

Medicaid Participation Among Early Career Pediatric Dentists

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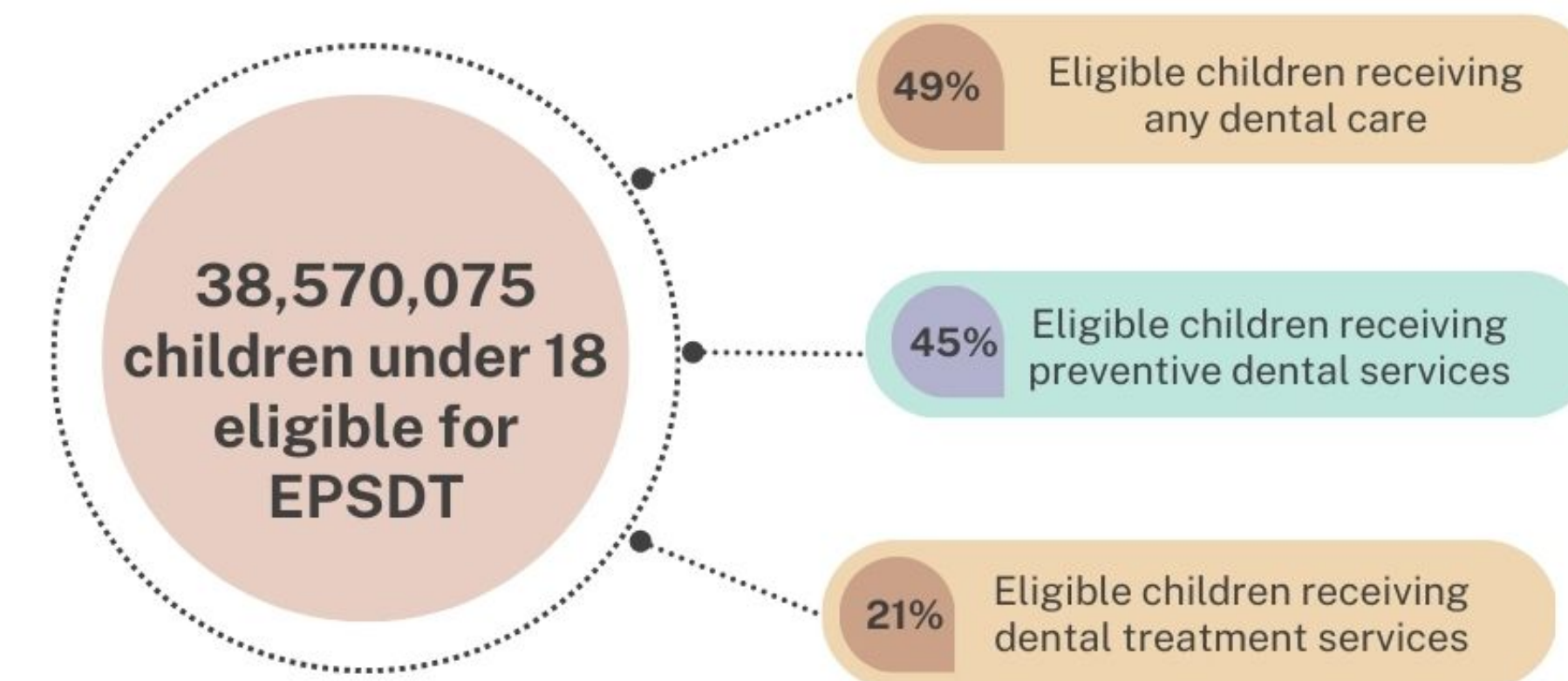
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Background

- In 2019, over 35 million children were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP, but less than half received any dental services. (CMS, 2020)

Figure 1. Utilization of Dental Services Among Children Eligible for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services



- 73% of pediatric dentists participate in Medicaid or CHIP. (ADA HPI, 2020)
- In the past, dental providers' Medicaid participation has been measured through provider enrollment, patient volume, claims, and revenue shares. (Vujicic et al, 2021)
- The Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) initiative improved access to high-quality data by maintaining information regarding Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries and claim files that contain service use and payment records.
- Prior variability in metrics to assess providers' participation has limited ability to measure longitudinal trends and participation capacity among pediatric dentists enrolled as Medicaid providers.

