North & South Essex
Local Medical Committees

Essex LMCs
Childhood vaccination & immunisations
QOF target report
July 2025

Version 1 - Dated: 10 July 2025

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Overview

In May and June 2025, Essex LMCs contacted constituents following a continued awareness of the difficulties that some GP practices have experienced in achieving the childhood vaccinations and immunisation QOF targets. This was because of not being able to exception report for a number of reasons as outlined on page 13 of this report.

This is a repeat of our exercises carried out in 2022, 2023 and 2024. We remain keen to understand the extent of the problem in Essex and therefore asked those affected practices to share information with us around:

- Targets missed and % reached
- Reason for missing target(s) and by how many patients
- Missed payment amount
- Any concerns that the practice wished to share with us

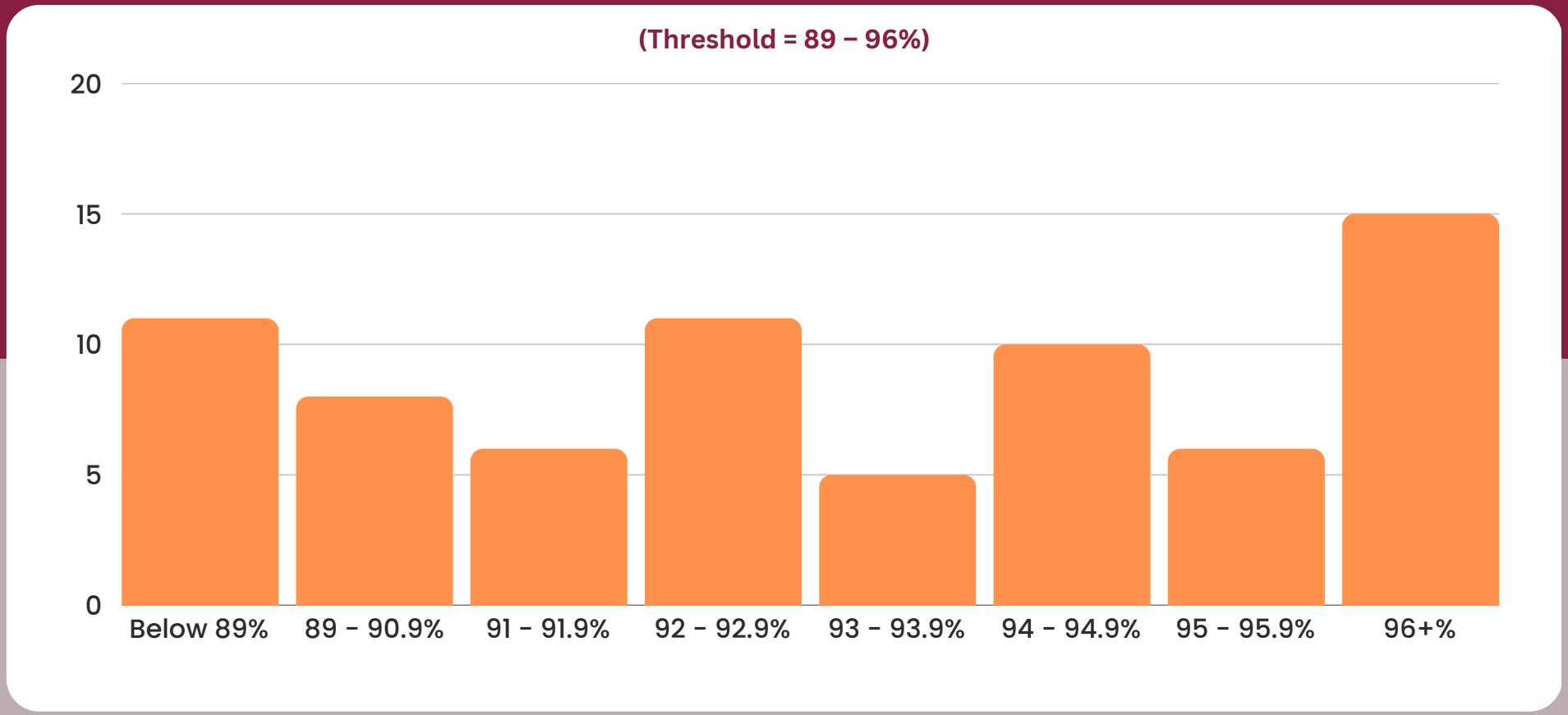
We have collated responses received up to and including 30 June 2025 and wish to share our findings with GPC to further inform them in ongoing discussions with NHS England.

At this point, we received data from 72 practices, and the period covered in these results is Q/E 31 March 2025.

