

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA): HCV Treatment Readiness

SPNS grantee meeting

March 20, 2013



Cambridge Health Alliance

Cambridge Health Alliance

- Zinberg Clinic:
 - Comprehensive primary and specialty care services
 - ~300 HIV+ patients, ~400 total patients
- Somerville Hospital Primary Care (SHPC)
 - Integrated HIV clinic with HIV specialty team
 - ~143 patients
- Multidisciplinary approach
 - Includes primary care, specialty care, mental health and social services (including case management), acupuncture
 - Providers include: physicians, NPs, RNs, social workers, etc.



Demographics

443 total HIV patients (SHPC and Zinberg combined)

- 33% white, 33% black, 31% Hispanic
- 70% born outside of US
- 73% have history of or have active mental illness
- 20% with active substance abuse
- 18% coinfectd with HIV/HCV (80 patients)



SPNS grant goals

Establish systems for

- Identifying and screening high risk patients for hepatitis C annually
- Designing and implementing a plan for outreach and education about HCV treatment to HIV/HCV co infected patients
- Developing and implementing an innovative HCV treatment program within a comprehensive continuum of quality HIV primary care and services



Multidisciplinary HCV committee

- HIV Program Director
- Medical Director
- Planned Care Coordinator
- RN Nurse Medical Case Manager
- Manager of HIV Social Work Services
- HCV Coordinator/Health Educator
- Data/Evaluation Managers
- Clinic Nurse Manager
- Nurse Practitioners



Focus area: HCV treatment readiness

- Needs assessment: interviews with providers and staff
 - Goal: Identify intervening variables that might be barriers to HIV/HCV patients receiving, adhering to, or completing HCV treatment
- Intervention: Hepatitis C educational sessions
 - Goal: Evaluate, teach and assess patients' knowledge of hepatitis C, treatment, concerns, and readiness



Needs assessment: Staff interviews

Methods:

- Interviews with six providers and staff from Zinberg Clinic and SHPC
- Interviewees were identified by HCV Committee
- Interviewees represented a range of roles in caring for HIV/HCV co-infected patients, including nursing, case management, and infectious disease



Needs assessment results

Barriers to HCV treatment

- Fear of side effects (physical, mental, and emotional)
- Mental health assessment requirement
- Misinformation shared among patients
- Number of required clinic visits
- Health insurance issues
- Homelessness
- Structural barriers at the clinic (funding, staffing, multilingual personnel, time)



Needs assessment results

Helping patients get ready for treatment

- Assisting patients to make the decision to start treatment is critical
- Discussions tend to focus on negative aspects of treatment
- Need to change to more positive messaging emphasizing benefits of treatment
- Providers could use training on interviewing
- To encourage patient interest and involvement, patients should be invited to review proposed treatment plans with providers



HCV educational sessions

Methods:

- HCV Committee identified patients to invite to participate in educational sessions
- Two separate educational sessions
- 24 total participants (five attended both sessions)
- Topics covered: hepatitis basics, HIV/HCV co infection, stages of liver damage, biopsy, treatment, explanation of terms
- Second session included a panel of patients who had experienced HCV treatment
- Participants completed a survey before and after attending an educational session



Educational sessions: survey results

- 95.8% of participants rated the educational sessions as either “Excellent” or “Good”
- 62.5% of those who heard the patient panel said that hearing from peers increased their interest in treatment*

