

# Evaluating the Effect of Medical Periodicity Compliance on Dental Visit Compliance

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## PURPOSE

The aim of this study was to determine how  
A) medical periodicity compliance affects preventive dental visit compliance, and  
B) the receipt of fluoride varnish at well-child visits affects age one dental visit utilization

## METHODS

- Enrollment and claims data were used from Partners For Kids
  - Pediatric accountable care organization covering Medicaid-enrolled children living in 47 of 88 counties in Ohio
- Medical periodicity compliance (W30) was defined as 6 well-child visits before 15 months and 2 additional visits by 30 months
- The main outcomes were:
  - PDV compliance by 30 months
  - Age one dental visit
- Descriptive statistics and chi-square tests were calculated to compare outcomes stratified by W30 compliance and receipt of fluoride varnish at well-child visits

## RESULTS

- 17,675 children included
  - 12% received fluoride varnish at well-child visits
  - 61.4% were W30 compliant
- Children who were W30 compliant were significantly more likely to be PDV compliant (17.7% vs 7.2%,  $P < .0001$ )
- Children who received fluoride varnish at a well-child visit were significantly more likely to have an age one dental visit (7.3% vs. 2.2%,  $P < .001$ )

Medical periodicity compliance was significantly associated with preventive dental visit compliance, but overall use of preventive dental visits was low.

Within our organization, medical professionals play an important role in preventive oral health service delivery through dietary counseling and fluoride varnish application.

### Acknowledgements

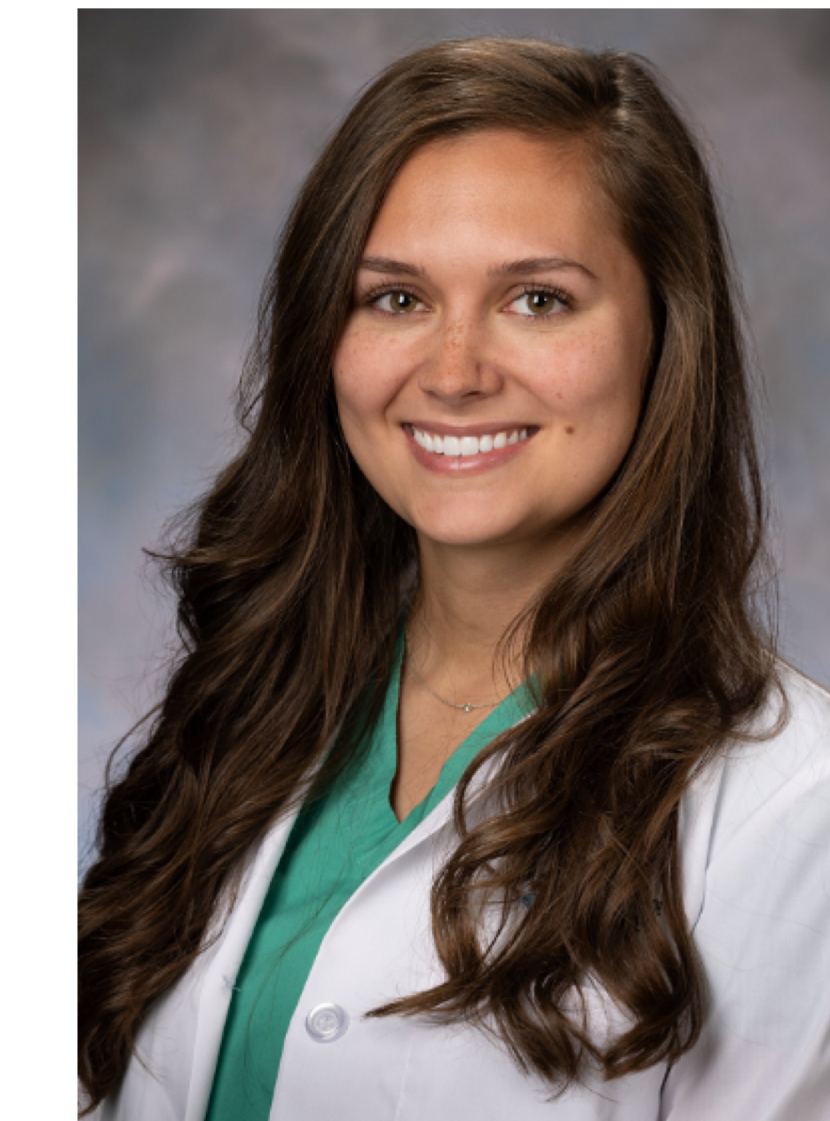
Data used in this study was partially provided by *Partners For Kids*, a pediatric accountable care organization established by Nationwide Children's Hospital.