North and South Essex Local Medical Committees Ltd - 10 July 2025

Practice responses VI001

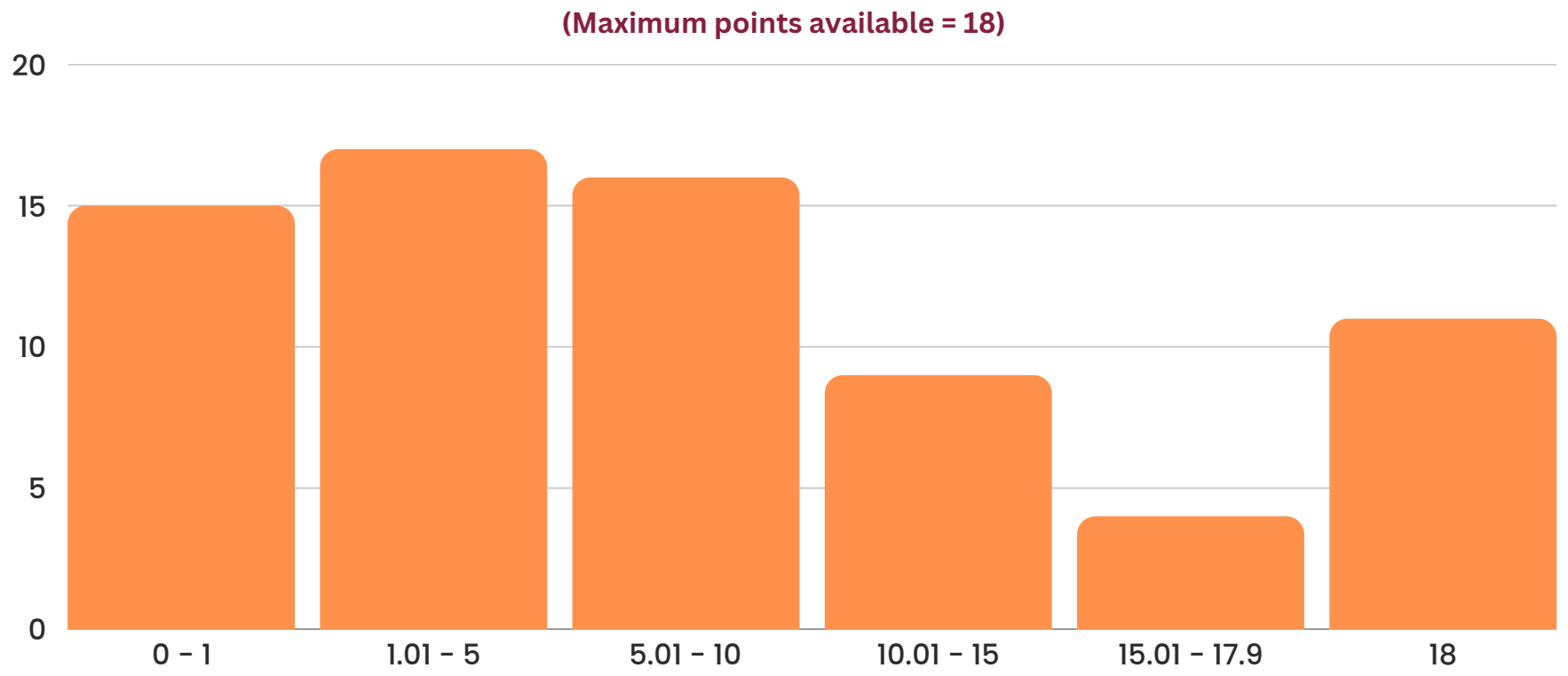
% target reached for this cohort



The percentage of babies who reached 8 months old in the preceding 12 months, who have received at least 3 doses of a diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis containing vaccine before the age of 8 months.

