

Increasing Access to Oral Health Care through

Dental Case Management

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CABARRUS
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

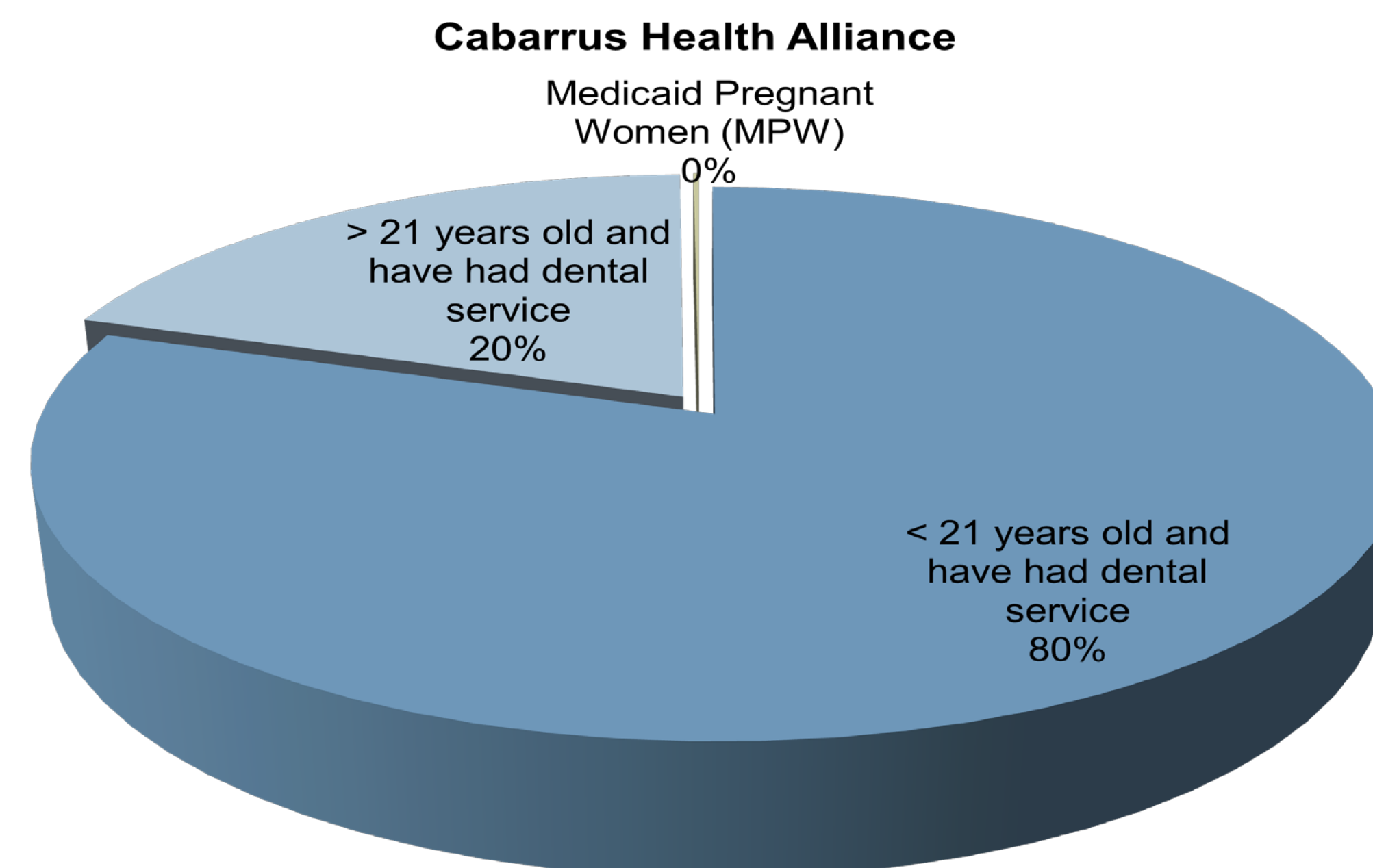
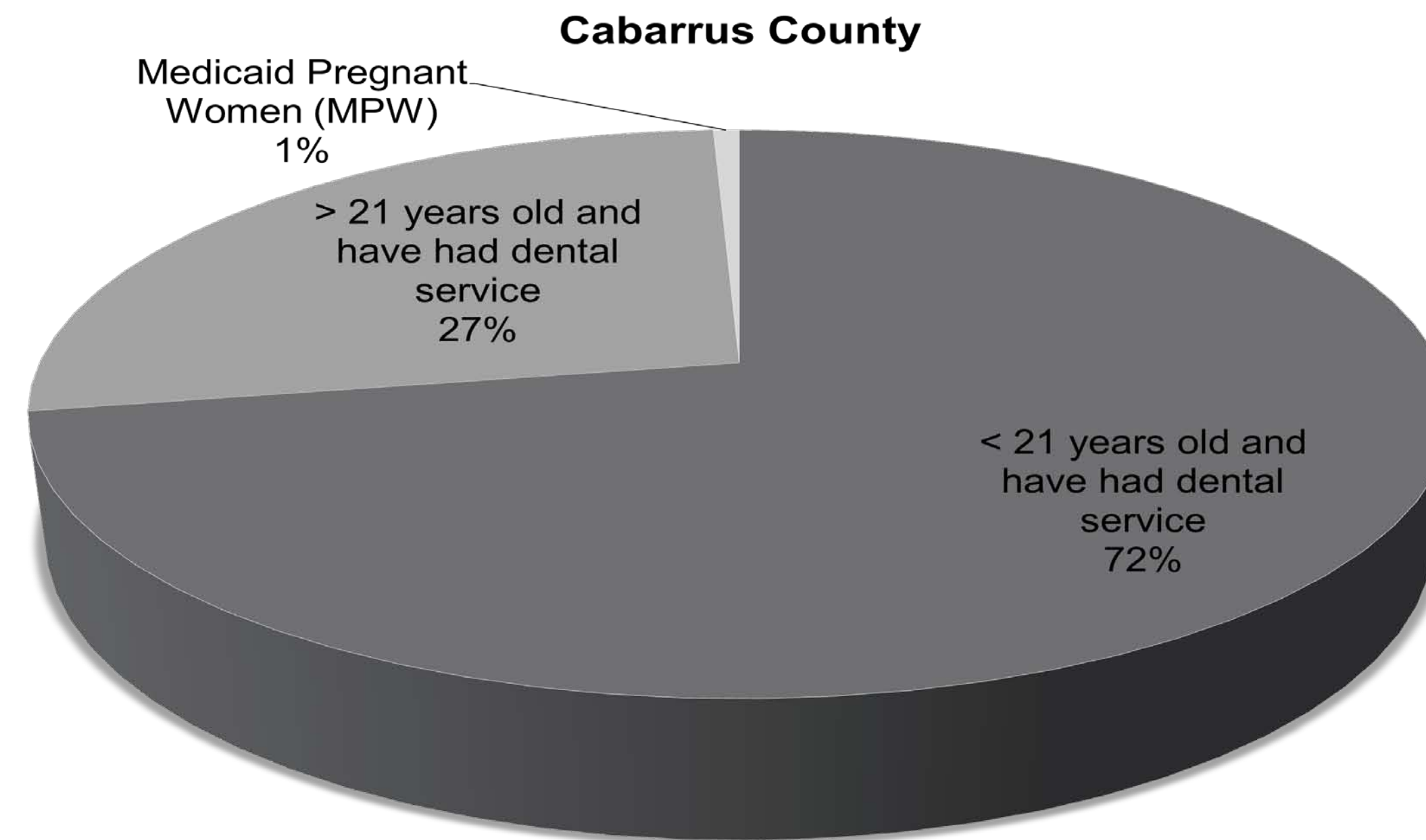
ABSTRACT

