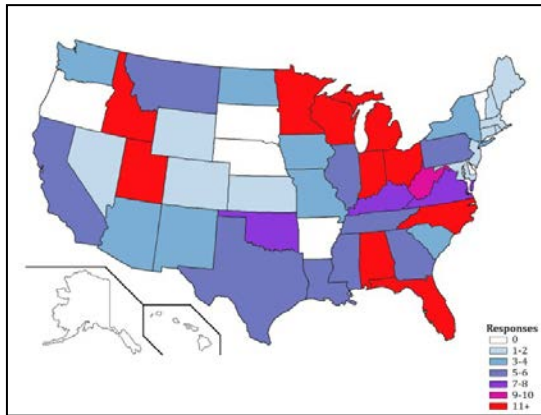


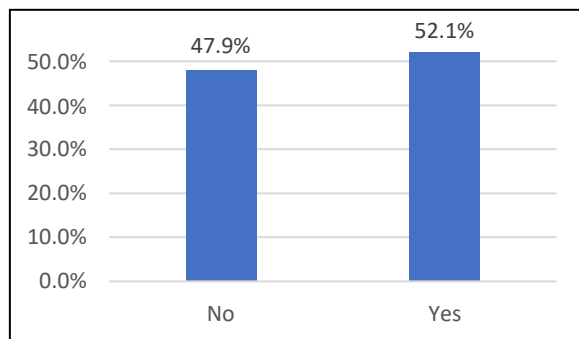


## Impact of Competitive Bidding on Medicare Beneficiary Access to Durable Medical Equipment

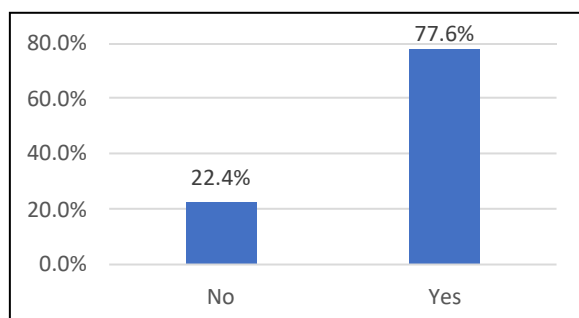
**Exhibit 3: Distribution of Case Managers by State**



**Exhibit 4: Have you experienced difficulties with access to HME and services provided by your supplier(s) since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016?**



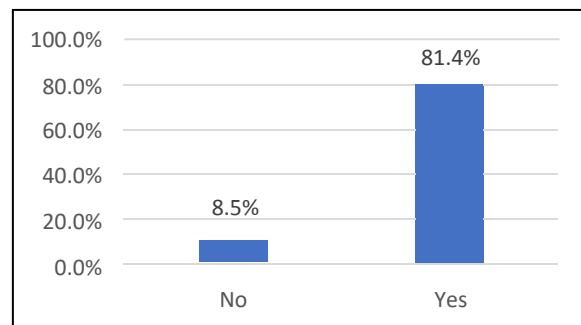
**Exhibit 5: Have you experienced difficulties with the ease and timeliness of the discharge process for your patients who require HME since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016?**



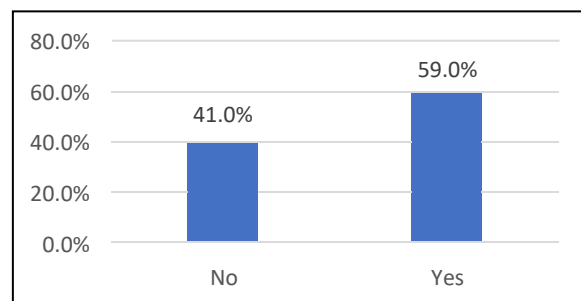
One beneficiary stated: “Fed up with trying to get a supplier in the area, paid out-of-pocket cash”

One case manager stated: “I have been a therapist since 1991 and have never been so unable to do my job. Being in home care, we are the last person/profession in with these clients and they are depending on us to get them the equipment they need to be safe... This Medicare system is broken beyond repair.”

**Exhibit 6: Have you experienced an increase in patient complaints about their access to HME and supplies or about an increase in out-of-pocket expenses in acquiring HME and supplies since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016?**



**Exhibit 7: Oxygen patients only - Have you experienced difficulties with access to oxygen-related HME and services provided by your supplier(s) since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016?**



In summary, the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding program has negatively affected beneficiaries’ access to medically necessary equipment and has negatively impacted the role of case managers in receiving HME for their patients. Beneficiaries and case managers are expressing concerns with the status of the program, and they recommend changes to restore access.