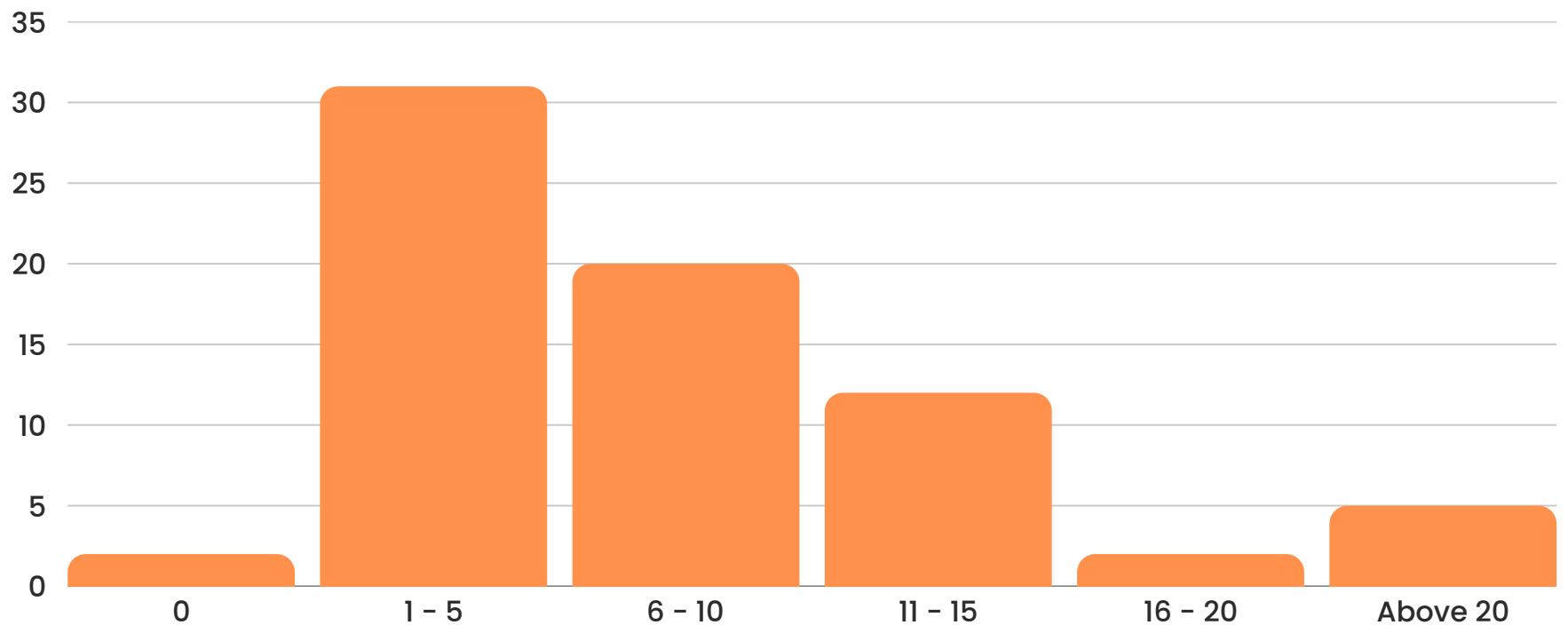
Practice responses VI001

Number of points missed per practice



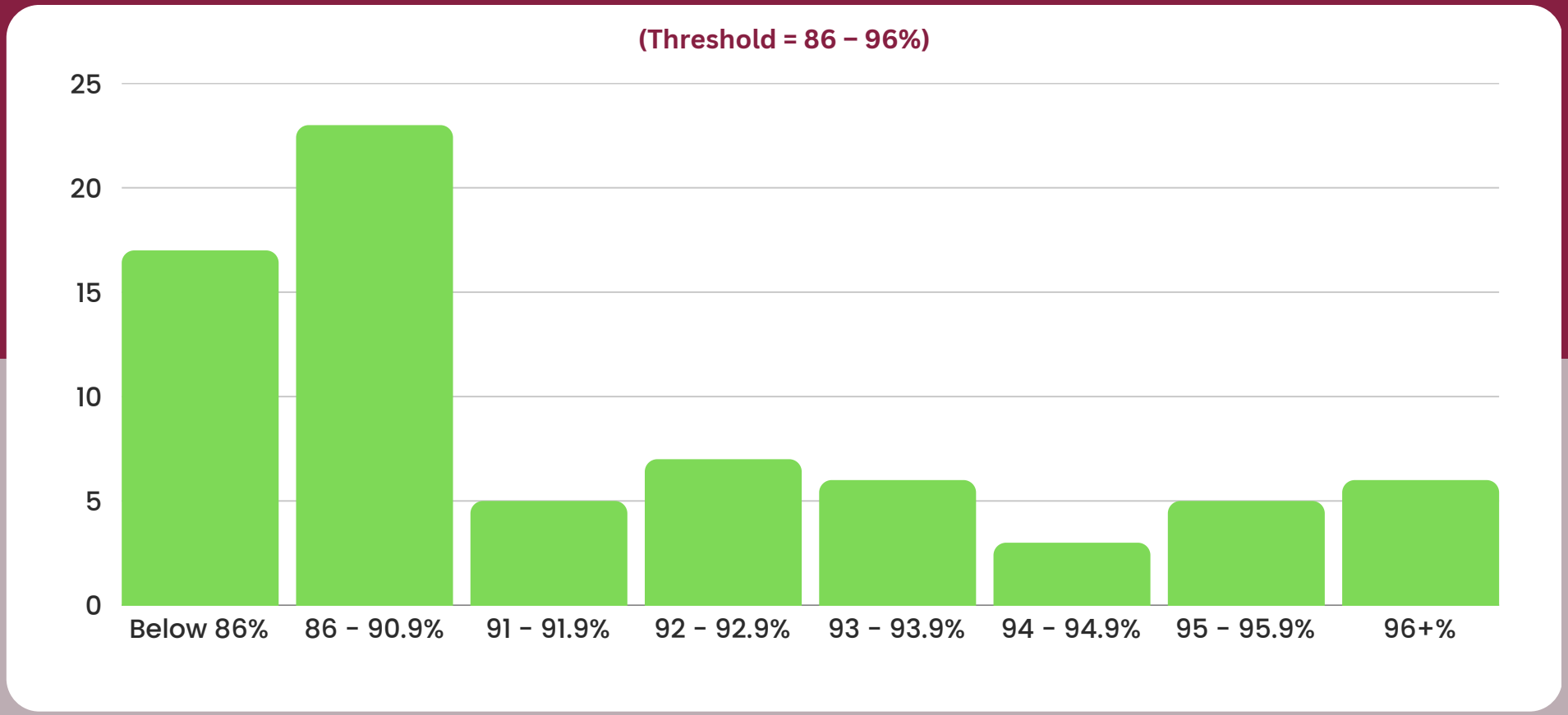
Practice responses VI001

Number of patients missed per practice



Practice responses VI002

