

Hepatitis C knowledge, readiness for treatment, subsequent patient experience and side effects of direct acting antivirals (DAA) in clients attending a drug and alcohol clinic

Lim X¹, Holmwood C¹ & Cock V¹

¹Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia, South Australia, DASSA (There was no declared conflict of interests)

Introduction:

Knowledge of hepatitis C virus(HCV) and engagement with opioid substitution treatment services have been associated with HCV treatment uptake.

Negative perceptions of treatment were based on views of older INF based medications.

Aim:

In this study, pre-treatment knowledge of HCV and readiness for treatment and subsequent patient experience were assessed in public drug and alcohol clinics providing opioid substitution treatment.

Methods:

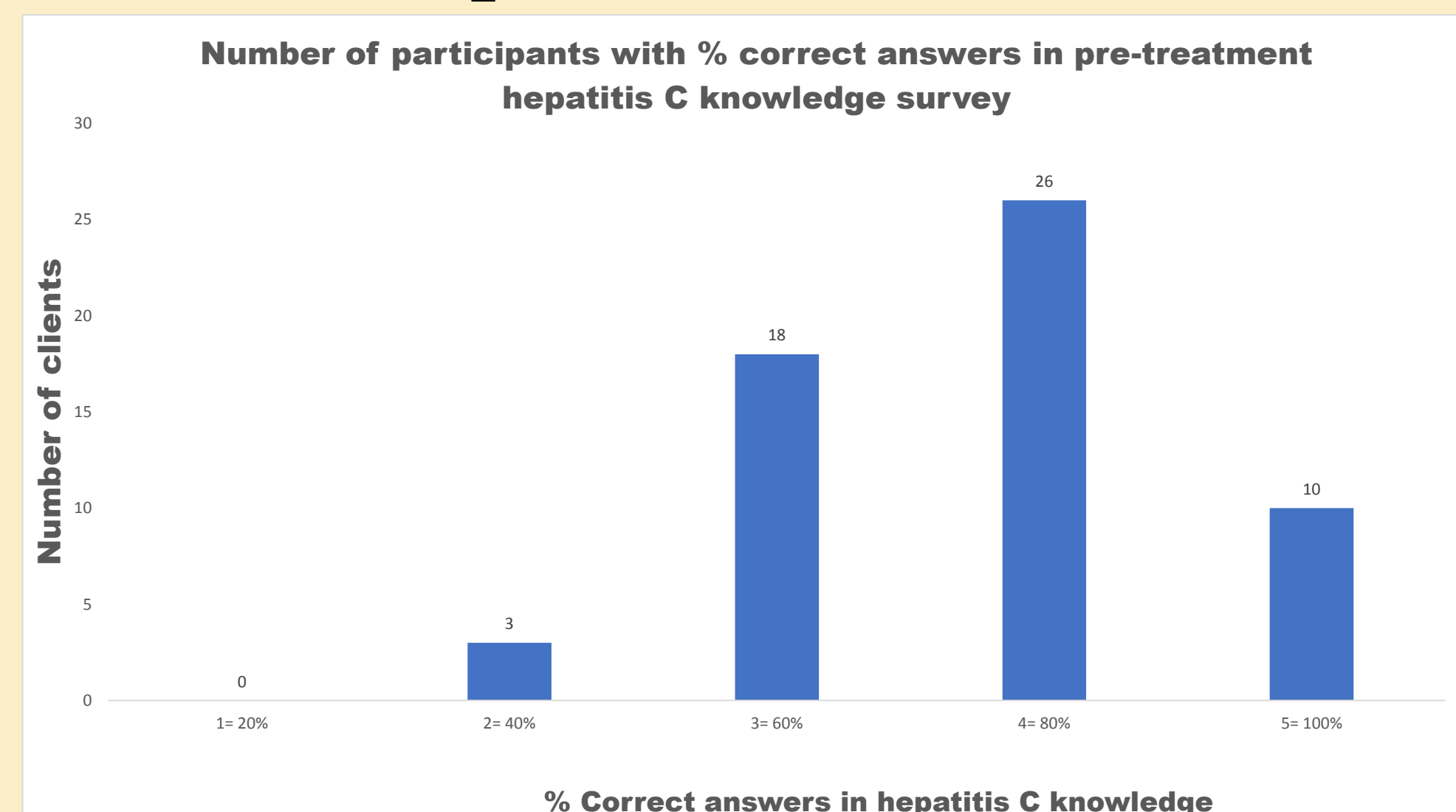
Data were obtained from a non-interventional, prospective observational cohort, 2 stage cross-sectional study done over 2016-2017. Knowledge of HCV and readiness for treatment and post-treatment experience were assessed with a multi-choice questionnaire, Likert scale and free free-text questions.

