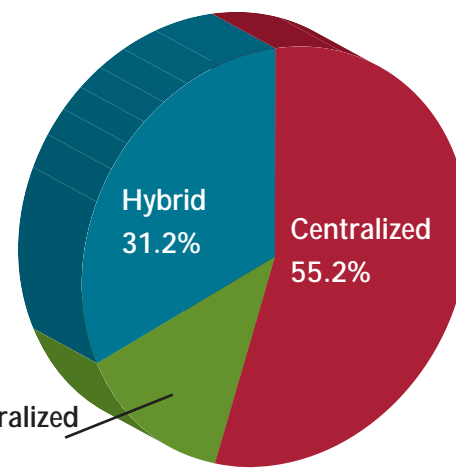


Automated Systems for Medication Distribution

Continues on pages 25 and 44

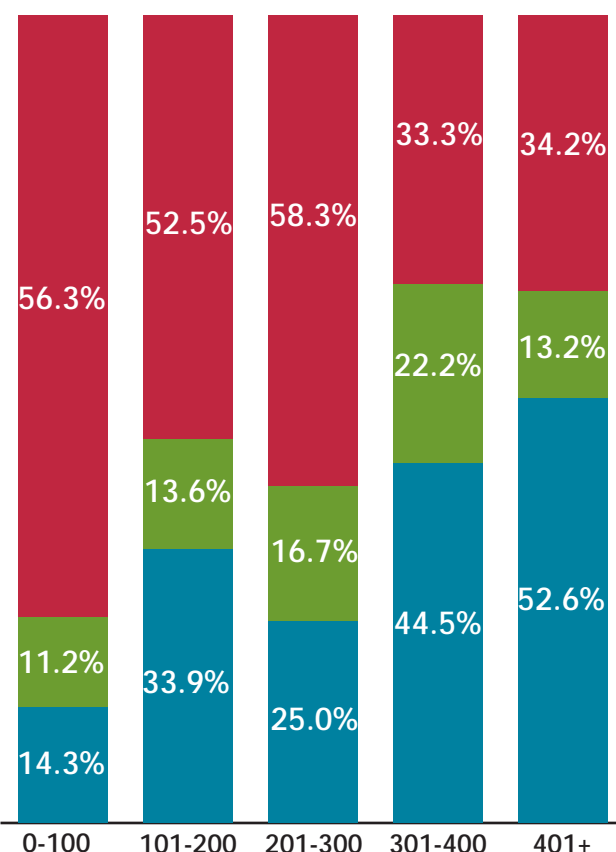
Respondents report using a significantly higher level of automation for medication distribution than they did at the time of last year's survey, with automated dispensing machines, medication carts, mobile computerized workstations, and in-room medication cabinets showing much higher implementation rates. Furthermore, directors of pharmacy indicate that the hybrid model of medication distribution – which demonstrated notable growth over last year – will become even more widespread in years to come.

For more information on vendors supplying automated devices for medication distribution, circle numbers 902, 903, 912, and 915 on the reader service card or visit www.findit.pppmag.com.



