



SURVEY TRANSPORTATION

Hanna Skarin, EURL-Campylobacter

SURVEY SUMMARY

Survey started 8th of
September

Survey ended 22nd of
September

Invitations 56

Responses 32

24 MS-NRLs

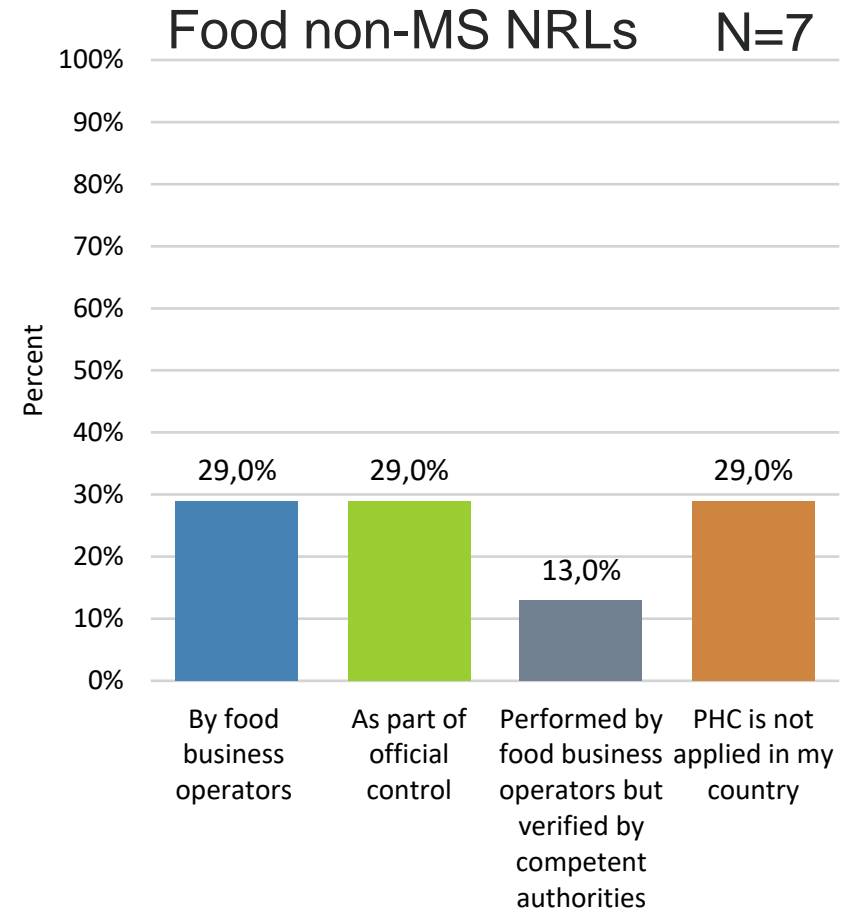
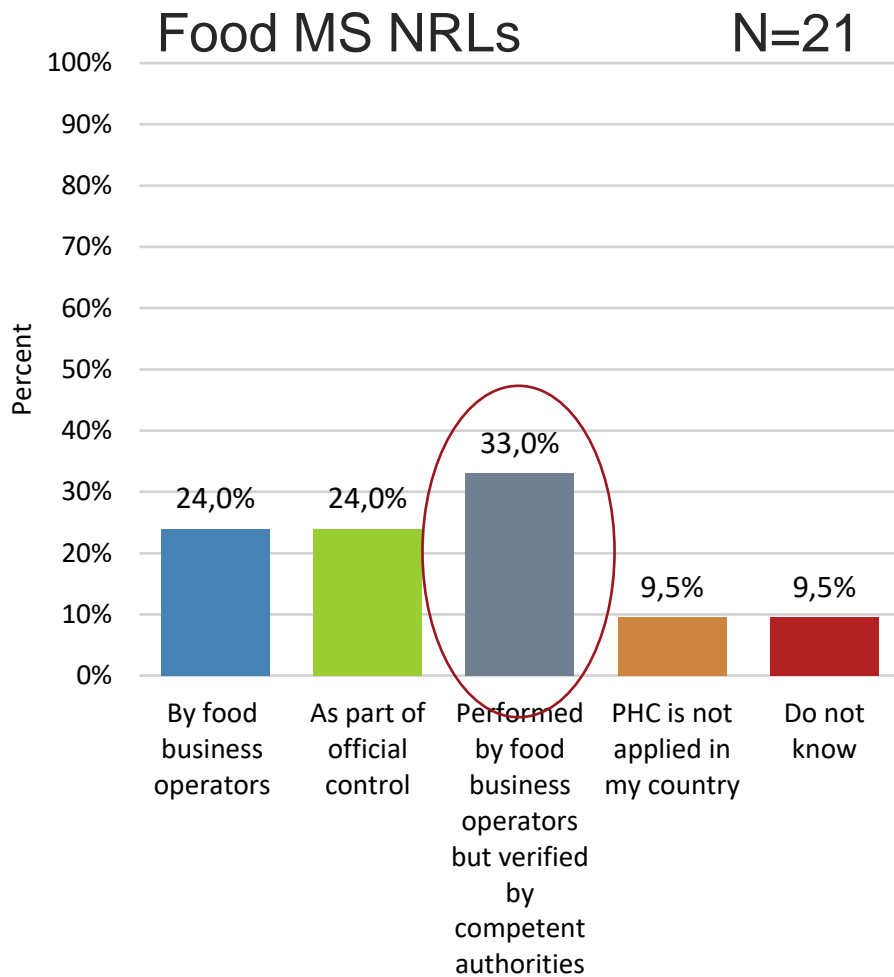
AIM AND BACKGROUND