Conclusion:

This study indicates that the population investigated had a good knowledge of HCV and its treatment. Negative perceptions of treatment were based on experiences of previous IFN based treatments.

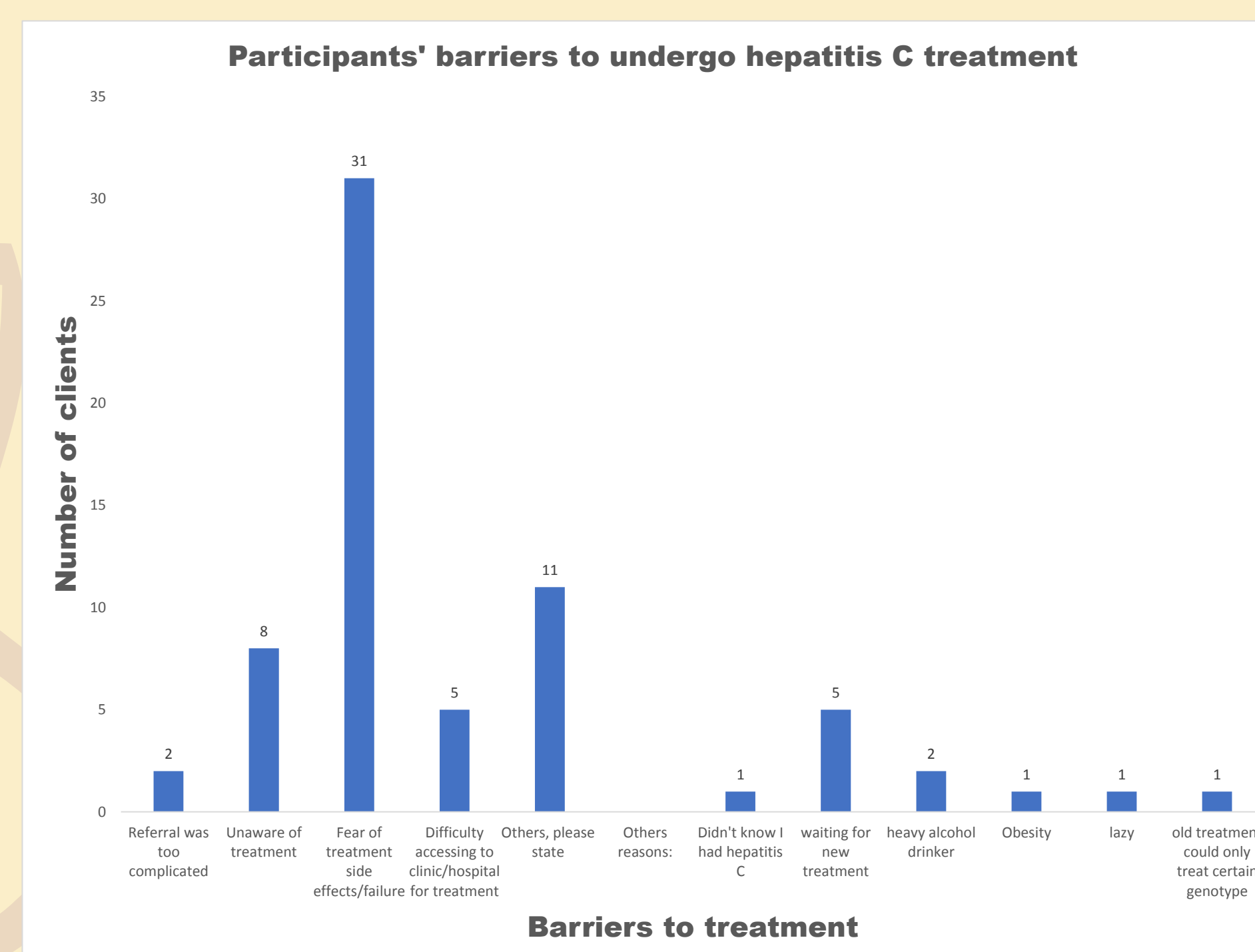
Positive client experience peri-treatment and successful treatment outcomes will increase the likelihood of clients completing treatment and increase the future uptake of treatment. Drug treatment service influenced the uptake of HCV treatment and drug and alcohol clinics were cited as the preferred treatment provider.