The purpose of this presentation is to describe the BlueCross BlueShield Foundation (BCBS) Oral Health Access Project at Cabarrus Health Alliance, the public health authority of Cabarrus County, NC.

Cabarrus County is a melting pot of small towns and growing cities located in the Piedmont Region of NC. This presentation will demonstrate how a Case Management approach can be utilized to increase oral health care to low income children, their parents and pregnant woman that are Medicaid eligible through a collaborative effort with other community providers such as primary care physicians, pediatricians, child care center staff, school nurses, dentists, WIC staff and local care management systems.

Although the dental case manager community approach has been utilized in other studies, North Carolina has added a wellness concept aimed at reducing the incidence of early childhood caries (ECC) as a direct result of the "Into The Mouths of Babes" (IMB) program, a North Carolina movement to end ECC. Dental caries is the most common chronic disease in children; improving the system will improve the overall health of children. The goal of this presentation will provide learners with an introduction to how a Dental Case Manager can strengthen the infrastructure of community providers.

Currently only 31% of adults and 46% of children in Cabarrus County who are Medicaid eligible utilize it for dental services. Data from a 6 month period (approximately 1,500 patients) will be gathered reflecting the use of dental services for this group. Preliminary results will be presented to the group.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	Cabarrus County	North Carolina
	178,011	9.5 million
Race		
Caucasians	75.4%	68.5%
African Americans	15.3%	21.5%
Other	9.3%	10%

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Increase the number of children under 21 enrolled in Medicaid to receive preventive and phase 2 dental care
- Increase the number of pregnant women enrolled in WIC to receive oral health education related to their pregnancy
- Increase the number of primary care practices that apply dental varnish during well child exams; refer children to dentist at age 1
- Improve child oral health outcomes by tracking and following up with children that need phase 2 dental treatment
- Increase the access of children with special health care needs to preventive and phase 2 dental care

LESSONS LEARNED

- The number of children under 21 years old enrolled in Medicaid and receiving dental services Cabarrus County has increased
- Population growth and economic shifts influence a new portion of population applying and receiving Medicaid
- Pregnant women are lacking access to dental service

DATA

- Data from processed Medicaid claims through the NC Department of Medicaid Administration (NCDMA)
- Data range January – June 2012

CONTACT INFORMATION

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