

Status of Pharmacy Resources in U.S. Hospitals and Health Systems

Biweekly Survey Report

Survey conducted April 6-9, 2020

To obtain a real-time status of pharmacy resources during the current COVID-19 pandemic, ASHP is surveying members of the Section of Pharmacy Practice Leaders on a biweekly basis. The surveys are designed to assess the status of pharmacy resources, including personal protective equipment (PPE) and critical drug supplies. The surveys are informal and nonscientific and are not designed for statistical analysis. Questions about other impacted pharmacy resources are added as trends develop. The following includes results from the third biweekly survey (Round 3), which included 304 respondents and contained 17 questions that were fielded for three days. The data are compared to the first biweekly survey (Round 1), which was deployed from March 9-15, 2020 and had 403 responses, and the second biweekly survey (Round 2), which was deployed from March 23-26, 2020 and had 382 respondents.

KEY FINDINGS

- The availability of surgical-type masks and N95 or other respirators appears to be stable or slightly improved compared to Round 2 of the survey.
- 36% of Round 3 respondents categorized the disruption in supplies of surgical-type medical masks as either major or moderate, indicating either going without masks or using alternatives with mixed or poor results, down 6 percentage points from the 42% cited in the Round 2 survey.
- The intensive care unit (ICU) drugs with the most critical shortages of current inventory on hand include cisatracurium, fentanyl, ketamine, and vecuronium.
- The ICU drugs with the most critical shortages of supplier availability include cisatracurium, fentanyl, and midazolam.

ROUND 3 PARTICIPANTS:

- There were 304 respondents representing hospitals of various sizes:
 - Small hospitals (< 200 beds): 21.5%
 - Medium hospitals (200-500 beds): 29.8%
 - Large hospitals (> 500 beds): 43.3%
 - Other (not a hospital setting): 5.4%
- The highest number of Round 3 respondents were from California (23), Texas (22), and Ohio (17)

ROUND 3 RESULTS:

Current availability of medical masks (Figs. 1 & 2)

Major disruption: Often going without masks

- Surgical-type masks: 4%

ASHP COVID-19 Pharmacy Resources Biweekly Survey Findings

- N95 respirators: 13%

Moderate disruption: Use of an alternative product or vendor with mixed or poor results

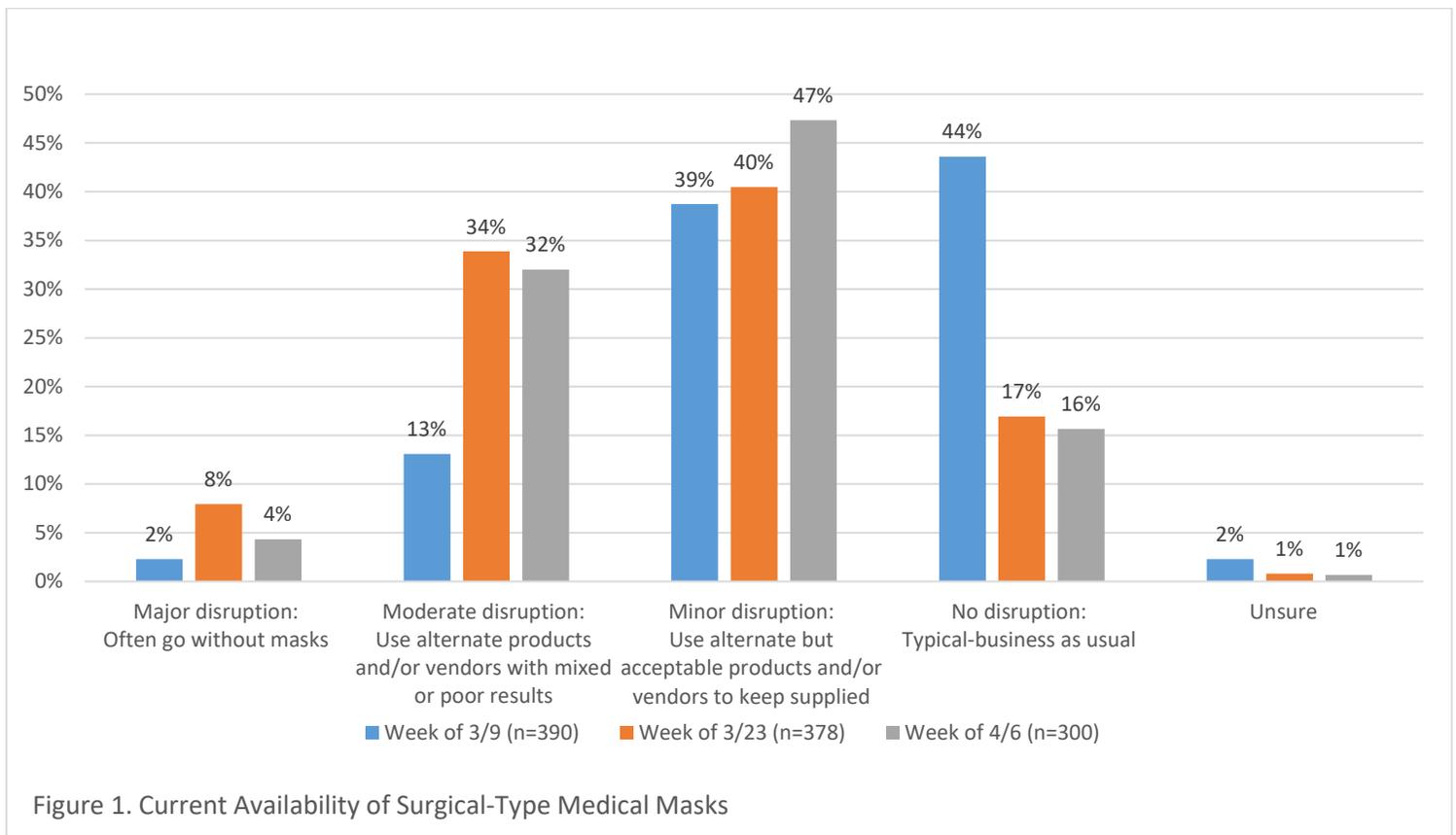
- Surgical-type masks: 32%
- N95 respirators: 38%