- Background:
 - According to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005, samples collected as part of the process hygiene criterion (PHC) for *Campylobacter* in broiler carcasses shall be transported at a temperature of +1-8 °C, and the time between sampling and start of analysis for *Campylobacter* shall be less than 48 hours.
 - Far from all NRLs are involved in PHC testing, but since the conditions stated in the regulation are taken from the standard ISO 17604 'Carcass sampling for microbiological analysis', it should be of relevance to the laboratories in the EURL-*Campylobacter* network to discuss and share experiences regarding practical details on how to transport samples to aid each other.
- Aim: to share experiences with transporting samples for *Campylobacter* analysis.

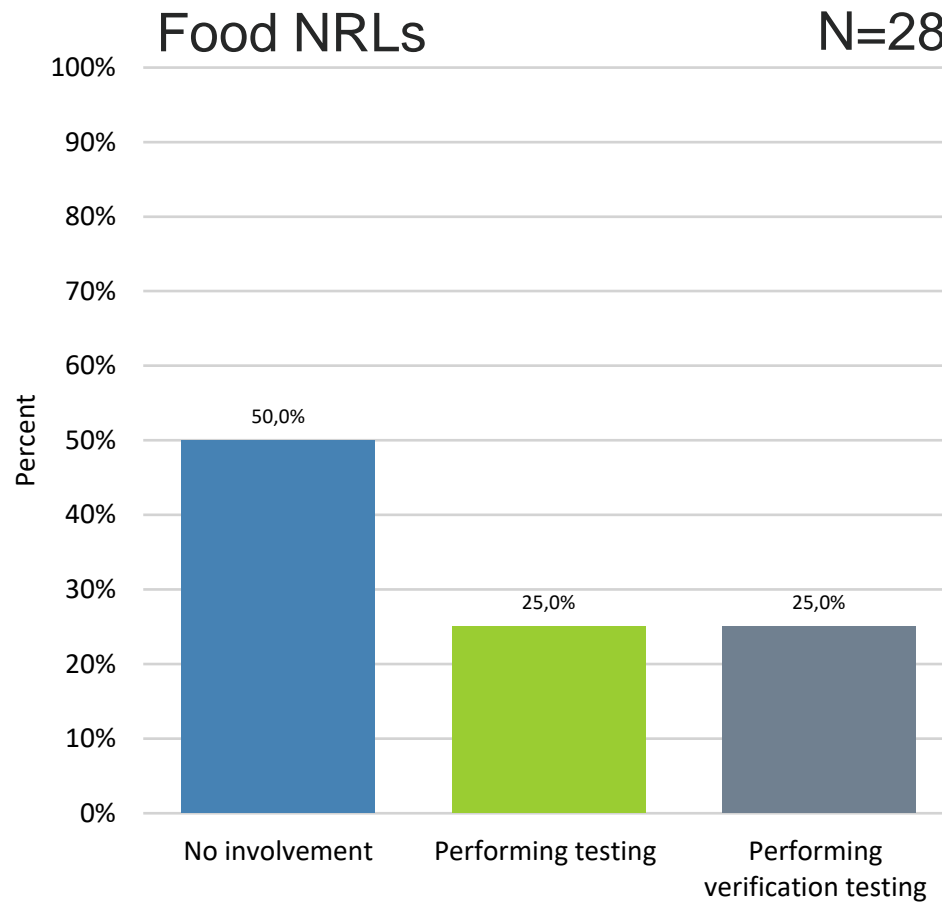
First, 3 questions on the national implementation of the PHC and the involvement of the NRLs



QUESTION: HOW IS SAMPLING FOR PHC PERFORMED IN YOUR COUNTRY?