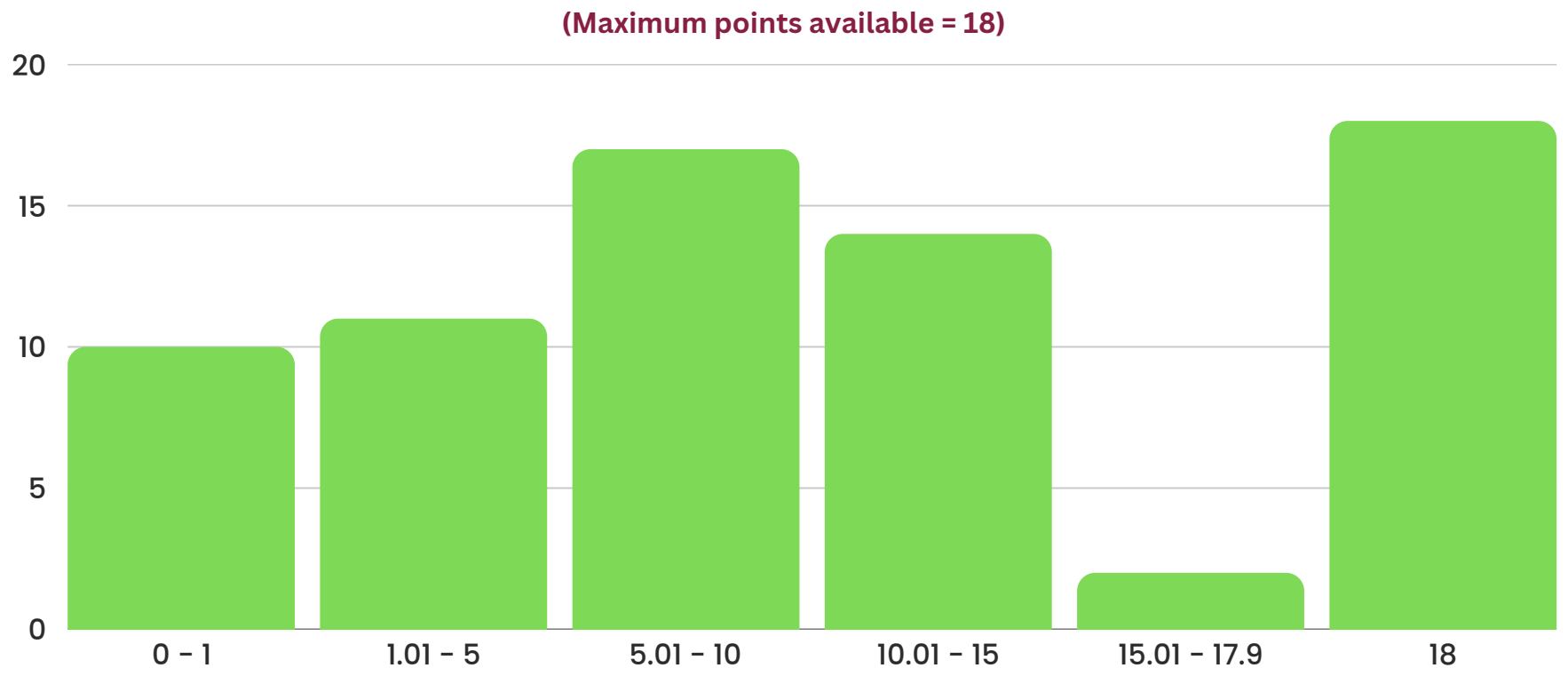
% target reached for this cohort



The percentage of children who reached 18 months old in the preceding 12 months, who have received at least 1 dose of MMR between the ages of 12 and 18 months.

