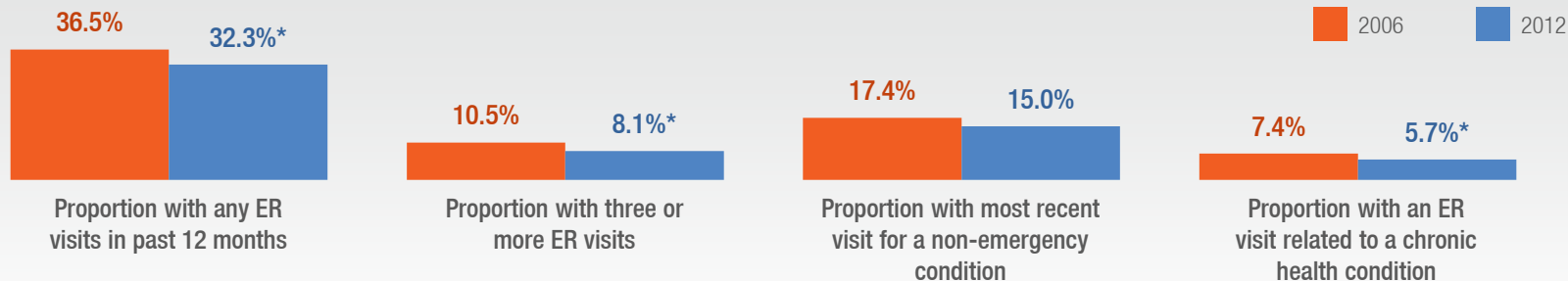


# CHANGING PATTERNS OF HEALTH CARE USE AMONG NONELDERLY ADULTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Source: Massachusetts Health Reform Survey, 2012

## EMERGENCY ROOM USE HAS DECLINED SINCE THE START OF REFORM

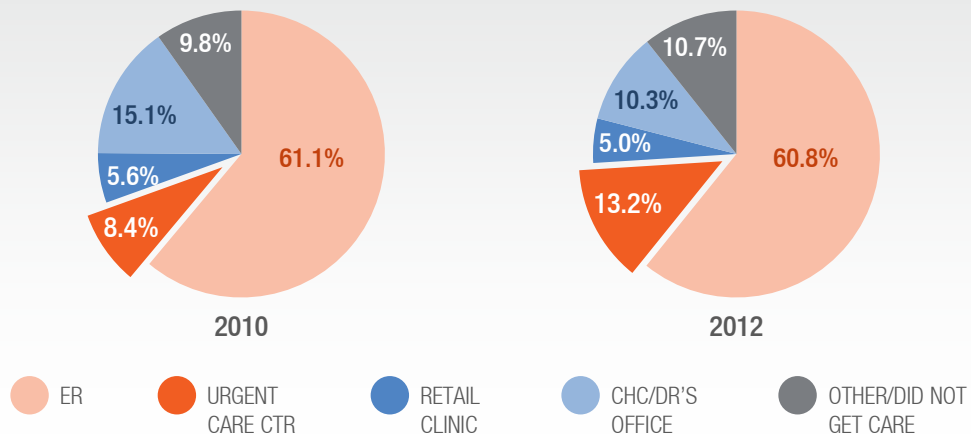


The most common reason for going to the ER for a non-emergency condition was needing care after normal hours, with nearly 70 percent reporting this reason.

\* value is significantly different from value in 2006 at the .05 level, two-tailed test.

## USE OF URGENT CARE CENTERS FOR AFTER-HOURS CARE IS INCREASING

Among those who needed care after hours, in recent years there has been an increase in those who sought care at an urgent care center. While fewer sought after-hours care from their doctor or community health center (CHC), the proportion who went to an ER was essentially unchanged.



## USE OF NON-PHYSICIANS IS INCREASING

Use of health professionals other than a physician appears to be on the rise, with nearly 40 percent of nonelderly adults reporting they saw a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or midwife rather than a doctor for a health care visit, up from 36 percent in 2010.

