

# Medicare without Oral Health Coverage: *Stories from the Front Lines*

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# Disclosure

- CIPCOH work is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number UH1HP29962, titled Academic Units for Primary Care Training and Enhancement for grant amount \$3,500,000. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.
- Also discussing other HRSA work and Qualis work.



# CIPCOH

Center for Integration of  
Primary Care and Oral Health

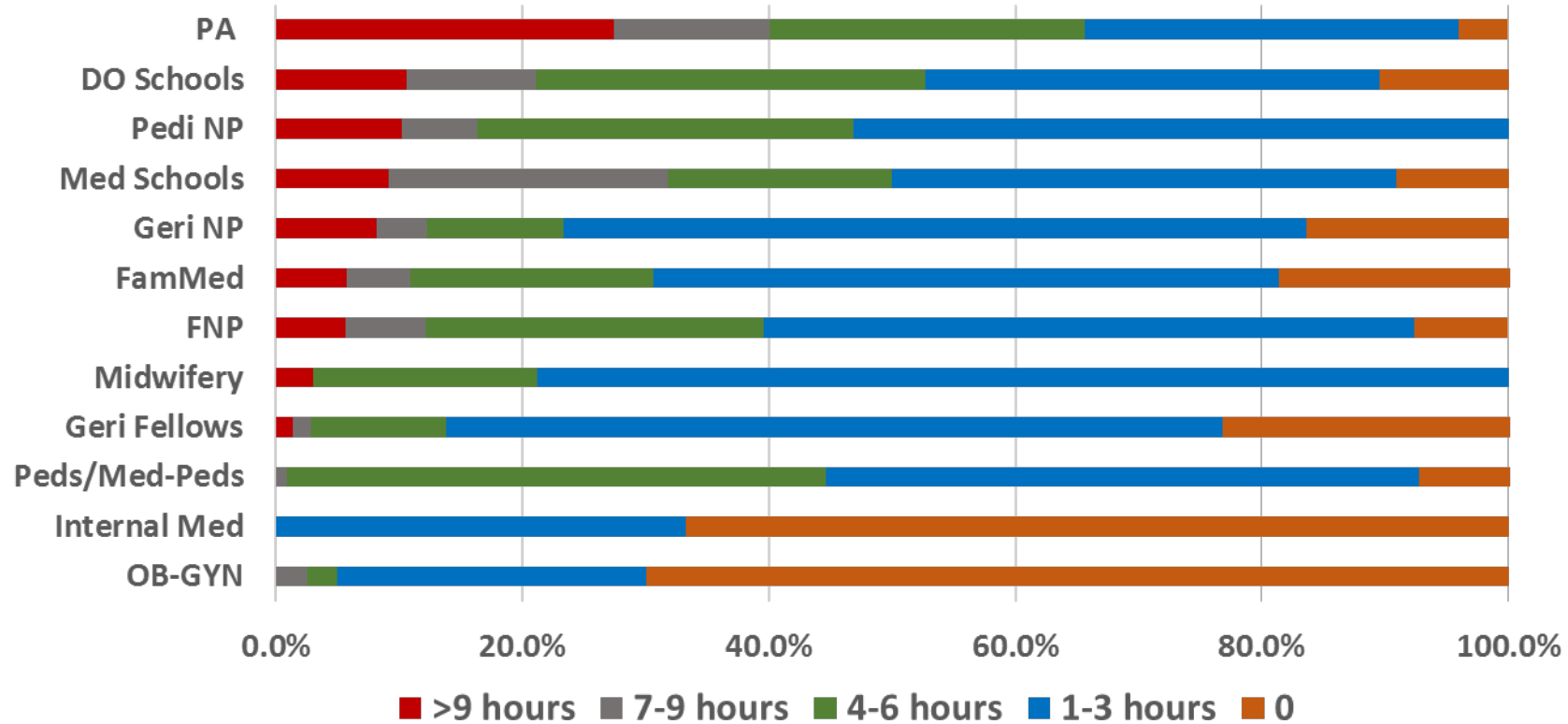


Christine Riedy, PhD, MPH (Lead PI); Russ Phillips, MD; Hugh Silk, MD, MPH (Co-PIs)

