

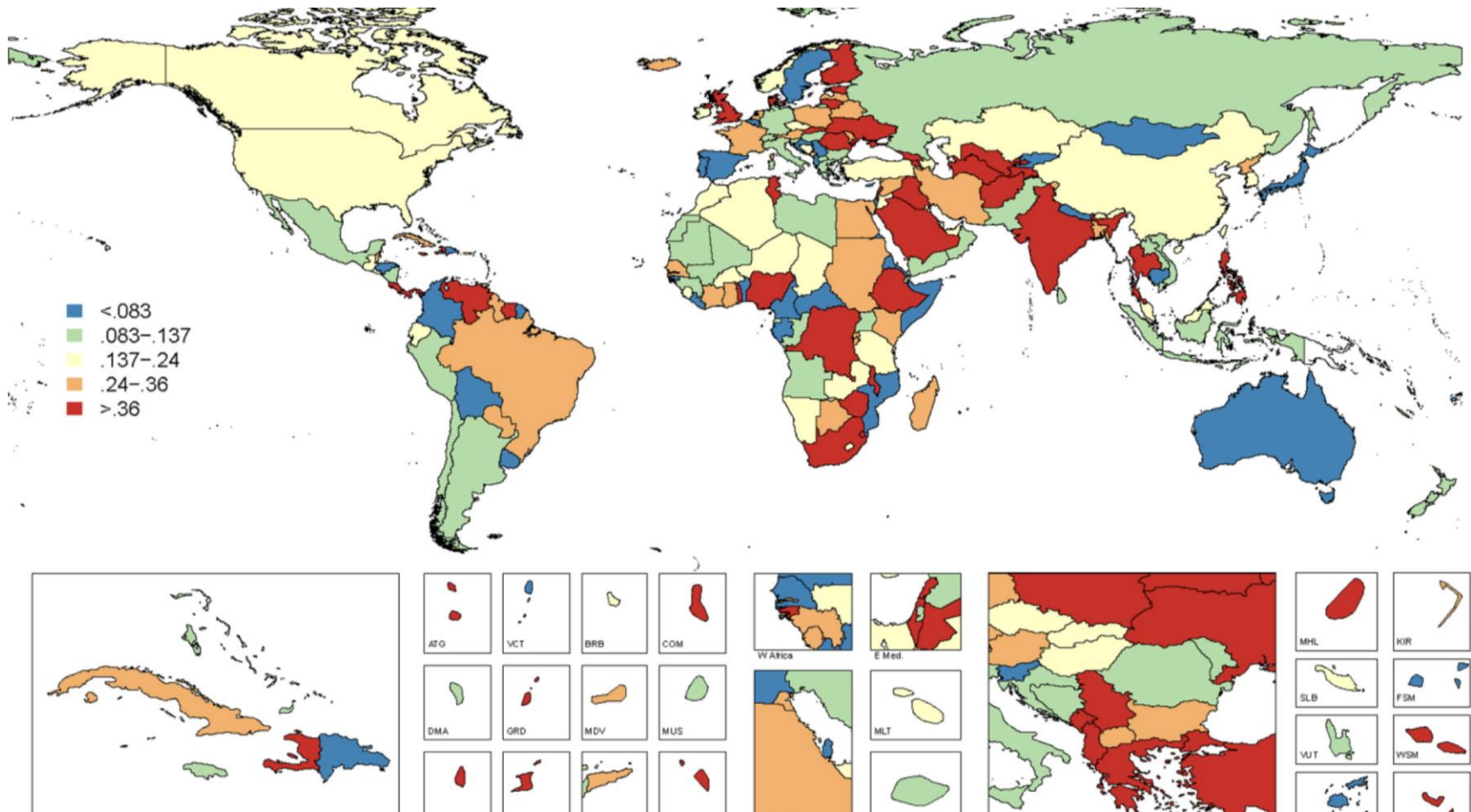
Dental Caries: An Underappreciated, Preventable Infection

