

# EFFECTS OF AN INTEGRATED CARE CONSULTANT-LED CLINIC IN THE HUB ON THE WAITING FOR A CARDIOLOGY CONSULTATION

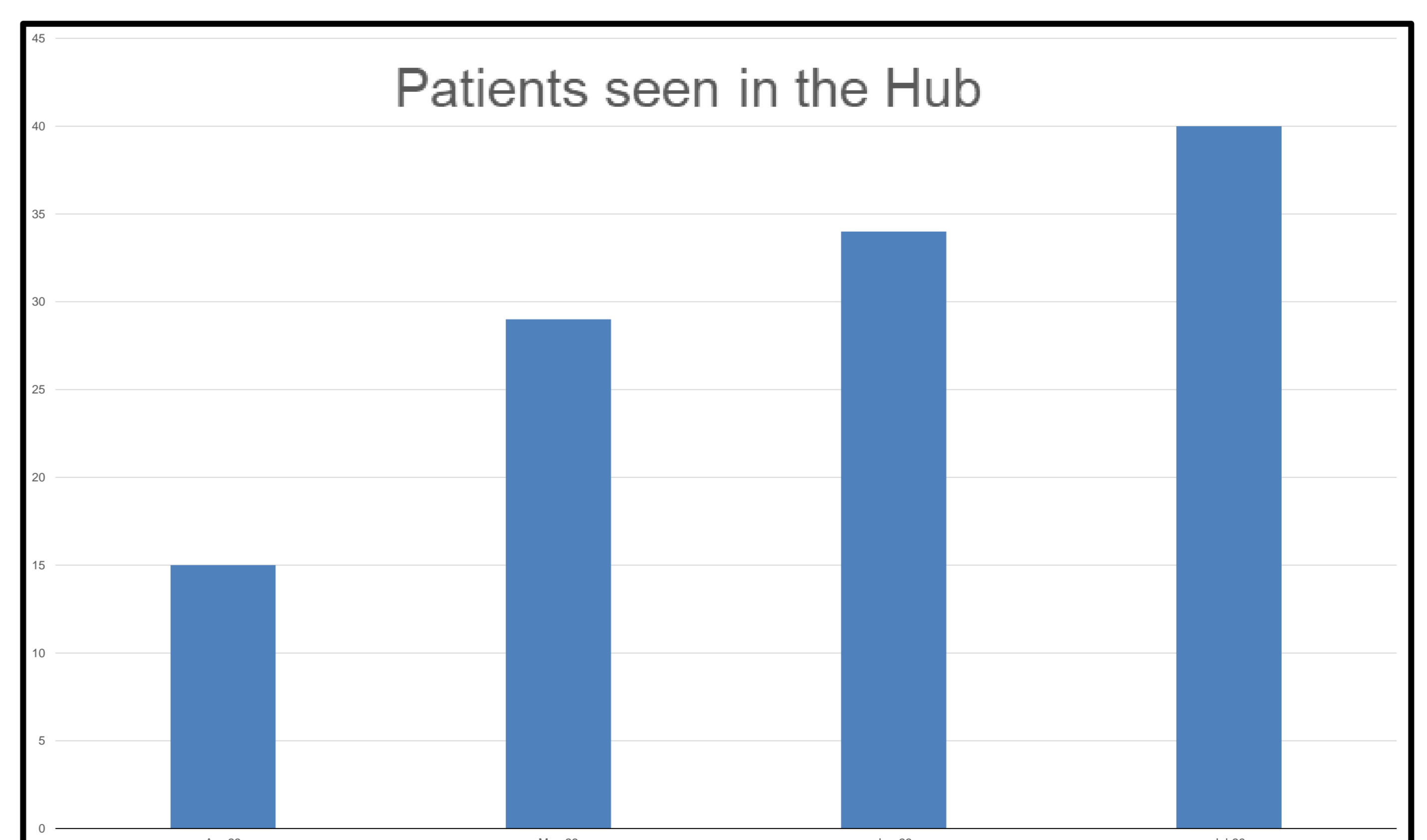
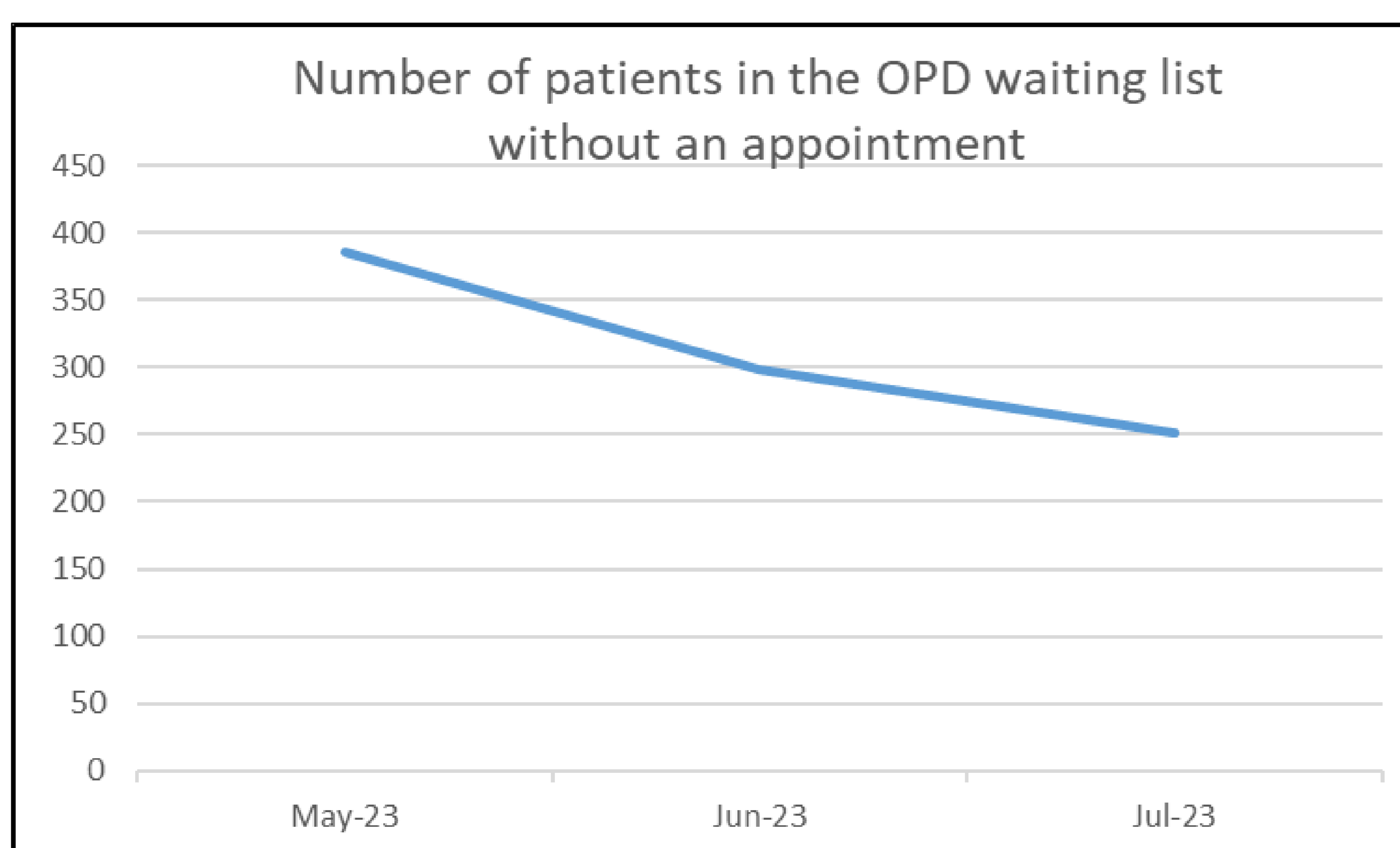
