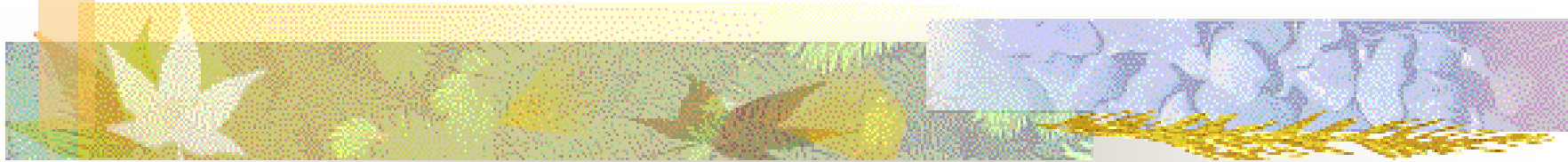




EASTERN OREGON  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC

# Unmet Dental Need in a Rural Oregon Community



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ORPRN Convocation of Clinicians and Practices

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# Background

- Oral health is an essential component of general health, yet...
- Dental access barriers are pronounced
  - ~47 million U.S. residents lack medical insurance
  - ~150 million U.S. residents lack dental insurance
  - Dental caries is 5X more common in childhood than asthma
  - One-third of adults > 65 have untreated dental caries.
  - 40% of adults > 65 have untreated periodontal disease.
  - Frequently identified as top unmet need



# Background

- Baker City with multiple dental access barriers
  - Lack of dental insurance is higher in Baker county (57.4% regionally versus 47.1% in Oregon).
  - Only one local dentist accepts Oregon Health Plan (low income) patients.
  - No alternative venues for urgent/emergency dental patients (Dental visits to the local ER between 2002 – 2006 were 2.6 times greater than national trends).

# Project Goal

- To determine the prevalence of unmet dental needs in a rural Oregon Community as they present in primary care practice

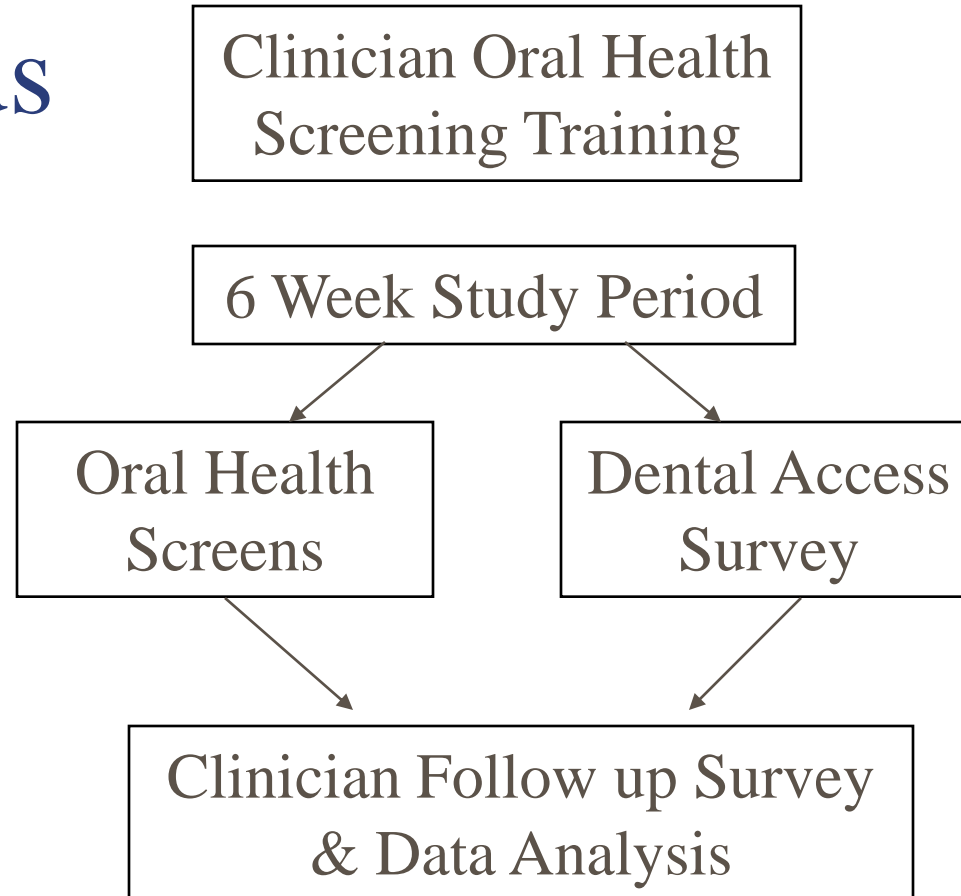




# Participants & Setting

- Eastern Oregon Medical Associates, LLC
  - Federally Certified Rural Health Clinic
  - 8 clinicians (4MD, 1PA, 3FNP)
  - Patient Panel of 9,948
    - 46% female
    - 22% < 14 years of age; 33% over 65
    - 42% Medicaid, 37% Commercial, 17% Medicare, 4% Other