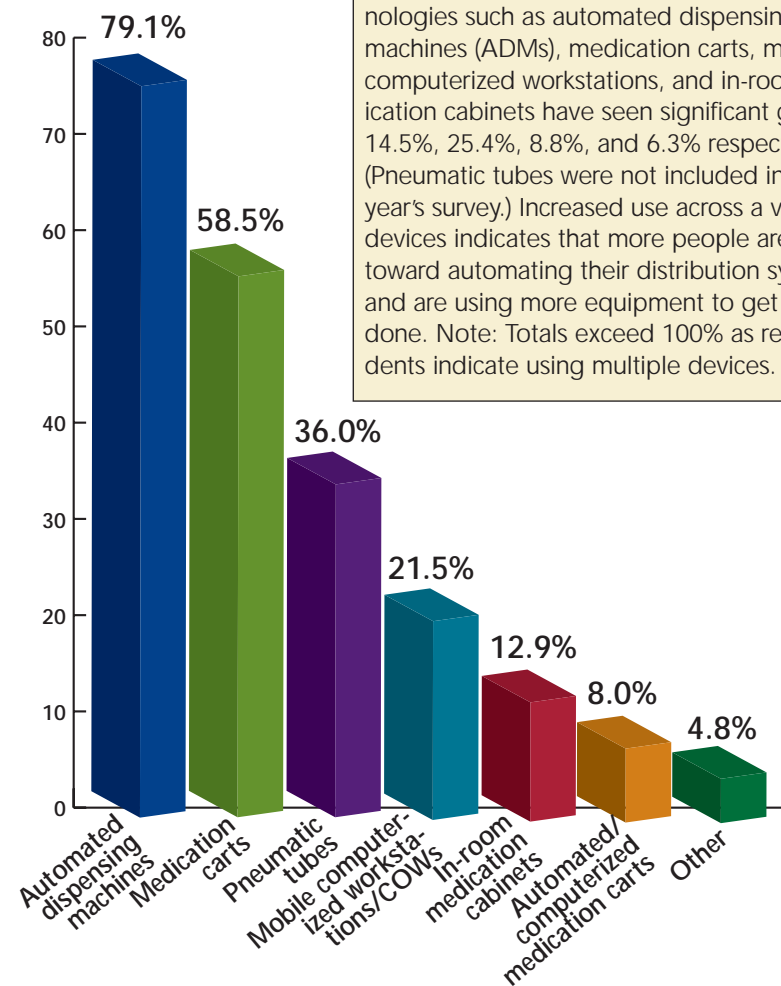
Current Models for Medication Distribution

As predicted last year, there has been a shift toward the hybrid medication distribution model, which is up nearly 7% this year. The number of hospitals using a centralized model is down nearly 5%, and the decentralized model experienced a 2.1% dip.



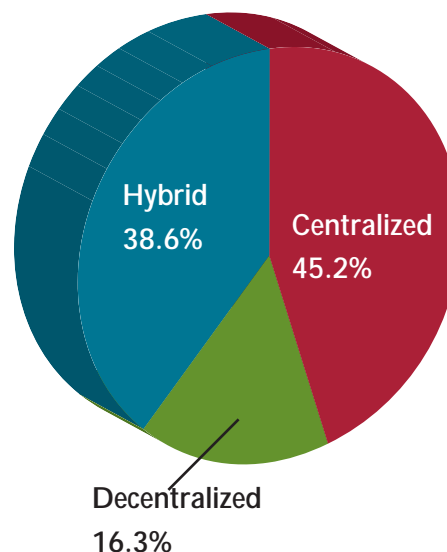
Models for Medication Distribution by Facility Size (in numbers of beds)

The hybrid model is clearly the most widely used in hospitals with more than 300 beds, while the centralized model maintains its popularity in hospitals of less than 300 beds. Use of the decentralized model is fairly consistent regardless of facility size.



Devices Used for Medication Distribution

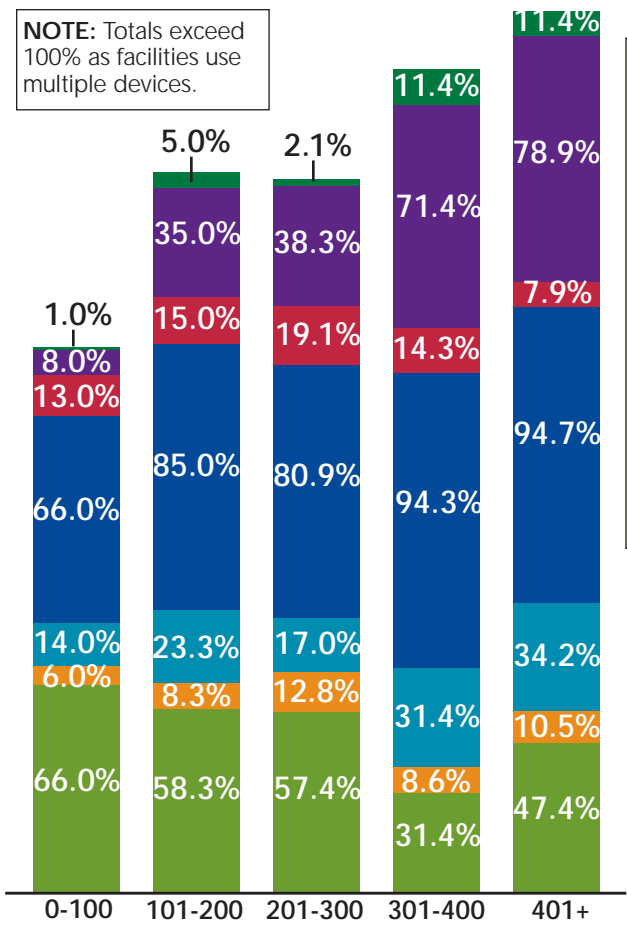
In comparison to last year's survey results, technologies such as automated dispensing machines (ADMs), medication carts, mobile computerized workstations, and in-room medication cabinets have seen significant growth – 14.5%, 25.4%, 8.8%, and 6.3% respectively. (Pneumatic tubes were not included in last year's survey.) Increased use across a variety of devices indicates that more people are moving toward automating their distribution systems and are using more equipment to get the job done. Note: Totals exceed 100% as respondents indicate using multiple devices.



