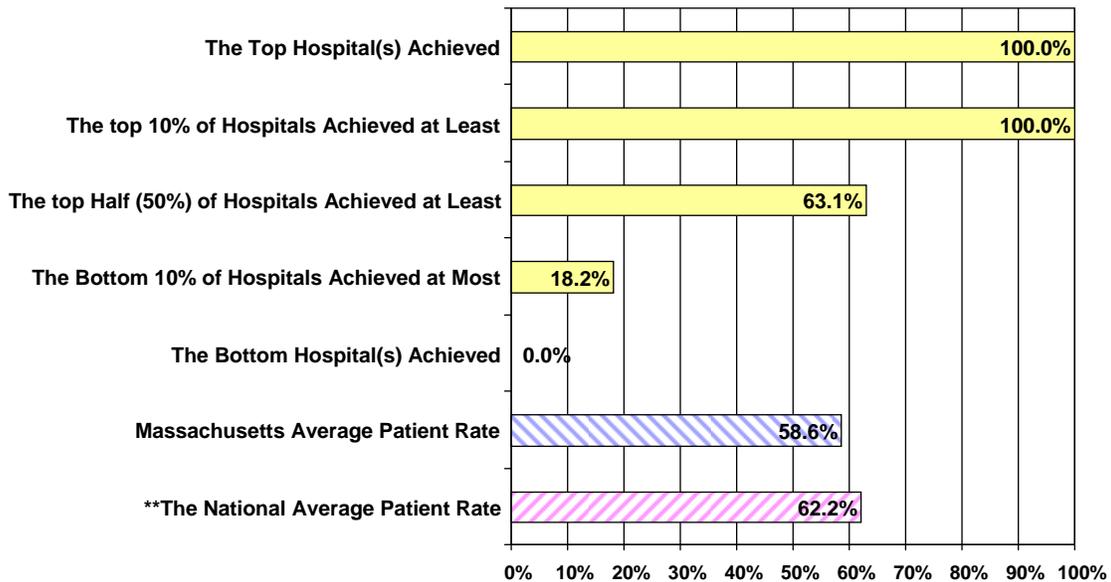


Treatment with IV-tPA

4. Percentage of eligible ischemic stroke patients who received IV-tPA at MA PSS hospital Emergency Department.

The following graph shows the percentage of eligible stroke patients who received IV-tPA at a MA PSS hospital Emergency Department in 2007 and 2008. The evaluation of patients with stroke is complex and challenging to complete in less than one hour, therefore, the data in this figure include only those patients who arrive within two hours from the start of their symptoms leaving at least one hour for patient evaluation and treatment with IV-tPA. Eligible patients consist of ischemic stroke patients who arrived at the Emergency Department of a MA PSS hospital within two hours of the time they were last known to be well and who had no contraindications for IV-tPA use. Beginning in 2008 a change was made to the Stroke Patient questionnaire which made it easier to determine if a patient was eligible for IV-tPA or not. The difference seen in the rate of eligible patients receiving IV-tPA between 2006 - 2007 and 2007 - 2008 may be the result of this change and not an actual difference. These data are broken down to show the range of performance among the top 10%, top 50%, and bottom 10% of hospitals.

Fig. 4. Percentage of eligible* stroke patients who received IV-tPA



Note: Eligible patients consist of ischemic stroke patients who arrived at the ED within 2 hrs of last known well and had no contraindications for IV-tPA use. In Massachusetts, 1,067 eligible patients arrived at 68 hospitals in 2007 and 2008. 2 hospitals had no eligible patients and were excluded from the analysis. Nationally, 20,744 eligible patients arrived at 1,238 hospitals. **The national comparative statistics are provided from the American Heart Association's *Get With The GuidelinesSM-Stroke Patient Management Tool* (Powered by Outcome, Cambridge, MA).

The hospitals are distributed as follows: The top 10% = 7 hospitals, the top 50% = 33 and the bottom 10% = 7.

What does this graph show?

This graph shows that the top hospital treated all of their eligible stroke patients with IV-tPA in 2006 and 2007. Likewise, The top 10% (7 hospitals) also treated all of their eligible patients. The top 50% (33 hospitals) treated a range of 63.1% to 100% of their eligible patients. The bottom 10% (7 hospitals) treated only 0% to 18.2% of their eligible patients and the bottom hospital treated none. Two hospitals had no eligible patients visit their Emergency Department. Overall 58.6% of 1,067 eligible patients were treated in Massachusetts. Nationally 62.2% of eligible patients were treated.