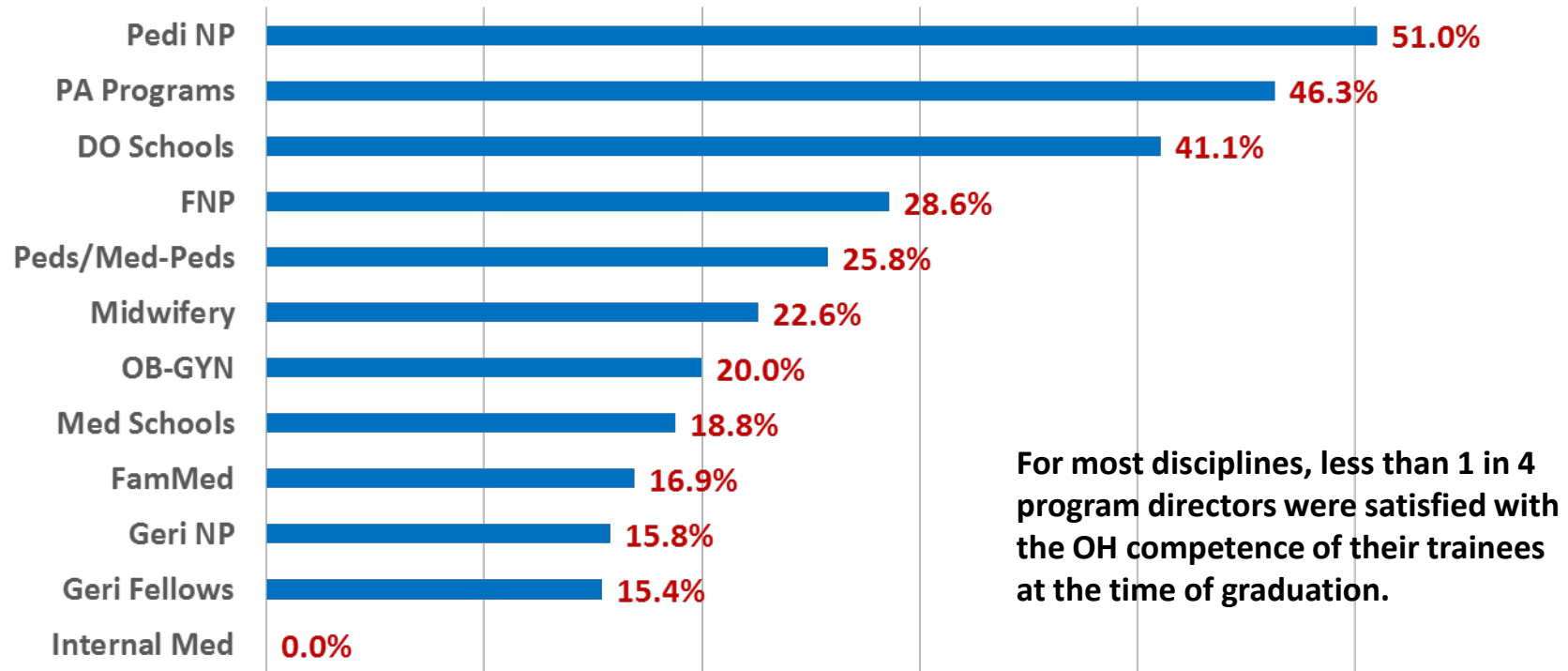
# Oral Health Education of Non-Dental Providers

# Hours of Oral Health Education

Most disciplines have 1-3 hours of OH; OB and IM more frequently report 0 hours while almost one-third of PA programs include > 9 hours.