*Only asked in survey for second educational session



Educational sessions: survey results

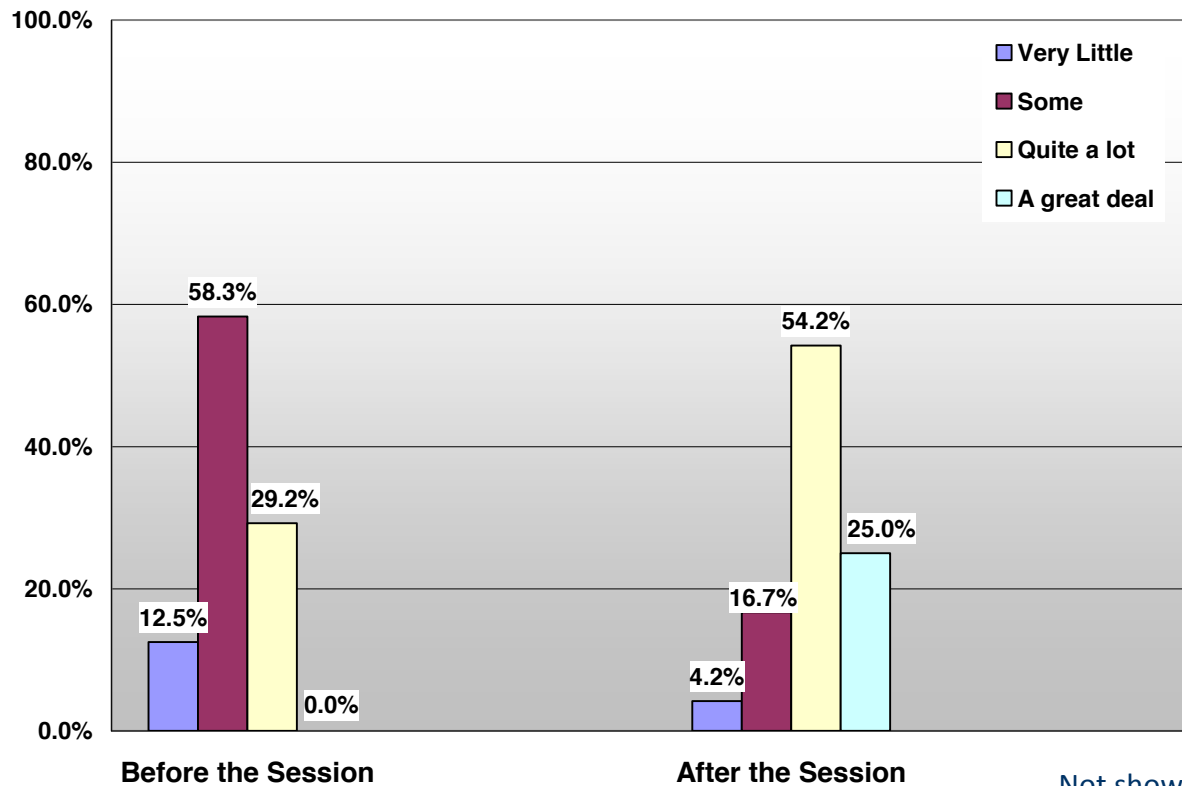
- What was useful about hearing from peers?*
- Learning ways of dealing with side effects
- Hearing about successful treatments
- Being supportive of each other
- Hearing different reactions of the peers
- Knowing you aren't alone

*Only asked in survey for second educational session



Survey results: knowledge

Knowledge of the Liver and its Functions (N=24)



Percent rating knowledge of liver and its functions as “Quite a lot” or “A great deal”:

29.2% before session

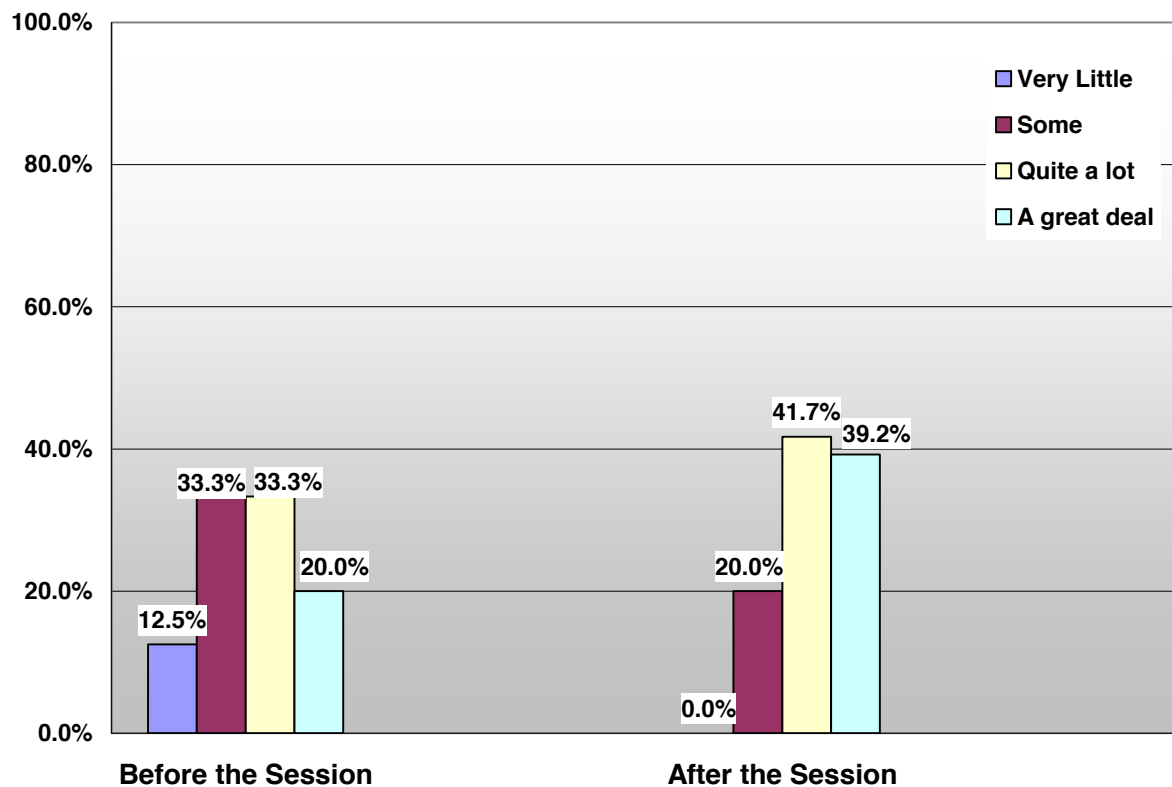
79.2% after session

Not shown: % missing response



Survey results: knowledge

Knowledge of Hepatitis C and its Effect on the Liver (N=24)



Percent rating knowledge of HepC and its effect on the liver as “Quite a lot” or “A great deal”:

53.3% before session

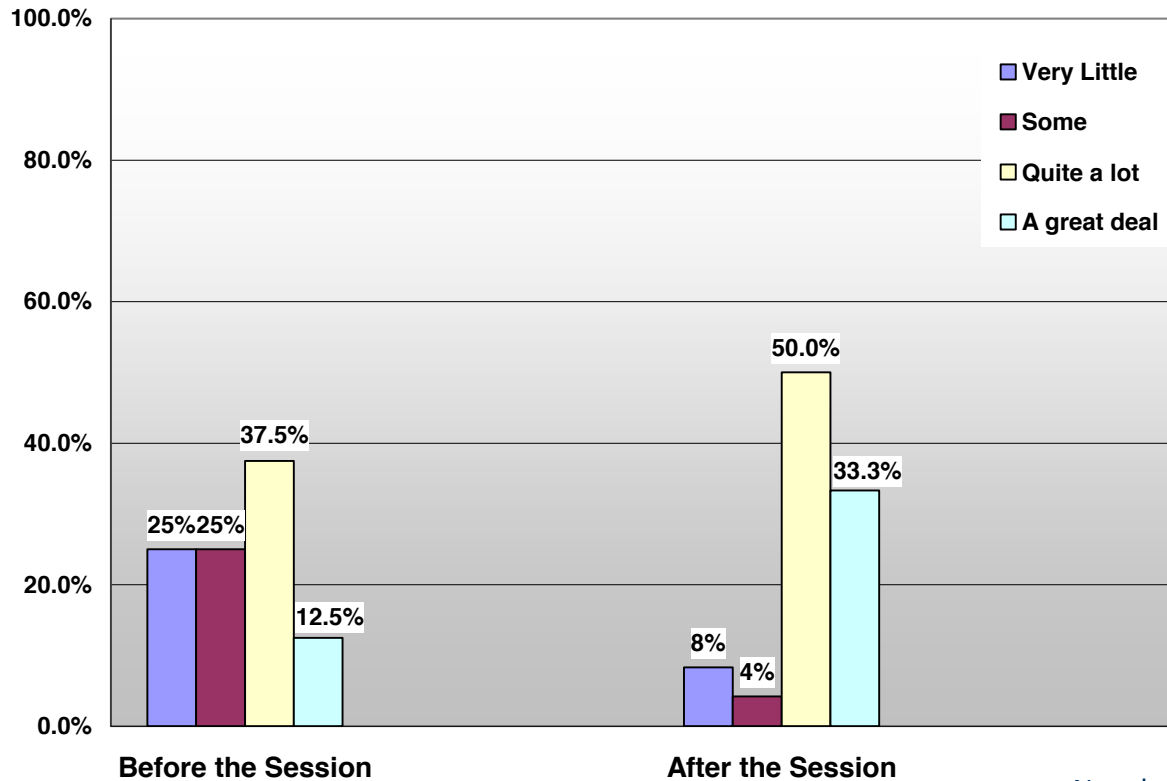
80.9% after session

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Survey results: knowledge

Knowledge of Hepatitis C Treatment (N=24)