Purpose

To assess trends of Medicaid participation among early career pediatric dentists by:

- Determining the rate of Medicaid participation of pediatric dentists during their first, third, and fifth year as American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD) diplomates; and
- Analyzing trends in provider participation during the first five years of ABPD diplomate status

Methods

- A provider dataset of new ABPD diplomates (early career pediatric dentists) from 2014, 2016, and 2018 was developed, National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers were incorporated, and this was merged into relevant dental service use files from 2019 T-MSIS data.
- The intensity of Medicaid participation of each board-year cohort was analyzed by measuring the number of diplomates treating zero Medicaid patients, 1-99 Medicaid patients, 100-499 Medicaid patients, 500-999 Medicaid patients, and 1000+ Medicaid patients.
- Cohorts were stacked to analyze intensity of participation in Medicaid by gender and race among early career pediatric dentists overall.

Findings

- Participation among ABPD diplomates was bimodal across all cohorts. A sizeable segment treats 1000+ patients, and a sizeable segment does not treat any patients. Rates of diplomates seeing no patients enrolled in Medicaid ranged from 20.9% to 27.2%. Diplomates seeing more than 100 patients ranged from 62.6% to 71%. (**Figure 2**)
- The percentage of diplomates seeing more than 100 patients with Medicaid was greater among those in practice less time. (**Figure 2**)
- When combining all ABPD diplomate cohorts, men saw significantly more patients with Medicaid than women. (**Figure 3**)
- Black dentists, followed by Hispanic dentists, lead in seeing patients with Medicaid. (**Figure 5**)

