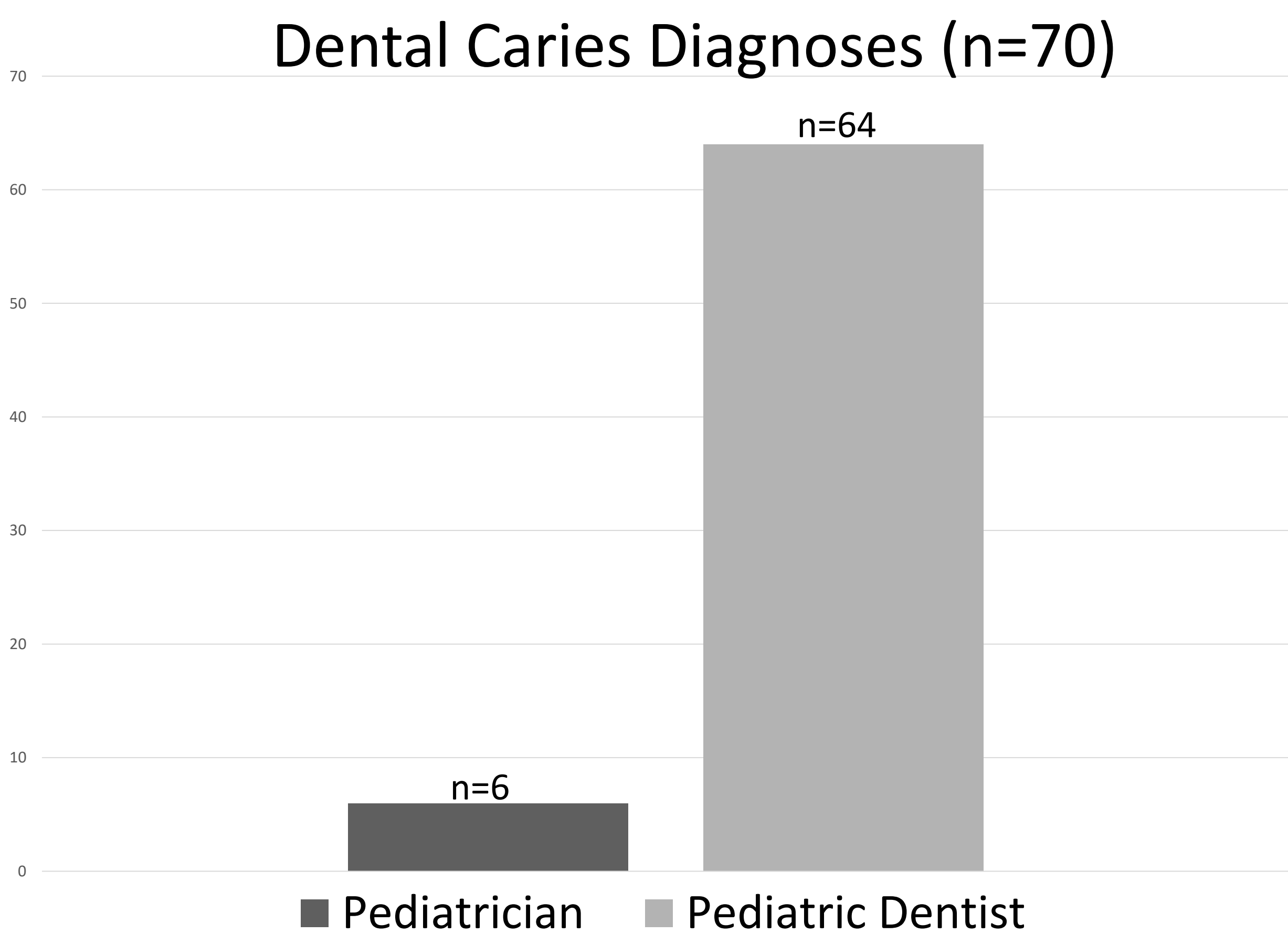


Background

- Early childhood caries (ECC) is the most prevalent disease in children in the United States.²
 - Many adults are not aware of the appropriate time to begin taking their children to the dentist, which contributes to the severity of ECC.
 - The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends children see their PCP seven times in early childhood (12mos-4yrs) and annually from ages 5-21 years.¹
 - Pediatricians serve as a valuable resource in identifying children at high risk for dental disease and providing the appropriate referrals.
- The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the concordance between Pediatrician and Pediatric Dentist diagnosis of dental caries***

Methods

- A retrospective chart review was conducted at one hospital, Boston Medical Center (BMC).
- Inclusion criteria were patients aged 0-18 years who had both a physical exam and dental exam at BMC within one year of each other (May 2023 to May 2024).
- Data was obtained by manual chart review by two reviewers.



Results

- This study included **200** eligible subjects, and data collection is ongoing.
- The amount of study subjects who had caries diagnosed by a dentist during their dental visit was **32% (n=64)**.
- The percentage of physician charts which mentioned checking for dental caries during their exam was **3% (n=6)**.
- **Three** physician visits accurately detected and diagnosed dental caries. **One** accurately diagnosed the patient as being caries free, and **2** incorrectly diagnosed the patient as being caries free.

Description of Sample (n=200)		
Gender		
	Male	55.5% (n=111)
	Female	44.5% (n=89)
Age		
	Mean	7.67 +/- 4.2 years
Insurance Type		
	Medicaid	92.5% (n=185)
	Private or employer based	7.0% (n=14)
Behavioral Diagnosis		
	Behavioral diagnosis listed	19.5% (n=39)
	Behavioral diagnosis not listed	80.5% (n=161)

Conclusions

- Most physicians did not mention checking for dental caries during physical examinations for children ages 0-18 years.
- It is important for primary care physicians to have improved understanding of oral health problems in order to provide patient education, referrals, and resources.

References

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care; 2025 Feb 6.
2. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Policy on early childhood caries (ECC): Consequences and preventive strategies. The Reference Manual of Pediatric Dentistry. Chicago, Ill.: American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry; 2023:88-91.
3. Isabelle Blanchet, Bérengère Saliba-Serre, Laura Amiel, Hala Al-Azawi, Corinne Tardieu, Ariane Camoin, Early childhood caries: Detection, prevention, and referral. A questionnaire study of general medical practitioners and pediatricians in the south of France, Archives de Pédiatrie, Volume 30, Issue 5, 2023
4. Long, C.M., Quinonez, R.B., Beil, H.A. et al. Pediatricians' assessments of caries risk and need for a dental evaluation in preschool aged children. BMC Pediatr 12, 49 (2012).