QUESTION: IS YOUR NRL INVOLVED IN PHC TESTING AND IN WHAT WAY?



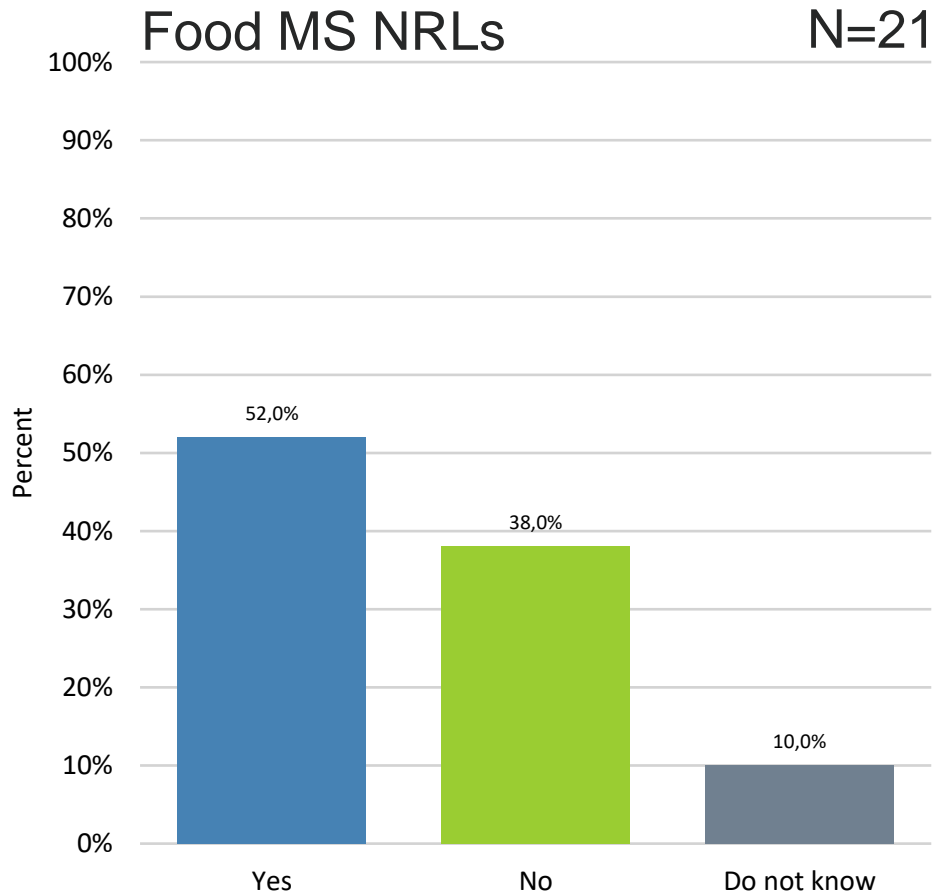
COMMENTS

No involvement: but organising PTs for private labs, carry out supporting tests when required

QUESTION: ARE THE NATIONAL RESULTS FROM THE PHC AVAILABLE FOR THE NRL?

COMMENTS

- Yes but only results from official testing
- Yes, on request
- No, only as annual summaries