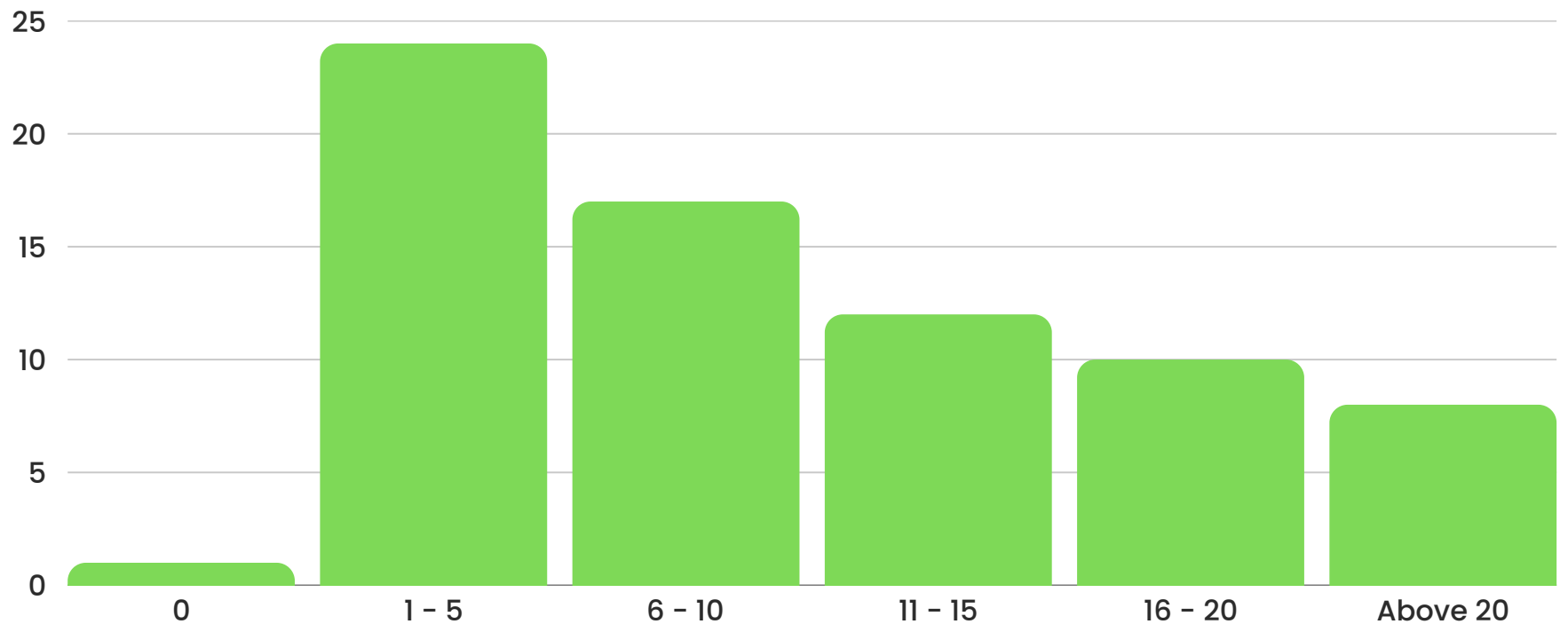
Practice responses VI002

Number of points missed per practice



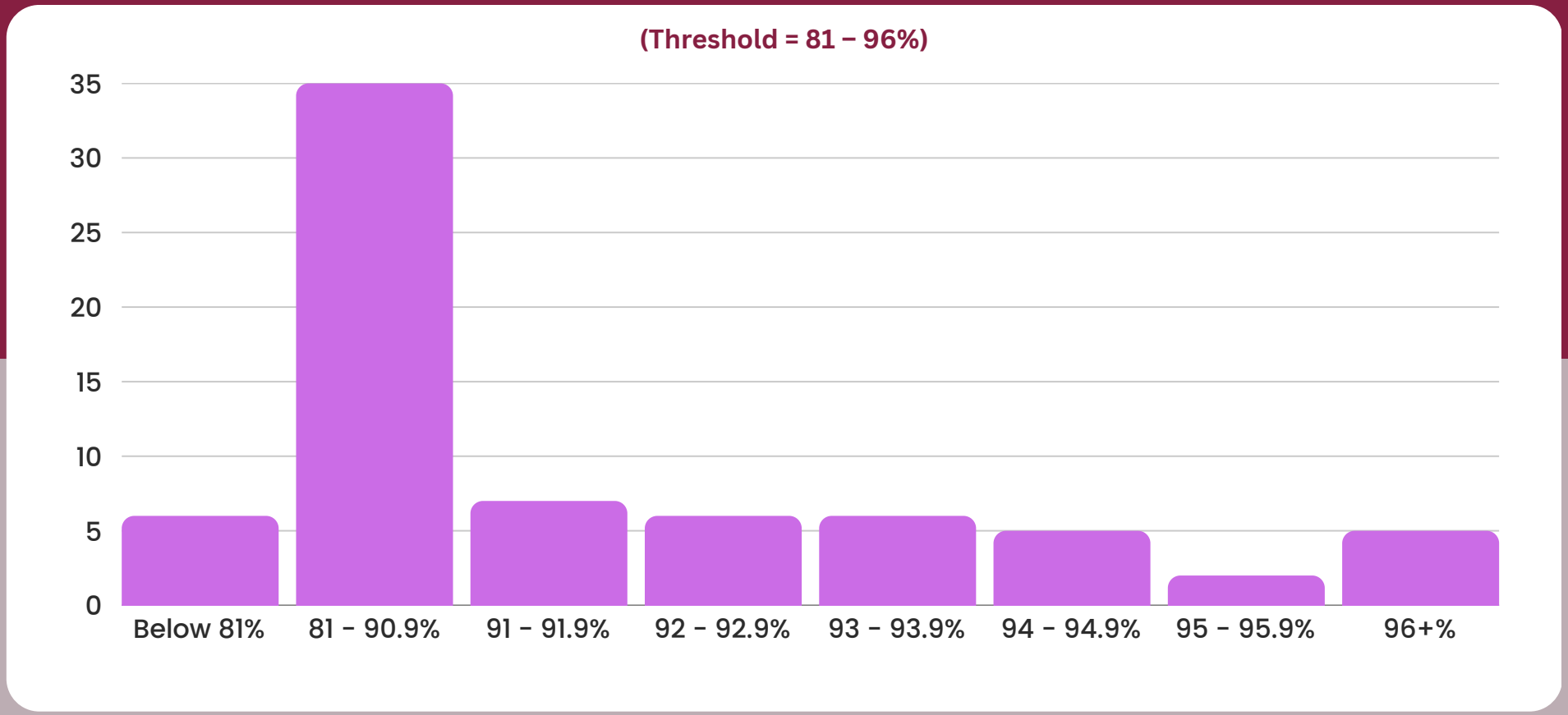
Practice responses VI002

Number of patients missed per practice



Practice responses VI003

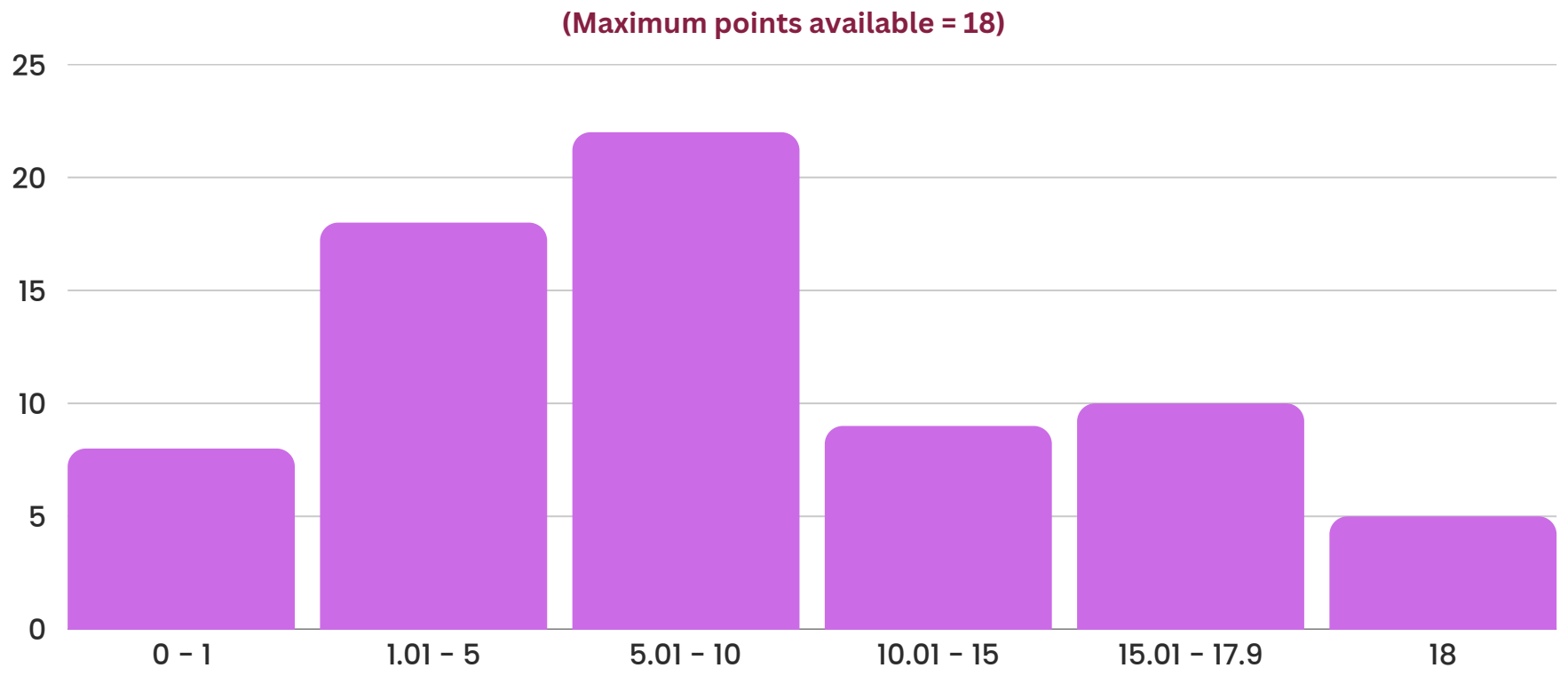
% target reached for this cohort