### Disclaimer

The statement in this study are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of *Partners For Kids* or Nationwide Children's Hospital.

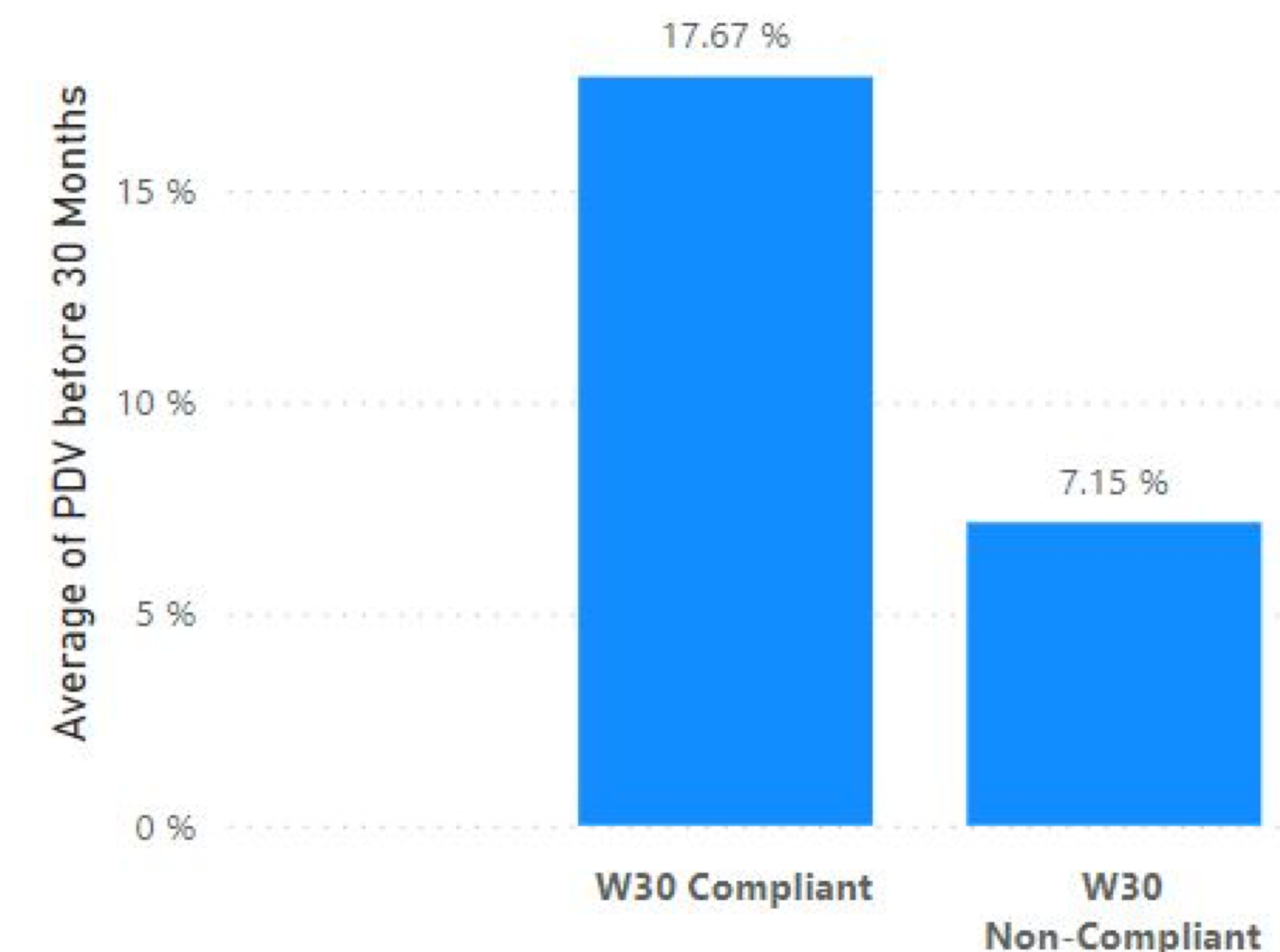
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## DISCUSSION

- Medical practices are an important gateway to preventive dental visits for this population
- Integration of dental hygienists in medical offices at well-child visits may improve PDV compliance
- Medicaid reimbursement increases may encourage more general and pediatric dentists to participate in Medicaid, expanding access to care and ultimately improving PDV utilization