Results: (Pre-treatment) 57 respondents

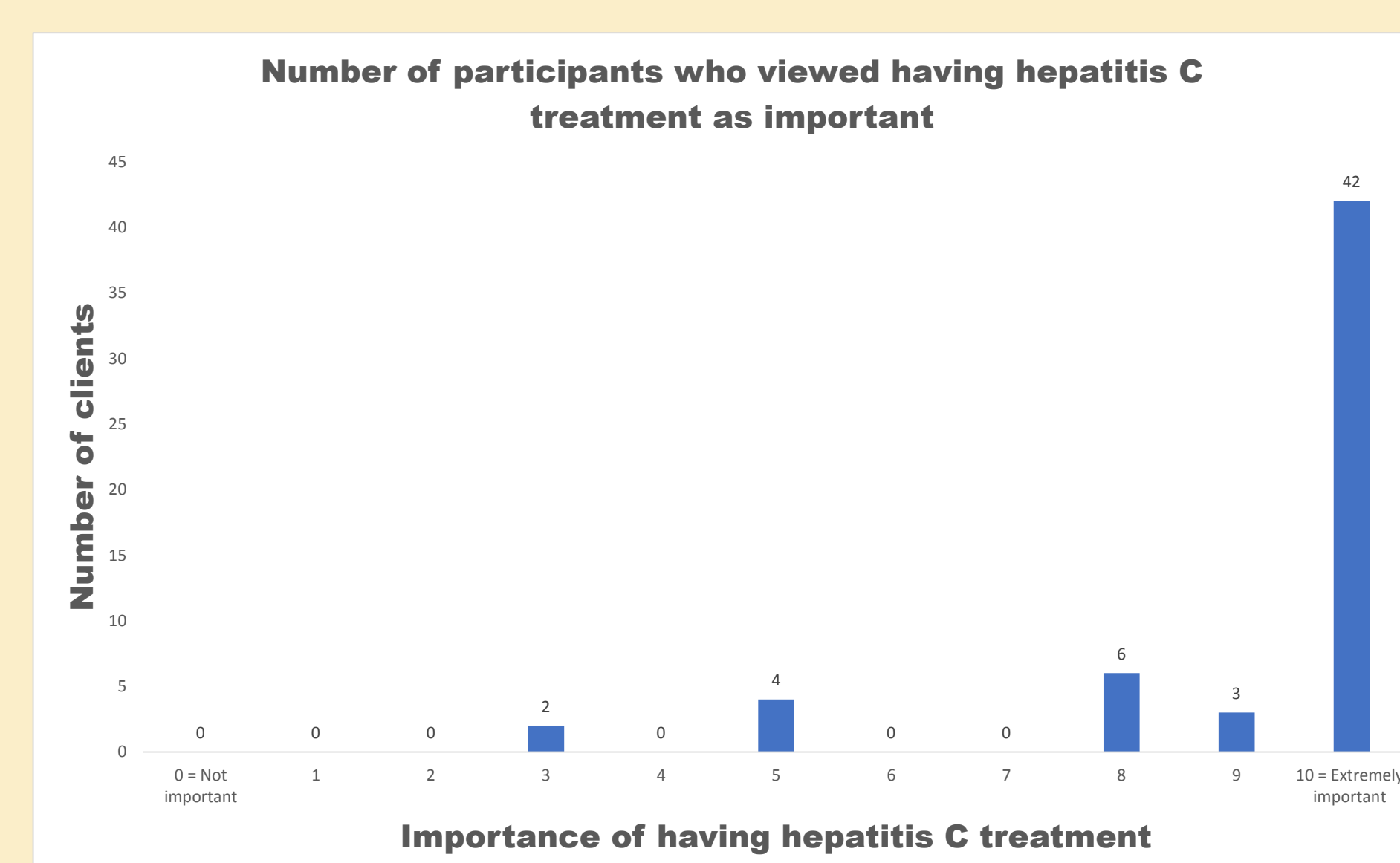


Median score for HCV knowledge in this survey was 80% (Interquartile-range:20%)