Distribution Models in Facilities Packaging Medications in Bar Coded Unit Dose

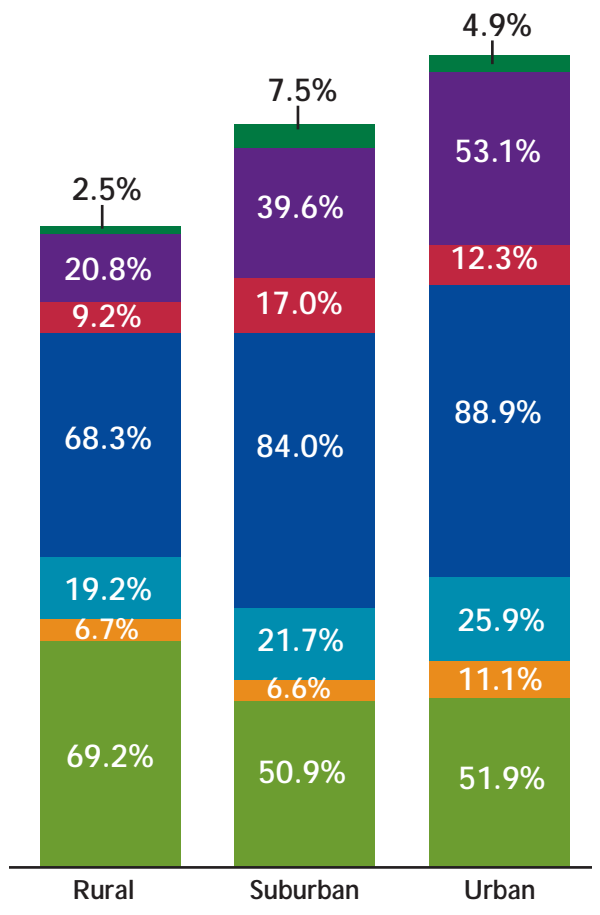
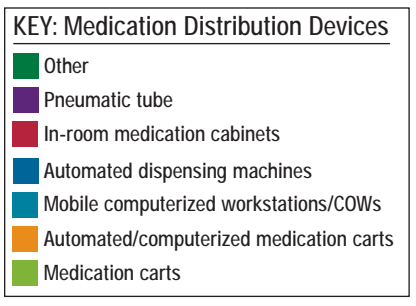
While centralized distribution is still the most widely used model in hospitals packaging drugs in bar coded unit dose, the hybrid model has seen an uptake in implementation, from 31% last year to 38.6% this year.

NOTE: Totals exceed 100% as facilities use multiple devices.



Devices Used for Medication Distribution by Facility Size (in number of beds)

Medications carts are widely used across the spectrum, but enjoy their highest usage rates in hospitals of less than 100 beds. Likewise, ADMS have been adopted by a significant percentage of hospitals across the board, but are particularly popular in hospitals of more than 300 beds. That said, ADM usage has increased over 20% in hospitals of less than 100 beds, and by almost 12% in hospitals with 101 to 200 beds.