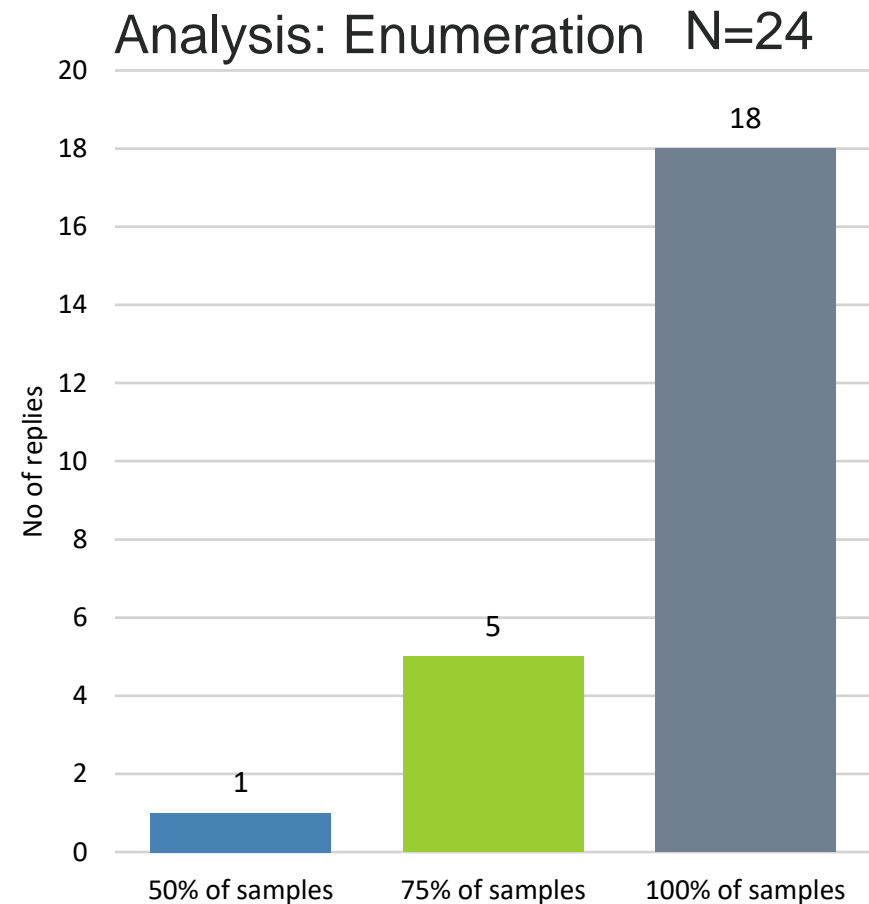
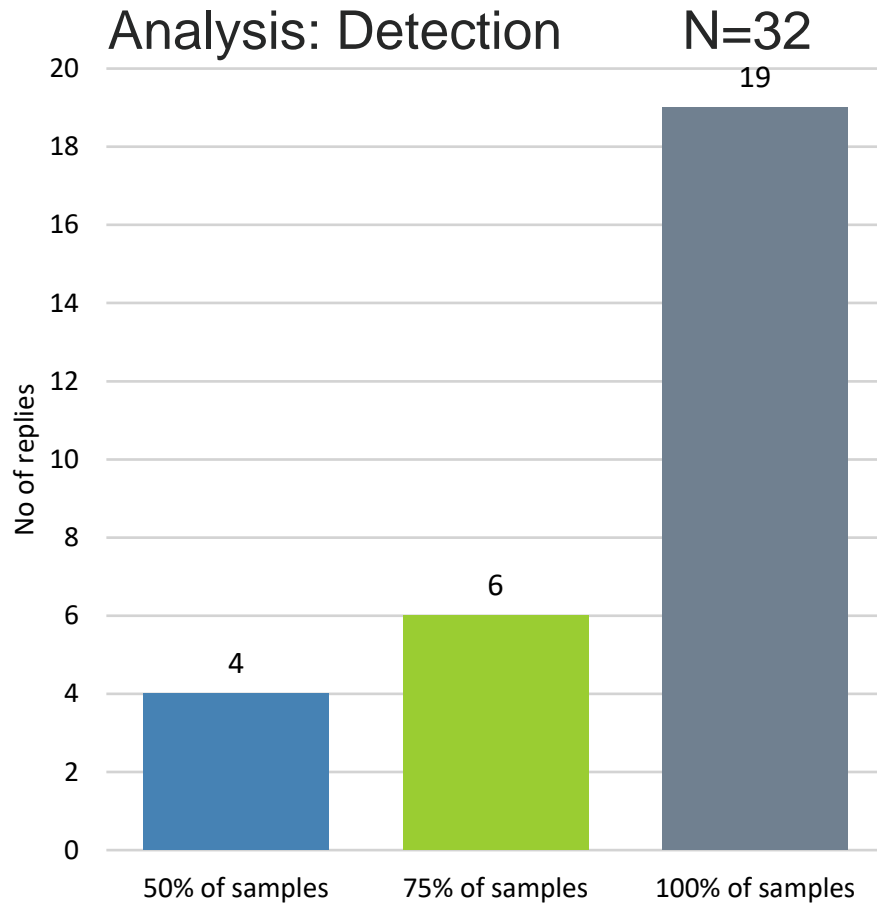


Questions regarding transportation of samples

FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE DIRECTED AT ANALYSIS AT YOUR NRL AND REGARDS GENERAL SAMPLES – NOT SPECIFICALLY SAMPLES TAKEN FOR THE PHC.



