

# IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH IN PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE


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# DISCLAIMER

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# BACKGROUND

- ▶ Dental caries is the most common chronic disease of childhood in the United States.
- ▶ Fluoride administration has been effective in the prevention of caries.
- ▶ Many children do not receive dental care at young ages, so pediatricians have a unique opportunity to participate in the primary prevention of dental caries.
- ▶ The US Preventative Services Task Force, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommend that primary care clinicians apply fluoride varnish to primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption.



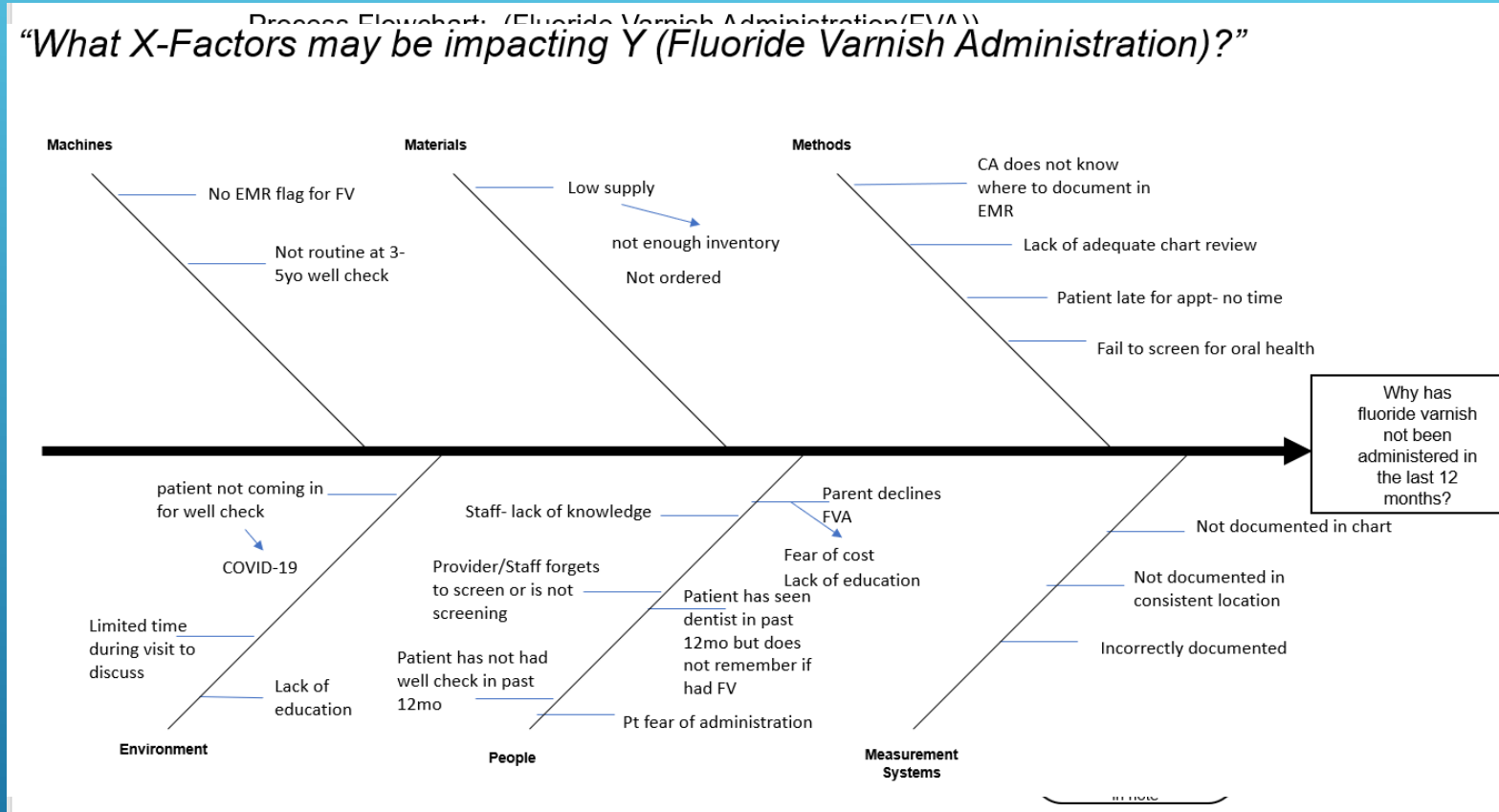
# PROJECT AIM

- ▶ Project aim is to improve oral health amongst our pediatric patients aged 1-5 years old in the primary care setting.
- ▶ Improve fluoride varnish administration at well child visits