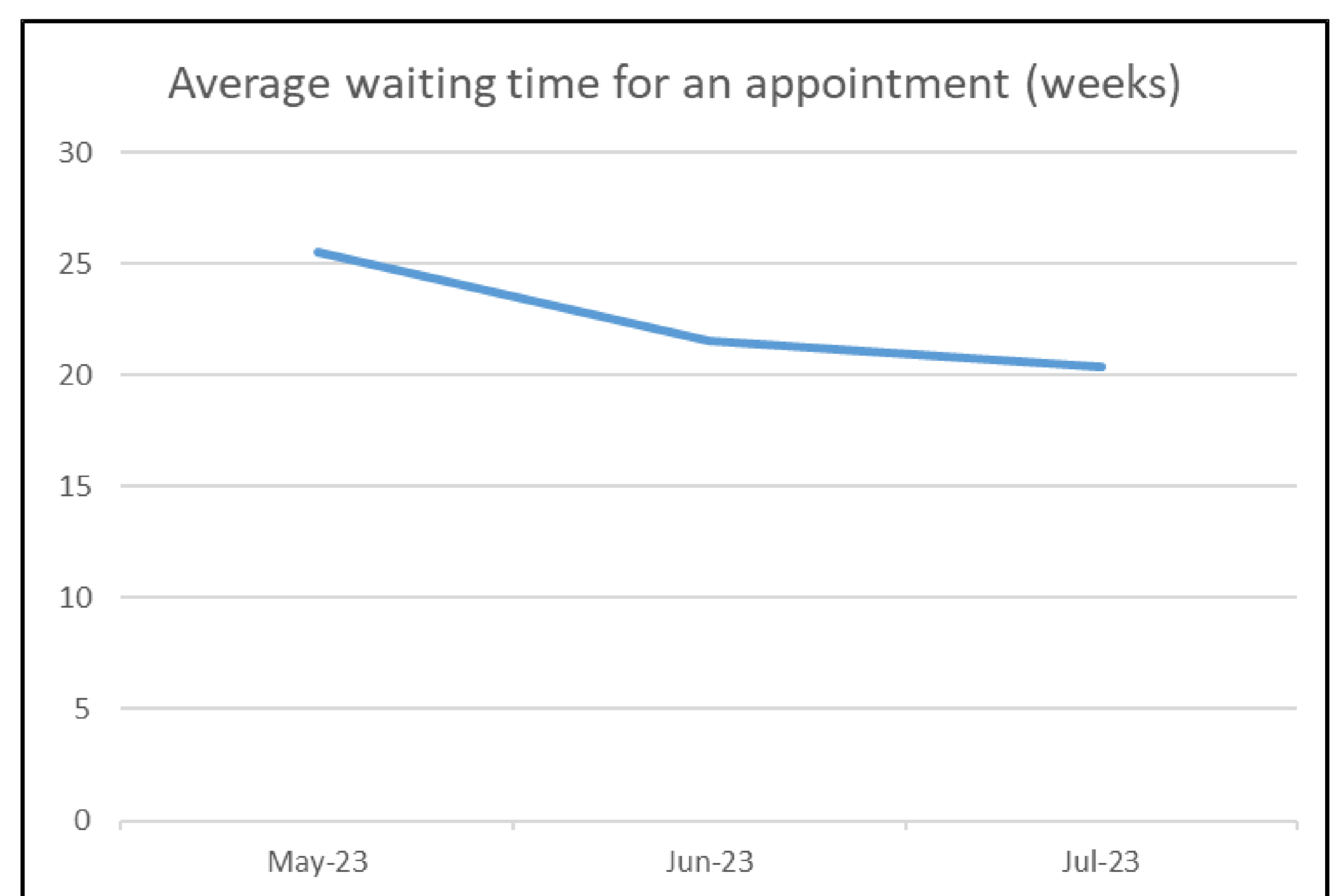
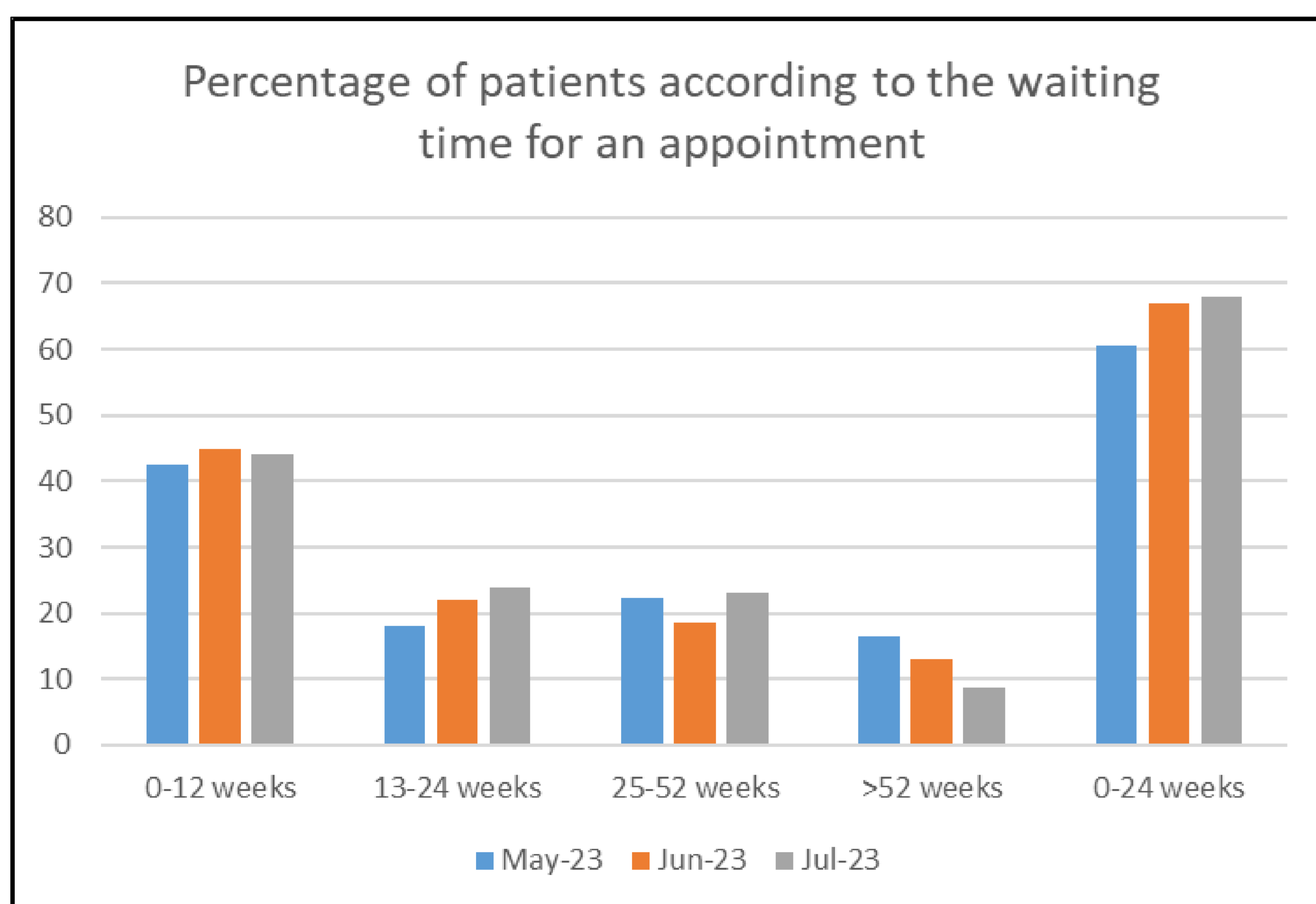
**N. Farre** (Nuria.Farre@hse.ie), **L. Gardiner**, **C. Boyle**, **C. Nolan**, **E. Mullins**, **D. McBrearty**, **D. Derivan**, **F. Junaith**, **A. Byrne**, **M. Lawless**, **A. Devine**, **J. Crowley**. East Galway Roscommon Integrated Care Hub

