

Turning Crisis into Opportunity: Blood Culture Stewardship and the National Impact of a Blood Culture Bottle Shortage on Clinical Care

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Background/Introduction

- In July 2024, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a shortage of Becton Dickinson (BD) BACTEC blood culture media bottles.
- Hospitals were affected to various degrees and had little time to respond to these shortages.

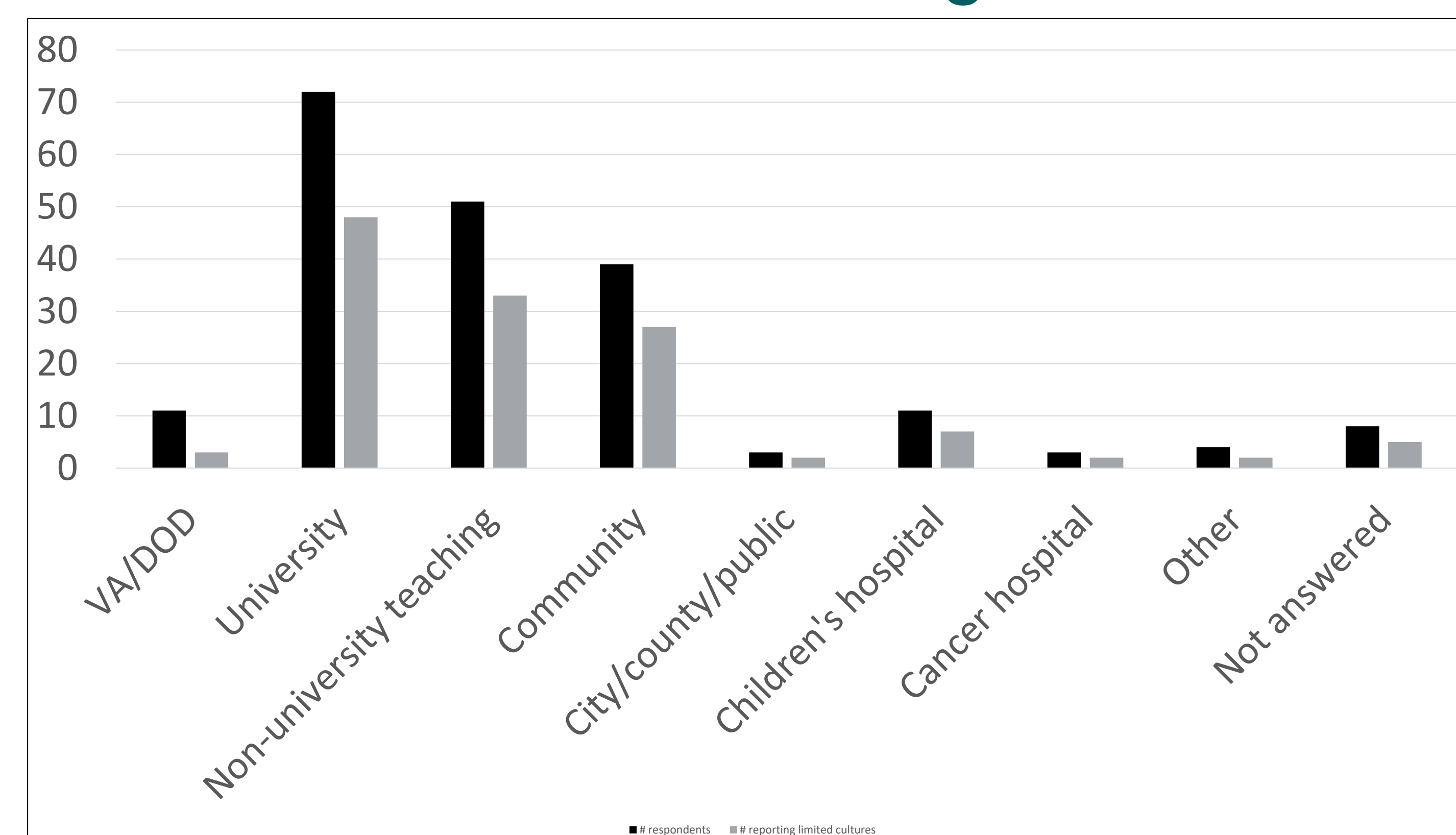
Objective

- The objective of this project is to better understand the extent of the impact and identify mitigation strategies used by hospitals in response to the shortage.