Figure 2. 2019 Medicaid participation by ABPD diplomate cohort

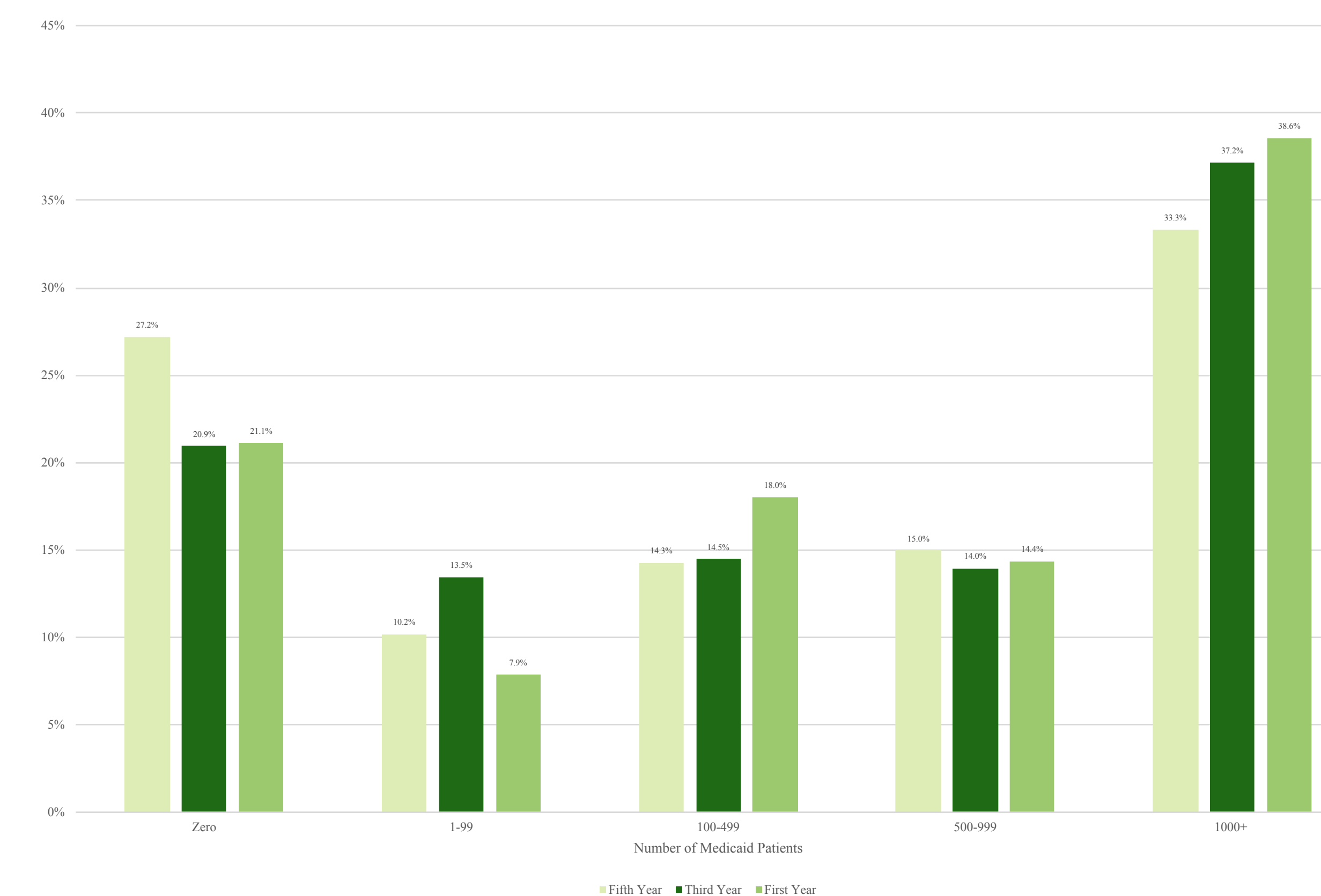
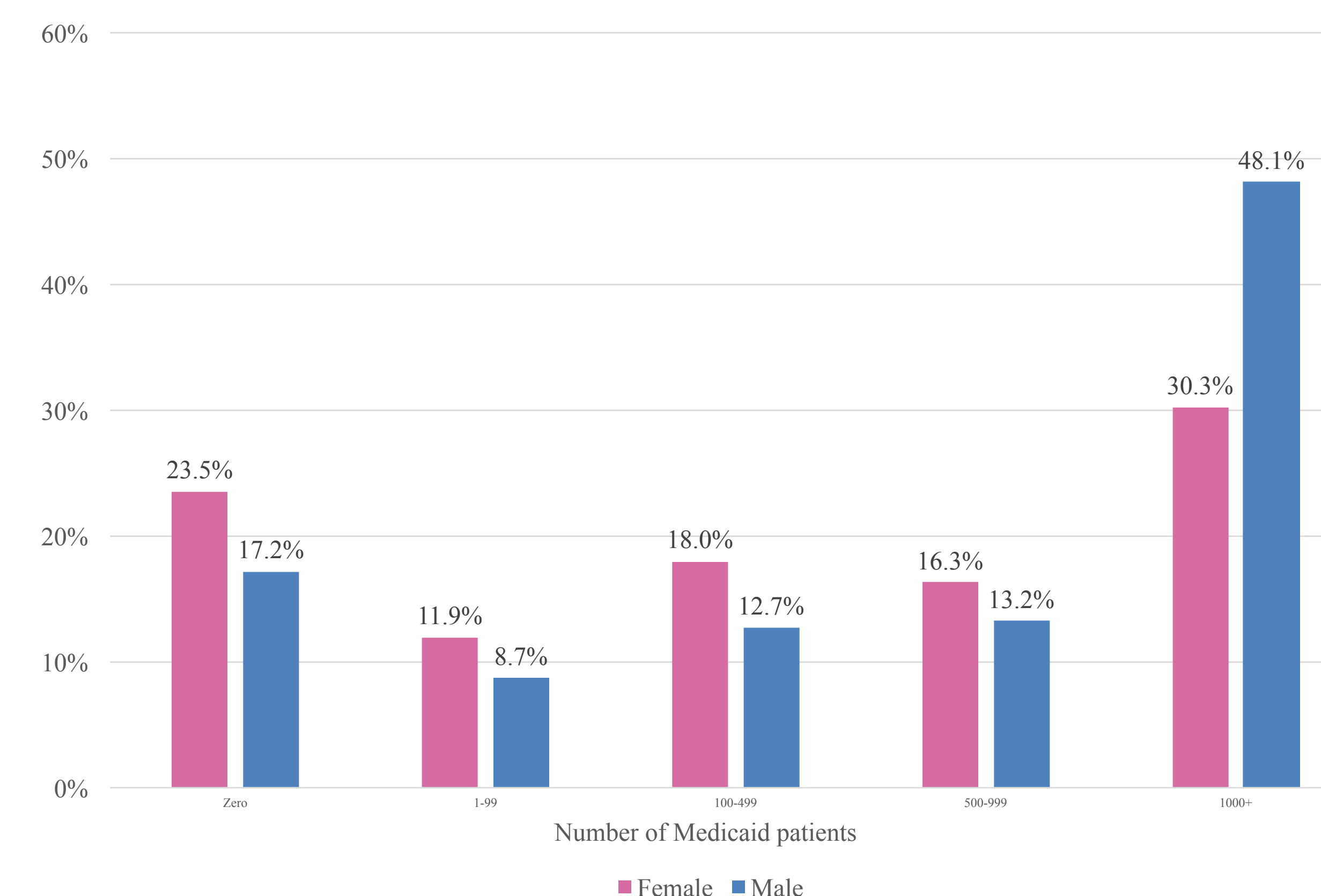