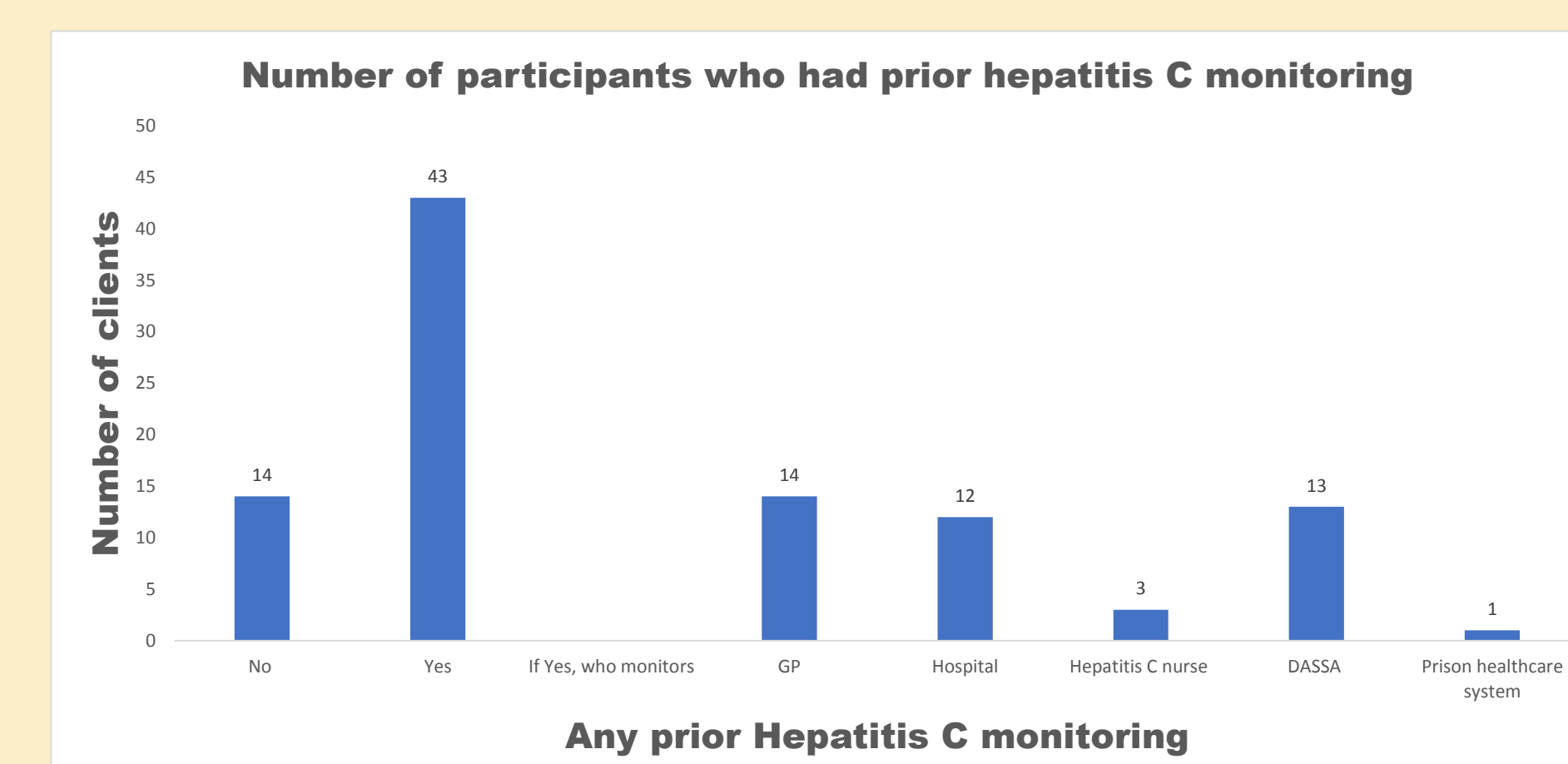
66.7% preferred to receive the HCV treatment at DASSA



