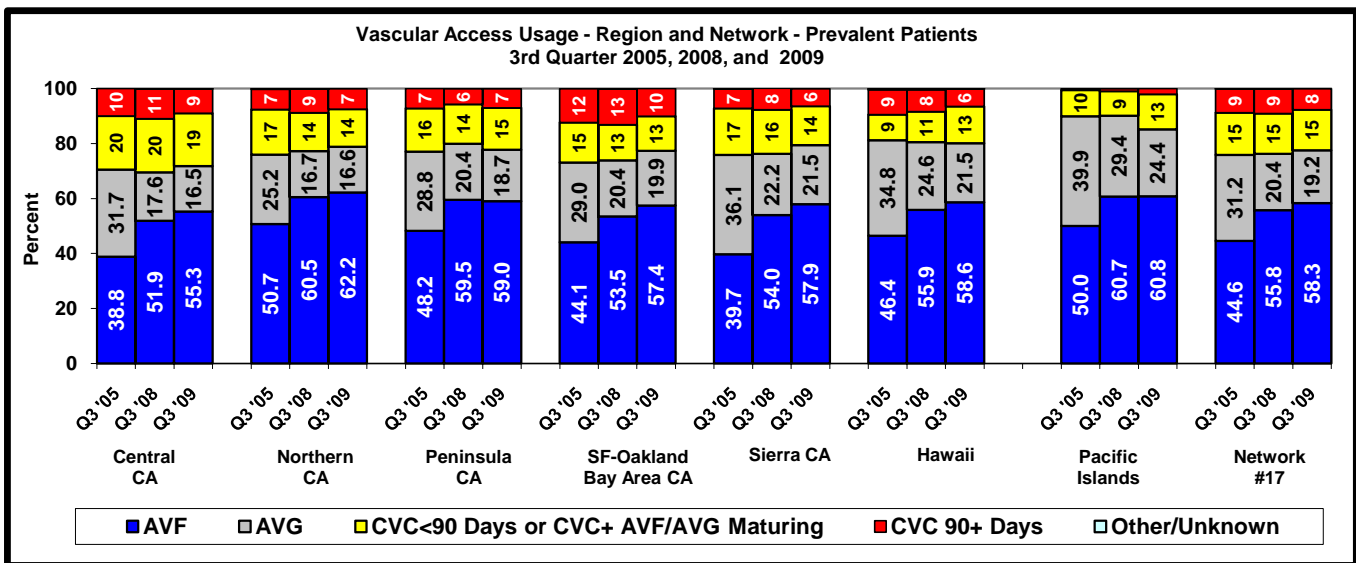
