

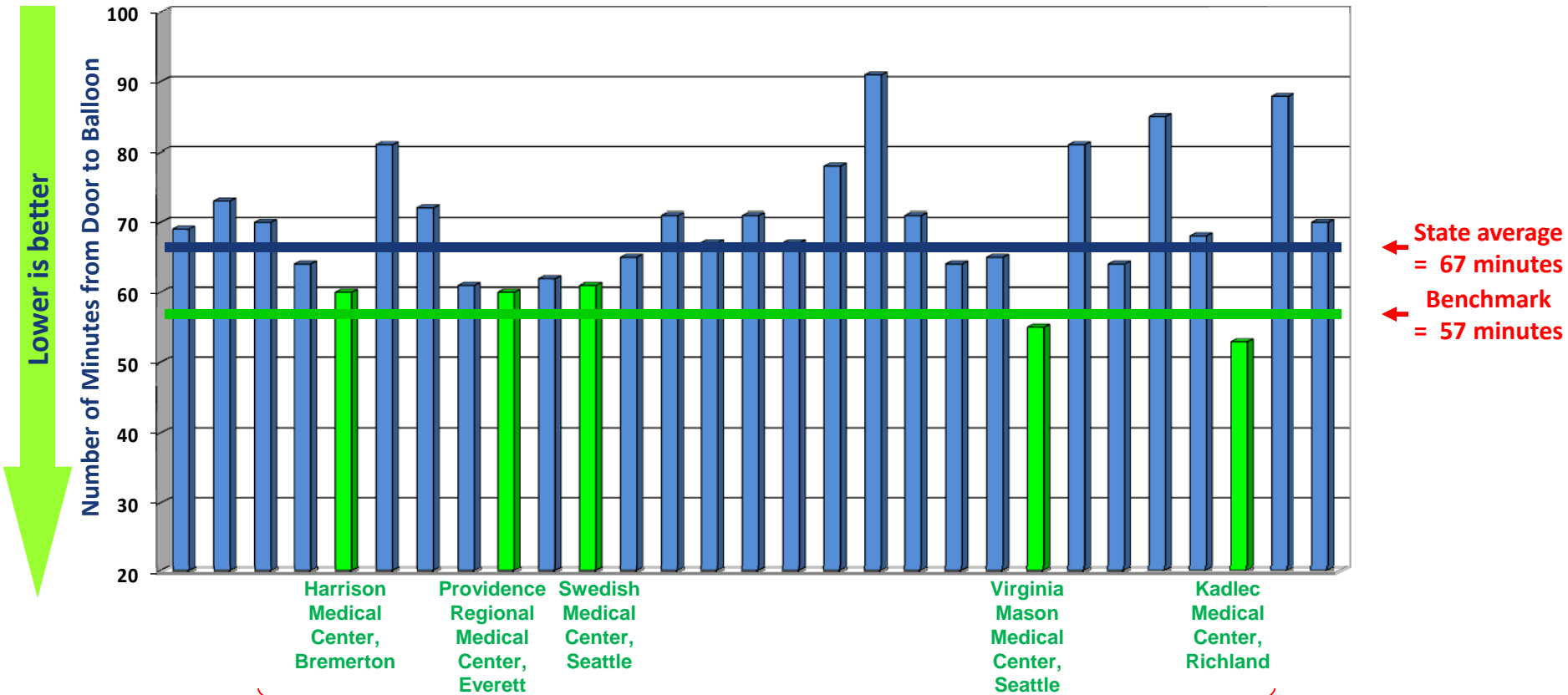


CLINICAL OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
A PROGRAM OF THE FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH CARE QUALITY

▲ Door-to-Balloon Time – WA State Benchmark

- Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) is a method of restoring blood flow to the heart muscle by reopening clogged arteries. This is often done by inflating a tiny balloon at the site of the blockage, and sometimes putting in a small metal device called a stent to hold the artery open. Experts agree that when a patient is having an acute heart attack, the quicker this happens, the better. The longer blood does not flow to the heart muscle during a heart attack, the more likely there could be damage to that muscle.
- Door-to-Balloon Time is a measurement of the time between when a patient having an acute heart attack comes through the “door” of the emergency room and when the “balloon” is first inflated in the clogged artery and blood flow is restored. The American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology along with many other national agencies recommend that this time interval be no more than 90 minutes.
- Results for this measure refer to the median door-to-balloon time for all Washington hospitals that perform PCI. The statewide median has decreased from 95 minutes in 2004 to 67 minutes in 2010, which is outstanding!
- Individual hospital results for Washington State in 2010 range from a median low of 53 minutes to a median high of 91 minutes. **Five hospitals in Washington have significantly lower door-to-balloon times than the state average, and as such have set what we call a “benchmark” for all hospitals to try to achieve. These top performing hospitals are highlighted on the following graph.**

“Door to Balloon” Time: Average vs. Benchmark



These 5 hospitals are the top performing hospitals in the state for this particular measure.