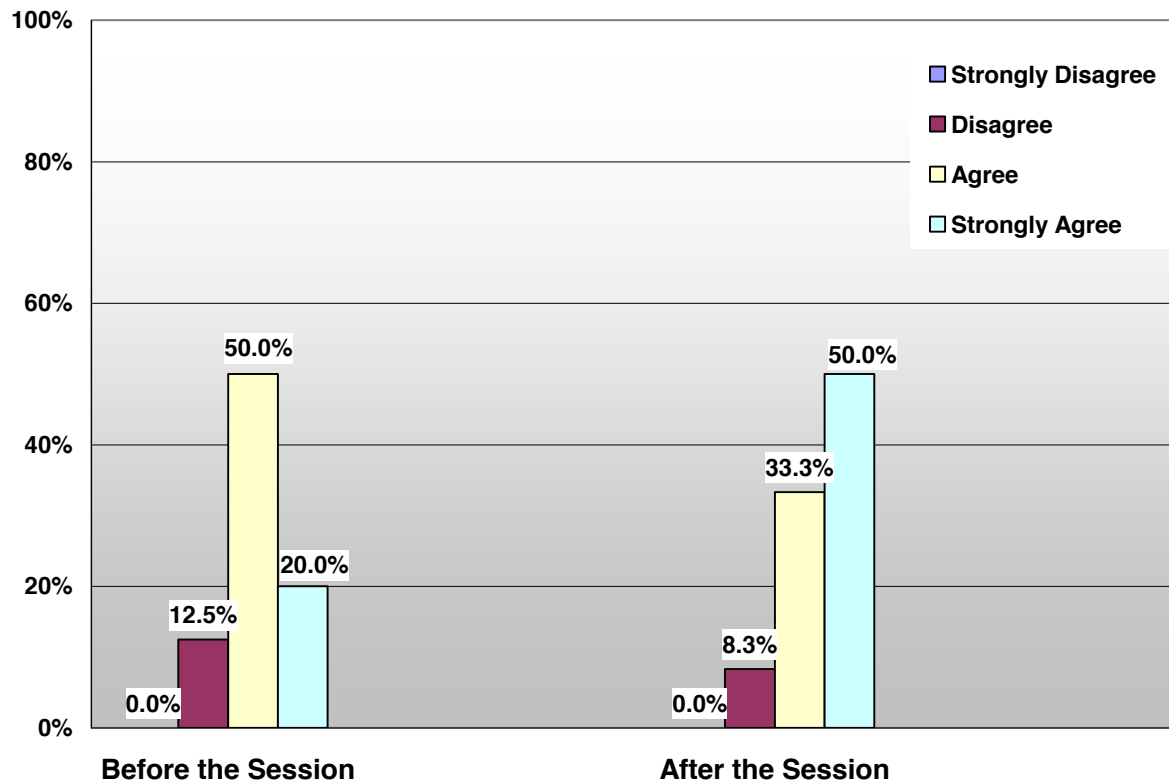
Percent rating knowledge of HepC treatment as “Quite a lot” or “A great deal”:
50.0% before session
83.3% after session

Not shown: % missing response



Survey results: beliefs and self-efficacy

I feel ready to discuss Hepatitis C with my provider (N=24)



Percent answering
“Agree” or “Strongly
Agree”:

70.0% before session

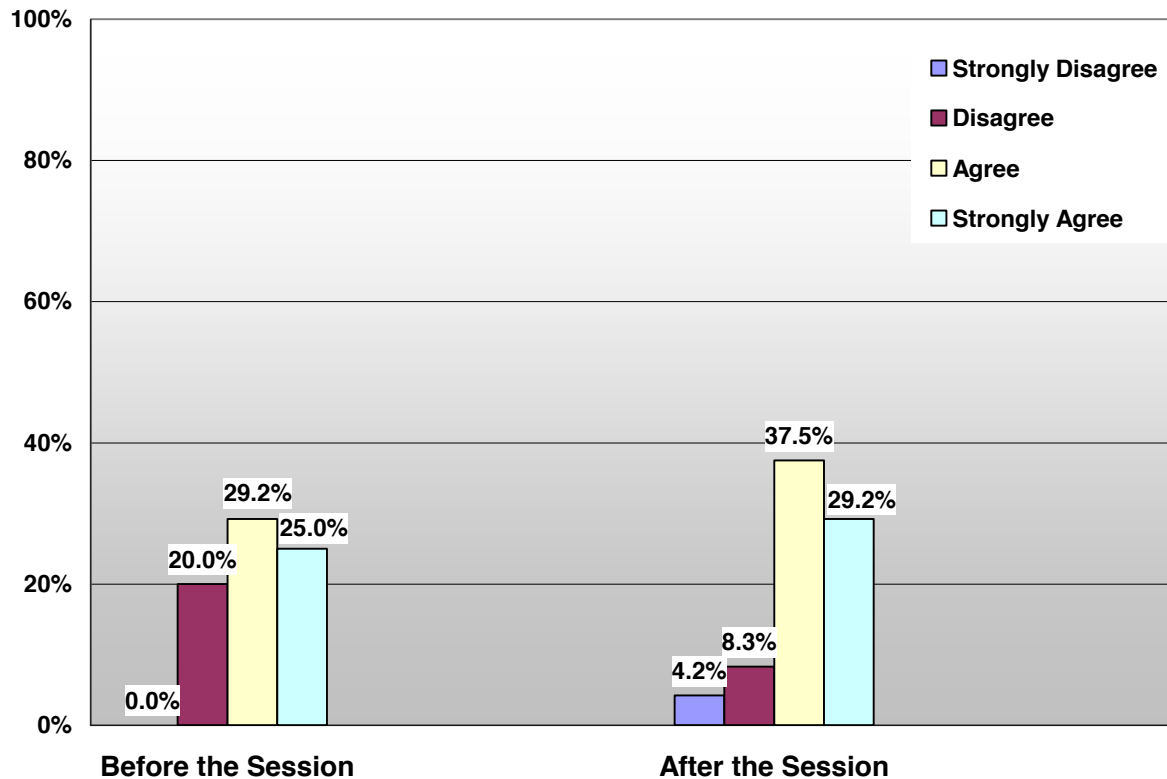
83.3% after session

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Survey results: beliefs and self-efficacy

I believe that Hepatitis C treatment will work (N=24)



Percent answering
“Agree” or “Strongly
Agree”:

54.2% before session

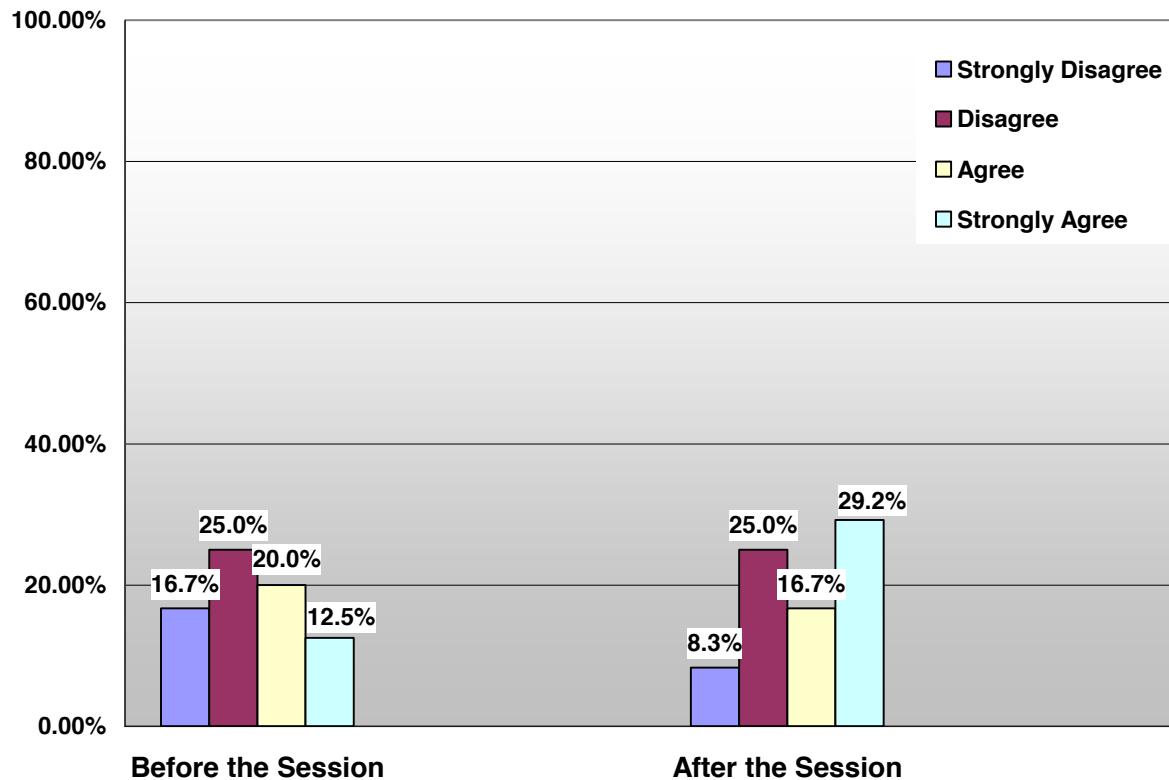
66.7% after session

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Survey results: beliefs and self-efficacy

I feel ready to start treatment for Hepatitis C (N=24)



Percent answering
“Agree” or “Strongly
Agree”:

32.5% before session

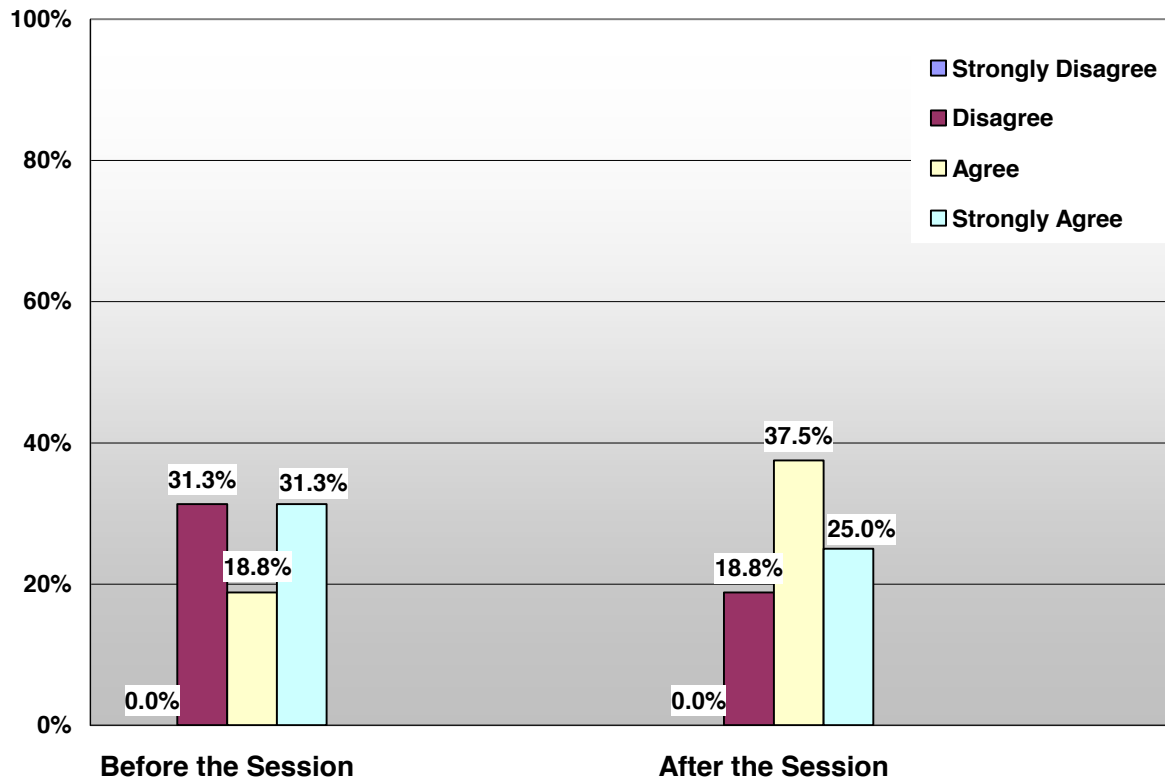
45.9% after session

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Survey results: beliefs and self-efficacy