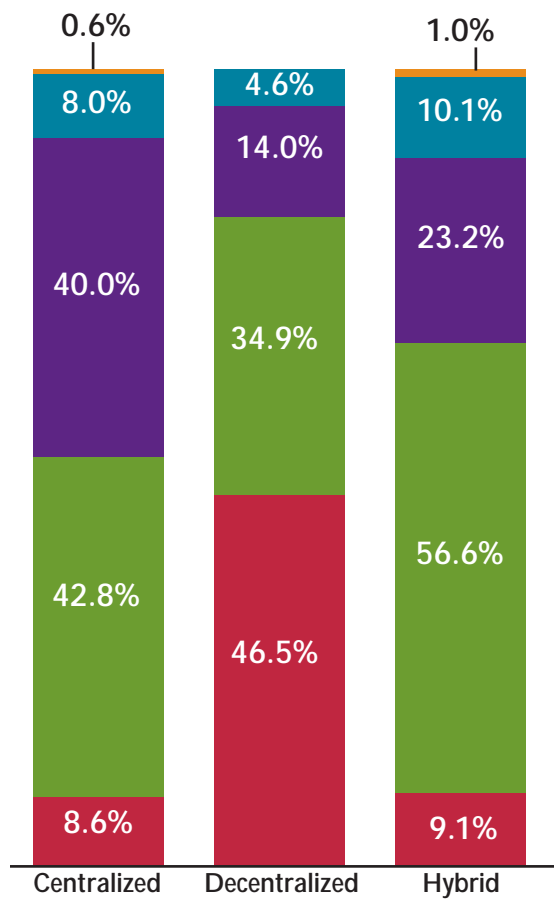
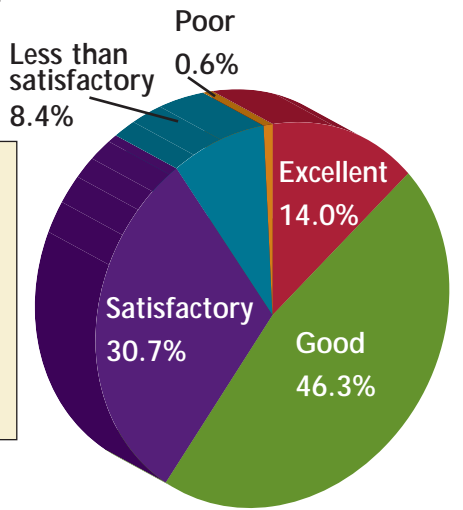


Devices Used for Medication Distribution by Facility Location

Regardless of their community type, facilities are generally using more devices to facilitate medication distribution than they were last year.

Level of User Satisfaction with Current Medication Distribution System

Over 90% of respondents describe their medication distribution system as satisfactory or better. However, only 14% rate their system excellent, indicating there is still room for improvement.



Level of User Satisfaction by Current Medication Distribution Model

Respondents are generally satisfied with their distribution model, regardless of the type. Of those using the centralized model, 51.4% rate their medication distribution system "good" or "excellent", and 65.7% of those using a hybrid model said the same of their system. The decentralized model was the highest rated, with 81.4% of directors of pharmacy rating their system "good" or "excellent".

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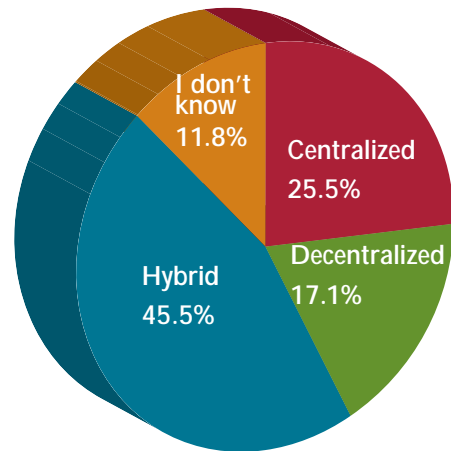