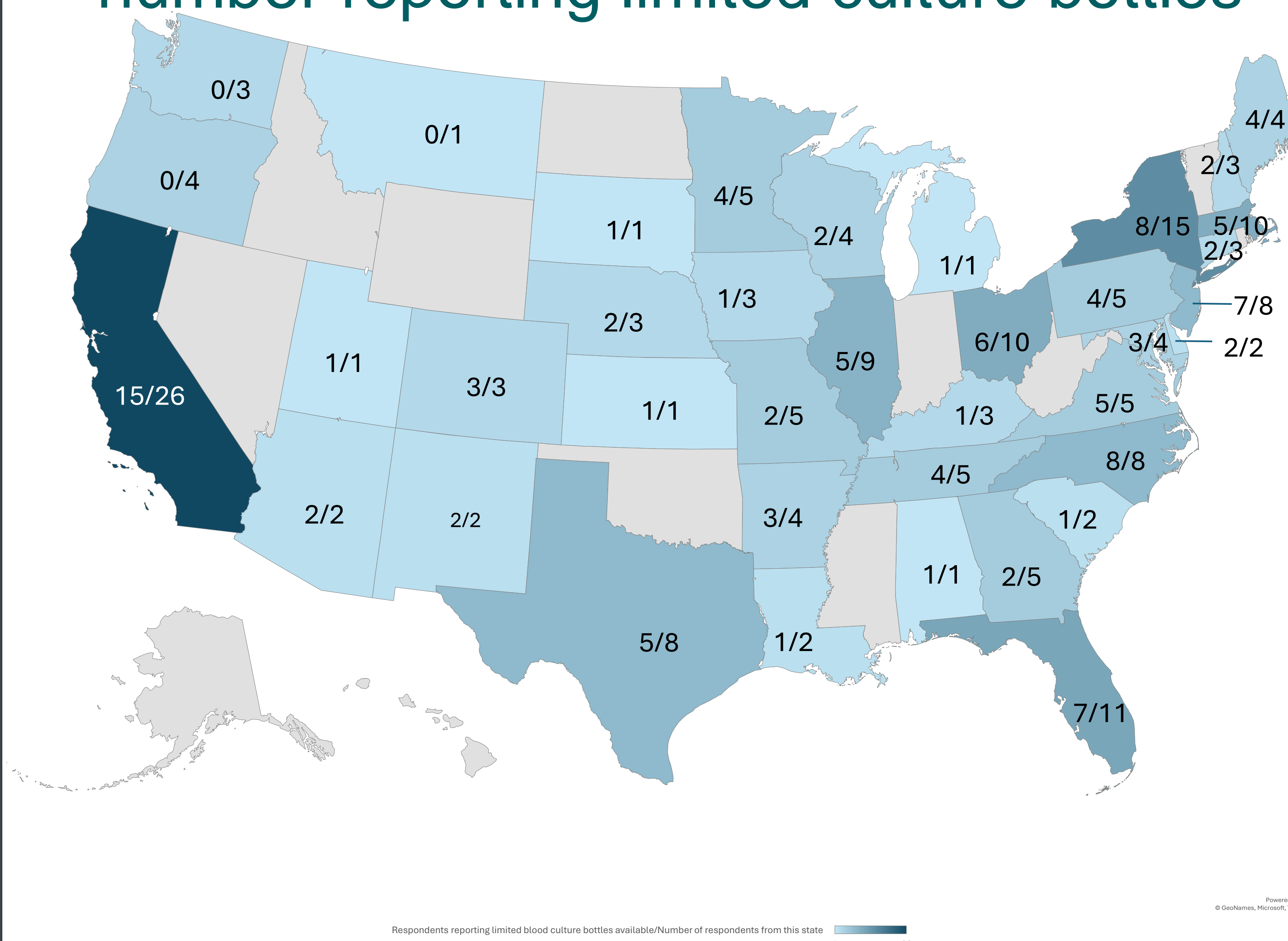
Methods

- We developed a 7-question online poll to characterize self-reported practices of blood culture utilization during the shortage.
- The poll was disseminated using the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) Emerging Infections Network (EIN).
- Descriptive statistics were used to describe associations between participant responses and geographic location or facility type.
- A thematic analysis was performed of the 3 open-ended questions.