I am concerned that Hepatitis C treatment may affect my HIV (N=16)



Percent answering
“Agree” or “Strongly
Agree”:

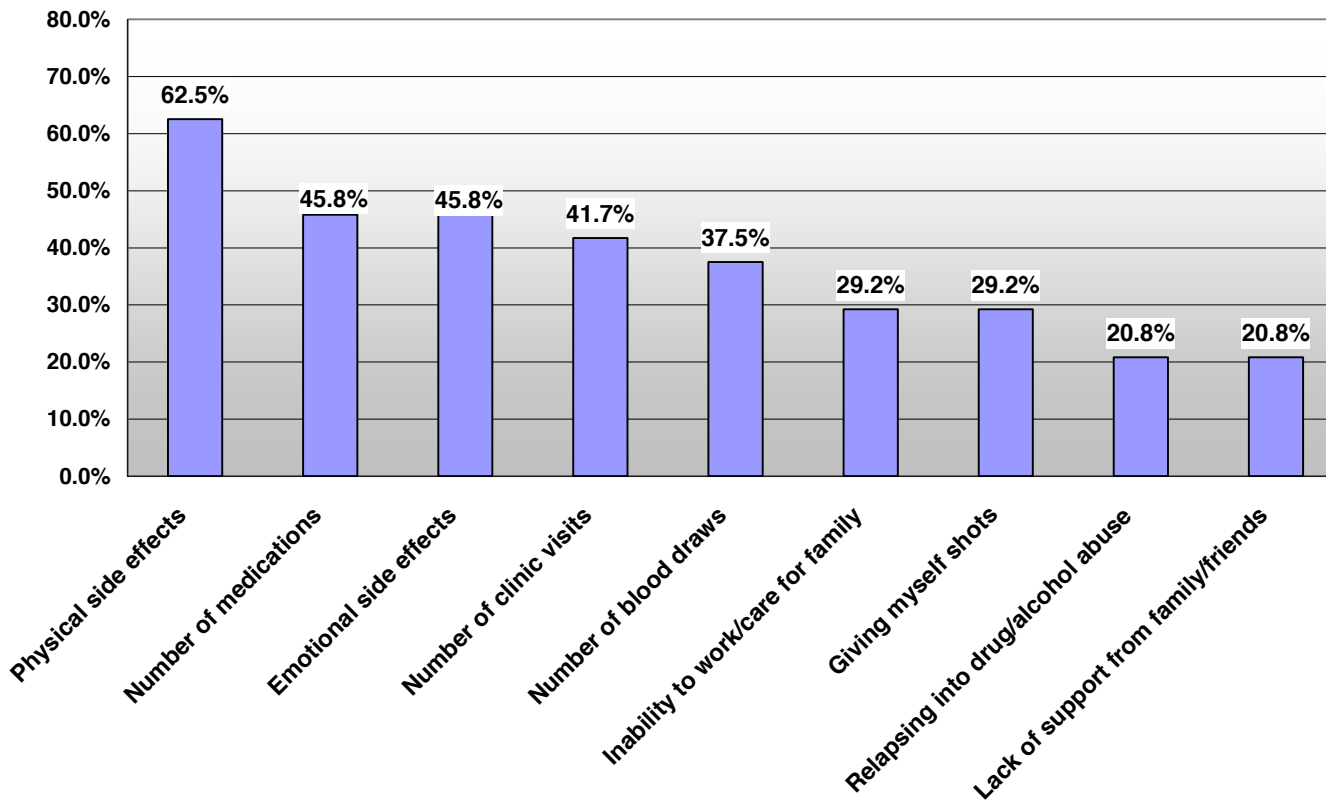
49.8% before session

63.0% after session



Survey results: concerns about treatment

Concerns of Hepatitis C Treatment (N=24)



Conclusions

- Participation in SPNS grant has allowed us to expand capacity to treat HIV /Hep C coinfectd as well as HCV mono infected patients.
- Created systems for treatment including - templates for facilitating assessment of treatment readiness, patient education talking points, and process for getting Prior Authorization for medications
- HCV treatment will continue beyond the funded period. Services are reimbursable by third party insurances including the State's Mass Health Program.