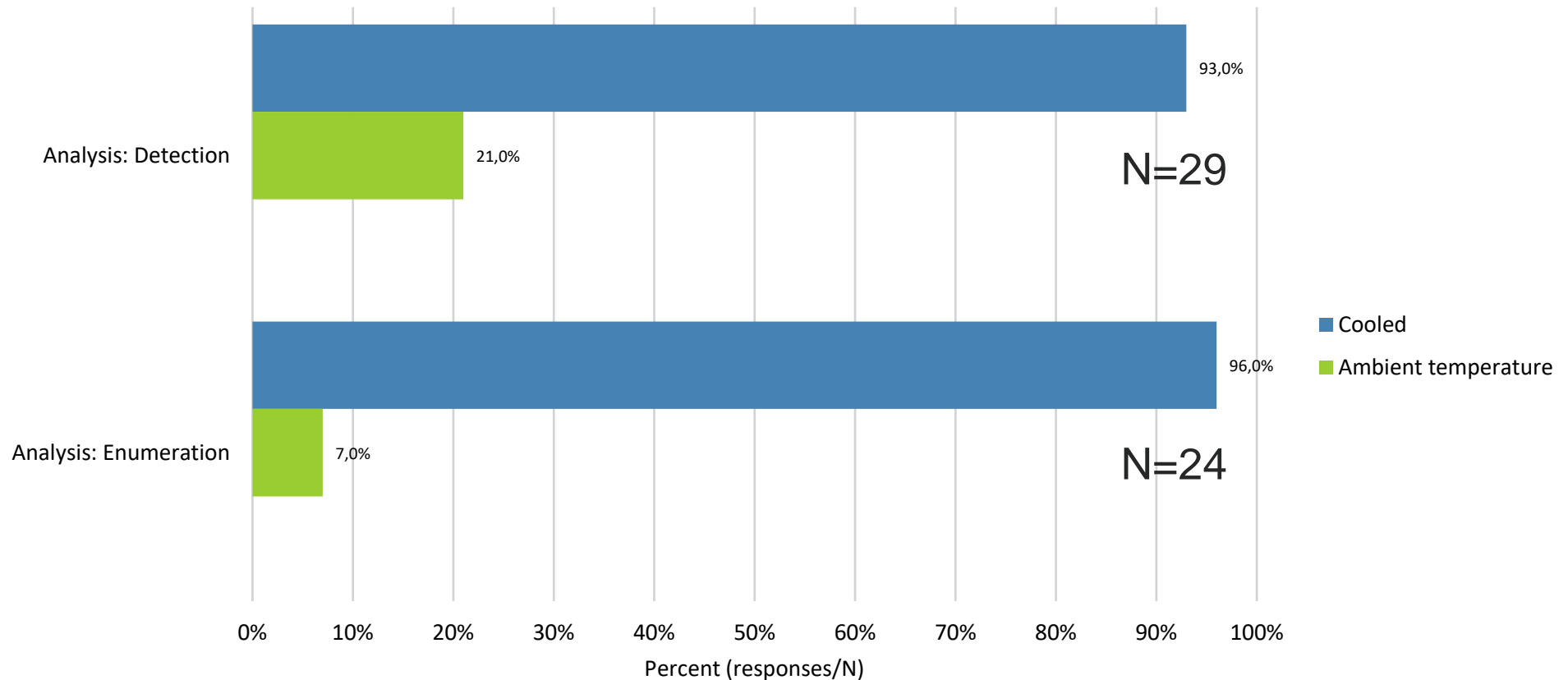
QUESTION: HOW BIG PROPORTION (ESTIMATE) OF SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS OF CAMPYLOBACTER REACHES YOUR LABORATORY WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER SAMPLING?



COMMENTS

100%, except those sampled on Fridays.
Misunderstanding – about PHC samples?

QUESTION: IN WHAT CONDITIONS ARE SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR CAMPYLOBACTER ANALYSIS TRANSPORTED TO YOUR LABORATORY? TICK ALL OPTIONS THAT APPLY?