Kevin L. Flores, MPH

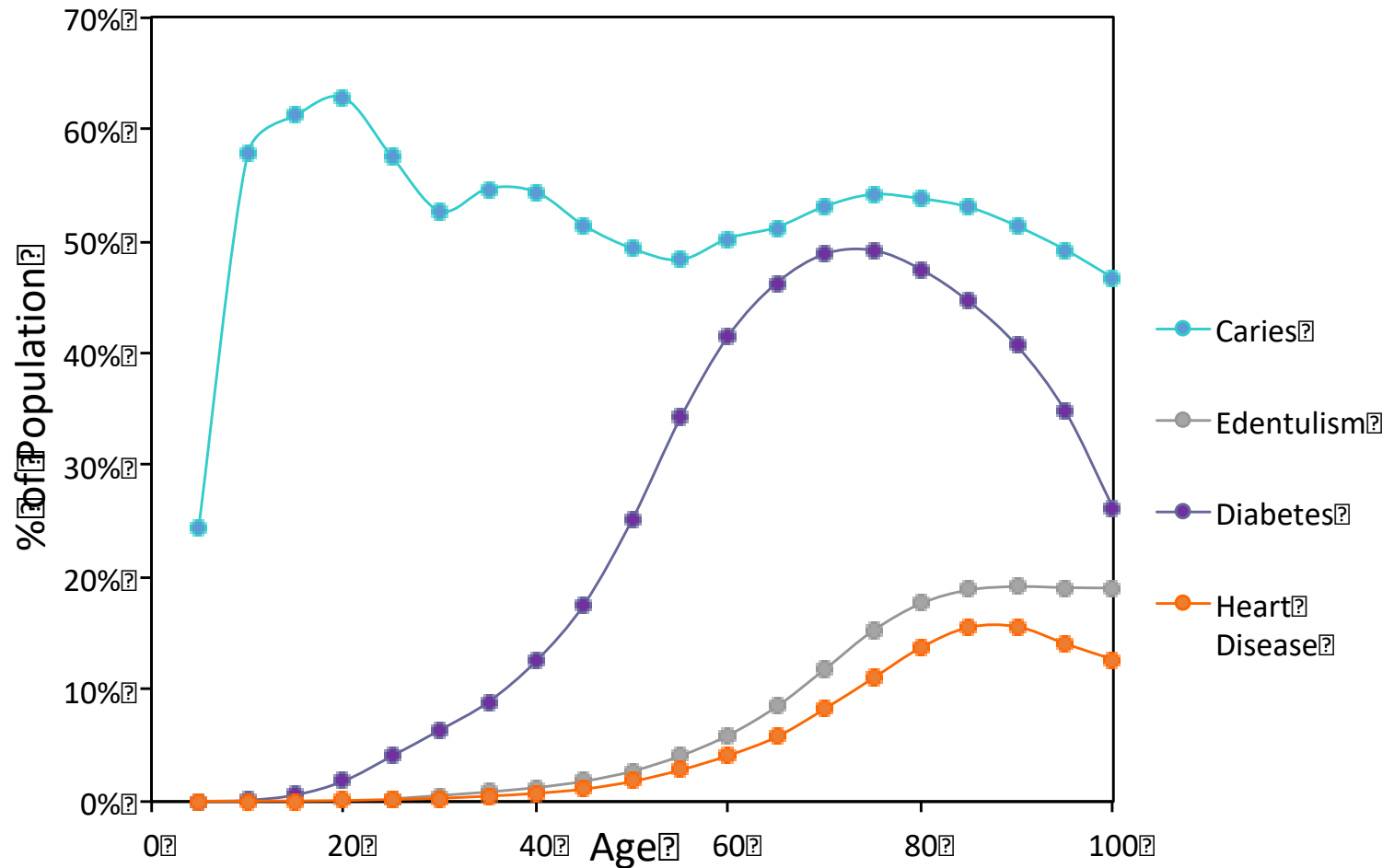
Joseph F. Geiger

Mentor: Richard Niederman, DMD

Prevalence of Untreated Caries



Caries in Relation to Oral and other NCD's



Research Statement

- Our goal was to identify methods for disseminating and implementing caries prevention programs

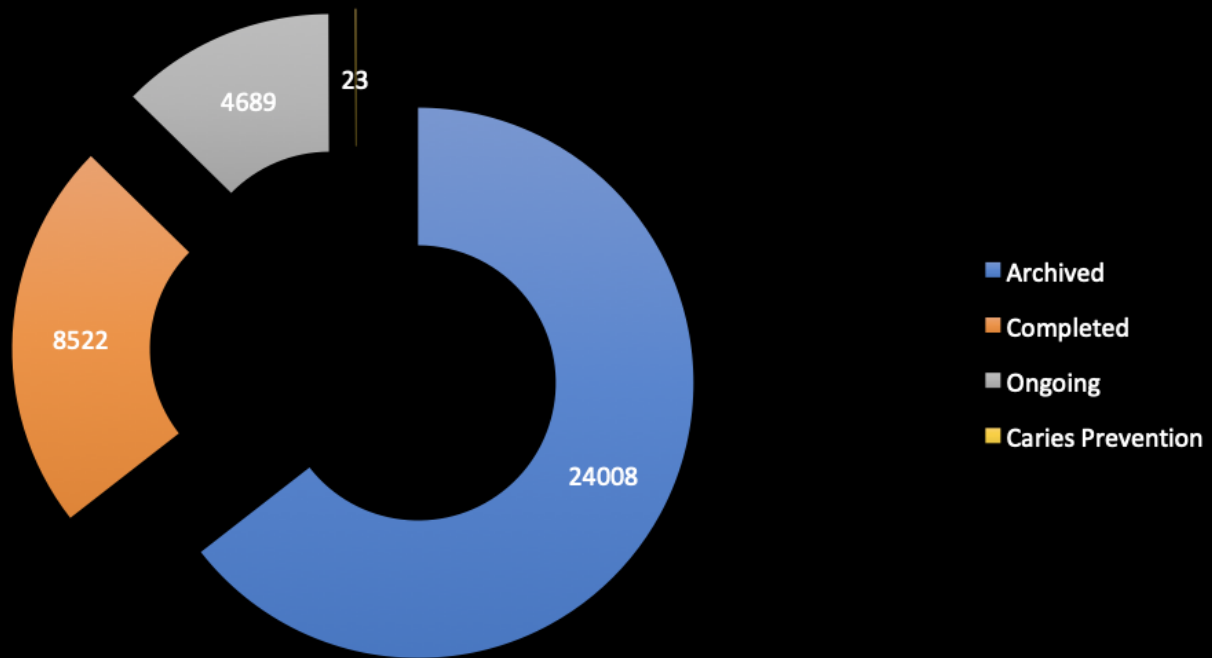
Methods

1. HSR Database: searched for “caries” and “caries prevention”
2. Healthy People 2020: identify US caries and caries prevention goals
3. Medicaid Fee Schedule: compare reimbursement rates for caries preventive services



