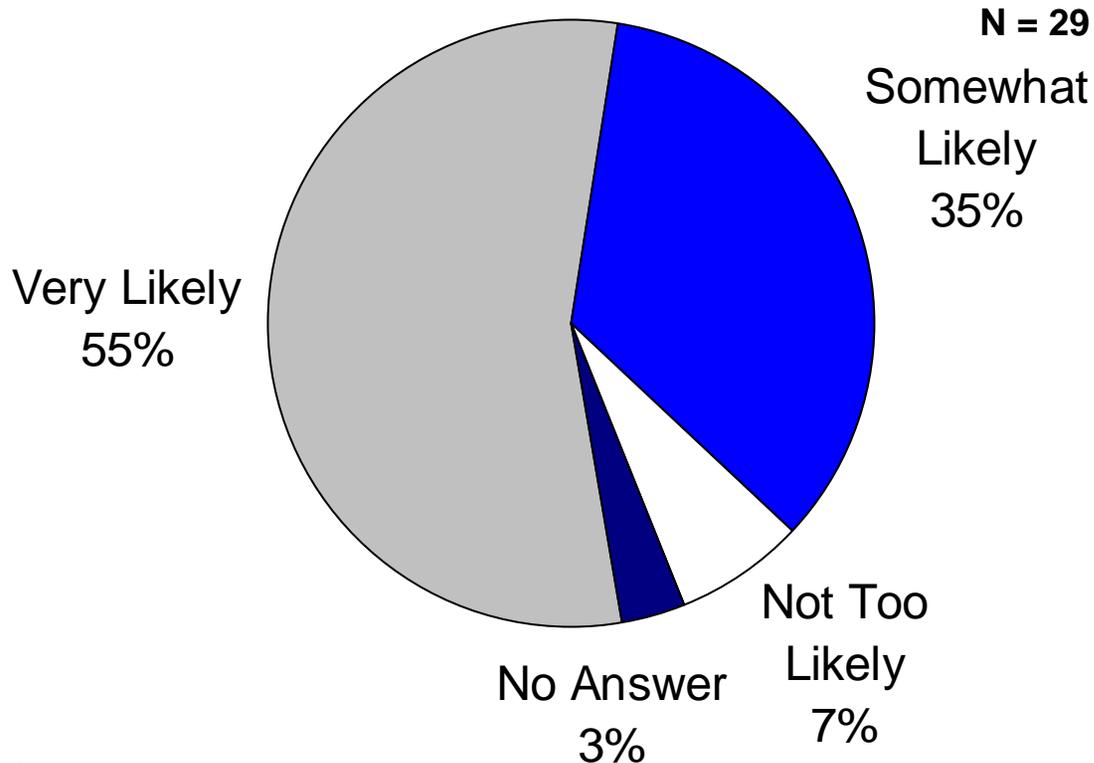
Nearly all (97%) Connecticut hospitals surveyed discharge stroke patients with a long-term rehabilitation plan.

In addition, 69% of hospitals have a critical pathway, care-map, or collaborative pathway for stroke patients during their inpatient stay.



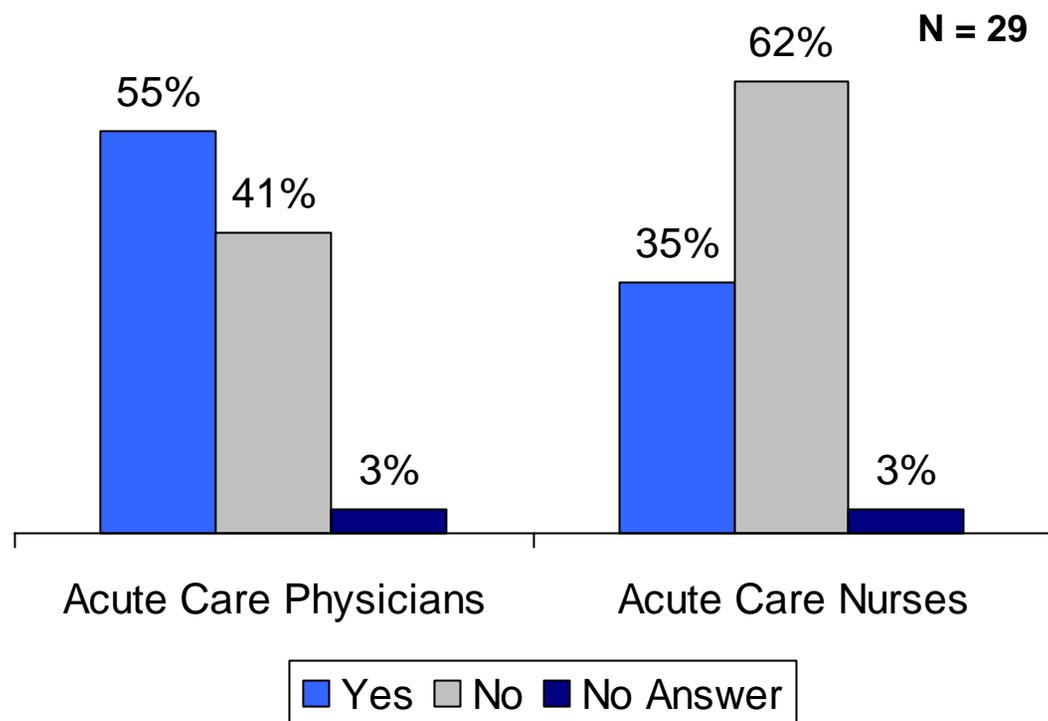
How likely would your hospital be to apply for this recognition program?

There is widespread support for a recognition program sponsored by the Department of Public Health for all Connecticut acute care hospitals that meet certain standards of care related to primary stroke services, with a majority of CT hospitals (55%) being very likely to apply.



Do acute care physicians on staff (nurses on staff) receive continuing medical education credit annually related to care of patients with cerebrovascular disease?

Hospitals are more likely to provide continuing education credit for cerebrovascular disease care to acute-care physicians (55% of hospitals surveyed) than nurses (35% of hospitals surveyed) on staff.



Are public education programs about stroke prevention sponsored by your hospital at least twice annually?

Only 35% of Connecticut hospitals surveyed sponsor public education programs about stroke prevention at their hospital at least twice annually, as recommended by the Brain Attack Coalition.