# Methods

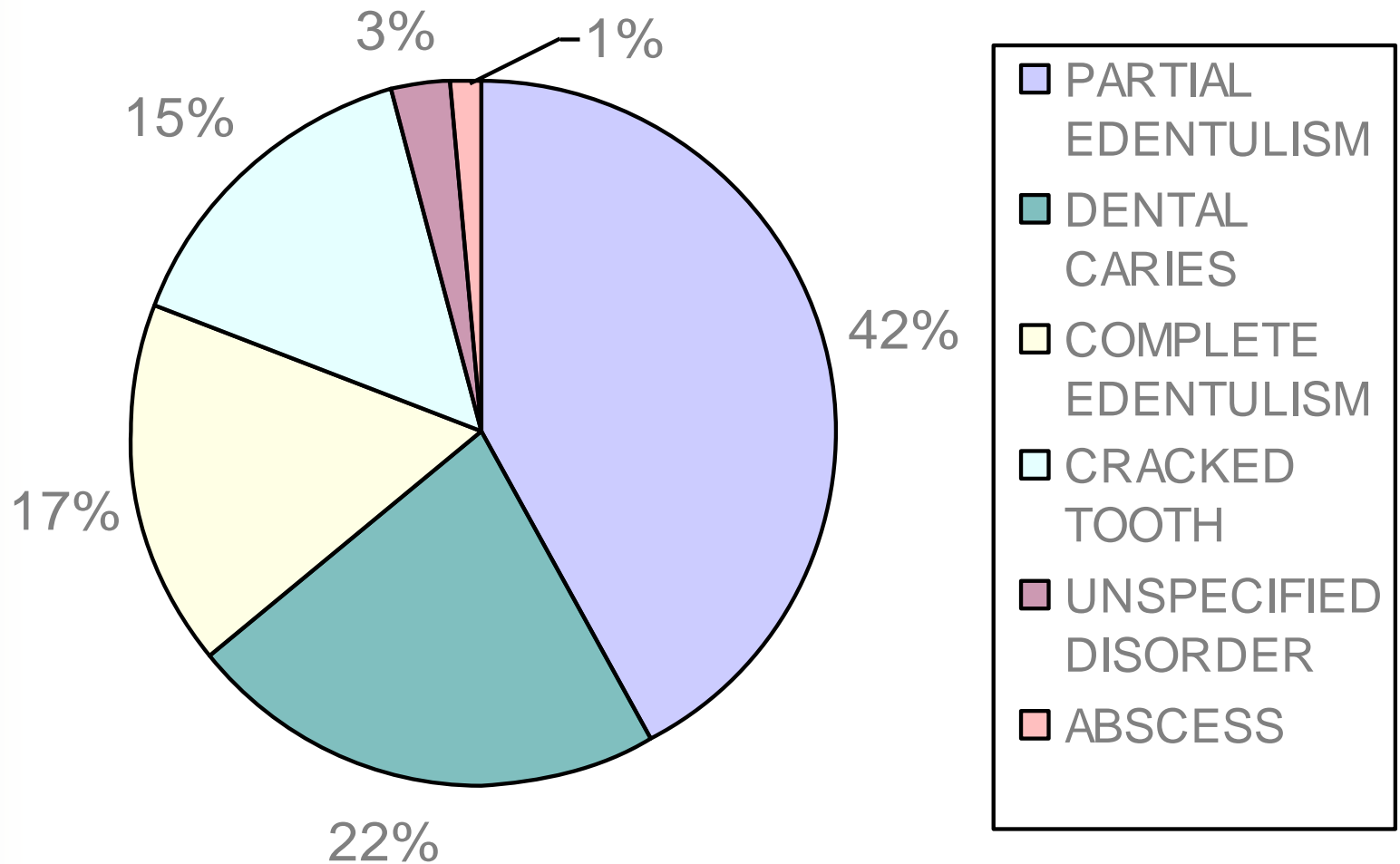




# Results

- 1647 unique visits by patients >1 year y.o.
- 73.4% (1209) completed dental access survey
  - 45.5% reported no dental insurance, 8.1% no health insurance
  - 27.1% reported unmet dental needs
- 40.9% (674) received oral health screens
  - 46.0% had significant oral health conditions

## Results: Identified Oral Health Conditions in the Positive Screens





# Results: Clinician Feedback

- Motivators
  - perceived need/importance
  - survey in room (as reminder)
- Role of primary care
  - Identify problems
  - Reinforce importance of regular dental care
  - Refer patients for appropriate dental care



# Conclusion/Next Steps

- Preliminary understanding of unmet dental needs and oral health conditions in rural primary care
  - Further data analysis: Patient age? Insurance? Barriers?
  - Consider Health Department Data
- Present findings to community: What next?