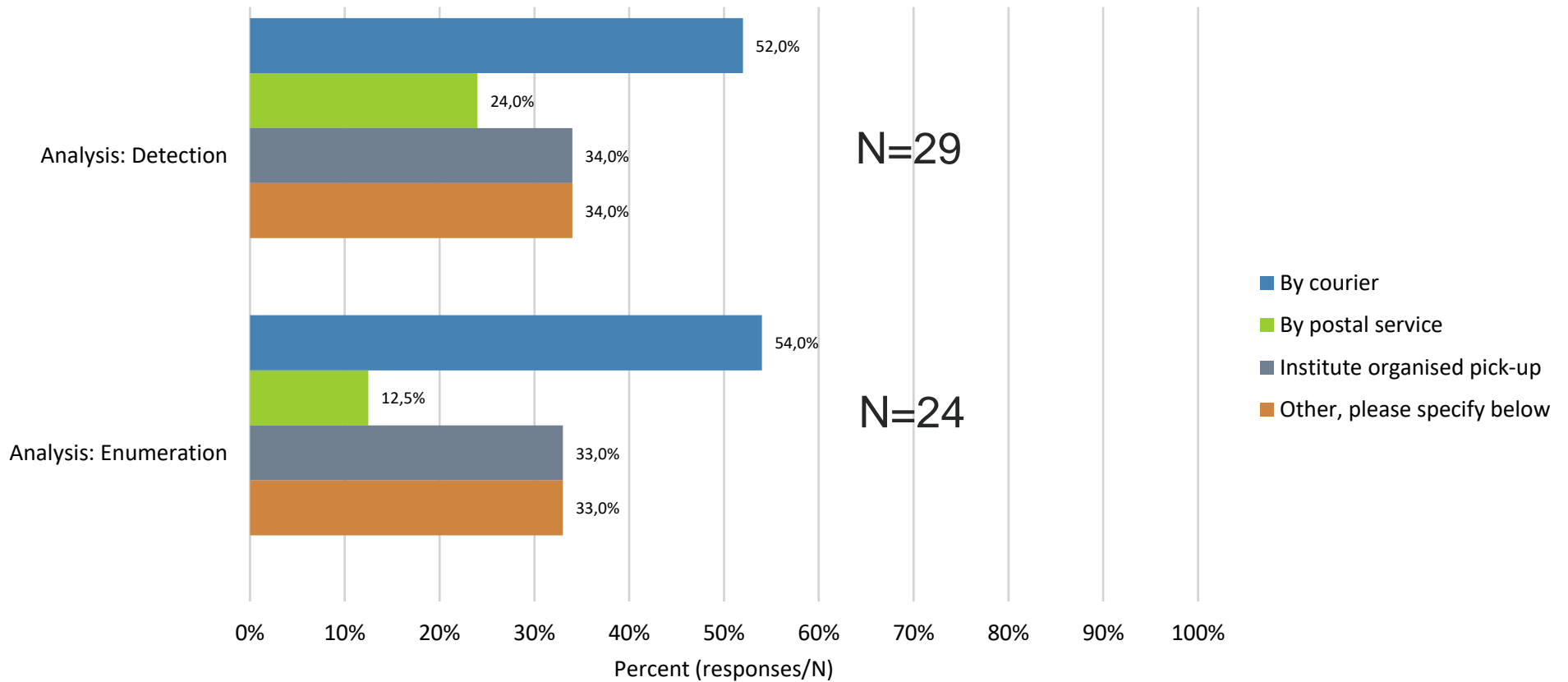


COMMENTS

Transportation condition depends on;

- distance
- purpose of sampling (surveillance: ambient, outbreak detection: cooled)
- Isolates or samples (isolates: ambient, samples: cooled)