Minor disruption: Use of an acceptable alternative product or vendor

- Surgical-type masks: 47%
- N95 respirators: 33%

No disruption

- Surgical-type masks: 16%
- N95 respirators: 11%



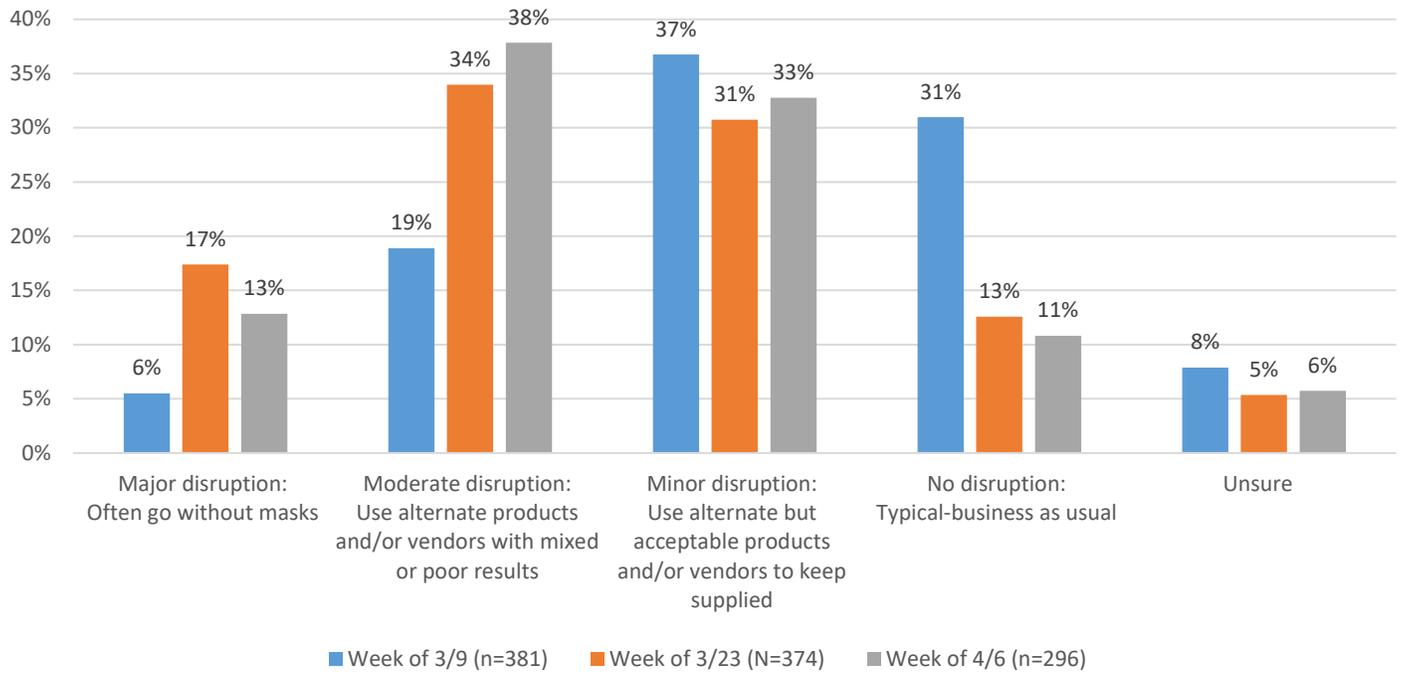


Figure 2. Current Availability of N95 or Other Respirators

- Of the 262 respondents with an ICU, 43% indicated greater than half of their ICU census consisted of COVID-19 patients, 55% indicated less than half included COVID-19 patients, and 2% were unsure. (Fig. 3)