Main barrier to treatment in the survey was fear of treatment side effects or failure (54.4%)

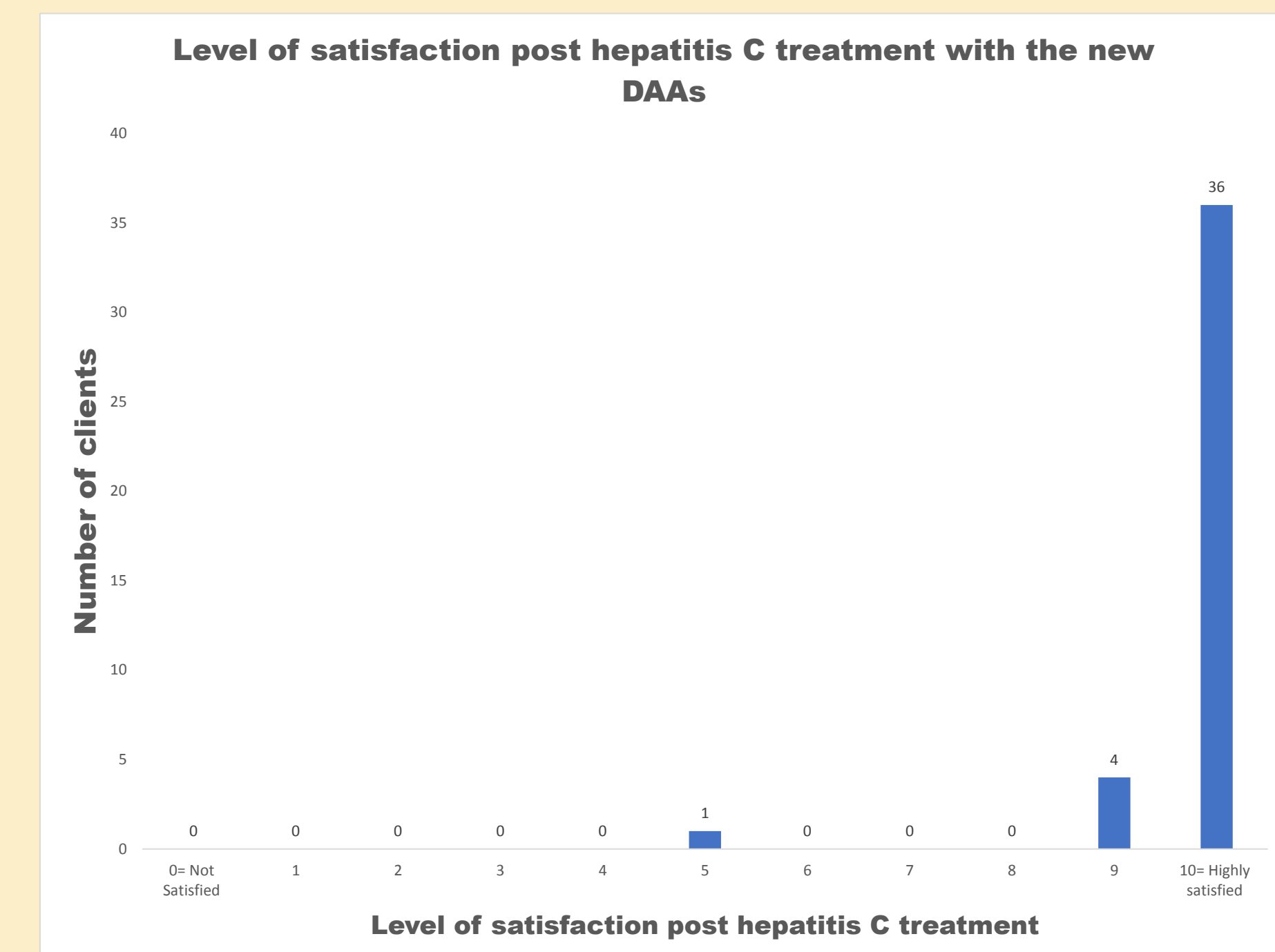


73.7% respondents indicated it was extremely important to have their HCV treated

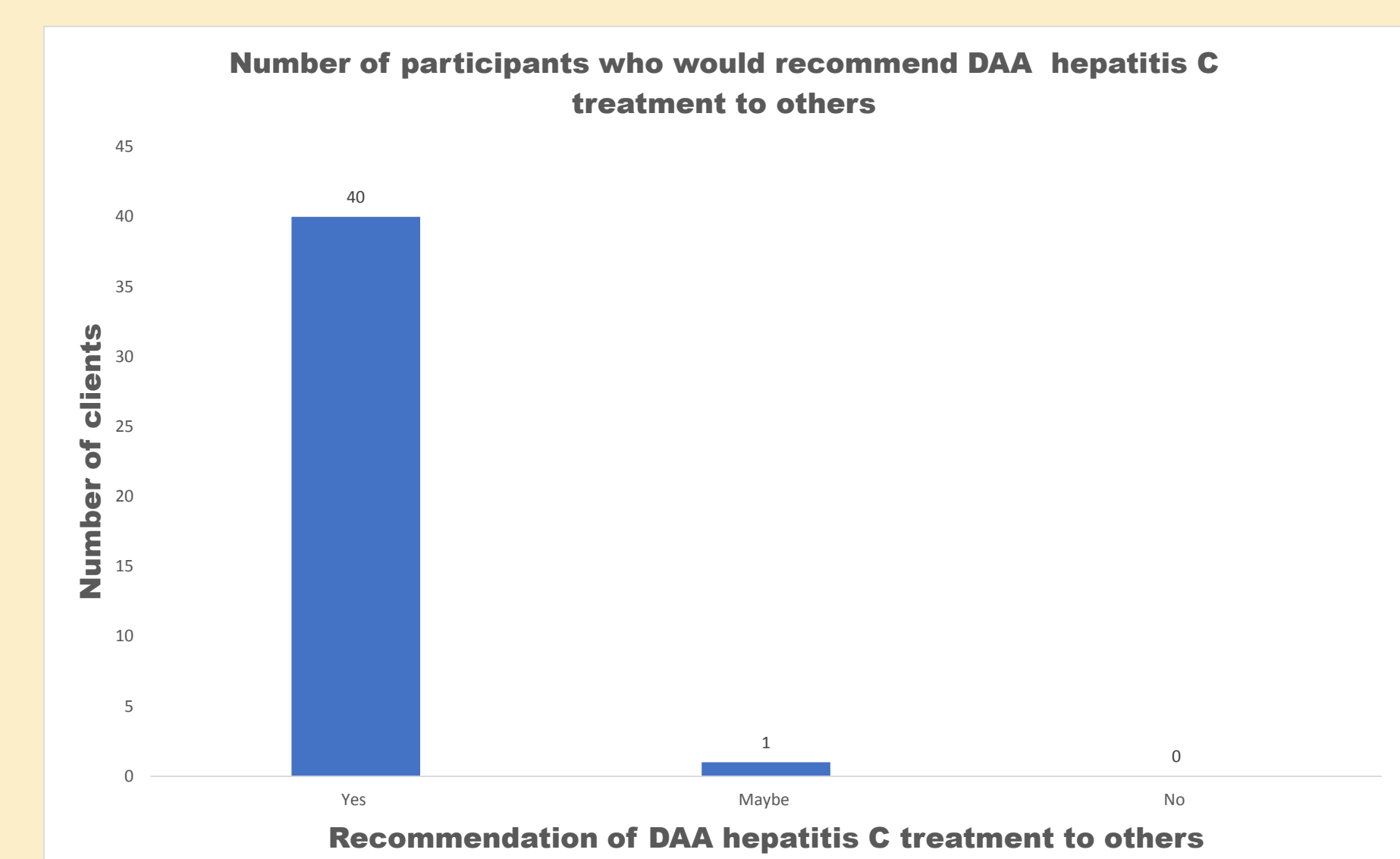


75.4% of the clients had prior HCV monitoring, 87.7% of the clients had spoken to either the doctor or nurse regarding HCV treatment prior to treatment within the last 6 months

Results: (Post-treatment) 41 respondents



87.8% were highly satisfied with their HCV treatment. Satisfaction level increased post-treatment (p-value:0.005)



97.6% would recommend DAA treatment to others infected with HCV.



Acknowledgements:

Dr Paul Williamson (Addiction Medicine Specialist), DASSA clients and DASSA staff who participated in this research.