# PROJECT DESIGN/METHODS

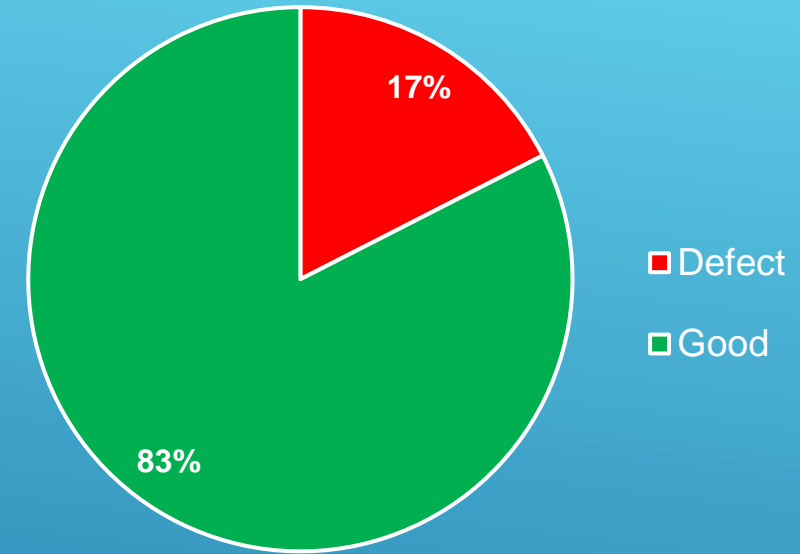
- ▶ About the Practice
- ▶ Current Process: Fluoride varnish routinely ordered at the 12 month and 24 month well child checks.
- ▶ Using Lean Six Sigma method a defect was defined as any patient 1-5 years old who should get fluoride varnish administered at a well check but does not.
- ▶ A process flowchart was created to map the current process of fluoride varnish administration in our clinic
- ▶ A fishbone diagram was created to determine which factors impact fluoride varnish administration during well checks



# RESULTS

- ▶ Baseline Data measured through review of 223 charts from well check visits from March 10, 2022 through May 31, 2022.
- ▶ Our goal is to increase the percentage of patients 1-5 years of age receiving Fluoride Varnish from 83% to > 93% by September 1.

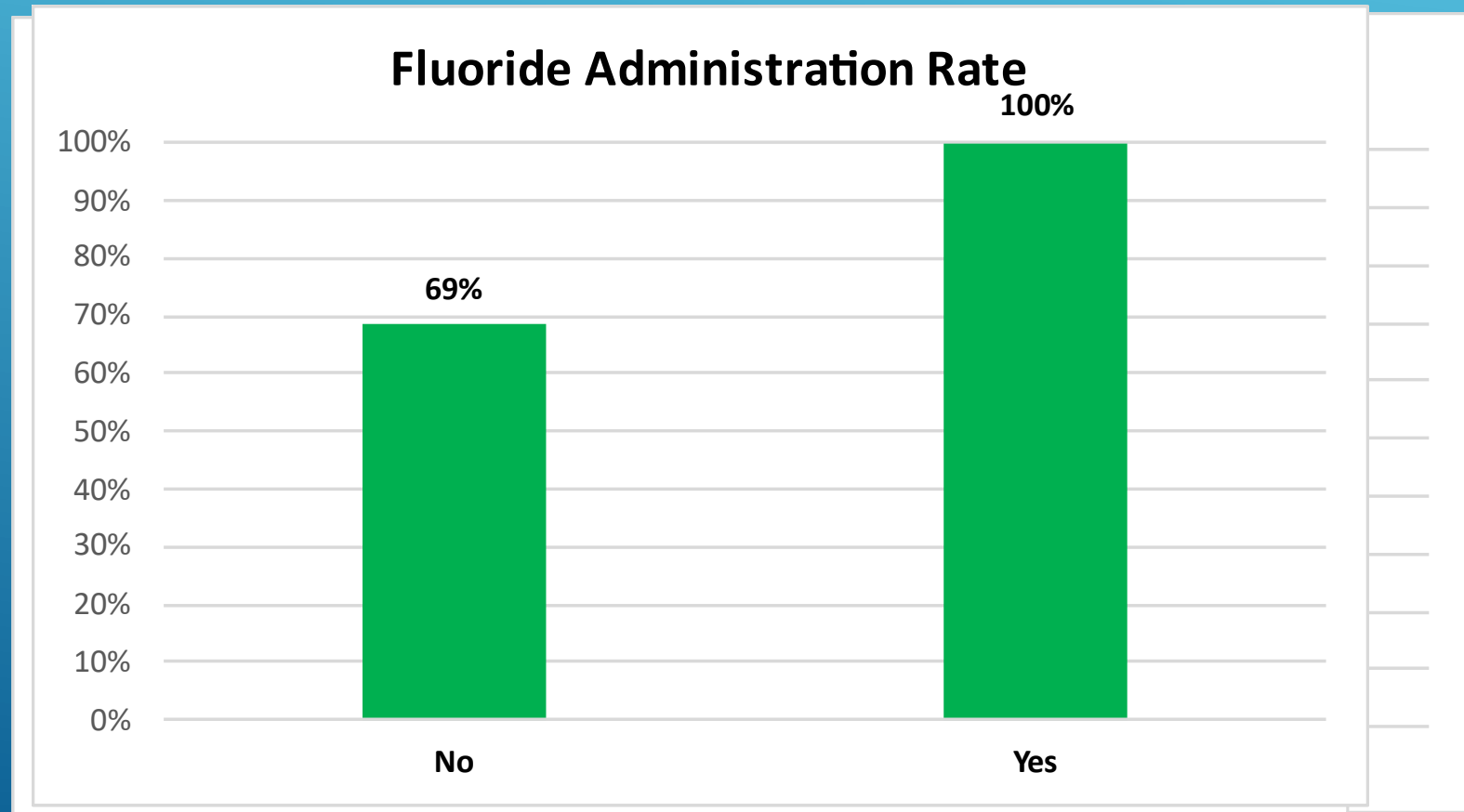
Fluoride Varnish Administered?  
3/9 - 5/31/22 (n=223)