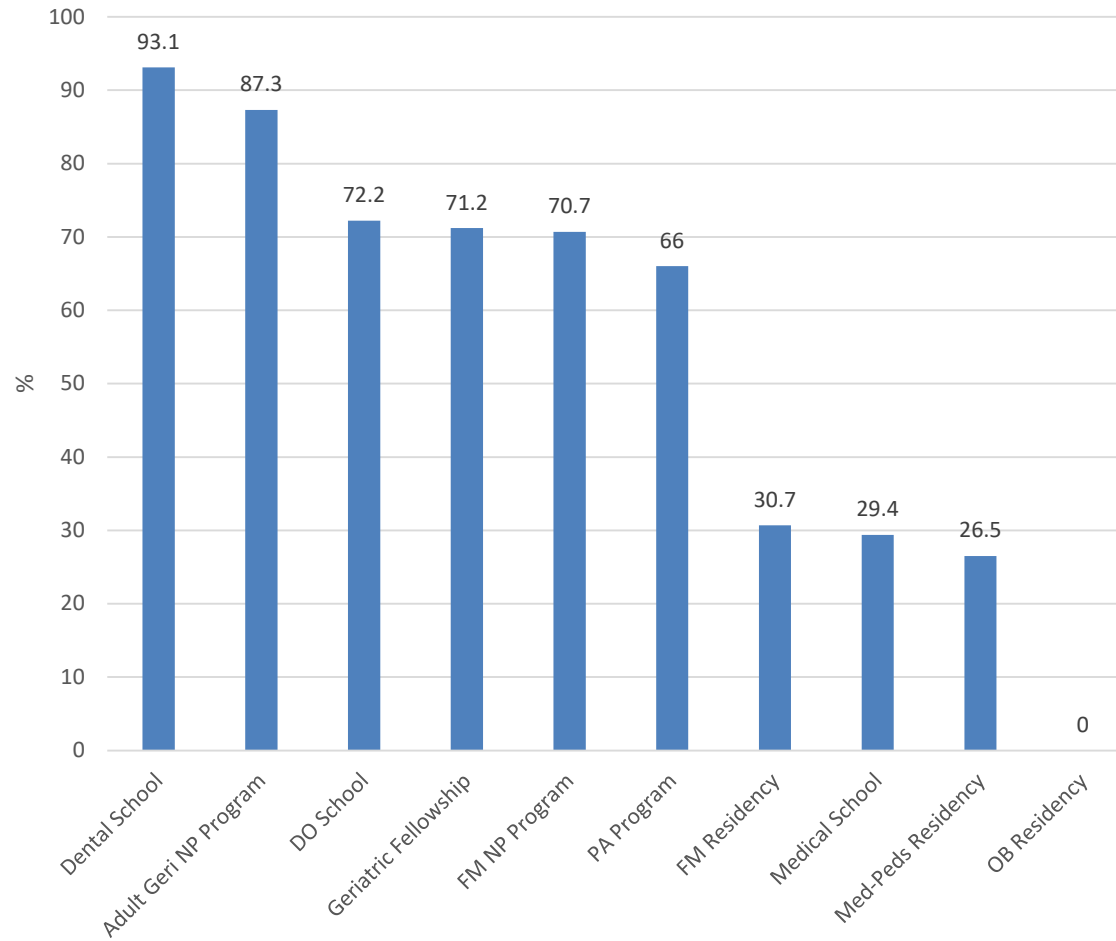


# Program Director's Satisfaction with Graduate Competence in OH



\*Percent of combined responses to "agree and strongly agree" in one question

## Geriatric Oral Health Teaching by Discipline Type



# 1<sup>st</sup> Conclusion

- 111 million people won't see a dentist this year including 30+ million seniors
- Medical providers have not been trained well enough to address this, yet...



**As we get the dental  
Medicare benefit...  
a few programs that can help**

# Dine with Dentists

## Topics covered

- HPV and Oral Cancer
- Opioid Crisis
- *Working Together*
- Easy to do geriatric theme



# Evaluation

1	How much do you perceive that dental colleagues are interested in overall health of patients									
2	How important do you feel good oral health is for the overall health of your patients									
3	How would you rate your skill level to counsel patients on oral health									
4	How would you rate your skill level to examine and assess a patient's mouth									
5	How would you rate your awareness of local dentists and the details of making referrals to them									
6	How would you rate your current ability to communicate with local dentists									
7	How confident are you currently that your patients will get timely referrals to dental colleagues?									
1	How much do you perceive that your medical colleagues are interested in oral health of their patients									
2	How important do you feel that your medical colleagues believe good oral health contributes to overall health of their patients									
3	How would you rate your skill level to teach medical colleagues about oral health (oral hygiene, diet, FV)									
4	How would you rate your awareness of local medical offices and the details of making and accepting referrals to/from them									
5	How would you rate your current ability to communicate with your local medical colleagues									
6	How confident are you currently that your medical colleagues feel comfortable making routine referrals to your office									