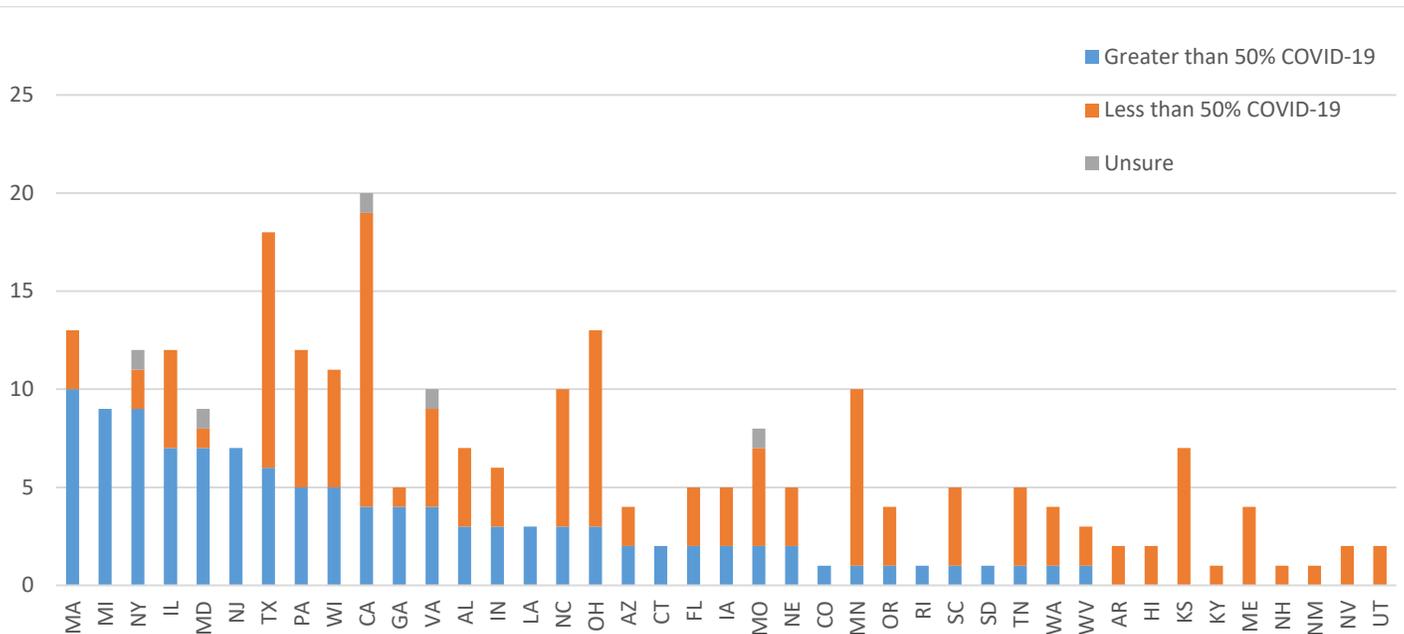
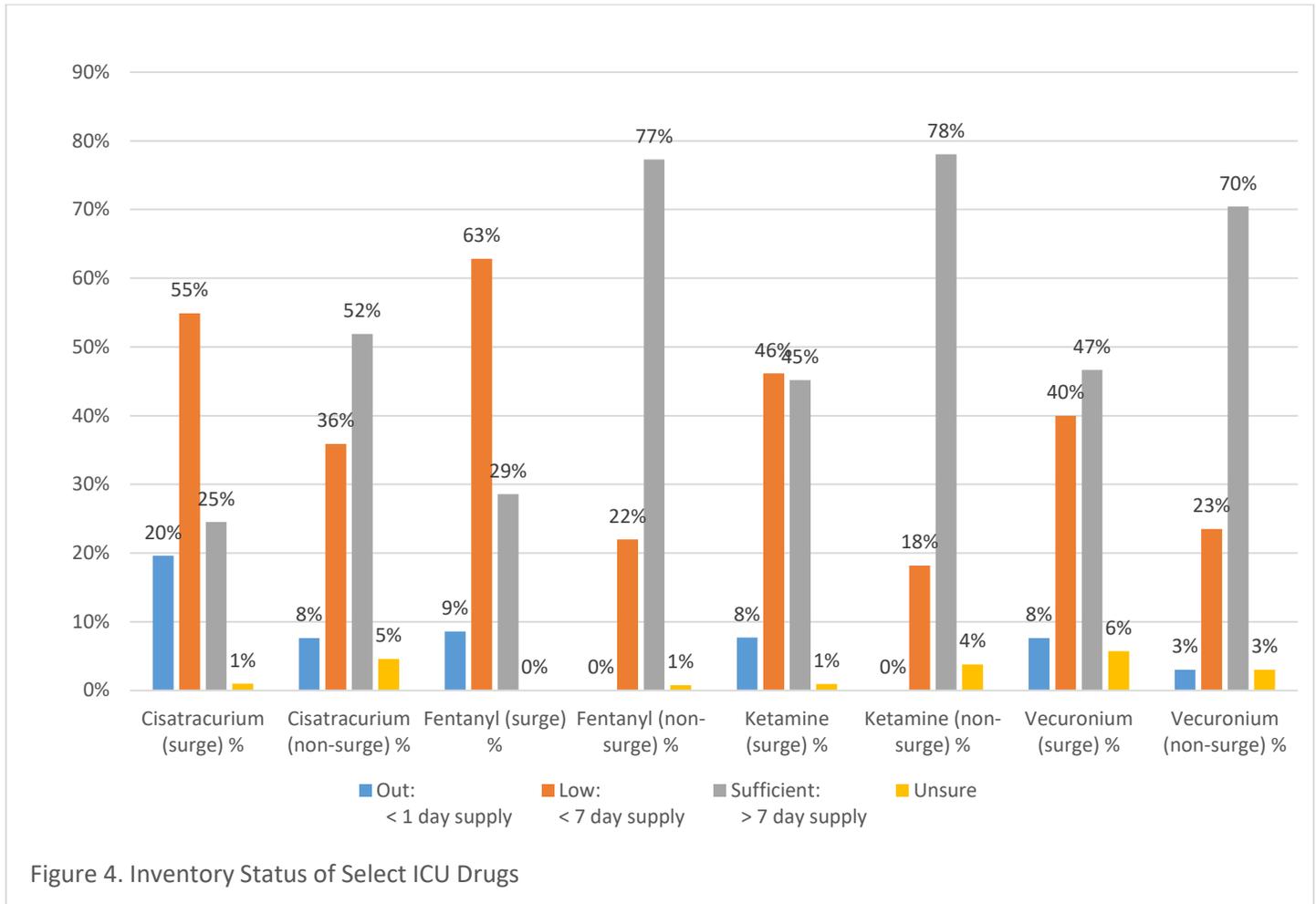