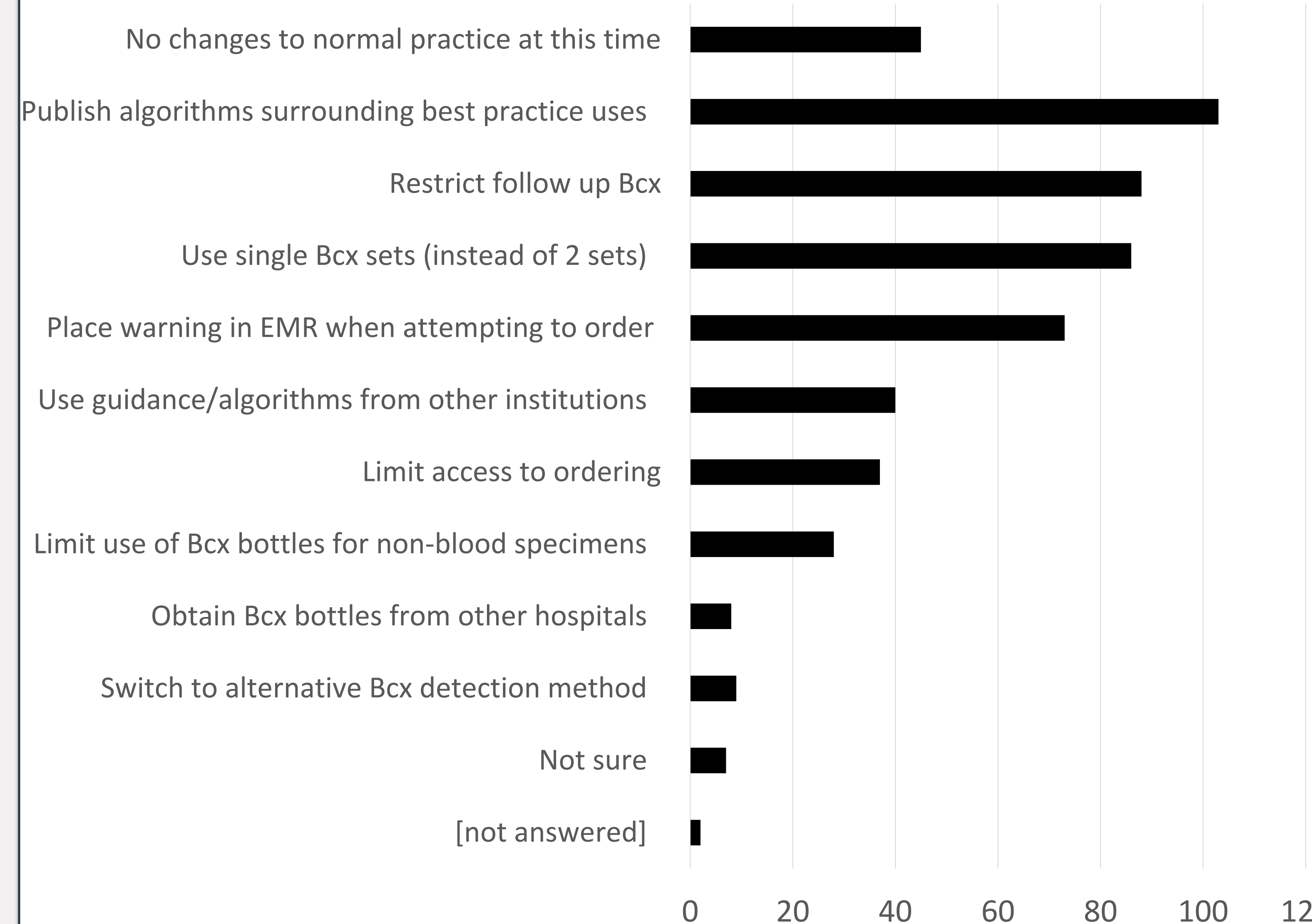
Distribution of facilities facing blood culture media shortage