Automated Systems for Medication Distribution

Continued from page 25

Five-Year Forecast for Medication Distribution Models

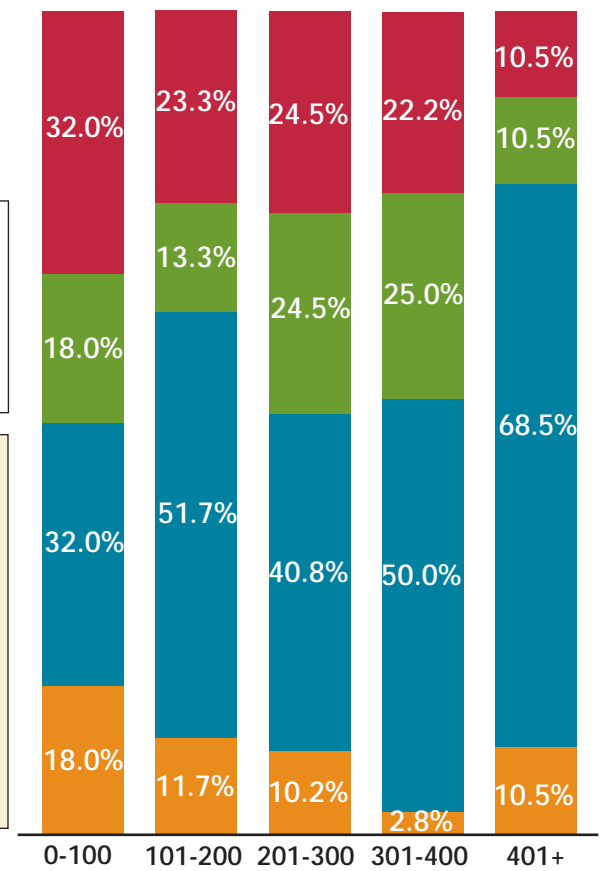
A significant number of respondents predict their facilities will use a hybrid model for medication distribution in five years' time. This figure is notably larger than last year's 31.4%.



Five-Year Forecast for Medication Distribution Models Versus Facility Size (in number of beds)

The larger the hospital, the more likely it will be to use a hybrid model in the future. While predicted to decrease overall, the centralized model is likely to be most widely used by smaller hospitals.

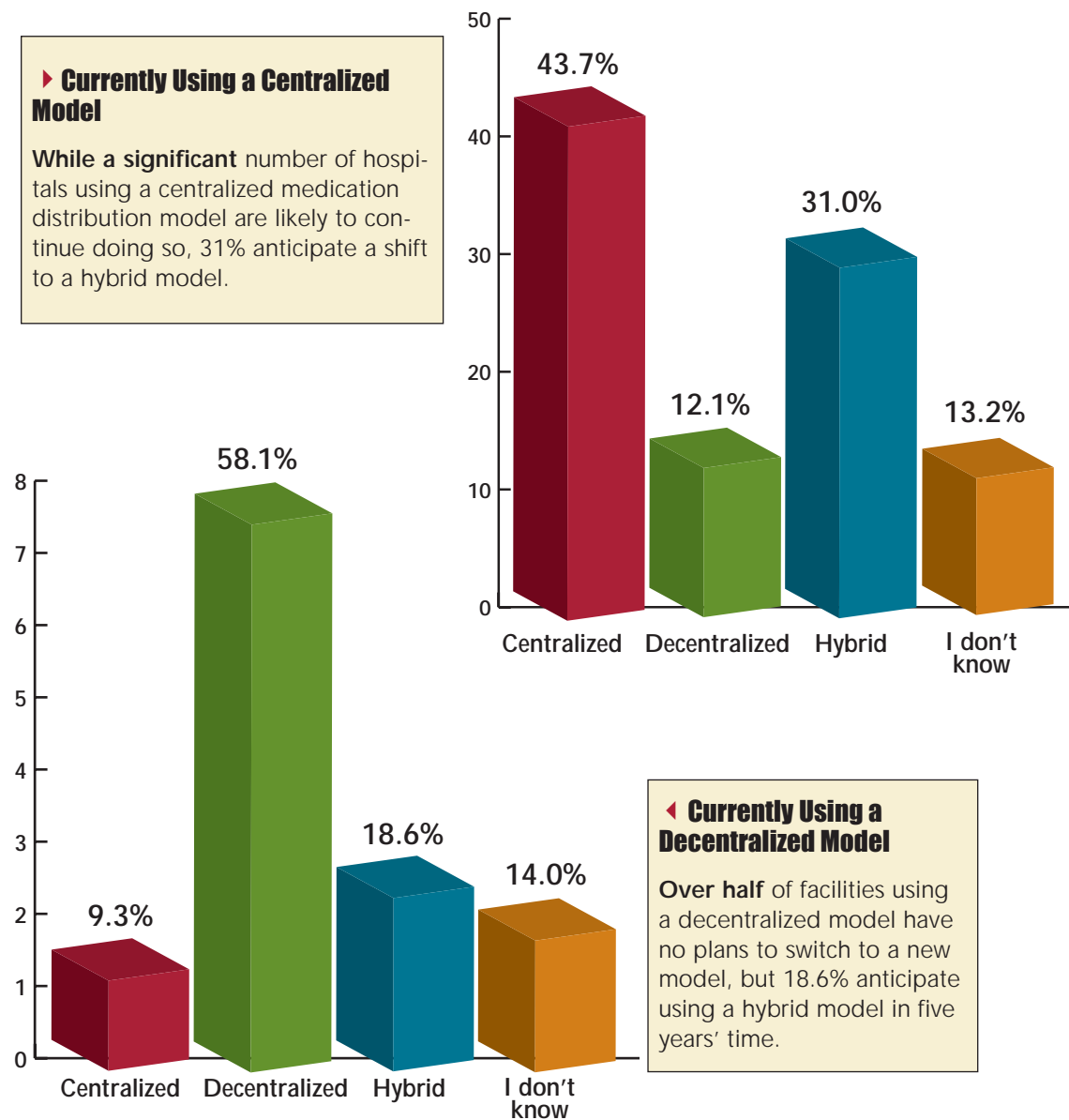
KEY: Medication Distribution
 Centralized
 Decentralized
 Hybrid
 I don't know