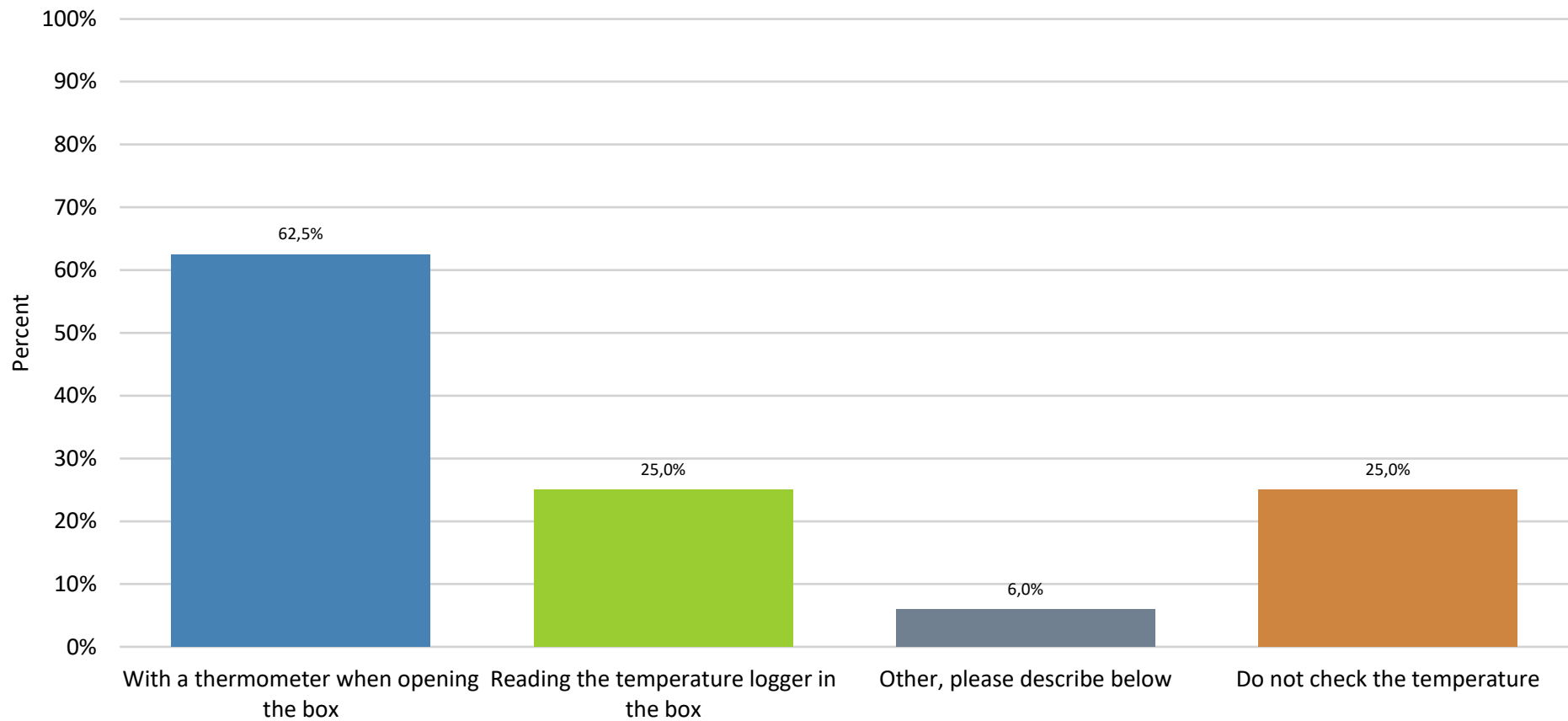
QUESTION: HOW ARE SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR CAMPYLOBACTER ANALYSIS TRANSPORTED TO YOUR LABORATORY? TICK ALL OPTIONS THAT APPLY?



COMMENTS

Other: drop-off by veterinary inspectors or clients

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU CHECK THE TEMPERATURE OF THE SAMPLES UPON ARRIVAL? TICK ALL OPTIONS THAT APPLY?



COMMENTS

Depends on type of sample and purpose of testing
only check if cold or not

QUESTION: PLEASE SPECIFY THE TRANSPORT BOX USED FOR COOLED TRANSPORT. IF THIS IS ORGANISED BY A COURIER, PLEASE PROVIDE THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE?

Transport box for cooled transport	Frozen Freezer blocks	Portable refrigerator	Cold outside transit	Cold outside transport
Specialized transport vehicle with refrigeration compartment +2 to +8				x
Plastic, 40 Litre, Mains and 12V Electric Coolbox		x		x
In a polystyrene box, e.g. Intelsius Biotherm 25	x			
Box with car charger or supplemented with ice batteries.	x	x		x
Tempex boxes	x			x
EPS transport box	x			
Biotherm 10 boxes	x			

Does your transport system maintain temperatures at +1-8 °C during the transport? **N=27**