# MD/DOs

	Average
<b>PRE QUESTIONS</b>	
1	7.5
2	9.0
3	6.3
4	6.3
5	4.6
6	4.2
7	3.9
<b>POST QUESTIONS</b>	
1	8.5
2	9.1
3	6.6
4	6.7
5	7.6
6	6.1
7	6.6

Referrals  
Communicate

# Dentists

## Dentist Evals

	Average
<b>PRE QUESTIONS</b>	
1	6.5
2	7.6
3	8.4
4	5.3
5	6.7
6	6.0
<b>POST QUESTIONS</b>	
1	8.3
2	8.3
3	8.4
4	7.2
5	7.6
6	7.1

interest



# MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

Every physician matters, each patient counts.

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Advocacy

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Leadership

Physicians

## Governance & Leadership

Home > Governance & Leadership > Committees, Task Forces and Sections > Committee on Oral Health

MMS Officers

Committees, Task  
Forces and Sections

House of Delegates

Board of Trustees

Districts & Regions

Leadership Meetings &  
Deadlines

MA Delegation to the  
AMA

Policies, Procedures &  
Bylaws

### Committee on Oral Health

This committee focuses on increasing public awareness of the relationship and importance of good oral health to good physical health and works to promote prevention and improve oral health literacy to health providers and the public. Recommends ways to improve access to oral health care. Committee meets 4 times per year, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Participation by teleconference is an option.

#### Committee Members:

Hugh J. Silk, Worcester, *Chair*

Michelle Dalal, Worcester, *Vice Chair*

Jean Bruch, Barnstable

Jatin K. Dave, Charles River

Robert B. Donoff, Suffolk

- Reps from:
  - ENT, Oncology, OB/GYN, Geriatrics
  - Primary Care – Fam Med, Peds, Medicine
  - Dentistry – MDS, HSDM, Medicaid
- Projects:
  - updates of oral health for MDs (e.g. geriatric OH messaging)
  - ED-Dental collaboration
  - State wide survey
  - Video and public messaging

# State Level Advocacy



- Oral Health Coalition (only one in the US)

## COALITION PRIORITIES

### An Act To Restore MassHealth Adult Dental Benefits

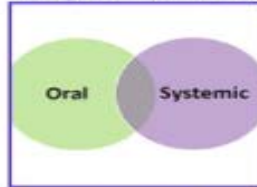
In 2010, adult dental care benefits for people in MassHealth were significantly cut. Our Oral Health Advocacy Task Force has been working hard to restore coverage. Services have been restored piecemeal, year by year, with dentures being the latest service added, in May 2015. Currently, the only oral health services covered for adult MassHealth members are fillings, cleanings, extractions, and now, dentures. HCFA supports legislation to restore full oral health benefits cut from MassHealth, our...



## Learn Online

The Smiles for Life curriculum consists of eight 60-minute modules covering core areas of oral health relevant to health professionals. User competencies are measured through assessments at course completion. Users must score an 80% or higher to receive credit for each course.

### Relationship of Oral & Systemic Health



COURSE 1

### Child Oral Health



COURSE 2

### Adult Oral Health



COURSE 3

### Acute Dental Problems



COURSE 4

### Pregnancy & Woman's Oral Health



COURSE 5

### Caries Risk Assessment Fluoride Varnish & Counseling



COURSE 6

### The Oral Exam



COURSE 7

### Geriatric Oral Health



COURSE 8

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Conclusion

- Addressing senior oral health will take more than a dental benefit in Medicare...look at Medicaid
- We need to use creative approaches to bring medical-dental together



# Last but not least...

- My patients stories
  - Edentulous - Marie
  - Pre/post dentures - Jim
  - Affect on nutrition, emotion, confidence...



# Thank You!

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<https://cipcoh.hsdm.harvard.edu>