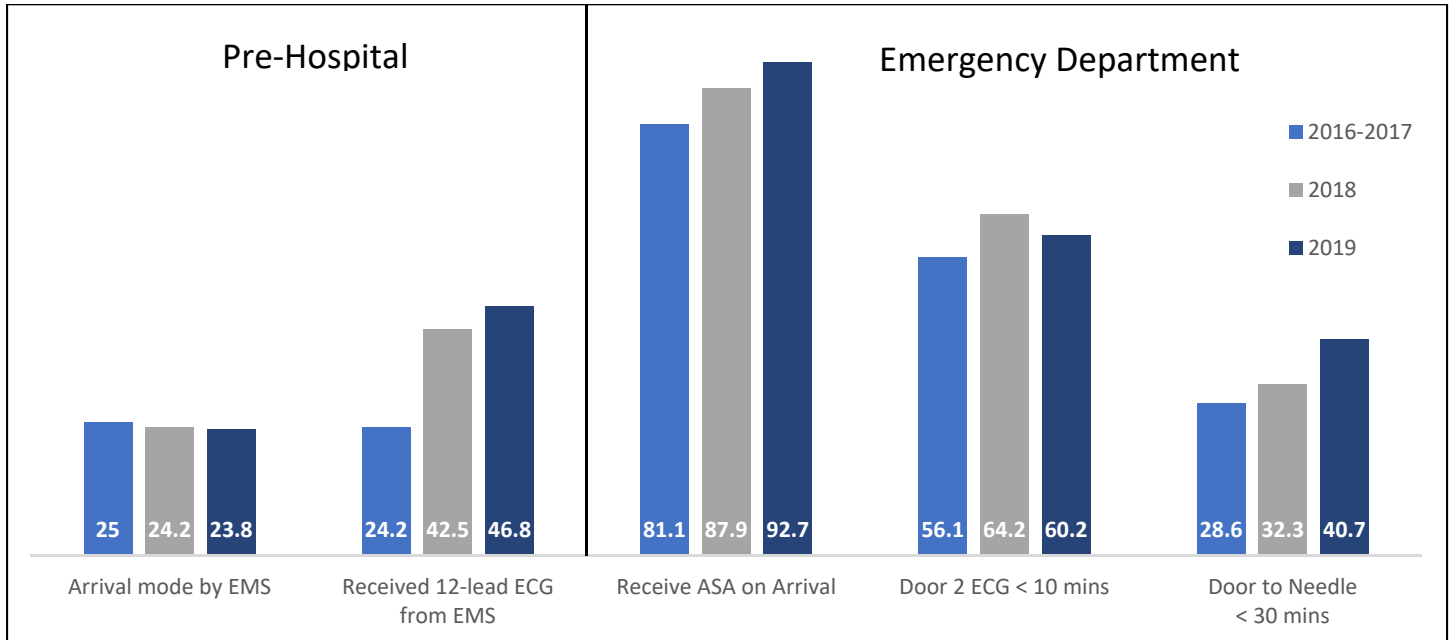


Figure: Percentage of People Seen at Critical Access Hospitals with Cardiac Recognition for Acute Heart Attack



**Background:**

- The Cardiac Recognition Award, coordinated by the Montana Cardiovascular Health Program (CVH), collects important data related to the acute treatment of heart attack. These data are shared with the Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) who have received the Award and are intended to be a catalyst for quality improvement activities with the end goal of improving the acute treatment of patients experiencing a heart attack. As of 2020, 21 CAHs have received the Cardiac Recognition Award and are actively participating in heart attack quality improvement projects.

**Highlights:**

- Important indicators for heart attack care include arriving by ambulance, obtaining a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on scene, receiving aspirin on emergency department (ED) arrival, getting a 12-lead ECG performed within 10 minutes of ED arrival and administering lifesaving clot buster medications to interrupt a heart attack within 30 minutes of ED arrival.
- Since 2016-17, apart from arriving by ambulance, improvements have been demonstrated in all areas of acute cardiac care.
- The CVH Program will continue to monitor cardiac care in Montana and work with CAHs to keep the trend in the acute treatment of heart attack moving in a positive direction.

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**Data Source:**

Critical Access Hospital with Cardiac Recognition Reports, 2016-2017, 2018, and 2019.

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