Figure 3. 2019 Medicaid participation by gender



Findings (continued)

Figure 4. Percent of providers not seeing Medicaid patients, by race

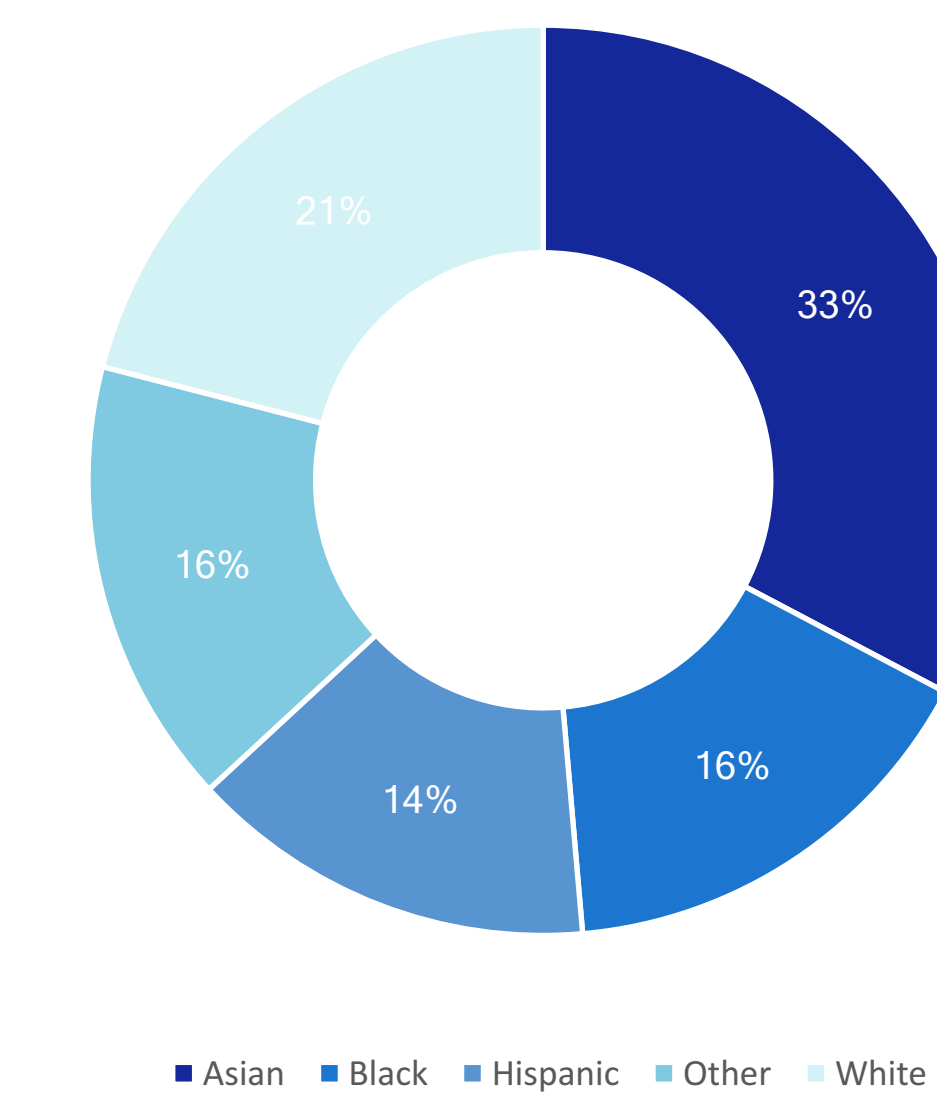
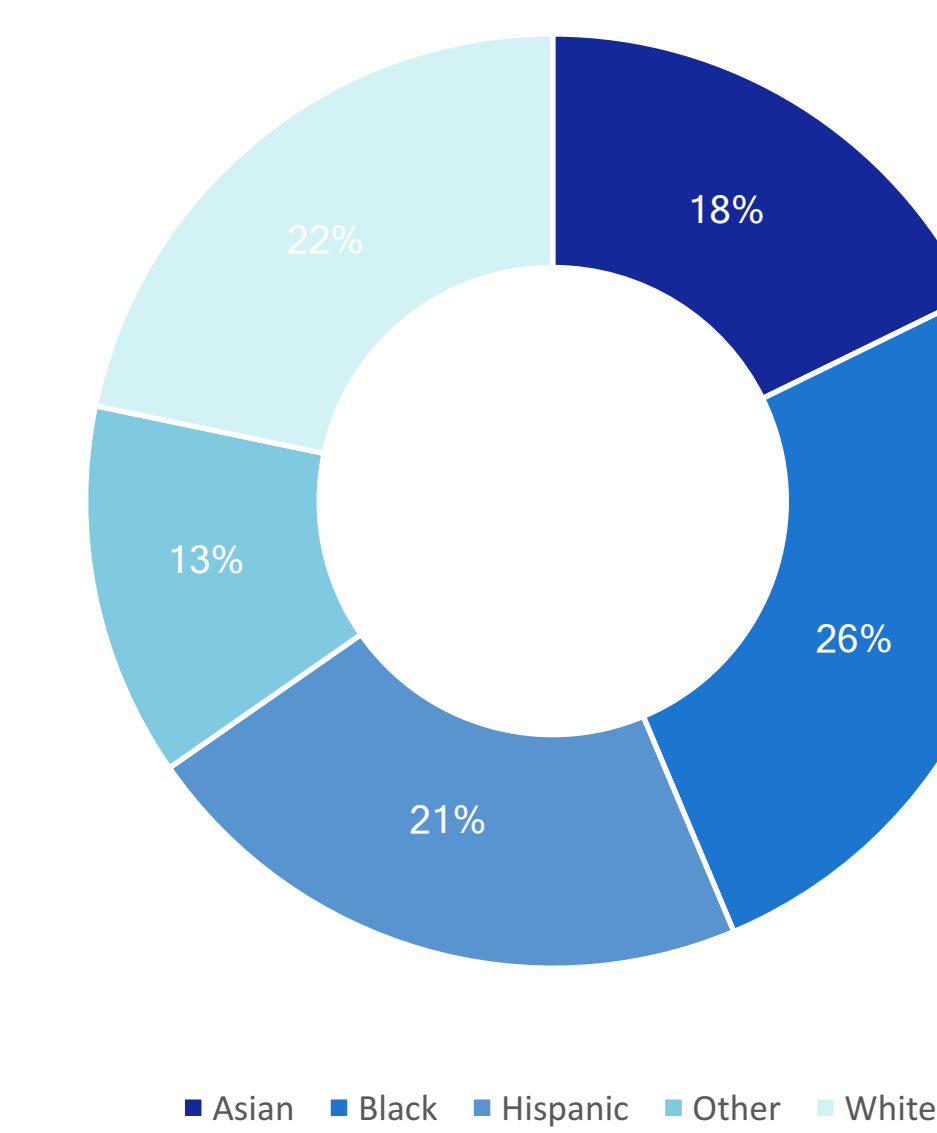


Figure 5. Percent of providers seeing 1000+ Medicaid patients, by race



Limitations

- Data were aggregated nationally, limiting ability to assess variability in intensity of provider participation by state or region.
- Rates of Medicaid participation were not compared based on providers' practice location or models.

Conclusions

- The results from this study show high intensity of Medicaid participation among early career pediatric dentists. Early career pediatric dentists have high intensity of participation in Medicaid programs, higher than other dentists' participation from past research.
- Data suggests there could be a modest drop-off in intensity of Medicaid participation in the early career years among pediatric dentists. For instance, fewer pediatric dentists who were five years into practice were treating 1000+ Medicaid patients compared to pediatric dentists one year into practice, and more were treating zero patients with Medicaid.
- Among early career pediatric dentists, males have greater intensity of participation in Medicaid programs compared to their female colleagues. Black and Hispanic early career pediatric dentists have the highest intensity of participation among early career pediatric dentists.
- Future research should analyze:
 - Why and how pediatric dentists' participation in Medicaid is greater than other segments of the dental profession
 - Location-specific needs and dental care utilization
 - Providers' acceptance of new patients with Medicaid
 - Medicaid providers' practice models

Acknowledgements

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