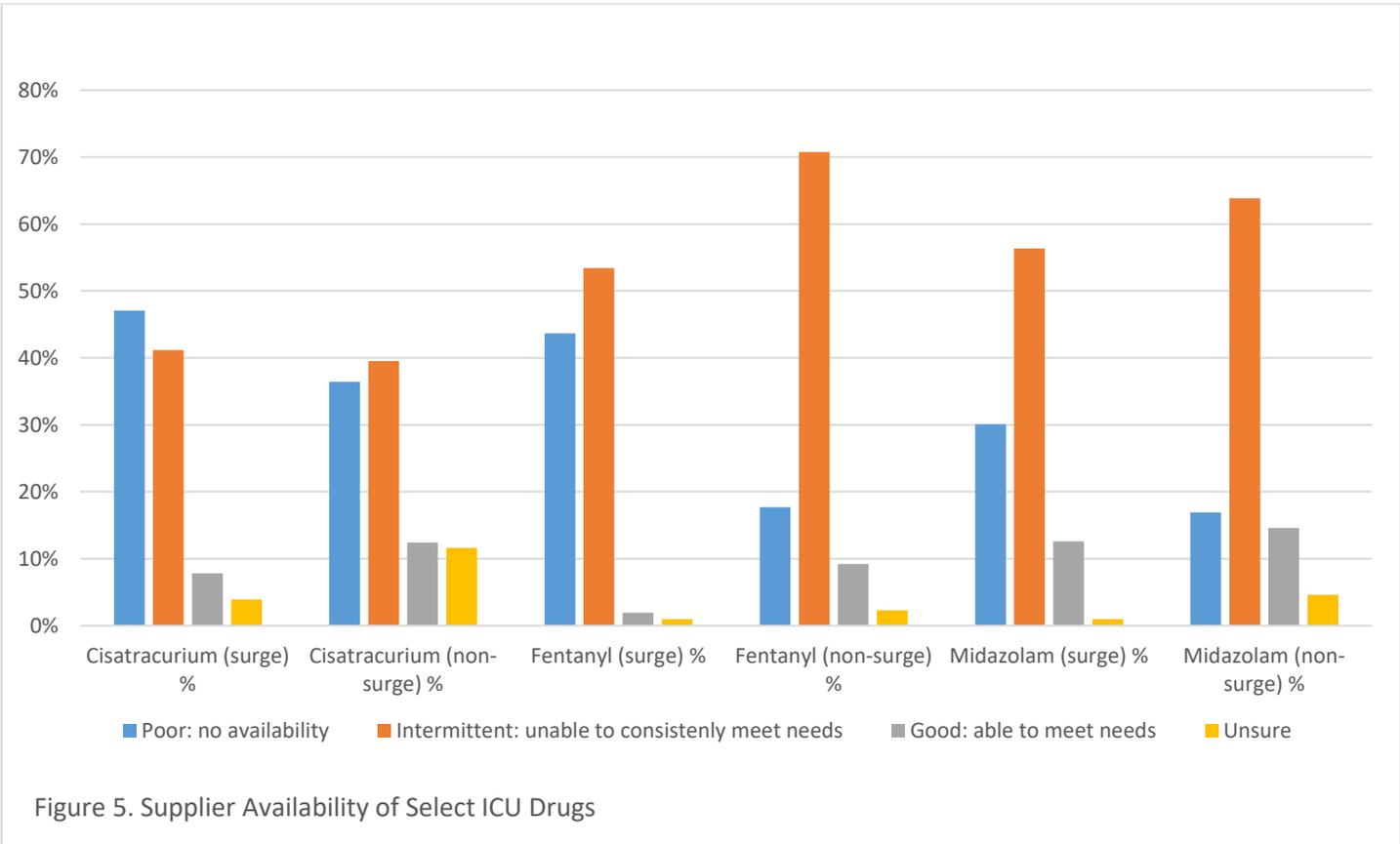