**BACKGROUND:** A significant number of patients referred for a cardiology consultation in the hospital could benefit from being seen in the Hub. This would decrease the hospital outpatient department (H-OPD) waiting list while providing local care to the patients in a timely fashion.

**AIMS:** The study aimed to analyse the changes in the number of patients on the OPD waiting list after the consultant-led clinics in the Hub started and to assess how many patients were discharged.

**METHODS:** The cardiology hub consultant-led clinic started on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The data analysed is from mid-May to mid-July and only included patients who did not have an appointment at the H-OPD. One of the hub's clinics is shared with a CNS where complex patients are seen. The hospital's and the Hub's administrative support has been essential to start and maintain the clinics.

**RESULTS:** 117 patients were seen during mid-April to July. The number of patients without an appointment who had been waiting for > 1 year decreased from 65 to 39 patients, and 68.1% were waiting 0-24 weeks (from 60.5%). The average waiting time decreased by five weeks. Patients varied in their presentations: almost half of the patients (48% of patients) were referred due to heart failure/shortness of breath, 16% due to atrial/flutter fibrillation, 16% due to poorly controlled hypertension, 4% due to family history of heart disease, and the rest was due to a mix of reasons. Overall, 20.3% of patients were discharged after the first appointment.



**CONCLUSIONS:** These results show that a consultant-led hub clinic can help decrease waiting time from the referral to the appointment. Moreover, one in five patients are discharged after the appointment, making this clinic highly valuable for the patients and GPs.