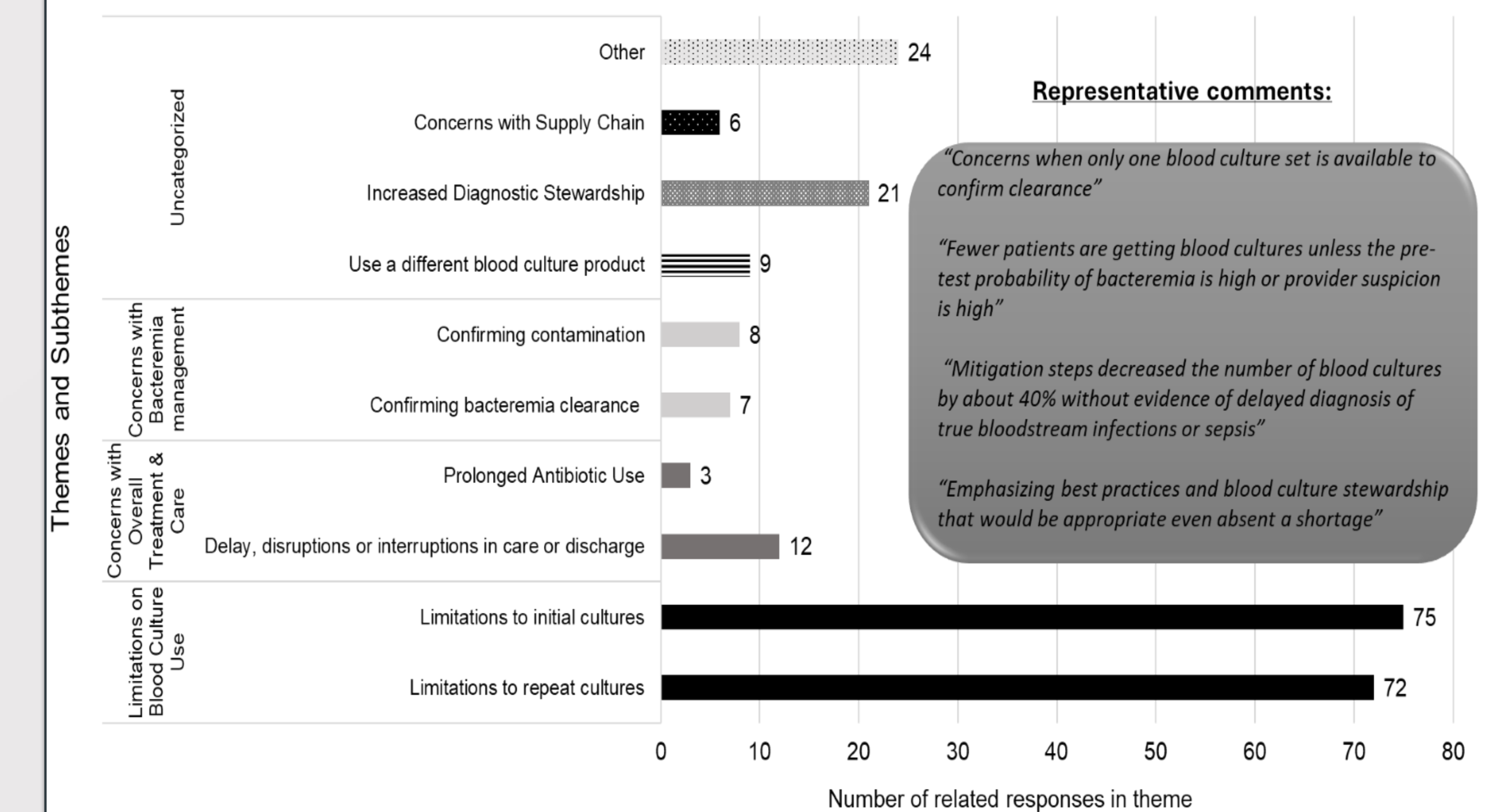
Geographic Distribution of respondents and number reporting limited culture bottles



Strategies to mitigate shortages



Respondent Experiences with 2024 BD Bactec Blood Culture Bottle Shortage



Discussion

- Impacts to the BD blood culture bottle shortage were widespread.
- Many hospitals utilized the shortage to publish algorithms and capitalize on opportunities to increase diagnostic stewardship.
- Limitations on repeat blood cultures were common and contributed to diagnostic uncertainty.
- The shortage highlighted a need for resiliency in the national supply chain.
- Limitations: unable to identify duplicate responses from the same hospital, convenience sample, not every state represented.

References

- BD (Becton Dickinson and Company). July 2024: BD Statement on Supplier Issue Impacting BD BACTEC™ Blood Culture Vials. Available at: <https://news.bd.com/2024-07-10-BD-Statement-on-Supplier-Issue-Impacting-BD-BACTEC-TM-Blood-Culture-Vials>. Accessed April 9, 2025.
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