

# The Utilization of Evidence-Based Guidelines as an Approach to Choosing Aspirin for General Heart Health

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# BACKGROUND

- More than ½ of deaths in the US result from stroke, cancer, or heart disease.
- Aspirin has been used for thousands of years for many different indications, though since the 1940's for primary prevention.
- Primary prevention guidelines were released in March 2019, changing previous though of using aspirin for every patient to cutting down use due to lack of benefit and more risk.

# OBJECTIVE

- Quantify those who are at a higher risk and may benefit from aspirin therapy based on 2019 guidelines.
- Compare those who may benefit against those who receive the recommendation from their providers.

#### METHODS

Study Design: Cross-sectional, retrospective study using a internet-based survey

Inclusion Criteria: All US residents ages 18 and older who have not had a stroke, MI, or acute coronary syndrome

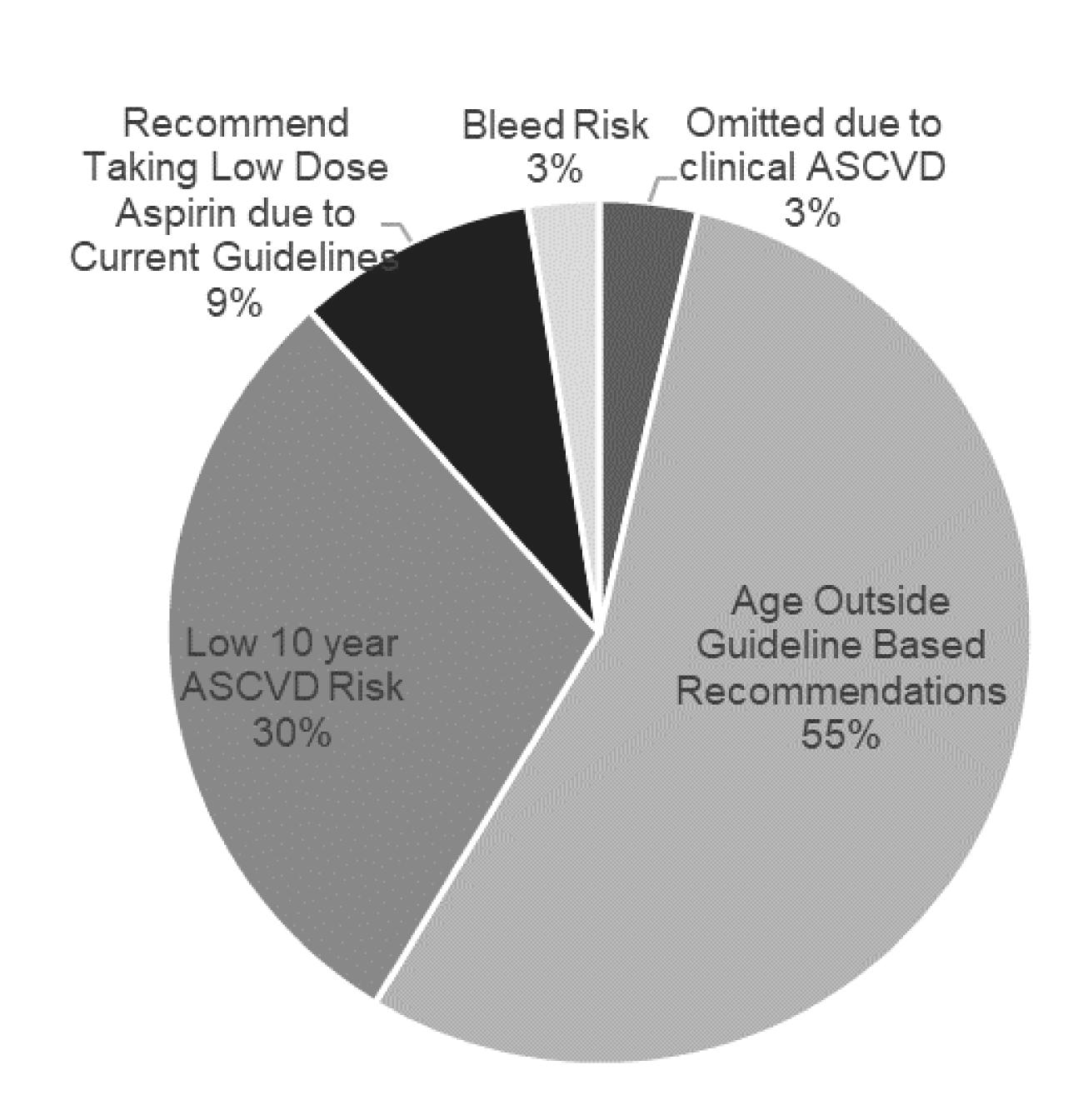
<u>Dependent Variables:</u> the use of antihypertensive medications, the use of -statin medications, total cholesterol levels, HDL levels, systolic blood pressure values, use of aspirin and strength, doctor's recommendation on aspirin use.