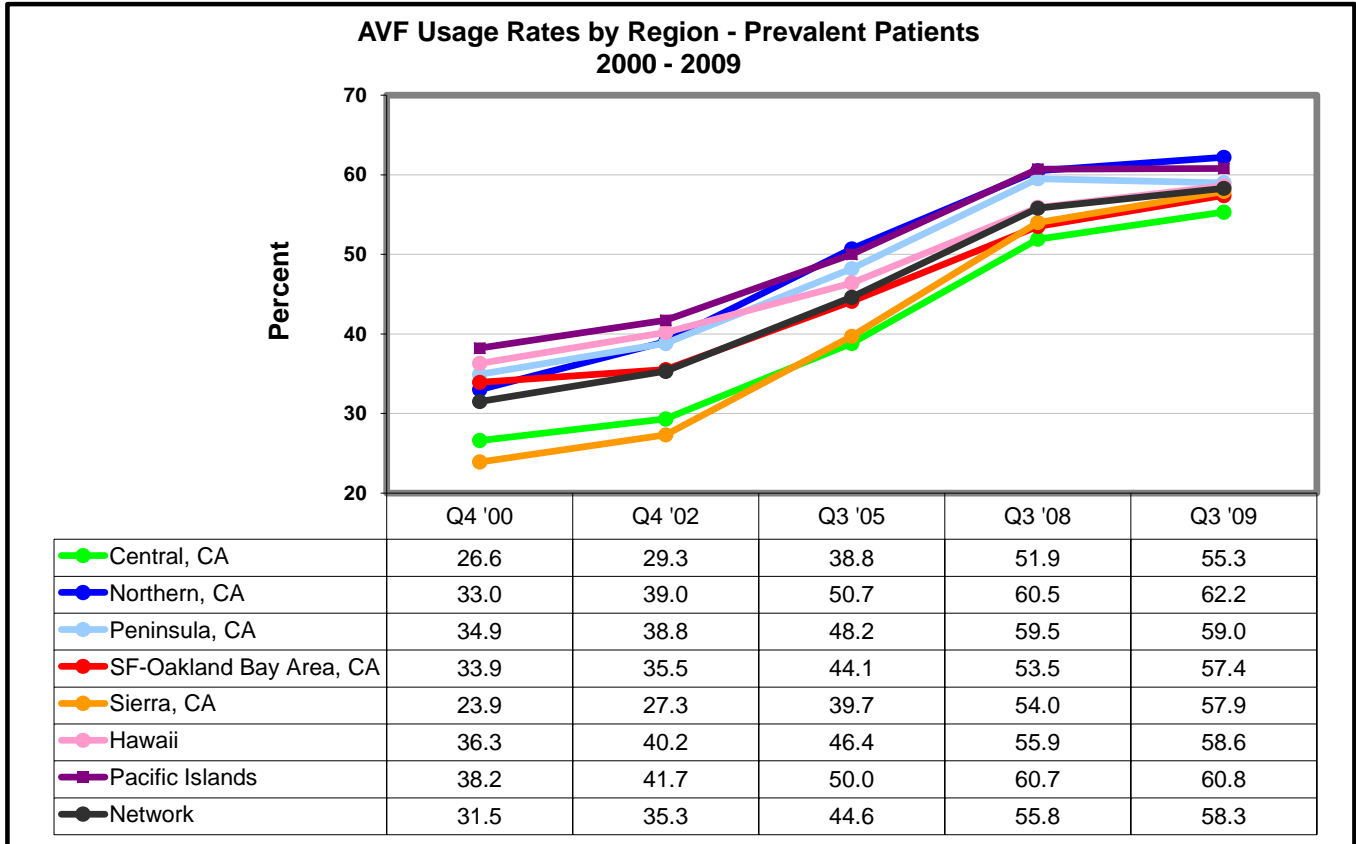


The Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative is a national campaign to increase AV Fistula (AVF) rates at every dialysis facility. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has set a national goal of 66% AVF use rate for prevalent¹ patients by 2009. AVF placement rates for new (incident²) patients should be at least 50%. Please use the information provided in these charts and tables to help you with your continuing improvement efforts.

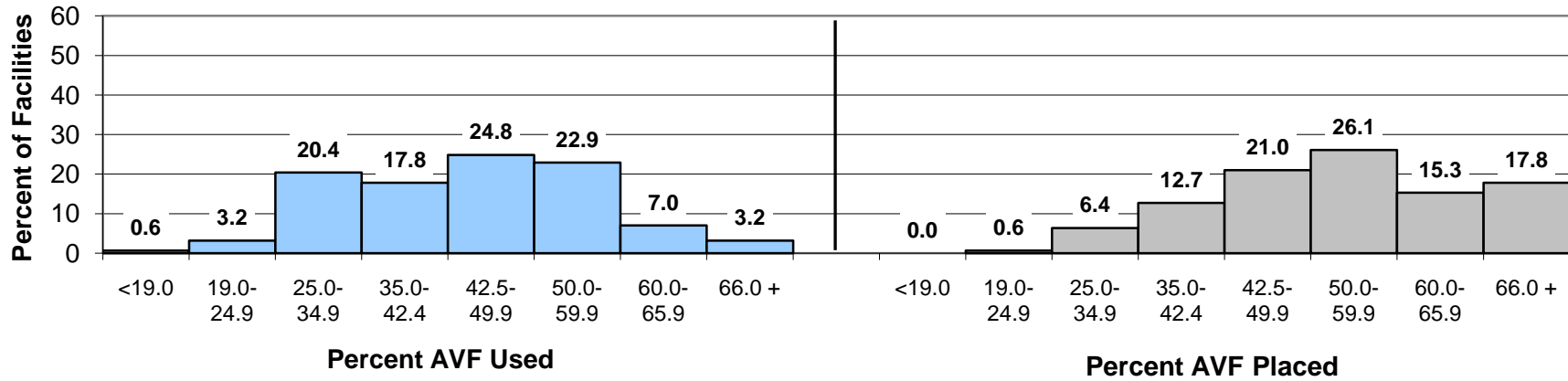


¹ Prevalent patients are all patients belonging on the facility patient census at the end of the month.

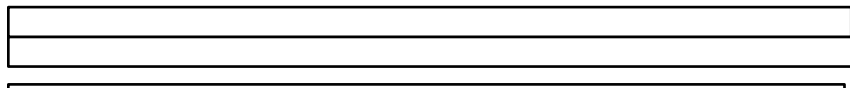
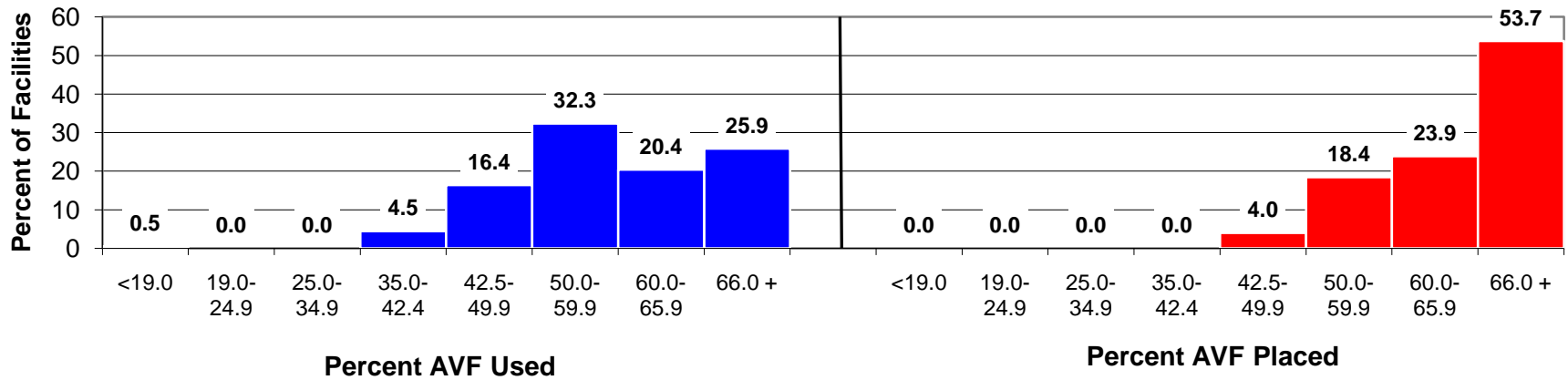
² Incident patients are patients beginning dialysis for the first time ever during a reporting period.

* Quarterly data reflect an average of monthly data reported.