The percentage of children who reached 5 years old in the preceding 12 months, who have received a reinforcing dose of DTaP/IPV and at least 2 doses of MMR between the ages of 1 and 5 years.

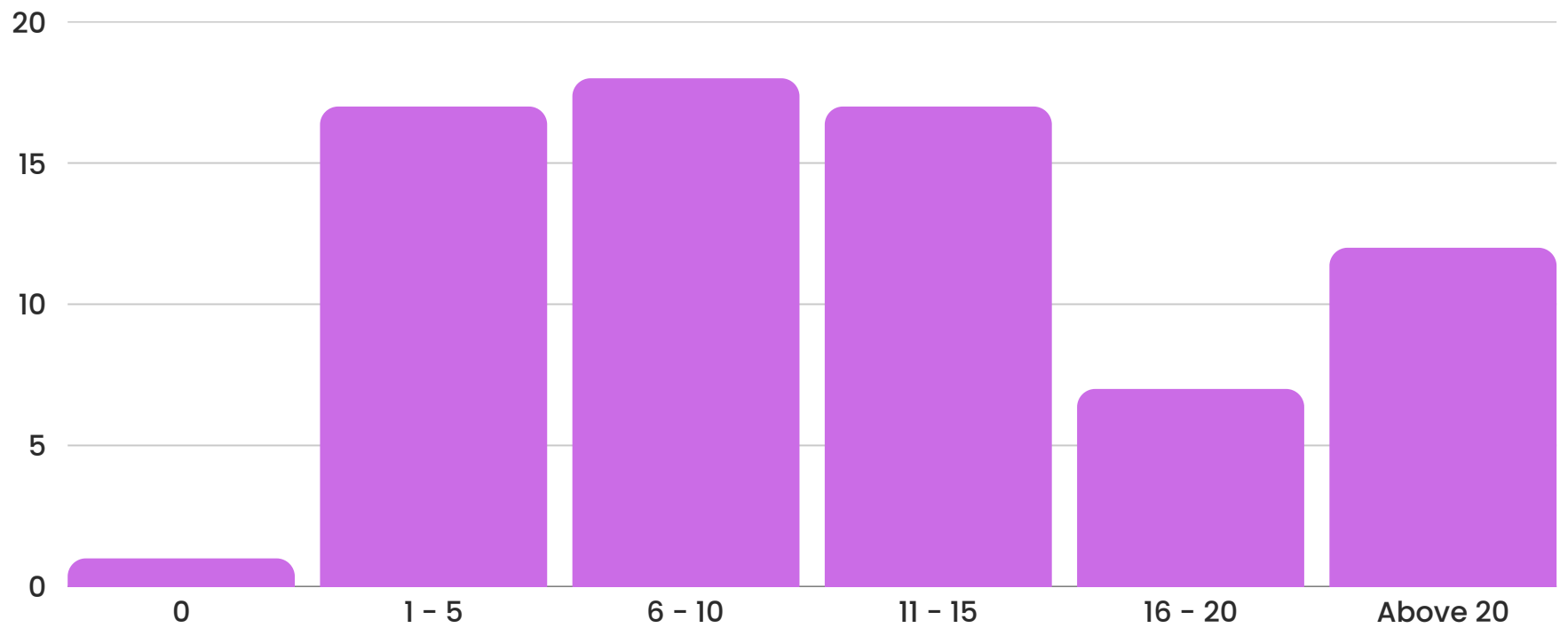
Practice responses VI003

Number of points missed per practice



Practice responses VI003

Number of patients missed per practice



Reasons for missed vaccinations

All 72 practices in Essex who responded to our request for information regarding childhood vaccinations and immunisations, included reasons as to why they had missed the target threshold for each cohort. The reasons given followed a common theme throughout and included:

- Parents declined vaccinations for their children.
- Some had been vaccinated abroad in a different vaccine schedule to the UK.
- We invite repeatedly and try to persuade parents but to no avail on small numbers.
- Our nursing team even tried months later to see if they had changed their mind, we ended up getting some angry parents asking us to stop bothering them!
- Exception report because of missing the schedule deadline due to new registrations.
- We have a large Jewish community and Eastern European. A lot of parents will not have the immunisations due to religious beliefs.We will not force them to have the vaccination, which would be against their human rights.
- One patient was all that stood between us and 100%. Patient's parents were anti vaxxers and could not be swayed despite multiple efforts. This one patient will appear on VI002 indicator this year and then subsequently will appear on the VI003 indicator compounding the loss for the surgery for the years ahead.
- Parents refused/declined to have child vaccinated or were late receiving them due to ill health.
- Parents wish to have them done privately.
- All patients were contacted a minimum of 3 times. The main reasons being religious beliefs or parents are strongly against vaccinations.
- We have a high number of the Jewish community registered with us and also a couple of sofa surfing young families that fail to attend any invites, etc.

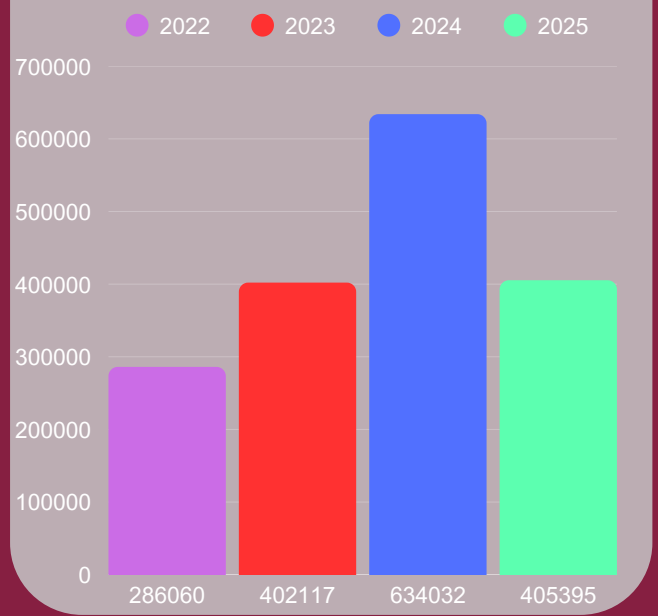
Conclusion and payment losses

Many of our constituents displayed clear frustrations that the system does not allow them to ‘exception report’ for reasons given on page 13. Efforts had been made on multiple occasions via telephone, letter, and text message to invite patients for vaccinations. The tight threshold margins, without the ability to exception report, meant that many practices were not able to reach the thresholds required for maximum payments. Of our 72 responders, the total loss of £405,394.54 was recorded at an average of £5,630.48 per practice.

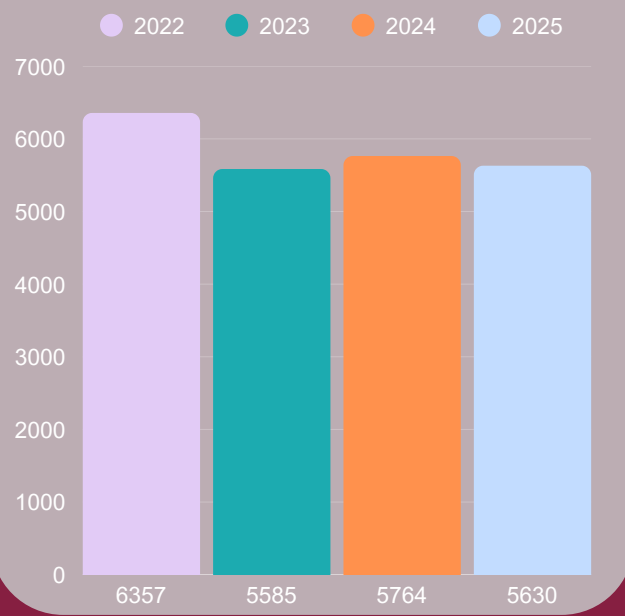
Cumulative year on year losses

No. of responding practices

Total loss declared



Average loss per practice (£)



North & South Essex Local Medical Committees Ltd
Unit 5 Whitelands, Terling Road, Hatfield Peverel, Chelmsford, Essex.
Essex CM3 2AG
Tel: 01245 383430
Email: info@essexlmc.org.uk
Web: www.essexlmc.org.uk