Figure 3. ICU Census by Respondent (n = 262)

ASHP COVID-19 Pharmacy Resources Biweekly Survey Findings

- Among respondents that had greater than half of their ICU full of COVID-19 patients, the ICU drugs with the most critical current inventory status were (Fig. 4):
 - Cisatracurium (20% with < 1 day supply, 55% with < 7 day supply)
 - Fentanyl (9% with < 1 day supply, 63% with < 7 day supply)
 - Ketamine (8% with < 1 day supply, 46% with < 7 day supply)
 - Vecuronium (8% with < 1 day supply, 40% with < 7 day supply)
- Among the respondents that had greater than half of their ICU full of COVID-19 patients, the ICU drugs with the most critical availability from suppliers were (Fig. 5):
 - Cisatracurium (47% no supplier availability, 41% intermittent availability)
 - Fentanyl (44% no supplier availability, 53% intermittent availability)
 - Midazolam (30% no supplier availability, 56% intermittent availability)





ABOUT ASHP

ASHP represents pharmacists who serve as patient care providers in acute and ambulatory settings. The organization’s nearly 55,000 members include pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians. For more than 75 years, ASHP has been at the forefront of efforts to improve medication use and enhance patient safety. Visit ASHP’s [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) for helpful information about COVID-19.

For more information about the survey findings, please contact ASHP’s Center for Medication Safety and Quality at quality@ashp.org.