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
	Patient ID	Date of Visit	Age	Sex	Race	Insurance	Provider	Clinical assistant	Office	Well check in past 12 mo?	Dental Home?	Dental visit in past 12 mo	Fluoride varnish in past 12mo	Discussion on oral health?	Recognized need by provider?	Fluoride Varnish administered?
1	1	3/10/2022	4	F	White- Hispanic	Medicaid	Edwards	Chia	RH	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
2	2	3/10/2022	1.25	F	White	BCBS	Edwards	Chia	RH	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
3	3	3/10/2022	3	M	White	Tricare	Edwards	Chia	RH	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
4	4	3/11/2022	1.25	F	Black	BCBS	Edwards	Lynette	RH	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
5	5	3/11/2022	3	F	White	Medicaid	Edwards	Lynette	RH	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
6	6	3/11/2022	1.5	F	Black	Medicaid	Edwards	Lynette	RH	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
7	7	3/11/2022	1.25	F	White	BCBS	Edwards	Lynette	RH	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
8	8	3/11/2022	1.5	M	Black	Medcost	Edwards	Lynette	RH	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
9	9	3/15/2022	1.5	F	White	BCBS	Grace	Melinda	FM	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
10	10	3/15/2022	1	F	White	Medicaid	Grace	Melinda	FM	yes	No	No	No	Yes	yes	no
11	11	3/16/2022	3	F	White	BCBS	Grace	Theresa	FM	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	no	no
12	12	3/16/2022	1.25	F	White	BCBS	Grace	Theresa	FM	yes	no	No	Yes	Yes	no	no
13	13	3/16/2022	3	M	White	BCBS	Grace	Theresa	FM	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
14	14	3/16/2022	2	F	White	BCBS	Grace	Theresa	FM	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes

# SIGNIFICANT FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FLUORIDE VARNISH ADMINISTRATION AT WELL CHILD VISITS

- ▶ Currently analyzing potential factors contributing to missed opportunities to administer fluoride varnish in clinic.
  - ▶ Gender
  - ▶ Patient Race
  - ▶ Well check in past 12 months
  - ▶ Dental Home
  - ▶ Dental Visit in past 12 months



# DISCUSSION/NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Continue to work through Lean Six Sigma DMAIC cycle:
  - ▶ Improve Step
    - ▶ Potential Solutions
      - ▶ Reach Out and Read Oral Health Initiative to Start Winter/Spring 2023
      - ▶ Built in EMR oral health assessment tool
  - ▶ Control Step
    - ▶ Adjust current processes to improve fluoride varnish administration at well child visits.
    - ▶ Improve oral health in our community.





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& Read®



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## Brush, Book, Bed – The Best Bedtime Routine

February 17, 2022

### February is National Children’s Dental Health Month.

Reach Out and Read in North Carolina and South Carolina is participating in oral health initiatives and integrating books and conversations about the importance of life long oral health into ROR well-child visits.

During regular wellness check-ups at these participating locations, children are now given brand-new, age-appropriate books that share stories about establishing and maintaining oral health.

Not only do these conversations help promote life-long oral health habits, they continue to improve parent and child bonding around creating routines of reading aloud together...and brushing!

[Here’s a message from Dr. Blakely Amati](#), Prisma Health Center for Pediatric Medicine and SC lead for the Carolinas Collaborative.



Program to start January 2023

# EMR ORAL HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

**Pediatrics Oral Health Risk Assessment Screening**

Responsible More ▾  Show Row Info  Show Last Filed Value  Show Details  Show All Choices ✎

### Oral Health Risk Assessment Screen

Teeth Present?  
 Yes  No ☰ ▼ 📄

Dental Home Established  
 Yes  No ☰ ! ▼ 📄

Topical Flouride applied within the last 3-6 months?  
 Yes  No ! ▼ 📄

Do you have well water?  
 Yes  No ▼ 📄

Do you exclusively use bottled water in your child's formula or for drinking?  
 Yes  No ! ▼ 📄

⏪ Restore  Close  Cancel ⬆️ Previous Next ⬇️

Question	(Proxy)
Teeth Present?	Yes
Topical Flouride applied within the last 3-6 months?	<b>No !</b>
Do you have well water?	No
Do you exclusively use bottled water in your child's formula or for drinking?	No
Dental Home Established	Yes

# REFERENCES

- ▶ Clark, M., & Slayton, R. (2000). AAP Section on Oral Health. Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting. *Pediatrics*, 146(6), :e2020034637.
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