Five-Year Forecasts for Medication Distribution Models

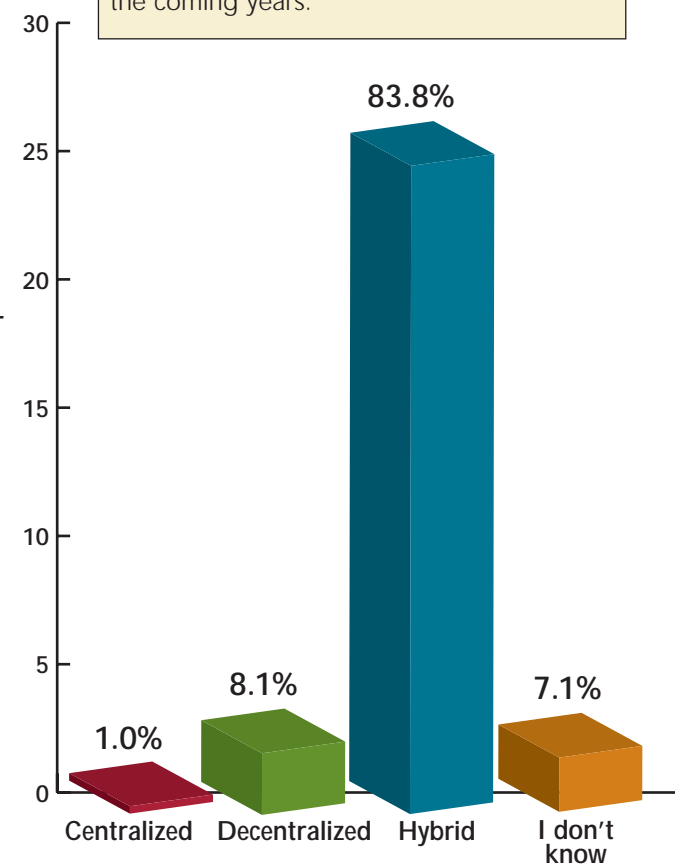
Currently Using a Centralized Model

While a significant number of hospitals using a centralized medication distribution model are likely to continue doing so, 31% anticipate a shift to a hybrid model.



Currently Using a Hybrid Model

An overwhelming percentage of hospitals currently using a hybrid model for medication distribution will continue doing so in the coming years.



Currently Using a Decentralized Model

Over half of facilities using a decentralized model have no plans to switch to a new model, but 18.6% anticipate using a hybrid model in five years' time.