Always N=15

Sometimes N=5

Do not know N=4

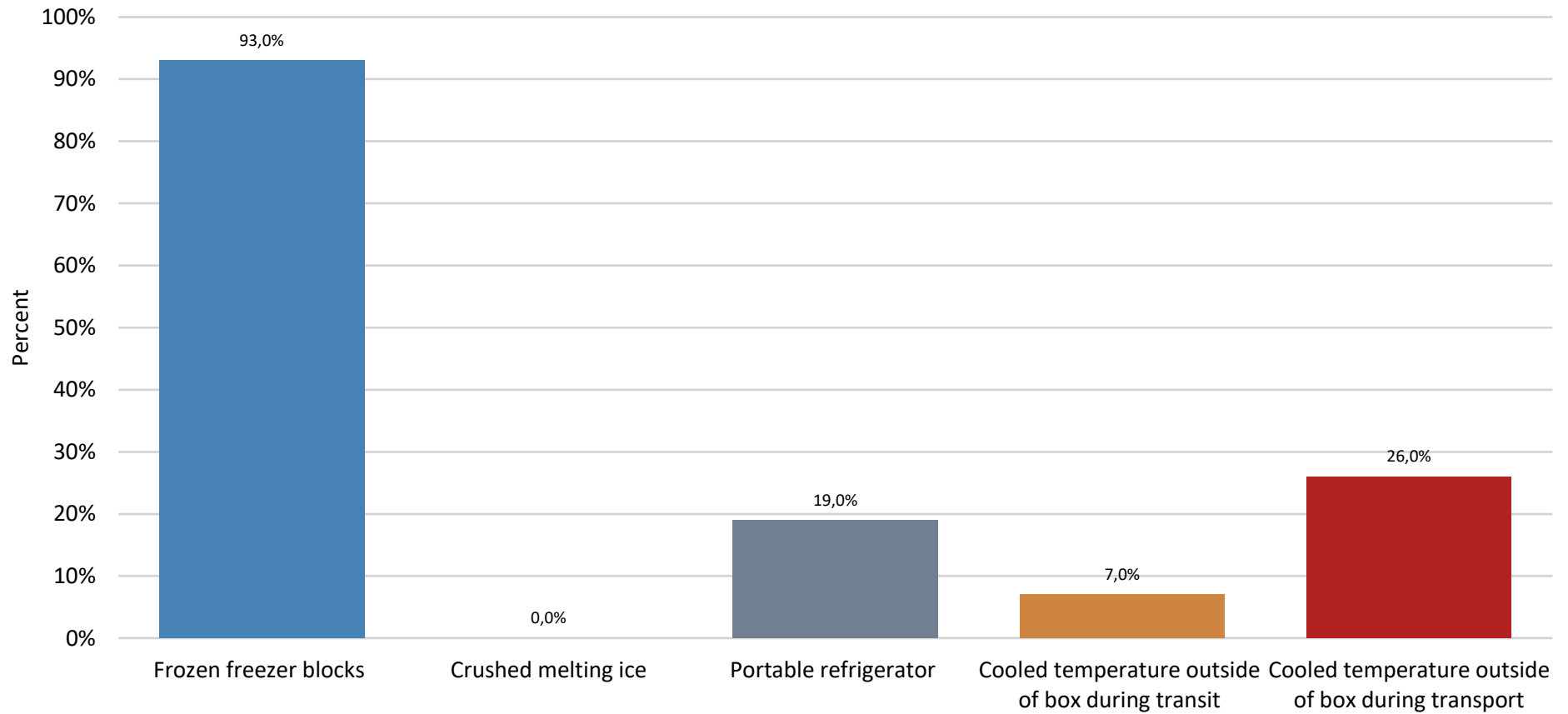
COMMENTS

portable refrigerator and/or cold temperature outside during transit/transport = always maintain temp.

Only frozen freezer blocks: mixed result



QUESTION: HOW IS THE COLD TEMPERATURE GENERATED IN THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM USED? TICK ALL OPTIONS THAT APPLY?



COMMENTS

Depends on type of sample and purpose of testing



QUESTION: PLEASE SHARE ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES REGARDING TRANSPORTATION AND IF/HOW YOUR LABORATORY HAS FACED AND SOLVED ANY CHALLENGES OF MAINTAINING TRANSPORT CONDITIONS OF +1-8 °C FOR UP TO 48 HOURS ?

Additional comments

Fully frozen freezer blocks needs to be used, and in right quantity

Decided to focus on shortest time possible for transportation

The laboratory has built special designed buses with cooling for pick-up (4)

Transport only over one day – if this cannot be done, samples are stored cooled until transport

Samples non-compliant with temperature (above 8°C are rejected) (4)

SUMMARY

- PHC is carried out as part of official control or by food business operators (with or without verification by CA) in MS and non-MS
- PHC is not yet implemented in all MS
- Half of the NRLs are involved in PHC testing
- National results from the PHC are not always available to MS-NRLs

- The majority of samples are transported by courier or organised pick-up, are transported cold and reaches laboratories within 48 hours
- The most common way to generate cold temperature is to include frozen freezer blocks
- Where only frozen freezer blocks are used, samples are less likely to stay within temperature range for the whole time of transport
- Using portable refrigerator and/or cold temperature outside during transit/transport = always temp within the range of +1-8 °C