Independent Variables: sex, age, race, chronic conditions such as smoking status, hypercholesterolemia (total cholesterol and HDL, hypertension, CKD, diabetes, steroid use, NSAID use, anticoagulant use, internal bleeding, need for secondary prevention due to stroke/ACS/MI, time since last doctor visit.

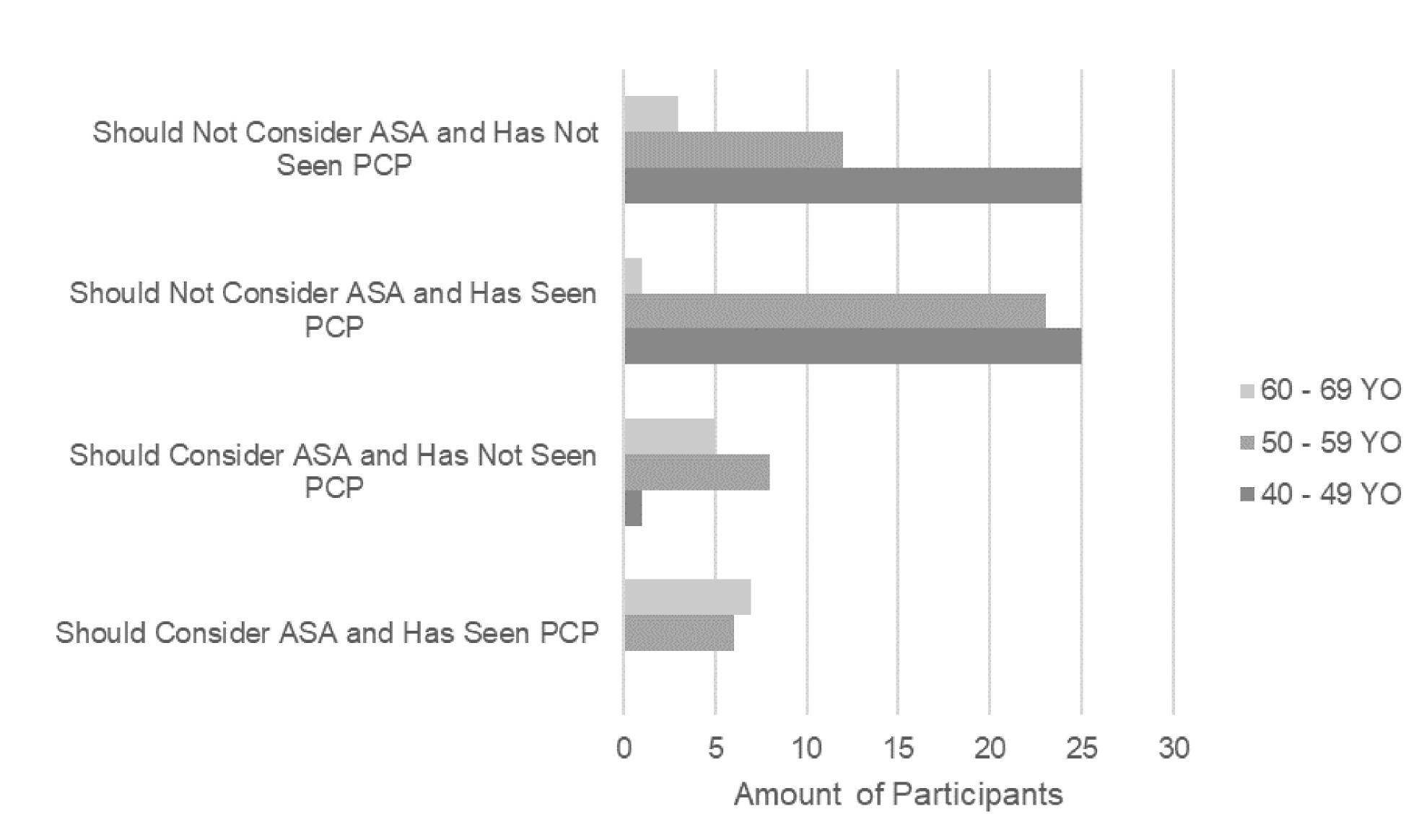
Data Analysis: relied on percentages to describe and compare sample.