Findings: HSR Project Database

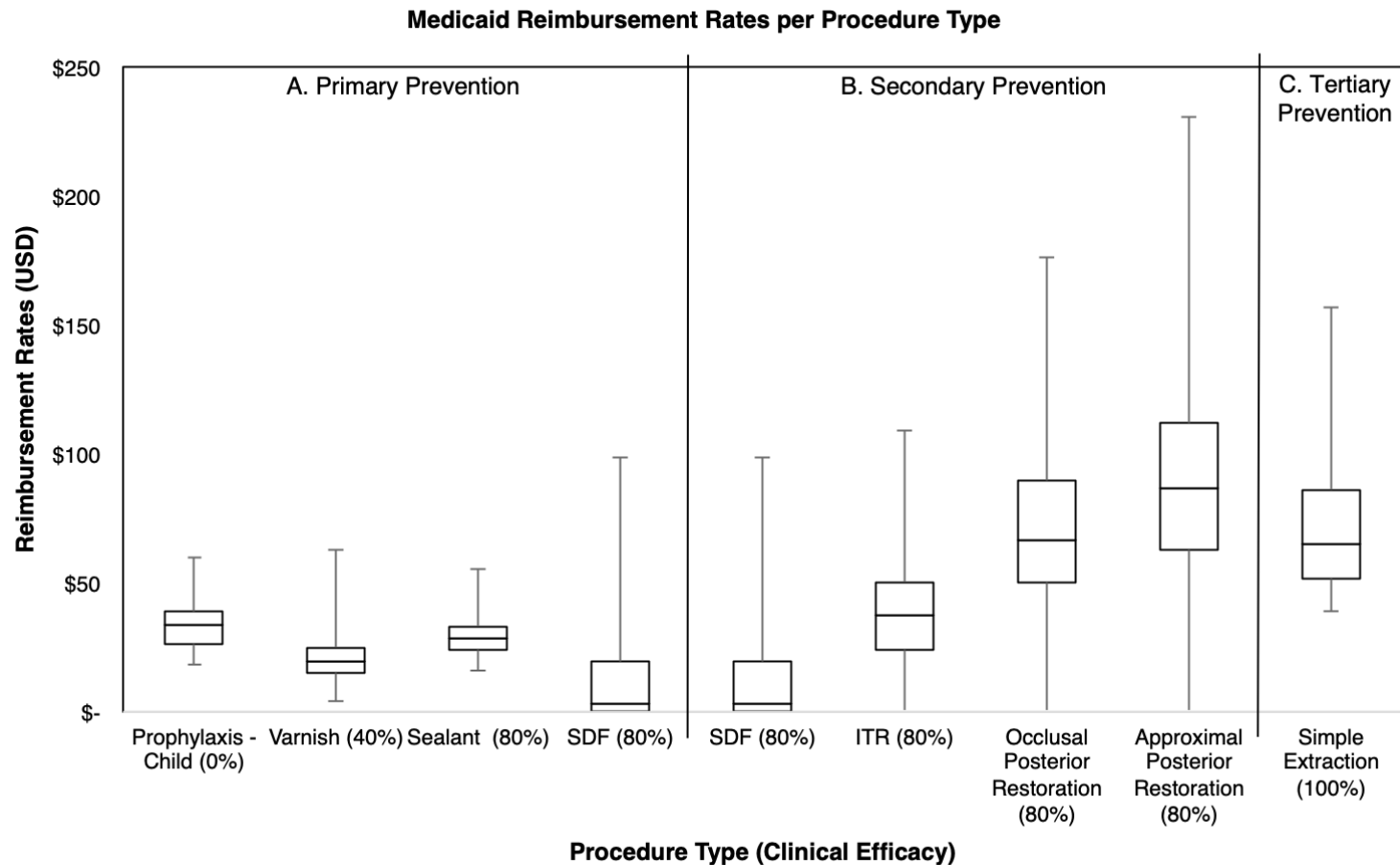
HSR Project Database Breakdown



Findings: Healthy People 2020

- 26 Leading Health Indicators (LHI)
- Only 1 LHI addresses Oral Health
- Concerns dental visits in the past year

Findings: Medicaid Fee Schedule



Conclusions

1. 0.06% of projects on HSR database addresses caries prevention
2. Healthy People 2020 LHI address dental visits, not dental health
3. Medicaid incentivizes treatment over caries prevention

Recommendation

- A modest realignment of:
 - research focus
 - goals
 - incentives

Thank you!