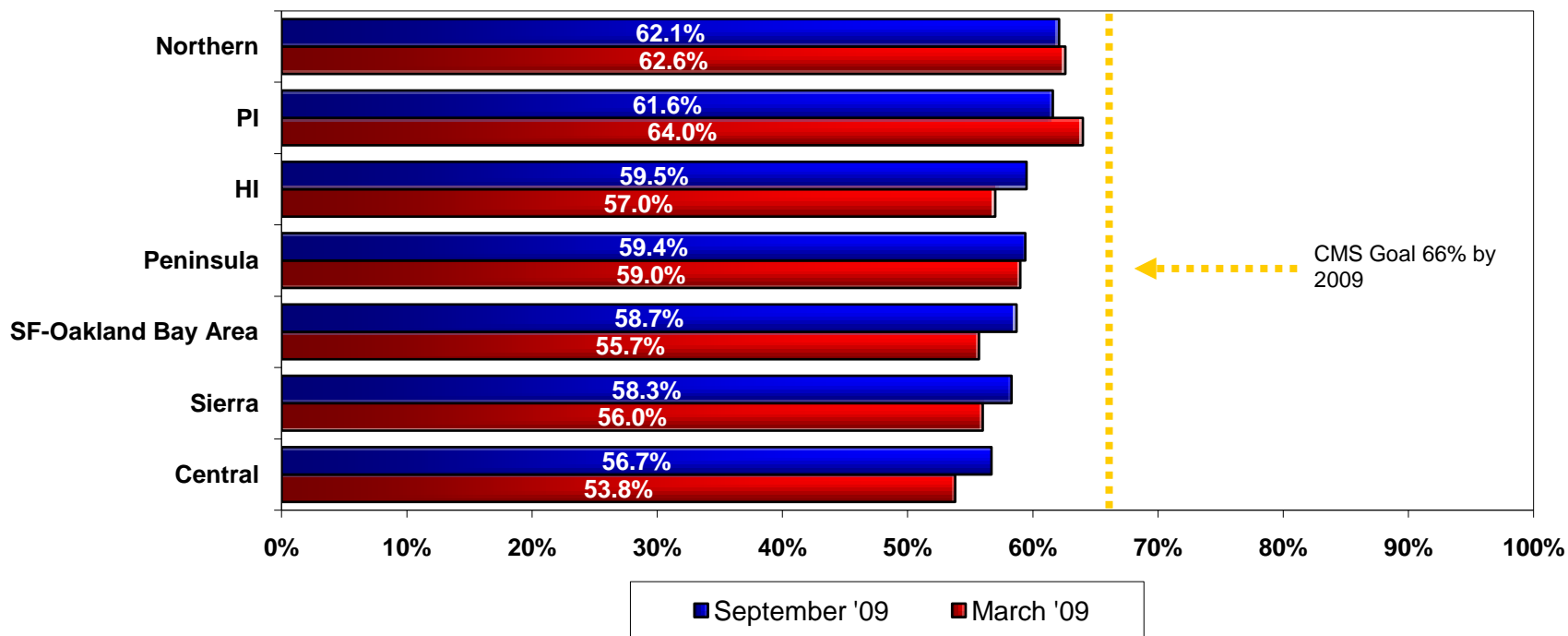
**Percent AVF Used / Placed
3rd Quarter 2005 (157 Facilities, Prevalent Patients)
Network #17**



**Percent AVF Used / Placed
3rd Quarter 2009 (201 Facilities, Prevalent Patients)
Network #17**



Comparison of Prevalent AVF Usage Rates by Area in Rank Order



Network #17 Regions:

Pacific Islands includes dialysis facilities in Guam, Saipan, and American Samoa.

Northern includes dialysis facilities in Contra Costa, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties.

Peninsula includes dialysis facilities in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties.

Hawaii includes all dialysis facilities in the state.

Sierra includes dialysis facilities in Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba Counties.

San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area includes dialysis facilities in Alameda and San Francisco Counties.

Central includes dialysis facilities in Calaveras, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties.

2000-2002 Data Source: National CDC Survey.

2005-2009 Data Source:

LDO data from electronic database for the Fistula First project.

Non-LDO facility data collected individually from each facility.

Please call Network #17 at 415-897-2400 if you have questions about this report.