### RESULTS

#### Breakdown of Total Participants



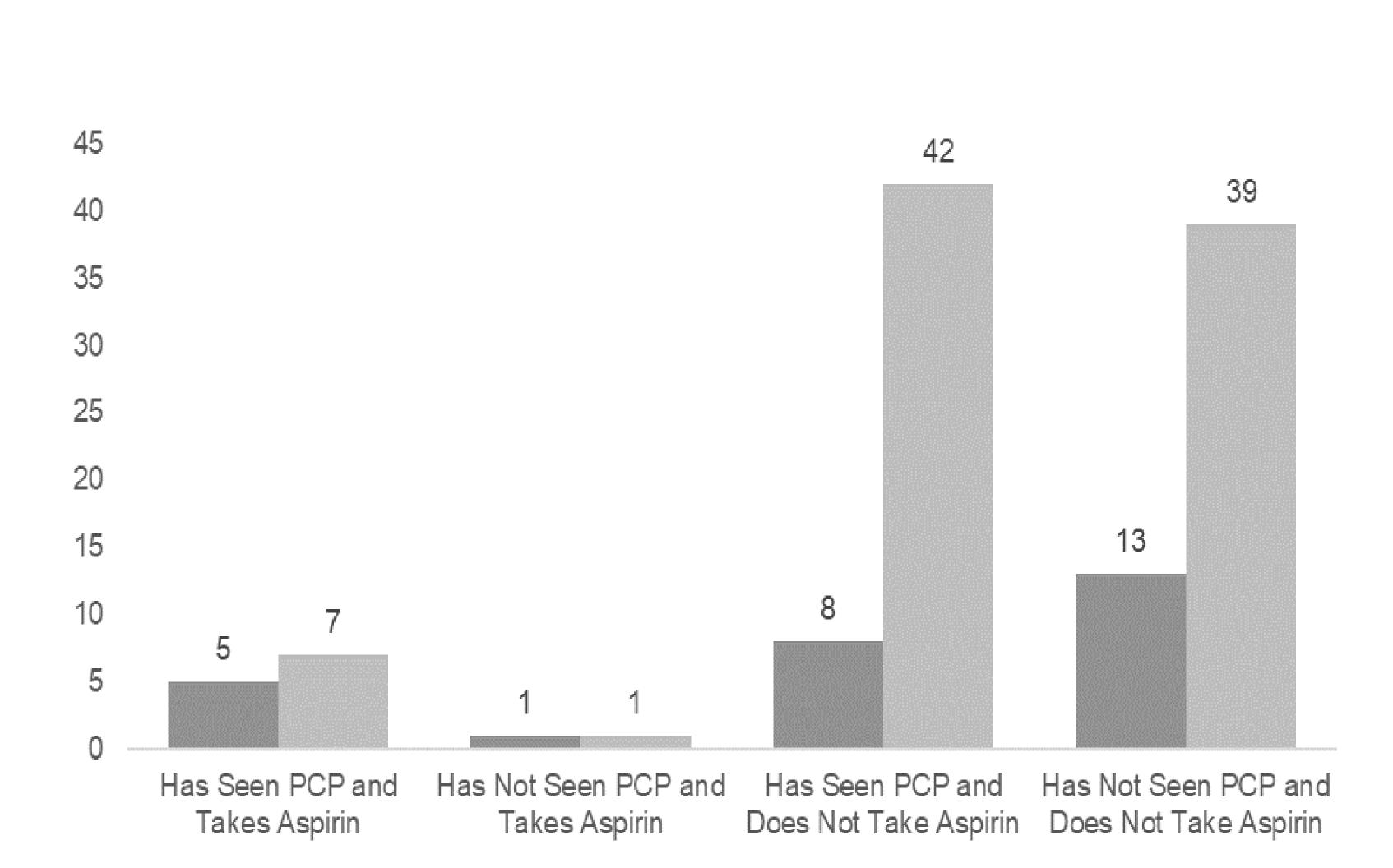
Age Analysis of Office Visit Since Guideline Update and Use of Primary Prevention



# Participants Based Off Office Visit Since Guideline

Update and Current Use of Aspirin

RESULTS



Should Consider Aspirin for Primary PreventionLow 10 year ASCVD Risk, But Within Age Limitations

#### CONCLUSION

- Staying up to date is one of the most challenging and rewarding feats a provider can do to help their patients.
- Three months after the change in guidelines, less than 40% of patients actually took daily low dose aspirin of those who should be considered for the medication as a primary preventative for clinical ASCVD events.
- Future data should be constructed to follow up on the integration of new guidelines included in provider recommendations.